

A letter from Dr. Steel informed the Conference that Mr. Gordon had sent in his resignation as missionary from the Presbyterian church of New South Wales, and that their General Assembly had accepted said resignation. As it is probable that the minutes of the meeting will be published in the *Record* for January, we will not at present furnish any detailed statement except in reference to

THE DAYSPRING.

The meeting being held July 3rd, the course of the Dayspring for the season was determined. A committee was appointed to confer with Captain Fraser respecting the continuing of his service in the Dayspring. The Captain declined, owing chiefly to his rising family, and the expense connected with their education. The Conference recorded the obligations of the Mission to Captain Fraser and voted £220 as payment of expenses of passage of himself and family to Halifax, appointed a Board of Management in Melbourne for Dayspring, consisting of three members, (Dr. Geddie, Rev. D. McDonald. Rev. ———,) and three men of business acquainted with shipping and the requirements of vessels, so that the Board may be a reliable authority.

REPAIRS TO DAYSPRING.

The following minute demands attention :—

"No. 26—A special survey was held on the Dayspring this year in Melbourne; and it was found that it will be necessary, during the ensuing year, in order to maintain the efficiency of the vessel, that she undergo repairs involving an outlay of £1700. These repairs will include new sails, new rigging, new deck, new copper, new bolts and other minor matters. In order to meet this expenditure, that an appeal be made the different churches supporting this Mission to raise respectively a sum equal to their annual contributions for the support of the vessel, and to remit at their earliest convenience, to J. S. Ogilvy, Esq., Treasurer for the D. S. funds, and that Mr. Neilson prepare a circular, setting forth the urgency of this appeal.

"27—That the Dayspring be repaired in Melbourne, that the Agent of the Dayspring and the Board make all the requisite arrangements for having the necessary repairs executed, and for seeing the vessel properly fitted out for sea, and despatched

not later than 12th March, 1872; the agent and the board to engage a suitable Captain."

By the time Mr. Neilson's circular reaches us the money will be wanted in Melbourne, and so Rev. D. McDonald, of Melbourne, the earnest, and we may truly say, indefatigable agent of the Dayspring, anticipates Mr. Neilson's pen by writing at once to the Secretaries of the Mission Boards of the respective churches. We present brief extract :—

"I believe that the repairs are needed, but where is the money to come from? I undertake to say that Victoria will be good for £500 towards maintenance and £500 towards repairs. I dare say that New South Wales will give £200. I am writing to the Rev. Mr. Kay, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church for £250, and now to you for another £250, thus leaving £700 to be made up by New Zealand and the smaller Australian colonies.

"The vessel is to be here in December, and she will not again leave our harbour until these repairs are executed and paid for. Observe, she is fixed to leave on the 12th March. I hope your missionaries may be along in time. Meanwhile send us money. *Bis dat qui cito dat.*"

Evidently what is done to meet this emergency must be done quickly. The Secretary will issue Dayspring Cards as usual, and without waiting for the Board to meet, and will ask the youth of the church to consider the whole case and raise as much more than usual as possible, returning their cards *immediately after the new year*; but nothing will be remitted until the whole case is considered by the Board, and their authorization granted.

General State of the Islands.

We regret to say that this is far from being satisfactory. The kidnapping of natives, though contradicted, is found to be a fact of frequent occurrence, and is producing its legitimate fruits—the shedding of the blood of British subjects.

Dr. Steel writes under date Aug. 9th :—

I send you report of a case that came before a criminal court here, respecting the Polynesian labourers, and in which the Captain has been convicted.

Professor Smith who went by Fiji to San Francisco writes that at Fiji nobody doubted that kidnapping had occurred. Cases arise from time to time to prove this,