

that of Australia. It has, however, been winter here since we came, while it was in the midst of an unusually hot summer that we were there. Never did we enjoy the climate of a Nova Scotian mid-summer more thoroughly than we have that of this clear, balmy New Hebrides winter, the temperature of the cool months here seems to me very like that of your finest summer weather, at home. The trials of the rainy season, we are expecting, will duly counterbalance the pleasures of the sunny season. Heat, flies, mosquitoes, and fever and ague are some of the troubles that are likely to test our health and patience, then. Mrs. M., has of late, thought that she had some symptoms of fever and ague, but was happily mistaken. The baby is suffering just now from teething, but is growing nicely, notwithstanding.

I beg to inform you that I have bought a boat, which will cost, including all its appendages, not less than £30 sig.

Yours faithfully,

J. D. MURRAY.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR,
Secty. B. F. M.

Letter from Rev. Thos. Neilson.

SYDNEY PLACE, GEELONG,
25th Oct., 1872.

Rev'd. and Dear Sir,—The occasion of my writing to you at present is to me a sad one. I have come up from the islands in order to accompany and take care of my father-in-law, the Rev'd. Dr. Geddie, on the voyage, and I wish now to give you some account of his illness and his present circumstances. For more than two years, Dr. Geddie has not been at all in a good state of health, there has been evident a loss of nervous and consequently of muscular power on the right side, he has stooped forward very much in his gait, the right shoulder has been depressed, and he has frequently stumbled, especially with the right foot. All this has been observable to me for some time back. But I was particularly struck with his feeble and emaciated appearance, when in the month of May this year he came down to the islands for the purpose of assisting in the settlement of the Missionaries. I was sure that he had had, or was on the point of having a shock of paralysis. Nor were my fears disappointed. During the annual meeting at Aneleuhah in the first week of June, he was very feeble and listless, and on Friday the 7th, I noticed, when we came ashore in the morning, that he was scarcely able to shake hands. On that day Mr. Murray was appointed his successor, and his mind delivered from a great weight of anxiety, and as he intended dispensing the Sacrament of the Supper on the following

Sabbath, he was relieved from attendance at our meeting in the afternoon. At mid-day he gave me his own and Mrs. Geddie's usual annual subscription for the Bible Society, but his usually large and beautiful hand-writing in doing so was diminished to a feeble and scarcely legible scratch. This was the last occasion on which he put pen on paper. On the afternoon of that day he held a meeting of the congregation preparatory to the communion, and a man named Manaraa, a Tahitian, who has lived on Aneityum for many years as a whaler, and who was a great drunkard, but who has now thoroughly reformed, was unanimously chosen to the office of the eldership by the congregation, and ordained by Dr. Geddie to that office. This was his last ministerial act. On going ashore from the vessel on the morning of the 8th, I was told by Mr. Murray, that Dr. Geddie had twice fallen that morning, and had to be carried in from the verandah of the house to the sofa. I immediately went in to see him, and found that his right side was paralyzed, that he had lost the power of his right arm and leg, and that the left side of his face was considerably drawn up. Since then I have had him constantly under my charge until last week, when I brought him home to Mrs. Geddie here. For some weeks after the crisis of his illness, his mind remained pretty clear and speech pretty distinct, but latterly his memory and speech are both partially impaired. And for the future it is highly improbable that he will ever be enabled to undertake any active duty for the church. I am happy to say, however, that in other respects his general health is good. He eats well and sleeps well; is more contented and even happy in his disposition than ever I knew him, and seems to spend a great deal of his time in private prayer. Mrs. Geddie has got a comfortable little cottage rented here. Helen is at school and getting on very well with her education, and as they are settled down, and as the climate suits the enfeebled health of both Dr. and Mrs. Geddie, it is their intention, God willing, for the present to remain here, at least, till Helen's education is finished, and of course they confidently look to you to make what provision for them you think necessary and right.

I may state that it would be highly undesirable and dangerous for either of them to think of going home to Nova Scotia and spending the remainder of their days in their native land. I am pretty certain that a single severe winter in your climate would be fatal to them both, so that must not be thought of. And further, I must say that after mature deliberation and inquiry, I find that it will take, at least,