

and which was easily revived on the slightest cold, and his close application to study in these and subsequent years, no doubt aggravated these unfavorable symptoms.

He attended the classes of that Institution during the Sessions of 1850, 1851 and 1852, and during this time his labours were not diminished. His early education had been imperfect—his preparation for entering the Seminary had been hurried and slight, so that he laboured under great disadvantages. Besides it would be uncandid in us to attribute to him brilliant talents, or great aptitude for acquiring knowledge. So far from this all his attainments were the result of the severest labour. What he did he did by a dead lift. Every step of his progress was earned by consuming toil. He was one of those whose learning is purchased not only by the sweat of their brow, or the expenditure of their worldly means, but we may say by their life blood. The relaxations by which other students relieve the severe strain of mental exertion were to him unknown. "To scorn delights and live laborious days" was the only path open to him to gain the position upon which his heart was set. Yet his was none of the ambition of the mere scholar. For no earthly laurels did he thus strive. On the contrary his devotion to his studies was only as a means to an end. Steadily was his eye fixed on the one object—to preach Christ and him crucified. For this alone he spent his days in exhausting study and burnt the midnight oil. He was known then for his deep piety, and tho' somewhat reserved in his manners, none questioned the purity of his motives or the loftiness of his aims.

In the prosecution of his studies, he thus manifested a feature of character, which was prominent in his missionary career, viz., an indomitable perseverance in whatever he undertook, an inflexible persistency of purpose, a true Scotch *downness*, which no discouragement could shake, and from which no temptations could turn him aside. This feature is necessary to all great achievements, and has always been an element to a greater or less extent in the character of the men who have overcome great difficulties or accomplished great undertakings. But when not regulated by sound judgment, when ruled

by self-will, it degenerates into mere stubbornness and obstinacy, and either does no good or produces positive evil.

Mr. M.'s perseverance in his studies was not without its reward. Though he never ranked as a first class scholar, yet he attained to a respectable proficiency in all the branches taught at the Seminary. And after three years of attendance at the philosophical classes, he was readily in 1852, admitted to the Theological Hall, then under the charge of Dr. Keir and Professor Smith. He attended upon the prelections of these respected fathers during that and the three following sessions. He also, we believe, as was then customary, attended a fourth term at philosophy. During the other intervals of the classes he taught school at Onslow and some other places. His attendance at the Hall presents scarcely any points calling for remark. The same devotedness to his studies, the same perseverance in whatever he undertook—the same piety—the same gentle manners as in his previous course, still distinguished him, with perhaps a deeper seriousness and solemnity of manner than was usual even among divinity students. In private he endeavoured to be useful in such labours as Sabbath school teaching. By his inoffensive manners and amiable disposition he won the esteem of his associates, and others with whom he came in contact, though some would have desired to see in him a more free and familiar turn, and perhaps his usefulness would have thus been increased.

After passing through the usual curriculum of study, he was licensed by the Presbytery of Pictou on the 18th December, 1855, and immediately commenced his labours in the Home Mission field, in which he continued for a few months. If not popular he was acceptable as a preacher, and would readily have obtained a call and an eligible settlement in some of the vacancies at home. But his heart was among the heathen, and having made proof of his gifts, he in the following summer tendered his services to the Foreign Mission Board, and at their meeting on the 23rd September, he was formally accepted as a missionary to the New Hebrides.