

the 25th June. The Proprietors of the *Herald* who had published an article after the trial of Captain Hovell, but before the points reserved for adjudication by the full Court had been considered, as well as the letters of Mr. Neilson and myself, were adjudged guilty of contempt. They pleaded guilty and made an apology. In the case of the letter, it was acknowledged, but for the article they were fined £100 and costs. In my case, as I had put in an affidavit of ignorance—that when the letter of Mr. Neilson was sent for publication, I was not aware of the committal of Hovell, the Chief Justice thought I was entitled to a total acquittal. Another of the Judges accepted all my statements and acquitted me of intentional contempt; but adjudged me legally guilty. The other Judge, Mr. Justice Hargrave, condemned me altogether. The majority of the Court thus held me guilty, and on the 28th June I was reprimanded by Mr. Justice Hargrave, on whom as senior Puisne Judge, the work devolved when the Chief Justice dissented. You will read for yourself and judge his language—I was also to pay costs.

This has created a great excitement, and the conduct of the Judge condemned. Public opinion throughout the colony and Victoria has been unanimously in my favor, this was expressed in the papers, and also more emphatically at a large and influential meeting in Sydney. It has been a great trial to me; but I have now come out of it with no discredit to myself or the mission which I represent. The public have also relieved me of all pecuniary loss. I send a full report for your own use and a copy of the papers.

Much attention is now directed to the mode of removing the natives of the South Sea Islands, and a Commission has been appointed by the crown to examine into the matter.

I have not heard any further news from the Islands, though I have been daily expecting intelligence—as the *Dayspring* was to go to New Zealand in the end of June to take the Rev. Peter Milne and his wife to the Islands.

In the present state of affairs, missionary operations have been much injured by the removal of so many of the male population from the New Hebrides to Queensland and Fiji. It has now been clearly proved that kidnapping has occurred. This is what the missionaries have said for years; but it was difficult to prove the charge. A great check has now been placed on the whole matter by what has occurred, and the authorities are on the *qui vive*. The admiralty has issued instructions on the subject to H. M. Ships of war on this station. I have no doubt therefore that good will result.

Trusting that on examination of this matter as regards my conduct, you will agree with the public opinion here, and praying that all may issue for the good of the missionary cause.

I am, yours very sincerely,
ROBERT STEEL.

Letter from Rev. D. McDonald.

THE MANSE, EMERALD HILL,
MELBOURNE, July 16, 1869. }

My Dear Sir,—Many thanks for yours of the 10th of March. I only wish I would see your hand oftener.

Your remittance to Dr. Steel for the insurance fund reached Melbourne in due course and I have the satisfaction of telling you that, before our Assembly meets in November, within one year of starting the fund, we shall have upwards of £3000 invested for insurance. New Zealand did nobly. I need not give you the particulars as you will see them soon in print. The Mission-vessel produced a mighty impression in Dunedin, as she always does.

I had a letter last week from Mr. Cosh, dated 23rd March. Both he and his wife write in better spirits than ever and are evidently owned of God in their work. You will see their letters in the next *Review*.

The things arrived in the *Magnet* all right. They were forwarded to meet the *Dayspring* at Auckland, and reached in due course.

I sympathise with you and Mr. Morrison in the state of his health. It is a great loss to the mission that he is disabled—yet the number of agents in the mission field is steadily increasing, and I feel that the prospects of the mission are very hopeful.

Slavery in the South Seas is fairly put a stop to at last. The Captain of a slaver was condemned to death the other day in Sydney, and the supercargo of the same vessel, who escaped to Melbourne, got seven years with hard labor in our Supreme Court yesterday. A Government Commission has been appointed in New South Wales to inquire into the whole subject. With reference to more missionaries, can you not get young men—like Robertson, the cotton agent, to dedicate themselves to the mission, and begin to study for it? We have one such student here.

It is a question whether the *D. S.* will come to Melbourne or Adelaide—probably to Adelaide, as the Adelaide brethren are pressing for a visit. I have not yet heard of her arrival at the Islands.

In Victoria, about £300 have been already collected this year, for the *Dayspring* maintenance fund, so there is no falling off as yet. The neighbouring colonies, how-