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ADDITIONAL FROM THE FEEJEE ISLANDS.

The Atrocities Committed by the Natives on American Settlers and Seamen.

English Missionaries the Alleged Instigators of these Outrages.

Summary Punishment of the Savages by Commander Boutwell, U. S. N.,

&c., &c., &c.

Our Levuka Correspondence.

LEVUKA, OVALAU, FEEJEE ISLANDS, SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN, Nov. 1, 1855.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

The Feejee Islands, situated in Oceanica, in the South Pacific Ocean, are probably the finest group as yet discovered in the South Seas, enjoying a salubrious and temperate climate, fertile soil, and capable of producing every variety of tropical fruit in abundance.

Affairs of great importance to our community out here, and having a tendency to interfere with and affect affairs at home, having lately transpired, I deem it but justice to myself, as a merchant in Feejee, as also to other Americans residing and doing business at these islands, as well as for the mercantile and large whaling interest of America, connected with this group, as also for the protection of American ships and their crews trading in this archipelago, and for the further protection of American seamen wrecked on these islands, that the attention of the United States government should be directed to the many changes that are rapidly taking place here, affecting American interests and American commerce.

Knowing that publicity is given to all communications deemed worthy of your attention, I have carefully compiled the following statement of facts, hoping that their importance to Americans will bring them to the notice of the United States government in such a manner that the results will prove beneficial to American commerce and the American whaling interests in these waters.

Some time since a most conflicting civil war broke out amongst the natives of these islands, headed by the respective chiefs who were contending for the supreme command of the Feejee territories. The different chiefs each having a strong force under their command, and being about equal in power, the war was a protracted and sanguinary one, and affairs remained in a very unsettled state for some time. During this period of anarchy and bloodshed, the natives committed many acts of cruelty and murder, and, being cannibals, ate all prisoners taken in battle.

The principal chief, Vonivala, or Thakambau, (King of Feejee), finding that the forces with which he had to contend were of such strength that it was necessary to seek assistance to carry on the war with security, rallied round him all the inferior chiefs who were disposed to espouse his cause, (and being a great villain) immediately commenced to attack and subdue all those not disposed to acknowledge him as King of Feejee.

At this period it unfortunately happened that two American whalers were wrecked at these islands; and on the fact being made known to the chief, Thakambau, by some of his people, the crews were all massacred, roasted and eaten, and the vessels plundered of a large amount of valuable property.

Shortly afterwards, one of the small trading schooners belonging to one of our community—an American—doing business here, being on a trading voyage to some of the other islands, buying beche-le-mer and cocoanut oil for an American vessel lying in this harbor and loading for Salem, Massachusetts, was attacked by the natives, by order of Thakambau, the principal chief, and after fiendishly murdering the white people on board of her and throwing them into the sea, they plundered her of everything and dragged her ashore. The excitement of this heartrending and distressing circumstance had hardly been a day old when additional news reached us of two of our community having been clubbed at one of the islands; and upon an investigation we found it to be too true.

About this time a few English strangers arrived at these islands, from Sydney, New South Wales; and finding that a good field here presented itself for enterprise and speculation, remained amongst us. There being no one amongst them who was a scientific man or mechanic, (except one, a shoemaker,) and apparently being men of some education, we retained them, to teach our children and to instruct, and endeavor, as far as possible, to convert the natives. By degrees we had the satisfaction of observing that our efforts in this laudable and interesting undertaking were productive of some benefit to the benighted heathen; and feeling convinced that the people of these islands would readily embrace Christianity if they had the advantages of proper persons to instruct and guide them, we did what lay in our power to obtain some missionaries to reside amongst us.

Not long after this, we had the satisfaction and great pleasure of receiving into our midst three worthy fathers of the Catholic church, who had made their way from France to this far off land, in the discharge of their holy calling. This event was hailed with delight by all the whites in Feejee, and the results from the arduous and indefatigable endeavors of these gentlemen have been productive of much good in these islands.

The strangers who we had appointed as teachers to our families, instead of being animated by the noble and self-denying examples of the French missionaries in their endeavors to civilize the Feejeeans, undertook to interfere in the beneficial results being brought about by these worthy gentlemen, and placed many obstacles in their way of attaining the holy cause for which they had sacrificed so much. At this crisis we consulted among ourselves, and determined to request the English strangers to leave the holy work to the French missionaries, informing them that we considered it perfectly safe in their hands, as we had found them to be gentlemen, who were, in reality, what they professed to be as dispensers of a holy faith. At the same time, we told them that the islands offered some splendid avenues to fortune and we did not wish them to leave us; but that, on the contrary, we would do our utmost to make them as happy and comfortable as possible, and to the person who had the trade in his hands, we offered constant employment as long as he wished to remain amongst us. We all preferred that the education of our little ones and others should be entrusted to the more experienced care of the French fathers, as they came to us with letters of recommendation, speaking in high terms of them as gentlemen calculated to undertake and accomplish the task of civilizing these savages; and as the character of the English strangers was clouded in uncertainty and doubt, save rumors which tended to cause us to view them with distrust, and fearing that their residence in New South Wales had savored somewhat of compulsion, we were confirmed in the belief that we had acted for the present benefit of ourselves, as well as for the future benefit of our young families.

