

that any man who knows the feelings of our church at large, and who has studied the subject of Christian beneficence, will assert that we will raise as much money for the New Hebrides mission alone as we would for that and the Eastern mission together. A widow lady, and one who belonged to the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, in paying her annual contribution of £5 to our Foreign mission fund, offered to pay as much more annually to the Eastern mission, if the Synod would renew it. And this we believe to be only a specimen of the liberality which might be evoked. If such be the state of the church, as we believe it is, then by abandoning that enterprise the Synod would just be losing the means which the Great Head of the church is placing at her disposal, and we ask how can she answer to him for such a step. It is useless to say that people ought to give all they are able without reference to a particular mission. Their own consciences and their feelings will be their guide. The best of us know how much our liberality on behalf of the New Hebrides mission has been evoked by the circumstances connected with that mission, which appealed to our sympathies, and how impossible it would have been to have evoked the same liberality on behalf of another mission, which had not the same claims. And one must allow our brethren to have the same feelings with ourselves.

But further, when a church has commenced operations in a particular field, following as they believed the leadings of divine Providence, we hold that no ordinary difficulties, and in fact only such a necessity as would indicate that farther persistence would be going contrary to the will of the great Head of the church, would justify us in abandoning the work. We ought carefully to deliberate before commencing such an undertaking and be satisfied that we are doing the will of God, but having undertaken it in his name, it requires very strong reasons to justify its abandonment. These reasons we do not believe to exist in the case of the Eastern mission. It has been indeed suspended in the meantime, and it becomes us carefully

to look into the cause of this, that we may profit by the experience of the past. In this case the cause is not far to seek. The present state of that mission is owing entirely to the fact that the Synod of the Free Church, acting no doubt for the best according to their information, adopted an agency and mode of operation, which the experience of all societies engaged in missionary work in the East has condemned. We do not wish to say more on this point, but we state a fact of which those most engaged in the measure are now fully aware. Now this may be a good reason for changing our plans, and adopting such measures as the experience of those societies already in the field has shown to be wise. But we cannot see that a mistake of this kind affords a warrant for abandoning the work altogether. Were the field closed against our efforts, by events in God's providence, as Tanna and Erromanga have been for a time, then it would be clearly our duty to go elsewhere. But so far from this being the case, the fields throughout the East were never more inviting and the calls to occupy them never more urgent. We can take our choice of any of the countries of the East, Turkey in Europe, Turkey in Asia, Greece, Syria, Palestine or Egypt, and at this moment in either of them can find most inviting fields, awaiting the entrance of the missionary of the cross. The churches engaged in the work there have been as far as they are able extending their operations, and since our mission has been suspended other churches have engaged in the work, and yet the call is for more labourers. And from the war now raging in the United States affecting the income of the societies carrying on missionary operations there it is feared that instead of being able to extend their operations as the countries require, they will be obliged to curtail them. There is nothing then in the state of the East to lead us to abandon the work there, but everything to induce a contrary course.

On the other hand the friends of the New Hebrides mission should not disguise from themselves the fact, that there are many points connected with it, which indicate