

to our more recent bereavement. Mr. Matheson's death was preceded a few months, by that of Mrs. Matheson, whose fragile frame never recovered from the shock which missionary trials and domestic anxieties had latterly inflicted. She had been the chief earthly stay of her husband, and when withdrawn from him, his insidious malady speedily gained the mastery. In quest of health and strength, he visited the Loyalty Islands, where the warm friendship of Mr. Creagh, L. M. S. Mare, promised relief from that oppressive sense of solitude which bereavement had caused.—Change of scene and society arrested but partially the progress of disease, so that amidst all the kindly offices which fraternal sympathy could discharge, the enfeebled Missionary was called to yield up his spirit to the Master whom he fondly loved and faithfully served. On receipt of this sad intelligence your Board resolved to enter upon their minutes a record of their high appreciation of the deep toned piety, ardent zeal and untiring industry of the deceased Missionary and to communicate their sincere condolence to his parents and family. It was further resolved to make suitable acknowledgements of the highly important services of Mr. Creagh.

Turning from this afflicting scene we discover in the Mission Field much to cheer and encourage. In the Missionary operations on Aneiteum, and their results, we readily trace the sanctified fruits of affliction. Instead of deep despondency, there is glad anticipation; instead of bitter inactivity there is the busy industry of a most prosperous agency. Mr. Geddie's last report and letters furnish ample proof that he has come forth from the fiery ordeal quite as undaunted and vigorous as when he entered; and, though now standing alone as the Missionary of our Church on Western Polynesia, his chief anxiety appears to be, neither for himself nor his family, nor yet the natives who are under his ministry, but for the Church at home and the influence which these trials may exert on friends at home. The results of the year's labours are most satisfactory. "More persons" says the Missionary, "have been added to

the Church during the past, than any former year, and there never were so many candidates for Church membership." Quite a novel feature has recently appeared in connexion with the cause of education. Mrs. Johnston, widow of our late Missionary had for some time assisted Mrs. Geddie in her superintendence of the young. Latterly, however, another and more distinctive sphere of labour has been assigned to Mrs. Johnston. A Model School has been instituted on Aneiteum, which is conducted as far as possible on the "training system," which is now pursued in Nova Scotia, under the able and judicious oversight of one of our most respected ministers. Rev. Dr. Forrester. Mrs. Johnston having been one of his duly accredited pupils, has successfully introduced the system into Aneiteum which may now be pronounced in a fair way to rival some of the most favoured localities in point of School Education. Her report to be published in the *Record* for July affords satisfactory proof of the discretion exercised by your Board in preferring to Mrs. Johnston the status of the Missionary Teacher. The spirit, with which she appears to prosecute the work, encourages the expectation that the mission may long enjoy the fruits of her educational ability, zeal and industry. The salary of £50 stg., voted by your Board, will be regarded by this Synod and the Church at large, as but a moderate recompense for such valuable services. Along with report of labour on Aneiteum, Mr. Geddie has transmitted most interesting notices of the more prominent Islands of the New Hebrides. The fields are there seen to be whitening unto the harvest. Let us "pray the Lord of the harvest that he would thrust forth labourers into his harvest." With such inviting prospects before them, your Board feel deeply concerned to be unable to report the names of any additional applicants for mission agency. The various notices which have been published in the *Record*, soliciting candidates, have met with no response since the date of last year's report. Of the two accepted candidates, however, it is highly gratifying to know that the period which has elapsed since their