The war continuing, and the natives carrying on a system of plunder and murder, and the insecurity of life and property being such as to render assistance and protection absolutely necessary, the matter was referred to the American government, and after a protracted delay the United States ship St. Marys arrived at these islands, with instructions to demand satisfaction and reparation for wrongs committed on American citizens.

The cupidity of the natives, however, overcoming the discretion of the commander, and they promising not to molest the white men any more, after demanding that the natives should pay for the property they had stolen, and satisfy us for the many murders and outrages they had committed upon our community, the St. Marys sailed.

As long as she remained in the group, we were satisfied of the safety of our families and property, but feared that when the natives saw that they could carry on their depredations with impunity, the visit of this vessel to these islands would soon be forgotten. And so it proved.

We could not any longer intimidate them by threatening them with a man-of-war, as a man-of-war had been there and done nothing. They now commenced to brave and dare us, and these English strangers having separated and gone to reside on different islands in the group, and having accredited themselves to the native chiefs as Wesleyan Methodist missionaries, commenced inciting the natives to molest and destroy the Americans residing on these islands. This was all the savages required to renew their aggressions upon us, and from this time the most heart-rending and cold blooded murders and atrocities were perpetrated upon as enterprising and industrious a community as ever existed. Our houses were destroyed, our families molested in our absence, our property stolen and our lives threatened, and we were driven from island to island, whenever it suited the principal chief, Thakombau, to order us to do so, and the category completed by murder and cannibalism. Nor was the enmity of the (now called) English missionaries confined to us alone, but the fruits of a wise and well directed system of education pursued by the French fathers rapidly manifesting itself upon our young ones, and those of the natives who had attended the schools opened by these gentlemen, tended to arouse the enmity of the English missionaries, and a persecution against the French fathers was soon commenced, and continues to this day.

Our ships were not safe amongst the islands, and the crews, of American ships particularly, were in imminent danger of being murdered and eaten by these cannibals.

News shortly reached us of the ship Oneo, of Nantucket, being wrecked at Turtle Island, and twenty-eight persons on board of her killed. The Charles Doggett, trading in the group, was boarded by the natives, and nine killed. The Captain and two hands of the ship Amisble Josephine were murdered at one of the adjacent islands. The Captain of a schooner from Tahiti and his mate were killed. The brig Juno, arriving at these islands and the Captain coming on shore in his boat, was secured with the boat's crew, and in danger of being killed, when we called a meeting and ransomed him at a high rate; but unfortunately previous to our arrival at the spot nine were killed. The Blackbird was forcibly taken and her crew thrown overboard and killed, struggling in the water. The Bill Fish was blown ashore, and the crew driven from her and plundered at Tocopoint. The crew was, however, saved by a Toco Chief, for which act of humanity we made a collection of goods and sent to him to show our appreciation of the act. This Chief had embraced Christianity, and great credit is due to the French Mission for the results of their labors. One of our boats, on a trading cruise to the other islands, had three of the hands killed, and the fourth taken on shore and put to a slow and cruel death. A trading vessel, belonging to an American, put into a harbor for water, at one of the islands, and while there was attacked, his wife murdered and the brains of his infant child knocked out on a stone before his eyes, and he was only spared to repair their muskets, being a handy man in that way.

Another of our community was killed, and the stumps of his arms and legs stuck in the sand and fired at.

A boat, containing four of our number, anchored at one of the Windward Islands at dark, and was attacked by the natives. Three were killed, and the fourth shot in the leg, and carried on shore with his companions. The next day he was obliged to witness the horrible feast they were making upon the bodies of his comrades, and to listen to the praises bestowed on the flesh of his friends. The following day they cut off one of his legs, and compelled him to sit and see it devoured; and on the third day they finished him.

The appetites of the natives having been whetted by the foregoing atrocities, and still craving for food for their depraved and savage dispositions, our small community was again threatened.

An industrious and enterprising member was killed at Lakemba, while trading, and his property stolen. Some of our carpenters having gone to Bau, at the request of the chief, to build some houses on that island, were killed; seven were killed at Soma-Somo, and a stranger, who had swam ashore, after struggling nearly two hours in the water, was killed and eaten. A boat belonging to one of our community was wrecked at Luthea Island and two persons killed. A canoe was sent by the Chief of Bau, Thakombau, to kill the remainder.

Hearing of the occurrence we (Americans) despatched a boat to rescue the survivors, and our boat arriving at the scene of the murder before the Indians, rescued them and brought them to this island. The chief, Thakombau, (King of Feejee) being disappointed of his anticipated prey, ordered us all to leave this island on pain of death, which we were compelled to do at an immense loss of property. The English missionaries, not satisfied with the affliction and persecution we had received from the natives through their interference, incited the Indians still further to works of destruction and spoliation; but the repetition of so many murders and outrages having nerved every man of our community to the defence of the lives of his wife and little ones, fences were immediately built around our towns, and a strict watch kept at night for fear of an invasion from the natives. Thus protected, it required great precaution on their part to attack us, and after several ineffectual attempts to cross the trenches built round our town, they abandoned the attempt.

