

fore the Church, and it is well to give something of its history. The reason why so much of interest has been excited over it, has been from sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Annand in their noble self-devotedness to the work, in leaving a Christian for a heathen island, and in consequence of their wish to occupy Santo where one missionary should not be settled alone. Both Mackenzie and Robertson when home tried to get a fourth missionary but none was appointed.

The first time in the present connection that the question came before the F. M. Committee was February 22nd, 1886, about ten months since. The minute is as follows :

"In response to Mr. Annand's inquiries (by letter) as to whether the Committee could give any encouragement with regard to a fourth missionary for the New Hebrides, it was agreed that the Committee cannot at present in the state of the funds incur additional liabilities."

The next time the subject came before the Committee was in May 5th, 1886, about eight months since. The minute is on this wise:

"The following resolution of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was then read :

"The Woman's F. M. Society, Eastern Section, realizing the great need of another missionary to accompany the Rev. Mr. Annand to his new field of labor on the island of Santo, respectfully request the Foreign Mission Board to appoint a suitable person to go with him and guarantee the support of the new missionary until such time as the Foreign Mission Board is in a position to assume it."

After long and careful consideration the following resolution was adopted :

"The Committee notices with great satisfaction the Christian earnestness and zeal of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and of the several Woman's Congregational Societies throughout our Church, recognizes the valuable services that all these societies have rendered to the cause of Foreign Missions, and fully sympathizes with the object the W. F. M. S. has in view, that of sending a missionary to labor with Mr. Annand on the island of Santo; yet in view of the increasing debt upon the Fund and the probability of a speedy amalgamation of the F. M. Funds of the Eastern and Western Sections of our Church, agrees to defer further consideration of this subject until after the meeting of the General Assembly."

After the unification of the Foreign

Mission work of the church at Assembly in June, the subject was brought before the General Committee, when, after considerable discussion they said, in substance, to the Eastern Committee, that the increased financial burden need not deter, should the Eastern Division consider that the political position of the New Hebrides warrants the extension of work in that group.

The Eastern Division met again on July 8th. Rumors of French annexation of the group were rife, but all the definite knowledge that was before them was a cablegram from the secretary of the F. M. Committee of the Free Church of Scotland: "France disowns annexation but keeps troops there." The Committee know nothing of where the troops were or in what capacity, but hoped that from the fact of France disowning annexation this cloud would pass away as other clouds had done, and felt that then there was "nothing sufficiently serious to prove a barrier in the way of sending a second missionary." But as six months would elapse ere Mr. Annand's departure they knew that fuller developments with regard to the French would in the meantime almost certainly take place and enable the committee to see more clearly as to whether an appointment should be made. They saw, however, while they could not now decide as to final action, that, if they were at present to do nothing, the time would be getting short for advertizing, and thus learning who were willing to go. Accordingly they "agreed to take preliminary steps toward making such an appointment," in the way of advertizing and inviting correspondence, so that if nothing should occur, in the meantime, to prove a barrier, they could know who might be willing to undertake the work, and from among correspondents they might have their choice made, and would be ready, without further delay, to make the appointment should they see fit to do so, so that the new missionary could go out with Mr. Annand.

In accordance with that resolution an advertisement was issued inviting correspondence from ministers and licentiates of our church with a view of obtaining, if the way were clear for sending him, an additional laborer for the New Hebrides Mission.

On Nov. 9th the F. M. Committee met for the special consideration of the position of matters in the New Hebrides. There.