

ing joined in prayer or in religious conversation with 200 each or 800 in all; from which by the blessing of the Most High upon their humble efforts we may anticipate much good fruit sooner or later will be realized; though the full amount will probably not be known till the last day; when the Great Head of the Church will take an account of all the labors of his servants.

We have received during the year 4 congregational contributions in support of the cause; as the result of last Synod's recommendation, viz., Middle Stewiacke and Brookfield, from Onslow and Beaver Brook, Green Hill and Truro; for which the Board of Publication wish us to return their warmest acknowledgements. But it is a somewhat singular circumstance in the providence of God that just as we are getting on to carry out the entire system of colportage as they have it in operation in the P. C. of the United States, that we are likely to be interrupted if not arrested in our progress by prospective changes over which we as a committee have no control. This synod alone therefore or in connection with the Board of Publication must now decide, whether we shall proceed in this benevolent enterprise as heretofore or under any new arrangement, or terminate our labors for want of funds and credit. The cause is as follows. We were informed some time ago that a sister church in this Province was in correspondence with the Board of Publication in relation to colportage here; and several questions were asked, as to our connection and sphere of our labors respec-

tively, which were answered according to the facts of the case. Nothing further occurred in relation to this business till last fall when we were informed by the superintendent, under date of Nov 9th that arrangements had been completed with the sister church in this Province, in which she engages to carry on the system and pay all expenses over 25 per cent, and they wish us to limit our expenses to the same, or to pay any over expenditure from our own resources."

The committee having no means of meeting this difficulty, requested a continuation of the old arrangement, till this meeting of Synod; which has been granted. We therefore now submit the case for your consideration, praying that you may be directed to that conclusion which will be most conducive to the glory of God in the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

In conclusion we may mention that we have had offers of the same nature from other institutions, such as the American Tract Society, and one even more liberal from an extensive publishing establishment; so that in the event of going forward, under the new system proposed, we shall be able greatly to increase the variety of our supply, and consequently also the demand; and that two of your committee viz. Messrs Dickie and Blanchard having lately removed from this county, their place should be filled up by some resident in the neighbourhood.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN J. BAXTER,

Con. Com. Colportage.

Onslow 23rd June 1857.

## Foreign Missions.

LETTER FROM REV. MR. GEDDIE

ANEITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES, }  
April 22d, 1857. }

DEAR BRETHREN,—

I sent letters to you by way of China, dated in October, November and February, which I hope you will receive. The present communication goes by a vessel bound to Sydney. My latest letter from your Secretary is dated Nov. 29th, 1854, which I have in previous letters acknowledged. I mentioned in a former letter to you that a ship from Sydney bound to this island was wrecked, and a box in

her containing letters, periodicals, &c., for Mr Inglis and myself, entirely lost. We anticipate by the return of the "John Williams" many letters, and much grateful intelligence from home.

I feel thankful to inform you that the mission families are well. The past season has been unusually rainy and unhealthy. The natives have suffered severely from fevers, remittent and intermittent. Nearly all who live on the mission premises have been laid up, and for several weeks their houses have been like hospitals. Some of them have recovered, and others are in a hopeful