The missionaries, as well as their tools (the natives), being foiled in their attempt at the massacre of all the Americans on this island, determined to push their malice to the last stroke, and the burning of our town was threatened. A native teacher, attached to the English missionaries and employed by them, was detailed to commit this diabolical deed, and, despite our vigilance, succeeded in accomplishing this dark design, at 10 o'clock P. M., when all save the watch were rapt in sleep.

Thus was another opportunity afforded for the satiating of their malicious appetites. Thus positioned, and the insecurity of life and property daily increasing, and new dangers encompassing us on every side, application was again made to the government of the United States for succor and assistance, and in answer to this appeal the United States ship John Adams, Commander E. B. Boutwell, Esq., arrived at these islands. Immediately upon her anchoring, all the Americans residing at these islands, viewing the arrival of this ship as a harbinger of succor and assistance from their native land, and smarting under the enmity of the English missionaries, who now had obtained full control of the natives, repaired on board and laid before the commander their several complaints. Shocked at the recital of such indignities, cruelties, privations, outrages and dangers to which his countrymen had been subjected, he assured us of his immediate assistance to replace us in possession of our property, and to restore things to the peaceful state that existed prior to the arrival of these Methodists. We informed him of the link that bound the missionaries and the natives together, and now the former had so far forgotten themselves as to countenance the atrocities committed by these savages. It was also communicated to the commander that the English missionaries had each embarked in commerce, and were deeply engaged in the traffic of these islands, leaving their spiritual affairs totally neglected, and that through their fear and dislike of the enterprising spirit existing in our community, and their desire to crush American trade in this archipelago, they levied on the Indians for large quantities of beche-le-mer (a sea slug, exported hence to China, and there used as an article of food), cocoa nut oil, tortoise shell, &c., which they shipped to Sydney for their own account and profit. By this means, when an American vessel arrived here in search of a cargo, none was to be had, except bought from the English missionaries; and as they had their own ideas of doing business (which were very profitable to themselves), they rapidly made money.

Commander E. B. Boutwell, seeing the necessity for prompt attention to our appeal for help, and determined that justice should be meted out to his countrymen in this far off land, appointed a day upon which he would hear all complaints from the American citizens, and notified all those who had any opposition to offer to repair on board the John Adams on that day, when and where he would carefully investigate all the different claims against the Feejeeans and their King.

The missionaries, hearing of the determined manner in which Commander Boutwell had spoken, and tearing that a check might now be put on the villany of the natives, and their own means of trading affected, and fearful of losing their power and sway over the Indians, made overtures to many of the Americans, which were of such a nature as to be rejected as impious. On the day appointed several of the inferior chiefs who had been notified to appear, and answer the charges brought against them by American citizens, as also by many English residents, went on board the John Adams, and were examined. The evidence convicting them of many acts of cruelty and murder, and of course, decidedly opposed to the laws of God and man, the commander asked them what they had to say? They could not but repeat their guilt, but promised for the future to discontinue their agressions on the white men, and confessed that in many of their acts of spoliation and murder they had been influenced by the English missionaries. They also acknowledged to many outrages against our community and promised that reparation should be made, and after signing documents to that effect, they were allowed to go. But before doing so a lecture was read to them by Commander Boutwell, of a very impressive nature, in which he told them of the ultimate results of continuing a course so opposed to the law of God and man, and advised them to discontinue their evil ways, and seek other avenues offering rich rewards for upright and christian-like conduct. This mode of procedure on the part of Captain Boutwell appeared to impress them deeply, and, they left the ship, it was thought, resolved to amend their ways, and discontinue their depredations upon the white men. The chief of this island, Tui Levuka, next day visited the John Adams, and expressed to the commander his willingness to commence straight-way to pay the debts due by him and his people to American citizens. This happy change in affairs inspired all the Americans and foreigners with confidence, and devoutly praying that the endeavors of Captain Boutwell to secure peace and comfort to his countrymen, as well as to the other foreign residents in Feejee, would be crowned with success, and, by the assistance of the "Father of all good," productive of much lasting benefit, we looked forward to the future enjoyment of our homes and the society of families and little ones, dwelling together in unity and love, with the halo of divine light guiding us onward to those heavenly isles where, free from all mundane troubles and corporeal afflictions, we shall dwell in peace with him who "gave himself for us," and, after fighting the battles of faith, mingle our voices with the seraphims in adulation of Jehovah.

