

McNair was stationed there, and opened for himself a new sphere of evangelistic effort at and around Portinia Bay—his house for a time a cave, from which he went forth literally to seek and to save. Before this change of base, as well as subsequently, he translated and printed portions of Scripture, Hymns and Primers.

He planned the opening of Mission work on Espiritu Santo; and after tantalizing delays, he at length succeeded, having gained acquaintance with the language of one tribe, from young lads whom he kept by him for the purpose, in visiting the island, where he remained one season. A phonetic primer remains as an interesting memorial of this noble effort to carry the knowledge of Christ to the regions beyond. He had the satisfaction of knowing, during the last year at least of his life, that a portion of that large island was occupied by Rev. J. Goodwill, and that his own efforts had not been wholly in vain.

Mr. Gordon's connection with the Church of the Lower Provinces terminated three years ago, at the request of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, who wished his services, and, of course, with his own full concurrence. With that body he continued for two years, and during the last year, so far as we know, had no close ecclesiastical connection with either church and drew no support from either. While his relations with his brethren on the mission field were not all that could be desired, and it was his separation from them that led to his separation from the Church of New South Wales, they all gave him the fullest credit for elevated piety, great self-denial, strict conscientiousness and heroic zeal. Alone, and surrounded by unbroken heathenism, he held on his way with the zeal and determination of a Prophet.

But while his apostolic fervour continued, notwithstanding his isolation, we are persuaded that this tendency to live and work alone greatly impaired his happiness and his usefulness. We are persuaded, and not without evidence, that it produced a morbid state of mind, which led him to think and to write as he never would have done, had he enjoyed a Chris-

tian home, and maintained more intimate relations with his brethren. Constitutionally mild and sociable, he was a most agreeable companion, but being also exceedingly tenacious of his own views, he was rather inclined to think and write with some severity and sharpness of men equally zealous and conscientious, who, looking at the same subject from another stand point, arrived at different if not opposite conclusions. The society and counsel of a prudent, pious and loving companion might have proved, and we believe would have proved, the most effective counterpoise to this unhappy tendency, and saved himself and others from many misunderstandings and unpleasant reflections.

But notwithstanding these drawbacks, James Gordon was a good, a true and a loving man. We mourn his death as that of a faithful servant of the Lord, and a courageous, zealous fellow-labourer in Christ's great mission field. Those who knew him best, will feel most sorrowful, that on earth they will see his face no more. While removed, however, from among the missionaries who are holding up the banner of the Cross on the isles of the Ocean, his memory will be affectionately cherished in thousands of hearts and homes on the Australian and American continents; and when his name is mentioned, it will be as that of "a faithful man who feared God above many."

Mr. Gordon's tragic death is a heavy blow to the mission because it is fitted to discourage the brethren on that field of peril, and especially the four young missionaries who would meet the painful news as they reached their destination. It cannot fail to add to the solicitude and anxiety of their young wives, when their husbands go from home into the interior to minister either to the temporal or spiritual wants of the natives. If in these trying circumstances our sympathies and prayers can have any avail, to these they have the highest claim. We should think and speak of them with an affectionate, never abating interest; and if the Apostles expected deliverance from imprisonment and peril, in answer to the prayers of the church, as unquestionably they did, we surely should