

THE Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

SEPTEMBER, 1872.

A SAD REPORT CONFIRMED.

DEATH OF REV. JAMES D. GORDON.

We expressed, in our last number, hope and conviction that the report of the murder of Rev. James D. Gordon was destitute of foundation. We were mistaken. Our brother has fallen at his post. Another Missionary and another Gordon has been suddenly cut down by the blind fury of savage men, led captive by Satan at his will. Erromanga holds the remains of five Missionaries, and its soil has received the blood of four "men of God," with that of Mrs. G. N. Gordon, killed while engaged in heroic endeavour to save from ruin its perverse and cruel people.

In our present number we lay Dr. Steel's letter before our readers, and await farther intelligence. Our whole church will sympathize with the afflicted relatives of the martyred Missionary.

Every heart must feel for a mother to whom such tidings are brought; but how deep is the sympathy which should be felt for the mother who, in succession, has heard of the sudden death of three sons, one by accident at home, but the first and the last by the tomahawk of the savage on a heathen island. But the terrible external features of both events never can destroy, rather bring out in full relief, the glorious fact that they were called away while engaged in the direct work of their gracious Master, and, we may well believe, with his words of grace, breathed forth in prayer, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Mr. Gordon was a native of Alberton in Prince Edward Island, and one of a large family trained by godly parents in the fear of the Lord, and in the knowledge of God's holy word. He devoted himself to the ministry of the Gospel while his brother was only entering on his work. He studied under Professors Ross, McCulloch, and Lyall at Truro. Under Drs. King and Smith, and Professor McKnight, he was pursuing his theological course, when he received the awful news of the murder of his brother and Mrs. Gordon. He hastened home to comfort his mother, but never seemed diverted from his purpose to preach the Gospel to the heathen, for a day or for an hour. He offered his services to the Board for the New Hebrides Mission, so soon as his studies should be completed. He was accepted; and after visiting the Lower Provinces and Canada, where he left most favorable impressions and loving recollections, he sailed from Halifax in the *Dayspring* with Rev. Messrs. Morrison and McCullagh in 1863.

When the Missionaries were about to be located, in no reckless spirit, but with strong faith in the power of the Gospel, and in the conviction that he was called to carry on the work of evangelization where his brother had been permitted only, to make a commencement, he chose the island of Erromanga as the scene of his missionary toil. On that forbidding soil he had spent eight years of honest, earnest and almost unintermitting effort, when his work on earth suddenly closed. He retired from Dillon's Bay shortly after Rev. Mr.