

which island she shall take her departure for New Zealand. After her return from New Zealand, probably about the beginning of August, that she be employed during the remainder of that month and the month of September, after calling at Aniwa and Futuna, in fully visiting Tanna, Erromanga, and Efate, and in taking to the Loyalty Islands the Rarotongan teachers, to leave them there for a passage home, and bring over a mail; after that, she employ the months of October and November in visiting and exploring in the northern parts of this group under the direction of Dr. Geddie as deputation, and in bringing back Mr. Gordon from Santo; that in the month of December, before leaving for the colonies she visit all the missionaries at their respective stations, and leave this island for Melbourne, not earlier than the 20th of December, 1869, and take her departure from that port for this island not later than 25th of March, 1870.

35. It was agreed that the secretaries of the various Churches in connection with this mission be instructed to make no extra payments to their missionaries, unless the accounts for the said extra charges be first seen and approved by the Annual Conference.

36. That Messrs Morrison, Inglis, Paton, Copeland, and Dr. Geddie be appointed a committee to confer and arrange with Captain Fraser for a continuance of his services in the *Dayspring*.

37. It was agreed that Mr. Paton draw up the report of the *Dayspring*, and the report for native teachers for 1869.

38. That the next annual meeting is appointed to be held at Aname, as soon after the return of the *Dayspring* as possible.

D. MORRISON, Chairman.  
J. GEDDIE, Clerk.

#### Letter of Rev. J. McNair.

DILLON'S BAY, ERROMANGA, }  
June 21, 1869. }

My Dear Sir,—Your very kind letter of 17th Dec. last reached me per *Dayspring* 24th April. Let me, with your pleasure, refer to three or four points in it. 1. You say you are hard up for probationers.—Why, look at the Free Church Record for February last, see what a long list they have, not fewer than 116 and 227 students. They will not know well what to do with them all. Can you not apply to Dr. Duff for some to be sent out here. You know I have been writing to the students on the point already. The *Dayspring* could serve 20 as well as 10 missionaries out here, and proportionately that would be a good deal of expense saved annually. But you may

reply, there are no openings at present for new missionaries on the New Hebrides. Pray when will you have new openings? Not until you make them, and until you have the right stamp of men to make them too. Send proper men out and in the good Providence of God openings will be made. "Be of good courage, and let strength into your heart shall send, All ye whose hope and confidence doth on the Lord depend."

I have received with the last two or three mails your *Records* quite correct, but not those sent per *Magnet*. The mission goods sent by Mr. McKinnon's congregation are very suitable and excellent for the natives here. We have to thank the donors very much for their kindness to our poor natives. Mr. Gordon's portion will be duly sent him. I shall try and write Mr. McKinnon soon, but if you see him, meanwhile tell him I am disappointed he has not written me. I looked and looked for a letter in the boxes, but behold there was none.

June 28th.—The *Dayspring* called here on Friday last with the Coshes and Morrisons on board. Mr. M. handed me a small box of mission goods for which I beg to thank you very much—the box referred to being church property. Mr. M. has decided on leaving the field at present instead of remaining to the end of the season. I shall be very sorry indeed to part with him, especially in his present very delicate state of health. His is one of the highest cast of mind, capable of almost anything if duly cultivated, while the heart is sanctified and enlarged, the spiritual vision clear, and that charity which thinketh no evil abounds. His place in this mission will not be easily filled. We shall feel the loss, the Church will miss him.

During our absence at the annual meeting Joe killed a woman, a cousin of his own, in the most barbarous manner. The name of Joe must be familiar to you, as one of those lads taken to Samoa in 1848 and returned three or four years after.—Four went—one died on their way home, another and Joe returned to heathenism, but Maria remained firm and zealous in teaching and preaching until his death.—He was dead before our arrival, and he seems to have had no successor—none on whom his cloak has fallen on this dark isle. He managed to reclaim Joe from heathenism, and after the death of the Gordons they both went to Aneneum. There Joe was baptized, and I think admitted to the communion table. I found him shamefully ignorant of the very elements of christianity. He was debarred by Mr. Geddie a year ago from the communion for attempting to kill a woman. He was never admitted by me. I never cared to call on him