

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

OCTOBER, 1862.

INTELLIGENCE FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES.—DEATH OF MRS. MATHESON.

During the past year the messengers of woe from our Foreign Mission have succeeded each other so rapidly, that like the servants of the man of Uz, one has scarcely finished his tale of sorrows till another has arrived with tidings, sometimes, still more distressing. By the following letter received by the first September steamer, it will be seen that death has been again visiting our Mission Band, already so much reduced; and that Mrs. Matheson has finished her earthly course.

ANEITEUM, March 14, 1862.

REV. AND DEAR BROTHER,—

During the past year, mail after mail has doubtless conveyed to you sad tidings respecting the desolation which death has been making among us. Upon the hearts of some these tidings have fallen with a greater, upon others with a lesser severity. To some hearts they have come home very closely, and have been felt very keenly by those by whom communicated.

This letter too contains sad intelligence, and if every heart knoweth its own bitterness, the heart of him by whom these lines are written, feels in so doing, a sorrow, with which no stranger can intermeddle.

In our last letter from this island you were informed that Mrs. Matheson had been ill for some time previously, and though our prospects respecting her complete recovery were at that time anything but encouraging, yet none of us imagined that the number of her days on earth was so nearly fulfilled; rather did we hope that she might again rally, and for a time at least be permitted to serve on earth her Lord and master. He, however, with whom is the number of our days, thought otherwise; and while we were doing what we could for the regaining of her strength, that she might still labor in the Lord's vineyard, God was designing her for rest, yes for rest in heaven.

Since January she had been occasionally troubled with a short dry asthmatic kind of cough, from which we at first apprehended little or no danger. The remedies however, usually employed in such cases proved altogether unavailing. Her expectoration too, which was at first scanty, and not at all calculated to create any alarm, continued to increase, and during the night she perspired very profusely, under all of which her strength gradually gave way. On the first of March she was taken with Diarrhoea, and though we were in the possession of every remedy prescribed for that trouble, all of which were (I think) judiciously administered, yet it could not be checked, and she continued to sink daily until the 11th inst., when at 5:45 A.M., she fell asleep in Jesus.

Not only during her last illness, but during all the trying scenes through which we had together passed, which have been neither few nor small, she has ever manifested the most entire resignation to the will of God in everything, expressing it as her desire to live, labour, and die in the cause of God, provided such was his will concerning her, or to leave the world, and (as she used to say) go home to Jesus.