

The Labor Traffic in the South Sea.

The Queensland Government, through a royal commission of three distinguished persons, has made a strict inquiry into the fraud and cruelty of the labor traffic carried on in the Pacific Islands by the Queensland sugar planters. After a three months' investigation, in which about five hundred witnesses were examined, they have published a report of 150 pages, which is characterized as "the blackest and most villainous tale of the sea and of the traffic in human beings which has been read for nearly a century past." The testimony of the 500 witnesses has "disclosed a system which rivals in wickedness and cold-blooded treachery the worst features of the old African slave trade."

Every species of infamous device is employed to get unsuspecting natives on board the "labor ships." Children are bought with guns, knives, calico, gewgaws and tobacco. Friendly natives are invited to visit the ships and then made captives. Boats of curious and venturesome natives are wrecked in order to get an opportunity to "rescue" them with the ships' boats. Some are hired for brief periods, and for what object they know not, but only to learn that the period is indefinitely long and the service the most galling. The poor natives die in great numbers of despair and a broken heart. Of one ship load over 24 per cent. died in a year, and of another ship 16 per cent. in ten months. Of the "recruits" of the ship *Hopeful* 11.6 per cent. died in seven months, of the ship *Sybil* 16 per cent. in four months, of the *Heath* 26 per cent. died in two and a half months.

The Queensland Government has attacked this system vigorously as a disgrace to the British civilization. Its purpose is announced to send back the whole of those wretched people to the islands from which they were taken. As usual, the threat of the North Queensland planters is secession. Measures of separation are being threatened. — *For. Mission.*

The crown of patience cannot be received where there, has been no suffering. If thou refuseth to suffer, thou refuseth to be crowned; but if thou wish to be crowned, thou must fight manfully and suffer patiently. Without labor none can obtain rest, and without contending there can be no conquest. — *Thomas A. Kempis.*

Peace.

One of the most wonderful things in the divine nature is its tranquility, serenity, peacefulness, rest. In being made "partakers of the divine nature" we share this tranquility, serenity, peacefulness and rest. And the perfection of these is heaven, or the "full enjoyment of God." The believer, when "in the Spirit," is tranquil in thought, peaceful in feeling and restful in action. He is at rest when no one praises him, and when he is blamed and despised. With God he has a home and a world in himself. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed in Thee, because he trusteth in Thee." Perfect in its ground, perfect in its nature, and rising to perfection in degree. To such the beginning, middle and end of the year are the same. Instead of resolving to begin a new life with the new year, he begins a new life every day. — *Sel.*

What Our Eyes Have Seen in Burmah.

Let me give you an instance of what I have myself seen of the miraculous results which God's Bible distributed among untutored tribes may effect. — Burmah is now exciting great interest and attracting much attention, and in Burmah we found scattered many years ago certain wild tribes called Karens. They were immersed in ignorance and superstition till the Bible came among them, brought by devoted missionaries, principally American. At least 50,000 of these tribes have become Christian, 20,000 being communicants, and a group of them came to the Calcutta Exhibition under the guardianship of Dr. Vinton, an American missionary, who, with no possessions and no badge of sovereignty but a well worn Bible, is regarded as a sovereign among them. It was a sight never to be effaced from the memory. — *Prof. Williams.*

The worst kind of religion is no religion at all; and these men, living in ease and luxury, indulging themselves in the amusement of going without religion, may be thankful that they live in lands where the gospel they neglect has tamed the beastliness and ferocity of the men who, but for Christianity, might long ago have eaten their carcasses like the South Sea Islanders, or cut off their heads and tanned their hides like the monsters of the French Revolution. — *James Russell Lowell.*