

may, if suitably directed, be of essential service to his countrymen. He is the nephew of the chief Ocoela, who died a prisoner in the United States.

*Aborigines of Australia.*

Launcelot Threlkeld, the conductor of a mission to the Aborigines in the neighbourhood of Lake Macquarie, in his annual report, published in the beginning of this year, gives some interesting particulars respecting these people, which tend to prove the great practical evil which results from the inadmissibility of their evidence in criminal cases. The ends of justice are thereby frustrated, whether they suffer from the hands of a colonist, or from violence committed by other natives. This deficiency has been the subject of repeated remonstrance in the interviews which Friends have had at the Colonial office, and it was believed that in Australia at least a remedy would be applied, yet it is stated in Threlkeld's report, after giving the particulars of certain murders which had been committed, "Since the transactions related took place, the Royal 'disallowance' of the act to allow the Aborigines of New South Wales to be received as competent witnesses in criminal cases has been gazetted, and thus leaves them without any hope of redress, exposed to the violence of any one, excepting proof can be obtained from white witnesses, which is most easily avoided in this colony. I had apprised them of the expected piece of justice to the Aborigines. I am now perfectly at a loss to describe to them their position. Christian laws will hang the Aborigines for violence done to Christians, but Christian laws will not protect them from the aggressions of nominal Christians, because Aborigines must give evidence only upon oath [which it is pretended that they are not sufficiently enlightened to be allowed to take]. The cases mentioned show the pitiable state in which the Aborigines are abandoned by the disallowance of their evidence; nor can the small remnant of the tribes long exist to call forth sympathy, even were they to enjoy every protection of British law, unless some fostering arm be stretched out, some special Providence intervene to rescue them from ruin." Launcelot Threlkeld, who it may be observed became acquainted with our friend Daniel Wheeler when he visited Australia, states facts in another part of the report, which prove that these Aborigines are not incapable of acquiring the manners of civilized life. "Some of them gain employment as carriers, messengers, and servants, and others going on board numerous vessels which frequent the coast. At Twofold Bay there are two whale-boats entirely manned by Aborigines; one of the boats took five whales in one season, the other three. The men live in huts with their families, and cook their own provisions, the same as white people. Some of these women are good washerwomen, and one or two have made gowns for themselves."