

## CRERAR REQUEST.

In coming to this resolution the Board felt that Providence had opened up their way by the payment into their funds of the bequest of the late James Crerar, Esq., of Pietou. The executors of the estate having discharged the duties of their trust most faithfully and with great wisdom, some three months ago, paid over to the Board in bank stock and other securities the sum of \$6600, and in cash the sum of \$2741 84, making a total of \$9341 84, from which two sums one of \$300 and the other of \$14 are to be deducted, leaving a net sum of \$9027 84 available. Out of this sum the Board paid the £250 stg., and agreed unanimously to recommend to Synod "That the Crerar Mission Fund be kept distinct from the ordinary foreign mission income, and should be reserved for appropriation to objects of a permanent character which our missionaries require, such as mission buildings, printing Press, Dayspring Insurance Fund, and to meet other emergencies as they may arise."

## THE FUTURE.

In closing this report the Board think that though we should all feel humbled and grieved that no addition from this body has been made to the missionary staff for two years, yet there has been an increase of two during the year in the New Hebrides—the Rev. Mr. Watt, a licentiate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, who was born in New Zealand, at latest advices was at New Zealand, ready to go in the Dayspring, and likely to reopen Mr. Matheson's old station on the island of Tanna; and Rev. Peter Milne, a licentiate of the Free Church of Scotland is also at sea and on his way to the New Hebrides. Mr. Watt will be supported by the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, and Mr. Milne by the Presbyterian Church of Otago and Southland.

And now what of the future? Rev. Mr. Goodwill will, we trust, go forth from Nova Scotia during the present year. Shall he go alone? The Board have not been idle in this matter. They have heard of students whose present intention is to go when their studies are completed; they have brought the claims of the mission under the notice of some ministers by personal communication, but they cannot announce any definite offer from him of service since last Synod. But the call is becoming louder with every letter, and surely there must soon be a response. The exploratory tour has shown openings numerous and inviting. The New Hebrides group embraces 30 islands, extending to a length of 300 miles. Dr. Duff says of the church in general that hitherto she has been "merely playing at missions, and that no

efforts have been made commensurate with the magnitude and importance of the work to be done for Christ." These words are becoming fearfully applicable to ourselves. Mr. Gordon compares all the efforts now being put forth in the New Hebrides to a child grappling with a giant, and says if no more and no better aid is sent into the field, the present generation, if not succeeding generations, inhabiting these islands, must go down to the dark world unknown, unblest and unsaved; and asks the solemn question, Are these churches willing to incur such tremendous responsibility? Dr. Geddie expresses a hope that the churches committed to their evangelization will act worthy of their sacred trust. The missionary work on these islands is still he says in its infancy, and though something has been done, a great work remains to be accomplished, and the success which has already followed missionary effort among these degraded islanders ought to stir up to more prayer and self-denying efforts to extend the Gospel among them. But most touching of all are the words of the devoted, and it may be dying, missionary of Fate. "My prospective separation from the mission work," he says, "I contemplate with feelings of keen regret. I regret to be separated from my very dear and highly esteemed brethren engaged in the work. I regret to have to separate from the little flock to whom I am now attached with fatherly tenderness. I regret not to be any longer privileged to hold the water of life to the lips of those who are perishing without it. But now I am unable to do anything anywhere. It is likely I shall have to lay down the banner of the cross on the mission field. Is there none in our church to volunteer to fill up the gap?" The Board would leave this thrilling appeal to be answered by the Synod, and trust that there are hearts here to respond. May God bless and prosper his own work so that these isles, so long the scenes of desolation, darkness and crime, may wait for the law of Messiah. Then shall the wilderness and solitary place be made glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

We close by presenting the five propositions which Dr. Mullens, the present Foreign Secretary of the London Missionary Society, has successfully proved in his recent work called "London and Calcutta."

1st. That foreign missions are, not only from duty but in their working, and in the manifest blessing put upon them, eminently worthy of the hearty support of the Christian Church.

2d. That the amount of missionary and benevolent effort exerted at home greatly exceeds all that is expended abroad.