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**Brief Survey of the field.**

**O**UR own missions to the heathen are stronger this year than ever before, and the amount raised is somewhat in advance of previous years. From all our fields the tidings are such as to cheer the heart and stimulate to further effort. Of other Presbyterian Churches the same holds true with the qualification that there has, in some instances, been an awkward and embarrassing deficiency in funds. The difficulties thus arising can be but temporary; for we know of no instance in which an appeal to the people has failed to meet with a generous response when the object to be aided was foreign missions. The scale of giving is upon the whole advancing. For the first time in the history of our own Church a single congregation has come forward with the offer to support a missionary to the heathen. The missionary has been sent forth, and there is no solicitude as regards his salary. But probably very few of our people are abreast in liberality, those converts in Aneityum who pay for missionary purposes an average of six shillings sterling a year for every man, woman and child!

There are still several large islands in the Pacific without one missionary or even a native teacher. The population of the Christianized islands generally is either

stationary or decreasing. In some cases the decrease is sadly rapid; but in the heathen islands the same causes produce the same effect to a still more terrible extent. European diseases and vices introduced among weak and volatile races who have no self-control and who cannot be treated by European physicians, are deadly and tend to utter extermination. The French are still a source of alarm in the vicinity of New Caledonia; but the prospect is less anxious than it was last year, the Australians and the British Government having exhibited a deep interest in preserving the independence of the islands. Difficulties have overtaken the New Guinea mission, and for a time there is a retreat from some of the stations in order to save life. One of the tribes resolved to kill all the missionaries on a certain night, but a friendly native brought timely warning, and the intended victims escaped by water. With this exception the progress in this vast island has been encouraging.

France is still battering away at the scattered hamlets and villages of the Madagascar coast; but wonderful to tell the cause of missions in the interior is prosperous in spite of this cruel invasion. The rulers and the people have shown vastly more of the spirit of Christ and of true humanity than has ever been exhibited by the people or the rulers of France. Christianity will be