

1844—1894.

JUBILEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS,
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

AT Pictou, on the 11th July, 1844, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia appointed a Committee or Board of Foreign Missions. That Board held its first meeting on 17th July, 1844. The Synod of 1845 authorized the selecting of a field; and the Board on the 24th September selected Western Polynesia. At the same meeting the offer of Rev. John Geddie, to go forth as a missionary to the heathen, was accepted. On the 30th of November, 1846, he sailed from Nova Scotia, and in July, 1848, he landed on Aneityum, in the South Seas.

THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

The vast bosom of the Southern Pacific Ocean is gemmed with thousands of islands, some large, some small, clad in fadeless green, and bright with the smile of perpetual summer. The New Hebrides group, in Western Polynesia, fourteen hundred miles from Australia, extends four hundred miles north and south. The principal islands are Santo, Malekula, Efaté, Erromanga, Tanna, and Aneityum. Thirty of the islands are inhabited. Magellan, the Spanish navigator, discovered this group in 1520; but the Spaniards never took possession. A Frenchman, Bougainville, in 1768 rediscovered the group to no permanent effect. In 1774