

They all thought that it should be remitted to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and it was handed over to our Treasurer. It will be acknowledged by the Society in due time.

The *Dayspring* has returned from her voyage north. Mr. Goodwill has been stationed on Espirito Santo, and Mr. Milne on Nguna under very encouraging circumstances. Our exploratory voyages north have already resulted in the occupation of two important islands, which will become centres from which the Gospel should radiate to the dark regions beyond.

I expect to see Mrs. McNair here in a few days. It is probable that she will make her home with us until she goes to the Colonies. I presume that she intends to return to Scotland. She is in very delicate health, and Mr. Neilson thinks that her lungs are affected.

If the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia should contribute anything for the *Dayspring* it ought to be done in conjunction with you. The sum of £250 is quite sufficient from Nova Scotia. You should confer with Mr. McLean on this subject.

I have just heard from Dr. Steel that Mr. Blue is not coming to the islands. Oh! how I long to see one or two missionaries from home. The cause must go down here unless the church can send us help. The magnitude of the work around us, and the feebleness of the instrumentality is of itself an oppressive thought. Do make every effort to send us help, and send it without delay. May God move some heart to come to our aid, in this our hour of need. You should make an immediate and urgent appeal to our friends in Canada to send one or two missionaries to the New Hebrides, for the mission has many and warm friends in that quarter.

I send with this letter the copy of a Minute passed at our late meeting in reference to our lamented brother Morrison, and also a few lines written by the late Mr. Matheson, which his friends will value.

I suppose Dr. Steel must pay Mrs. McNair's passage home out of the money intended for the salary of her late husband which will be in Australia before she requires it.

Ever yours, &c.,

JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. P. G. MCGREGOR.

Death of Rev. James McNair.

PORT RESOLUTION, TANA,
23rd Aug., 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—It is at the request of Mrs. McNair that I take upon myself the melancholy task of announcing to you the death of our beloved brother in the Mis-

sionary work, which took place at Erromanga on the 16th of July last. Mr. McNair's health was never very robust, and he has gradually succumbed to the influences of a debilitating climate and a very trying station. I had been staying with him for three months last season, and left him and his wife and their infant child at Aniwa, in the end of September. He was then pretty vigorous, and very ardent in evangelistic work on Erromanga, endeavoring to open up the island for teachers, and visiting places hitherto unexplored. I did not see him again until the end of May this year, and I was struck with his extremely weak and emaciated condition; in fact it was evident that the hand of death was upon him, and that he would soon be called away to the upper sanctuary. The last rainy season has been an uncommonly wet one, and Mr. McNair was almost constantly suffering from fever and ague, and his strength was so reduced that his system was not able to rally under the change of air and scene in the vessel and at the annual meeting, and he gradually got weaker and weaker, till shortly after reaching home on Erromanga he died on the morning of Saturday, the 16th of July.

The *Dayspring* is intended to go the eastward this year, and we had appointed Mr. McNair to accompany her, and to act as representative of this mission during the voyage, chiefly with a view to the benefit of his health, but it was seen by the Great Master that the voyage of his life was nearer a close than we had thought, and he has already entered the haven of eternal rest.

Our departed brother seemed for some time to be conscious that his end was approaching. The last time he sat in the room in which I now write, he said he thought he was not going to live long. Some days before his death he told Mrs. McNair that he expected very soon to die, and that when it came it would be sudden at the last, as he knew his heart was affected. He expressed the utmost resignation to the will of God, being willing to depart and be with Christ, which is far better, only he intended to have put things in better order for Mrs. McNair, purposing to have made a will, which he was cut off without having had strength to do.

The last time he preached the gospel was upon Tana. The *Dayspring* was lying at anchor in the harbour on her way to Aneityum. Mr. McNair came ashore with several Erromangans he had with him, and we had quite a large audience under the spreading shade of a Banyan tree. He preached in Erromangan, and old Nauwa interpreted it into Tanese. It was on the whole a very interesting service, all the more so when we look back upon it and think that