

in connexion with the Church of Scotland had unanimously agreed to commend to the Synod the South Seas as their field of Missions.

ANNUAL REPORT OF BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, 1861-62.

The period which has elapsed since last annual report, has been confessedly the most eventful and perilous through which the New Hebrides Mission has been brought hitherto. The sore judgments of God have visited all the islands on which our missionaries have been located. The hurricane with its desolating fury, disease with its pestilential breath, and the hand of violence and bloodshed have, in their most appalling forms, devastated the fruits of the field, destroyed mission property, swept thousands of unconverted heathen beyond the reach of mercy, numbered with "the spirits of just men made perfect" one half of our mission band, and gathered to the heavenly garner a goodly harvest of *native converts*.

Mischief has come upon mischief, and rumour upon rumour, until the Church at home has been so completely aroused from her slumber of overweening security, as to experience distrustful thoughts concerning the future prosperity, if not, the permanence of the Mission. But, while deep has been calling unto deep, and all these waves and billows have gone over us, yet has there been throughout "the good hope through grace, that the Lord would command his loving kindness in the day time, for his song has been with us in the night, and our prayer unto the God of life."

TANA.

Tana was the first island from which sad tidings were received. The sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Johnston, whose auspicious entrance on the Tanese Mission formed one of the most interesting incidents of last year's report, came upon us as a heavy blow and deep discouragement. That one so full of high promise, as a faithful, zealous, vigorous, and well furnished missionary should have fallen at the threshold of a work, so great and inviting, forms one of those inscrutable mysteries which cannot be read clearly and fully by any other light than that which surrounds the throne of glory. "What thou knowest not now thou shalt know hereafter," is the divine saying to us, and we can but respond, "Even so Father for so it seemeth good in thy sight." On the receipt of Mr. Paton's deeply interesting narrative of Mr. Johnston's last illness, the Board appointed a Committee to prepare a suitable minute for their permanent records. This minute was duly prepared, and a copy thereof published in the September *Record*.

The Board subsequently directed their Secretary to hold immediate correspondence with Mrs. Johnston, not only with a view of expressing their deep sympathy with her in her widowed and much afflicted condition; but to make special enquiry as to her intentions either to continue or abandon her connection with the Mission, and to proffer all reasonable support in the event of her continuance.—This direction was punctually fulfilled, but no reply has yet been received.

The death of our youngest missionary was not the only item of sad tidings from Tana. Fatal disease had been introduced by the gross negligence and wanton wickedness of foreigners. Mr. Johnston's last labours were spent in ministering to the sick and dying. In his last journal, he says—the measles are making fearful havoc among the poor Tanese. One sad feature in this calamity is now beginning to manifest itself. The people are beginning to waver and incline to their old superstition. They say the Nahoh (new religion) is killing them, that our worship is bringing these calamities upon them, and that if we would leave, the disease would leave. They say *some of us must die to satisfy "Rempromunni."*—However unconsciously, the hand of the missionary in these last words, details the true source of his own death. However justly the proximate cause of death may be attributed to the unskilful administration of laudanum, which, as is well known only aggravates disease of the brain, that disease unquestionably had its origin in the sudden and severe shock to which that delicate man was subjected by the treacherous attempt which the two Tanese made to take his life. Their design was doubtless to carry out the fatal plot which he had foreshadowed in his journal as