

and other circumstances, too poor to give adequate support to the Levites, and were necessarily occupied with domestic difficulties; that by-and-by their circumstances would improve; and then they would not forget the Levite—all which is evidently implied in his contending with the rulers. Having disposed of all these objections based on unbelief,—want of faith in God's power and goodness, and shown like Haggai that their excuses but uncovered their sin, for they hereby revealed that they postponed God's worship to their own domestic concerns, ease and pleasure, making much of the latter a little of the former, without loss of time he refills the vacated house of God with Levites and singers and appointed treasurers, who were faithful men, over the treasures. Faithful men, faithful to God,—believers, faithful to men, faithful to their trust, skilled in finance and zealous in their office. Successful in other reforms, he is successful in this also. Let us go and do likewise. Let faithful men, men of God, men filled with Nehemiah's spirit, be sought out and set over the treasures of the Lord; men deeply impressed with the idea that piety has to do with church finance; men who can meet the objections raised against liberality; men who set duty to God foremost, and have not too great sympathy with worldly ease and pleasure; who take at least as much interest in church matters as in domestic affairs, and can expose the rich man's hypocrisy who considers the poor widow's mite the measure of his gift, forgetful that in her case she cast in all she had, even all her living; men who can do "good deeds for the house of God and the offices thereof;" then may we expect to see those who have fled from our Zion "gathered together and set in their place;" the shut temple door re-opened; the silent Sabbath made glad by the sound of the high praises of our God; the number of our churches increased, ministers happier, and people more prosperous both in soul-prosperity and in worldly matters. For the duty we have been enforcing is not overlooked in that encouraging passage which says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Mal. iii. 10.

Our Foreign Mission.

Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions.

The Board met at New Glasgow on the 27th ult. Present, Rev. J. Stewart, Chairman, Rev. Dr. Bayne, Rev. Messrs. Ror. Walker, Patterson, McGregor and Mr. R. McGregor.

Interesting letters were received and read from all the Missionaries except Mr. McCullagh, from Rev. Dr. Steel of Sydney, from Rev. I. Kay, Secretary of Reformed Presbyterian Church, and from Rev. J. Laughton, Secretary of the Heathen Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

Dr. Geddie's first letter gave a detailed account of his arrival and reception at Aneiteum, of the accident to the *John Williams*, and of the state of the people of Aneiteum, as respects health and other particulars. It was accompanied by the minutes of council of Missionaries held at Aneiteum, Sept. 17, at which all the Missionaries were present except Mr. McCullagh, who was absent at Australia on account of the delicate state of Mrs. McCullagh's health.

At the meeting the following distribution of the newly arrived missionaries was agreed to,—Mr. Copeland to Fotuna; Mr. Paton to Niua or Aniwa; Mr. McNair to Erromanga; Messrs. Cosh and Neilson to Faté

The fact of Mr. McCullagh's retirement from the mission was announced, but as the Board had no letters from himself, they, while regretting the loss of any labourer, declined giving any expression of opinion till letters should be received from him-self.

The letter read from Rev. James Laughton contained a formal application that Rev. J. D. Gordon should be transferred to the Presbyterian Synod of New South Wales, still to continue his labours on Erromanga, and to be supported by that body. The Board agreed to refer the whole subject to Synod. Mr. Gordon announced in his letter two pleasing facts,—1. The restoration of his own health; 2. The settlement of Mr. and Mrs. McNair on the island of Erromanga. Suitable resolutions on these