

## Our Foreign Missions.

Rev. Murdock Mackenzie has gone back alone to China, leaving Mrs. McKenzie and little Eric in Canada, the health of the child making unsafe at present his return to that climate.

After long illness, the result of hardship and unhealthy surroundings in their work in India, Mrs. Dr. Buchanan is somewhat better; and now, leaving her and the children behind, Dr. Buchanan is on his way alone to India, to open up his new mission among the Bheels.

How the meaning of words changes with time. "Prevent" used to mean "precede," 1 Thess 4: 15. Now it means hinder. Furlough used to mean rest; but not now to our returned missionaries. Meetings once and twice a day, week after week, are Mr. Russell's furlough as they were Mackenzie's who has just returned to Honan. Among the gifts for the Fund, after one of Mr. Russell's meetings a few days since, was a fine horse, to be sold for the work.

Crescent St. Church, Montreal, which supports Dr. McClure in Honan, is now providing him with a hospital and house. And it was needed. In a room 13 x 17 ft. with brick floor and corn-stalk ceiling, Dr. McClure (a Weelum also) has treated as many as 1,200 patients in a week. It is poor economy, not to speak of humanity or Christian duty, to allow our representatives in the foreign field to wear out their lives with needless exposure when we can prevent it. Some of our missionaries have suffered in the past from neglect of this kind.

The latest from the New Hebrides is a letter from Rev. Dr. Annand, of 15 Oct., from Sydney, Australia, where he and Mrs. Annand had just arrived, for repairs, after more than five years steady strain and work. A quarter of a century have they and the Mackenzies and Robertsons given, doing our work in the evangelization of these islands.

Of his young school for native helpers

for the group, Dr. Annand says: "Our household was in good working condition when we left. Mr. Bowie had been installed as our successor for the time of our furlough. He and Mr. Lang will carry on the work in our absence.

The number of pupils is rapidly increasing. There are now sixty-six men and boys on the roll, and twenty-one wives with eight children, giving us a family of *ninety-five*, all told, to care for, teach, feed, and clothe. To us they look for everything required both in sickness and in health, hence you see that we have our responsibilities. On our return we shall probably have large accessions to our pupils as many are wanting to attend. I wish the Canadian church would help us more in the Institution.

In the death of Dr. Geo. Patterson, of New Glasgow, N.S., a link with the far past is severed, both in our foreign work and in the early history of the RECORD. He was one of the most active members of our first Foreign Mission Committee, when Dr. Geddie was beginning his work in Aneltyum. The only other member of that Committee, now living, is Sir Wm. Dawson.

Dr. Patterson was also in a sense, the first Editor of the RECORD. When Mr. Geddie's letters, almost peerless of their kind, began to come home, there was need for some medium to print and circulate them among the people of the Church in Nova Scotia; and the *Missionary Register*, the first church organ of any branch of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, was started, with Rev. Geo. Patterson, then a pastor at Green Hill, N. S. as editor. Other periodicals were afterwards started by other branches of the church, but the process of union has merged all again into one, THE RECORD, so that the *Register* of nearly fifty years ago is the predecessor of the RECORD of to-day.

His busy pen too has given us the lives of Dr. Geddie, the Mathesons, and Johnson, the beginning of our own missionary biography. Of great and lasting value has been his work for Foreign Missions. A most fitting tribute to that work it was, when Mrs. Harrington of Halifax, a daughter of Dr. Geddie, sent for his coffin a wreath of "ferns from Aneltyum."