

New Hebrides.

THE KANAKA SLAVE TRAFFIC.

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Mr. Sawers, who was murdered lately on Santo was not "a young English missionary," as stated, but a trader living on Santo. He had just been married to a British woman, to whom he had been engaged for some twelve years; but instead of taking his bride with him to his home, he left her at the mission house of Rev. Joseph Annand, M.A., who had celebrated the marriage, and went off in his boat avowedly to prepare his house for her. On reaching his station, the Santo natives murdered him, for some reason unknown to us; but even among our savages there is generally some cause for such revenge upon traders living among them.

Mr. and Mrs. Annand, our excellent missionaries living on Tongoa, off Santo, having recently opened a new station there among the cannibals, were placed in considerable difficulty and danger by this murder. The natives all left their station and gave up attending the school and church, and for a time the work of the missions among them was suspended; but Mr. Annand wisely and devotedly improved the time at his printing-press, printing the Gospel by Matthew, which he had translated into their language. French and English men-of-war have since punished the murderers of Sawers and his party, if possible to intimidate the islanders from taking the lives of other traders, and make them and their property more safe till those islands are annexed and under the government of some civilized nation. However, we look not to civilization, but to the blessed, enlightening, and sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit on the teaching of our dear Lord Jesus as revealed in the Scriptures to lead civilized or savage nations to fear God and respect the lives and property of others; hence we pray and labor by the Gospel to lead all to know and love and serve Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour,

who loved us and gave Himself for us. We believe that the Gospel is the only real civilizer of man wherever found; all brought under its power and influence soon enjoy all the blessings of civilization which accompany it and follow in its train. The Master's advice is, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all other things shall be added unto you."

Many lives were taken, and are yet taken, by the cannibals of those islands who have not been reached by the enlightening, sanctifying power of the Gospel; but on the twenty islands our mission occupies, life and property are now comparatively safe, and they will become safe on all, as the natives are led to love and serve God. Trade and large commercial business is also now following in the wake of the teaching of the Gospel where a few years ago no white man durst set foot on shore without the fear of being killed and eaten by the savages. Oh that such races could enjoy communion with its blessings without its curses in intoxicating drinks, opium, dynamite, fire-arms, and vice, as forced upon them by trading pioneers from civilized nations to their destruction, as now among the remaining heathen of our island! The wonder to me is that they don't murder ten for every one of the slavers, or "Kanakan labor traffickers," who are sailing about among the islands to kidnap and get away, by every means in their power, all the young men and women who so fall into their hands. Britain would murder every man who so, under any pretense, robbed her of her sons and daughters, and the world would praise her for it and support her in it; and yet she tolerates this blood-stained traffic with its many evils, as by law authorized in Queensland, New Caledonia, etc., which is rapidly depopulating the islands and sweeping away defenceless races to satisfy the godless white man's greed of gain by them. Oh for the time when every one shall do to his neighbor as he would be done by from love to the Lord Jesus!