

seen any of the parties; but I believe they are all respectable, and some of them members of Christian families. They commence at Tana and Faté. A great effort should be made to precede trade in these islands by Christian missionaries. It will be hard work if we have to follow.

The "Dayspring" will sail this week for some of the outposts. I expect to follow in the steamer next week, and join her at Portland, and sail from thence to the islands about the 10th of April. May God prosper His own work.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. P. G. MCGREGOR.

Letter to Rev. Dr. Steele.

GUELONG, March 21, 1870.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—The New Hebrides missionaries have been assailed in the Queensland and other papers, for their opposition to the traffic in natives. There is only one point on which I feel called on to remark at present. We are charged with seeking our own personal profit out of the unpaid labour of the natives. I beg to say that the charge is a pure fabrication, and has no foundation in truth. Our sole object in labouring among these islanders is their religious and moral elevation, and every missionary is expected to give his undivided attention to the duties of his office. Any member of this mission if found connected with any secular enterprise would be immediately dismissed by his brethren. All our support comes from abroad, and passes through your own hands as agent of this mission, and you know our wants, and the readiness of our churches to supply them. I feel, therefore, that Mr. Robert Gray, Emigration Agent, has done great injustice to the New Hebrides Mission in an official document, dated Brisbane, Feb. 21, 1871, in which we are charged with opposing the deportation of natives lest we should thereby lose the benefit of their services; and this conduct is the more blameworthy when a telegram from yourself, as our Agent, would have furnished Mr. Gray with the truth in much less time than it took to write the document which contains the calumny.

You will please to give what publicity you think proper to the statement contained in this letter.

Ever yours, etc.,

JOHN GEDDIE, *Ch. Miss.*

Rev. Dr. STEEL,
Agent New Hebrides Mission.

Annual Conference.

We have received a copy of the Minutes of this Conference, of which we give the more important parts:—

ANEITYUM, June 14, 1870.

The Annual Meeting of the New Hebrides Mission was held this day at Anamé, the station of the Rev. J. Inglis. Present—the Rev. Dr. Geddie, Rev. Messrs. Inglis, Paton, Cosh, McNair, Neilson and Watt, and Capt. Fraser. In the absence of the two previous chairmen, it devolved on Mr. Paton to preside, who opened the meeting with praise, reading of the Scriptures, and prayer. A Letter was read from Rev. J. Copeland, stating reasons for absence, which were satisfactory to the meeting, and cordially sustained. The Rev. J. Gordon was also absent.

1. This meeting records with sorrow the afflictive dispensation of Providence which has deprived the mission of one of its members—the Rev. D. Morrison. Our departed brother commenced his missionary labours on Efate, in the year 1864. After about three years of devoted and successful missionary labour, he was obliged to retire from the work on account of failing health. He was a patient sufferer for more than two years, and was finally called to his rest on the 23rd of October, 1869, in New Zealand, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health. Mr. Morrison was a faithful and devoted missionary, and his name will long be remembered by the Efatese, whom he laboured to convert to Christ—and under his instrumentality some, we have reason to believe, were brought to a knowledge of the truth. His missionary career was short, but long enough to endear him to his brethren. We grieve for our dear brother, whose life has been, in the mysterious Providence of God brought, as it seems to man, to a premature close; but we at the same time desire to cherish a spirit of submission to Him who doeth all things well. We would likewise express our warmest sympathy with Mrs. Morrison and her two children. May our beloved sister enjoy all needful consolation from Him who has been and will be a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless. We would also sympathize with the Church which sent him to the mission-field, and which had previously found a burying-place on these islands for five of its missionaries. And we trust that that Church instead of being discouraged, may be stimulated to more earnest and enlarged exertions in the missionary cause, knowing that they who sow in tears shall reap in joy. The clerk is instructed to forward a copy of this Minute to Mrs. Morrison, and also to the Church in Nova Scotia, with which Mr. Morrison was connected.

2. The Rev. Messrs. Milne and Goodhill having been introduced to the meeting, the former as the first missionary from the Presbyterian Church of Otago and South-