

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

FEBRUARY, 1862.

THE LATE INTELLIGENCE FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES.

The anxiety felt throughout the Church during the last few months regarding the Missionaries on the New Hebrides, has at length been relieved by the receipt of long communications from both Mr. Geddie and Mr. Matheson. Long as these letters are, we could not tantalize our readers by retaining any of them for another month. We have therefore inserted them at full length, in the present No. of the *Record*, although our doing so has rendered necessary the exclusion of almost every thing else. These letters tell their own tale of toil and trial, faith and self-denial, danger and deliverance. They must be perused by every Christian, on the one hand with a saddened heart and an humbled soul, on account of the heart rending scenes and deeds of dark depravity which they record, but on the other hand with deepest gratitude to the God of our salvation, on account of the remarkable interpositions of his power for the safety of his servants, and the abundant grace bestowed upon them especially in these times of trial. And here we embrace the occasion to say, that we think that the Church has reason to bless God for the agents still left her. We have indeed been expressing our admiration of the character and labours of those servants who have gone to their reward; and have been glorifying God on their account; but we only give due honour to that divine grace working in those who survive, when we say that these letters are sufficient to afford us convincing evidence, that in diligence and self-denial, in faith and heroism, they are not a whit behind those which have gone to their reward. The faithful labours of Mr. Geddie for many years, and the manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the Mission in the past, had given him a high position in the confidence of the Church; and we doubt not that a review of his conduct through the late trying scenes, will if possible give him a yet more exalted position in their affection and esteem; while Mr. Matheson has already proved himself a good soldier of the Cross. During his short Missionary career he has passed through what was sufficient to try the faith and zeal of the most experienced; and the manner in which he has come through the ordeal must produce confidence in his qualifications for his work, and inspire high hopes for his future usefulness.

We have now all the information we can expect to obtain regarding the tragical end of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon. Though the details given are nearly the same word, for word, with former reports, we have published Mr. Geddie's account in full. The examination of the causes of this event by him will be read with deep attention, and there is every reason to place confidence in the correctness of his conclusions. At all events we can expect nothing addition-