

things, is two prices. I intended the book to be a first-book, but it is not serviceable now for that purpose. It is printed without capital letters, and the orthography of the language has been settled. The books now translated are Genesis, Jonah, some of the Psalms, Matthew, Luke, John, and the Acts. We greatly need to have some more printing done. At present I am engaged upon an epitome of the bible, or, rather, of church history, from the time of Adam down to the destruction of Jerusalem. The volume will also include the book of Jonah, and as many of the Psalms as I can put in without making its size too much. This I intend to have printed in long primer or English type, for a first-book, since we have been disappointed in the catechism

I remain, yours, &c.,

J. D. GORDON.

### Piracy in the New Hebrides.

The Rev. Dr. Steel, agent for the New Hebrides Mission, has presented the following petition and statement from the missionaries to his Excellency the Governor, who, in the kindest manner, received the documents, and promised to give immediate attention to them. We understand that copies of the documents have been sent to Queensland, where a bill is now before the Legislature on the employment of the South Sea Islanders.

#### STATEMENTS

*By the New Hebrides Mission regarding the traffic in natives as at present conducted among the Islands of that group.*

For some time back, and more especially within the last few years, this mission has had its attention directed to the fact that a large number of the natives of this group are being carried away in vessels, ostensibly as hired labourers to Queensland, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tahite, Torres Straits, and other parts. With reference to the full extent to which this system is carried on, this mission is not at present in a position to furnish accurate statistics; but we are fully aware that a large number of vessels are engaged in it. Within the course of the last eighteen months, vessels directly and avowedly engaged in this traffic, have called at the one island, Faté, no fewer than eighteen times; and we are aware that as many as 250 natives at least out of seven villages of that island are at present absent from their homes engaged in the service of white men. We are further credibly informed that several of the smaller islands in the northern part of this group have been almost entirely stripped of their male population.

The vessels engaged in this traffic—so far as known to us—sail under one or other of the three flags—the British, the American,

and the French. They vary in size, from ships of seven or eight hundred tons, down to small schooners of eight or ten tons.

There are various circumstances connected with this system as at present conducted among the islands of this group to which we deem it our duty to direct public attention.

1st. Many of these natives are taken away fraudulently and by force from their native land.

Instance. Towards the close of last year a vessel sailing under the British flag bound for the Fijis, having on board one hundred and ten natives from the northern islands of this group, lay too off Fil harbour, Faté. Some of the natives of Pango put off to her in a canoe. They were able to converse with the natives on board, as some of them had resided on the islands whence they came. As they neared the vessel some of the natives on board warned them not to leave their canoe, adding "We came off to her in our canoes to trade as she lay to on our shores. While we were thus engaged she bore away; and when we attempted to leave, the crew prevented us and cut our canoes adrift. Thus they stole us from our land, and if you board her, you will share the same fate. Nor does she come to anchor anywhere lest we escape by swimming ashore.

Other instances of the same kind can be given.

2nd. Many of those natives suffer great hardships and privation on the voyage.

Instance. In the beginning of this year (1867) a small schooner bound for the Fijis, having on board thirty-five natives from different islands of this group came to anchor in the harbour of Mucityum. She then started on her voyage, and after having been out a fortnight returned, reporting that she had met with unfavorable weather, and that her provisions were exhausted. In fact, the captain acknowledged that a number of the natives were so reduced by famine that they could not come out of the hold; and his statement was fully borne out by their wretched appearance.

Other instances of the same kind can be given.

3rd. Some of these natives suffer severe bodily injury, and even death, at the hands of those who carry them away, without any redress, or any inquiry being made after their blood. This naturally leads to their cherishing feelings of revenge, and taking opportunities of retaliation against white men generally.

Instance. Towards the close of last year the people of Emel, Faté, pirated a small vessel and murdered the crew, consisting of three white men. When visited this year by H. M. S. *Falcon* for the purpose of investigating this outrage, they stated in self-