

In 1859 commenced a series of calamities which sorely tried the faith of the Missionaries.

In that year Mrs. Paton died, six months after her arrival. In 1860, two Sandal-wood-vessels brought the measles from Sydney, which proved fearfully fatal to the natives. In Aneiteum about one third of the population, and in Erromanga, a still larger proportion were swept away. During the same year a series of tornadoes wrought terrible havoc among the mission buildings and the houses of the natives. Famine added its horror to the picture. Mr. Johnston died in Tanna, six months after his arrival there. Mr. and Mrs. Matheson died in rapid succession. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon consecrated Erromanga anew with martyr's blood. A new church was burned at Aneiteum, by the blind fanaticism of a superstitious native. Another hurricane swept over the islands in 1862. War broke out in Tanna. Yet, amid all these desolating scenes, the faith of these noble heroes and heroines failed not. Three fresh missionaries have gone forth from the Nova Scotian Church, one of them Rev. J. D. Gordon, truly baptized in the room of the dead, now successfully labouring on the spot wet with the blood of his brother and sister, addressing 200 natives in a church, erected on a site freely granted by the murderer of Williams. What hath God wrought! The Father and Founder of this most prosperous mission has earned for himself an honourable furlough. His visit to the Churches will do much good. His simple, earnest, pathetic appeal so affected the Synod, that a resolution was passed to the effect that "in view of the account given by Rev. Mr. Geddie, of the success of Christian Missionaries in the New Hebrides, and the urgent demand for additional labourers there, the Synod resolve to send a missionary thither so soon as a suitable labourer can be obtained." In deference to the views and feelings of several much esteemed brethren, who, with the best feelings towards the South Seas field, thought, as we had just entered on a mission to the Indians, we were scarcely, in a position as yet, to start a new mission, it was agreed to reconsider the above resolution. But the re-consideration led only to a more decided re-affirming. The Foreign Mission Committee are thus required to seek out a labourer for that distant field. They are now prepared to receive applications or suggestions from any of the brethren in the Church. They will soon meet to consider, and if possible, to decide, on these, as, on several accounts, it is of great importance that some decision be come to at as early a date as possible.

Communications to be sent to the Convener, at St. Catharines, as soon as possible

R. J. B.

THE LATE MEETING OF SYNOD.

In the July issue of the RECORD so much space was taken up with the proceedings of Synod, that we had no room for any remarks. It is scarcely necessary now that we should say much as to the proceedings referred to, as most of the members of the church will have read for themselves and judged for themselves, as to the course adopted by the Synod in regard to the various matters that came before them.

We feel that there is much cause for gratitude to the Head of the Church, for the spirit which prevailed at the meeting of Synod, and for the measure of unanimity which was manifested. Where there are many counsellors, and at the same time many matters calculated to draw forth differences of sentiment, it is not to be wondered at if occasionally these differences are somewhat sharply exhibited. But at the late meeting in Montreal the discussions were all characterized by great moderation and good feeling.

It was a happy feature too of this year's Synod, that there were no tedious causes requiring long consideration. The few which were brought up were quickly settled; and thus more ample time than at former meetings was given