

mission has, by the blessing of God, met with very remarkable success. In 1852, Mr. Geddie, who had been left to labour alone, formed a native church, with thirteen converts. At this period, he was joined by the Rev. Mr. Inglis, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The mission has now upwards of fifty converts, has a large number under instruction in its schools, has changed the evil habits of the people, and has already sent out some agents to the neighbouring islands. Its progress which has been so cheering and delightful, has deeply interested the church of Nova Scotia, and called forth an exuberant amount of support. Indeed, the church has, for this mission, more money than men. It has for years been anxious to send out to this most promising field, two or three additional missionaries, and has as yet been unsuccessful in finding them. It has one ready to go; but it wishes to obtain one or two more, and for this purpose, it appeals to our church. The Synod, at its last meeting in Halifax, in June last, learning that the Rev. James Bayne, the zealous secretary of the mission, was about to visit Scotland, "authorised him to bring the matter under the notice of ministers and students of the United Presbyterian Church, and of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, through their mission boards, or periodicals, or in any other way which he considers best." Mr. Bayne addressed the theological students, at their annual missionary meeting, on the 25th of September; he also attended the committee on Foreign Missions at their monthly meeting in October, when they intimated their cordial readiness to do what they could to aid the esteemed brethren of Nova Scotia, in procuring additional missionaries. At our request, Mr. Bayne has prepared the following narrative of the origin, progress, present state and claims of this mission, which we commend to the prayerful attention of our readers, and fervently trust that it will be the means of inducing some, who desire to glorify God in the conversion of the heathen, to declare their willingness to aid in the great and good work that is going on in the New Hebrides:—

The New Hebrides were first surveyed as a mission-field by the martyr missionary, Williams. This service was accomplished at the expense, and for the benefit of, the United Presbyterian Church. Aneiteum, the most southerly island of the group, has been for upwards of seven years the scene of missionary labour, adopted by the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. It was, however, first adopted by the agents of the London Missionary Society, who located, in 1846, two Samoan teachers on the island. Two years after this date, their mission ship, "John Williams," landed the first fully equipped mission band, consisting of the Rev. Mr. Powell, with seven Samoan teachers of the London Missionary Society, the Rev. John Geddie, with Mr. Archibald, of the Presbyterian Church, Nova Scotia, and their respective families. It was soon found that the two pioneers had made no perceptible progress, beyond the partial acquisition of the native tongue. The condition of the inhabitants, both physical and moral, was of the same degraded and revolting character. Infanticide, the strangling of widows, intestine wars, cannibalism, and in one word, crimes of all degrees and of every kind, were of constant occurrence. Nor was this all, the debasing rites of pagan superstition were greatly encouraged and strengthened, by the yet more debasing practices of the civilised mariners and merchants who visited or settled on the island, for the most base and mercenary purposes. The lives and property of the missionaries were often placed in the most imminent peril, and eventually, for two long years, Mr. Geddie and his family were left alone to contend with this, worse than heathen hostility.

In September 1850, Mr. Powell withdrew, and at the close of the same year, Mr. Archibald abandoned the work. Nevertheless, Mr. Geddie, along with the few teachers still around him, prosecuted the work with indomitable energy, and, as the event proved, with most remarkable success. In 1852, the mission ship again visited the island, and then, after consultation with the visiting brethren, Mr. G. organized in due form, "the first Christian church in the New Hebrides. The new formation consisted of thirteen native converts, and the adult members of the mission family. From this date (16th May 1852,) the progress of the mission was greatly accelerated. The Rev. Mr. Inglis, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Scotland, and for some time missionary in New Zealand, now cast in his lot with Mr. G., and they have continued to co-operate in most uninterrupted harmony and with proportionate success.