

recognition by the Board, has been employed by them in such manner as promises greatly to increase their efficiency and success in the field of actual labour. Mr. Morrison has, with the sanction of the Board spent the winter in Edinburgh, where he enjoyed on most advantageous terms, manifold opportunities of acquiring medical knowledge both in its theory and practice. His intercourse too with ministers and people of the Free Church, United and Reformed Presbyterian Churches has been such as must have greatly extended his acquaintance with the present condition of the ecclesiastical world. The New Hebrides mission too has acquired thereby greater prominence in the views of the Parent Churches, in whose trials and triumphs the members of the Synod have been wont to deeply sympathise, and whose kindly recognition we rejoice to have.

Mr. Gordon has been prosecuting his theological studies with becoming assiduity and exercising his gifts in the Home Mission Field. Having finished his curriculum at the Hall, and obtained License to preach from the Presbytery of Halifax, he has been under the direction of your Board, visiting Canada, with a view to increase the interest taken in our Mission by the Canada Presbyterian Church. The generous donation of \$500, voted by the Synod to our funds, and the increasing congregational collections which have recently come to hand, will fully justify this visit, and probably Mr. Gordon's presence at the late meeting of Synod will enlist in our behalf, more desirable aid, than pecuniary gifts, however generous. It is well known that leading minds in that Church have been urgently advocating the adoption of the New Hebrides as the Foreign Field for the cultivation of which, permanent contributions should be made both in men and money. With considerable anxiety, the result of recent deliberations are now awaited. Another object in view, when Mr. Gordon was thus deputed, was the prosecution of medical study in which the greater portion of the time before embarkation must now be diligently employed. Under these circumstances, it will not be practicable for Mr.

Gordon to visit the Churches in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and other sections under the jurisdiction of Synod. Such congregations, however, as have not yet been visited by Mr. Morrison, will according to present arrangements enjoy such opportunity in due course.

The Home operations of your Board during the past year have been largely occupied with the superintendence of the Mission Vessel. Shortly after the last meeting of Synod your Board took action on the decision then given: "That the Board be authorized to take the necessary steps to provide a vessel such as the Missionaries have requested and consider necessary for the efficiency of the Mission of about 100 tons burthen, and to appeal to the Children of the Church for the sum required." A sub-committee was appointed at the first meeting after Synod, under instruction to associate with them some practical men—shipowners and shipbuilders in order to prepare details such as model, rig and specification for tenders. Progress in the work was however, most unexpectedly delayed by correspondence from Scotland, which called attention to the propriety of building the vessel in Australia, where there was every prospect of ample funds to cover all expenditure. To this suggestion your Board demurred on the ground that this Synod had given full authority to prosecute the work in Nova Scotia, and that the universal expectation of the Church had been already excited. Moreover, some jealousy was felt lest under this new proposal the entire ownership of the vessel might pass into other hands, or that our Missionaries' control over her would be seriously limited. It was nevertheless resolved to stay progress until correspondence could be held, stating these and other grounds why extreme reluctance was felt to comply with the recommendation of our brethren in Scotland. In due course their full acquiescence in our views was obtained and no time thereafter was lost in perfecting the arrangements, for shipbuilding. Two sets of tenders were sought and obtained, one for the entire vessel and another for hull and spars alone. The latter class was preferred and it was found