

our students of the same attainments; with this additional recommendation, that he is favorably regarded as a candidate for the Foreign Mission. In the communication which was accordingly sent to Mr Gordon, the following statements occur.

"All appear to be perfectly satisfied with your apparent piety and great zeal, but there are other properties necessary to missionary success, which can only be acquired by patient study and daily effort. It is the desire of us all that you should go forth a *workman thoroughly furnished*, for it is quite obvious that the tests and privations of the missionary life, once fairly undertaken, preclude all opportunity for much personal improvement. Where there exists an ardent love for the Redeemer and the extension of his kingdom, and a burning zeal for the salvation of souls, there is great need of such a measure of christian prudence, as dwells alone with the wisdom that cometh down from above. You know what Jesus said to his disciples, the first Christian missionaries, 'Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves;' and what the greatest of all merely human missionaries said to his spiritual children, 'Let not your good be evil spoken of.'"

A reply was in due course received from Mr Gordon, acquiescing very cordially in the sentiments thus expressed; and from that time to the present he has been fully occupied in the prosecution of those studies which were there so highly approved. Besides regular attendance on the classes of Professors King and Lyall, he has been directing special attention to medical study under Dr Parker and others of the same profession. In a letter recently received, Mr Gordon says, "I am attending regularly to the Dr in the afternoon and am obtaining much valuable information in the use of medicine. I attend to mixing medicine for patients, and I read upon the nature of these medicines. Dr Parker takes much trouble in obtaining for me all the practical information which he thinks will be beneficial to me. I do not pay so much attention to print-

ing yet as I expect to be enabled to do after a short time."

In another letter he speaks of turning his attention to mechanical pursuits, and no one who has perused the correspondence of Mr Geddie, with any degree of attention, will be disposed to call in question the propriety of this step. With such entire devotement of time and talent to the preparatory work of a missionary life, your Board have felt peculiar gratification, and have readily acknowledged their obligation to proffer all that encouragement and support which are necessary for its continuance. Their earnest desire to hasten, as far as is consistent with due regard to health and opportunity, Mr Gordon's preparation for the field of labor, has induced them to direct him to refuse all the repeated offers which have been made for his services by the Halifax city mission, under whose direction he had formerly been engaged, with much approbation and apparent usefulness. Other sources of support have in like manner been refused, and with the conviction that in this respect they have but anticipated the general opinion of Synod, your Board entertain the confidence that they will be cheerfully sustained in the appropriation of funds which has consequently been found necessary. They have only farther to remark, that by special direction, Mr Gordon has been requested to attend the present meeting of Synod, in order to facilitate any personal intercourse which may be considered desirable. Reference in this minute has been made to the position of the only candidate that has yet offered to supply the vacancy at Ancients, because your Board have felt deeply the responsibility in that matter and are anxious that their action throughout should be distinctly known to the supreme Court and to the Church at large; and they are deeply sensible that while the necessities of the mission are very claimant, much of future usefulness and comfort on the part of any individual who may be separated to this field of labor, must depend not only on natural abilities, piety, and missionary spirit, but upon such other preparatory qualifications, as time and diligent application can alone test and secure.