

was my best scholar and proved quite a help to me in the language. When the heathen dancing began on the mainland the temptation was too great for him so he ran off and took part. Twice he returned after a night and a day's revelry, but then he asked for his pay as he did not wish to stay longer on the Station.

Two weeks ago he stole his brother's wife and ran off to an inland village, leaving his own wife behind. Now I am told that he has sent word back that he will return and give up the woman if the people here will pay him some pigs. (How is that for justice?) Very probably after a few weeks he will be paid to return and give up the woman.

A couple of months ago a man in the village stole another man's wife, and the matter was settled by paying the thief three pigs for the woman. A successful thief is a profitable thing, when unsuccessful, trouble and loss follow the attempt. It is somewhat hard to understand their principles of action. They often act from impulse instead of from principles and in their case the former appears the more correct ground of action.

We are both very well. With united love to Mrs. Morrison, yourself and family,

I am yours faithfully.

J. ANNAND.

#### SLAVERY IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

One of the greatest hindrances to our mission work in the South Seas is the so called "labor traffic" which is carried on there, and which is one of the most cruel forms of slavery. The traffic is this. The sugar planters in Queensland, Australia, and in Fiji want cheap labor for their plantations, and vessels are sent to get laborers called "kanakas" from the Islands wherever they can be obtained. In theory it is a free contract, the laborers engaging to serve for a period of three years in Queensland, for a certain rate of wages, and to be sent back to their own island at the end of that time. In practice, it is a system of kidnapping and cruelty worthy of the darkest days of the slave trade. Men and women, especially young men, are enticed, captured, by fair means or foul, from their own islands, carried to Queensland, where amid all manner of cruelty and hardship they are compelled to

toil. Many of them die of their ill treatment before the end of three years, and this is profitable for the planter as it saves him paying the wages and sending the laborer back to his home.

Some six years ago the crew of a labor ship named the *Hopeful* were guilty of a series of great atrocities and murders. Some of them were imprisoned, and now after serving a few years a large petition has been presented in their favor and they have been released.

Our missionaries complain bitterly of the carrying away of so many of the young men, and earnest efforts have been made to induce the governments of Queensland and of Britain to put a stop to this legalized slavery which is one of the darkest blots on the nation's honor. The Queensland government decided to stop the traffic in 1890, but so great is the pressure brought to bear upon it by the planters and others that the prospects are not encouraging.

Rev. John G. Paton, one of the missionaries in the New Hebrides, now agent in Australia for the mission, writes the following letter to the *British Weekly*.

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

May 20, 1890.

SIR.—Let me cordially thank you for bringing my article on the above subject before the many readers of your excellent paper; for I have long thought that if the British public knew the real character and constantly-occurring atrocities of this traffic in men and women to supply cheap labour for the sugar plantations in Queensland at fourpence a day and for Fiji at twopence per day, for which work they would have to pay white men from five to eight shillings per day, the friends of humanity and the enemies of slavery would long ago have done all possible to get it suppressed, as the only effectual prevention of its many evils. On returning from a long mission tour, I am, indeed, glad to see that it has led to some correspondence, in replying to which I have another opportunity of exposing its crimes and pleading for its suppression by the Imperial Government, as it is a sad, dark stain on our British honour.

ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Mr. J. E. Teall, of the Anti-Slavery Society, says:—"The New-Hebrides, I be-