

MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

The Board of Foreign Missions met at New Glasgow on the 23rd ult. The most important matter before them was the recent intelligence from the New Hebrides Mission. In reference to the death of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, the following minute was adopted:—

“The Board of Foreign Missions, in receiving the sad intelligence of the death of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, would embrace the opportunity of recording on their minutes the high sense they entertain of the personal character and self-denying labours of those eminent servants of Christ. From the time of Mr. Gordon's connexion with the Mission he manifested a zeal and devotedness to his work amounting even to enthusiasm—a diligence in labour that never wearied—a boldness that was not appalled in the hour of greatest peril—a faith in God which bore him through the severest trials—a perseverance which never yielded to the greatest discouragements—and an earnestness and constancy in prayer which sanctified all his efforts. Of Mrs. Gordon the Board knew nothing by personal intercourse, but from the uniform testimony of those who met her, and from what they have known of her labours since her connexion with the Mission, they feel it only their duty to record the high sense of her personal excellencies, her devoted zeal in the cause of Missions, her self-denying, arduous and persevering labours on behalf of the Heathen, and the exalted Christian heroism which she displayed in scenes of the greatest peril. Reviewing the past labours and sufferings of both these eminent servants of Christ, they would express their conviction that they deserve an honourable record in the annals of Christian heroism and to occupy no mean place in the glorious army of the martyrs, and the Board would also express their admiration of that divine grace, which enabled them to be faithful unto death, and through which they have both, we doubt not, obtained a crown of life.

“They would also express their deepest sympathy with the bereaved relatives of both in the present severe trial, and tender to them the expression of their earnest hope and prayer that the God of all comfort may impart to them largely of the influences of his Spirit, that ‘as their sufferings in Christ have abounded, so their consolations also may abound by Christ.’

“Looking at God's dealing with our Mission, in thus ‘breaking us with breach upon breach,’ and in visiting us with so severe a stroke so closely upon our former heavy trials, the Board would feel that there is a loud call upon the whole Church to deep humiliation before God. ‘Humble thyself under the mighty hand of the Lord that he may exalt thee in due time.’ They would adore the inscrutable wisdom of the dispensations of Him whose ‘way is in the sea, and his path in the mighty waters, and whose footsteps are not known;’ and they would stand in awe as they contemplate the sovereignty of Him ‘who taketh away and none can hinder him, none can say unto him, what doest thou.’ Yet knowing the righteousness of all His procedure, they would seek to be able to bow submissively to His will, saying, Thy will be done! And they would now call upon the Church to unite with them in earnest prayer before the throne of Almighty power, on behalf of the Church at home, that she may profit by this painful dispensation of His hand,—on behalf of the guilty murderers of our beloved friends, saying in the spirit of Him whom we serve, ‘Father, forgive them, they know not what they do;’ and on behalf of the poor Heathen at-large, that God would pour out his Spirit from on high, that he would make his Word as the fire and the hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces, and that the wilderness be counted for a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest. And especially that the good seed sown by His servants, with so much toil and self-denial, and watered not only with their tears and prayers, but even by their blood, may yet spring up and bring forth an abundant harvest to the praise and glory of God.”

The question of what should now be done for Erromanga formed the subject of anxious deliberation. It was resolved to await Mr. Geddie's report of the state of things on the island, before taking any decided action. Should that be favourable, the Board will be prepared to take steps to occupy it in an