

Mission Field.

New Hebrides Synod.

The Synod met at Dr. Geddie's old station, Anceitum. Last year there was no meeting owing to the lapse of the steamer service. Rev. J. D. Landels was appointed Moderator for the ensuing year. F. J. Paton, son of Dr. Paton was present. He is to occupy the station of Pangkumu on Malekula. Dr. Lamb's assistant Mr. R. M. McDowall, was introduced, and with Mr. Paton, received the right hand of fellowship. The synod expressed sympathy with Dr. Lamb on the loss by fire of the mission premises in Ambrym, agree that he should visit New Zealand, and return as a medical missionary. The Treasurer in his report stated that a lady in New Zealand had sent the sum of (£100) as a donation to the New Hebrides Mission Synod, to be used by the Synod for any purpose connected with the Mission, not provided for by any of the churches. The Synod instructed the clerk to convey to the generous donor the warm thanks of the Synod.

The subject of the retention of the interest of the Insurance Reserve Fund by the Victorian Church, having been brought under the consideration of the Synod in a letter from Dr. Cosh, secretary of the "Dayspring" Board, the Synod instructed the clerk to write the Treasurer of the Victorian Church requesting him to pay over said interest to the "Dayspring" Board in Sydney to meet current expenses, in accordance with the express terms of the resolution of this Mission establishing the fund, viz: "The capital to be drawn upon in case of accident to, or loss of the vessel, the interest to be used in meeting current expenses."

Mr. Gillan, in accordance with the expressed desire of the Victorian Church, was appointed to the oversight of the mission station at North Santo.

The Synod having heard of the action of the "John C. Paton" Mission Fund, Great Britain, which has for its object the training and support of native teachers, and having also heard of the appointment of Mr. Fred. J. Paton, Malekula, as its treasurer, heartily approves of the scheme, and at Mr. Paton's request accepts the oversight of the fund, and confirms his appointment as its treasurer.

A minute of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland was read, appointing Rev. J. H. Lawrie to take oversight of the work on Anceitum and Futuna for a period of not more than two years during the absence of Dr. Gunn on furlough and intimating the probability of another missionary from that church being sent out in 1895. Synod heartily welcomes Mr. Lawrie back to his work and expresses much gratification at the prospect of another missionary from the Free Church of Scotland being appointed to this group.

The Synod expressed regret at the retirement of Rev. A. Morton from Pangkumu, Malekula,—the retirement being on account of Mrs. Morton's shattered health. Mr. M. had placed the gospel in their own language in the hands of the people.—Expression of regret is also recorded on account of the retirement of A. H. Macdonald from North Santo.—Appropriate minutes were adopted relative to the death of Mr. Michelsen in 1892, of Mrs. McKenzies in 1893, and Mrs. Watt in 1894.

It was resolved to set up a College on Tongoa, Mr. Annand to be principal. He has to erect buildings and make some other expenditures. About £500 will be required for the purposes of the school. The following is the report of progress:

"At South Santo the Gospel of John has been translated and printed; a dying chief sought and found salvation; and women are now freely allowed to attend church. At Malo a handsome new church erected, and an increased number of teachers at work. At Uripio two women near to or in the Kingdom, and a dying cripple praying and asking to be prayed for. At Pangkumu number of teachers increased, number who attend the preaching of the gospel gradually

increases and some breaking caste. At Aulua a stirring among the dry bones; large attendances at the services, young men preaching in villages around, new villages being formed by worshipping people; Gospel of Matthew translated and printed in this dialect. On Ambrym rapid establishment of seven schools and preaching stations, and earnestness displayed by a few Christianized natives in bringing the gospel before their fellowislanders. On Epi, Nikaura station, peace prevails, the opening of new schools, the increased attendance at school and Sabbath services, the eagerness of some of the people to possess books, formation of a class for candidates for baptism, and some young men confessing that Jesus has won their hearts. Under Buanuda station same cry for more teachers as at Nikaura; increased number of schools, beginning work among new tribes, publication of Gospel of Matthew in Bakiian; natives under training as teachers. On Nguna and the islands attached to that station the forward movement is shown by the establishment of schools in heathen villages, and the number of teachers sent out to help in the evangelization of other islands. From Havannah Harbor we hear of continued accessions from heathenism, a dictionary of Efatese and other books printed. At Erakor we observe with gratification the publication of new books paid for by the natives. Wide open doors on long closed Mele; 52 persons there who have renounced heathenism. From the Martyr Island of Erromanga we hear of the consolidation of the work among the natives, the publication of new books for their use, and payments being made by them to refund outlay by the Bible Society, and also to support teachers on their own islands. "Dark Tanna" we learn of increased attendance at school and of new churches built, but we hear also the now familiar cry for teachers and rejoice over three souls added to the church. At Anceitum, the first field taken up by the Mission, the services have been regularly held by the natives during the absence of their missionary.

