

before the sickness, but he has been an enemy ever since. He is one of our chief opposers on Erromanga at the present time. When the *John Knox* last visited the island he was suffering from a dangerous illness, which many of the natives regard as a judgement of God on him for the blood of his servants. The only palliation of his deeds is that they have been committed in the darkness of his heart. For all such persons we ought surely to offer up the prayer "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do." It is pleasing to record that the only two sons Kaiuani have forsaken their father, and cast in their lot with the christian party. One of them lives with Mana and Joe, and the other attends regularly on the means of grace. Such divisions are a sure evidence that good is being done, and an effecting illustration of our Saviour's words who says; "The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father."

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CANNIBALS.

You must not suppose that Range is the only opposer of the gospel in these islands. Others whose privileges and advantages have been far greater than his, have said and done quite as much as he, to endanger the lives of missionaries, but not with the same sad results. It is not the fault of our own countrymen that there is a mission on the New Hebrides to day. In the early years of the mission on this island the heathen natives around us were bribed and threatened to put us out of the way, and with this view plots were formed against my own life, and finally my house was set on fire at midnight. But happily all these efforts failed, for he who was for us was greater than those who were against us. It is scarcely credible how degraded many of our own countrymen become, who find their way to these islands, and are beyond the reach of those restraints which christianity and civilization impose. The wickedness of some white men is not surpassed by that of the heathen themselves. There is no crime common on these islands of which they have not been guilty, cannibalism itself not excepted. During my residence on this island, I have known two reputed cannibals, the one an Englishman and the other an American. They were miserable and degraded men, and almost as repulsive as you could well imagine human beings to be. Both of them were covered with most offensive sores, and were shunned by the natives themselves. I have been told by some of the white men, that these loathsome sores were caused by eating human flesh, which they say is poisonous.—This is a subject on which I cannot express an opinion, but it really seems as if God had put a mark on these two cannibals, as he did on Cain, that men seeing them might shun them. But such cases of awful deprav-

ity are happily exceptional, and I am glad to say that the class of men engaged in trade on these islands improves every year, and open opposition to our labours is rapidly on the decline.

STATE OF THE JOHN KNOX.

The *John Knox* has made only two trips to the neighbouring islands this year, and we have been obliged to haul her up for repairs. She is very leaky and cannot be caulked without removing her copper. In addition to this she struck on a sunken reef during a dark night when under full sail, and sustained some injury, which it is easy to repair. She has now been more than six years in the service of the mission, and during that time she has done a great amount of work. For the last three years we have scarcely ever had a white man on board, and the voyages have been made by Mr. Copeland and myself and in some instances by the natives themselves. Every missionary on these islands ought to be a navigator, and know something about the management of a vessel. All young brethren who come to these islands should endeavour to acquire what nautical knowledge they can by the way. The *John Knox* is now housed, and will remain where she is until she undergoes a thorough repair. It is quite probable that she will not be launched again until after the next hurricane month. As our new vessel may be expected next year the disposal of the *John Knox* will become a question for the mission to decide. I believe that we could sell her into the sandal wood trade, but I would sooner see her on the reefs than there. My own opinion is that she might be passed over to the missionaries who come to occupy Vate or Erromanga. There are rivers on both these islands close to the mission premises where she might lie in comparative safety all the year round. As she would not be actively employed, her expenses would be small. In the event of sickness, or danger arising from any quarter, the vessel would be at hand to bring the parties to this island. It is important however, that we should know your opinion and that of our friends in Scotland about the disposal of the vessel.

KIDNAPPING.

A vessel has just arrived here from the islands about the line, and reports that there are several Chilian and Peruvian slavers in that quarter kidnapping the natives. They endeavour to entice the natives on board by giving presents to them; and then making prisoners of them; and armed parties have landed on some of the smaller islands, and forcibly seized the people. The natives thus captured are taken to South America to labour on cotton plantations. It is to be hoped that our own and other governments pledged