

—having the information of those who have been for years most familiar with the state of things on these islands, we scruple not to denounce these proceedings as unjustifiable outrages, and we would hold ourselves as unfaithful to the trust imposed on us of representing our church in the public press, if we did not at once do what in us lies to clear her skirts of all complicity in such transactions. In regard to the demand that in twenty-four hours the chiefs should come on board the British man-of-war, it is to be observed that these were independent chiefs, who had never owed any subjection to British authority, and Commodore Wiseman had no more right to demand that they should come on board in that time, than Com. Wilkes would had to come into Halifax harbor and make a similar demand upon our Governor and his officials, with the same threat of firing on the city. Besides when it is known how the natives have hitherto been treated by white men, that they have been shot down like beasts, their women kidnapped, and men sometimes murdered on board vessels, sometimes carried to other islands, and sometimes there given up to their enemies to be eaten—while we say such has been the treatment which they have received from white men, need any person wonder that they should regard white men as their enemies, and who would expect them to go on board a white man's vessel on such a summons, not knowing what was to be done to them there. Had they been asked to hold an interview with the Commodore, they would probably have met him half-way. When Com. Seymour was at Port Resolution, and wished an interview with the chiefs, Mr. Geddie urged them to go on board, but stated that he would remain on shore as a hostage for their safe return. On consideration they said to Mr. G. that they would rather that he should be on board with them, and that if he would pledge his word for their safety, they would go. Such is the effect of different systems of treatment.

Unreasonable then as this demand was, it is however the subsequent destruction of life and property that calls for special con-

demnation. The reason assigned for this proceeding is the outrages committed on British subjects. But these outrages have been generally if not universally the consequences of outrages committed by white men, and had the Commodore wished to do even-handed justice, he would have seen far more reason to have punished his own countrymen, than the natives. When the native chiefs of Port Resolution went on board Com. Seymour's vessel, at Mr. Geddie's suggestion, after replying to the complaints against them they stated their complaints against white men. The result was that the Commodore felt that the evil deeds of the natives were as a feather in the balance against the outrages committed on them by white men. We have examined carefully the letters of the missionaries both official and private, to ascertain what are the outrages complained of, on account of which these things have been inflicted, and it seems clearly stated that the main if not the only reason for what took place on Tanna, was the destruction of Mr. Paton's property at the time of his leaving. Passing for the present the question whether it is in accordance with the spirit of the gospel to execute such revenge for the destruction of a few articles of property, and whether it would not be well for Christians and Christian missionaries now as in primitive times in such cases, "to take joyfully the spoiling of their goods," we are assured by those who have thoroughly examined the case on the spot, that the pretext was a most flimsy one. The natives no doubt wished Mr. P. to leave, and it would have been wisdom for him to have done so for a time, leaving the work to be carried on by native teachers. The older missionaries urged this course, believing that if he did not follow it, he would be *ultimately driven off*, in which case it would be difficult to resume operations. Mr. P. determined to remain. Soon after war broke out not against the natives or the missionaries, but between different tribes. Mr. Paton's house stood on what had been their battleground from time immemorial. The friendly natives urged him to remove his property. He refused, and as he was warn-