

saying that the contributions of the Protestant world are more than ten times those of the Roman Catholic world.

## Our Foreign Missions.

WE omitted in our last number mention of the safe arrival of the *Dayspring* in the New Hebrides after a long passage of 35 days. From a letter received from Dr. Steel we learned that she arrived on the 6th of May. Sailing from Melbourne her voyage was longer than from Sydney, she was heavy laden and the winds light and often baffling, yet she carried her passengers, Dr. and Mrs. Geddie and one daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Goodwill, and the mission goods with a large boat for Rev. Mr. McNair in perfect safety. On her arrival it was reported that all was well with the families at the different mission stations.

Later intelligence just received, shews that even then all the missionaries were not well, and that only a short time elapsed before the brethren had to mourn over the somewhat sudden removal of one of their number. The last year closed leaving us a diminished band of labourers in our early mission field, but we have now to announce the painful intelligence that the number is farther reduced by the death of Rev. James McNair, of Erromanga..

The particulars of this mournful event are furnished in a letter from his companion and fellow missionary, Rev. Thos. Neilson, and the publication of this letter in full will be the best use we can make of our available space, and will meet the longing desires of many loving hearts to know the causes and circumstances of this unexpected decease.

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Mission Council have been received written out in full in the business-like hand of our dear departed brother, with a letter begun by him and finished by his deeply afflicted wife. These may be expected in our January number.

We have received a letter from Dr. Geddie, which being short, we can also lay before our readers in the present number. The Dr. leaves Mr. Neilson to tell the sad

tale of the mission's bereavement, but the yearnings of his heart for more missionaries he cannot repress, and we trust his appeals and prayers will not be in vain.

The interesting incidents connected with the late Rev. J. W. Matheson's systematic giving to the cause of the Lord, will not be read without effect. They will, they must awaken thought in the breasts of many whose income far exceeds his. Some will follow the example.

The following is the copy of the paper found in his hand writing :

"TANNA, NOV. 1858.

Of all that God giveth me—may I have grace to give the tenth unto the Lord.

The contents of this bag are to be appropriated to the British and Foreign Bible Society. Lord speed the Bible.

J. W. MATHESON."

By way of explanation it may be added that the boxes containing the property of Rev. J. W. Matheson were lost some years ago in Australia, the direction being effaced, and reshipped to the Feegees. Dr. Geddie has after much inquiry discovered and got possession of them.

### Letter from Dr. Geddie.

ANEITFUM, Aug. 16th, 1870.

*My Dear Sir,*—I wrote you last year that the boxes of the late Mr. Matheson were safe. They have since that time reached me. I am sorry to say that a considerable part of them had been wet at some time or other, and were of course rotten and useless. Some of the books and clothing had to be thrown away; the remainder were purchased by the missionaries and men on board the *Dayspring*. I have made up a small box to go home, containing letters, private papers and some clothing, addressed to you which you will please to hand over to Mr. Matheson's friends.

We found in one of Mr. Matheson's boxes a small bag containing 25 sovereigns devoted to the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was contained in three packages. Two of them contained £10 sterling each, and the third contained £5 sterling, with the following lines written on the paper which contained it, "March 7th, 1870, I have already expended five pounds for Bibles this year for the benefit of sailors calling at Erromanga—hence this paper only contains the remaining five pounds, J. M." Our departed brother was a most unostentatious man. I consulted the brethren about the disposal of this money.