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### BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

#### TENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

With the returning season of the Synod's Annual Session, the Board of Foreign Missions gladly hail the renewed call for an account of their stewardship. The events of the past year, which have fallen under their cognizance, are suggestive of much important observation; but it is considered desirable to direct attention chiefly, to those which are obviously, the most practical in their bearings. Since the date of last Report, nothing has occurred to require any extraordinary action; and meetings, for the transaction of routine business, have not been very frequent. The subject which has been found most harassing, is the acknowledged difficulty of procuring adequate missionary labor, for a people that are now so eagerly stretching out their hands unto God, and uniting their pleading voice with that of their missionary, in the oft, but vainly reiterated cry *Come over and help us*. The public notice, inviting applicants for missionary labor in the South Seas, has been continued from month to month, for another year; but without any effect beyond what has been already communicated. Mr George

N. Gordon, of whom mention was made in last year's report, as a candidate for the foreign service of the Church, has been prosecuting his studies under the direction of your Board, with all the diligence and zeal which could have been desired, and with quite as much apparent success as could have been reasonably anticipated. The term of attendance at the Synod's Theological Hall, during the months of September and October, 1863, was improved by him in such a manner as to secure the cordial approbation of Professors Keir and Smith. After a short interval, and with the express sanction of your Board, Mr Gordon repaired to Halifax, and attended a six month course of study at the Free Church Theological Seminary. Certificates from Professors King and Lyall have been duly forwarded, bearing full attestation to the propriety of his private conduct, and to his diligence and improvement as a Student of Theology.—Professor King says, "Mr Gordon has been enrolled with me this winter for the first time, as a Student of Theology; he attended along with the Students of the third year, having attended along with the same Students in the previous years of their course. Although he himself was not enrolled, he