

**THE MISSIONARY REGISTER.**  
OF THE  
**Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.**

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LORD, bless and pity us, shine on us with thy face,  
That the earth thy way, and nations all, may know thy saving grace.—*Psalms lxxvii. 1, 2*

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FOREIGN MISSIONS.

MR. GEDDIE'S JOURNAL.

*Ancileum, Oct. 10th, 1859.*

DEAR BRETHREN,—More than eleven years have elapsed since we first landed on this island. During this eventful period in its history, we have passed through varied scenes, and witnessed many changes. I feel as if we now had a special call for thankfulness to God for all his mercies to us.

I can report favorably of the general progress of Christianity during the past year. The interest of the natives in religious instruction is such as to encourage us in our labours, and to make them pleasant rather than otherwise.—It is true that we have to lament much ignorance, indifference and impiety, but this is only what might be expected among a people just emerging from the lowest state of barbarism and degradation.

The church under my charge numbers 166 members. During the past year 26 members have been added, 3 have died, 3 have been suspended, and 2 have been restored. The conduct of the church members is such in general as to encourage the hope that their profession of religion is sincere.

We have recently added to the number of our deacons. There are now twenty-one in the church at my station. This class of office-bearers we have found to be indispensable on this island. The first care is the widows, who being a new class in society, have no acknowledged rights. They also superintend all labour for the mission, and take charge of all collections of native property that are made for the cause.—They are likewise expected to bury the dead, who in the days of heathenism were thrown into the sea. It devolves on them in short to attend to all the more secular duties of the mission.—Mr. Inglis has lately obtained some ruling elders, as he wished to have a completely organized church before leaving the island. I have not done so yet, as the same reason did not exist in my case, but I look forward to this in another year.

The schools in my district are 25 in number, and are attended by persons of every age. A large number of the scholars can read, and it is pleasing to see the interest which many of them take in their books. Some of the old people will never learn to read, but we encourage their attendance in school, as