

the people that have been conquered are told that if they go they will get muskets and ammunition, and then they will soon conquer their enemies. Take another case. An Eromangan is employed as an agent. He has been away himself, and can speak a few words of English. He tells his people that they are by no means to go; but he goes to other tribes and tells them that it will be good for them to go; that the work will be very little, that the food and tobacco very plentiful, and the payments are very great. Such baits are too tempting to be resisted by a credulous and gullible people.

MODIFIED SLAVERY.

"That is the same system, a system of pretended contracts, of pretended hired labor, which the French attempted several years ago to introduce into some of their colonies, but which was denounced by Lord Brougham and the leading anti-slavery advocates, in Great Britain, as being virtually a system of slavery and a violation of the treaties entered into for the suppression of the slave trade, and this exposure led, I believe, to its being abandoned. Even if these contracts were freely entered into on the part of the natives, which I have shewn they are not, what guarantee is given that they will be fulfilled? One of the leading Wesleyan missionaries in Fiji wrote to us three years ago inquiring about the contracts by which the natives were engaged, and saying, 'We cannot speak to them, and have no means of knowing whether their contracts are fulfilled or not.'

HINDERS MISSIONS.

"We further object to this system because, so far as it extends, it defeats the ends contemplated by our mission. Missionary operations have been conducted on this group at a great expenditure of life, labor, and money. We have established all the ordinances of the Christian worship, and the means of religious and secular education on six islands; on two islands the entire population are under instruction. We have ten missionaries, and a large staff of native agents. We have had a mission vessel for eleven years. We have translated portions of the Scriptures into six languages, and in three of these they are printed. We have printed school books in all the six, and our missionary operations in all directions are steadily advancing. But in so far as the natives are taken off the islands, they lose the benefit of those arrangements that have been made for their instruction, and all our efforts are rendered null and void. If the natives were emigrating of their own free will, however much we might regret it, we could not reasonably complain. But when they are taken away either against their will or under false impressions, we consider ourselves in duty

bound to use all legitimate means to protect the interests of the natives and the usefulness of the mission.

"It is strongly affirmed—so strongly and so frequently that many intelligent people believe it—that, instead of being injured, the natives are greatly benefited, by being taken away to Fiji, Queensland, and elsewhere. But we hear of no religious instruction of any kind communicated to them in Queensland, if any is attempted in Fiji, and we have no reliable information that any has been attempted; we know that the thing is impracticable. The languages spoken in this group are totally different from the language of Fiji. Had there been only one language spoken in this group, some missionary might have entered that in Fiji, and instructed them; but among the natives taken from this group there can not be fewer than a dozen of languages spoken, and the natives are so mixed up together that several languages will generally be spoken on each plantation, and the few words of broken English which they acquire become the only channel between them and their employers, and also among themselves. Our experience is that, as a general rule, when they return they evince as little desire to work as before they went away, and they are greatly more averse to Christianity.

RETARDS CIVILIZATION.

"Another important consideration is this: these islands, from their fertility, and the readiness with which all tropical productions can be reared upon them, may yet be of priceless value to the Australasian colonies. But this cannot take place unless the natives are preserved and Christianised. It is now an established fact, fully recognized by the medical faculty, that colonies of the Anglo-Saxon, or any white race, can not be formed within the tropics, except under peculiar circumstances. They never become thoroughly acclimated; they may live and labor for one generation; but they soon, as a race, become feeble, degenerate, die out. Now, whatever may be said of some other groups in these seas, nothing is more certain than that the New Hebrides will never be permanently colonised by any of the white races. Even the copper-colored Malay races appear to suffer from the climate as much as the whites, so that if the aboriginal races are allowed to be exterminated, these islands will be lost to commerce and the colonies for ever. They can not be repeopled, except by robbing some similar islands equally valuable. And if the present system of deportation goes on for the next twenty years, as it has been going on for the last five, the population will be so reduced in many of the islands, that it will be impossible to keep them from complete extermination. It may be a mat-