REMOVAL OF SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS BY BRITISH VESSELS.

The Queensland Government appear to have used due diligence in investigating, as far as time and circumstances would permit, the charges made by the Rev. John G. Paton, a missionary at the New Hebrides, against captains of vessels engaged in recruiting for Polynesian laborers for this colony. The attention of the Colonial Secretary was not called to the matter until he saw the letter of Mr. Paton in the *Courier* on February 20; but between then and mid-day on Wednesday he got the following correspondence and reports, and forwarded copies by the mail to the Imperial Government:—

Brisbane, February 21, 1871.

Sir,—Acting under your instructions, I have the honor to furnish you with the following report upon the statements contained in a letter appearing in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 13th instant from the Rev. John G. Paton, a missionary at the New Hebrides, reflecting upon the manner in which certain vessels from this colony, engaged in recruiting laborers from the South Sea Islands, have procured their natives.

The first vessel referred to by Mr. Paton from Queensland, is the Lyttona, which arrived here on the 22nd December last, with sixty-nine (69) natives from various islands; among the number were the three boys from Sandwich, whom Mr. Winship, the captain of the Lyttona, is charged with kidnapping, and who are now under engagement with Mr. Raff, at Caboolture.

Upon reading the statements respecting the Lyttona, I at once sent for Mr. Winship, as also the agent of the ship, Mr. George Smith, who accompanied the vessel to the islands upon the occasion. Mr. Winship's and Mr. Smith's version of the affair, both of which coincide in every particular, are quite different to Mr. Paton's. Mr. Winship states that about a month previous to the date of the letter which he received from the missionaries, and about ten miles to the north of Fil Harbor, in the Island of Sandwich, he went on shore and engaged the three boys in question; their agreements were fully explained to them by an interpreter named Moss, and they expressed themselves perfectly willing to come to Queensland. Mr. Winship admits having given the father of the boys a musket and a piece of calico, but not until they had expressed their willingness to engage. The Lyttona then proceeded northwards to recruit, and returned about the time which the missionaries' letter to Mr. Winship is dated. Upon receipt of this letter, Mr. Winship states that he went on shore and saw the missionaries, who at once demanded that the boys should be given up. This, Mr. Winship says, he declined to do, as they were quite happy and contented on board, and had no wish to return, but that he invited the missionaries to come on board and see for themselves, which they refused to do.

Upon the arrival of the Lyttona at Brisbane, she was, in my absence, visited by Mr. Martin, the chief clerk in this office, who mustered and inspected the islanders, and found them to be a cheerful and contented lot, thoroughly understanding the terms of their engagement. Mr. Martin subsequently witnessed and explained to each islander, through an interpreter, the nature of his agreement, and not the slightest approach to a complaint was made. Indeed, with so many Sandwich men employed in the colony, and in the immediate vicinity of Mr. Raff's plantation, I hardly think that Mr. Winship would be likely to have laid himself open to the chance of a prosecution for any such breach of the Act.

I cannot, however, say that Mr. Winship acted altogether discreetly in the matter. By the Act under which these laborers are recruited, he was bound to produce, upon arrival, a certificate, in form of schedule I., to the effect that the natives had voluntarily consented to engage for service in Queensland, which certificate must be signed by the captain or agent of the ship, or a missionary, or some European resident or chief interpreter. Although Mr. Winship produced this certificate, it is merely signed by himself, Mr. Smith, the ship's agent, and Moss, the interpreter. Mr. Winship states, candidly enough, that he never asked any of the missionaries to sign the certificate, and assigns as his reason for not doing so, that he had recruited the boys on a part of the island where there were no Europeans, and had them with him for more than a month before any demand was made upon him, and that as they had signed it at the time they were recruited he did not think a second certificate necessary. The certificate of the engagement of the boys, which Mr. Winship forwarded to this office, is dated the 24th of October, whereas the letter from the missionaries is dated on the 6th of December, some six weeks after. Mr. Winship further states that the missionaries are so averse to the deportation of natives from any of the islands, whose services they thereby lose, that they invariably refuse to sign these certificates, as they decline in any way to recognise the right of any person to encourage their emigration.

I regret very much that I have not been able to examine the three boys on Mr. Raff's Plantation, as to their alleged forcible abduction, but I shall take an early opportunity of doing so, and forward to you, in the shape of a supplementary report, the result of my inquiries.

Enclosed I beg to forward for your information a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Winship upon the subject of these charges by Mr. Paton.