The principal chief (and villain) of these islands, Thakombau, fearful of the consequences of the recital of the category of his atrocities, and dreading an investigation face to face with the men whose once happy homes had been rendered desolate by his hand—whose children had been murdered to satiate his savage disposition—whose daughters had been dishonored by his people, without punishment—whose property had been stolen, without any recompense—whose vessels had been plundered and dragged on shore—whose individual lives he had threatened, but whose trust in God and their country he could not shake, failed to present himself before the commander, and sent the English missionaries to act as counsel. Knowing that they were tolerated by the King of Feejee solely on account of the supposed power they had, or influence with commanders of English men-of-war cruising in these waters, they presented themselves on board the John Adams and unblushingly espoused the cause of Thakombau, the acknowledged great cannibal and murderer in Feejee, and, with law book in hand, commenced with sundry quotations from Kent's Commentaries on Arbitration. Nor did the impiety of their position, as ministers of God's Holy Word, defending a villain whose very countenance manifested his guilt, appear to affect him. They defended and contended for the cause of the King of Feejee with great tact; but the proofs against him being of such ebony blackness and blackest dye, they were finally overcome, and the weighty and undeniable evidence produced being of such an incontestible character, they were confounded, and virtue, in her comliest garb, came out triumphant. Omnipotence had heard our prayers, and Commander Boutwell was the chosen one to give us aid. Like the guilty hound having offended his master and dreading his wrath, did they return to their homes and to the counsel of their black chief.

Thakombau (King of Feejee) finding that the power or influence of the English missionaries failed to prove of any service to him, contending with a captain who was determined to do his duty to his God, as also to his country, and judging that an open confession would prove beneficial to him and tend to soothe the anger of the captain, straightway confessed his guilt, begging the captain to be lenient; and as he was under the impression that his career was near its end, (the captain having informed him that in America he would have been hung for his crimes), earnestly entreated to be pardoned.

Commander Boutwell not wishing to take life, and thinking by the earnestness of the chief that some reliance might be placed in his word, made him sign a treaty, promising his future good behaviour, to treat all Americans well, and to respect the American flag for the future, and not to place any obstacles in the way of his people becoming christians; and the chief signing papers to pay for the losses we had sustained from his hands, he was allowed to go to his home. The defeat and utter confusion of the English missionaries shaking the confidence that the chief and the people had reposed in them, tended greatly to their disadvantage, and one of their number having previously dishonored one of the wives of the principal chief, found it necessary to take passage to Sydney, his career as a Wesleyan Methodist missionary being forever gone.

Thus was villany meeting its deserts, and the hypocritical garb torn off, showing the depravity that existed underneath. Had court justice been in operation here, the Rev. gentleman would have met with some opposition in his trip to Sydney; but the members of our community, sorrowful at the degraded position the gentleman was reduced to, placed no obstacle in his way, and he was allowed to depart in peace.

The chiefs of the towns of Sassalassa and Nubia, having been guilty of many cruelties to Americans, and the robbers of their property, the John Adams, proceeded to Suva Bay. On arriving there, the commander demanded satisfaction from that people for their outrages, the chiefs refusing to go on board the ship, or to give any explanation of their conduct, their towns were burnt. A few days after the American Consul arrived at his headquarters from Ovalau, and on his arrival at Vutia, one of the chiefs of that town came up to him, and insultingly remarked, "Stop until your ship leaves Feejee and we will murder you and take your property." Their former acts of cruelty and murder, and the many outrages they had committed, convinced Commander Boutwell of the necessity of punishing them. But this insult to the representative of the American government, and the threat from a savage of murder, to a Consul of our vast republic, and that too when a ship of war belonging to that nation was in port, and their apparent total disregard of country, flag, or its representative, and fearing that as the commander had been informed by all the Americans, that unless an example was made, their course, after the departure of the ship, would prove more aggressive than ever it had been; and we ourselves dreading the consequences, and informing the commander that it would be unsafe for Americans to live here, Commander Boutwell sent an armed expedition to the town of Vutia, demanding the Chief who had threatened the life of the American Consul. They refusing to give up the Chief, and insultingly speaking to the officer in command of the expedition, the town was burnt. The Chiefs of two other towns having murdered an American, and plundered an American vessel, and refusing to appear on board the ship, the two towns were burnt.

The natives, seeing that Commander Boutwell was not the man timely to submit to see the flag of his country insulted, or to sit and quietly hear the recapitulation of the aggressions against his countrymen, by these cannibals, without punishing the offenders, changed their plans of procedure, and the Chiefs of the towns which had been burnt presented themselves on board the John Adams, and protessed their desire to live in peace with all men, and to leave Americans alone for the future. Thus was the first important step taken and maintained by a ship of war, belonging to America—the first time ever fear had been instilled into the Feejeans of the power of America to punish them. The assertion of the English missionaries that "they had no cause to fear American men-of-war" was now confuted, and they surely felt it. The boasted influence of the English diplomatists over American commanders visiting these islands now lost its power. When American ships of war are sent out here, the duty of the commanders of such vessels, I should think, was to protect American citizens and their property; but it appears that the sole aim of some of the commanders visiting the group is to gain the good will and applause of the English.

