

Seas. One gratifying piece of intelligence is the safe arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Geddie, after an absence of eighteen years. Mr. Geddie proposes to remain for some time on this side the Atlantic, and to visit the various congregations connected with the Church. It would be gratifying could he extend his tour to Canada. From one so long actively engaged in the mission field, much interesting information could no doubt be obtained.

Another pleasing item of intelligence is the announcement that four missionaries have been engaged in Scotland by the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and will soon leave for the scene of their labours in the South Sea. Although these have been engaged in the meantime by the Reformed Presbyterian Church, it is expected that perhaps two of them will be supported by the churches in Melbourne. One of the missionaries referred to is a member of the Free Church, one is connected with the United Presbyterian Church, and the other two belong to the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

A letter appears from the Rev. John Inglis. The mission at Aneiteum is stated to be prospering. Mr. Inglis says :—

The severe trials through which the natives have passed have not shaken their faith in the truth and power of the Gospel. They were never, as a whole, more attentive to the means of grace than they are at present, or living apparently more under the influence of God's Word and Spirit. At Mr. Geddie's communion, a month ago, there were present 3 missionaries, 25 elders and deacons, about 300 communicants, and a congregation of about 800. At the communion here, a month before that, I admitted 44 new members. None, however, had been admitted for a twelvemonth before. We dispense the Lord's supper twice in the year at each station ; a large number go from the one side to the other on these occasions. On the former occasion the state of the weather had prevented Mr. Copeland from holding his preliminary meetings with the candidates, and hence there were no admissions. When we came he had a candidates' class attended by upwards of 60, which was meeting weekly. The session were unanimous in admitting 44 of these, the rest were detained for further instruction, and a longer trial of character. Since the commencement of the mission we have admitted, on this side of the island, 270 native church members ; of these 75 are dead, 1 removed to the other side, and 2 under suspension, leaving on the communicants' roll 192. These are all, so far as we know, maintaining a walk and conversation in some measure becoming the gospel.

THE AGGRESSIVE WORK IN IRELAND

The following extracts from the Report of the General Assembly's Roman Catholic Mission, will show the nature of the work in which our brethren are engaged, their difficulties, and encouragements.

"The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has long enjoyed prosperity. Sixty-five new congregations have in a short time rewarded her zeal ; and the new erections of the Belfast Presbytery alone would form a pretty numerous Presbytery. The fast increasing candidates for her ministry, two of whom lately volunteered for her Foreign Mission, fill her future with hope ; but her present is a season of anxiety on account of the vacancies left within her and around her, by the crowds of emigrants rushing from our shores. In ten years Ireland lost by emigration a million and a quarter of her people, and the retiring wave to break on other shores is strong and high as ever. Eleven thousand Irish lately emigrated in one month from Liverpool alone. Nearly one half of my congregation are gone, says one of our Missionaries—West, South, North ; and some, alas ! to the grave. With few or none coming, says another, and thousands leaving, and her small farmers breaking down, there is a great pressure on our little Missions congregations.