

would be apparent that the mission of our church would be to send the gospel elsewhere and whenever the claims of Labrador are met by our sister churches, we ought promptly to withdraw. But in the meantime the fact that there is such an intense desire on the part of the people to listen to the gospel, by whomsoever preached, is a strong inducement for our Church to try to send them the Word of God.

#### A CALL TO US.

Perishing for lack of knowledge, crying aloud for the bread of life, we ought not with unpyrrhic eye to look upon their case, and forgetting that those who have their home upon that desolate coast are our neighbours, pass coldly by on the other side. In ordinary seasons there is no doubt that they would give us some substantial proof of their appreciation of our efforts on their behalf. But the past summer has been so unfavourable for the fishermen, that it would have been utterly unwarrantable to have imitated the grasping policy of the Romish emissaries, who insisted that, poor as the returns of the season were, the proceeds of one day's fishing should be consecrated to "the holy work" of finishing a cathedral in honor of the "Immaculate Virgin." The prospect of the rigours of a coming winter deterred me from taking collections at any of the Harbours except Indian Tickle, where notwithstanding the bad voyage, nearly \$8 dollars were collected on a single Sabbath afternoon.

It affords me much pleasure however, to be able to report that our warm-hearted Presbyterian brethren in Harbour Grace and St. John's, have generously undertaken to defray a large part of the expense of a mission to Labrador. I have not yet ascertained the exact amount which they propose to raise annually, but their suggestion will be communicated to the Board as soon as it comes to hand.

The accompanying financial statement will indicate the expense of the mission during the past season. One item, the cost of the missionary's passage to Labrador is large. Had matters been arranged so that he could have sailed about the 10th or 15th of June, in some of the fishing vessels, the

greater part, perhaps the whole, of this item could have been saved. As, however, all these vessels had sailed before the mission was undertaken, he was compelled to take the steamer. Should the church determine to send a missionary next year, Captain Samuel Reaser, of Rose Bay, Lunenburg, has very kindly offered to give him a free passage in his vessel. The thanks of the Board are also due to Messrs. John Silver and Messervay of Halifax, as they recently conferred a similar favour upon your missionary on his return from Labrador to Nova Scotia at the close of the season.

The foregoing report is respectfully submitted by

EDWARD A. MCCURDY.

Dec. 19, 1864.

## Other Missions.

### Polynesia.

#### DESPOTIC AND OPPRESSIVE EXERCISE OF FRENCH AUTHORITY IN THE ISLAND OF LIFU, LOYALTY GROUP.

The latest intelligence from Australia fully confirms the narrative given in our last number, by the Rev. S. MACFARLANE, of the outrageous measures inflicted by the Governor of New Caledonia on the Protestant missionaries and the defenceless Native Christians of the Island of Lifu.

These proceedings, it must be specially remarked, apply only to those Natives who had received the knowledge of the Gospel from the English Protestant Missionaries, who had made this uninviting island the scene of their self-denying labours. On the contrary, the French Catholic missionaries, and their adherents, were left free in the exercise of their own views and practices, and were, in fact, parties in the violence and oppression exercised on their Protestant countrymen.

This intolerant exercise of military authority includes the entire prohibition of all public instruction and Christian worship in the several native chapels throughout the Island, in which an aggregate of not less than four thousand people were accustomed to assemble; the suppression of the schools, in which two thousand children were instructed; and the authoritative discontinuance of the free-will offerings of the people in the service of religion. English missionaries from other islands, it will also be remembered, were prevented from even land-