

vite our young and ardent candidates for the ministry, to enter into abundant but successful labor. How painful will it be to announce the departure of the John Williams on her outward passage with but one ordained missionary from our Church, while three have been solicited so urgently, and with such goodly prospects of success. It can no longer be said that the home field requires all, when we have probationers on our roll, that are much more numerous than our self-sustaining congregations; and we hesitate not to say that however claimant any of our mission stations at home, there is not one that can present the claims upon the devoted missionary, which the New Hebrides group now present. It will be a sad reflection on the missionary spirit of the ministers and probationers of the Church, if another year shall elapse without any farther proffer of service from the foreign field. The difficulties of the work are yearly diminishing. Already, enough has been accomplished to diminish by one half the trials which Mr Geddie met so undauntedly, and overcame so successfully. The survey of the Islands now going forward on the part of the British Government is not, we conceive, for merely scientific purposes. A great commercial depot may yet be established there, and then, these distant and neglected Isles will become as desirable a residence as any British Colony can afford. At all events, whatever be the ultimate object of our Government, it is indisputable that the facility of intercourse with Britain will soon be extended. Again, then, we point our ministry, and that of sister Churches in Britain and Canada to the paramount claims of Western Polynesia.

Home Department.

The Presbytery of Pictou met at Mabou, Cape Breton, on Monday 18th ult., for the purpose of ordaining, and inducting, Mr James McLean to the ministry and pastoral charge of the congregation formerly under the care of the Rev. Wm. Millar. Rev. David Honeyman preached an exceedingly appropriate and lucid discourse on Acts 26 chap., last clause of the 16th, and the whole of the 17th verse: "Unto whom now I send thee, &c." Rev. Jas. Bayne presided; giving a narrative of the previous steps which had been taken by the Presbytery and people, putting the questions of the Formula to the candidate elect, and the members of the Church, and offering the ordination prayer; Rev. David Roy addressed the newly ordained minister in very suitable and impressive terms; Rev. James Watson followed with a pointed and practical address to the people, and the Rev. Mr Millar concluded with the Apostolic benediction.

This is, we believe, the first ordination service that has ever been held in Cape Bre-

ton, by the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia; and contrasts very remarkably with the settlement of the former minister who was ordained in Nova Scotia and sent over without any formality to take the solitary charge of a "little flock." If we are not misinformed, the long period of twenty years and upwards, passed away, without any visit from any ministerial brother, and never until this interesting service was performed, did a Presbytery visit Cape Breton. It is matter of surprise, not that our tenure of that important Island is so feeble, but that it has survived such long continued inaction. The root of the matter must be deeply implanted in the hearts of the faithful few that have now realized their ardent desires, and received into their bosom the return of importunate and long continued prayer. No one could witness the impression which the ordination service produced, alike on the aged and the young, without forming high anticipations of the stability and growth of this deeply interesting con-