

Rev. J. D. McCall

THE  
**Home and Foreign Record**  
OF  
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

**Extra Number.**

**LETTER FROM REV. JOHN INGLIS.**

To the REV. JAMES BAYNE, D. D., Sec'y  
to the Board of Foreign Missions of the  
Presbyterian Church, L. P., B. N. A.

ANEITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES, }  
May 14th., 1866. }

My Dear Sir,—I have just seen a copy of the February number of your Home and Foreign Record, in which there is a leading article animadverting most severely on the members of this mission, for their connection with the "Curacoa" affair on Tanna and Erromanga, and singling me out as particularly blame-worthy in the matter. It is admitted, indeed, that all were to blame, but only in a lesser degree. Mr. Gordon was at first reluctant, and all your missionaries had been but a short time in the field, "and might be expected to yield to the opinions of others," and Mr. Paton had shown himself to be a man of no judgment; but with my experience, to lend myself to such proceedings was beyond measure astonishing. Mr. Copeland was out of the field, and it is inferred that he would have repudiated such doings, and Mr. Geddie would have died rather than have had a finger in such proceedings.—Hence to whatever extent the proceedings were blame-worthy, that blame, according to the Record, rests chiefly with me. It has never been my practice to shirk responsibility, when in the providence of God it was laid upon me; nor do I shrink from accepting my full share of this, whatever, after full explanation or thorough investigation it may be found to be.

I should be slow to believe that Mr.

Geddie had given his *imprimatur* to that article, or that it expressed his sentiments to the extent that the writer would lead us to infer, or that he would take up such an attitude towards his brethren at present in the field, but if it is otherwise, the Record has done him great injustice. I have no wish to criminate Mr. Geddie in this matter, It is well known that during all the years we laboured together on this island, our views, on all matters of importance connected with the mission, were uniformly alike; and my firm impression was, from all that I knew of Mr. Geddie's sentiments, that in this case, had he been present, and in our circumstances, he would have acted just as we did. But as the Record has used Mr. Geddie's name so freely, directly and indirectly, against us, I feel constrained to use a similar freedom, but simply in self-defence.

We are placed at a great disadvantage here, when any attacks are made upon us at home, which happily is a rare thing. This is perhaps the first of any consequence. It is generally a twelvemonth or more before anything that we might be able to say in our own behalf could meet the public eye, and our characters may be irreparably damaged before we could be heard in our own defence. Hence, in general, it is better to be silent than write under such circumstances; and in the present case I should have remained so, had the strictures emanated from almost any other quarter. But as the Record is understood, and in this case professes, to be the organ of the mission and the church, the whole comes forth with an official authority, which from its loose