

Board, the Missionary Synod of the New Hebrides, the Committee of Reformed Presbyterian Synod, have all expressed, in their minutes, sorrow at the disaster, sympathy with the bereaved friends, recognition of the Lord's hand, submission to His will, with expression of high appreciation of the character, zeal and work of the brother so suddenly called from toil and conflict to his rest and reward. As these minutes have been published already, they are not here reproduced.

SETTLEMENT OF FOUR.

The death of Mr. Gordon, killed by the natives of the island, for whose people he had cheerfully imperilled his life, was sad and most startling news for the four Missionaries and their wives on arrival with Dr. Geddie in the *Dayspring* at Aneiteum, on May-day of 1872. Thankful that their voyage had ended safely, that a band of four had arrived full of hope and vigour, they were sorrowful and perplexed by the mournful intelligence; so blended is light with darkness and the joyful with the sorrowful in this life. But, though perplexed, they were not in despair; and, if Satan raged and his cause had a triumph, the soldiers of the cross must bestir themselves. The *Dayspring* is soon again under sail, and, with Doctor Geddie and Mr. McKenzie, on board, proceeds to call at the different stations with supplies, and, at the same time, to gather up the Missionaries to their annual Conference.

At this Conference or Council, henceforward to be known as the *Missionary Synod of the New Hebrides*, all the members were present, except Messrs. Copeland and Goodwill, whose reasons for absence were sustained as satisfactory, and the following allocation of the four newly-arrived brethren was determined:—

Rev. J. D. Murray to succeed Dr. Geddie, retired, in the station of Anecauhaut, Aneiteum.

Rev. J. W. McKenzie to take charge of the stations of Erakor and Pango, Fate, respectively occupied formerly by Rev. D. Morrison, deceased, and by Rev. Mr. Cosh, resigned.

Rev. H. A. Robertson, Missionary of the Church of the Maritime Provinces, to take charge of Dillon's Bay, vacant by the death of Rev. J. McNair our Missionary.

Rev. — McDonald, Missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and son-

house, that the spirit might be released to go and meet with Jesus, and with those, who from love to Jesus, had gone to posts of danger, whence they had been summoned into His presence. Before the summer had passed away, she had entered into the joy of her Lord.

in-law to Dr. Geddie, to open the new station at Havannah Harbour, on the same island with Mr. McKenzie.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray, whose settlement on Aneiteum was virtually determined on board of the *Dayspring*, had already taken possession of the Mission premises, and entertained the brethren. Of the situation, appearance and convenience of these premises, Mr. Murray reports in terms which reflect highest honour on the skill, perseverance and taste of his predecessors. His notice of the strength and completeness of the church and house, have acquired a new interest since the receipt of his latest communications, giving an account of the terrible struin to which they have since been subjected.

Respecting the condition in which he found the church, after the long absence of their beloved and venerable pastor, the following brief and almost statistical report is sufficient and satisfying:—

"There is here a fully organized Christian church. In connection with it, there are about 300 communicants, the majority of whom were born in heathenism, but with whom we have had the privilege of commemorating the death of the Saviour of men of all nations, by partaking of the emblems of His broken body and shed blood. There are about 25 schools on this side of the island. These are taught a short time every morning by an equal number of native teachers. There is a prayer meeting in the church once a week, which is attended, on an average, by about 100 people. On Sabbath, we hold two diets of worship, without any intermission, beginning at 9 a. m. and dismissing at 11. At 3 p. m. we have Sabbath School, which is attended by old and young. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed quarterly; and, on these occasions, the persons on all the lands on this side of the island, and usually, also, a goodly number from Mr. Inglis' side, assemble and fill the large church."

Substantially, this is the same narrative we have often had, but it is given now because it comes from a new and disinterested witness, who gives this testimony as the result of his own examination in accepting the pastorate.

Mr. Murray has much more than commenced the study of the language. He very soon learned enough to converse with the natives, then to teach them, then to read publicly their hymns, and finally to address them without an interpreter; and while Mr. Murray has advanced so far, Mrs. Murray is able to converse with the people with equal fluency.

Mr. McKenzie was later in reaching his field. Of his arrival, however, and settlement at his station, with Mrs. McKenzie