

stones, of the bodies which he had eaten, and they numbered 900! The horrid practice mingled itself with all the acts of life and worship. The building of a canoe, the burial of the dead, the payment of tax, and even the taking down of a mast, were each accompanied with this revolting ceremonial. A chief has been known to kill eight or ten men in order to make rollers for the launching of his canoe, and the ovens were previously ablaze to cook them for his banquet. We must draw the veil over still darker scenes which will not endure recital in Christian ears."

Amid all this savagery, Mr. Hunt writes, "I feel myself saved from almost all fear, though surrounded with men who have scarcely any regard for human life. We are in the hands of a God whom even the heathen fear, when they hear of Him. The people at Lakemba say that their God has actually left the island, because our God has beaten him till his bones are sore!" Ere long converts were made to the religion of the cross, and with conversion came persecution of the Christian neophytes, who were pillaged of their property by the heathen. Yet the sufferers bore with noble cheerfulness "the spoiling of their goods."

After seven months, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Lyte, and their two wives removed to the island of Samosamo, where only one white man had ever gone, and he a short time before had been barbarously murdered. Their reception was disheartening, and the scenes which they were compelled to witness were appalling in the extreme.

"Within a week news came that the king's youngest son was lost at sea. Forthwith an order was issued that sixteen women, some of them of high rank, should be strangled, and despite of Hunt's entreaties they were put to death, and then burned in front of the mission-house, amidst the blast of conchs and the yells of incarnate demons. Some months later, eleven men were dragged with ropes to ovens and roasted for a banquet, and when the missionary's wife closed the window-blinds against the sight of the horrid festival, the infuriated natives threatened to burn down the house unless they were re-opened."

In 1840, Commodore Wilkes, of the United States Navy, visited the island, and so deplorable was the condition of the missionaries that he offered to convey them away, but they