If since my leaving the United States England has entered into any treaty with our republic to this effect I have not heard of the same, and the editor of the HERALD has failed to chronicle it.

Commanders of our national vessels are not supposed to adhere to the maxim, "When in Rome, do as Rome does;" but should rather bear in mind that if the conduct of the Romans warrants it, they should make Rome howl.

I am convinced, in my own mind, that an American commander, who has the welfare of his country at heart, would rather receive the true heartfelt thanks of one of his countrymen than all the undue notoriety the English might give him in the Sydney *Herald*, and which, to a right minded man, carries with it the conviction that more attention has ben paid the latter than the former. This course has, however, been changed by Commander Boutwell, and the truly republican conduct of that officer, and his praiseworthy resistance of all attempts to induce him to abandon his countrymen to the power of the English missionaries, has, it is well known here, incurred the manifest displeasure of the English missionaries; but he has the consolation of knowing that he left us with the united and heartfelt thanks of our young islandic republic, and after the tedious and unpleasant task he has accomplished, he will return to a country and a people whose motto is "liberty and justice," and whose approbation will, in this instance, be no less deserving than just.

On receipt of my Salem correspondence and my subscription file of the HERALD, I anticipate to read the foregoing in good bold type, with a remark or two from the talented and efficient editor. I shall carefully collect truthful accounts for publication in your journal; and as your paper has the greatest circulation of any in the world, the results will prove beneficial to a large and interested mercantile community.

I would, if opportunity offered, send Mr. Bennett a few Feejeean curiosities, such as shells, bows, clubs, &c., but I can assure that gentleman that if the articles are not forthcoming by this opportunity, they will be forwarded by the Elizabeth and Ann, bound and loading for Salem, Mass. At present I confine myself to the despatching of the account of the greatest curiosity that has been in Feejee, to wit—an American vessel upholding and defending the cause of her countrymen. DAVID STUART.

OUR OVALAU CORRESPONDENCE.

OVALAU, FEEJEE ISLANDS, Nov. 20, 1855.

Description of the Feejee Group—Their Extent, Natural Productions, Population &c.—Visit of the American Exploring Expedition, under Lieut. Wilkes, in 1840—Measures Taken by Him for the Protection of American Vessels—Barbarous Outrages Committed by the Natives on American Seamen—Visit of the John Adams, and Punishment of the Offenders by Commander Boutwell—Intrigues of the English Missionaries to Procure the Cession of the Islands to Great Britain, &c., &c.

The Feejee Islands are, perhaps, the richest and most productive in the Pacific. They are scarce seven days sail from the English colonies in New Holland and New Zealand, and seem destined at some future day to hold, with even greater advantages, the same relation, and furnish similar supplies to the Australian continent, that the West Indies do to Europe and America. The group is capable of supporting at least four millions of inhabitants. One island alone of the one hundred and fifty four which compose it, has an area of upwards of five thousand square miles, and is watered by more than one noble river. Sugar, cotton and tobacco are already produced, and coffee, rice and indigo only await the care of the cultivator. No wonder, then, if England at a time when the discovery of gold there has given such an impetus to their colonies in the South Pacific, should keep a watchful eye, even in the midst of an expensive war, upon what she regards as a necessary appendage to her Australian empire.

Little was known of the Feejee Islands, except that they were inhabited by the most ferocious race of cannibals that ever disgraced human nature, until they were examined and surveyed in 1840, by the American Exploring Expedition, under the command of Lieut. Wilkes. Wilkes' examinations were made in a brief space, but all subsequent observations have proved his surveys to be, with one single exception, remarkably correct. Singular to say, however, the best harbor in the islands—one on the south side of Kantaru, the southernmost island of the group—has remained almost unknown up to the present time, and was never entered by a vessel of any size until the United States ship John Adams went there, in the beginning of this month. Two of the officers of the exploring expedition, it is well known, were cruelly and treacherously murdered by the people of Malolo, one of the Leeward Islands. The perpetrators of the crime were demanded; they were refused, and the natives armed. Prompt and ample punishment, which is remembered up to the present time, was inflicted, and it is said that even now, after the lapse of fifteen years, a white man and his property are as safe there as at any place in the world. While first deriving benefit from this, the English missionary society spoke of the "conduct of the American officers as praiseworthy," and in an authorized publication represented the affair correctly, and in the proper spirit. Lately a publication emanating from the same source and the same men, for some interior object, stigmatizes the same affair as a "frightful slaughter" and "terrible vengeance," indulging, by way of accompaniment, in some gratuitous sneers at Americans and the expedition. Wilkes also carried off a chief named Verdevi, who died before his arrival in the United States, and by several acts of rigor convinced these people that the crews of wrecked vessels were not to be tortured and murdered, nor white men roasted and eaten, with impunity. He promised, also, that vessels of war would return at the end of *four years*; during the four assigned no outrages were committed; but as the ships did not come at the end of that time, the Feejeeans began to lose their dread of them. The reply of a chief to an American threatening punishment for some outrage was naive and to be expected. "The vessels that come here are all rotten, and your King is too poor to have any more made. The Turauga Levu (Wilkes) said ships of war would be sent here in five years. They do not come, though many white men have been killed." And many white men have been killed in effect; one hundred and thirty is below the real number, and large amounts of property have been seized and destroyed.

