

the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and £100 by the Independents, who are hereafter to contribute their quota to her support.

CLOSE.

We are now in a position, before closing, to look around on all the dark shadows which have been crossing the paths of our missionaries, and consequently of the church during the last year, and to some extent for several years. We may name the continuance of the war-spirit on Erromanga, the determination to reject the gospel on Tana, as evinced by the repulse of Dr. Geddie and Mr. Inglis when attempting to settle Mr. Neilson, the ravages of diseases, the diminution of the population from the wasting effects of these epidemics, even in christianized Aneiteum, indications of want of fervour and appreciation of the gospel in the rising generation there, the prostration of Mr. Morrison, hints of the want of entire unanimity and cordiality between some of our agents, the continuance of a demoralizing trade (next door to a slave trade) in carrying away natives to distant countries as labourers, thus frustrating, to a great extent, the work of the missionary, and the aggressions of the French, depriving the missionaries of a neighbouring group of all freedom in carrying out their commission. These are among the things which cause many of us to feel that the Lord's chastening hand is upon us, that he does not go forth with our armies as in former times, and that consequently his work is progressing but slowly among the heathen.

It is well that we should mark these signs of the times. It is well that our missionaries and we should be alike deeply impressed and humbled by these melancholy facts. But should our hands become slack or our knees feeble? How are our missionaries themselves affected? Do they propose retreat? They have two proposals to offer, two requests to make, and two only. *Send men to us! SEND PRAYERS TO GOD!* And shall the church which sent a Geddie and a Gordon, a Matheson and a Johnson, as well as the younger brethren who sailed in the *Dayspring*, have to confess that the race of heroes has become extinct, that none are ready to grasp the banner which, by reason of death, they could hold no longer? Shall we tell our missionaries, whose longing eyes are even now straining for the *Dayspring* to bring news that help is coming, that an hundred Nova Scotians shall sail this season for New Zealand and Australia to better their own worldly circumstances, and that *not one* from all the Lower Colonies shall go to work with them in raising the lost from the depths of Satan's rule? Oh that the Hope of Israel our Saviour, in time of trouble, may be no stranger to us,

the church's assembled eldership, that He may pour upon ministers, and missionaries, and students, and people the spirit of grace and of supplication, the spirit of confession and self-consecration! Our prayer in closing is, that our missionaries and ourselves may be brought, by Omnipotent grace, to such a frame of mind that He can consistently with His honour and our safety, employ us in these Provinces, and in those islands, washed by the great Southern Ocean, in uprearing the great spiritual temple, founded on Himself as the rock of ages to be filled with His glory for ever and ever; and on which ransomed millions out of every nation, and kindred, and people, and tongue, shall raise a never-ceasing song, "To Him that loved them and washed them from their sins in His own blood."

All which is respectfully submitted.

P. G. MCGREGOR, Sec'y.

Halifax, June 24, 1868.

News of the Church.

Presbytery of P. E. Island.

This court held several meetings at the time of Synod. Among the items of business transacted were the following. The Rev. D. W. Cameron placed the demission of his charge in the hands of the Presbytery. The demission was allowed to lie upon the table, and the clerk was instructed to notify the congregation, to appear for their interests, at a meeting of the Presbytery, to be held on the 15th July. The Rev. J. Allan was appointed to preach at West St. Peters on the 1st Sabbath of July, meet with the congregation on the following Monday for deliberation in this matter, and notify them to appear in accordance with the above decision.

The Rev. D. McNeill requested leave of absence from his congregation for three months, on account of ill health. The Presbytery, whilst regretting the circumstances which necessitated this step, granted the request.

Entered upon a consideration of the charge made by the *Presbyterian Witness*, regarding a certain congregation in P. E. Island, when after a full consideration of the case, and explanation given, the Presbytery are most happy to find, that there is no ground for any such charge as that made, against any congregation in this Presbytery.

The Presbytery again met in the Free Church in Charlottetown, on July 15th. Commissions were read and sustained from the sessions of Princeton, Cavendish and New Glasgow, and Queen Square Charlottetown, appointing Messrs. Archibald Sin-