

and incorrect statements, and its uncharitable spirit, it very ill merits.

I consider it, therefore, but just to myself and the mission, and respectful to the Board, to lay before them the leading facts of the case, that they may judge in this matter for themselves. Regret has been expressed that this had not been done sooner. Had we anticipated the amount and character of the misrepresentations, exaggerations, and censures to which we have been exposed, we might have done so; but this we did not foresee. We were not conscious of any crime, and we did not think of setting up any defence. It is a principle with me never to defend myself till I am attacked. As soon as other duties permitted, I did write a statement of the leading facts to our Committee; whether or not that may have met your eye, and if it did, to what extent it was satisfactory, I of course do not know; it was for the most part a simple narrative, not a defence. The *Record's* strictures, however, have necessarily made me assume the defensive.

Allow me also to say that although the editor of the *Record* might have felt it to be a duty incumbent on him to wash his hands, and clear himself, the Board, and the Church, from all complicity in this affair; yet having done so, there was no necessity laid upon him for throwing so much blame upon us till we had been heard. He might, in a few sentences, have vindicated the Church and the Board, by stating the principles on which the mission is authorised to be conducted, and that if, on a thorough knowledge of the case, it should be found that the missionaries had acted otherwise, it would be treated as the doings of individuals, not of the church; and without bespeaking a charitable judgment till the facts were fully known. But instead of this, the very worst enemy of the mission, even in a case of special pleading, could hardly have made out a worse case against us. That the church may be whitened we must be blackened. Mr. Geddie and Bishops Selwyn and Patteson, arrayed in robes of peerless excellence, and adorned with every missionary grace and virtue, are brought forth and made to confront us; while we,

dressed up in sordid and tattered habiliments, are made to stand blushing for shame in their august presence. We are made to stand on the pillory in the sight of christendom, and declared unfit to associate with the common brotherhood of missions.—From the world we think ourselves entitled to justice; from the church, from our brethren, we think ourselves entitled to something more, to charity. Alas! in the present case we have, as we think, got little of either.

It is well known that captains in the British navy are, as a general rule, not only men of high attainments in their profession, but men of good common sense and great humanity; and, hence, when one of these has made himself a terror, it may be almost safely inferred, that he has made himself a terror only to evil-doers. When in addition to this, as in the present case, five missionaries, on the spot, with all the facts of the case before them, unanimously sanction the proceedings, it may charitably be supposed that there were some good grounds for doing so, which those on the other side of the globe were perhaps not aware of.—None of us were children; none of us had reached the years at which dotage usually begins. From our antecedents and position we might reasonably claim, and it might be charitably conceded to us, that we possessed among us an average amount of common sense; that we had an average knowledge of the principles on which modern missions are conducted; that we had as much acquaintance with Biblical criticism, as to know the usual interpretations put upon the few texts quoted in the *Record*; that the words "all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" must not be pressed too hard to yield a literal interpretation, otherwise every soldier would die a violent death; and that "when they persecute you in this city flee ye into another," is a permission, not a command, and given primarily to itinerant missionaries in a civilized land, not to missionaries settled in heathen isles; that in these circumstances we were not likely, rashly and recklessly, to compromise ourselves and the mission in the face of all christendom. We were cer-