

The Rev. Peter Keay has been a minister within the bounds of this Synod for nearly twenty years. In the several places in which he has laboured, he has, by his zeal and diligence, and unwearied exertions, gained, in a more than ordinary measure, the affection of the people committed to his care; and the grief which was so strikingly shown when he was suddenly and unexpectedly removed from them, proved most convincingly to all, the high esteem in which he was held. Mr. Keay was a ripe scholar, a sound theologian, an earnest preacher, and, by his Christian work and conversation, he adorned the Gospel which it was his delight to set forth to the people to whom he ministered. For some years past he discharged the duties of Clerk of this Synod, and, by his careful attention to business, his accuracy, and invariable courtesy, he deserved and obtained the highest approbation. The Church at large mourns the removal of a laborious and faithful minister; this Synod deeply regret being deprived of his services; the congregation to which he ministered deeply grieve for the loss of one who watched so earnestly for their souls; and his widow and children weep that a kind husband and an affectionate father has been taken from them. With the warmest sympathy for his flock and bereaved family, the Synod would now record their high respect for the memory of one, who, while he lived and took his place amongst them, was so highly esteemed and honoured."

#### **Overture from the Presbytery of P. E. Island.**

The following Overture from P. E. Island Presbytery was sent up by the Committee on Bills and Overtures, and read:—

"The Presbytery of P. E. Island hereby make overture to the Rev. the Synod of our Church now assembled, that, in case of any Presbytery becoming defunct, through failure of some appointed meetings, owing to the inclemency of the weather or otherwise, it shall be competent for the Presbyterial Moderator and Clerk to resuscitate said Presbytery by appointing another day of meeting, and duly notifying every member of said Presbytery within the bounds to attend,—said notices to be given by the post or otherwise, at least ten days before the time appointed for resuscitation of the Presbytery.

On motion of Mr. Melville, seconded by Rev. J. Campbell, it was agreed that the prayer of the overture be granted.

#### **THE REPORT OF THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.**

The Rev. Alex. McLean, Convener, gave in the following Report on the Foreign Mission:—

Your Committee have to report, that while with thankfulness they would record the goodness of God in preserving, during the past year, the valuable lives of your missionaries, they regret to state that the communications from one part of the mission field have been of a nature to create a considerable degree of anxiety. Our mission on the large island of Santo has met with discouraging difficulties, which, for the present, render the prospect there very dark and uncertain. The health of your missionary and his family appeared, from the first, to suffer from the peculiarity of the climate, and as time passed, instead of any improvement in that respect, the injurious effect became more decided. The health of Mrs. Goodwill at last seemed so much in danger, that, in order to any hope of recovery, it became necessary to part with her husband and child, and undertake the long and tedious voyage to Australia. This painful parting, in the gloom of which very faint, if indeed any hopes of a re-union could mingle, was to both the beginning of an ordeal so trying to human patience and strength, that the arms of Almighty power alone could bear them through it. Well might that devoted woman, weak and wasted with painful and lingering sickness, sadly exclaim, as, with her helpless infant in her arms, she left all dear to her behind, "this is agony." For many months this separation must of necessity last. Suffering in body, alone among strangers, absent from her family, and whether they were living or dead it was impossible for her to know. But through all these dark days of pain and suspense, she was nobly sustained. There is no repining, no fretful weakness, nor, when the hour was darkest, did she regret the step by which she was devoted to