

renounced heathenism during the year. In another part of the island labors Rev. D. McDonald, of the Presbyterian church of Victoria.

The only other of these islands in which our church is directly interested is

#### SANTO,

the largest and most northerly of the group and with it the island of Tangoa, which has been made the head quarters of our mission there. The first work on Santo was by two teachers and their wives, who were landed by the vessel of the London missionary society in 1861. In a few months they all died from fever. Seven years later, James D. Gordon had with him in Erromanga, two Santo men. He learned their language, went to Australia, left the service of our church, and went as the missionary of the church of New South Wales to Santo in 1869. The people received him most kindly and when he went away in the Dayspring four months later they mourned their loss. He returned to Erromanga to meet two years afterward a martyr's death.

In 1871, less than two years after Gordon left, Rev. John Goodwill and wife, sent out by the church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, settled on Santo. Their reception was kindly, but they suffered much from sickness and fever, and in two years they were obliged to remove, and afterward returned to Nova Scotia. Four years after Mr. Goodwill's departure Mr. and Mrs. Annand took up the work in 1877, settling on Tangoa, a small but pleasant and healthy island with friendly people, and from it they work the adjacent part of Santo, where the same language is spoken. It is too soon yet for reaping, but thus far the sowing time calls for thankfulness and joy.

#### A FEW GENERAL REMARKS

on this our oldest mission field.

I. Our church has wrought in five of these islands. Two of them, Aneiteum and Tanna, are now wrought by other churches. The other three, Erromanga, Efate, Santo, are still occupied by our three missionaries there.

II. In addition to what we have done directly our church has no doubt been the means of leading others to the field, so that to-day, while we have three missionaries there and the Free Church of Scotland two, the Australasian churches have eleven, making 16 in all, and all the prin-

cipal islands of the group are receiving the gospel.

III. In most of the islands the population has greatly decreased, largely owing to diseases introduced by trading vessels. This decrease is in a measure stayed, but whether these races survive, or give place to stronger peoples, this fair group may be counted among the isles that shall be given to Christ for His inheritance.

IV. On the whole, our experience there has been remarkable for the short time that many of our missionaries have been permitted to work.

The first, Dr. Geddie and his wife, labored longest of all, 24 years, from their first settlement until his death. The last three with their wives, the Mackenzies, Robertsons and Annands, have been from 16 to 17 years, and are still at work. The nine others have together made up little more than thirty years, or an average of about three and a half years each, six of them being taken away by death, and three retiring from the mission.

V. In every island where we have wrought, and, with one or two exceptions, on every island that has been wrought, the pioneers have been natives from other islands. In several instances the first teachers were murdered, but others undaunted took their places. What but divine grace could take such beings and so transform them, moving them to take their lives in their own hands and go to live and labor, and often to die, that they might lift up their fellow-men from degradation, misery and sin.

Let us now go back to the head waters of another tributary, that of the

#### FREE CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.

This branch of the church began to agitate for a mission of its own about the year 1857, and there is no doubt that the story of Geddie's work was an important factor in the movement. I have heard John Morton, a Free Churchman, tell that when a boy, a neighbor lad who took the old Missionary Register, used to lend it to him, and how his youthful heart was stirred within him and drawn toward the mission field by Geddie's letters from the South Seas.

They selected as their field the Greek population of Turkey, of whom there were about twelve millions, and chose as their missionary Petros Constantinides, a young Greek who had just completed his studies