

Death of Mrs. Nichol.

One of our young missionaries to the Indians of the North West, Mr. Frank Nichol, of Mistawasis Reserve, has been visited with a sore sorrow in the death of Mrs. Nichol. Little more than a year ago they were married and went to their chosen field of work. Mrs. Nichol, in June, visited Ontario for a few weeks. She seemed in good health, and created quite a deep interest in our Indian Missions in several places where she addressed ladies' meetings. Starting on her return journey, a short time since, she was taken down with a chill and subsequent fever. Bravely she continued her journey, hoping to overcome it, but on reaching Prince Albert, still one hundred miles from home, she could go no farther and in a few days, on the eve of August 5th, she entered that blessed rest where chill or fever, of body or mind or spirit, never come.

Special trials of Missionaries.

Messrs. Leggatt and Morton, two missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, who, with their wives, have been for four or five years on the island of Maekula, New Hebrides, near Santo, where our own missionary, Mr. Annand, labors, have had their times of special trial. More than a year since Mrs. Leggatt, worn down with anxiety and a measure of dread, and oppressed by the loneliness of her position in a savage land, lost her reason and took her own life. Mr. Leggatt took his baby girl to Australia, placed her in charge of friends there, and returned to his field and work. Mrs. Morton, in whose house the death had occurred, prostrated by it and by the knowledge that a native was watching to shoot her own husband, and by the fact that he did shoot a man on the verandah of the manse, when her husband was away, probably mistaking him for the missionary, has had to give up the work for a time. Her husband has taken her to Australia and leaving her there has gone back to his field. With heavy hearts both have returned to their desolate homes on a heathen isle to save and bless the poor wretches that sometimes seek their lives. The missionaries have their trials of which we at home can form little conception. In the New Hebrides a common burden is the parting with children. So soon as these children are five and six years old they must be sent away to Australia, or perhaps to Scotland, to be taught and trained by strangers. The parents dare not keep them while their characters are forming, where they come into daily contact with the native children. Then, in addition to these more common trials there come sometimes the heavier burdens, which but for Divine help would be greater than they could bear. Our part at home is to hold up their hands by prayer and hearty support, by letters with words of cheer, and by prayer to our common Father.

DARK DEEDS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

FOR the sake of the young readers I may state that the New Hebrides Mission is a joint one. There are nineteen missionary families laboring on fourteen different islands. Three of these families are supported by our own Church, two by the Free Church of Scotland, and the remaining fourteen by churches in Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Smail, a missionary of the Otago (New Zealand) Presbyterian Church, writes, in the *N. Z. Presbyterian*, of his work on Epi:—

EPI, MAY 25th, 1892.

"We have just been hearing horrid stories of heathen cruelty from all around us. A young mother, in a neighboring village, about a fortnight ago, buried alive her infant son. The wee thing had not been well, I suppose, and cried a good deal, and so the youngsters of the village said they did not want it and told her to kill it. So they made a hole and buried the wee thing alive, not heeding its cries.

Last week, when speaking to a man and his wife about their children, they quietly and unblushingly confessed to having buried one alive, adding as a reason that it was a girl—'It was a girl you know.'

Who will dare talk of the exalted heathen virtues after the like of this!—and that is only a *sample*. And who will dare say in the face of facts like these that it is better to let the heathen alone? Let such people—I would not like to write a descriptive name for them—just come and see some of the Native Christian families and then be silent with their lying, worldly-wise talk.

Our immediate outlook is not bright just now, as it is the *sing-sing time*. One has been running its tedious length and doing vast harm fully three months, and has at least two months more to go. This keeps away most of our scholars, still a few come; and one at least has professedly given up heathenism. He is a nice boy, and we trust God will guide his feet into the truth, the light. Pray for us."

Mr. Smail gives an account of the great affliction that has over-taken the family of missionary Morton, whose wife was prostrated at the unexpected death of Mrs. Leggatt in her house, and by the knowledge that a ruffian was prowling about for the purpose of shooting her husband, and who actually shot his man on the verandah of the manse when her husband was from home. The result was that Mr. Morton had to take her to Australia. He has returned to his work and home without her. Mr. Leggatt, after placing his little daughter with friends, has also returned to his parish to resume his work under depressing circumstances.

These incidents are a sample of the trials and burdens of our missionaries."