

Our Foreign Missions.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

Within the month we have received letters from Mr. Morton of Trinidad, from all the New Hebridean missionaries connected with this Church, from Rev. Mr. Copeland of Futuna, from Rev. D. McDonald of Melbourne, and from Dr. Steel of Sydney. The last named, our agent at Sydney, writes under dates of 14th July and 11th August. The first letter, we publish, shewing what followed his citation before the Supreme Court, of which our readers were informed in our last number.

The letter now published gives a brief and general statement of the effect of the judicial proceedings taken, on the public mind; but it is necessary to read the Sydney papers to get any adequate idea of the indignation aroused among all classes by the tyrannical procedure and harsh reprimand of Mr. Justice Hargrave. By the press these have been condemned with singular unanimity, and the severe strictures spoken at the public meeting by men of the highest standing in church and state, were received with applause, and resolutions passed expressive of the deepest sympathy with Dr. Steel and the highest approval of his conduct in the whole affair.

At this immense gathering, which partook of the character of an indignation meeting, an address, expressive of sympathy, approval and confidence, was presented with Fifty sovereigns to meet the expenses to which he had been subjected.

Dr. Steel has suffered innocently. He has suffered in a good cause. He had before the trial, and more than once since, exposed the unrighteous traffic, and now that the wrath of those willing to live by the degradation and blood of the poor New Hebrideans has reached him through the judicial bench, he may well rejoice that he was counted worthy to suffer shame in such a cause, and that the infamous traffic which he exposed has, in the condemnation of the captain to death and of his super-cargo to penal servitude, received what may prove

its death blow. Mr. McDonald may be sanguine in saying, "Slavery in the South Seas is fairly put an end to at last." It may not die so easily, but if the friends of freedom and christianity persevere, the result of the conflict cannot be doubtful. As an index we give the following paragraph from the *Times* of Sept. 27th:

THE POLYNESIAN ISLANDERS.—A despatch of Earl Granville to the Governor of Queensland, on the subject of the immigration of the Polynesian islanders has been published. It has recently been made only too apparent that this immigration was carried on upon a system having many of the features of the slave trade. Earl Granville calls the Governor's serious and immediate attention to the matter as one not merely affecting Queensland, but touching the honour of the British name, and one in which Her Majesty's Government "feel the deepest interest." The Governor is urged to use his utmost influence to protect the immigrants, so that they shall not be at the mercy of those about them.

From the subjoined letter from Mr. Morrison, written on board the *Dayspring* when approaching New Zealand, (second visit) where he will reside for this season, it appears that he has been not only "holding his own," but gradually gaining strength. Dr. Geddie's report for 1868, long expected, has been at length received and is a most admirable document. This, with his letter and the letter of Rev. Mr. McNair, being on business, must be submitted in the first place to the Board. The Dr.'s report, however, may be expected in our next number.

The Church will regret to learn that Dr. and Mrs. Geddie are not so well in health as when they left our shores. They will spend our winter, their warm season, in Victoria or New South Wales, as the following extract will shew:—

"I expect to visit Australia in January. The reasons for this visit are various. We wish to escape the warm season, to send our youngest daughter to school, and I must arrange also about the printing of the Old Testament. Mrs. Geddie and I hope to return with the vessel in April.

"I trust that you will make every effort to find a suitable missionary to occupy that station. It is now and will be the most important station on the group for years to come. You ought, if possible, to send a