

enjoyed such visits. When Selwyn was raised to the Episcopate of Lichfield, Patteson succeeded him as the missionary Bishop, and his name is now added to the honoured list of the martyrs of the South Seas.

It is somewhat singular that he had a kind of presentiment that he would suffer from the lawless and inhuman doings of the kidnappers. He was unable to attend the Synod of his church in New Zealand that met last autumn, and therefore sent a paper to be read at the meeting of the Court on the chief hindrance to mission work in the South Seas, viz.,—the stealing of the natives to be sent to the plantations of Queensland and Fiji, under the pretence that only 'emigration' was encouraged. This was probably the last document of importance written by him, and it is given in full in the *New Zealand Church News* of October. He declares in it that the traffic is carried on to a great extent in the Northern New Hebrides; and we are especially concerned in this, as it is there that Mr. and Mrs. Goodwill are labouring. May God preserve them! We give an extract from the Bishop's paper that shows how the milk of the poor natives has been turned into gall by the treachery and brutality of the kidnappers. He says:—

"A captain of a whale ship writes to me—'The natives of these islands would come off in former years, bringing such articles of trade as their islands afford, for which we paid them with hatchets, tobacco, fishhooks, &c. They thanked us and we thanked them. At times our decks were crowded. This, when slaving commenced, was all to the slaver's advantage, for the natives were easily enticed below, the hatchets put on, and the vessel was off.' Now no native comes on board the whale ship, and we, in our turn, dare not land. Again, we used to carry people from one island to another, when they wished it, and they would give us hogs and other articles. This also had been taken advantage of, and the natives carried into slavery instead of home. Should we be shipwrecked, our lives must go for those that have been stolen, and the natives will be condemned, and called blood-thirsty, &c.; and yet what will the natives have done? Not certainly right, but no more than civilized people have done in many cases. I hear that they use your (Bishop Patteson's) name to decoy natives from their islands, and I also hear from good

authority that they inquire very particularly of the whereabouts of the Southern Cross' (the mission schooner)? We experience to some extent the evil effects of this traffic which has been described in this last extract. In many islands where we were already on more intimate terms with the people we are now obliged to be very cautious. Unless we are so well known as to be thoroughly trusted, we have to begin again to some extent the task of disabusing their minds of the natural suspicion and distrust which these 'nefarious practices' excite. . . . In conclusion, I desire to protest, by anticipation, against any punishment being inflicted upon natives of these islands who may cut off vessels or boats' crews until it is clearly shown that these acts are not done in the way of retribution for outrages first committed by white men. Only a few days ago a report reached me that a boat's crew had been killed at Espirito Santo. Nothing is more likely. I expect to hear of these things. It is the white man's fault, and it is unjust to punish the coloured man for doing what under such circumstances he may naturally be expected to do. People speak and write inconsiderately about the treachery of these islanders. *I have experienced no instance of anything of the kind during 14 years' intercourse with them*, and I may fairly claim the right to be believed when I say that if the Melanesian native is treated kindly he will reciprocate such treatment readily. The contact of many of these traders insures all the worst suspicions and passions of the wild untaught man. It is not difficult to find an answer to the question, who is the savage and who is the heathen man? *Imperial legislation is required to put an end to this miserable state of things.* Stringent regulations ought to be made and enforced by heavy penalties as to the size and fittings of vessels licensed to convey natives to and fro from the South Sea Islands to Queensland and Fiji. All details should be specified and vigilantly carried out as to the number of natives that may be put on board, their food, clothing, payment, term of labour, and re-conveyance to their homes. Two small men-of-war ought to cruise constantly off the islands, and especially in the neighbourhood of Queensland and Fiji, to intercept vessels bringing natives to those parts, and to examine into the observance or non-observance of the regulations."

Those are exactly the sentiments that we have heard from Dr. Geddie's own lips, and that he has again and again urged with his pen. And indeed how can anyone wonder at such acts of retaliation! As the *London Times* puts