

MR. MORTON'S RETURN.

The Board lost no time in communicating to their missionaries the Resolutions of last Synod, respecting a season of rest and relaxation to be granted at the expiration of every term of five years service. This offer was accepted by Rev. J. Morton, and not before its need had been felt by himself but especially by Mrs. Morton; and the Board have had the joy of receiving Mr. Morton among them, and of congratulating him, with thanksgiving to God on his safe arrival with his wife and children, after the anxieties, toils and successes of six years missionary work in a tropical climate. The terms of return are those of the U. P. Church of Scotland adopted *simpliciter*; the Board meets all travelling expense of missionary and family to Nova Scotia and back; the salary during the term of absence being reduced to £150 stg. Expense of travelling within the Province in furthering the objects of the mission, to be paid by the Board, and the collections to be taken in any congregation visited to go to the replenishing of our funds.

Mr. Morton left Trinidad on the 27th April, and reaching Bermuda on the 4th of May concluded to remain there for four weeks, during which time he preached, and presented the claims of the mission in the Warwick and Hamilton Churches, receiving the most cordial welcome from ministers and people, accompanied with liberal contributions to the funds of the mission. Arriving in Halifax on the 5th June, in safety, Mr. Morton met the Board on the 9th, and (D. V.) will be present at the assembling of Synod on the 30th instant. The Board are fully persuaded that should his visit prove refreshing and strengthening to himself, as they trust it will, that it will intensify the interest of the Church in the work which he was honoured to initiate and, in happy union with his fellow-labourer to guide thus far.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

From the younger turn to the older mission which has been in existence for nearly the life time of a generation, and has extended over a full quarter of a century. In the former case our missionaries, have a voyage of a few weeks to reach their destination, an island close by our continent. They labour among a people having a partial civilization. They are surrounded with the comforts of intelligent Christian society and dwell under the protection of British law. In the latter the missionaries have a voyage of many months to reach the scene of their labours, a group of islands called the New Hebrides numbering about thirty, with a population of about one hundred thousand, and lying north of the

Lyalty islands. About one-fourth of this population occupy the islands on which missionaries are located. Once regarded as rather an easy field of labour, it is found in fact to present many and most formidable difficulties, chief among which are the degraded character of the people as savages and cannibals, the number of languages and dialects, an unhealthy climate, and the vices of unprincipled traders, superadded to the abominations of heathenism. Worse than all probably is the rankling sense of injury from white men, of the same race, language, and country as the missionary, who have seduced into their power natives and friends, only to be carried away and sold into slavery. If things are to be called by their true name our language is not too strong. Many have been seduced and many more violently seized and carried in to a servitude, under the hardships of which they soon miserably perished. The burning sense of wrong and the thirst for revenge there for the last ten years, rendered missions in the South Sea Islands fearfully perilous as well as painfully unproductive. Braving these perils and contending manfully against these difficulties, not a few good and heroic men have fallen at their post of duty and danger, some from disease and some from violence, and yet others have come forward to occupy the places of these departed worthies.

OUR MISSION BAND.

By reason of the fatality referred to, our own band there has not increased for a series of years. We are represented by three men, Rev. Messrs. Murray, McKenzie and Annand, and it may here be noted that the older mission has now the younger men. Our beloved and lamented Dr. Geddie was two years ago succeeded at Anelcanhat, in Aneiteum by Rev. Jas. D. Murray, and we have reason to thank God that by him the old foundations are being successfully built upon. Rev. J. Inglis, the late Dr's. coadjutor, bears testimony to the fidelity, ability, and success of Mr. Murray as a missionary. The following statistics have been furnished by Mr. Murray himself and present the fullest information in the smallest compass.

The population of Aneityu'a is estimated at 1500. There are eight churches and fifty-five schools on the island. Church members 600. The whole population attend church and school. All above infancy can read. None have ever professedly gone back to heathenism, although you occasionally observe a man who paints his face and lets his hair grow after the heathen fashion, thus declaring that there is still among these people some of the propensities of their forefathers. All wear European clothing. At Aname there is a school for the education