In return for these outrages the English and French men-of-war have bombarded and burned several towns on the seacoast. But since the time of Wilkes nothing has been done for the Americans, who were by far the greatest sufferers, with one single exception, when the Falmouth sloop-of-war hung a Feejeean at Rewa, who had murdered a man in the employ of the American Consul. In October last the St. Marys visited the islands, but finding the John Adams at Ovalau, she started for the South American coast, after a few weeks stay, leaving the settlement of Feejee affairs in the hands of the commander of the John Adams. The Adams remained in Feejee two months, during which time the complaints of all Americans were examined, and damages for outrages upon individuals and the plundering of several vessels belonging to firms in Salem and Boston, were liquidated and the payment of specific amounts imposed upon the various chiefs. Many of these latter visited the ship and signed agreements to make payment and abstain in future from injuring American citizens. The only alternative to be pursued with those who would not come to terms was to attack and burn their towns. This was done in three several instances by parties of from thirty to sixty men, and the towns were destroyed without either inflicting or suffering any heavy loss. Two of them were in the interior, and considered safe from their positions. This proof that punishment can reach the guilty, even in their mountains, will do more good than all the bombardments which have heretofore taken place.

Among those who signed agreements and guaranteed payment of American claims in case of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, was Thakombau, or Tui Viti (King of Feejee,) as he styles himself, one of the most powerful chiefs, and until lately the greatest cannibal and savage in Feejee. He has become a Christian under the following circumstances: Bau, a powerful town situated on a small island near the large one of Vita Levu, and the patrimony of Thakombau, by first becoming acquainted with the use of firearms, acquired great power in Feejee, and rendered nearly all the places known to the whites tributary to it. But the use of firearms has become universal, and the power of the Bau chiefs has been much shaken of late, though it is still formidable. Within the last year George Tupou, the usurper, King of Tonga, a staunch Christian, who attained supreme power in Tonga as the head of the Methodist faction, visited Feejee with three thousand men, and in consideration of the cession of some of the Windward Islands which are necessary to him, he having no other place to procure timber for building his canoes, he assisted Thakombau in his wars with the various places which had rebelled against his authority. This was mainly brought about by the Wesleyan missionaries, who, by the way, took George to Sidney in the mission vessel, for the purpose of impressing him with an idea of the power of England, and through this political connection Tui Viti became a Christian. In his late wars as has been guilty of some acts of savage cannibalism, but he and George have generally enforced upon the vanquished the necessity of "lotwing," that is, professing Christianity. The stipulation in the treaties guaranteeing payment in case of the cession of the islands to England was rendered necessary by the following circumstances:—

The English missionaries, who have attained some influence in the islands, though unsupported by their government, are naturally desirous of increasing their importance by rendering themselves subservient to the political interests of their country. In June, 1850, the head of the mission was engaged in some negotiations concerning the cession of the Tonga Islands to her Majesty Queen Victoria. The answer of George was positive and decided. He would neither cede the sovereignty nor alienate a foot of land in Tonga. This settled the matter there; but the chairman of the society in the Feejees lately announced to the Captain of the Herald, a sloop-of-war, which has been for a year past surveying the group, that Tui Viti was ready to cede the sovereignty of the Feejee islands, a thing which he does not fairly possess, to her Britannic Majesty. The captain of the Herald, accordingly, on his return from a visit to Sidney, where he probably obtained instructions from the colonial government for his guidance, invited Thakombau to visit his ship, then lying at Leonia, a town on this island of Ocalau, which has revolted from Bau, and is fully able to preserve its independence. The first day of the visit of the Bau chief to the Herald was spent in endeavors to arrange a peace between him and Tui Levaka, the principal chief of Ocalau. The second day negotiations for the cession of the islands commenced, and Captain Denham asked Tui Viti if he was willing and prepared to cede the island. Mr. Calvert, who acted as interpreter, equivocated in putting the question, and again in giving an affirmative answer. The French missionaries had been invited to witness the cession on the part of France, or rather in compliment to France. One of these gentlemen, noticing the equivocation, asked permission to speak, which being granted, he put the question directly to Thakombau, whose answer was, "I do not wish to cede the islands—but I wish to put myself under the protection of England." This was interpreted, Mr. Calvert acknowledging the correctness of it, merely saying the chief had changed his mind. Captain Denham here closed the affair, saying he had no authority to extend any protectorate to the Bau chief. Here the matter rests for the present, but England will undoubtedly, before long, obtain possession of this fine group, as they have done of New Zealand and the adjacent islands. The French and English are very well disposed to divide the islands of the south Pacific between them; but no sooner is a word spoken of the annexation of a foot of land by the United States than they are instantly on the qui vive. VAGO.

