

whose whole aim is plunder and theft, and who cannot properly discern the difference between a missionary and a trader, especially in this class of men call upon us and profess themselves friendly? Very recently, a kidnapping vessel here succeeded, by the assistance of a native villain, in inducing on board the ship nine women for improper purposes, accompanied by ten men, who were no sooner taken down below than the hatches were closed, and the vessel proceeded on her way. Our lives were very frequently put in danger by such atrocious conduct, which disgraces humanity. One of the chiefs, a few days ago, came in great rage, and ordered us off the island; and threatened, if we did not go, he would bring a party of bushmen and kill us. I endured with much patience his insulting language, until he had gone too far. I then took a stand in self-defence, as I had more than once occasion to do, and he soon "took to his heels." I have heard since that he is very sorry for his bullying, and is talking about bringing us a pig as a present, in the way of making up friendship. This may only be treachery, in order to throw us off our guard, as one of his men the other day fired at the young heifer which Dr. Geddie gave us. She came home wounded; and, by the assistance of Capt. J. McDonald, a P. E. Islander, we succeeded in extracting the arrow. All the natives with whom we have spoken, disapprove of such conduct.

Her Majesty's Consul, Edward March, resident at Levuka, Fiji, hearing that our lives were put in danger by the aforesaid vessel, very kindly wrote to me for the particulars of the case. I placed the whole matter in his hands. He is the very man to bring these fellows to their senses. You have, no doubt, heard that the British Government has taken this traffic in human beings into consideration; and the result already is, we have had but few vessels this season, compared with the number last year. Her Majesty's ships are doing a good work here among the slavers. We are to have three cruisers and two or three regular war-ships in these seas, to regulate evil men and seducers, who wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived, and whose great object is gain. Here we have an excellent illustration of the words, that "The love of money is the root of all evil." Where will not men plunge for it? There is no business too sordid for its acquisition. Very frequently men lose their body and soul for it. Alas! alas! when will the bloody thirst for gold be satiated, and when will men betake themselves to rational and ennobling pursuits, such as will help to elevate fallen humanity, instead of sink-

ing degraded creatures lower and lower. This horrible trade has almost altogether destroyed our mission prospects here. It is a useless task now to be sacrificing lives and means in its pursuits. The islands are fast becoming depopulated; and the natives who are returned, are exceedingly dangerous fellows, and never come near the worship. They live upon their friends, and indolently stalk about, displaying their muskets, and exhibiting many of the white man's vices, but none of his virtues. The natives here, as a whole, by their own acknowledgment, would be sorry to part with us; but I am afraid that they do not want us, but ours.

I sent a messenger to the enraged chief, telling him to give us back all the knives, tomahaws and barter I gave for the land I bought from them, and that we would go. The result is, we have had several deputations, asking us, with much entreaty, to stop, not to go away. The high chief says that he will look out that no mischief is done to us. I am happy to state that the aforesaid chief came with a present, and wished to make up friendship. We were only too happy to do so, although we did not let him know it.

The *Dayspring* came to anchor last evening, the 20th Dec. Both our Mare teachers died—one on the 20th Nov., and the other on the 30th Nov., and the wife of one of them is on the point of death, just as I am writing.

Mrs. Goodwill is under necessity to go to Sydney to consult a medical man. She has an enlargement in her left side ever since the 1st of March. Then I shall be all alone, I may say, except my little daughter.

We received one box of home-spun cloth. The last account we heard, the Nova Scotia boxes were to be sold at auction, in Melbourne, but the sale was prevented by some person. I cannot say what has become of them. None of them came down by the *Dayspring*.

The death of our teachers has a bad effect on our natives; and the result is, we have but few at present attending worship. The *Dayspring* is leaving to-day.—I conclude, wishing all the friends God's blessing.

I remain yours faithfully,

JOHN GOODWILL.

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Extract from a private letter by Rev. John Goodwill:

We sometimes wonder at the regularity with which many of the natives go to Church on Sabbath to worship; but it is not the worship the most of them come for, but the presents they expect to get. They