

I eventually returned to Levuka, very ill, almost dead; on my recovery I gave information to the consul, Mr. Marsh; the vessel was seized, and the labour men who had not been disposed of were taken back; I was repentant of what I did, and did it for the honour of God, as the only atonement that I could make; in doing what I so did I voluntarily suffered very great pecuniary loss.

Dr. Murray was cross-examined for the defence at a very great length by one of the prisoners' counsel. He admitted that he told the men, at the first alarm of the outbreak on the night of the 13th, to "get arms." The firing that followed lasted for eight hours. This witness also denied that he had ordered the natives to be thrown overboard until he found he could not save them. His evidence was:—"I wished to save the wounded natives from being thrown overboard, but, finding the general feeling against it, I said then I won't look upon it, and ran forward; I staid there for a very little time and returned; when I came back to the same spot the men were closing in on them to throw them overboard; 'I said let the poor wretches be placed on an island and have a chance for their lives;' the general cry raised was—'No, over with them at once,' they were beginning to throw them overboard at that time; I then said, 'If they must go over, let them go over at once;' if anybody says, without respect to what I have now said, that I did absolutely order the men wounded, but still alive, to be thrown overboard, he swears to what is not true; this being understood, it is quite possible that I may have told some of the natives to throw the men overboard; I did make a most urgent appeal to the people of the *Carl* to place these wounded men on an island, and give a chance for their lives, and they would not agree to it; I was much excited at the time; after I spoke, the 'throwing over' commenced."

The man Wilson (one of the passengers) told the same ghastly story, but throwing the chief blame upon Murray, and stating that the active share he (Wilson) had taken had been only out of fear for his life. He admitted, however, that he had not availed himself of the accidental visit of the *Rosario* to tell the open truth about the murders. The natives below were, it was thought, trying to set fire to the ship. According to this witness (who gave his evidence in a manner that created general horror and disgust), the poor kidnapped islanders who were not butchered on the night of the 13th November, were—on their voyage to Levuka—taught to hold up three fingers and to say "three yam;" this was interpreted to mean three years—as though they had agreed to give three years'

service. The "Doctor" prudently stopped at Apia, and did not go down with the men who were to be sold to the Fijian planters. The seaman, George Heath, corroborated all the evidence given by Murray and Wilson, against the Captain and Dowden. When the firing began, this witness saw the man Murray taking part in the outrage. "Saw the captain part of that time at the wheel; saw Dr. Murray with a musket in his hand singing the song 'Marching through Georgia,' the dead men were pulled up by ropes, and the wounded were helped up, there were only about ten or eleven left out of all the Bougainville men who were not wounded, the dead were heaved overboard at once, ten that were slightly wounded were carried on in the ship; thinks about thirty-five were badly wounded; they were all put overboard; these men were not dead when they were heaved overboard; heard the prisoner Dowden say, 'There is no use keeping them, we might as well put them overboard.' According to this witness the man Murray coolly picked out the ten least wounded to take on with the ship. [These, it would seem, were however left at Apia, where, if they could be cured, they could do work, and where, if they died, they would tell no tales.] This witness (Heath) also corroborated the shameful trick of the "passenger" Mount, in dressing as a missionary at an island he called Nakalulau.

The Captain and Mate were brought in Guilty of Murder. In pronouncing sentence the Judge said that he entirely concurred in the verdict of guilty rendered by the Jury. Such horrible transactions as the witnesses had related were seldom heard of in any Court of Justice. Their evidence was a detailed statement of revolting crimes perpetrated by them and by the prisoners—crimes of such a terrible nature as to be hitherto almost unknown to civilized men. The account given by any one of the three persons referred to revealed a mass of treachery, falsehood, and cruel wrong, which no honest man could listen to unmoved or think upon without indignation. By falsehood and by treachery the natives were lured to come on board to be deprived of their liberty, and when falsehood was not enough terrific violence was used. The canoes of the poor creatures were smashed, and the natives thrown into the sea to the risk of their lives, and doubtless to the death of many. And when any of these men, so brutally and cruelly used, "were troublesome" (for that was the term that had been coolly used) whenever they did not submit to be captured that they might be deliberately sold into slavery—means were taken to make them more manageable, and they were struck on the head, and on the arms, with clubs and bags