

Rev. GEORGE SUTHERLAND gave a sketch of his recent visit to the Magdalen Islands. These islands are situated from 60 to 100 miles north of P. E. Island—in the centre of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They are 8 or 10 in number—about 50 miles in length and of volcanic origin, extinct craters being still visible. The population is mainly Acadian—numbering about 3000. There are 40 Protestant families. Most of them were Presbyterians. There are three Roman Catholic Chapels and one Protestant Chapel. The Bishop of Quebec located an Episcopalian minister there who is very useful and who is mainly supported by the proprietor of the Islands and by the Colonial Church Society. Our Home Mission Board should send a laborer there at least for the months of May and June when there are from 300 to 400 vessels in two of the ports—most of which belong to Nova Scotia. The crews are mainly Protestant, but even when Roman Catholic they are glad to attend service. Mr. S. had preached in all the islands except one and was most kindly received on all hands. Some sailors travelled four or five miles on Sabbath afternoon, to hear him preach after having heard him in the morning. The Church of England minister treated him most kindly and allowed him to preach in his house. The meeting was concluded with praise and the benediction.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

LETTER FROM REV. JOHN GEDDIE.

The Rev. James Bayne has kindly placed at our disposal a private letter from the Rev. John Geddie, dated Aneiteum, October 26, 1861. We make the following interesting extracts:

The "John Knox" returned from the islands last week, having made a most interesting voyage. It was made under the direction of our brethren Messrs. Paton and Johnston, who were in her. You will no doubt get a full account of the voyage from the proper quarter, which I am sure you will peruse with interest. Our brethren have succeeded in opening a new station on the west side of Tana, at the district where the massacres have taken place of late years. We have long been desirous to commence a Mission there, but hitherto have been unable. At one time our prospects were good, and we had teachers ready to go to that place, but the doings of some of the sandal wood traders defeated our object. The place at which Messrs. Paton and Johnston landed is next in importance to Port Resolution. There is no harbour, but there is a large bay, with good anchorage, and safe from all winds, except westerly, which seldom prevail. The people wished one of the Missionaries to remain with them, and offered to give land and build a house for him. Our brethren have urgently requested that two Aneiteum teachers be sent without delay to this important place. In compliance with this request, I have appointed two married men, who will sail for their new field of labour next week. Their names are Nasivi and Nubialeq, both deacons in my congregation. They seem to be good and useful men, and possess I think some qualifications which fit them for the new and arduous duties on which they are about to enter.

I gave a full account of the voyage of our brethren to a large and attentive congregation last Sabbath. They listened with breathless attention to all the interesting details. As there has never been intercourse between this island and Tana, it seemed like a very foreign field of labour to our natives, though the distance is not more than 50 or 60 miles. To improve the occasion as much as possible, I preached from Luke xiv. 21: "Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lands of the city, and bring hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind." In discoursing from these words I considered, I. The scene of Missionary labour; II. The objects of Christian benevolence; III. The proper season for exertion on behalf of our fellow men. I endeavoured then to improve the whole by explaining the duties and