

The Synod cordially than's Mr. Langham for his kind offer, and informs him that missionaries are about to be settled on Santo who will willingly take charge of any such teacher sent in terms of his letter.

25th May, 1887.

29. The committee appointed (minute 20) to prepare a minute upon the reports of stations, submitted the following minute which was received and adopted at the finding of the Synod.

In consequence of the exceedingly wet and unhealthy summer some of the mission families suffered rather severely from fever and other illnesses, and at Erakor a loved child was called away. However, by the blessing of God and the return of the cooler season the health of those who have been suffering has been greatly improved, so that now nearly all are able to discharge the duties devolving upon them.

It is very gratifying to find that steady progress has characterized the work throughout, although more marked on some islands than on others.

The following items are worthy of mention, viz.—Superstition has apparently decreased, heathen villages have received teachers, services have been conducted in new districts, the Christian party has been strengthened by accessions from the heathen, and there has been increased liberality on the part of the converts.

The foregoing facts combined with this, that Mr. Annand, formerly of Aneityum, also three new missionaries, are about to open new stations on heathen islands, are a guarantee to us that the Lord is not forsaking His cause in this field, which fills us with gratitude for the past and hopefulness for the future.

30. Private minute.

31. The following sums, for the year ending Dec. 1887, were granted to brethren for their teachers from the Native Teachers Fund :

	£	s.	d.
Rev. J. H. Lawrie	15		
Dr. Gunn	19	10	
Rev. W. Watt, for Aniwa	16		
“ D. Macdonald	21		
“ R. M. Fraser	23	5	
“ J. W. McKenzie, for Ambrim	3		
“ A. Morton	4		
“ J. D. Landels	4		

£105 15

32. Dr. Steele is hereby authorized to draw the sum of £41 *stg.* from the Native Teachers' Fund of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, being the amount of the sums drawn for teachers laboring under missionaries connected with that Church.

33. Read a letter from Mr. Gray asking the sanction of Synod for the conveyance of copra and other goods to and from Sydney in connection with a proposed limited liability company. The Synod refused its sanction, deeming the scheme impracticable.

34. The Synod desires to convey its hearty thanks to the *Dayspring* Board for its ready compliance with the request of the Synod to secure additional means for bringing to the islands the supplies and building materials necessary for the new missionaries this year, as well as providing accommodation for their settlement.

35. It is with feelings of deepest emotion that the Synod would place on record its expression of heartfelt sympathy for their beloved brother, Rev. C. Murray, of Ambrim, in the severe affliction with which God in His providence has visited him, and also with his relations, as well as the Church he represents in these islands.

36. Mr. Lawrie was appointed to write the Annual report of the *Dayspring*, receive and forward for publication the reports of stations for the year, and also write the teachers report.

37. Read a letter from Rev. Dr. Inglis proposing the establishment of a Sanatorium on Futuna. The Synod deem the scheme impracticable.

38. Mr. Watt asked permission of Synod to apply to his Church for the sum of £18. 10/, being expense incurred in repairing his boat. Permission was granted.

39. The Synod would bring under the notice of the Free Church of Scotland the fact that for several years they have only had two missionaries laboring in these islands, whereas we were led to expect that they would undertake the support of three; we therefore urge upon them in the present exigencies of the mission the extreme desirability of their sending out a third laborer.

40. Read a letter from Mr. Martin, Aneityum, requesting a passage to Sydney per *Cairndhu* or *Dayspring*. Permission was granted him to proceed per *Dayspring*.