

resources. But this feeling arises solely from want of faith; and God mercifully rebukes it by opening the hearts of our people and making their liberality equal to every emergency. We have perused the following letter with peculiar delight and fervent thankfulness to Him in whose hand are the hearts of all men:—

MY DEAR MR. MURRAY.—

There is a movement now going on in my congregation, which I believe will be of interest to the friends of the Foreign Missions of our Church, and which, should similar measures be adopted in other congregations of the body, may lead to a large increase of the agents employed by the Church in the extension of Christ's kingdom abroad. Perhaps you may therefore deem it worthy of notice in the *Record*.

At our annual missionary meeting, held on the 1st of January last, some remarks were made on the propriety of increased efforts in the missionary cause, when one member of Session expressed his opinion, that we might as a congregation support a missionary of our own in the South Seas. He thought that, if there were among us the proper spirit of faith and self-denial, such an undertaking was quite within our means. The Rev. John Stewart, who was present, made a few remarks in favour of the same view. No farther action was taken at that time, but the matter was commended to the serious and prayerful consideration of the friends of Christ among us. The subject, however, was not allowed to drop, and, having been freely discussed in private, it was again publicly considered at a meeting held on the 8th inst., being the Monday immediately succeeding the communion. I am happy to say that among the members of the congregation in general much interest was felt in the proposal. Some thought that the congregation was quite able to raise the whole sum necessary for the support of a missionary. The majority did not seem satisfied of this, but they were willing to contribute liberally toward the object, and the impression seemed general, that if we could not support a missionary of our own we might readily raise half the amount necessary for that purpose, and that, if any other congregation of the body would do the same, we might go to the Synod at its approaching meeting with the tender of the means necessary for sending out another missionary. It was therefore resolved to commence a subscription, each member to subscribe no more than he thought himself able to pay, alike in good times and bad, and what he was willing to pledge himself to pay so long as God in his Providence enabled him to do so. As money is very scarce just now, the present affords a suitable time to all parties to judge what they are perfectly safe in promising in the worst periods of business depression. It was also agreed that this subscription should be special, and *in addition* to what we are now paying to the other schemes of the Church, for all of which it is understood that collections are to be taken in the usual manner.

This subscription has not yet been completed, but the result thus far has been such, that I am now able to announce that the congregation are safe in pledging to the Synod annually half the sum requisite for the support of another missionary in the South Seas. While, from the scarcity of money and the prudent caution which it is thought necessary to exercise regarding an undertaking so important, the congregation may not be disposed at present to go beyond half a missionary's salary, I have no idea that they will rest satisfied with this. The conviction of others beside myself is, that should this scheme go into operation, a very short time only will elapse till the congregation will support a missionary of their own.

I have thought that it would be desirable that the matter should be early mentioned in the *Record* for two reasons. In the first place, it will serve as an invitation to some other congregation to unite with us in the measure. Should any other congregation move early in the matter, the Synod may be prepared to take action at its approaching meeting for increasing our agents in the New Hebrides. In the second place, it is important that the matter should be early brought under the notice of the students and preachers of our Church. It is pleasing to hear that so many are likely to be added during the present year to the ministry of the body. Are all the seven who are to be licensed this year to go upon the Home field, and none to the Heathen? The matter is commended to their prayerful consideration, as they may expect soon the call to be addressed to them, "Whom shall we send, and who will go for us?"