

licensed to preach when he was only twenty-two years of age, and was ordained as a pastor at Cavendish, in Prince Edward Island, within a year thereafter. He was connected with a church comparatively small and poor, and unable to afford more than a scanty income, often much in arrear, to its ministers, yet he had the courage to propose that a Foreign Mission should be adopted. It is recorded that when he made known his views "there was not a man in the church who thought it practicable. Many looked upon it as utterly chimerical, and were ready to pour contempt upon it as folly, while even his friends received the proposal with a smile of incredulity." The Church had in all only thirty congregations in the Provinces, and most were poor and struggling. Mr. Geddie, however, persevered, and in the course of a few years, carried his motion in the Synod. When the proposal to seek a missionary was made, it was carried only by a majority of one! The attention of the Board was directed toward the islands where John Williams laid down his life, and at length it was agreed that New Caledonia should be the field of their mission. That island had been named by Mr. Williams to the Secession Church in Scotland as a sphere that might be occupied by their agents. Mr. Geddie belonged to that branch of the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia. He offered himself to the work, and was accepted. He knew how little could be expected in the way of support; but he was not to be daunted. After visiting all the congregations of the Synod, and endeavoring to excite a prayerful and liberal interest in the mission, he studied medicine for a time. In November, 1846, he sailed along with his wife and family. He was detained at Boston for two months before he found a vessel sailing for the Pacific, and even then the port to which a passage could be got was Honolulu, in the Sandwich Islands, far from the contemplated sphere in the South Seas. Six dreary months were spent in rounding Cape Horn ere they reached Honolulu, and seven weeks passed before a passage could be got to Samoa. Mr. Geddie had, however, an opportunity of seeing the working of the Hawaiian Mission, and afterwards that of Samoa. When he reached the latter place, he found that no opportunity could be got to reach New Caledonia or the Loyalty Islands for six or seven months, when the mission vessel *John Williams* would call. Besides, there then seemed no opening in these islands, as the energetic Bishop of New Zealand (Dr. Selwyn) had expressed a wish to conduct missionary work there. One of the islands of the New Hebrides afforded a single gleam of hope, and Mr. Geddie, with the advice of brethren at Samoa, agreed to undertake a mission there. The venerable Mr. Murray, who still survives, was a chief adviser and helper of Mr. Geddie during this period. It was proposed that one of the Samoan missionaries should accompany Mr. Geddie for a year, and the Rev. Mr. Bullen was chosen to do so, but amidst preparation