

and the Frenchman becomes owner, obtaining more rights and greater claims; or, in the event of the native still refusing, the land is taken according to threat and the natives have no redress. If they attempt resistance a French man-of-war from New Caledonia soon settles the matter. Two years ago they became in this way masters of considerable quantities of land in Efate.

There is a little island in Fila Harbor, Efate, that was bought some years ago by our missionaries. The French wanted to buy it also from the natives. They said they could not sell it as it belonged to the missionaries. The Frenchman acting in the matter said he would throw the money into the sea and take possession. By request of the missionaries the Commodore on the Australian station investigated the matter and the missionaries were reinstated in possession. Whether the matter will be as energetically looked into and ended now when the French are establishing garrisons and taking forcible possession remains to be seen.

In the French Colony of New Caledonia the possession of the neighboring group of the New Hebrides is regarded as an accomplished fact, and no secret is made of it. Let us hope and pray that they may be disappointed, that threatened injury to our mission may be averted.

THE SYNOD OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

met in St. Andrews' Church, Truro, on Tuesday Oct. 5th at 7.30. P. M.

Rev. T. Sedgewicke, retiring moderator, preached the opening sermon, from Rom. 1. 16. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek." After the sermon the Synod was constituted, the roll called, and a brief address given by the retiring Moderator.

On motion, Rev. A. McLean of Hopewell, Pictou Co., was elected Moderator of the present Synod, and having taken the chair he briefly addressed the court.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the retiring Moderator.

The committee on bills and overtures then submitted a draft copy of the business to come before the present meeting of Synod, as follows:

- 1.—Report of Committee on Hunter Church Building Fund.
- 2.—Report of Committee on management of McLagan Trust.
- 3.—Report of Committee on destination of McLeod bequest in behalf of weak congregations.
- 4.—Report of Committee on Systematic Beneficence.
- 5.—Reports of Presbyteries anent Collections for Schemes of the Church.
- 6.—College Business.
- 7.—Statement anent Ladies' College.
- 8.—Remit of Assembly anent the matter of the Agency of the Church in the Maritime Provinces.
- 9.—Home Mission Matters.
- 10.—Statement anent Augmentation Scheme.
- 11.—Statement anent Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.
- 12.—Regulations for Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.
- 13.—Overture of Rev. J. F. Dugan anent Evangelistic work.
- 14.—Foreign Mission Matters.
- 15.—Report on the State of Religion and conference thereon.
- 16.—Report of Committee on Temperance.
- 17.—Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.
- 18.—Report of Committee on Sabbath Observance.
- 19.—Remit of the Assembly anent the status of Rev. E. Ross.
- 20.—Widows and Orphan's Fund Business.
- 21.—Report of Committee on Synod Fund.
- 22.—Appointment of Committees.
- 23.—Report of Committee on Public Education.
- 24.—Appointment of time and place of next meeting of Synod.
- 25.—Report of Committee to Nominate Standing Committees.
- 26.—Report of Committees on Presbytery Records.
- 27.—Report of Committee on Obituary Notices.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Synod met at ten o'clock, and in passing we may notice, that, while the regular sessions of Synod were from ten to half past twelve, from three to half past five, and from half past seven to ten or later; for many of the members of Synod, the