The Synod passed the following estimates of expenditures of missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and requested the Foreign Mission Committee to pay the same:

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Rev. H. A. Robertson..... | £405 |
| Rev. J. W. Mackenzie..... | 241 |
| Rev. J. Annand, M.A..... | 175 |

—
£821

It was agreed that no member of the mission buy any goods to sell for money to any of his people beyond his own servants and teachers, unless under special conditions, and when such conditions exist and trading is done, the same be reported to Synod. The Synod carefully investigated the charges made against some of them of trading with the natives. The charges and accusations were made by a Mr. Rannie. The British High Commissioner has written concerning these:

"Mr. Rannie's report is in some respects contradictory of the High Commissioner's own knowledge of matters in the New Hebrides; in some others, his statements are contradicted by persons in a position to know, and of whom His Excellency has made enquiry. This being so, and in view of the evident animus against the Presbyterian Mission, the High Commissioner has officially informed the Secretary of State that in his opinion Mr. Rannie's statements are not worthy of credence. This expression of the High Commissioner's opinion will doubtless be included in the next Blue Book published on Western Pacific affairs and presented to the Imperial Parliament, and in the meantime you are at liberty to make any use of this communication you may think fit."

It is expected that students in the Training Exhibition, under Mr. Annand's care will remain their four years. Students on entering must read their own language and some English. Unsuitable students are to be sent back. The payment of a student teacher shall be £8 when under his own missionary, or £10, when placed under another missionary. Mission boxes will be received by the Principal. The next Synod will be held in May of next year at the same place.—*Montreal Witness.*

That "Mission Steamer."

Editor *Presbyterian Review*:

SIR,—In view of what has appeared in your last two issues regarding a Mission Steamer, etc., for the New Hebrides; and in view of the recent appeals in the public press in favor of that object, it is but fair to the Church, and to all parties, that a fuller statement of the facts should be made. Will you kindly print the following extracts from official sources.

(May 1st, 1894) "Professor Harper gave notice of his intention, when the Report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was submitted, to move,—

"Whereas Dr. Paton's Commission from the Foreign Mission Committee debarred him from receiving any money appropriated by the donors to any particular sections of the Victorian Church's Mission work, and whereas he has sent out £1500 earmarked for the New Hebrides Mission, the Commission directs the Foreign Mission Committee to write to Dr. Paton, directing him to get the special appropriation of the money removed." And

"Whereas there appears in the *Messenger* of our Church and in the English papers, a report that Dr. Paton is pleading for £1000 per annum for the maintenance and support of a mission steamer, the Commission instruct the Foreign Mission Committee to call Dr. Paton's attention to the fact that no such steamer exists and that no such scheme has been sanctioned by the Church or is likely to be, and to request him to abstain from pressing the scheme upon the British public, whether as the representative of this Church or under the auspices of any other Association."

(Rev. Professor Huper, above referred to, is one of the leading men in the Victorian Church and in its Foreign Mission work, and was chosen by the Foreign Mission Committee as their representative in carrying on some negotiations which they had with the Government of Victoria.)

(May 2nd, 1894) "The Rev. J. Gibson" (Convener of their Foreign Mission Committee) "gave notice of his intention, when the report of the Foreign Mission Committee was under consideration, to move:—'That the report be adopted and that any action with regard to Dr. Paton be delayed till his return to the Colony.'"

(May 3rd, 1894) "The report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was submitted by the Rev. J. Gibson."

"Rev. J. Gibson moved as an amendment:—'That the report be adopted and that any action with regard to Dr. Paton be delayed till his return to the Colony.'"

"It was moved as a further amendment by the Rev. George Tait—" (The clerk of the General Assembly of the Victorian Church.)

1. "That the Commission instruct the Foreign Mission Committee, in terms of Dr. Paton's Commission, to place the money received from Dr. Paton to the credit of their General Mission Fund."

2. "That whereas there appears in the *Messenger* of our Church, and in the English Papers, a report that Dr. Paton is pleading for £1000 per annum for the maintenance and support of a Mission Steamer, the Commission declare that no such scheme has been sanctioned by the Church, and that the Church holds itself uncommitted on this important matter of mission policy."

"Rev. A. Stewart moved as a further amendment:—'That Mr. Tait's amendment be referred to the Foreign Mission Committee for investigation.'"

"Professor Harper withdrew his motion."

"On being put to vote the amendment of Mr. Stewart was carried" i.e., Mr. Gibson's motion was lost and Mr. Tait's amendment was referred to the Foreign Mission Committee for investigation.

In studying the foregoing, one sees, (1.) That the two resolutions which give any statement of fact, agree as to these facts. (2.) That none of the motions question these facts. (3.) That the only question was as to what should be done, in the meantime, under the circumstances.