

From his close application during the whole course of his preparatory studies, the seeds of his fatal disease had begun to germinate. Still, as usual with consumptive persons, he could not see or believe that he was in danger, and he even manifested a reluctance, which grew upon him and afterwards became very strong, to have anything said on the subject. When according to the rules of the Board, he underwent a medical examination, the physician employed at once pronounced him as having a decided tendency to pulmonary disease, and stated that his only hope of vigorous health was in an early departure to a warm climate. Still his opinion was, and the same view was held by others of the highest standing in the profession, that he might live many years and have strength to labour, in such a climate as that of the New Hebrides. Experience has now shown that this is a view upon which we cannot rely in our missionary operations in the South Seas. It is now certain that persons who could not live in this climate from pulmonary disorders, need not expect to be efficient labourers there. This has been shown in the case of both Mr. and Mrs. Matheson. Among the natives consumption is by no means uncommon, and the fever and ague to which all the residents on these islands are so liable, is not only debilitating in itself, but leaves its effects upon the weaker parts of the system, and develops any tendency to pulmonary or other complaints. The same results however, have been experienced in other missions. An esteemed young man, with whom we sat in the Hall of the U. P. Church in Scotland, of consumptive constitution, was accepted as a missionary to Jamaica, the climate of which, particularly in the higher ranges, is celebrated for its suitableness for the consumptive. But a few months of self-denying labour closed his earthly career. We believe that something similar took place in the case of the first missionary sent by the Baptists of this Province to Burmah. We may add, however, as a curious fact, that Mr. Inglis states that dyspepsia and other complaints of the digestive system are unknown on Aneiteum.

After having undergone the usual trials,

he was ordained in Prince Street Church, Pietou, on the 12th November of that year (1856). The Rev. James Watson, his pastor preached from Rom. i. xv: "So as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you which are at Rome also." The Rev. George Walker offered the ordination prayer, the Rev. James Bayne delivered the charge, and the Rev. A. P. Miller addressed the congregation.

The winter of 1857 was spent by him in Philadelphia, principally in prosecuting medical studies. Here he met with much kindness, as all our missionaries who have gone thither have done. He was presented with free tickets to the medical classes, and received much attention from the ministers with whom he became acquainted. Here he devoted himself to his work with the same perseverance that characterized him through life, and with most injurious effects on his physical system. Attending daily upon a number of classes, visiting the dissecting room and the hospitals during the rest of the day—spending much of his nights in study and being fully employed on the Sabbath in preaching, comprised a course of labour, sufficient to impair a stronger constitution than his. Before spring he was reduced to a state of weakness, of which we believe he never informed the Church or his friends. We only learned incidentally afterwards on a visit to Philadelphia, that his cough had been so severe, that some fears were entertained lest he should not be able to return home. Undoubtedly the seeds of consumption there became firmly rooted, and were never eradicated.

He returned to Nova Scotia in the spring much improved in health, but still with that unmistakable cough. The summer was spent in visiting the churches. It is believed by many that it was by his labours in this way, that the tendencies of his constitution to pulmonary disease were developed. We are satisfied that this is a mistake. At no time in Nova Scotia was he so unwell as he was in Philadelphia. We saw him on the day of his arrival at West River, and his cough was then quite harassing. In fact we believe that relief from close confinement, and travelling much in the open air