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Rev. John Geddie, D.D.

BY REV. GEORGE PATTERSON., D.D

Continued.

AS mentioned in our last, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, at its meeting in July 1845, authorized the Board of Foreign Missions to select a field and negotiate with candidates for occupying it as soon as possible. The Board accordingly, at a meeting held on the 24th September, resolved to commence operations in Western Polynesia, attention being particularly directed to New Caledonia or the Loyalty Islands. Mr. G. had sought to engage the church in the Foreign Mission enterprise without reference to himself, but at this meeting, he tendered his services and was accepted. Then for the first time he was informed of his early dedication to the service of the God of Missions. One of the chief trials before him was that of parting from an aged, widowed and enfeebled mother. But to his surprise she received the tidings of his appointment with calm resignation, and on further enquiry, he found that she regarded the event as the answer to her and her husband's prayers.

He immediately engaged vigorously in completing preparations for his work. He resigned his charge, sold his property, visited all the congregations in Prince Edward Island, and came over to the mainland about

the 1st of December. There was still, however, much indifference and even hostility to the movement. The next year was therefore spent partly in visiting the congregations of the body, and partly in studying medicine and some mechanic arts. He had always a strong mechanical genius. In the workshop of his father, who was a watchmaker, he had from boyhood learned to employ the tools of his craft, so that he had constructed clocks in all their parts. Book-binding he had learned when a lad. He now turned his attention to printing, and soon published a sermon of his own, all the mechanical work on which he performed himself. He visited the workshops of mechanics, particularly studying house framing and building, masonry, and even naval architecture. Though there was some opposition, yet such was the interest in the cause excited through the church by his visits and appeals, that the Board felt warranted in engaging a second missionary; but as they could not obtain the services of an ordained minister, they engaged a teacher, who, it was hoped, among an ignorant, savage people, might be nearly as useful.

On the 30th November, 1846, the mission band set sail from Halifax, in a little sailing packet for Boston, where they arrived after a passage of eight days, of almost constant storms, in one of which they had a narrow escape from shipwreck. At the time there was little trade with the Australian colonies,