With regard to the charges against the boat's crew of the Spunkie and Jason, that they purchased from one of the chiefs at Nguna four boys for a musket, I regret that Mr. Paton has not thought it necessary to mention the date of this occurrence, and to supply further particulars with reference to it. As it is, the Captain of the Spunkie informs me that he never has been in company with the Jason while recruiting, and the Jason is unfortunately not now in port. It is, however, well known that in many of the island the chiefs have absolute control over the actions of their subjects, and however willing the islanders may be to engage, they dare not do so without the consent of their chief. In all probability the captain of the Jason did get the men from Nguna, but not in the way Mr. Paton would make the public believe he did. That he gave the chief a musket, I have also no doubt, but merely to secure his consent to their leaving the island.

Next comes the alleged murder of two natives at the island of Malicolo, by one of the boat's crew (an interpreter) of the Spunkie. With reference to this, I have the honor to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter which I have received from the captain of the vessel upon the subject, as also one from Mr. Nicol, a passenger and eye-witness of the affair, in refutation of the charge. Mr. James Raff, another passenger upon the occasion, is unfortunately absent from the colony just now, or I should like to have obtained his version of the story.

I may add that during the period I have held the office of Immigration Agent, no less than 533 natives from the islands have made engagements under the immediate supervison of this office—as per statement appended—and not a single complaint has ever been made by any of the islanders as to the manner in which they were recruited; and, moreover, each of these ships brought back natives for re-engagement, who had previously served their period of three years in the colony; in fact, many have brought their friends, and in some instances, their wives with them. I may also refer you to the evidence given before a select committee of the Legislative Assembly during the session of 1869 by the late Immigration Agent, Mr. M'Donnell, in which he states that no complaint of any kind whatever was ever made to him by the islanders, or have they ever exhibited any unwillingness to sign their agreements.

I cannot conclude this report without directing your attention to the evident feeling of animus which pervades more or less the whole of Mr. Paton's letter, but more particularly in the following paragraph, in which he says, "Interested parties in high authority in Queensland and elsewhere may wink at such evils, and continue to represent the trade so as to mislead the Home Government and persons interested in the welfare of these islands, while by their laws they give a show of regulating the trade and protecting the natives against abuse; but such laws are violated and set aside by all in the trade, and even by their own agents appointed to see them carried out, as the slightest impartial investigation by competent parties would prove."

Now it is well known that it is only within the last three months that the Government have, by regulations, provided for the appointment of accredited agents, and that as no vessel from this colony has as yet recruited any natives, under the supervision of a Government agent, I cannot help thinking that if the other statements in Mr. Paton's letter are made with as little regard to truth as this one, the Government should hesitate before giving credence to any of them, more especially as it is currently reported that many of the missionaries on these islands are interested in the retention of the islanders, more from motives of personal gain than from anything else.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Robt. Gray, Immigration Agent.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Copy of a letter to the Immigration Agent from Mr. Charles James Nichols, a passenger by the schooner Spunkie.

Belle Vue House, Brisbane, February 21, 1871.

Sir,—Having read the letter of Captain John Rees, of the schooner Spunkie, addressed to the *Brisbane Courier* of to-day, in reference to the statements published under the signature of certain missionaries of the New Hebrides, concerning an affray which took place between the boat of the Spunkie and a tribe of natives on the island of Malicolo, I have the pleasure to inform you that I was a passenger on board the vessel at the time of the occurrence, having left Brisbane for the New Hebrides, with the view of inquiring into the habits and mode of life of the natives of those islands. Whilst thus engaged I invariably accompanied the boats on shore, and consequently had every opportunity for observing all that occurred, and I can frankly assert that I never witnessed any breach of the rules and regulations required to be carried out by your department in connection with the recruiting of Polynesians.

I was an eye-witness of the affray as related by Captain Rees, and I can therefore vouch for the truthfulness of his report of an occurrence which in the hands of the missionaries has been twisted into a groundless accusation.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Charles James Nichols.

R. Gray, Esq., Immigration Agent, Brisbane.

Copy of a letter to the Immigration Agent from William C. Winship, Master of the Schooner Lyttona.

Brisbane, February 20, 1871.

