

object. There were, indeed, many formidable, and, as some believed, insurmountable difficulties in our way, when we first seriously considered the obligations to share with our poor perishing brethren the blessings which made us differ from them. Pecuniary difficulties stood in our way, and to remove these difficulties, we felt our resources to be insufficient. The apparent hopelessness of securing a properly qualified Missionary seemed to assure us that our efforts would serve no purpose. We also had much anxiety in selecting the field wherein our labours would have the most likely prospect of success. Through all these difficulties our gracious Master led us, until now we can look back upon them as things past, and feel ashamed that our confidence was so frail and our trust so perplexed with sinful doubts. Our people responded to our call for contributions with a liberality beyond our hopes, and when about to despair of securing a Missionary, one unexpectedly stood up in our midst and declared his willingness to devote his life and labour to the salvation of the perishing in heathen lands, and, ere we could arrange for his departure to the Mission field, another individual, animated by the same spirit, offered his services. The same guidance, your Committee trust, has led to the field of labour which this Church may now call *her* Mission field. Your Committee, in the spirit of deepest gratitude to God, would congratulate this Synod, while conveying the intelligence that information has reached them of the safe arrival of your Missionary on the large and populous island of Santo in the South Pacific, and of his entering on his labours there in circumstances more encouraging than we had looked for.

This large island, with upwards of ten thousand souls, was, up to the day of Mr. Goodwill's landing, sunk and lying deep in all the dark gloom and misery of darkest heathenism. No message of love from God ever reached their wretched homes, nor the beds of their dying. These many thousands,—and each one an immortal spirit more precious than worlds,—had no comfort in life, amidst its sore trials and sufferings, nor had they any aid or refuge in the terrible passage of death, but delusive phantoms which mocked as the dying stretched out their hands for help. We have gone to the rescue, and we have resources adequate to the undertaking. Would to God we had entered sooner into this dark field. Every year hundreds have gone down into the valley of death, crying for help to their false gods, to wood and stone. Their last cries were cries of despair and fearful terror. We had it in our power to bring within their hearing the name of Jesus; and with that name as their trust, instead of despair, there would be peace and rest, yea, joy unspeakable and full of glory. We had in our possession what would have illumined the thick darkness with the brightness of heaven, yet our poor brethren and sisters died without one ray of light. When we think of this, will it not stimulate our efforts for the future? Our great Master has entrusted to us treasures sufficient for the wants of every perishing soul in dark and degraded Santo. The Gospel of the grace of God was intended for them as well as for us, and it will not fail in its application. That large multitude are now placed on our care. We selected them from the rest of the heathen as that portion we would endeavour to restore to the kingdom and the allegiance of our Lord; and having done this, we must gird our loins for the work, resolved that, so far as we can do it, every dark hovel shall soon become a bright mansion beautified with heavenly love and joy and peace and hope, and that these myriads of imprisoned souls "whom Satan hath bound, lo, these many years," shall come forth from the prison house, singing, in gladness of heart, for the freedom with which Christ hath made them free. We must not close our eyes to the certain fact, that, as a church, this responsibility now rests upon us. We have advanced so far that we are already face to face with the enemy; we have invaded one of his strongholds, and draw back or shrink from the conflict we dare not. The towers of darkness must fall, every one of them, and the banner of our Lord must wave on their ruins. We have the means in our hands to effect this, and we are pledged by our vows, as the soldiers of the Cross, vigorously to employ these means. "The weapons of our