

and it is also said to be rich in minerals. Hence at no distant day capitalists may be found investing and opening up the hitherto unknown resources of this isolated region. Then it may become a valuable portion of Newfoundland of which it forms a part. To make progress however in this aggressive age, or keep pace with many of the rapidly growing countries around is decidedly beyond the question until a new and better era is inaugurated. At present there are no civil institutions, no code of laws is said to be in force, no roads have been constructed, all communication being in boats, and hence under such an existing state of affairs it is impossible for this country to make progress. Perhaps incorporation with the Dominion of Canada would be attended with good and prove beneficial.

This being the position and circumstances of this isolated people what must inevitably be their condition in a moral point of view? A high standard of morality is not to be expected where stated ordinances are not enjoyed, and where little communication is held with the outside world. Imagination may to some extent picture the spiritual destitution that exists, but it is more easily imagined than described. Under varied forms iniquity and vice prevail and many are living without God and without hope in the world. Their spiritual interests however are not wholly neglected. Nominally the people are Episcopalians and Roman Catholics and receive but a scanty supply of preaching. An Episcopal clergyman resides among them part of the year, and they are also visited occasionally by a Roman Catholic Priest. A neat little church has been built by the Episcopalians which is generally well filled, and another protestant church is about being erected to be finished next summer.

When we think then of the prevailing forms of vice among this people, and of the many sinking into a drunkard's grave, when we think that family religion is almost unknown and the sad training which the young are receiving, when we reflect that godly piety is but a feeble plant, should we not do something to strengthen the hands of the solitary laborer in this isolated and

destitute field. One lone toiler for a season among a scattered people, perishing for a lack of knowledge can do but little. A duty evidently rests upon the Presbyterian Church to do something in the way of supplying this people with gospel ordinances. During the past year there has been a considerable influx of Presbyterian population. Families have lately removed from the bounds of the Sheet Harbor congregation, some of whom are in full communion with our Zion, and are now located there. Deprived to a large extent of religious advantages, and their families of Sabbath and day school instruction should we not give them some attention? It is highly probable that an application will be made to the Home Mission Board next spring for a labourer, and we hope the Board will be enabled to accede to their request. An Evangelist with an exceedingly missionary spirit would find here a field of usefulness. Let the readers of the *Record* remember this solitary and isolated people in their prayers and not overlook the claims which our widening Home Field has upon us.

CHARGE

Given in Melbourne, March 13th, 1872, to Rev. D. Macdonald, on his ordination as a missionary to the New Hebrides. By Rev. John Inglis, Aneityum:

MY DEAR BROTHER.—In accordance with the appointment of this presbytery, I am now to address to you a few words. You have been ordained, or set apart, to the highest and most important office to which any human being can be appointed. You are not being sent forth to develop the material interests of the country in which you are to reside, however honourable such an occupation might be. You are not being sent forth to cultivate the domains, or to extend the boundaries of science, however interesting or however important that might be. Nor are you to be engaged simply in drawing forth the intellectual capacities, or in elevating the moral powers, of those among whom you are to labor. Although, indirectly, your labour will affect all these interests for good. But you have been set apart, and you are being sent forth, that you may deal directly and primarily with the highest interests of men—with their spiritual condition, with their immortal destinies. Your work is to be that which of all others most closely and