Sir,—Having noticed in to-day's *Courier* a letter under heading "Removal of South Sea Islanders by British vessels to Fiji and Queensland," wherein it is stated that on the 6th December, 1870, I, as master of the Lyttona, took from Sandwich Island three natives against their wish, and brought them to Queensland; this statement is simply false. I will now forward you a true report of my proceedings, and what actually did occur while at Villa Harbor, Sandwich. On or about 26th October last we went into Villa for the purpose of getting a boat's crew. At Villa Island we got five islanders as boatmen; at Pango, three recruits, and one who had been three years in Queensland. He said he would act as boatman while North, and perhaps go to Brisbane as a recruit. This man particularly wanted a gun for his services; it, together with some calico, was given to him. Shortly afterwards we sailed for Havannah Harbor, with the nine Sandwich natives on board. The day after our arrival at Havannah Harbor the aforesaid man bolted, and I never saw anything more either of the man or my gun. On the 5th December, 1870, we again went into Villa to land our boat's crew, and found the Dayspring there. On the 6th I received a letter, the same as in the *Courier* of this date. This was the first intimation I ever received of having natives on board who did not wish to remain. The same evening I went on board the Dayspring, introduced myself to a missionary—I think a Mr. John Giddie. I told him I had taken an interpreter on board, and through him the three natives told me that they wanted to go to Brisbane; that it was the natives on shore who were afraid of the missionaries' displeasure for their allowing the three boys to leave in the missionary's absence. I also said that I could not think of landing them at their request, or that of the natives on shore; but that if they themselves showed the slightest sign of wishing to leave, I would at once put them on shore. I did not tell the missionaries that it was usual to buy men, nor did I tell them how the gun and calico went on shore. I was loth to acknowledge that a native who had been three years in Queensland was able to swindle me. Previous to my leaving the Dayspring I asked if they were satisfied with my explanation, and they said "Quite; but not with the Queensland Labor Act." Had they not said they were, I intended to insist on their coming on board the Lyttona to see for themselves. We lay on the bank in Havannah Harbor for three days, and about 150 yards from the shore at Pango for two days. I never kept an armed watch, nor any but the watch usual when at anchor. The natives were free to go over the side whenever they thought fit, and they were several times on shore while the vessel was beached, at which place we kept no watch at all.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

William C. Winship.

Brisbane, February 21, 1871.

Sir,—In compliance with your request that I would state whether any complaints from the Polynesians of kidnapping or unjust treatment at the islands or on board ship had been received by me in my capacity as Immigration Agent from the commencement of the operation of the Act in March, 1868, to the month of July last, when I left the Immigration-office through promotion, I have the honor to state that, by the return which accompanies this letter, it will be seen that I personally inspected nine vessels during the abovenamed period, in which some 494 Polynesians were brought to Queensland, and I can only repeat what I have stated and reported previously from time to time, that no complaints were made to me by any one of these men either of ill-treatment or kidnapping.

In the evidence given by me before the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, on the 3rd June, 1869, I stated, in reply to questions, that "from my observations so far I had no reason to believe that there is any ground for the allegation that, in the manner of obtaining this labor and into the mode of entering into agreements, there is deception practised upon these islanders, and that there is ill-treatment in the way of their being obtained or kidnapped." What I then said I can reiterate now.

During my term of office I made every possible effort to learn if any kidnapping had taken place, as the Government were desirous of prosecuting with the utmost rigor of the law anyone against whom evidence of that crime could be produced; and I offered one of the foremost amongst those who declaim against this immigration, that if he could procure any evidence sufficient to go into court with, I would be prepared on the part of the Government to prosecute. I need hardly add that no such evidence has been forthcoming.

I am glad to perceive that in order to make the system more complete and satisfactory, the Government has provided that an agent shall accompany each vessel, to see that the men are fairly treated at the islands; and I have no doubt the report of these officers will afford much information on the subject.

There may be, and no doubt is, a grain of truth in the statements made by the missionaries at the islands, but these statements must not be accepted as showing that these islanders are procured by kidnapping or fraud.

I cannot, however, help remarking that, in all these published statements, Fiji and Queensland vessels are mixed up so indiscriminately that, to a casual reader, they would seem to be intimately connected, which, in Queensland at least, is well known not to be the case. In reference to this matter, I would state that on board one of the vessels I inspected shortly before I left the Immigration-office, in which only ten islanders arrived out of an authorised complement of seventy-five, a Tannaman, who had never been in the colonies before, but understood English very well, informed me, in reply to my inquiries, that the reason so few Tanna men came in the ship was that a vessel from Fiji had taken a number of men away by enticing them on board, as if for Queensland, and sailing with them to the Fijis; this made the islanders fearful of being misled.

In the last four ships which arrived during 1869 and 1870, it will be seen that only 81 islanders were brought out of an authorised number of, say, 425. This in itself affords indirect proof that unfair means were not resorted to—as, if the statements of the missionaries were entirely true, there could be no difficulty in filling these vessels; but it is only reasonable to conclude that the masters were deterred from using violence, if they were so disposed, by the checks placed upon their doings by the Polynesian Laborers Act.

