

ed to meet this emergency. Where any of these have funds on hand they should be sent forward without delay, and in many cases where there are none on hand they might easily be raised. Our only appeal consists in this simple narrative of the facts of the case. Our only reserve fund is held by the Lord's people, and the Board who are merely the Trustees of their liberality, hereby inform them that more funds are needed, and as quickly as possible.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

Letter from Rev. J. Ingles.

Rev. P. McGregor, Sec of the Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, Lower Provinces of the New Dominion.

ANEITYUM, NEW HEBRIDES, }
April 15th, 1871. }

My Dear Sir,—I am writing you at present chiefly on one point, to which I am desirous of calling the attention both of the Board of Missions and the Church, and that is an increase of missionaries on this group. Our numbers are again reduced; and be assured, we sympathize deeply and sincerely with your church in the loss you have sustained. We are anxious not only to regain our former position, but to exceed it. We are anxious to make a vigorous effort, and raise the number of our missionaries on this group to twenty at least; and that within the next five years. We are ten just now, and two new missionaries every year, for the next five years, would complete the number. The proposal is by no means chimerical; it is little more than carrying into actual effect, what has been virtually agreed to by all the churches connected with this mission. I am doing little more, therefore, than simply stirring you up, by putting you in remembrance. The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland has three missionaries at present in the field. The Synod has authorized the Committee to engage one or two more. Well, say two. That will make five, and that will be their quota. You have only one at present: till lately you had three. But you have, as I understand, four students engaged for this mission, one of them nearly ready for being licensed. You can easily support five here, in addition to your coolie mission in Trinidad. Your church is now nearly three times the size of ours. The Presbyterian church in Nova Scotia, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, have one missionary in the field and have another engaged to follow. They will thus support

two. The Presbyterian Churches in the Australasian colonies have five in the field. These all would make seventeen. South Australia and Tasmania two colonies that liberally support the Dayspring, have as yet, no missionary here. They are sufficiently able, and I believe perfectly willing to support one each. Victoria, with its one hundred and twenty-six congregations, will easily support three instead of two,* and then our number of twenty would be complete.

We cannot double our number in one year; but I think without any extraordinary effort it may easily be done in five years. Our church may have their quota here, say in two years. A: your church is so much reduced at present. We may allow you, say four years. We do not wish too many at one time; it is difficult then to get them advantageously settled. In 1866, six missionaries came upon us all at once—three old ones returned and three new ones arrived, all requiring to be settled, and only four missionaries previously on the field to receive them. We found the arrangement very embarrassing; but when there are only two or so, there is rarely any difficulty.

REASONS FOR EFFORT

One reason which is urging us to hasten this effort just now, is this: the Dayspring would supply the wants of the twenty nearly as easily as the ten—at least quite easily. In the Providence of God we have been led to occupy Santo, and the vessel has thus to traverse the whole group. With the twenty missionaries our field would be no more extensive than it is with the ten. The Dayspring might then have to make two voyages to the colonies every year, instead of one; but that she has done, on an average, nearly every second year since she entered the field. Moreover, the relative expenses of the vessel would be reduced one-half, which would be a great matter. It would be utilizing nearly a thousand pounds a year. It is true she has hitherto supplied the Loyalty Island mission, in a great measure, as well as our own; but now that they have their own mission vessel in these seas, that demand is nearly superseded.

There is, besides, every likelihood that our openings for new missionaries will be much more numerous now than they have been for some years past, the natives to the north of the group seem much more accessible than in these southern islands, where from a variety of causes, their prejudices

* Since writing the above I have learned that the Victoria Church has resolved to send two more missionaries to the New Hebrides; so that our object is nearer being attained than we expected.