

annual meeting of our brethren of the London Missionary Society at the latter island. All the missionaries were present, and their meeting was a very pleasing and harmonious one. It occupied two days, and a large amount of business was done in this short time. The work of God appears to be prospering on the islands, notwithstanding the persecution endured by the natives from their French oppressors. The remonstrances of the missionaries have secured for the natives more religious liberty than they formerly enjoyed, but there is great room for improvement still. The missionaries have received repeated applications from the natives of New Caledonia for christian teachers, but permission has not yet been granted to them to operate on that island. It is open to Roman Catholic priests, but closed against Protestant missions. It is believed that the French Government inclines to the side of religious liberty, but their generous intentions are defeated by priestly influence.

LOSS OF "JOHN WILLIAMS" THE SECOND.

The loss of the new *John Williams* has been a serious calamity to the South Sea missions. She was one of the finest ships that ever sailed the sea, and a long career of usefulness was expected of her. Her loss is one of those things which we cannot understand, but which we believe God will overrule in some way or other for the good of his own cause. She came to her end in the same way as the old ship, being swept on to the reef by a strong current during a dead calm. It is a satisfaction to know that her loss was an event in the course of providence, and caused by circumstances over which man has no control. She was, I believe, fully insured, and the missionaries on the islands urge that no time should be lost in supplying her place with another vessel.

PRAYER AND MORE MISSIONARIES.

It is now time to close my long letter. Let me solicit for our mission a continued interest in your prayers. Send us more missionaries, and send them without delay. Are there none of our settled ministers who would be willing to come and preach among these Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ? They will find in these islands a somewhat rugged, but hopeful field of labor. May God in mercy to a perishing world hasten the time when "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."

I remain, very sincerely yours,

JOHN GEDDIE.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR, Sec. B. F. M.,
P. C. S. P.

Mr. Gordon's Annual Report.

ERROMANGA, AUGUST 3, 1867.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—In laying before you another brief review of the history of the mission on this island during the past year, I would begin by recording the Lord's mercy and faithfulness to usward, and trusting that he may be pleased to turn the events of an eventful year to the furtherance of the gospel in this land.

MR. McNAIR'S ARRIVAL.

It was reserved for this *annus memorabilis*, as you have been already duly certified, to witness the settlement of another missionary on this island. The Rev. J. McNair was appointed last year to a station on the eastern side of this island. In the end of August of that year I left here to attend the annual meeting on Aneiteum, and got back, in company with Mr. and Mrs. McNair, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, in a trading vessel, after an absence of only forty days. After a sojourn of two months Mr. and Mrs. McNair returned to Aneiteum (as it was not, under the circumstances, considered prudent that they remain in Dillon's Bay over the approaching summer months,) but came back again after an absence of about six and a half months, since which time they have been in Dillon's Bay.

COOK'S BAY CLOSED.

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that Cook's Bay is not at present open; consequently Mr. and Mrs. McNair are still here with me. For different reasons the people of Cook's Bay have changed their minds, but have not assigned any reason in particular for their conduct. The unsettled state of the island, generally, is one; and opposition to the gospel on the part of the many contrary to the wishes of the few, another.

SLOW PROGRESS.

For all the divine mercy and goodness hitherto vouchsafed, we have made but poor returns; therefore we have only, during the past year, been receiving the droppings of the sanctuary. Two men have been admitted by baptism, and one infant. The men were on probation a year, and have given satisfactory evidence of their sincerity during that period, and since. One was the husband of Nilaporay, the first woman baptized, and whose husband attempted her life the morning after she had been admitted. He was a man against whom I entertained hard suspicions for a long time, and for different reasons. There is one still on the catechumen's list. Up to this date sixteen in all have received the initiatory rite. Our list of adherents has also been slightly increased.