

mate of the vessel. The business of the *Hopeful* was to trade on the New Guinea coast, and carry off as many coolies as she could obtain for the Queensland sugar plantations. Really the *Hopeful* was a slaver under a thin guise. And no slaver among the worst of the thousands who in the bad old times trafficked in black human bodies on the West Coast of Africa, was ever maned by a more fiendish and remorseless crew.

On a June morning, four or five canoes came off to trade in all simplicity. They were black pagan savages; the schooner's men were white ostensible Christians, but savages still, such as Hamlet would have described as 'bloody, bawdy villains, remorseless, lecherous, treacherous, kindless villains.' An eye-witness says the schooner's boats were lowered to meet the canoes. McNeil said to him, 'We are going to round them up.' The boats were armed with Snider rifles and pouches. The canoes fled for the shore. The boats got alongside a small canoe, when a boy took up a paddle. McNeil put his rifle to his shoulder, and the man with the paddle fell dead; and he called Williams, his boatswain, to pick up the swimmers, and six were so captured. One swam for the shore and Williams shot him in the back of his head.

The boats returned to the vessel with the other islanders, and the *Hopeful* sailed for other islands to repeat her frightful career of cruelty and bloodshed. Yet by one of the largest petitions ever got up in Queensland, to the Governor in Council, praying for the release of those unmitigated ruffians, the prisoners are set at liberty. We venture to say that no such miscarriage of justice ever before occurred in any part of Australia. There is no iota of palliating circumstance connected with it. The crimes were no outburst of insanity, but a long series of diabolical deeds, with greed as their motive, and robbery and murder as the means. These men fit out a ship to steal men's bodies, and slaughter scores to accomplish their ends. They serve six years in gaol, and have now obtained the Queen's pardon, at the bidding of a popular clamour,

The whole incident is intensely demoralising. The blood of the offenceless and defenceless black men will smoke up before high Heaven in protest against the iniquity of their release.

Oh, that our British authorities would suppress this traffic, over which we weep and mourn and protest! It cannot be regulated, it must be suppressed to stop its shocking crimes, and free us and Britain from responsibility. Entreatings the sympathy and help of all the enemies of slavery.

JOHN G. PATON.

A DAUGHTER'S INFLUENCE.

So much has been written in this world about a mother's influence, and rightly too—for there is no love like hers, no nature so self sacrificing, no one so surely who care for us in quite the devoted way that she does, consequently her influence over us is great.

But the daughter? Did you ever stop to think of the many quiet, sweet lives hidden away, whose influence may not radiate far beyond the home circle? But just there, what a power for good they are! The mother, how naturally she turns to her for companionship, comfort and sympathy. The brothers, what a grand opportunity to win their regard, their love. 'Tis said we are born brothers and sisters, but love and affection we must win,' as much in our own homes as we do abroad. How full of all charitableness, uprightness, truthfulness and integrity she should be.

How often have I heard girls whose lives are shielded and protected, have pleasant bright homes, say that they are disgusted with life; it is not worth the living, etc., the results, perhaps, of some annoyance, loss or disappointment. How little they realize that

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,

Whose deeds both great and small

Are close knit strands of an unbroken thread,
Where love ennobles all.

And surely our duty is to those whom God has placed nearest to us, perhaps sometimes influencing them unconsciously, but always continually and surely. God grant that it may always be to His honour and glory, thus making this world better and brighter for having been a daughter and a sister.—*Selected.*

NEW HEBRIDES ITS COMMERCE AND MISSIONS.

The commission of the Australian and Tasmanian Presbyterian churches to the New Hebrides may be regarded as eminently successful. A full report of the work of the missionaries, and of the special subjects of inquiry, will be duly presented to the General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in Australia. In the meantime it will be interesting to know that political questions in regard to the islands are very quiet, that nothing has happened for some time that is likely to disturb the progress of civilization and Christianity. The dual control by the English and French is working very satisfactorily, and unless any untoward aggressiveness on the part of the French happens, this form of government will suffice for some time to come. This is the weak line in the chain, however, and if any trouble arises in the near future this very