

a valedictory meeting, that Mr Paton might thank them for what they had done for the ship, and deepen their interest in the mission. He also addressed a large Episcopal Sabbath School in the morning of the same Sabbath. On the following Sabbath afternoon, Mr. Paton held a meeting with Sabbath-school teachers to initiate a Sabbath-school union for missionary and other objects. This meeting was crowded and enthusiastic. Several meetings have been held since. We had also an opportunity of addressing a meeting of the Free Church Presbytery of Sydney, and laying before them the claims of the New Hebrides mission, in which the members expressed their deep interest. I have preached in different churches every Sabbath, and have met with a number of the leading ministers in and around Sydney, so that our delay here, I trust, has not been without its advantages.

Mr. Paton sailed for London on the 16th inst. in the "Kosciusko," a large, fine ship. His mission to Australia has been "a great success." He has collected nearly £5000 for the mission ship, to bring out missionaries, and to maintain native teachers. He has excited a deep interest in the New Hebrides mission throughout all Australia, especially among the Presbyterians. In all the provinces, I believe, initiatory steps are now being taken by them to have missionaries of their own on the group, in the same way as the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand is preparing to do. Mr. Paton's object in returning home is to try and obtain more missionaries. The ship is now got, and she will be half useless without more missionaries. The interest awakened in Australia must not be allowed to die away unimproved. Our dear bought experience too is capital, that, if wisely and promptly invested, may furnish large and profitable returns. I trust the missionary committee will give Mr. Paton every facility for reaching our younger ministers, our preachers, and our students. The Church ought at once to make up her mind to send us two or three of her best ministers, to be followed by twice that number of her best students, as they have finished their education. Such a self denying effort would do a world of good to the Church; with the blessing of God, it might go far to heal the breaches in our Zion. Let congregations be prepared to give up their ministers cheerfully, that the Lord, who loves a cheerful giver, may accept the sacrifice. I trust Mr. Paton may be eminently successful.

We have engaged a passage to Ancientum in the *Berengaria*, a vessel of 450 tons. We sail in a day or two. I am happy and thankful to say that we are both well. William also continues improving since we reached Australia. We have received a large

amount of Christian kindness and hospitality in both the colonies.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM MR. PATON.

Mr. P. writes "off Sydney" April 15th. He had been holding farewell meetings in Melbourne, Victoria:—

On the evening of the following Monday, I had a public farewell meeting of adults in the same hall. The Governor kindly occupied the chair. An hour before the meeting, the sky became dark and threatening, the lightning flashed, the thunder pealed, and the rain poured, so that we could scarcely have had a more unfavourable evening. Yet at the hour appointed, His Excellency Sir William Stowell was punctual to a minute, and after praise and prayer, he opened the meeting by delivering a missionary address, which was distinguished by his usual ability. It was listened to with profound attention, and was read with pleasure next day by many friends of our mission. The attendance was small at the commencement, but it soon increased till the hall was much filled, and towards the doors it became much crowded chiefly by men, which is a most unusual thing at such meetings, and clearly proved the deep interest that has been excited in our mission. After my address, several of the ministers present also delivered addresses, and at the close His Excellency was pleased to express himself as being much gratified at being present, and wished every success to our new mission-ship, and to our Presbyterian mission on the New Hebrides Islands.—Surely we are much indebted to His Excellency for his kindness and sympathy on this occasion. Happy is the colony that has such a governor. May God spare his useful and honourable life, and make him more and more a blessing to his people. I also feel deeply indebted to the committees, and to the various ministers and Sabbath-school teachers and other friends, who have so kindly assisted us in carrying out the mission. May God reward them all and bless our united efforts to evangelise the perishing heathen in the South Sea Islands. In the papers sent, you have the governor's speech, and outlines of others delivered at our farewell meetings, which closed my missionary tour of nine months in Victoria, where above £2600 was raised for the new ship and for new missionaries for our mission, and where forty-five native teachers were subscribed for at an expense of five pounds yearly, the first £200 of which is already paid. In whole, in the colonies visited, above £4600 has been raised since I began the work twelve months ago, and to accomplish such work, I have addressed about 470 meetings.