

6. As different names have been used to designate the annual meeting of this mission; as there is a vagueness of idea abroad as to the character and objects of these meetings; and as the responsible management of this mission has been delegated to the missionaries here by the churches they respectively represent, to prevent misconception as far as possible, and secure uniformity of expression, it was unanimously agreed that the annual and other meetings of this mission be designated the meetings of the New Hebrides Mission Synod.

7. The members of this mission have heard, with deep sorrow, of the murder of the Rev. J. D. Gordon, of Eromanga. This sad event took place on or about the 7th of March last. The murder was evidently premeditated; a native of Eromanga named Nerimpau watched his opportunity, and struck Mr. Gordon on the forehead with an axe, causing almost instant death. The cause of this lamentable murder has not been fully ascertained. The Eromangans entertain strong prejudices against Christianity, from the belief that missionaries being, as they consider them, sacred men, like their own priests, bring sickness and death; there had been a good deal of sickness and mortality amongst them this year, and two of Nerimpau's children who had received medicine from Mr. Gordon had died, and, acting on this feeling, he had sought his revenge by killing the missionary. There is also a report, but it requires confirmation, to the effect that ten men belonging to a heathen chief in the district had been taken away by a slaver, and that the chief and his people were so enraged, that they resolved to destroy every white man on the island, and Mr. Gordon was the first victim. Mr. Gordon was aware that his life was in danger, and had pointed out to one of his teachers the spot where he wished to be buried and had told him what to do, in the event of his life being taken away.

Mr. Gordon was a native of Prince Edward Island, and was educated for the Ministry in Nova Scotia. After his brother, the Rev. G. N. Gordon, and his wife, were murdered on Eromanga, on the 20th May, 1861, he offered himself as a missionary for the New Hebrides, and was accepted. In 1864 he was located at Dillon's Bay, Eromanga, at the station where his brother had fallen. He laboured there with great devotedness, and with encouraging tokens of success. After the late Rev. James McNair joined the mission, Mr. Gordon gave up his station to him, and went to open a new station on the other side of the island, at Portinia Bay. Here he was equally devoted in his labours, which were followed by a corresponding measure of

success. His large heart could not be satisfied with his works on Eromanga, but longed to see the gospel extended to all these islands. He got natives of Santo brought to Eromanga, from whom he learnt the elements of the Santo language, after which he spent several months on Santo, and was the first to introduce the gospel to the island. He prepared a small book in the Santo language, which he got printed. He intended to return to Santo in the following year, but circumstances prevented him. Mr. Gordon had a great aptitude for acquiring native languages, and he applied himself with unwearied diligence while engaged in the study of them. He was an earnest missionary, his heart was thoroughly in his work; he longed and laboured for the salvation of perishing sinners, and he had souls given him for his reward. "He that winneth souls is wise." "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." The members of this mission sincerely sympathise with the surviving relatives of Mr. Gordon, and with the church in Nova Scotia, which ordained him, and sent him out to this mission, and which had previously sustained so many losses. May the blood of the missionaries, like the blood of the ancient martyrs, prove the seed of the Church. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

That a copy of this minute be forwarded to Rev. P. G. McGregor, of Halifax, secretary to the Foreign Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church of the L.P. of B.N.A., and to Robert Gordon, Esq., Summerside, Prince Edward Island, brother of the deceased.

8. Since the last annual meeting of this mission, that highly-esteemed missionary, Bishop Patteson, also, the Rev. Mr. Atkin, and a native helper named Stephen, were murdered by the natives of Nukapu, an island in the Santa Cruz group. In common with the whole Christian world, the members of this mission have been deeply moved by this lamentable event. In every organ of public opinion, from the Queen's speech at the opening of Parliament down to the humblest colonial newspaper, this murder has been traced up to the slave trade in these seas, against which this mission has so earnestly testified, and so strongly protested. Bishop Patteson took always a deep and friendly interest in this mission, and was ever ready to render any assistance to it that lay in his power, and these feelings were warmly reciprocated by every member of this mission. Bishop Patteson's talents, and acquirements, social position, and earnest piety, with his abundant and widely-directed labours, have greatly elevated the character of missions in the estimation of all classes, both in the