

nances approaching 70,000; upwards of 25,000 of the youthful hope of the land under religious training, and having thousands of instructive books placed for their perusal in their numerous Sabbath School Libraries; between 500 and 600 preaching stations, where Christ crucified is proclaimed by (including the Professors and Retired Ministers) about 240 servants of the Lord, besides a considerable number of missionaries without fixed charges, and extending over the length and breadth of the Province; more than 400 Prayer-meetings as centres of spiritual influence and means of stirring up sound doctrinal feelings; and lastly, between 3,000 and 4,000 zealous and devoted office-bearers, to take the oversight of things temporal and spiritual."

The *Record* thinks that a comparison with other Presbyterian churches is not at all unfavourable to that of Canada.

"In the United Presbyterian church, and in the Free church, the average number of communicants is almost precisely the same, being in the former 291, and in the latter 292. The average throughout our Church is only about 151. In the Presbyterian churches in the United States the average number of communicants is much less than with us. In the Old School church the average is 90, and in the New School 93. A comparison in regard to financial matters is not at all to the discredit of the Canadian church. With us the average contribution by each communicant for stipend and all general objects is \$6 25; in the Free church it is 27s. 10½d., and in the United Presbyterian church 24s. 1½d. In the Old School Church in the United States the average contribution from each member is about 58. When we consider the comparatively small number of our members, it is on the whole creditable that our congregations do so well.

Slavery in the Pacific

During the past month the intelligence which has reached us from the South Pacific Ocean has excited our deepest grief and indignation. The following ample communications will bring before our readers a series of most atrocious and too successful attempts to carry into slavery the natives (many of them Christian) from several of the smaller islands of the South Pacific.—These captures have been made by vessels from the Port of Callao, Peru, with a view of conveying the poor captives to that country for the purpose of working in the mines. It will be seen that, in addition to the intense distress inflicted on the bereaved families, whose husbands, fathers, and sons have been torn away by these brutalised men-steal-

ers, the cause of Christian Missions has been all but destroyed in many of the little islands where it had arisen to strength and fruitfulness.

This mournful intelligence has produced the strongest sensation throughout Australia; and in the several colonies public meetings have been held, at which petitions and memorials have been adopted, urging on the British Government the necessity of immediate measures for the repression of this monstrous evil, and, if possible, for the restoration of the captives to their country and their homes. We cannot do better than give our readers some extracts from the "Sydney Morning Herald," describing these public proceedings.

A Public Meeting was held in Masonic Hall, Sydney, on Thursday evening, the 18th June ult., to protest against these enormities.

The Hon. John Hay, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, presided.

The following written statement was delivered by the Rev. A. W. Murray, a missionary who has laboured in Polynesia for upwards of twenty-five years. Mr. M. mentioned that the principal authorities to which he was indebted for the facts embodied in the following statement were the Rev. Henry Nisbet and the Rev. Henry Gee, Missionaries in Samoa; the Rev. W. G. Lawes, Missionary on Savage Island; J. C. Williams, Esq., H. B. Majesty's Consul for Samoa; Captain Webster of the "Flying Fish;" Maka and Samuela, Native Teachers; and a letter which appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald."

Mr. M. proceeded as follows:—

"The first attempts to capture and carry into slavery natives of the isles of the Pacific, so far as our information goes, were made among the small islands of the Tahitian Group, under French protection, about twelve months since. To the honour of the French authorities in Tahiti, they adopted prompt measures to put a stop to these iniquitous proceedings. One vessel, the 'Mercedes Uhlhoff,' was seized with over 150 natives on board. These, of course, were all rescued. The vessel was condemned and sold, and the captain sentenced to five years' penal servitude, and the supercargo to ten. These infamous men are now undergoing their punishment.—Four or five other vessels have also been seized by the French, and have had their career as slavers abruptly brought to a close. We are not in possession of particulars as to how they have dealt with the several vessels they have captured. One was allowed to return to Callao, having sold all her rice and other provisions, so as to render it impracticable for her to proceed on her voyage as a slaver. Four others were being detained at Tahiti at the close of April, one of