

readers, as affording abundant evidence of the zeal and success with which Mr. Paton is prosecuting his work in those colonies. In connection with the subjoined addresses we may state that a committee was appointed to digest a comprehensive and effective scheme of Missionary operations for the adoption of the Church, and that the Moderator of the Assembly conveyed to Mr. Paton the thanks of the Court for his "forceful and eloquent address; its deep sympathy with the mission of which Mr. Paton is the representative; and its high appreciation of the zeal and fidelity displayed by the Missionary in sustaining the interests of the Mission."]

The CLERK read the following overture from the Presbytery of Melbourne, on the South Sea Mission:—

"Whereas, God has blessed in a remarkable manner the efforts made by the Christian Church for the evangelization of the heathen inhabiting various groups of islands in the Southern Pacific: And whereas a Presbyterian Mission has been established, and carried on for several years, in the New Hebrides group, by the combined effort of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia: And whereas the limited means at the disposal of those Churches prevent them from sending such a staff of labourers into the field as would seem to be necessary for the safety of the missionaries and the furtherance of the cause of God among such a benighted people: And whereas those islands lie contiguous to our shores; and as God has prospered our Church in this land, and blessed our people with abundance of means for doing His work: It is therefore humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Melbourne, to the Venerable, the General Assembly inducted to meet in the month of November ensuing, that they take this whole subject into their serious consideration, and devise such measures thereat as may tend to promote the glory of God in the advancement of his Church in those parts."

The MODERATOR then introduced to the Assembly the Rev. Mr. Paton, a Presbyterian missionary labouring in the New Hebrides, and at present on a tour for the purpose of collecting money for the purchase of a ship for the use of his mission.

The Rev. Mr. Paton expressed the pleasure he felt in being present and hearing their missionary schemes and witnessing their missionary spirit. The mission he had the honor to represent was one of the standing instances of God's blessings on hard and persevering work. The new Hebrides mission was commenced by John Williams, under the London Missionary Society, twenty-three years ago. Fifteen years ago a single missionary joined it from Nova Scotia; ten years ago one came from Scotland; and at

present, there are five missionaries labouring there. During those years by the blessing of God on the labours of these men something had been done on Aneiteum. Infanticide, the murder of widows, and the exposure and abandonment of the aged, the sick, and the helpless, have been forsaken, and the natural sympathies of our common humanity have resumed their sway in human breasts; the offering of human sacrifices and the practices of cannibalism have been abandoned; and now the altar of the family is erected, and the house of God stately and regularly attended. The word of God also is in course of translation, and portions of it are already in daily use, so that "to those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has arisen." The result is that the people of that island are not melting away like your unfortunate natives here, but are steadily growing in numbers, in civilization, and in the comforts of life. On the Sabbath they are found at worship, and during the week at duty; and in all things their motto is, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." All this is the result of Christianity. Nothing but the Christianity of the Bible could have done it. And while they work for themselves, they work also for Christ. The first church was formed among them eight years ago, seven years after the commencement of the mission, by Mr. Geddie; and they now send out twelve missionaries, who visit thirty islands, containing probably a hundred and fifty thousand people. The missionaries grieve that the labourers are so few, and their appeal to the church in these lands is, "Come over and help us." It would be clear that, under these circumstances the smaller and more remote stations could not be supported as they ought to be, but there was no help for it while the missionaries were so very few. They looked to these colonies for the needed supply. The great societies at home looked at larger fields, as India, China, Japan &c.; these missions must therefore either be sustained, both as to agents and money, by the Australian Churches, or they must perish. Yet, although small, God had already blessed them with great success, and with the promise of yet greater. They had already a considerable body of native teachers, and they could now place twenty missionaries in stations of importance and promise. They could not get those men from home; they looked to the churches here to supply them. This was the only Presbyterian mission in that part of the world, and the fact that it had been so successful bound the Church to follow it up, and to sustain it. They want men; he asked, can you send them? They want money; he asked them to give it. They want a missionary ship; he asked, would they help to give it? At Sydney he had received £700; in South