

sooner got on board than they were clapped below.

As this is a fair specimen of the class of agents employed in this nefarious traffic, we shall, with your pleasure, endeavor to sketch him. *Charles Hyde*, a native of New York, rather below the middle size, about 35 years of age, peering eyes, sallow countenance sufficiently sun burnt, blotted face and bare boned—certainly no great temptation to cannibals; and yet the deceived Erromangans are threatening to give him a trial in their oven should he either fortunately, or unfortunately, fall into their hands. So far as I can gather, he came to these islands about ten years since, in the capacity of a cook or steward, or board a Sandal-wooder, or trading vessel. He remained on this island four or five years, shifting from place to place as circumstances required, for he made himself very odious to the natives, by meddling with their women, running off with other men's wives, stealing fowls and pigs, and having a hand in killing a native of the island of Lifu, (one of the Loyalists), and three Erromangans, (two men and a girl). Quitting Erromanga he went Sandal-wooding to Santo, where he took a prominent part in killing ten natives of that island, in a skirmish caused very much on account of his pilfering propensities. After leaving Santo two years ago, he, along with another, set up a kind of a cocoanut oil establishment at the north end of the island of Tanna; but having sold to the slavers, sons or relatives of a chief there, he was beat out this year by the enraged Tanese, when he made good his escape to Port Resolution, which appears to be his present head quarters.

On the afternoon of the 6th inst., a little schooner came to anchor in this bay. The anchor was not long down when two natives of Novas. or South River, made their appearance here, saying that Charley was on board the vessel in the bay, and had succeeded in inducing nine of their friends into his boat, declaring he had very large pigs for them on board,—excellent ones for their approaching feast,—as well as tobacco, powder and shot, etc., in abundance. On hearing this story there was a good deal of excitement among even the stolen natives, as not a few of their near relations had been stolen in a similar manner on previous occasions. I told them to keep very quiet, but it would be as well if they could ascertain for me the name of the vessel, Captain, and where bound for. Accordingly four or five went off at once to the vessel in my boat, but as it was now dark they could not make out the name of the craft, neither could they find out the name of the captain, nor where bound for, nor yet could they see any Erromangan on board. They

learned, however, that it was their intention to water on the following day, this being a convenient place for that purpose. Consequently, early in the morning, a boat with five natives of Mare landed at this station. I desired them to come into the verandah in order that I might ask them a few questions, and here I may add, with one exception, I found these natives calm and patient in their conduct, thoughtful and accurate in their expressions, and the knowledge of one of them, especially of English, surprising for a native,—in short, quite a credit to the missionaries on that island, Messrs. Jones and Creagh. Their story is as follows, viz.: *Schr. Latona*, Capt. Smith, from Queensland, came to Mare, got six men; thence to Tana, took on board Charley and got fifteen men at different places; next to Erromanga, got nine men. "Now my good fellow, are you sure of the number you got at Erromanga. You know nine are four and five;" holding up my fingers in native style. He replied somewhat indignant, "Yes, me know nine; me know English." "Well, my good friend, I see you do—but tell me now where these nine Erromangans were last night, when their friends could not see them on board your vessel?" "Ah! we put them below." "Why do you do that?" "Because we no like 'em see their friends when near their own land." "Then I understand you have put them down below, and closed the hatches upon them until you are away from the land; is that what you do?" "Yes, we do that." "And have you done the same to the Tanamen?" "Yes, we do same man Tana, we keep 'em below."

Having obtained this information I wrote the following note and sent it off in a canoe:

*"To Capt Smith, Schr. Latona,*

I understand you have got nine Erromangans by treachery and lies to go on board your vessel yesterday. I have therefore to request you will have the kindness to send them on shore immediately, that I may question them on the subject. Meanwhile your boat will remain here until you comply with my request.

JAS. MCNAIR.

*Dillon's Bay, October 7, 1868."*

In half an hour or so a boat was seen coming up the river with three white men in it and a number of natives. The white men were armed to the teeth with revolvers and rifles, one of whom remained in the boat, the other two came up to the verandah and knocked violently at one of the doors, and then came to one of the windows which was open. When I observed that he was so heavily armed and another rough at his back similarly equipped, I ordered him to put away his arms at once and then