

when we first come off the sea, more than the heat.

Yours in Jesus,

G. N. GORDON.

Rev J. Bayne, Pictou.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD OF SCOTLAND.

We subjoin some portions of the Report on Foreign Missions laid before the Synod at its late meeting. Our readers will be rejoiced to learn that the services of two young men for the New Hebrides Mission have been secured. It is also pleasing to learn that the printing of the gospel by Luke is so far advanced.

In the report submitted to Synod last year, and which embraced a sketch of the progress of the New Hebrides Mission from its commencement, the urgent want of additional labourers for these islands was brought prominently forward, and a solemn appeal was addressed to all who might be in circumstances which admitted of their engaging in the work, that they might be led to take its claims under serious consideration; and certain steps were taken by Synod, though without success, with the view of obtaining one or more qualified persons to devote themselves to the service of Christ in these distant regions. The matter was ultimately left in the hands of the committee, with instructions to adopt what measures might seem to them advisable for the attainment of the end in view. They accordingly used their best endeavours in carrying into effect the wish and purpose of the Church, and led, step by step, in the Providence of God, these endeavours have resulted in an engagement with two students of divinity, Messrs John Paton and Joseph Copland, who have devoted themselves unreservedly to foreign missionary work, and placed themselves under the directions of the committee in the preparations required for its commencement. These brethren are considerably advanced in their theological curriculum, but it was understood that they should at all events attend the hall in the ensuing session, and that the committee should judge and determine as to the time when they ought to be licensed and designated as missionaries to the heathen, subject, of course, to the sanction and approval of this court. Both of them had been usefully employed for some time as agents of the Glasgow City Mission, thus acquiring at the same time experience

which may prove of considerable advantage to them afterwards; but it appeared advisable to the committee that their connection with that mission should cease as speedily as could be arranged, so that they might wholly occupy themselves in such preparatory studies as have a special relation to their prospective field of labour. They have, accordingly, been so engaged during the past session, under the direction of a sub-committee to which the duty of superintending was intrusted, and a reasonable allowance has been made for their present maintenance.

The circumstances of the whole case appeared to be such as to leave but little room for any hesitation in appointing two missionaries rather than one. The demands of the group of islands to which they are destined are sufficiently large and pressing. The success which has crowned the efforts of the pioneers of the gospel in those regions is highly encouraging, and it is believed that the Church at home is both able and willing to support at least these two additional missionaries. Indeed, inasmuch as the mission in New Zealand may be regarded as at an end, and no farther pecuniary support will be required in that quarter, the maintenance of one additional missionary is all that the arrangement in question will entail on the Church. And it is proper surely to do what in us lies to establish the ordinances of the gospel, and to keep up the staff of gospel labourers in a state of efficiency, not only for the purpose of wresting additional territory from the prince of darkness, but in order that the advantages already gained may be secured and not lost, seeing everything at present depends instrumentally on the lives of two or three individuals, who, though thus few, may become fewer still ere the next intelligence arrives from them.

It is extremely gratifying to be enabled to report that the desire expressed by the missionaries, Messrs. Geddie and Inglis, to have a mission schooner placed at their disposal for the purposes of the mission, has been so promptly met by the liberality of the Church. It was proposed by them that a vessel of about twelve tons, the cost of which was estimated at about £300, should be furnished by the united contributions of this Church, and the Church in Nova Scotia with which Mr Geddie is connected. No sooner was the call addressed to the