

daughter of Colonel Coleridge, elder brother of the poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Reared in the lap of luxury and refinement, and with every advantage of intellectual training, there seemed to open for him an unobstructed pathway to eminence in his native country. As a youth he was thoughtful, scholarly in his tastes and naturally devout, though by no means morose. On the contrary, he was a leader in athletic sports, full of enthusiasm, and exceedingly popular with his schoolfellows in Ottery, St. Mary's, Devonshire, at Eton, and at Baliol College, Oxford, where he graduated with distinction in 1849. After travelling for some time on the Continent, he was ordained as a curate of the English Church and settled down to parish work at Alington in Devonshire, where he soon won the hearts of his people by his faithful and loving ministrations. But his stay was not long in that pleasant home, for shortly after his settlement there came to visit his father Bishop Selwyn of New Zealand, a man of apostolic zeal and greatly interested in the mission work among the degraded savages of Polynesia. Through his efforts an endowment of \$50,000 had been secured for an Episcopal see among the islands lying to the north of the New Hebrides group, and now he had come to England seeking for missionaries. Overtures were made to young Patteson who willingly consented to accompany the Bishop to his distant field of labour. They sailed together from Gravesend on the 28th of March, 1855, and arrived at Auckland, N. Z., on the 5th of July. During the voyage he acquired the Maori so thoroughly that on his arrival he was able at once to preach to the natives in their own language. For some time he assisted Bishop Selwyn in conducting a training-school which he had established for the instruction of youths brought together from various islands of the Pacific with a view to their employment in Christian work. This school, originally instituted at Auckland, was subsequently removed to Norfolk Island, an abandoned penal settlement situated about midway between New Zealand and Aneityum. Patteson soon shewed that he had a special aptitude for the work to which he had been called. He could turn his hand to almost anything, and was as clever at mending a tea-kettle, or making a wheelbarrow, as he was in acquiring the dialects

of the savage tribes with whom he was brought into contact. In April, 1861, he was duly installed as Bishop of the Melanesian Islands and entered heart and soul upon the work, pursuing the same methods that had been employed by Bishop Selwyn. Much of his time was necessarily spent in the missionary vessel, the *Southern Cross*, which carried him from one group of islands to another. His field embraced the islands from the northern limit of the New Hebrides to the Solomon group, from 7° to 17° south latitude. His head-quarters were at Mota, in the Banks' group, but he was frequently also at Norfolk Island, teaching theology and assisting in the industrial school. The chief difficulty that he encountered arose from the nefarious "labour traffic" as it is called, but which was in reality only another name for a *slave trade*, carried on by unscrupulous adventurers who made a business of kidnapping the natives, taking them either by craft or by main force from their homes and consigning them to years of servitude in Queensland or Fiji. To accomplish their ends some of these traders represented themselves to be missionaries, and even painted their vessels to make them as like the mission schooner as possible, by which means they decoyed the natives on board and sailed away with them. Such practices made it extremely hazardous for the Bishop to land upon some of the islands, and in the end led to his martyrdom. In April, 1871, while cruising among the islands they approached Nukapu, one of the Santa Cruz group, not yet occupied by the missionaries. The natives had been deceived some time before in the way just mentioned; some of their people had been kidnapped and they resolved on revenge. Supposing the *Southern Cross* to be one of these trading vessels, it no sooner approached the island than the natives put out in a number of canoes to meet it. Patteson, not suspecting any danger, had a number of presents ready to take ashore, and going into his own small boat went to meet them. The boat grounded on a reef, and finding they could proceed no further, the Bishop embarked in one of the canoes and was taken ashore. In the meantime a shower of arrows was directed against the boat which he had quitted and several of his companions were mortally wounded. Patteson was never seen alive again. A