

were fired on with poisoned arrows, and mortally wounded. They were taken to Cape Lisburn, and died there within twenty-four hours of each other. Mr. Watson requested that the word should be extensively circulated, that the character of these islanders should be known. A gentleman from Queensland met with a similar fate at Aurora, not long before. He had taken a voyage in a slaver for the benefit of his health. In one of his trips ashore, he was wounded by a poisoned arrow, and died soon after.

As we lay at Santo, we were boarded by a shipwrecked boat's crew, consisting of nine persons. They had lost their vessel, the previous night, on a small island to the S.E. of Santo. Her name was the "Lulu," Captain Bergin, and she belonged to the Fijis. She ran on shore at night and became a total wreck, the men barely escaping with their lives. She was empty at the time of her loss, and had no passengers on board. We were glad to show them the rites of humanity in these savage regions. Some of the men left us at Ifate, and others continued with us until we reached Ani-teum. The traders report two other vessels on shore at Mallicolo. If so, there is no hope for their crews on so savage an island.

I must now close the sickening details. The curse of slavery is fast changing the aspect of these lovely islands. The time has come for the interference of Government, and that interference has too long been withheld. Every friend of missions will not cease to pray that this abomination, which is the fruitful cause of bloodshed, sin, and crime of every description—or, as John Wesley expressed it, "the consummation of all villainies"—may soon be numbered with the things that were.

I remain, yours, &c.,

JOHN GEDDIE.

Minutes of Annual Conference.

ANIWA, NEW HEBRIDES, }
July 3rd, 1871.

1. The annual conference of the New Hebrides Mission met this day on Aniwa, at the station of the Rev. J. G. Paton. Present.—Rev. Dr. Geddrie, Rev. Messrs. Inglis, Paton, Copeland, Neilson, Watt, and Milne, and Captain Fraser. In the absence of Mr. Cosh,* chairman of last annual meeting, Mr. Copeland, a former chairman, opened the meeting with prayer. In lieu of the Chairman's opening address, Mr. Inglis read a paper on the slave trade in the New Hebrides.

2. Mr. Neilson was unanimously appointed chairman.

3. Mr. Cosh was absent, having obtained leave at last annual meeting to proceed to

Auckland for a twelvemonth, on account of his wife's health.

4. Mr. Goodwill was also absent, having proceeded to his station on Santo, in virtue of liberty granted to him by a minute passed at last annual meeting.

5. A letter was read from Rev. Dr. Steel, stating that Mr. Gordon had sent in his resignation as missionary from the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, and that their General Assembly had accepted said resignation.

6. The minutes of two interim meetings were read and confirmed.

7. Since last we met, another of our number has been called away into eternity. Rev. James McNair died at Dillon's Bay, Eromanga, on the 16th of July last. He was brought up in connection with the Free Church of Scotland, and by his own arduous and laudable exertions (being anxious to be engaged in the Christian ministry) he succeeded in obtaining a college education, and had commenced the study of theology; when, meeting with Mr. Paton, his thoughts were directed to missionary labour in this part of the world. Having offered himself as a missionary to the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland, he was by them accepted, ordained and sent out in the spring of 1866, his services having been transferred to the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America. On his arrival here he was appointed to Eromanga, and, with some intervals of absence on account of ill health, laboured there until the time of his death.

Mr. McNair was never of a robust bodily constitution, and amid much weakness and ill-health, and many trials and discouragements, laboured faithfully, acceptably, and successfully, at Dillon's Bay—even beyond his strength; the spirit indeed was willing, but the flesh was weak. His flock there was much attached to him and his wife, and are now left to mourn their loss. He was a true-hearted, devout, and honest man.

A voice from his grave calls to each of us his brethren—"Work while it is called to-day, for the night cometh in which no man can work;" to the churches connected with this mission—"Be not weary in well-doing, for in due time ye shall reap if ye faint not;" to his sorrowing widow, his friends, and relations—"Sorrow not as those that have no hope," "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever."

We commend his widow and his infant daughter to the tender care and keeping of Him who is the Judge of the widow, and the Father of the fatherless, in His holy habitation.