

Our Foreign Missions.

Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions.

The Board met at New Glasgow on the 31st December. Present: Rev. Messrs. Stewart, Walker, Patterson, McG. McKay, McCurdy, McGregor, and Mr. J. Miller.

The following statement prepared by Messrs. Walker and McCurdy, was adopted and entered on the minutes, a copy to be sent to the relatives of Rev. Mr. Gordon, at Alberton.

The Board of Foreign Missions desire to place on record their sense of the worth and labours of the late Rev. J. D. Gordon, missionary to the New Hebrides, who was cruelly murdered in Erromanga, on the 25th February, 1872.

Although his brother Rev. G. N. Gordon and his wife, had suffered martyrdom on the 20th May, 1861—on the same island—yet this sad catastrophe only seemed to quicken his energies and inspire him with a firmer resolution to devote himself to the evangelization of these poor heathen. Accordingly, after having completed the usual course of study, he was licensed to preach the gospel. He then offered himself as a missionary to the New Hebrides, and was ordained to the work. He left his native land in the Dayspring, and reached the island of Erromanga, about three years after the death of his brother and sister. He was settled at Dillon's Bay, and immediately entered upon his labours.

As a missionary, Mr. Gordon was a most devoted servant of the Lord. He studied hard, and earnestly sought to have the Scriptures translated into the language of the natives; he embraced every opportunity to impart instruction to them, and in all duty he had a single eye to the glory of God.

During four years, Mr. Gordon was the missionary of this church; afterwards, at the request of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, and with our concurrence, he became their missionary. Unhappily, some difference arose, which led him to resign his connection with that church in the year 1870.

Mr. Gordon laboured alone; this was in accordance with his own desire; but his solitude does not seem to have been advantageous to him, for it appeared to excite his mind, and make him somewhat suspicious of his brethren. Hence it was, that while all who knew him, esteemed him for his singleness of purpose in seeking to win souls to the Saviour, they yet regretted his want of co-operation.

With the relatives of the deceased, the Board desire to express the deepest sympathy, and in doing so, they believe they only give utterance to the feelings of the church at large; and they would commend them to the tender compassion and gracious care of Him who condescends to sympathize with those those that mourn, and who will not suffer them to be tempted above what they are able to bear.

In this melancholy event the church has received a remarkable illustration of the words of the inspired psalmist, "Clouds and darkness are round about the Almighty." We may not be able fully to explain so mysterious a dispensation. Of this, however, we are certain, that "Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne."

By this event the church is solemnly admonished to "stand in awe and not sin."—"Not sin," by receiving with indifference this impressive lesson of God's sovereignty—"not sin" by ceasing to strive to get spiritual possession of that blood stained Erromanga, where "Satan seems to have his seat."

The Secretary further explained that the hymns were now in press and would be printed in January, and ready to be sent by mail on the 27th. On motion it was "agreed unanimously, now that the Board has full information on the subject, to express their gratification at the intelligence conveyed by Mr. Morton's letter, and at the prospect of the early publication of the hymns in the Hindu language, also their high appreciation of the labours of Mr. Morton, and of his assistant, Mr. Thomas Vishnu, in the work of translation."

Rev. G. Patterson informed the Board of the death of Mr. Thomas McLean, a young man, and an Elder in Salem Church, whose intention to proceed, on his own pecuniary resources, to aid the mission at Trinidad, had been reported to, and cordially sanctioned by, this Board, on the 7th May, when the Board agreed to record on their minutes, their sense of his worth, and especially of the missionary zeal and disinterested spirit which he had manifested.

The Secretary reported procedure respecting remitting of Salaries and of Dayspring money, but special attention to this subject was deferred till next meeting, to be held soon after the receipt of letters from the New Hebrides by the Dayspring.