

MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

Our Sister Church in the Lower Provinces has been long distinguished for missionary zeal and enterprise. Nor has the success of the missionary enterprises which she has sustained been small. The labours of Dr. Geddie and his associates in connection with the New Hebrides Mission have been abundantly blessed. At present, however, the prospects are not bright. *The Home and Foreign Record* of that Church for March says:

We fully consent to the assertion that the aspects of the mission are not assuring. The isolation and degradation of the people, their diminishing numbers, their growing hatred of the gospel from their knowledge that it calls for the forsaking of the abominations of heathenism, and above all, the blighting influences of the devilish traffic in men and in rum, are casting dark shadows across the path of the missionary. And had the Church now to choose her field, it is certain she would find more promising openings nearer home, and among energetic and expanding races.

But we believe that God in His Providence and by His Spirit led us to the New Hebrides, and we have been the means, through our pioneer missionary chiefly, of leading other Churches there, and have commenced and carried on a benign and blessed work. We are now on trial and meeting with the most determined opposition of wicked men and Satanic strategy. Shall we falter? The greatest hindrance has developed since we began. Shall we retire before it? Shall we give the people up to Satan?

There are strong reasons why the efforts of the Church should not be relaxed but rather increased, and the work be prosecuted with still greater zeal, perseverance and prayer.

We subjoin some extracts from a letter from Rev. J. W. McKenzie, of Esate:

OUR WORK.

Our work is advancing but slowly. Dr. Geddie's remark about the natives of these two villages is undoubtedly true that "they have left their first love." A few of them are, I believe, journeying Zionwards. But they are still babes in Christ, and are following Him afar off. In order, however, to realize the great change that has been wrought on them, you would require to know the condition of the heathen, and more than this, to come in contact with them. Really, in going amongst those who are yet lying in the depths of heathenism, and seeing not so much their abominable customs as the darkness of their minds we need to be reminded of the reply of the angel to Abraham's wife, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

THE TOUR OF OBSERVATION.

Shortly after the meeting of the Mission Synod, Mr. Appand and I made a tour inland, and visited about a dozen villages. I have been very much disappointed in regard to the population in them. We saw but a mere handful of people at each village, and at some, indeed many of them, not a single child. This, as you may well imagine, is not very encouraging to missionary enterprise on this side of the island. We remained away four days. This was quite long enough to give us an idea