

had ten thousand picked soldiers including a brigade of Amazons; he had three pieces of cannon; his forces were inspired with the expectation of a rich spoil in slaves and other valuables in a community numbering 300,000 souls. The assailants, confident of victory, rushed to the assault, but they were repelled on all sides; and the first repulse caused a panic, followed by headlong flight. The pursuit was as vigorous as the repulse was complete. The King of Dahomey lost half his forces and two of his guns. It is scarcely probable that he will ever recover from this terrible blow; and his discomfiture is already felt as a blessed relief in all the Western coast.

It appears that the King had resolved to massacre the christians, and had actually selected the spot where the great sacrifice was to be made. But God mercifully delivered them as He did His ancient people from the designs of the insolent monarch of Assyria. To quote the words of a contemporary, "In this remarkable event we see how wonderfully God overrules the wrath of man for the good of his Church. Even the heathen (of Abeokuta) attribute their triumph to the prayers of the Christians and the Bashorun (governor) has conjured the people to hold the missionaries in high esteem, "From henceforth the town belongs to them." In every Christian community He has been entreated to save Abeokuta from the peril that menaced it; and He has done exceeding abundantly for us above all that we asked or thought. Let this great deliverance confirm our faith and stimulate us to greater energy in the missionary enterprise."

God is still, as ever, at work in the world, caring for the little and the great: for in His infinite view the great and the little are all alike. The missionary labouring lonely among savages is as truly in His eye as the largest assembly in Christendom.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARY OPERATIONS. Shall they be extended, and in what direction?

Of the subjects, which will come under the consideration of the Synod at its approaching meeting, none will involve more important interests or call for more earnest and prayerful deliberation, than the state of our Foreign Missionary operations, and the question of extending them, either by increase of labourers in the South Seas, the adoption of some new field of labour, or by both. It is now manifest, that we shall not have the pleasure of Mr. Geddie's presence among us, as was lately expected. This will be universally regretted, yet it need not and should not prevent us taking those measures for the advancement of the great object to which his life has been devoted, which the circumstances of the time require and to which God in his providence is summoning us.

In looking at the question of extending our Foreign mission we must at the outset glance at our future position. We have now four missionaries. But this, it will be observed, is just the number that the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia had previous to the Union, and as Mr. Geddie has for a time been obliged to relinquish his labours, we have in reality one less in actual employment than that church had then, besides that the mission of the Free Church has been entirely suspended. Now under any circumstances this is a state of things, with which we should not for a moment rest satisfied. The progress of the church should be ever onward and its motto forward. In all churches which have undertaken missions with life, the course has always been progressive. If the progress made has not been uniform and constant, it has been steady and sure. There may be temporary reverses, like the receding of the advancing tide, but where the work is of God, there can be no permanent going back. The uniform history of Churches and Missionary Societies is, that whatever progress they make, they find the hand of the great Head of the church can still beckon them onward. If the hand of the Lord is with them, they can never fix upon