

course with the natives rested, soon resorted to unscrupulous means for getting a human cargo. They tried to coax them on board their ships under promise of presents, and having succeeded, would fasten the unsuspecting natives under hatches till they had got them safely away. Where opposition was met with, the crews freely shot down the poor islanders, canoes were deliberately sunk, and these outrages were committed with impunity. The consequence was that a deadly and implacable hatred was established between the white and the black man, and reprisals on the part of the outraged natives were of common occurrence.

One of the worst features of this vile kidnapping was the use freely made of Patteson's name as a decoy by these traders; they told the blacks that the Bishop was on board, and wanted to see them; that he had broken his leg, and had sent the vessel to fetch them; and in some cases fixed his effigy to the prow of the vessel, dressed in a black coat, with a book in his hands. So degraded were these men that it is stated they assisted one tribe in war against another in order to capture slaves. Thus their ships had got to be known as "kill-kill" vessels or "snatch-s snatch" ships.

It will be readily seen from this state of things that a danger of the most fearful character threatened with injury, if not extinction, the Melanesian Mission. The islands were being rapidly depopulated, and the remnant that remained were only exasperated with murderous revenge against the white man.

The news of all this brought the Bishop back to his sphere of work as soon as ever he was convalescent. He addressed a strong memorandum to the New Zealand Synod, hoping thereby to get the English Government to take steps for the suppression of this wicked trade in slaves. As he passed from island to island he warned the natives against these sandal-wood traders, with their specious promises, and was grieved to find in so many cases that the young men had been