

which had been abandoned by her captain, who had fled.

"But the French have done more than merely seize vessels and rescue those found on board; they have followed the matter up to head-quarters, demanded of the Peruvian Government every native who has been taken from islands under their protection, and for every one who is missing they are demanding heavy damages. Thus the French are adopting the right course, and for the part they are acting they are entitled to, and will have, the thanks of the civilized world. So far as it appears, however, their efforts hitherto have been confined to the islands under their protection, and these are but a very small part of the countries exposed to the ravages of the man-stealer. That they are quite disposed to extend their efforts beyond their own territory, we cannot doubt; but, as a matter of fact, they have not yet done so, and in all the other exposed regions no check has been or is being imposed upon the perpetrators of these deeds of cruelty and blood.

"It appears that early this year as many as from 1500 to 2000 hapless beings, collected from the different islands, had been conveyed to South America, and at this date the traffic is being carried on with unabated vigour.

"We know from reliable authority that twenty-five vessels have been fitted out for this iniquitous and revolting trade. These were fitted out in Callao, and cleared from that port, under pretext that they were coming to hire labourers. All was to be done by fair arrangement—a thing, by the way, that bears the stamp of absurdity on its face. To mention but a single difficulty: they would find the natives of every separate group speaking a different dialect; and that would be an effectual barrier in the way of entering into an agreement. But their subsequent proceedings show clearly enough the real character of their enterprise. Deception, force, murder, are not the resorts of those who go with honest intentions to engage labourers. And in returning to the coast these vessels further discover their true character by not going to the port whence they came, but skulking into by-labours. They do not, however seem to return very frequently. The necessity for this is avoided by an expedient in keeping with the whole character of their doings. They have a depot at an island called Easter Island. This island is about thirty miles in circuit. It lies in longitude 169 W., and latitude 27 S. It is said that they have completely swept the island of its inhabitants. Seven vessels assembled at the island, sent on shore most of their crews, so doubt thoroughly armed, surrounded the natives, and carried them off. Having carried off the people, they took hogs, poultry, and whatever else they desired

and burned the houses, reserving, no doubt, as many as they wanted for their own purposes. To this island the slavers carry the wretched beings whom they manage to seize, and a schooner plies between the island and the coast, carrying cargo after cargo to slavery and death.

"These vessels are said to be in whole or part owned by a mercantile house in Callao, and this house is further said to be connected with a firm in Liverpool.

"When the 'Humboldt' sailed from Samoa on the 12th of May last, there were three of these vessels about that group lying in wait off the different islands, with the view of picking up any canoe or boat that might venture out to sea. One small boat had been caught. The crew consisted of two Samoans and one Portuguese. The captain was induced to let the Portuguese go. The Samoans he carried off.

"On board one vessel that called off Samoa there were 300 natives of different islands, and the captain wished to obtain 400 more to complete his cargo. Think of 700 human beings, accustomed to the most perfect freedom, crowded on board a single vessel, in the heart of the tropics! We have reliable information respecting the following islands and the numbers taken from them:—Fitiangi, 160; Pukapuka, 60; Manahiki and Mangarongaro, 40; Tokelau, 60; Savage Island, 160; total from these islands, 420. These islands, with the exception of Savage Island, which lies in latitude 19 S., and longitude 170 W., all lie towards the line about latitude S. 8 to 10, and longitude W. from 150 to 172. On all these islands except Fitiangi, we have missions, and it is owing to that that we are in possession of the information we have. But for that, we might have been in utter ignorance of what had taken place. And this awakens painful apprehensions as to what may have been the fate of other islands where no one is found to tell the tale of their wrongs, such as Easter Island, already mentioned, and High Island, from which, it is said, a shipload has been taken. That there have been such doings on a large scale, is clear from the fact that, in addition to the number we have named, from 1500 to 2000 have been taken to the land of bondage. On the whole, it is certain that considerably over 2000 either are now in actual bondage, or are on the way to the land of doom, or have had their lives cut short by the hardships and cruelties to which they have been exposed; and we know from good authority that it is designed to raise the number to 10,000, of course making no account of those who die on their way to their destination, or lose their lives in encounters with their captors. Such is the state of the case that now claims our sympathies—a case deplorable in the highest degree. It may be questioned whe-