In conclusion, I would state that there are numbers of these men now in Brisbane, able to speak English plainly, who, if they had been kidnapped or unfairly treated, could have told their story to those who are only too ready to hear them; but I have not heard of any complaints being made by them of unjust treatment at the islands.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

John M'Donnell,
Under Secretary to the Postmaster-General, and lately Immigration Agent.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, &c.

THE JASON AT THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

The chief officer of the Jason during her last trip to the islands, has made the following declaration to the Immigration Agent, Brisbane:

I, John Irving, chief officer of the schooner Jason, do solemnly and sincerely declare that on the 15th of December, 1870, the Jason left Maryborough for the South Sea Islands, under license from the Government of Queensland, for the purpose of recruiting islanders for employers in the Maryborough district. I was chief officer of the vessel during the voyage. The Jason arrived at Nguna of the Sandwich group, after touching at several other islands, on the 23rd of January last. The captain went on shore for the purpose of recruiting natives, and several of the islanders expressed their willingness to engage, and were told that they could come on board next day. On the following morning I was sent on shore by the captain in charge of the boat for the purpose of bringing the islanders off to the vessel. On reaching the shore three of the natives, who had the previous day agreed to join, stepped into the boat, and when about leaving, a missionary, whom I believe to be a Mr. Milne, came down to the beach, accompanied by a native of the island of Samoa, whom the captain had seen the previous day, and by signs directed the natives to fire upon us, which they accordingly did, one bullet passing over the gunwale of the boat, and another falling a few yards short of the stern. I then hastened back to the schooner with the three natives. Two days afterwards I again went on shore with the boat, and the natives received me in the most friendly way, and I engaged four more. Upon asking the natives why they had fired upon the boat they informed me that the missionary had told them to do so, as he did not like to see the natives leaving the island. I saw nothing more of the missionary. We then left Nguna for Mow and Apii, where we got our full number of natives. I have been twice to the South Sea Islands recruiting laborers for Queensland, and at each of the islands I have visited I have been on the most friendly terms with the natives, but they have always asked us whether our ship was from Queensland or Fiji. And upon telling them that we wanted men for Queensland, they seemed to place the greatest confidence in us, but showed unmistakably by their manner and expressions that they would have nothing to do with us had our vessel been from the Fijis. We did not experience the slightest difficulty in getting our full complement; on the contrary on some of the islands the natives who had previously resided in Queensland were anxiously watching for our arrival in order to return to Maryborough for re-engagement. The Jason arrived at Maryborough on the 5th instant, after recruiting (90) ninety islanders, about a dozen of whom had previously been in service in the colony, and have since our arrival at Maryborough signed agreements for a second period of three years. I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the "Oaths Act of 1867."

(Signed) John Irving.

Declared before me at Brisbane, this 13th day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one.

(Signed) Robt. Gray, J.P., Immigration Agent.

In reply to the charge made in the *S. M. Herald* by the Rev. John G. Paton against the captain of the above vessel on a former trip, Mr. R. Travis, of Maryborough, wrote the following letter:—

To the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald.

Sir,—Your issue of the 13th February has been handed to me, and I request you will allow me to reply through your columns to the letter of the Rev. John G. Paton respecting Queensland slavery, but particularly to the following paragraph it contains:—

"When the Dayspring was at Nguna, last trip, the boats of the vessels Jason and Spunkie from Queensland, came where the Rev. Messrs. Watt, Milne, Goodwin, and Captain Fraser were assisting to put up a new mission house, and purchased from a chief four boys for one musket. The Jason boats took the boys away."

Three of these boys mentioned are now in my employ under a three years' agreement, and were specially engaged at the island of Nguna for me, by my own servant, Langule, then also under a three years' agreement, and at the present time engaged by an old resident of this town, and receiving much higher wages than when under agreement with me. These men have within this last week distinctly stated to several magistrates, residents, and others, that the Rev. Milne did not wish the men to leave the island, as they were wanted to assist in the erection of a missionary house. The islanders declined remaining, and informed the missionary that they would leave; and they did leave in the Jason's boat. The men had been previously under agreement, and have resided at Sydney, Brisbane, Cleveland Bay, and New Caledonia. They speak English fluently, and a little French, and were just the sort of men not to be done by working for the missionaries gratuitously. This reason is, I believe, the sole cause why Mr. Paton and his friends are annoyed with the schooner Jason taking from his heathen flock his most able and energetic pupils in house-building.