Trial of the New Steam Fire Engine.

A public trial of the new steam fire engine, recently manufactured at Stephenson's coach manufactory, after two ineffectual attempts the past week at a trial, took place yesterday afternoon, in the Park. A preliminary private trial, it will doubtless be remembered, was made of the engine's capacities subsequent to its completion, about two weeks since, and a full account given in the HERALD. The construction of the engine, with its points of difference with previous steam fire engines, being then entered into with minute detail, the same need not now be recapitulated. The engine was brought into the Park shortly before two o'clock P. M., and stationed at the west side of the City Hall, near the south corner. A crowd, as might be supposed, was soon in attendance to witness the proposed experiment. Chief Engineer Carson, Fire Marshal Baker, and a majority of the Fire Committees of the two Council Boards were present among the number. At 2 P. M., fire was placed underneath the boiler, and by means of a profuse use of finely split kindling wood, and the water in the boiler having been heated in advance, steam was produced within five minutes. In eleven minutes the main pump was in motion. The supply hose and main hose were previously adjusted. The pump was now kept moderately running till the steam reached 100 pounds, which was a trifle over half an hour. Meanwhile the machine kept puffing lustily. The man acting in the capacity of engineer made frequent circuits of the interior platform of the machine, diversifying his movements with occasional letting off of steam, which made a sudden and startling roar. The kindling wood was also increased. This was kept up for nearly twenty minutes longer, when a length of hose one hundred and fifteen feet was stretched fronting the City Hall. The steam having reached 140 pounds the water was let off, in a perpendicular stream, aimed at the clock on the City Hall tower. The water kept struggling upward, and in two minutes a stream was thrown twenty-five feet above the eagle, making a perpendicular height of 173 feet. Succeeding experiments followed, but the water did not reach the eagle. The nozzle of the hose used was 1⅛ inch. A few experiments succeeded of the engine's capacity to throw a horizontal stream. 150 feet hose was used, with a nozzle of ⅞ inch. But a trifle over 100 feet was the distance thrown. Some difficulty occurred from the hose having ice in them. It was nearly 5 o'clock when the experiments concluded. It was announced that farther experiments would be made to-day, commencing at 10 A. M. as the parties having the machine in charge were not satisfied with its execution yesterday.

A statement of what some ordinary hard working fire engines have done in the way of throwing water may not be uninteresting, as showing the comparative results of steam, as above, and manual force. In July last, engine No. 3, a second class engine, of Newport, with 50 feet hose and nozzle 1⅛ inch, threw a horizontal stream 210 feet.

At the Crystal Palace trial last September, engine No. 8, of Brooklyn, a first class engine, with hose 150 feet, and nozzle 1⅛ inch, threw a horizontal stream 150 feet.

At the celebrated trial in New Haven, the "Namesaug" engine of New London, Conn., which took the prize, threw a perpendicular stream of 165 feet. The Namesaug was a second class engine, and threw water through 450 feet hose with ⅞ inch nozzle.

The "Gaspee" of Providence, R. I., at this same trial, a first class engine, with same length of hose and 1⅛ inch nozzle, threw water 157 feet high.

The most successful experiment of an American engine on record is that of Engine No. 9, which, through 350 feet hose and nozzle 1 1-16 inch, threw from the top of the Marion street bell tower, 85 feet high, water at a farther elevation of 128 feet. The engine was on the ground, and the immense pressure of water, with the length of hose employed and carried to the height it was, can easily be calculated.

DROWNING OF A YOUNG NEW YORKER IN THE SAN JUAN RIVER.—A gentleman in this city has favored us with the annexed extract from a private letter, dated at San Juan River, (Nic.) on Sunday, Feb. 3:—

The steamship Northern Light anchored at Roshuta rapids in the night of Saturday last, when the boat containing the steerage passengers came alongside. A young man, who was in the cabin of the Northern Light, in passing from a steerage boat to the ship, slipped and fell in the river. He was immediately drowned, and was very much regretted, as we all loved him. His name was Charles B. Clark, and his father is a manufacturing jeweller, corner of John and Nassau streets, New York. The rapids carried off his body immediately. He was about sixteen years old.

VERY LATE FROM MEXICO.

Two Weeks Later from Vera Cruz—Surrender of Puebla to Haro y Tamariz—Progress of the New Revolution—Condition of the Country.

OUR VERA CRUZ CORRESPONDENCE.

VERA CRUZ, Feb. 4, 1856.

Progress of the Counter Revolution—Surrender of Puebla to the Insurgents—Prospects for the Future—Approach of Secession—Highwaymen and Diplomatists—Shipping Intelligence.

Since my last we have had several more acts and scenes in the drama—tragedy, comedy, farce or whatever you may call it—of the "Revolution in Mexico."

