

trips, three or four times a year, averaging perhaps a fortnight each. We shall always be able to command a crew of our best natives, teachers and others, who will cost nothing beyond their clothing, which we hope to be able to supply out of the mission boxes. The natives will collect a sufficiency of food to supply the crew during the trip. There is an English sailor settled at present on this island, a steady man, who has sailed among these islands for about seven years, and who for a moderate remuneration, would take charge of the sailing of the vessel; and as one, and occasionally both of us would accompany the vessel, we should manage the navigation of it ourselves. We are of opinion that, exclusive of any serious accidents, the ordinary expenses of the vessel would not exceed thirty pounds sterling (£30) a year.

The plan, as regards the vessel, which we would venture to propose is this: that the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia should raise the one half of the money, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland the other. We shall appeal to our respective friends in Australia and New Zealand; and we are certain they will do something towards this object: but, as none of them are pledged in any way to the support of this mission, the amount of what they may contribute is very uncertain. It might be well for the Secretaries of the two missions to communicate with each other on the subject. We are certain, that if you respectively approve of the object, you will easily arrange about the means of carrying into effect. It may appear to some a heavy and hazardous undertaking. But let such remember that you

have been earnestly praying for the success of this mission, and now that God has so signally answered your prayers, and is opening up these regions of darkness for the light of his gospel, we are satisfied that you will not shrink from the consequences of your own prayers. We are confident that the amount of Christian principle and self-denial among the members of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia is sufficient to meet much greater extra demands upon their liberality than the present object will require.

We propose calling this mission schooner the *John Knox*. The missionary ship, the *John Williams*, the finest barge that sails in these seas, was purchased by the pence of a portion of the Sabbath school children in Britain. Would it not be a noble undertaking for the children and youth of the two churches connected with this mission, to contribute their pence, sixpences, and shillings, and undertake themselves to purchase the proposed mission schooner the *John Knox*?

With earnest prayers that the spirit of holiness, activity, and liberality may be largely poured down upon the youth of the two churches,

We remain,

Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your most obed't servts.,

JOHN GEDDIE.

JOHN INGLIS.

To the Rev. James Bayne, Pictou.

P. S. The money for the schooner may be remitted through the London Missionary Society to the Rev. Dr Ross, Sydney, and placed to our joint or separate account for this object. J. G.

J. I.

News of the Church.

OPENING OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL CLASSES OF THE SEMINARY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.—The present session of the Philosophical Classes of the Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia was opened at West River, on Wednesday, 5th instant, by a lecture from the Rev Professor Ross. Revds. Messrs McGillivray, Watson, Bayne, Waddell, and Patterson were present, but the day having proved remarkably stormy the attendance of the public was not as large

as on former occasions. The lecturer selected as his subject, the Platonic Philosophy. He introduced his subject by remarking that unsuccessful attempts were not always useless. This appeared in alchemy and in the ancient augury. So of the attempts of speculative enquirers to unravel the mystery of existence. In the boldness of their speculative theories the ancients excelled the moderns, who are more trammelled by the more rigid system of investigation of the experimental Philosophy. In