

# THE Home and Foreign Record OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES. OCTOBER, 1864.

## Annual Report Board of Foreign Missions 1863—64.

Since the date of last Report, your Board have been chiefly occupied with Home operations. In variety, extent and importance, these have far exceeded our experience during any similar period, in the history of our mission. The final equipment, and dispatch of the mission vessel, the acceptance, preparation, and designation of the outgoing missionaries have received as they required, much watchful oversight, and energetic action.

### MISSION VESSEL.

The vessel was successfully launched from the building yard of James Wm. Carmichael, Esq., New Glasgow, on the 15th August last. Her name, *Dayspring*, was selected from many under consideration, for its direct reference to her sacred destination, (Luke 1. 78), its unsectarian character, and its happy distinctiveness from the names of all other vessels, already in actual mission service: the *John Williams*, the *Southern Cross*, the *Morning Star*, the *John Wesley*, and the *John Knox*. The *John Williams*, so familiar to our Church, as the stated, ever welcome, and highly useful Visitant of the New Hebrides, and upheld, as she was built, by the children of England, under the control of the London Missionary Society, was named after the first Martyr of Erromanga. The *Southern Cross*, also favourably known to us, is the property of the Church of England, and received her name, obviously with a view to her mission employment in the South Seas. Under the entire management

of the Bishop of New Zealand, formerly Bishop Selwyn, now Bishop Patterson, men of high Apostolic missionary Spirit, she has repeatedly rendered important aid, to the New Hebrides missionaries. The *Morning Star*, owned by, and under the control of the American Churches, bears a name; which aptly indicates her dedication to that service, in which she has been, as designed to be, the Herald of Gospel Light to many benighted heathen. The *John Wesley*, attached to the Methodist mission, was worthily named after the illustrious Founder of a very numerous, zealous, and enterprising denomination of Christians. The *John Knox*, built on the Clyde, and hitherto employed in the service of the New Hebrides mission, has been jointly upheld and controlled by the Churches in Scotland and Nova Scotia, and was named after the generally acknowledged, and highly revered Founder of Scottish Presbyterianism. Last on the list of vessels, upon which has been written "Holiness to the Lord" we now find the *Dayspring*. Let us cherish the hope that she will prove not the least, in extensive and long continued usefulness, thus illustrating her name, as a Heaven ordained Visitant of the Heathen world, and as the Harbinger of a bright Gospel day to many dark places of the Earth. Her ownership is unquestionably the most extensive of any vessel afloat. The Children in Australia, Antietum, Scotland, and Nova Scotia, who are connected with the Churches in these lands that took the deepest interest in the evangelization of Western Polynesia are her owners, and these may be numbered by many