

cannibal savages. But he was active, on occasions manifested a determined spirit, and early showed an inclination for reading. Happily his father was in the habit of regularly receiving religious periodicals and other publications, giving an account of the efforts being made for the evangelization of the world. These were the days of the first triumphs of the gospel in the South Sea Islands, and his boyish imagination was captivated by the scenes there presented. Here we think is a lesson for parents. Most children will read, if they are furnished with literature suited to them, but they naturally seek what is exciting. To meet this craving, the agents of Satan are active in supplying them with a class of books not only unreal, but positively demoralizing. How could parents better counteract this evil than by supplying their families with missionary literature? This would not only gratify the natural tastes of the young, by descriptions of strange lands and people, and the record of incidents sometimes as exciting as those of a novel, but would at the same time teach the noblest lessons of duty and help to train the rising generation to act upon the loftiest principles. Mr. Geddie enjoyed from his parents a strict religious training, according to the old Presbyterian fashion, based on the Bible and the catechism, and from a very early period he was interested in divine things. He was always free from profanity or outward wickedness. In disposition he was gentle and amiable, but in addition there appeared from his earliest years a spirit of goodness, which even then produced the impression of his being under the influence of divine truth.

Though his parents had not informed him of his early dedication to mission work, yet from boyhood the subject occupied his thoughts. "My desire," he said afterwards, "to go far hence unto the Gentiles is not of recent origin. As soon as I could comprehend the worth of the soul, and the duty of Christians to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and them that are ready to be slain, it took possession of my heart. It has ever since grown with my growth, and strengthened with my strength." With this view he early devoted himself to study, taking his collegiate course at the Pictou Institution, and studying Theology under Dr. Thomas McCulloch, then the only pro-

fessor of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Pictou, on the 2nd May, 1837. A few months later he was called by the congregation of Cavendish and New London, P.E.I. He had while a student anew devoted himself to the work of missions among the heathen, but the body to which he belonged was not engaged in that work, and to go abroad then would have involved separation from the church of his affections. He was besides young and inexperienced, and a few years labour at home might render him better fitted for service in the Foreign field, and he hoped that ere long his own church might be led to engage in the work. He therefore, resolved to accept the call, and was accordingly ordained on the 13th May, 1838. He entered upon his pastoral work with much zeal and, during his connection with the congregation, discharged all the duties of his office with great assiduity, and was at the same time active in promoting mission work around. Indeed none would have regarded him as other than the most devoted of home labourers. He used to say, that the more his mind was engaged in missions to the heathen, the deeper his feelings on behalf of the destitute at home.

From the beginning of his ministry, Mr. Geddie, as might be supposed, showed his interest in missions to the heathen. The year in which he was ordained, he formed in his congregation a missionary society, from time to time he preached on the subject, and his religious services were full of the spirit of missions. As he visited other portions of the island, he embraced every opportunity of pressing upon his brethren and their congregations the claims of the heathen, and the duty of doing something for their salvation. At his solicitation, combined Bible and Missionary Societies were formed in all the congregations of the Presbytery; interest on the subject was awakened, and contributions were annually made, which were forwarded to some Foreign Missionary Society abroad.

In the meantime, while his relations to his people were happy, he still heard a voice calling him elsewhere. Providential dispensations disturbed his mind. In particular the burning of his house when about ready to be occupied, seemed like God's saying, "this is not your rest." But at that time there was not one church in all the