

Southampton, spending a few days in London on his way. Messrs. McKenzie and Robertson attended the Glasgow meeting and were presented with seventeen sovereigns each.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray sailed from Southampton on the 25th Nov. By this route they will call at Gibraltar and stay 6 hours, at Malta and remain 12, at Alexandria, Cairo, Boone Bay, Point de Galle, Ceylon, staying a short time at each place, changing steamers at Alexandria, Suez and Galle. This route is the more expensive but quicker and more comfortable than the long ocean voyage round the Cape.

The other four returned from Glasgow to Edinburgh and after a short stay proceeded to London, thence to Liverpool from which we presume they sailed on the 14th ult., and we trust on arrival at Melbourne may receive the greetings of Mr. and Mrs. Murray, who will probably anticipate them by about four weeks. Let them all be remembered during the week of prayer and weeks and months succeeding, for they may have perils on land when the dangers of the sea are over, and if saved from all these, they still need special Divine direction and support through arduous duties and perplexities.

Our present number contains two important documents from the islands, the Minutes of Conference, and Dr. Geddie's narrative of his seven weeks voyage through the group. The minute in vindication of Rev. Mr. Milne of Nguna, we have omitted, because we considered Dr. Geddie's refutation sufficient in this country, where not one in a hundred doubts that the charge was unfounded and malicious.

In the Sydney *Morning Herald* of Sept. 6th, Dr. Steel publishes a letter from Mr. Milne, giving a copy of the Minute, with other statements and proof that the charge so widely spread to his injury was a pure fabrication, (to use the language of Dr. Geddie) and rebutting other accusations manufactured by interested parties to injure at once the missionary and the mission.

A later issue of the same paper, Dec. 22nd, sent to us by Dr. Steel, contains a

letter from Messrs. Inglis and Paton, dealing with the facts connected with the massacre of the crew of the schooner *Fanny*, the visit and investigation of Mr. Thurston acting Vice Consul from Fiji, and the *Mission of Revenge* by the crews of the *Daphne*, *Lismore* and *Marion Rennie*, as bearing on the conduct of the Rarotongan teachers. This will be the subject of further examination, and no very positive assertion is at present warranted; but the letter shows that the subsequent efforts of the teachers at the risk of their own lives to save the captain and mate, their previous training by the missionaries of the London Society, their education and character, render the charges brought against them highly improbable.

Dr. Geddie's letter tells of the death from wounds by arrows and clubs, of six mariners in addition to the crew of the *Fanny* and the two young traders, Ross and Bell on Tana. Several of these were the captains and mates of vessels engaged in this labor or kidnapping traffic, so that the results foreseen by the missionaries as sure to follow, are displaying themselves rapidly and extensively.

But the most melancholy page in this record of atrocities, is that which records the murder of Bishop Patteson, one of the noblest missionaries of our times. He succeeded the devoted Bishop Selwyn, and in his mission vessel the *Southern Cross*, visited almost every group in the South Seas, and perhaps every island in the Melanesian cluster. A clergyman named Mr. Aikin was killed with him. They perished on the island of Santa Cruz, one of the Queen Charlotte Group,—near the New Hebrides, and have doubtless fallen victims to that detestable traffic which is now paralyzing the hands and imperiling the lives of every servant of Christ on these islands.

We ask our readers to turn back to our July number and read the Bishop's letter, and he will find it to be the production of a man thoroughly acquainted with his subject, and he shows the trade to be "a disgrace to humanity and a repudiation of Christianity," for the prohibition of which