

THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

For the last four or five years the New Hebrides Mission has been kept steadily before the Church by missionaries from the field. There was first the visit of Rev. J. W. McKenzie; soon after came Mr. Robertson, and then Mr. Annand. During the past year the question of a fourth missionary for that field has brought it still more prominently forward. In order that our readers may understand the position of matters we give a brief narrative of events, as many of them do not see the *Presbyterian Witness* in which the matter has recently been fully discussed.

MR. ANNAND'S REMOVAL FROM ANEITYUM.

The New Hebrides Mission began on Aneityum. Dr. Geddies settled there in 1848. A little later Dr. Inglis of the Reformed Church of Scotland, which afterward united with the Free Church, settled on the other side of the Island, and ever since the two stations have been wrought by the two churches.

When Mr. Annand came home and met with the F. M. Committee on May 22nd, 1885, he said that the population of Aneityum was steadily decreasing, that one missionary should now do the work, leaving the other free to go to one of the heathen islands, and thus extend the work. The Committee felt that as he had already removed from Fila to Aneityum and had learned two languages, they could not ask him to remove to a heathen island, and would not do so. He then offered to remove, saying that it was better that the other missionary should remain, and in the course of his remarks, expressed a desire, in case of removal, to go to Santo, the largest island of the group. The Committee knew nothing of the special needs of any of the islands but they felt that the missionaries were themselves the best judges, and were willing, yea anxious, that Mr. Annand should go wherever he might wish, provided the Mission Synod approved, and then passed the following resolution.

"The Board having heard Mr. Annand's statements showing the continued decrease of population on Aneityum, and regarding this as confirmation of the correctness of the opinion expressed by the Mission Synod that the time has come when one missionary should suffice for that island, agree to correspond with the F. M. Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, offering, in the event of Mr. Annand concurring in, and the Mission Synod

agreeing to, the proposal, to transfer Mr. Annand to Santo or such other Island as the Mission Synod might select, leaving Mr. Lawrie, if the F. M. Committee of the Free Church and the New Hebrides Synod approve, to take charge of the whole island. And as the Mission Synod have already expressed the opinion that a mission to Santo should not be undertaken by a single missionary, this Board would express the hope, that should Santo be chosen, The Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland may see their way to the appointment of a colleague to be associated with Mr. Annand in this effort to extend the mission."

Such was the resolution accepting Mr. Annand's demission of Aneityum, and containing the conditions of that demission, and on which all subsequent resolutions were based. The meeting at which it was passed, the first meeting at which Mr. Annand was present after his return, was the last meeting of the Foreign Mission Committee that the late Dr. MacGregor ever attended, its minutes are the last minutes in connection with Foreign Missions that he ever wrote.

Dr. MacGregor then wrote to the secretary of the F. M. Committee of the Free Church of Scotland forwarding the resolution of our committee.

In reply to the above the Free Church F. M. Committee "resolved to accept the sole charge of the whole island of Aneityum," but with regard to the appointment of another missionary by themselves they said "This Committee is strongly of opinion that any further development of the New Hebrides Mission should be undertaken by the Australasian Churches."

The F. M. Committee, Eastern Section, then passed the following resolution.

"The Committee expresses satisfaction that the F. M. Committee of the Free Church of Scotland is willing to assume the entire charge of the mission work at Aneityum so that Mr. Annand may commence operations on Espiritu Santo, they remit the matter to the Mission Synod asking them in the event of their approval to take the necessary steps with a view to this arrangement being carried out so soon as Mr. Annand returns to the islands. The Committee would at the same time, reiterate its conviction of the exceeding desirableness of another missionary being associated with Mr. Annand in the occupancy of so large and important an island and would express the earnest hope that Dr. Gunn may see his way clear to join him. The Committee would further respectfully bring under the notice of the Free Church F. M. Commit-