

DREADFUL CALAMITY TO THE PATAGONIAN MISSION.

The morning papers publish a letter received by Captain Halstead, the Secretary of Lloyd's, from their agent in the Falkland Islands, communicating particulars of the massacre of the crew of the Patagonian Mission schooner, Allen Gardner. We are enabled to give full details supplied to us by the Secretary of the Mission :—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE RECORD.

SIR,—I thank you most truly for your warm and ready sympathy, and also for your interest in our mission work. I will succinctly state the painful facts of the case.

The scene of the massacre was Wollyah, the head-quarters of a Fuegian tribe with which we have hitherto been on the most friendly terms. It was from this tribe that the fourteen natives, who had been under instruction at our central station at Falklands, and who promised so well, were drawn. In fact, but a few days before the catastrophe, which took place on Nov. 6, 1859, our mission-vessel had conveyed back nine of these natives to their home. While with us they improved wonderfully in moral and physical habits. Their manners became quite European, and on all the outward observances of religion they were willing and exemplary attendants. Two lads, in particular, gave great promise of future good, and showed very considerable intelligence indeed. The women, too, were tidy, clean, and industrious. Progress was made in their language by our brethren, attempts at translation were not wanting, and portions of the Decalogue in the Fuegian tongue were regularly read out during public worship, at which the natives were present. Most hopeful were we of shortly effecting some larger and more permanent good amongst their countrymen. Now we pause, waiting for the guiding providence of God. We are cast down, but not in despair. But I must return to the scene of death at Wollyah. It appears that the Allen Gardiner reached that place on Nov. 1, and that, with the exception of some of the natives being vexed because the captain searched their bundles prior to letting them leave the ship, nothing transpired to excite suspicion of hostility. The number of the natives increased daily, till some seventy canoes were numbered on the beach. But on former occasions they had assembled in large numbers, and yet proved most friendly. Our parties landed daily. Presents were distributed amongst the people, and, as far as circumstances admitted, efforts were made to impress the native mind with the true objects of the visit. The friendliness of our party seemed to be reciprocated by the natives. Sunday, Nov. 6, dawns upon Wollyah, the mission-ship lies calmly in the bay, on the beach are drawn up at intervals the canoes of the natives. Nothing has taken place to excite alarm; on the contrary, the captain and catechist see nothing to prevent the celebration of public worship upon shore. A log hut of considerable size, built by our party on their former visit, the natives also assisting in the work, offers a suitable place for the conduct of the services of the day. Accordingly the catechist, the captain, and ship's crew, the cook only excepted, go ashore. Un-