

this the Commodore had acted. The documents published in our present No. show that, through Mr. Paton's representations in Sydney, steps had been taken on the subject in Australia some time previously. We are glad to find too, that they do not hold themselves accountable for the subsequent proceedings of the *Curacoa*, though we fear that from their having presented this memorial, and from their having afterwards, in solemn council, thanked the Commodore for what he had done, the world will not hold them free. We, however, had no desire to fix the responsibility upon them. Our desire, on the contrary, has always been to find something that would remove it from their shoulders. But upon whomsoever it rests, the deplorable fact still remains, that the mission has been implicated in the proceedings, which were an outrage against humanity, in a way that must bring discredit and injury upon it for years to come, both in the South Seas and elsewhere.

As attempts have been made to connect Dr. Geddie's name with these proceedings, we have thought it due to him to publish the application of himself and Mr. Copeland regarding Rangi. Dr. Geddie has not thought it necessary to refer to his conduct in case of the *Iris*. But we feel it due to him to say that Mr. Inglis, has, unintentionally no doubt, made an unfair representation of his conduct in the matter. We therefore give the facts as stated by Dr. Geddie at the time. That vessel visited the west coast of Tanna, to punish a tribe for the murder of some white men and, besides the destruction committed, carried off a chief as a prisoner to Erromanga. Dr. Geddie was not present at these proceedings, nor was he implicated in them in any shape or form. The *Iris* however, after visiting some other places in the South Seas, returned again to Tanna, with the view of restoring the chief to his own district, and if possible re-establishing friendly relations. On her way she called at Ani-teum, and the captain invited Dr. Geddie to accompany him. After due consultation and deliberation Dr. Geddie, concluded that as her mission at that time was one of

peace and good will, he might as a man of peace and an agent of the Prince of peace accept the invitation. Thus he stated his course at the time. "*As his* (Captain Loring's) *errand is now one of mercy and not of judgment*, he expressed a strong wish that I should accompany him, and aid him in any way in my power. I consulted with Mr. Inglis on the subject, and we were of opinion that it was my duty to comply." How heartily would we rejoice if this were the position occupied by our missionaries in the *Curacoa* affair.

Dr. Geddie informed us that so far as his recollection served him, no white man had been killed on Tanna for ten years. Mr. Inglis corrects this by showing that a case of white men being killed by natives occurred on the West side of the Island, in the year 1858. We accept the correction, and ask our readers to note the facts of the case. By Mr. Inglis's own admission, it appears that no white man had been killed for more than seven years before the *Curacoa's* visit—that even then the murder was committed by persons belonging to a district on the other side of the island from Port Resolution, and that the guilty tribe were punished for it at the time by a British man-of-war, the *Iris*, Capt. Loring. This took place some months before Mr. Paton landed on Tanna. Moreover, Mr. Inglis's former letters show, that the people on the different sides of the island are so distinct, that a person crossing from one side to the other is in danger of being killed and eaten. It would therefore be as unjust to punish the people of Port Resolution for crimes committed by other tribes, as it would be to bombard Halifax for any cruelties committed by either combatants in the late American War.

As to the tribes round Port Resolution, the only case on record of a white man being killed there was in the year 1857, and the facts of the case were thus given by Mr. Inglis at the time:—

"A few weeks before our arrival a white man had been killed at Port Resolution. *It is admitted by all the white men with whom he was connected, that he was more to blame than the natives.* His employer had fre-