

mountainous country infested with robbers, they passed on to Tabriz, the commercial capital of Northern Persia, where they arrived in seventy-four days from Trebizond. The field to be occupied extended from Lake Oroomiah 300 miles westward to the Tigris and 200 miles north and south—a rugged country, interspersed here and there with beautiful fertile plains. The Nestorians inhabiting this district, numbering about 150,000, derive their name from Nestorius, a native of Syria and Bishop of Constantinople in A.D. 428, who was soon after deposed and banished to Egypt for alleged heretical opinions. Many, however, in the east espoused his tenets and, in course of time, the Nestorian became the State Church of Persia, continued to flourish for several centuries, and planted missions in China, India, and other eastern countries, of which traces remain to this day. But the country was desolated by the Moslem hordes and the Nestorians all but exterminated by Tamerlane about the year 1,400. The remnant of this once prosperous church, whose intellectual life had been crushed by popish and moslem persecution was the material the missionaries had to work upon. Dr. Grant commenced his labours at the city of Oroomiah, on the borders of the lake of that name some ninety miles long and thirty in width. At the very outset, his great medical skill, his commanding physique, his courage and his tact gave him a wonderful influence over the people. His house was continuously thronged with patients suffering from all kinds of diseases. He was especially successful in operating on the eye, for cataract, with which many were afflicted. The work of the mission prospered and soon they had a staff of eight native helpers, among whom were three Nestorian bishops and two priests. But trials also abounded. On one occasion, Grant and Perkins narrowly escaped assassination. Then Oroomiah proved unhealthy. Fever and ague brought the whole missionary party to the verge of the grave. Mrs. Grant was the first who fell a victim to it. She died on the 14th of January, 1839, at the age of twenty-five. She was greatly beloved by the Nestorians, who buried her and her infant twin daughters within the precincts of the church at Oroomiah, “where none but holy men are buried.” Shortly after this sad event, Grant set out on an expedi-

tion to the mountain fastnesses of Koordistan, where he encountered great hardships and was often in danger of his life. By a difficult and perilous journey he reached Mosul on the Tigris, immediately opposite the site of Nineveh, and at length reached the wilds of Koordistan. Even there he received a cordial welcome from the natives. After a successful exploration he returned to Oroomiah in shattered health and resolved to visit his native country. Proceeding by Erzroom and Constantinople he arrived in Boston in October, 1840. He returned the following year with additional missionaries for the mountaineers. The good work upon which they entered was soon suspended by war betwixt the Kurds and the Nestorians, in which the latter suffered the most wanton cruelties. On the commencement of hostilities Grant escaped from the mountains and returned to Mosul. A typhoid fever which had carried of many of the refugee Nestorians in Mosul seized this “beloved physician” and terminated his devoted labours on the 24th of April, 1844. People of every rank in the community watched the course of his sickness, and when his death was announced many wept. The old Patriarch was heard to exclaim,—“My country and my people are gone! Nothing remains to me but God!” The early history of this mission, and the conspicuous part taken in it by Dr. Grant are fully described by Dr. Rufus Anderson in his *Oriental Churches*, published by the A. B. C. F. M. at Boston Vol. I pp. 426. Price \$1.50. In 1871 this mission was transferred to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, by whom it has since been vigorously maintained. The latest statistics give 10 ordained missionaries, 4 medical missionaries, 24 female missionaries, 30 native ordained preachers, 34 licentiates, 26 organized churches, 140 preaching places, 2,577 scholars in the schools, and 1,768 communicants.

REV. JOSEPH ANNAND, OF ANEIT-YUM, NEW HEBRIDES.

Happily Mr. Annand is among us again, after eleven years of arduous service in the foreign field, under a tropical sun, far away from the centres of civilization and the comforts and advantages of modern