

MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

This sister Church may well put larger and more wealthy bodies to the blush by its zeal and liberality in the cause of Foreign Missions. It has again five missionaries in the field, or preparing for it—the Rev. J. D. Murray and the Rev. J. W. McKenzie leaving Halifax for the new Hebrides in October, together with the Rev. Hugh A. Robertson, the missionary of the Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces.

The Rev. A. W. Murray, of the London Missionary Society, sent the following account of a twofold application for missionary work, from the island of Api, to the Rev. Dr. Geddie. Mr. Murray is one of the oldest missionaries of this Society, and the most friendly and cordial relations subsist between him and the Nova Scotia missionaries.

“The circumstances under which the appeals which I now pass on to you have reached us are as follows:—On board a vessel now at anchor here, the ‘Mary Campbell,’ is a young man who has been to Queensland for a length of time past as labourer. He has been associated with Api men there. Mr. McFarlane had told this young man when he left home that he ought to remember that he is a Christian, and look out for opportunities of being useful. This he seems to have borne in mind in his wanderings. The vessel has now been to Api, taking back men whose term of service was up, and seeking more, and while at the island, at the part on the west side where the Fiji vessel, the ‘Queen of the Isles,’ was wrecked lately, and where she still lies, he, the young man from Lifu, with one or more of the Api natives, who had been to Queensland, had an interview with the chief; they told him what they had seen of religion at Queensland, there, too, I suppose, and that it would be very good for him to embrace Christianity and get a teacher. The chief called his people together and had a formal consultation, and on the following day a message was sent to the Lifu lad by the chief, to say that he and his people had determined to receive Christianity, and to beg him to take a message to his missionary to send them a teacher. The message has reached us, and I now pass it on to you, and hope that you will very soon be able to respond to the call.

“And a Mr. Farquhar, an intelligent gentlemanly-looking Scotchman, who is on board the ‘Mary Campbell,’ brings a message from a place where we landed the Rarotogun teachers in 1861, imploring a missionary. Mr. F. says it was the last charge given him on board to be sure and not forget to tell Mr. Jones to send them a missionary. Mr. Jones came across from Noumea in the ‘Mary Campbell,’ the Api men were on board and saw him there, hence their naming him in sending their message. With the other, I pass it on to you, and through you to your mission, as on you especially devolves the responsibility of giving to these benighted tribes the Word of Life. Would that the Churches you represent would bestir themselves and at once place at your disposal a dozen men of the right stamp; would they do that, they might be placed at once on most promising spheres, and the whole group be simultaneously lighted up at points not very far apart, and then, with the presence and blessing of the Master, how soon might the lights meet, and every island and inlet, from Futuna to Santo, be covered with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea!”