

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

JULY, 1863.

THE LATE REV J. W. MATHESON.

(Concluded.)

Before his departure Mr. Matheson was married to Miss Mary Geddie Johnston, a niece of Mr. Geddie's, one admirably fitted for the mission work, and one of whose worth we wish that the church had some more worthy memorial. On the 22nd November, 1857, they sailed in the steamer Niagara from Halifax, having been accompanied to the boat by a number of christian friends, who after religious exercises, and earnestly commending him in prayer to the protection and blessing of the Great Head of the church, bade him an affectionate farewell. They had a pleasant voyage across the Atlantic, Mr. M's. health being better during the voyage than it had been for some time previous, and arrived at Liverpool on the 9th day after leaving. Thence they proceeded to London, and there took passage in a vessel bound to Sydney, in the hope of meeting the John Williams at that port. They had an exceedingly pleasant passage of eighty-six days, and reached Sydney on 3rd March. They had scarcely anchored in the harbour, when to their great delight Capt. Williams of the John Williams came on board enquiring for them. He had been ready to sail about the 1st. March, when he received a letter from London directing him to remain till after the arrival of the vessel in which Mr. and Mrs. M. were. A few weeks they spent here very agreeably, receiving much kindness from the friends of missions. On the 29th March they sailed from Sydney in the John Williams. A number of missionaries were on board and

also several natives of the South Sea Islands. The vessel was to visit the Eastern Isles before coming to the New Hebrides. In this way they would have an opportunity of gaining much practical information regarding the work before their arrival at the scene of their labours. They reached Tahiti after a pleasant voyage of 32 days, and after visiting islands of the group, they proceeded to Rarotonga, Samoa, &c., and finally reached Aneiteum on the 8th July, (1858) where they were received with great joy by the Missionaries. A meeting of the Missionaries on the Island and of those of the London Missionary Society present, was held to consult as to the most desirable location for Mr. M. to occupy. After prayerful deliberation Tanna was chosen, but it was agreed that he should remain on Aneiteum, till the arrival of Messrs Paton and Copeland, who were expected shortly to arrive from the R. P. Church of Scotland. Mr. Geddie and Mr. M. proceeded in the John Williams to Tanna, especially with the view of preparing for the commencement of missionary operations on the island. After visiting Futuna, they arrived at Port Resolution, and found the natives apparently anxious to receive a missionary. Messrs. G. and M. went ashore to select a site for the erection of a house of which they had brought the frame with them. They succeeded in obtaining the plot of ground formerly occupied by Messrs Nisbet and Turner. The natives carried the frame ashore, and with the assistance of Mr. Turpie, chief officer of the John Williams, and some of the crew, a foundation was prepared and the erection