

—with his sweet and noble wife—had given up home and people, and sailed 20,000 miles away, right into his vast missionary diocese, on his own principle that “where a trader will go for gain, there the missionary ought to go for the merchandise of souls.” He resolved that New Zealand should be the second of the colonies to embark in the grand work, and nobly he carried the resolution into effect. But let it never be forgotten that Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island were first !

### THE NEW HEBRIDES.

The Church decided to establish its mission in Polynesia, and Mr. Geddie and his colleague, after consultation with the missionaries on Samoa, chose Western Polynesia and the island of Aneityum, the most southerly of the New Hebrides group, as the place where they would break ground. France has long desired to take possession of this fair group of islands, chiefly because several of them have very fine harbours, and the coasts are almost free from reefs. Everyone, however, with any right to speak on the matter objects decidedly to the French flag being hoisted there. The people of Australia object from every point of view. France has already turned New Caledonia into a convict settlement, and French convicts are not pleasant neighbours. Besides, every extension of foreign influence in those waters threatens future complications. The natives of the New Hebrides object, and with even better reason than the Australians. They would like a British protectorate, but the cruelties with which the “revolts” of the natives of New Caledonia have been put down, not to speak of what has been done in Tahiti, make them dread French occupation. And hundreds of thousands of people in Great Britain and Canada, who have for forty years taken the most unselfish interest in those islands, also object on the intelligible ground of the sacrifices they have made in their behalf. The British Government is therefore doing its utmost to explain to France that it has no moral right to send its *recidivistes* or habitual criminals to New Caledonia, and no right of any kind to annex the New Hebrides.

### DR. GEDDIE'S LIFE.

Anyone who desires to inform himself thoroughly of the history of our New Hebrides mission needs be at no loss. Besides the works written on Western Polynesia by the Rev. A. W. Murray, of the London Missionary Society, the Rev. Dr. Steele, of Sydney, N.S.W., and others, we have the “Life of John Geddie, D.D.,” by the Rev. Dr. Geo. Patterson, of New Glasgow, published in Toronto. The greater part of Dr. Patterson’s work consists of Dr. Geddie’s letters and extracts from his journals, and of these it is not too much to say that the “style will bear comparison with that of the best English historian ;” and that “his narratives