

## Report on Foreign Missions, 1889-90.

IN previous issues of the *Record* we have already published the substance of some of the statements furnished by our missionaries to the Foreign Mission Committee. These are embodied in the report submitted to the General Assembly and reproduced in the printed minutes. It will not, however, be deemed a needless repetition that we now endeavour to give such a complete outline of the report as a whole, as shall enable our readers to survey at a glance the whole scope of our Foreign Mission work. It embraces a very wide field of operations, and the administration is necessarily complicated by the varying circumstances under which the work is carried on. Not the least of the difficulties to be overcome is the number of different languages and dialects which have to be mastered before the missionaries can do much towards making the Gospel of the grace of God intelligible to the heathen mind. But in nearly all the places where our missionaries are located, a great deal has already been done to remove that difficulty. The missionary has not only acquired a sufficient knowledge of the language of the people to make himself easily understood, but he has also been the means of creating a Christian literature; and the Gospel of Christ, in whatever language it is presented, is still "the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth."

### I. THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

There are now eighteen missionaries in this group of islands—three from our own Church, three from the Free Church of Scotland, and the remainder from the Australasian Churches. The work has been carried on for many years by these churches labouring together harmoniously, and the results have been on the whole eminently satisfactory. Never since the Presbyterian missions began in 1848 have the prospects been more encouraging than at the present time.

During the past year the islands were brought regularly within the circle of commercial countries by the establishment of a line of monthly steamers between Melbourne and Sydney, in Australia, and the principal islands of the group. It was only necessary, in order to reach all the islands, to add to this an inter-island boat, that would call at mission stations



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and connect with the steamer of the main line monthly at Anelgaubah or Havana Harbour. This has been done at an annual cost to the mission of \$7,500, of which \$1,250 falls to the share of the Canadian Church. At present this arrangement is only an experiment. It is eagerly watched, in hopes of very beneficial results. It should add not a little to the comfort of the missionaries, as it gives them a regular monthly mail and rapid communication with the outside world. It should also do much to develop trade, by stimulating the natives to produce articles of export and thus help to bring the people under additional civilizing influences. Of course, the arrangement with the steamers made the service of the *Dayspring* unnecessary, and she has been chartered for other work for the present year; but she will not be disposed of till it is seen how the experiment with the steamers will turn out.

Last year was the jubilee of missionary effort in the New Hebrides. In November of 1839, the apostle of Polynesia, John Williams, gave his life in an endeavour to pioneer the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these islands. The story of the work since then is one of thrilling interest, and every church that helped it forward has been highly honoured by her connection with this mission. This is not the place to give the history, but some of the results may be stated. The whole of Aneityum has long been a Christian land; and now, at seventeen more stations, on different islands, there are many worshippers of the true God. There are eighteen missionaries and about 140 native teachers working on twenty of the