

ly occupied the time and attention of the Committee at its meetings; and of occurrences near home, it remains that we visit the Missionaries abroad, inquire briefly how it has fared with them during the year, what they have done, how they are, and what they expect of us.

NEW HEBRIDES.

The Dayspring.

Introductory to the work on the New Hebrides, the young people will learn with satisfaction that their Mission Vessel has sailed with safety for another year, and has done her work well.

More than thirty years ago it was found that a boat was as necessary to Dr. Geddie and Mr. Inglis, as a waggon to a Canadian rural minister. The private small boat gave way to the St. Columbia of five tons, and she in turn, to the John Knox of 29 feet keel with deck fore and aft. As the Mission extended the Brigantine Dayspring was built by the contributions of the respective churches, and sailed from Halifax in 1863 with three Missionaries. Wrecked after ten years of service she was replaced by a Barquentine known as the second Dayspring. The Dayspring is the only regular means of communication between one Island and another, and between the Islands and the Colonies. She comes to Sydney twice a year for supplies for the Mission families; and she spends several months every year in visiting both those Islands that are Christianized, and those that are still heathen. Her expenses are about £1,800 a year; owing to the repairs and re-coppering done last year the expenses amounted to £2,200. These are paid by the united contributions of the Presbyterian Sabbath Schools in New South Wales and the other Australian Colonies, in Canada, and in Scotland.

During the year she has been re-coppered, rigging renewed and repainted at an outlay of £500. She made her two regular trips from Sydney to the Islands. On her first voyage she carried Mr. and Mrs. Murray, and Dr. and Mrs. Gunn as passengers. Proceeding north, after landing Mr. Annands supplies, Dr. Gunn visited Futuna where he has been appointed to settle, and Mr. Murray visited different Islands supposed to be open for the reception of a Missionary. From Ambrim she returned, bringing the Missionaries to Sydney at Abelgahat in June. Where a deputation was appointed to assist in the settlement of Mr. Murray at Ambrim, and of Dr. Gunn at Futuna.

A fortnight was spent at Ambrim, clearing a site and erecting a house for Mr. Murray at Robb's anchorage, after which, the Dayspring proceeded Southward calling at Epi, Tongoa, Nguna, Efate, Erromanga, Aniwa, Tauna, Futuna and Aneitenu, thence carrying letters and orders sailed for Sydney arriving in the last week of September.

On October 13, she sailed on her second voyage, carrying Mr. and Mrs. McDonald and children back to Efate, and thence as formerly, going the round of all the stations, left the group in the middle of December, arriving at Dun Edin, N. Z., on 9th January, and Sydney late in February. After refitting and taking in stores she has doubtless sailed and accomplished her voyage, and will now be collecting the brethren to their annual meeting.

Owing to the new settlements which took place last year and the year previous, the quantity of timber and other goods requiring to be carried has fully taxed all the available space on board. Both in April and October some things had to be left behind for want of room. Every additional settlement of a missionary enlarges the scope of the vessel's work and increases, at the same time, the need for her. It is a matter of thankfulness that in the good province of God she has escaped all disaster and has been of such valuable service to the mission. The thanks of the missionaries and of all interested in the mission are due to the scholars and teachers of the Sabbath Schools for their generous contributions towards the support of the vessel.

And now the cry is for a Steamer to take the place of the Dayspring, on the ground of her insufficiency to meet all the wants of the mission, and the inconvenience and loss of time in working many of the stations by a sailing vessel; and a Committee of the Mission Synod has been appointed to obtain estimates of the probable cost of building and maintaining a suitable steamer, with instructions to report this year. For many years the Southern Cross was provided with an auxiliary Steamscrow. The New Morning Star is to be a Steamer, and the dream of James Gordon may ere long be realized, of a Steamer Dayspring moving round as a messenger of Peace among the New Hebrides Islands.

New Hebrides Missionaries.

As it is well known that various bodies of the Presbyterians are united in the prosecution of this Mission, the following list will shew their names, date of ap-