

settled, and others rarely visited by one. Some of these harbours are only accessible by water or footpath, and many of them have neither day nor Sabbath schools. There are settlements in our forests where the Gospel is rarely preached, and consequently ignorance and vice prevail. Home heathenism appears in varied forms requiring attention at our hands.

When we glance again at the last annual report of the British American Tract Society, Halifax, we are forcibly reminded that spiritual destitution still exists in our borders. When the astounding facts are brought to our notice by the labourers employed by this Society, that no less than 419 Protestant families were found destitute of a copy of the Word of God, 640 of all other religious books, and that not less than 755 persons were found habitually neglecting public worship—have we not convincing proof from these statistics that home heathenism (not of a mild type) still abounds. And when several of the colporteurs give us instances of arraying ignorance concerning a knowledge of the Scriptures, and when they tell us that Sabbath and day schools in many districts are rare, that intemperance abounds, and many are perishing for lack of knowledge—should not our zeal be aroused and our contributions come forth. Let us then, whilst aiding in the foreign work, ponder over these facts now brought to light, and forget not the poor benighted ones in our native land meriting pity and commiseration at our hands. D.

### "KIDNAPPING IN THE SOUTH SEAS."

This is the name of a work of 230 pages, of which Captain George Palmer of Her Majesty's Ship *Rosario* is the author. It has been published within the past year by Edmonston & Douglas, Edinburgh, is embellished with ten Pictorial illustrations, and constitutes a valuable addition to the accumulating mass of evidence, before which the infamous South Sea slave traffic must fall.

The Book is a narrative of a three months' cruise in the *Rosario*, commencing

at Sydney and extending to New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Fiji groups of islands. In the course of the trip, we gather information respecting all these island clusters and their populations, and are introduced to the Mission Stations of Dr. Geddie, Mr. Neilson of Tanna, the late Mr. McNair of Erromanga, and Mr. Cosh then of Fate.

It was no part of the design of the writer to describe the work or the stations of the Missionaries visited during the cruise. He does not set himself forth as their patron and apologist, yet he shows a high appreciation of their character and work, and is ever ready to repel the false charges and damaging insinuations which have found insertion in Queensland and other Colonial Periodicals. We present the following specimens of manly defence of missions. The first gives an account of the situation, work, and trials of Mr. and Mrs. McNair, who followed up the labours of the late Rev. G. N. Gordon and his brother James, the latter then on another part of Erromanga.

"When I hear all the wicked nonsense that is talked about Missionaries, and the sneers that often accompany it, I wax angry. Doubtless the sketches of the missionary settlement look very pretty on paper, but unfortunately there are some things you cannot portray, such as insufficient food, brackish water, together with swarms of mosquitoes and other insects, and often, as at Dillon's Bay, a sweltering poisonous atmosphere, accompanied by fever and ague.

The missionary schooner is often delayed on her annual trip; then the stores of flour, etc., are at a very low ebb, and frequently injured by the damp, and the sugar swarming with ants. An English labourer would often turn up his nose at their daily fare.

All these things cannot be put into a sketch of a two-roomed cottage under the shade of a cocoa-nut grove, with beautifully wooded hills as a background, Mr. and Mrs. Missionary in American rocking-chairs in front, seemingly with nothing on earth to trouble them.

But look at the real side of the picture, and see these noble men and women, who have in every age gone forth from their country and friends, often bearing their lives in their hands, to do their Master's bidding, and preach the glorious gospel of Christ to the heathen; living alone, to all intents and purposes, in a strange land—often in an unhealthy climate, and frequently