

sents much the same appearance. A few natives have begun to attend worship, but they do not come regularly. Great fickleness is one of their characteristics. Some who attended in past years, and who left off, returned only to leave us again. Their attendance does not spring from proper motives, hence their irregularity. They come because they are pleased with us, or because they wish some favour, or they may accompany some neighbour, or they come because they are not otherwise engaged. The natives, with a few exceptions, have not confidence in us. They are pleased to come and see the mission premises, but they do not wish closer contact. We find the children more shy than the grown people. Children are often the first to come about the missionary, but that is not the case here. Our audience on Sabbath is composed of middle-aged and elderly people; we have no young men, boys, or girls; and those who do attend present a very uncount appearance. With the exception of a little clothing worn by some of them, there is nothing to distinguish them from the heathen. Their long hair, ear-rings, paint, feathers, etc., all remain. About half-a-dozen are learning the letters, and about the same number attend pretty regularly evening worship, which is conducted for their benefit in the native language. In respect of these two items there is an improvement on the state of matters last year. They can sing three hymns. We have two short services on Sabbaths; one in our rude church, the other in the *marai* or public square. This latter service was commenced a month ago, but few attend it who do not attend at the church, though it was begun with the hope of attracting strangers. Dr. Geddie has printed our First Book, and we are expecting it by the "Dayspring." It will serve as Primer, Catechism, and Hymn Book. There are in all three stations, two of which are occupied by Aneityum teachers, but they cannot speak the language. We are much in need of a few teachers who could speak to the natives. We mean to apply for some when we go up to Aneityum, to the Annual Conference;—I remain, etc. J. COPELAND.

Piracy in the New Hebrides.

At a meeting of the Foreign Mission Committee, held in Glasgow on the 3rd ulto., the secretary stated that, in accordance with the instructions of last Synod, he had taken steps to bring under the notice Her Majesty's Government the alleged acts of piracy in the New Hebrides; and that he had corresponded with the Honourable Arthur Kinnaird, M. P., who had, along with Mr. Dunlop, M. P., taken so deep an interest in the effort made some years ago,

to obtain a British Protectorate for the New Hebrides. Mr. Kinnaird, with the utmost readiness, undertook to present the following Memorial, in the name of the Foreign Mission Committee, to Lord Stanley:—

"The Memorial of the Undersigned humbly sheweth,

"That at the last Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland, when the Report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was submitted, there was brought under the notice of Synod, a statement by their missionaries labouring on the New Hebrides group of islands in the South Seas, in reference to the piratical and inhuman practices being carried on by British and other vessels among said group of islands; and that the undersigned was instructed, in his capacity of Convener and Secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee, to bring said practices under the notice of Government, in the hope that your Lordship would take steps for the suppression of a practice which is not only injurious to the natives of these islands, and detrimental to the interests of the Mission, but which is also a renewing of the slave trade under another form, and consequently, so far as it is carried on under the British flag, brings a stain upon the honour of our country.

"May it please your Lordship, therefore, to peruse the accompany documents, and to cause that an investigation be made into the working of this traffic and should the investigation (as your memorialist believes it will) issue in confirming the statement of the missionaries, to take steps for the suppression of this iniquity.

JOHN KAY,

Conv. and Secy. of Committee, etc.

"CASTLE-DOUGLAS, N.B., JUNE 24, 1866."

To the above Memorial, forwarded by Mr. Kinnaird, the following reply has been received:—

"FOREIGN OFFICE, JULY 4, 1868.

"Sir,—I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ulto., enclosing a Memorial from the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland, respecting a system said to be carried on in the Pacific of kidnapping native islanders for the purpose of providing labourers in other places; and I am to thank you for the information thus furnished, and to request that you will inform the memorialists that inquiry will be made into this matter.—I am, etc." J. MURRAY.

"The Honourable Arthur Kinnaird, M. P."