

INCREASE OF SALARIES.

The Board have unanimously agreed to recommend to Synod an increase of salary to the missionaries, both in the New Hebrides and Trinidad. The mission council at their annual meeting last year at Aneitum, agreed to represent to the respective churches the need of increase in consequence of the growing expense of living, connected as they were with the gold colonies of Australia, from which they receive their chief supplies, where ministers receive high salaries, and they submitted a scale by which there should be an annual increase till the salary, commencing at £150, should reach £250 stg. per annum. The Rev. John Inglis, by appointment of the mission council, wrote to this Board a letter of explanation. After the fullest inquiry which the Board could make, they considered the request for an augmentation reasonable if not necessary, but did not approve of the proposed sliding scale. The resolution adopted is as follows:—"After full consideration of the whole subject, it was agreed to be recommended to Synod that from the commencement of next year the salaries of our missionaries in the New Hebrides shall be £150 stg. per annum, with allowance of £4 stg., payment to Widows' Fund, with £5, as formerly, for each child living with the Parents on the island, and £10 stg. for each child abroad." The Victoria Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church have come to substantially the same conclusion as that now recommended.

Rev. Mr. Morton having about eight months ago informed the Board that having found the purchase of a horse and carriage necessary for the prosecution of the work, he could not meet his expenses on the salary of £900, the Board directed the Secretary in remitting the half year's salary in advance from January 1st, to remit at the rate of \$1050, and in the mean time to write for farther information. On receipt of information showing the high price of living, and that the European missionaries there were all in receipt of £250 stg., the Board agreed to recommend that Mr. Morton's salary be raised to £250 stg., but without additional allowance for children or Widows' Fund. The Board have not rashly made these recommendations. They are following in the footsteps of other churches who have found such an increase necessary as an act of justice to their agents. The following extract from an appeal of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions issued last year, brings forward the facts which render such increase inevitable. In explaining to their patrons the causes of their financial embarrassments, they select two points, the

one is as we might expect their depreciated currency, but the other is their stated, viz.: "That there has been a large increase of prices even upon the gold basis, in nearly all articles, the world over, which has increased the expense of living and of all operations probably more upon the average than 20 per cent."

THE DAYSRING.

The Board are happy to notice that the Dayspring, her captain and crew, continue to give general satisfaction to all the churches interested in her support. Our limits render it impossible for us to follow her in all her voyages, but we have already noticed her exploratory tour from which we anticipate good results. In the end of November she sailed for New Zealand, and on the 2d January the captain writes of arrival in port at Dunedin, from whence she proceeded to Wellington. In both places she was a great attraction. In Dunedin the whole Synod of Otago and Southland went in a body to the vessel. On another day about 1400 children belonging to the Sabbath schools, including parents and teachers, went also on a visit. In Wellington the Governor of New Zealand, Sir G. Bowen, was also on board. Wherever she has gone, the impression is left that she is a most efficient mission vessel. Her captain discharges the duties of his position in such a way as to command the confidence of the missionaries generally and of the churches. By the good hand of God she has been sailed for another year without accident. Her crew have been in her now for three years, and have showed their interest in the work in which she is employed by presenting a capstan and a force pump, the two articles being valued at £22 stg. We are happy in being able to add that the children of the church have without any special appeal provided all that was required to meet our share of ordinary outlay.

DAYSRING INSURANCE FUND.

The operation of this Board has been selected by the Rev. Don. McDonald and by Rev. Dr. Steel, as agents of the Australian churches, to raise a Dayspring insurance fund of £3000 stg. If this proposal be carried into effect the annual outlay for insurance can be saved, the interest of the £3000 will go to lessen her running expenses, while in the event of a total loss, that amount will be on hand to replace her. Two thousand pounds were on hand at the date of the latest communication, for this purpose, and we were solicited to aid. The Board, approving of the measure, voted and forwarded £250 stg. towards this object, and expect soon to hear that the entire sum has been made up.