

that no man shall be forced to work upon the Sabbath Day." Mr. John Charlton, M.P., was right when he said that the most powerful argument in favour of Sabbath observance was the condition of the Christian nations of the earth compared with other nations. Archdeacon Lauder, representing the Anglican Church, very cordially and emphatically endorsed the object in view. "Take away the Lord's Day," said he, "and you may bid good-bye to the whole Christian religion." Thanks to the vigilance of our Churches, we believe there are few countries in which the Lord's Day is more decorously observed than in Canada, and yet there is need for continual watchfulness and co-operation, and for all the influence that can be exerted by the pulpit and the press to educate and strengthen public opinion in regard to this matter.

### Missionary Cabinet.

MRS. MARY GEDDIE MATHESON.

THE number of Canadian women who have consecrated themselves to the cause of foreign missions is remarkably large. A considerable number of these have already entered upon their everlasting rest and reward; more still remain and occupy spheres of usefulness, teaching by precept and example, and helping others to teach and preach the Gospel. *Miss Frame* of Shubenacadie, N.S., is engaged in preparing biographic sketches of some who have laboured or are still labouring in the foreign field. The subject of one of these sketches we have now the pleasure of laying before the readers of the RECORD.

Mrs. Matheson was born at Pictou, N.S., in October, 1837. She was the daughter of Mr. James Johnston of that place. Her mother was a daughter of Mr. John Geddie and sister of the late Dr. Geddie of Aneityum—a woman of deep personal piety and greatly interested in the work of foreign missions, of which her only brother was the Canadian pioneer. Mary was ten years of age when her uncle bade them good-bye; she was taught to remember him in her prayers and to pray for the conversion of the heathen, and from his letters she learned the wants and the woes of the savages who inhabited the New Hebrides. She was of a sweet and amiable disposition, and rapidly acquir-

ed and retained knowledge, secular and religious. At sixteen, she taught a private school; two years later, she professed her faith in Christ and united with the Church as a communicant. As a teacher, her tact and ready sympathy endeared her to young and old. Three years of earnest work were followed by a severe illness, which confined her for months to her room; but the summer of 1857 brought her a measure of restored health. In October of that year she was married to Rev. J. W. Matheson, and accompanied him in his visits to the churches previous to their departure. On the 22nd of November they sailed from Halifax for Liverpool. They arrived at Sydney, N.S.W., on the 3rd of March, and reached Aneityum in July. Her husband, never robust, had been very ill on the voyage. At Sydney the physicians pronounced his lungs affected and forbade him to preach, while the missionaries hesitated to let him go to a new station; but go he would, and was settled on Tanna, at a point fourteen miles distant from the stations occupied by Messrs. Paton and Copeland on that island. Mrs. Matheson immediately began house-keeping, learning the language, and teaching, but when spring came, her husband was so ill that Messrs. Geddie and Inglis came in the mission vessel "John Knox" and took them back to Aneityum, where his health improved. Soon after this they went to Eromanga, spent four months with the Gordons, and then returned to their former station on Tanna. A new house was built and set in order; her girls return, and new ones come in; she learns Tannese, and teaches them to read; she also teaches them to thread a needle and to sew. Meanwhile Mr. Matheson is better and very busy, and the time passes pleasantly. Suddenly, a succession of violent hurricanes, accompanied by dranching rain, causes serious damage to fences and buildings, to food, clothing and bedding—even the boat is ruined; the earth is covered with ashes from the active volcano, though it is twenty miles distant; all around are wretched, helpless heathen, dying of measles, and howling savages threatening death to the white men, who they believe have brought this plague upon them,—death by famine—for the misguided natives have resolved to starve them out! Mr. Paton sends five men through the bush with a pot of flour, and while the