On the 22d of January, Puebla—*La Invicta Puebla de los Angeles*—the "Invincible City of the Angels," (its real official title,) succumbed to the Pronunciados under Don Antonio de Haro y Tamariz, a native, by the way, of the angelic city; but there appears to have been no Volumnia to save this Rome at the sacrifice of her son—this rampaging modern Coriolanus. Luckily a Mexican revolution is rather a harmless sort of affair, as all the world knows; and as they are mere family quarrels, there's no great harm done. The "taking of a town" has a signification of its own in the Land of God and Liberty, and there is generally about as much damage done to persons and property as in a good election riot in the land of Bosh and Buncombe. I am sorry, therefore, to have no occasion to serve you up a dish of horror similar to the Kertoh atrocities. I also lose at the same time a splendid opportunity to spout Don Juan—*vide* the capture of Ishmael—for, in point of fact, things go on about as usual. 'Tis merely one of the "peculiar institutions" of this country, to substitute the cartridge box for the ballot box, and he that gets the greatest number of votes (in the shape of bayonets and bullets) carries the day; after which there's a great deal of fraternization, embracing and getting drunk generally, mixed up with a vast amount of *Dios y Libertad*. Well, 'tis none of our business. This is a free country, and the natives have a full and perfect right to settle their own quarrels after their own fashion. Solo 'em rip. I'll merely state facts without comment.

Nevertheless you will perceive from extracts from the press, which I enclose, without time to translate, that things are looking badly, and really appear as though we are to have civil war on a large scale. But the writer has seen Mexican rows enough to feel justified in predicting a speedy settlement of the difficulty on some basis or other. True, the adjustment will be but temporary, for the elements of discord are radical and inherent to the Mexican constitution, political and personal. The country has never yet had a good government, and never will have, without a more thorough overhauling than that proposed by any of the thousand and one plans which have been promulgated within the past forty years. What to propose now were no easy matter, however. Beyond a doubt the people are incapable of self government. The geographical and physical condition of the country, the character of nine tenths of its population—their ignorance and barbarous mode of life; the bigotry, intolerance and superstition of the so called enlightened classes; the perfidious and incurable habit of revolution, and a multitude of other equally cogent reasons preclude any hope. As long as the United States pleases, the nationality of Mexico may continue after a fashion. But such a nationality! I am inclined to think notwithstanding, that recent events have very much disgusted Alvarez and a few other true patriots with that great humbug, "the indivisibility of Mexico," or "the integrity of the national territory," which Santa Anna—the only ruler who ever alienated any of it—was eternally roaring in their ears. Secession and nullification are whispered in certain circles, but the idea has not yet gathered sufficient strength to be openly advocated. We can scarcely expect this people to understand the doctrine of State rights, whilst we of the "model republic" are still squabbling about the same thing; and any one who might dare announce such a remedy for their woes would have the whole pack of patriots—who are sending their country to the devil wholesale—down upon him. There would be no fate too dreadful for him. Still the notion is gaining ground; and as the writer gets behind the scenes occasionally (though never into the green room), there can be no harm done by dropping a hint or two. Mind, however, I don't pretend to say that the fact of there being a South Carolina envoy at the capital has anything to do with the matter; but *quien sabe?*

Of course, in the present state of the country highway robbery and murder continue on an undimited scale. A great many persons arrived from abroad are detained here in consequence, not daring to venture to the interior.

It is expected General Robles Pezuela, the new Minister to Washington, will leave for that place on next New Orleans mail steamer. General Almonte is expected today, and has been looked for, in fact, for months past. It is supposed the $3,000,000 affair detains him in Washington.

City Intelligence.

ATTEMPT OF AN INCENDIARY.

A curious case occurred on Thursday night at No. 195 William street, supposed the work of an incendiary, or the act of some malicious person, for the purpose of endeavoring to suffocate the inmates of the premises.

It seems the house is kept by Mr. Constantine Michoud, as a French boarding house. At about 9 o'clock on the night in question a suffocating smoke was found throughout the entry. Search was made for its origin, and under a bushel basket, at the head of the kitchen stairs, was found a piece of pine wood spit at the end, in which was held a bunch of cotton; this was burning, the smoke from it producing a general coughing, sneezing and an almost suffocating sensation on all who came within its reach.

Assistant Engineer Bauich was notified and he sent for the Fire Marshal forthwith, and the two together made a thorough investigation. Several persons were examined, and it became evident that certain parties, whose names are withheld for the present, had placed this cotton in the entry, well sprinkled with Cayenne pepper, not for the purpose of burning the house, but for the purpose of having a joke, by producing a coughing, sneezing, &c. amongst the boarders.

Such practical jokes are altogether wrong, and must be stopped. The case is still under the Fire Marshal's investigation, and we hope the guilty parties will be brought to justice.

LIGHT GUARD BALL.—This *fête* took place at the Academy of Music on Thursday evening last, and drew together the largest and most brilliant assemblage ever seen in this city in a ballroom. The interior of the building was splendidly decorated, and the *coup d'œil* presented either from the back of the stage or from the upper boxes was worth more than twice the price of admission, and was such as has never before been witnessed in the city. The stage was draped with canvass, and represented a richly mounted tent. In the rear, the words