

elders and people may be willing to do all in their power to promote the glory of God through the spread of the gospel and the salvation of souls.

### THE CURACOA AFFAIR.

In our number for February 1866, we published letters from our missionaries giving an account of the bombardment of Port Resolution, by H. M. S. *Curacoa*, and expressed ourselves in strong condemnation of the proceeding. We have since that time watched for any thing that would throw further light on the affair. In our number for June last, we gave Mr. Inglis's statement and defence of the proceedings at full length. The Board of Foreign Missions have received two communications on the subject, one from Mr. Inglis and one from Dr. Geddie, which were given in an extra No. of the *Record*. It will be admitted that Mr. Inglis states all that can be said in defence of the affair, while we are satisfied that all will admire the calm and christian spirit, in which Dr. Geddie discusses the whole matter.

We do not design entering into the discussion of matters which Dr. Geddie has treated. But there are points on which some explanations are due both to ourselves and others, and there are some subjects on which it seems now due to the church, that information should be laid before them, which delicacy has hitherto led us to withhold. In regard to Mr. Inglis, all we did was to express astonishment that he should have allowed himself to be involved in these proceedings. We said so because of the respect we entertained for him. This feeling we still entertain, and we trust we shall not pen a single word offensive to him personally.

It is scarcely necessary to corroborate Dr. Geddie's statement that he was in no way responsible for the article in the *Record*. We may add too that neither the Board of Foreign Missions, nor the members of it (with a single exception) had any concern in it whatever. It is but right to say on the other hand, that every statement in that article regarding the history of the

Tanna mission, was either received from Dr. Geddie directly, or confirmed by him, most of it some time before the news of the *Curacoa* affair reached this country. We may add too that all the views expressed were views in which he concurred and to which he still adheres.

Mr. Inglis complains of the spirit of our articles towards the missionaries—that we took up exaggerated reports—that we endeavoured to make these reports as unfavourable for the missionaries as we could, and that we declared them unfit for the common brotherhood of missions. If the reports were exaggerated they were the reports of the parties themselves. The information had, was from the missionaries, and from parties on board the *Curacoa*, who published an account of it in the newspapers. If the information was imperfect, it was all that they chose to give us. So far from endeavouring to make the missionaries appear in as unfavourable a light as possible, we did the reverse. The account published by an officer of the *Curacoa*, we withheld entirely and used influence to prevent its appearing in our Provincial newspapers. Taking the statements of the missionaries, we endeavoured to find every palliation for their course that we could, and only remarked on facts, that the letters of five missionaries would not allow us to disbelieve.

In what we said we spoke rather as to the act than the actors, and we hoped that some explanation might be given, which would present the share of the missionaries in a more favourable light, than it would appear from their own letters. We are certain, that we had no feelings towards them but kindness and sympathy. We admit that we felt strongly, but our feeling was not indignation against any concerned. It was simply profound grief, that a mission in which for twenty years our earnest affections were engaged, should be placed in the position it was by the affair. In what we did we acted from a sense of duty, perhaps a mistaken one. We knew that the affair would bring discredit on our mission abroad and do it much injury, particularly in the Australian colonies, as it has done.