

PROCEEDINGS OF H.M.S. CORDELIA IN THE NAVIGATORS' ISLANDS.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

On the 17th of September, the British Consul, and Commander Vernon, of the Cordelia, visited Malietoa, the King of Savaii, as he is called, but whose power is limited. They found him very ill, suffering from consumption. After the usual compliments, a demand in Her Britannic Majesty's name was then made—that the murderer of William Fox should be brought to trial, and punished if guilty. The King said that he would send his people after the murderer, but requested that a fortnight should be allowed him, as the murderer's place of residence was about fifty miles off. This was agreed to, but from petty jealousies the man was rescued out of the hands of Malietoa's people. At this the King was very indignant, and requested that his counsellors and rulers should take the case up, which they did, and requested that three weeks should be given them to apprehend the murderer. During this time Malietoa died, but in consequence of the demand having been made, and their promise given to comply with it, all the solemn and sacred rites due to such a man, on his decease, instead of being continued for three weeks or a month, or even longer, were laid aside on the eleventh of October, the old chief having died on the 9th; but, again, these people failed to secure the man; for the ruling people of the south side of Savaii, where the murderer resided, used insulting language to Malietoa and his counsellors, at which they felt indignant, and returned in disgust; although they had begged that another week should be added, for they had been hindered by Malietoa's death.

At the expiration of this time, they were again visited by the Cordelia, accompanied by the British Consul.

It was soon seen that the people at Palauli on the south side of the island, thinking of Captain Croker's death in Tonga, and of the demand by the Americans for the other murderer, Popotuna, whom they had refused to give up, and has yet received no punishment, were trifling, vainly imagining that the affair would not be pressed home to them.

An interview with the Consul and Captain Vernon convinced them of their mistake, and they promised immediately to fetch the murderer, and deliver him on board the Cordelia, at the south-west of Savaii, where the murderer resided; failing this, they were threatened with the destruction of their village, war canoes, &c., because they had prevented Malietoa and his people from apprehending him at first, and also had deceived the Consul, and Commander Vernon.

Four days were allowed them to bring the man, but here again they failed. They then fired from the ship, into a village where the murderer was, with some of his friends, who were determined to protect him, should any attempt be made to apprehend him.

When it was found that the Palauli people would not get him, the Cordelia steamed up there, and on the 10th of November, anchored in the bay, landed a party of about eighty men, headed by the Commander, and destroyed about forty houses, one large war canoe, and several smaller ones, value about 3000 dollars—the ship was firing shot and shell over the landing party.

The people had used insulting and threatening language, and it was rather expected that they would have shewn fight, but as it was they did not. None were wounded, their aim being not to destroy human life, but merely property.

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After the destruction of Palauli, the Cordelia steamed to another village, about six miles distant, and fired into it a few shots and shells, for here resided the chief who had protected the man and taken him away from Malietoa's party.

The ship then returned to Apia.

The day after her arrival there came a special messenger, announcing that the murderer was on his way up to Moli, the heir-expectant to the title of King, and requested that the Consul and commander would go down and receive him on board.

The ship immediately got under way again, on Saturday, the 13th, but found, on the Consul's going on shore at Sapapalii, Malietoa's village, that the murderer was at the bay, which had been destroyed, only with another party.

Moli (Malietoa) stated that the reason he had not been delivered up to him was, that the Palauli people had interfered, and threatened the apprehenders that if they gave up the murderer they would destroy their village; this alarmed them, as they had been conquered by Palauli.

Moli (Malietoa) then went in person to where the man was to bring him off to the ship, but disappointment awaited them, for the man was at his own home, thirty miles off, having been released on account of Palauli's threats.

Once more the people promised to go after him and bring him up, if the ship would only wait for two days. This time they kept their word, and brought him on board the Cordelia on the 18th of November; he was there tried, found guilty, and sentence of death was passed upon him.

Malietoa then formally delivered him over into the hands of the Consul and Commander Vernon, for them to carry out the sentence passed upon him, which was done on the 22nd instant, at the port of Apia.

Malietoa and his people were fined the sum of five hundred dollars and ten fine mats, because they had given way to these jealousies, and so long protracting the stay of the Cordelia before fulfilling their promise. The sum of three hundred dollars, and the ten mats, were paid at once, the balance to be handed to the Consul in one month's time.

Thus terminated the punishment of this murderer, so long delayed, and it is hoped that lasting benefit will result from the measures that have been taken.

The Glasgow Bulletin says that a match at draughts will be played at Glasgow, about December, between three of the best players in Scotland, namely:—Mr. James Wylie (alias the Herd Laddie), of Leven, and Messrs. M'Kerrow and Drummond, of Glasgow, against three of the best players in England, namely:—Messrs. Martin, Way, and Hudson, of London, for £200 a-side and the championship of Britain.