

## Annual Meeting of Mission Council.

Aneiteum, Sept. 3rd, 1867.

## FIRST SEDERUNT.

Which day, at Aneiteum, was held the annual meeting of the New Hebrides Mission. Present, Dr. Geddie, Messrs. Inglis, Paton, Copeland, Morrison, Gordon, Cosh and Neilson, and Capt. Fraser. Dr. Geddie occupied the chair, and opened the meeting with praise, reading of the scriptures and prayer, after which he read a suitable address on the nobility, difficulty, and encouragements of the missionary work. Mr. Paton having been appointed chairman for the next twelve months, called on Messrs. McFarlane and Gordon to engage in devotional exercises, after which it was resolved, *inter alia*,—

1. That the reasons for Mr. McNair's absence be sustained.

2. That the Rev. S. McFarlane, of the Loyalty Islands Mission, who was present, be invited to take a seat in the meeting and take a part in the deliberations.

3. That the minutes of last general meeting be sustained.

4. That this meeting having heard the minutes of the various special meetings held during the year by committees of the New Hebrides Mission, together with verbal explanations on various points, approve generally of the course adopted by these committees, and thank them cordially for their diligence in the various matters that have come before them.

## SECOND SEDERUNT.

5. That having heard the reports of the missionaries labouring on the several islands, this meeting accept the same, and express its thankfulness to God that, considering the many difficulties to be overcome, the work is on the whole in such a favourable state.

6. That Dr. Geddie and Mr. Copeland be appointed to prepare a schedule, to be filled up annually by the missionaries, giving at once a view of the state of the work on the group.

## THIRD SEDERUNT.

The subject of Mr. Neilson's settlement was brought up, and at the close of the sederunt the consideration of it was deferred till another time.

September 4th, 1867.

## FOURTH SEDERUNT.

The report of the committee on the traffic in natives of these islands was received, and the committee thanked for their diligence and re-appointed, with instructions to write a letter to the Wesleyan Mission, Figii, to prepare an abstract of the report for publication, and a petition to the Australian and Home Governments, praying that a

full investigation be made of the manner in which the traffic is carried on, that the helpless natives may be protected and the interests of our common humanity secured.

## FIFTH SEDERUNT.

1. The subject of Mr. Neilson's settlement having been resumed, it was agreed that in all the circumstances of the case he be appointed to Port Resolution, Tana.

2. That a committee be appointed to examine the documents lately received respecting the *Dayspring*,—said committee to consist of Messrs. Geddie, Inglis, Paton and Copeland, and to report to a future meeting.

3. That the report of Dr. Geddie and Mr. Neilson, as deputations in the *Dayspring* to the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands, be accepted, and that the departure on the part of the latter from the minutes be approved of.

September 5th, 1867.

## SIXTH SEDERUNT.

That the reasons assigned by Capt. Fraser for his not leaving Melbourne at the appointed time be sustained.

## SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

The Rev. S. McFarlane having addressed the meeting and said that the Loyalty Islands brethren are fully satisfied with the service which they have received from the *Dayspring*—that he is about to proceed to Australia, and wishes to bring the claims of the *Dayspring* before the Congregational Churches, but as various misunderstandings have arisen in the Colonies as to the ownership and sailing of the *Dayspring*, he is desirous to be in a position to remove these misapprehensions, and wishes the meeting to furnish him with a written statement on this subject. It is resolved that this meeting cordial welcome Mr. McFarlane among them, and assure him and those whom he represents, that this Mission has never departed from the original agreement respecting the vessel, and has no wish to do so; that while the legal and responsible owners of the vessel are the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland, the vessel is held for the benefit of both the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands Mission, and to be sailed under the direction of both Missions, and that each Mission shall bear a fair and equitable proportion of her expenses.

That this meeting deeply sympathize with the Directors of the London Missionary Society, the missionaries in these seas, and especially with Capt. Williams on the loss of the *John Williams*, but would respectfully suggest for their consideration, if it would not, in the altered circumstances