

establish a mission, agreeably to their application, provided always that such arrangements be made as will prove satisfactory to all parties. This decision was arrived at on the following grounds: it was felt that to enlist the resources of such a church as notwithstanding its recent origin, has acquired so extensive and rapidly growing resources, is a matter of the highest moment; its local situation, too, within a few days sail of the New Hebrides, furnishes great advantages for frequent and efficient intercourse, for securing seasonable supplies, and for recruiting the health of missionaries by occasional retirement from their arduous enterprise. It was also felt that there was great need for the services of such an agent as Mr. Geddie, to arouse and direct the energies, as well as to command the confidence of a church that, however powerful in pecuniary resources, is but in its infancy of ministerial supply. Nor should it be forgotten that the present application furnishes us with an admirable opportunity of returning the generous and substantial sympathy of that church in aiding the funds which have built the mission vessel, the maintenance of which, in the event of our favourable response, will be thereby secured in due proportion and with desirable regularity. These, and other considerations of a like weighty character, impressed your Board with a strong disposition to comply with this application, but at the same time they felt that the equivalent sought for these advantages was one which the church at home would be slow to approve. The thought of parting with their first and most successful missionary, and of yielding all further claim to his services, was felt by all to be too painful and perilous to be for a moment entertained. In these circumstances it occurred to your Board that the object of the Australian committee would be substantially gained by receiving the services of our missionary for such time as might be found necessary to establish their mission, and thus the tie of close and sacred relation which has subsisted for so many years between Mr. Geddie and the church in which he was born, educated, licensed, ordained and missioned, would be preserved intact.

His correspondence would still reach us to tell of his labours in the common cause, and good hope might be entertained that his latter years would still be largely spent in the service of the church which has enjoyed the full vigour and benefit of his earlier years.

NEW MISSIONARIES.

The necessity and possibility of sending forth several additional missionaries have occupied the serious attention of your Board. The visits and addresses to the students attending the Theological Hall during its last session, on the part of Mr. Geddie, have resulted in the offer of three young men, whose certificates, so far as submitted, have been of the most satisfactory nature. No positive engagement, however, has been made with any one. License to preach the everlasting gospel has been granted to two of them by their respective Presbyteries,—and one has yet another session to attend before his course is completed in theological study. A fourth candidate has been found in the person of one of our probationers, who has recently completed his course with much credit, at Princeton, N.J., and received license from the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island. At a future meeting of the Board definite decision will be taken on each of these applications, and public notice thereof given to the church.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MISSIONARIES.

In their last report, your Board were called upon to notice the departure of three missionaries to the foreign field. It is now their privilege to notice the prosperous voyage of these brethren and their wives to the South Seas from Halifax, by Cape of Good Hope, and various ports in Australia. After needful preliminary visitation of the Loyalty, as well as the New Hebrides Islands, a mission council was held, and in accordance with its decision, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison were appointed to settle on Fate, Mr. Gordon on Erromanga, and Mr. and Mrs. McCullagh on Aneiteum. The correspondence of these missionaries during their lengthened voyage, and since their location, has been so extensively published to the church, that it will be quite