

Geddie took up the threads at the place where he had laid them down, visiting the different sections, superintending the schools, seeing to Bible translation, and lending his aid to the other islands.

It was about this time that a new peril began to face the Church in the New Hebrides. This was the so-called *Kanaka* or labor traffic, a business, however, that bordered very nearly on the slave trade.

The cultivation of cotton in Queensland and the Fijis created a demand for more laborers, and efforts were made to recruit from the islands of Western Polynesia. Attractive inducements were offered, and many of the young men of the islands readily applied for the work. Out of this grew the traffic in native laborers, which in some cases was productive of the worst cruelties of the slave trade. The natives would be enticed on board under false pretences and retained there by force.

Sometimes Captains would paint their ships to resemble the Mission vessel. Then one would go ashore assuming the dress of a clergyman, tell that Bishop Patteson was sick on board, when the natives would flock to see their good friend. As they were allowed below, two or three at a time, they would be thrust into the hold. Their canoes would then be cut adrift, and the vessel sail away with its living freight.

Within eighteen months, eighteen vessels of this stamp visited Efate. Some islands were nearly depleted of their male population. So extensive was

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