

Our Foreign Missions.

Meeting of the Board.

This was held in New Glasgow on the 3rd ult., the Rev. J. Stewart, Chairman, Drs. Roy and Bayne, Rev. Messrs. Walker, Patterson, Thompson, McKinnon, MacCurdy, Mowitt, and Mr. John Miller being present besides the Secretary.

A letter signed by Rev. Messrs. Morton and Grant was read expressing cordial concurrence in the Board's disposal of their reference for direction relative to the greater concentration of their labours. They are quite content to work on together, in the meantime, leaving their future residence to be determined, according as Providence may open up the path of duty. The Board highly approved of the matter and spirit of the paper.

The Minutes of the Conference of the New Hebrides Missionaries for 1871 were laid on the table. As these were in print in the *Record*, the Secretary only read extracts, so far as these bore on the deportation of the natives of the South Sea Islands. Rev. Dr. Geddie's journal being published also in the *Record*, a statement was given of its leading outlines only, as bearing on the same subject.

The Addresses which the Board were directed by Synod to prepare against the Polynesian Labour traffic were laid on the table.—First, a Memorial to the Right Honourable the Marquis of Normanby the Governor of Queensland; and secondly, an humble Petition to Her Majesty the Queen, to exercise the influence of the Crown, so as to punish violations of the natural rights of these defenceless islanders, and to secure the passage of an Imperial Law for the abrogation of Labour Acts, which practically have led to a revival of a Slave traffic under a somewhat modified form.

These documents were signed and ordered to be forwarded without delay. The Secretary was farther directed to prepare Petitions to be presented to the House of Commons and of Lords, on the same subject; and to request, in the name of the Board, Duncan McLaren, Esq., M. P. for

Edinburgh, to present the one, and the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury the other. These documents have been duly forwarded.

The Board authorized the Treasurer to pay £250 stg. for the Repairs of the *Day-spring*, being fully persuaded that the whole sum required would, at an early day, be provided by the children throughout the body, who were already sending in contributions with great activity and liberality.

The Treasurer was farther authorized to pay the Foreign Mission Bursaries, without delay, the funds to meet them being already received.

The latest news from the Outgoing Missionaries was stated, viz., the sailing of Rev. Mr. Murray and Mrs. Murray from Southampton via Mediterranean and Red Seas, and the sailing of Rev. Messrs. McKenzie and Robertson with their wives from Liverpool, per Steamer "United Kingdom" by the way of the Cape of Good Hope.

NEW HEBRIDES.

We have received no intelligence from the islands since our last number, with the exception of the subjoined letter from Dr. Steele, on the subject of the death of the deeply lamented Bishop Patteson, and ravages resulting from the unhallowed, and we trust we may add, doomed traffic. From the Dr.'s note and the enclosed extract from a Brisbane Periodical, it appears that Rev. Mr. Goodwill in common with the other Missionaries has his difficulties and dangers greatly multiplied, by the kidnapping business, euphemistically known as the "Labour traffic."

77 MACBAY ST., SYDNEY, N. S. W., }
22ND NOV., 1871. }

Rev. P. G. McGregor:

MY DEAR SIR,—You may probably have learned by last mail news from New Zealand of the murder of Bishop Patteson, the Rev. Mr. Atkin and Stephen, a native Catechist, by the natives of Nukapu, an island near Santa Cruz, on the 20th Sept. last. This is believed to have been done in revenge for evils committed by the 'Labour vessels,' which have occasioned the suffering and sorrow of so many during the last seven years. I have no doubt that