

Bishop Patteson's "Life" is published in England—in two large and expensive volumes—so large and expensive that they cannot attain a wide circulation. We regret this circumstance, for acquaintance with a life so pure and noble would be of lasting use to the Christian world. In this life generous mention is made of the labours of our missionaries on Aneiteum, and a deeply affecting account is given of the Bishop's visit to Erromanga, soon after the foul murder of George N. Gordon and his wife. The murder was committed on the 20th May, 1861. Bishop Patteson visited the grave of the Gordons on the 7th June—eighteen day days after—and read the Burial Service over their hallowed dust. The account of the martyrdom of the Gordons in these volumes is identical with that on record among ourselves. Ten years afterwards Bishop Patteson himself fell under the murderous stroke of the savages just as George N. Gordon had fallen.

It seems that he had never revisited England since he left for New Zealand in 1854. He was ardently attached to his family and friends, yet he could not be persuaded to leave his field of ever-increasing toil. In 1871 the New Zealand Bishops urged him to go to England for rest; but he could not leave the islands, especially, he said, on account of the horrible slave trade, which was desolating them. The traffic in natives, which our own missionaries so earnestly denounced, was an object of horror to Bishop Patteson. In September, 1871, he was cruising in the *Southern Cross*, among islands where he knew the natives were unfriendly. Still he was most eager to make a beginning on the Santa Cruz group. On the day before his death he wrote to Bishop Selwyn: "And now what will the next few days bring forth? It may be God's will that the opening for the Gospel may be given to us now. Sometimes I feel as if I were almost too importunate in my longings for some beginning here; and I try not to be impatient, and to wait His good time, knowing that it will come when it is the fulness of time. Then again I am tempted to think it not soon, if not now, the trading vessels will make it impossible, as men think, to obtain an opening here. But I am on the whole hopeful, though somewhat fainthearted." Next day came the fatal tragedy. The vessel had come as

close to the shore of Nukapu as the reef would permit. A few canoes were seen hovering inside the reef. The Bishop caused the boat to be lowered, and, with a few attendants, pulled in among the canoes. He accepted an invitation to enter one of the canoes and go ashore. The boat remained at a distance. In about half an hour the treacherous savages attacked the men in the boat with poisoned arrows, and two of the wounded died of lockjaw. The boat made for the vessel, and the worst fears were entertained for the Bishop. By-and-by they saw two canoes coming towards them. One of the two cast off the other and rowed back. The men of the *Southern Cross* rowed cautiously towards the canoe. They saw a bundle lying in the bottom of it which they found to be the body of Bishop Patteson. A placid smile was still on that beautiful face; a palm leaf was fastened over the breast; and the body was marked by five wounds,—indicating that vengeance had thus been taken for the lives of five natives kidnapped and slain by an English "kill kill" ship, as the traders are called. The death of the good Bishop did more, perhaps, than his life would have done to put a check to the abominable cruelties of the Polynesian slave trade.

FEMALE MISSIONARIES.

One of the grand agencies now employed by some branches of the Christian Church for the evangelization of the heathen is that of female missionaries. Hence we find that women's missionary societies have been formed in America and are sending forth godly women to labour among the degraded of their race. Two have lately gone forth from New York to labour in China and Japan, where such a class of labourers are much needed. The success of missions must inevitably depend to a great extent on the conversion of women, who have such an influence over future generations. Heathen women can only be reached through those who have been christianized and hence female missionaries are an absolute necessity, and their labours are productive of much good. Such labourers are the crying want in India at the present time as they can do more among their own sex than a dozen men missionaries. Hence an appeal has lately been made to the women of England in behalf of their degraded sisters in India. According to