

instigating the natives to fire on him. To make the matter probable, it was confirmed by the solemnity of an oath. The whole statement, as far as Mr. Milne is concerned, is a pure fabrication. The first intimation that the missionary had of the grave charge against him was from Irving himself, four months after the event took place. It is true that two shots were fired at a boat in which Irving was, one by an enraged husband whose wife he was carrying off to ship for Queensland, and the other no doubt for some similar reason. It is doubtful if Irving would have fared better in Australia under similar circumstances. White men can point to cases on these islands where missionaries have interfered to protect them, but there is certainly no instance on record in which their influence has been employed to injure them. The avidity with which Irving's falsehood has been circulated, and the undignified and scurrilous remarks made on it, with a view to damage a Christian mission, is by no means creditable to some of the Australian periodicals. It is reported that the Queensland Government have taken up the matter in Irving's defence, and that a man-of-war is to be sent to the islands. It is to be hoped that the zeal of the Government officials will not evaporate until they have given this matter the fullest investigation. It is high time that some check should be placed on the falsehoods of the Queensland press against Christian missionaries.

Since the above was written, we have received painful tidings from the island of Nguna. A schooner called the "Fanny," was captured, and five men were killed. Mr. Milne was absent at the time attending a missionary meeting, but there were three Rarotongan teachers at the station. The "Fanny," had brought home some natives from Fiji, intending to procure others. They failed, however, to bring back two women, one of them the favorite wife of a chief, who had been taken away against the consent of her husband. The tribe of the chief decided on revenge for that and other wrongs. They boarded the vessel, killed all except the captain and mate, who escaped to the cabin, and protected themselves there by weapons. The mate, however, was severely wounded, his chin being cut off. The natives in the meantime cut the cable of the vessel, which drifted on land. The captain and mate, under cover of night, left the vessel and went in search of the mission station, which they found at last. In the absence of the missionary, the teachers gave them a welcome reception, but were obliged to conceal them. The captain was hid for seven days, most of the time in Mr. Milne's cellar, and the mate was

concealed for six days in the bush. At the end of that time, he became delirious and exposed himself to the natives, who shot him. On the seventh day, a vessel called at the place, and the teachers delivered the captain to those on board. The teachers saved him at the risk of their own lives; and had they not afterwards suffered so much in connection with this affair, the probability is that they would have been obliged to leave the island for safety. The person who rescued the captain was Mr. Thomas Thurston, formerly English Consul at the Fiji Islands, who has written a fair and impartial account of the tragedy, and appears to have done his duty in a humane and prudent manner. A few days after Mr. Thurston left, there were three slavers in Havanah harbour—viz., "Daphne," "Marion Rennie," and "Lismore." The crews of these vessels formed an expedition to revenge the Nguna massacre. They set out on a Sabbath morning, but instead of going to the guilty district, they went to the mission premises. The teachers were conducting worship with some natives at the time of their arrival. The meeting was broken up, all the teachers were put in irons, and one young man was shot dead at the door of the teachers' house. The party then called for fire to burn the missionary's house, but providentially none could be procured, and they contented themselves with breaking a new cooking-stove which they saw in the cook-house. The teachers and the wives were taken in irons to Havannah Harbour, and kept prisoners in the slavers. Loaded guns and knives were held to their breasts, and they were threatened with death if they did not confess that the crew of the "Fanny" were massacred by Mr. Milne's orders; but all efforts to extort a confession was vain. Mr. Milne returned home to a desolate station, but found the teachers at Havanah Harbour, much dispirited after the infamous treatment they had received.

TONGOA.

We met with a welcome reception at this island. When we landed, the natives knew us and ran, calling out, Missionary! Missionary! The word of our arrival soon spread, and in a short time a large crowd of unarmed natives were assembled on shore. We went to the village, which is about half-a-mile from the landing-place. I had two Rarotongan teachers and their wives with me, whom I intended to leave here; but the chief was absent, and nothing could be done until his return. He was shooting pigeons on the mountain, and we sent after him. A meeting was held after the return of the chief, and the question of