

this year to act as the representatives of this Mission to the different Presbyterian Churches in Australia and New Zealand, to put themselves in communication with the Dayspring Board in Sydney, and with the Mission committees of the respective Churches, and to make such arrangements with them as may be considered most advisable for raising the sum of £1500, viz: £1000 to replace the sum to be drawn from the insurance fund, and £500 to cover the alterations and repairs in the *Paragon*.

29. While these are the carefully considered views of the Synod, nevertheless if the Board have not consulted the Mission committees of the respective Churches that have hitherto supported the *Dayspring*, the Synod request the Board to do so; and in the event of a majority of these committees disapproving of the purchase of the *Paragon*, the Board are not to complete the purchase, as the Synod while expressing their own deliberately formed conviction are unwilling to act contrary to the declared opinion of a majority of the Churches supporting the Mission vessel should this be found to be the case.

30. Messrs. Paton, Copeland, Watt, and Captain Jenkins were appointed a committee to prepare a plan of the alterations required in the *Paragon* to render her suitable for the wants of this Mission, and to lay this plan before the Board in Sydney for their guidance, should the *Paragon* be purchased.

31. That in the event of the *Paragon* being purchased her name shall be changed to that of the *Dayspring*.

32. That in the event of the *Paragon* not being purchased and another vessel being sought, it was agreed that the Board be instructed to look out for a vessel of 150 tons register or thereabouts.

33. It was agreed that the Mission vessel shall not make a second voyage from Sydney to the Islands this year, but shall leave Sydney next year not later than the 1st of April.

34. It was agreed that the Synod instruct the N. H. M. S. Board in Sydney to re-engage Captain Jenkins and Mr. McArthur the chief officer for next year; and that for the time they are not in the service of the Mission after the arrival of the *Paragon* in Sydney, the Board shall allow them such remuneration as may be considered just and equitable in the circumstances.

35. It was agreed that the Synod appoint the Rev. Dr. Steel to be agent for the Mission vessel at a salary of £50 stg. a year, and that they recommend to those Churches connected with this Mission that have not officially appointed him as their agent, that they should do so without delay and that they further recommend to all the Churches having missionaries on the New Hebrides,

that they allow the agent £5 annually for each missionary.

36. It was agreed that the thanks of the Synod be tendered to the Rev. Dr. Steel, Sydney, for the highly satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the duties of agent for the past year in connection both with the Mission and the Mission ship.

37. That in the event of a new vessel being procured, this Synod consider this to be a suitable time for making such alterations for the management of the vessel as the altered circumstances of the Mission require.

The members of this Synod have never shrunk from assuming responsibility, or undertaking labors, when the interest of the vessel rendered these necessary, but they have no desire to retain any power that may be more advantageously vested elsewhere, and in view of the greatly altered circumstances of the Mission since the *Dayspring* was obtained, they would respectfully suggest that all the Churches supporting the Mission vessel should confer freely with one another as to the best means of securing the continual support of the said vessel.

38. Captain Jenkins reported that he had fulfilled all the appointments laid upon him both at Sydney and Aneityum; the report was received and the captain was thanked for his diligence.

39. That the members of this Synod going up to the Colonies be instructed to make special appeals to the different Presbyterian Churches there in order to obtain an additional supply of missionaries.

40. Mr. McDonald stated that in the event of his return to Fate, considering the condition and extent of the Island, it is desirable that he should have a fellow-laborer to be settled near the extremity of Havannah Harbor, with the view of operating on the East side of Fate, and he requested the Synod to give him their sanction to make the necessary appeal to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The Synod authorize and encourage Mr. McDonald to make such an appeal.

41. From statements made by several members of this Synod respecting the kidnapping of natives, it appears that there has been no perceptible diminution of the evil during the past year; from the interior of Eromanga especially a great number of natives had been taken away; the murder of Mr. Gordon and other crimes threw the heathens on that Island into a great state of alarm, and rendered them peculiarly disposed to yield to the inducements held out to them to leave their homes, and several vessels availed themselves largely again and again of that state of feeling, to the permanent injury of that Island; nevertheless this Synod note with thankfulness the