

# THE Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

FEBRUARY, 1866.

## THE REV. JOHN GEDDIE.

Our beloved pioneer Missionary has now left home and country the second time, and bidden us what will prove, in all human probability, his last farewell, as far as relates to this world of happy greetings and sad partings. In such circumstances a short sketch of his career will not be inappropriate in a periodical which owes so much of its interest to the work which he inaugurated, and with the progress of which he has been at every step identified.

Mr. GEDDIE was born in Scotland, but while he was still an infant his parents removed to Pictou, Nova Scotia. He was early set apart by parental piety to the work of the ministry and, if God should open up a way, for that work among the heathen. He was educated under the learned and venerable Dr. Macculloch, and was licensed to preach the gospel in May, 1837, by the Presbytery of Pictou. After a few months' service as a probationer in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, he, in the autumn of 1837, received a cordial and unanimous call from the congregations of Cavendish and New London. This call he accepted, and commenced his labours in the congregation in October, 1837. His ordination took place on the 10th March, 1838.

For nearly nine years he laboured in P. E. Island with great diligence, and not without the countenance and blessing of Heaven. His heart was thoroughly in his Master's work, the Master owned his service, and he became much endeared to the people of his charge. His attention had

been early turned to the condition of the heathen; and when a student he had devoted himself in covenant to the foreign field if God would accept him and send him forth to the Gentiles. In private intercourse with ministers and members of the church, in Presbytery and in Synod, he agitated the subject of missions to the heathen. In this good cause he was early seconded by the venerable Dr. Keir, and other members of the P. E. Island Presbytery.

In 1843 this Presbytery brought the subject by overture before the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. The proposal to embark in such an enterprise as a Foreign Mission was felt to be very grave indeed; and it was referred to all Presbyteries that they might take it into serious consideration, and report to the Synod of 1844. In this year the question came up in due form, and after a very careful discussion a vote was taken which showed an equal number for and against immediate action in the Foreign Mission work. Dr. KEIR, being Moderator, gave his casting vote in favour of Mr. Geddie's proposal. We say "Mr. Geddie's proposal"—for such it was in point of fact, though not in point of form. A Foreign Mission Board was appointed, and the South Seas selected as a field of operation. A Missionary was no sooner called for than Mr. Geddie offered his services. His offer was accepted, and he demitted his charge in P. E. Island in September, 1845. His people, at first, refused to give him up.—They had prayed for the Mission, they had contributed money for it, but they could