

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Thursday evening was devoted to the subject of Foreign Missions. The church was filled to overflowing by a deeply interested audience. The Clerk read the

Annual Report for 1870,

which was listened to with breathless attention. Every member of the Church should read it; and the facts it contains should be quite familiar to our office-bearers.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS FOR 1870.

The narrative which the Board have to submit will naturally divide itself into two parts, the first being a condensed statement of their own proceedings during the past year, and the second, an outline of the work of our Foreign Missionaries, so far as this can be presented in a paper of moderate length.

MR. LAMBERT'S VISIT.

The Synod of 1869 had scarcely adjourned when the Secretary of the Board, in New Glasgow, received word of the arrival in Halifax of Rev. Mr. Lambert, of San Fernando. It will be remembered that he had been expected at Synod, and that his non-appearance was a disappointment to us all, as indeed it was to an equal extent to himself. As the brother had scarcely reached their homes, no formal meeting of the Board was called, but arrangements were speedily made for making the best use of Mr. Lambert's willing services during the fortnight at his disposal. He preached in Pictou, in Shubenacadie and Elmsdale, and addressed public meetings in Pictou town, West River, Green Hill, Merigomish, New Glasgow, Truro, Windsor and Halifax. In these meetings he gave much interesting information respecting Trinidad and the spiritual condition of its general population, respecting the coolies, their numbers, religious views and superstitions, the prospects of our mission and the desirableness of reinforcing it by the appointment of at least one more to be a coadjutor to Rev. Mr. Morton.

The Board, at the first meeting held after Mr. Lambert's departure, expressed on their Minutes and tendered by letter to him, their thanks for his visit, and for the interest ever shewn in our mission and for his kindness to our missionary in Trinidad.

THE CALLING OF MISSIONARIES.

The next subject which engaged the attention of the Board was the use of the power entrusted to them for the first time

by Synod, of calling any minister or licentiate of the body to the mission fields. They felt that their power should be used, with a deep sense of responsibility and of their need of Divine guidance. Their first meeting on this matter was occupied chiefly in conference, at the close of which the members of the Board were of one mind, that before proceeding to address a call to any minister, they should open correspondence with a number whom they judged suitable, bring the whole subject before them, and ascertain to what extent they were interested in mission work, and how far inclined to give a prayerful, earnest, and personal consideration to the views of the church, as expressed in the form of a call from this Board. All the persons addressed shewed deep concern for the weakened condition of our mission, their desire to see our missionaries increase in number, and their readiness to consider carefully what their own duty might be in the premises. In the case of some, Providential hindrances were named which the parties considered sufficient to cause them to be passed by. The result of the correspondence, when read and considered, was an unanimous resolution of the Board to address calls to Rev. K. J. Grant, of Merigomish, and Rev. M. G. Henry, of Clyde River,—the first to be a missionary to Trinidad, and the second to the New Hebrides. Reasons were known to the Board why the call to Mr. Grant should not be proceeded with immediately; but no time was lost in preparing a call to Mr. Henry and in laying it, with reasons for his removal from Nova Scotia to the New Hebrides, before the Presbytery of Halifax.

The Synod is already aware that this call was declined, to a great extent in deference to the very strong appeals or the congregation of Clyde River and Barrington, made alike to their pastor and Presbytery, that they should not be deprived of their minister when his usefulness among them was increasing, and especially when he was the only one of the body at the time between Yarmouth and Lunenburg counties.

The disappointment of the Board was enhanced by the fact, that it was now impossible to obtain a response from any other, if called immediately, in time, should such response prove favourable, for the new missionary to meet the *Dayspring* in Australia and to reach the islands this year.

OFFER OF A MISSIONARY.

The Board have now to notice the fact, that after they had agreed to call Mr. Henry, but before they received his reply, an offer of a missionary came to them unsolicited and from an unexpected quarter. This tender of service was from Mr.