

persons employed, who can co-operate in the management of the mission. For my part I feel unqualified for such a situation, even were it proffered me, and would shrink from the responsibilities which such a step would incur. But you will hear more from me at a future day.

To persons who examine carefully these statements and reflect on Mr Archibald's circumstances, there will appear little ground for astonishment at the course which he has pursued, and probably as little for surprise that Mr Geddie and Mr Powell should concur with him in thinking it advisable for him to leave the service of the Mission. He says he felt that he had entered upon the work without having sufficiently counted the cost.— He and his family were very severely tried by sickness and death. They were assailed, and their lives endangered by a savage, who severely injured Mrs Archibald, and when they could not repose with confidence on promises of Divine protection, and felt that they were not in the path of duty, in occupying the place which others might, with far greater comfort to themselves and advantage to the service, fill; is it wonderful that he resolved to withdraw from the work, and remove to some place where he might be within reach of the guardianship which civilized life would afford. How much soever we might have wished it had been otherwise, we cannot but admit that he had strong reasons for acting as he did.

Nor is it wonderful that Mr Geddie, when writing upon the subject, should speak of it as "a great trial to the mission" and an "occasion of much grief to himself." He writes under the full weight of the heavy stroke of disappointment which such an event must occasion to himself, left, as he says "in that dark, dreary and inhospitable land, without an associate in the missionary work." I am sorry that Mr Geddie has used the word *blame*, in relation to Mr Archibald's appointment to the mission. It is natural enough that he should attach blame somewhere, for the failure of our expectations and hopes in the case, and it is generous that he should assume a large share of it himself; but I am not willing as a member of the Board to admit that there was blame at all. We acted deliberately and prayerfully in the matter. We sought direction from on high and committed our works and ways to God, and I have yet to

learn that he has disapproved of our action in the case. We were, and still are, inexperienced in the missionary work, and we must learn by experiment and failure, lessons which nothing else will teach; but I cannot believe that the God of missions would have us pause, and refuse to employ such agents as he seems to raise up for his work, with a fair promise of usefulness, if we cannot secure the services of tried and experienced men.

I am not willing to lose sight of Mr Archibald as a Missionary agent, though he has in the mean time quitted the field and subjected us to much embarrassment and uneasiness on his account. I cannot entertain the opinion, which some persons seem to have taken up, that moral criminality has entered into his reasons for withdrawing from our work. From the first, he proposed to continue till some work which they had in hand should be finished, and it was the counsel of Mr Powell and others I think of the London missionaries that he should remain, which would not have been the case had he been in any way morally disqualified for the station which he occupied. Besides, he sought advice from Mr Geddie in his perplexity, and he *advised* him to withdraw, when had there been moral delinquency, he should have told him he would correspond with the Board of Missions, and acquaint us with the facts of the case. Besides, had there been any criminality in his conduct, he would not have withdrawn his resignation, and proposed to continue at his post. Is it still enquired, how then has Mr Geddie written as he has done upon the subject? I am disposed to account for it by his feeling the unhappy consequences of Mr Archibald's withdrawal from the mission and continuing on the island, where, if he was not with him, his influence would of course be opposed. It is unhappy I think that he did not remain in our service till he was ready to leave Antioch, but with the limited information which we have upon the subject, it is not fair to form conclusions to his prejudice. Probably he wished to continue on the ground till he could hear from us in reply to his resignation, and it is to be regretted for his own sake, as well as for the interest of the cause, that he has not written to us now. He must, I think, have got a letter from me, mailed at the same time with that to which Mr Geddie's last is a reply and I hope we will yet hear from him. Mr and Mrs Archibald left Antioch