

# THE MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN.

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## The Maritime Presbyterian.

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In our last issue notice was given of shortening the name of this paper to "The Presbyterian." Old friends who had become used, and attached, to the old name, and to whom it was, for shortness and simplicity, generally nothing but "The Maritime," were so sorry to part with it that for their sakes we leave it yet awhile.

The question of a fourth missionary to the New Hebrides is not a new one. When Mr. MacKenzie was home he pleaded hard for another man, so did Mr. Robertson. There was, however, but one opinion in the Foreign Mission Committee, and so far as appeared, on the part of the Church. The question now is the same, and has, added to it, some complications which make the wisdom of such a step even more uncertain.

Whenever a church wishes an extension of Foreign Mission work, the one way to make that wish known is to give enough money into the Treasury to meet existing demands and support new burdens.

For the last four years in the Foreign Mission work of the Eastern Section there has been an average deficit of over \$600 per year, so that instead of a small balance on hand which we had four years ago, we had at the close of accounts last May, a debt of over two thousand dollars. Some one may say, that is why we joined with the West that we might get aid in bearing the burden which is too heavy for us. The West have now as much as they can

well do. For the last two years their accounts have shown an average deficit of nearly \$10,000 per year. At the close of accounts in 1884 they had in fund about \$23,000, chiefly in consequence of two large legacies. At the last close of accounts they had on hand but little over \$3000.

At a meeting of the Home Mission Committee of the Maritime Provinces held recently, the Secretary was directed to correspond with a view of securing several Gaelic preachers. There are some four or five vacancies in the Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond requiring Gaelic and not one probationer to send them.

The following item is of interest in connection with our mission in Formosa, shewing the advancement that Western civilization is making in the far East, where our Church has been hitherto so successful:—"The first railroad contract in China has been secured by an English firm, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. It is for the construction of a line between Tamsui and Keelung, in northern Formosa. Both places are well known from the long siege laid to them by the French during the war. Since that time Formosa has been made a province, and its administration has been committed to the officer who gallantly and successfully defended it—Lin Hing Chuan. He is now engaged in fortifying it, and as a measure of defense has decided to have a railroad between the two posts mentioned.

A meeting of Presbytery in our church is almost invariably confined to a day or part of a day. In some parts at least of the United States it is a quite a different matter. The Presbytery of Boston consisting of twenty seven churches and forty five ministers, held its stated fall meeting in Antrim, New Hampshire, and continued in session for three days, or as long as