

receiving teachers talked over. He told us that war was raging on the island at the time, and the teachers would not be safe. Only a few days before we arrived, ten men had been killed fighting, and a renewal of hostilities was daily expected. Under those circumstances, we abandoned the idea of leaving teachers for the present. We parted good friends, and hope that we may be able, at no distant time, to settle teachers on this interesting island.

I met at Tongoa a party from Moi, or Three Hills, which is ten miles distant. The party consisted of twenty persons, and they had come in a large canoe. I had been on their Island about eighteen months ago, and they were glad to see me here.

At the time of my visit, about twenty natives were stolen from their island by the schooner "Flirt," and carried off to the Fijis. The captain had engaged to take them to the neighbouring island of Apee, and bring them home in three days, for which he was to be paid in pigs. Twenty natives were too strong a temptation for the cupidity of the captain, and, instead of bringing them back to their own island, he carried them into bondage. I was an eyewitness of this outrage myself.

#### SANTO.

We brought Mr. and Mrs. Goodwill to their station at Cape Lisburn. The natives were delighted to see them. The mission premises had been well looked after during Mr. Goodwill's absence.

A vessel had been at this place a short time before our arrival for the purchase of natives. I saw axes, and very large and heavy knives, apparently made for the trade, which were given as payment. When I asked the price of a native, the people answered that they received one axe and two knives, or one axe and one knife, for a man, according to his capacity for labour.

A native who can talk a little English came on board while we lay at anchor. He brought with him a very good gun, which he said would not go off. On examination, we found that on loading her he had put in the bullet first and the powder last. We thought she was safer in his hands loaded as she was, and declined removing the charge. The native told us that the gun was the payment he received for inducing some inland natives to go to the Fijis, by assuring them that they would be brought home at the end of one yam season, with quantities of property which he found it difficult to enumerate.

During our visit, I made inquiries about a village on the opposite side of the bay, where I had been well received on a former occasion. I was warned against going to the place. The natives say that a slaver

called last year, and employed a native man known as "Santo Jack" to bring off six women for licentious purposes, which he did. When the women were on board, the vessel got under way, and carried them off, as well as the man who had been the instrument of their degradation. They are now labouring on the plantations in Fiji. The enraged husbands now seek revenge, and are on the lookout for the first white man who may fall into their hands.

The natives of Cape Lisburn gave us a letter addressed to the resident missionary. It had been left in their charge, shortly before, by the schooner "Stormbird," of Queensland. The letter was written by Mr. Watson, the agent on board. He wished to inform us that the "Stormbird" had lost her mate, a seaman, and native at Coba or Lepers' Island. The three men were fired on with poisoned arrows, and mortally wounded. They were taken to Cape Lisburn, and died there within twenty-four hours of each other. Mr. Watson requested that the word should be extensively circulated, that the character of these islanders should be known. A gentleman from Queensland met with a similar fate at Aurora, not long before. He had taken a voyage in a slaver for the benefit of his health. In one of his trips ashore, he was wounded by a poisoned arrow, and died soon after.

As we lay at Santo, we were boarded by a shipwrecked boat's crew, consisting of nine persons. They had lost their vessel, the previous night, on a small island to the S.E. of Santo. Her name was the "Lulu," Captain Bergin, and she belonged to the Fijis. She ran on shore at night and became a total wreck, the men barely escaping with their lives. She was empty at the time of her loss, and had no passengers on board. We were glad to show them the rites of humanity in these savage regions. Some of the men left us at Ifate, and others continued with us until we reached Aneteum. The traders report two other vessels on shore at Malicolo. If so, there is no hope for their crews on so savage an island.

I must now close the sickening details. The curse of slavery is fast changing the aspect of these lovely islands. The time has come for the interference of Government, and that interference has too long been withheld. Every friend of missions will not cease to pray that this abomination, which is the fruitful cause of bloodshed, sin, and crime of every description—or, as John Wesley expressed it, "the consummation of all villainies"—may soon be numbered with the things that were.

I remain, yours, &c.,

JOHN GEDDIE.