

furnished the most reliable data for your Board, in council, as well as for the church, in their estimate of the actual state of the mission at every stage; but now that they have seen him face to face, and heard from his own lips the simple but thrilling narrative of his trials and triumphs, not only has previous intelligence been confirmed, but new facts of great moment have been brought to light, and thus with greater prominence than heretofore, have been exhibited "the great things which God hath done for us, whereof we are glad." The joy of the church would, in all probability, have been yet more full, if the prospect at one period entertained had been realized, and Mr. Geddie had been permitted to present, as some of the first-fruits of the mission, the principal Chief of Aneiteum, Lathella and family; but as it is, enough has been seen and heard to constrain the most doubting disciple among us to "thank God and take courage."

At a meeting held at Picton on August 11th, 1864, your Board had, for the first time, the gratification of inviting their pioneer missionary to a seat at their table, as corresponding member, and then, on subsequent occasions, they gladly availed themselves of his experience and wisdom in council. In terms of Synodical remit, that "when Mr. Geddie shall arrive in Nova Scotia, he shall have his time at his own disposal, and that all other arrangements be mutually agreed upon between him and the Board," they have now to report that it has been quite consistent with, if not actually conducive to the restoration of his health, to visit a considerable portion of the more distant sections of the Church, while the more central points have been repeatedly favoured with his visits. His addresses have been frequent and by no means confined to any one class or denomination. Sister churches have sought with eagerness to partake in the joy of welcoming our venerable missionary to his native land, and listening to his unadorned, but marvellous and heart-cheering record of the great things which God has done by his hands, and by the hands of his brother missionaries — Denominational barriers have gone down

before the surprising interest awakened by the successes and reverses which have attended the New Hebrides mission. During their late Synodical Sessions, the sister churches in Canada and New Brunswick have been visited by Mr. Geddie, and the results, so far as known, have been of the most encouraging nature. There is every reason to anticipate that we may have, ere long, to welcome to the scene of missionary enterprise in Western Polynesia, the efficient agency of other churches, to join side by side with the brethren now so earnestly stirring, in the name of Him whose inheritance is all the heathen, to take possession of the entire group of the New Hebrides.

Notwithstanding the zeal and perseverance which your missionary has displayed in the work of visitation, there remains yet quite an extensive portion of the church to be enlightened, and cheered by his personal intercourse and public addresses; and though the physical toil already endured would have sufficiently tasked the energies of a much more vigorous and youthful person, your Board have much confidence and satisfaction in the prospect that Mr. Geddie will yet be enabled to overtake, in good season, the outlying districts which so rarely see the face and hear the voice of a missionary.

APPLICATION FROM GEELONG.

With regard to the continuance of Mr. Geddie's services, your Board have now a most important communication to make to Synod, which will demand most serious and prayerful consideration. By a letter from Rev. A. J. Campbell, Geelong, N. S. W. Sec. Victoria Presbyterian Church Mission Committee, an application has been made for the services of Mr. Geddie, as their first missionary to the South Seas, and with a special view to establish a mission in immediate connection with the missionaries now at the New Hebrides. After lengthened and careful deliberation, and with due estimate of the high responsibilities connected with any decision on the important matter thus submitted to them, your Board unanimously resolved to recommend to Synod, that the services of Mr. Geddie be granted to the Presbyterian church of Victoria for such period as may be found necessary to