

tee, the fact, that there are mission premises on Aneityum belonging to this church, which may still be made available, and, that in breaking ground at Santo a considerable outlay will be necessary in the erection of new premises, which it is hoped will be taken into account by the Free Church Committee in effecting this transference of Aneityum to them."

As secretary of the F. M. Committee at that time, and under its instructions, I wrote to the Clerk of the Mission Synod, conveying to that body these resolutions and requests of our Committee. The Synod considered them at their meeting in June last and the following is their decision.

"Read a letter from Rev. E. Scott and minutes of the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Foreign Mission Committee, Maritime Provinces, asking the Mission Synod to transfer Mr. Annand to Santo or such other Island as the Mission Synod might select. The Synod having considered the matter feels that it is not now in a position to select a station, but appoints Messrs. Fraser or Murray to visit the eligible openings along with Mr. Annand; Mr. Annand's selection of a station to be subject to the approval of Mission Synod at its next meeting, a copy of this minute to be sent to the Revs. Messrs. Scott and Annand."

The only further action of the F. M. Committee in reference to Mr. Annand's return was on Nov. 9th., 1886, at a meeting specially called to consider the prospects in the New Hebrides with regard to French annexation. At that meeting after consideration

"It was agreed that Mr. Annand should return."

"It was further agreed that as in whatever island he may be settled, the station will be a new one, he receive the sum of £150 to purchase in Australia material for a house and other necessary buildings."

These resolutions contain all the action that the Foreign Mission Committee took with direct reference to Mr. Annand's removal to a new field of labor, and also the action of the Mission Synod regarding the same subject. The Committee mentioned Santo because he had expressed a desire to go there, and if he wished it and the Mission Synod approved, the Committee had no reason to stand in the way. Further, having left the choice to Mr. Annand and the Mission Synod, the Committee asked the Free Church of Scotland, whether, "Should Santo be chosen," they would not

appoint a man to go with Mr. Annand. When they declined to appoint a new man, but said that Dr. Gunn, one of their missionaries now in the field, on the small island of Futuna, might go if he wished, our Committee expressed the hope that "in the event of the Synod's approval" of Mr. Annand's going to Santo, Dr. Gunn would go with him, but no word has been received by the Committee as to Dr. Gunn's mind in the matter.

The Committee had no objection to Santo, nor had they any special desire for it. They had no hand in choosing it. They have never kept it specially before the Church. This has been done by friends of the Mission outside the F. M. Committee. And so long as it was understood that Santo was an optional matter, that Mr. Annand and the Mission Synod were free to do as they wished, that it was all left with them, there could be no reason why "Santo" should not be thus brought forward by any who wished to do so.

Latterly however the subject has assumed a different aspect, and articles have appeared in the public press assuming that the F. M. Committee is responsible for the choice of Santo, and for sending Mr. Annand to that field, and pressure has thus been brought to bear upon the Committee to lead them to appoint a fourth missionary to go with him, that they should not send him there alone. Hence the necessity for this full statement of the facts of the case. Could the Committee see their way clear to take the step of appointing another they would gladly do it to meet Mr. Annand's wishes. But when they cannot see their way to do so, they must not be held responsible for sending him to that Island. Were another missionary with him the Committee would be glad that he should carry out the desire of his heart to occupy that field. If he be alone, some of the members of the Committee, at all events, would much prefer that he should choose some other station, of which there are two or three open from which he may select. That matter however, is left, as it has been from the beginning, entirely with himself and the Mission Synod.

#### THE QUESTION OF A FOURTH MISSIONARY FROM OUR CHURCH TO THE NEW HEBRIDES.

This subject has for some time been be-