

Massacre of Protestants in the South Sea Islands.

Those who have followed with care the course of missionary effort in the South Seas will remember the wiles and cruelties of Jesuit Missionaries, who have crept into some islands under the shelter of the French flag. They will not be surprised to learn that blood has been shed, that a cruel massacre has been committed under the leadership of Jesuit emissaries. It is stated that on the 24th April, in the island of Faiane, in the Loyalty Group, an organized effort was made by Roman Catholics to cut off certain persons living at the village of a chief sometimes called Wangarei or Ombalou. At the express instance of that ruling chief, four Islanders were set upon and murdered in cold blood. Another section of the same party resolved to attack certain natives when at Prayers—apparently Protestant converts. Four of these were slaughtered by the gang, and several severely wounded. The survivors fled to their own village, followed by Ombalou. Here they made some defence, but were soon overpowered by Ombalou's men, who were well armed. Four more were killed, and amongst them an old man who was chopped with an axe in the most cruel manner, and who lived several hours. One of the attacking party was killed, and the houses of Ombalou's enemies or victims were burned to the ground. Wangarei (or rather Ombalou) had possessed himself of supreme power in those parts, and had actually interdicted all Protestant worship. From Faiane to Wakat all were ordered to become Roman Catholics. Some were literally brought over by the edge of the axe. The reading of the Bible was forbidden by this savage. The Protestant catechists had been driven out of the villages at which they had been stationed. The offence given to Ombalou was supposed to be the building of a Protestant place of worship a few months since—sanctioned by the New Caledonia Government, but disallowed by Wangarei.

Mr. Sleight sends in a report to the Governor of New Caledonia, dated from Faiane in Ouvea, (one of the Loyalty Group), on the 8th of May. It appears that he arrived at Ouvea, on the 2nd May, to look after the Mission there, Mr. Ella being away in England. He states that he found everything in a very sad state, war, or rather a wholesale butchery, going on. He states also that a fortnight before the date of his letter, men were set upon and killed by Wangarei's orders whilst out fishing, and whilst engaged in prayer. He attributes all of the murderous conflict to the ill-will of Wangarei, or Ombalou, to Protestantism, and to his desire to extirpate

it throughout the island. At Faiane, Wakat, at Lekin, and elsewhere, the Protestant worship was strictly interdicted. Mr. Sleight remonstrated with the persecuting chiefs, and claimed freedom of conscience for all the people who have adopted the Protestant faith, but in vain. He appeals to the Government at Neumea.

Mr. Rousell, the Roman Catholic priest stationed at Faiane, has also sent in his report, which, of course, endeavours to exonerate the Catholic party. In this document Mr. Rousell says that the cause of the rupture was the persistent attempt of the Protestant party to build a church where it had been forbidden.

We have before us Part I. of the memorial Sketch promised of the life and ministry of Rev J. Campbell of Sherbrooke, which was detained rather long in getting information on a few matters of fact. We regret that it cannot now appear in this number, without crowding out, what cannot well stand over; for, as it must occupy a place in two numbers its postponement must be till January. We are persuaded, however, that nothing will be lost by the delay, and that it will be read with great interest when it appears in our next volume.

Our Foreign Missions.

Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions.

The Board met in New Glasgow, Oct. 9th, Dr. Bayne in the chair, besides whom were present Rev. Messrs. McKinnon, McCurdy, Mowitt, Thompson and McGregor, and Mr. John Miller.

Rev. Messrs. J. Annand and R. Cumming were invited to sit as corresponding members.

MR. ANNAND'S TOUR.

A report of Mr. Annand's visits to the churches in the Presbytery of Truro, and the eastern portion of Halifax Presbytery, was read. Our acknowledgments, which show the results, afford a fair indication of the interest shown by the people in meeting and hearing Mr. Annand. In the Truro Presbytery the meetings more especially cheering to the Missionary, were at Bass