

were seen. The missionaries report the islanders as being amongst the worst they have to deal with in the South Pacific; those who have been labouring amongst them during the past few years have been treacherously killed and eaten.

The remainder of the natives we had brought with us from Fiji were afterwards landed: some had been absent for three years, employed on Captain Hill's cotton-plantation at Ramby, and had received as payment some 5*l.* or 6*l.* worth of goods. Besides other things, such as calico, a looking-glass, and small trifles, were two Tower muskets, powder, shot, bullets, caps, and a bullet-mould. The hatchets and knives were of the usual useless kind, manufactured expressly for the South Sea Island trade, and which turn at the first blow. The influence of the labour men in civilising their friends must be considerable. Men who have worked side by side on the same plantation are, on their return home, unlikely to continue the hereditary quarrels, which they must recognise as the cause of the desolation of their island. They remain at home generally but a very short time; life, with plenty of good food, even when accompanied with compulsory labour, being preferable to the nearly destitute state of existence to which they have been reduced, in consequence of their family feuds having destroyed most of the plantations.

We found that nothing could be done here,