I am not afraid, as part owner and agent of the schooner Jason, in being able to prove that Captain Coath, or those under his command, never with his knowledge or consent, in any one instance, acted contrary to law, or to the instructions given to him, copies of which I enclose for your perusal should you require them. I have for the last four years had in my employ Lingalie, Melang, Nassa, and several others, pupils of the Revs. P—— and M——, all of whom fled from their late masters, in consequence of what may be well termed the penurious treatment received at their hands. These men have been seen, interrogated, and examined by the following well-known residents of Sydney—Messrs. W. W—— (formerly a passenger by the Dayspring), A——, A. F——, Captain T——, and S——, as also many others; and I now assert, in not a single instance has a complaint been known or shown to lie against the captain or owners of the schooner Jason. The captain is well paid, the sailors are well paid, and the vessel is well found, and a credit to the port from which she hails;' and there is little doubt that anyone connected with the ship will act as honorable and upright men; and I now ask the Rev. Mr. Paton, as an honest man, to prove one dishonorable act on the part of the captain and owners. I will pay the rev. gentleman's expenses to and from Sydney to this place, and solicit his earliest attention to any grievance he may have against the owners and master of the Jason.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Robert Travis.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have seen the captain of the Mary Campbell, which has just returned to this port with islanders, and he informs me that so well known is Captain Coath and the Jason, that at several islands numbers of the islanders were awaiting the arrival of the Jason to proceed to Maryborough with her, not one of whom could be induced to come by his own vessel.—R. T.

A FAIR THING FOR THE POLYNESIANS.

Captain Towns, of Sydney, the father of Polynesian immigration to this colony, seems determined to test the economic capabilities of the Polynesian labor system to the utmost. We remember, some four or five years ago, seeing a number of returning islanders who had been paid off at Townsvale, in the Logan district, and we still have a lively recollection of the "pay" they had to show for their three or four years' labor. They were not paid in cash, because, as Mr. Towns' agent took pains to inform us, "these poor people were to all intents and purposes savages, who did not know the use of money," so they were paid in "kind"—said kind consisting of fowling-pieces which it would be dangerous to load and discharge, cast-iron hatchets, and a large assortment of the commonest "Brummagem" trinkets. The Polynesian Laborers Act of 1868 is retrospective, and it therefore applies to all Polynesians who were in the colony at the time the Act became law. Form "G" of that Act, specifying the rations, &c., to be allowed to individual laborers, says, "Wages not less than six pounds (£6) per annum *in the coin of the realm*," and we were under the impression that all the Polynesians who had been paid off since the Act came into force were paid in "coin of the realm." This seems to have been a mistake on our part, and a case has just occurred which throws considerable light on the subject. A few days ago the steamer Black Diamond brought down seventy-two islanders from Townsville, Cleveland Bay, who had been working for Captain Towns, and their term of service having expired they were forwarded to Moreton Bay, to be sent to their homes in the barque Woodlark. Along with these were twenty-two islanders from the neighborhood of Rockhampton, who had served their time under other masters, and were paid off in cash. The seventy-two who had been at work for Captain Towns were left to be paid by the Brisbane agent of Mr. Towns. The men were transhipped in the Bay from the Black Diamond to the Woodlark, and on Saturday last the Water Police Inspector reported that a number of the men were dissatisfied at not being allowed to come up to Brisbane. They were also anxious about their pay. The Brisbane agent of Captain Towns went down to the Woodlark on Monday last to pay the men, and Mr. R. Gray, Brisbane Immigration Agent, accompanied him. A number of the men were paid off in the old style, with "trade," which was transhipped in bond from the City of Brisbane. The Colonial Secretary objected to this mode of payment, went down to the Woodlark in the Kate on Wednesday, and after examining some of the boxes of those who had been "paid," decided to stop the vessel until a more satisfactory arrangement was come to, and the men paid in cash. With this object he gave orders that all the men who desired to leave the ship and come up to Brisbane should be permitted to do so. Upwards of thirty embraced the opportunity at once, and others may be expected to follow. How the matter will terminate remains to be seen, but at all events great credit is due to Mr. Palmer for the prompt action he has taken in the matter.

MISSION TO THE ABORIGINES.

A meeting in furtherance of the above object was held at the Presbyterian Church, Maryborough, on February 22.

Mr. William Walker having been called upon to take the chair,

The Rev. Mr. Buckle said that under the impression that a visit from some one representing the committee in the Southern portion of the colony to Fraser's Island would be of great benefit to the cause, it was suggested that he should proceed thither on the occasion of his visit to Gympie. Having done so he would now give a short history of the mission from its commencement. Mr. Fuller before coming to this colony had served several years as a soldier in Her Majesty's service in India, South Africa, and elsewhere, and in that position had attained the highest rank a non-commissioned officer could hold, and on his return home received two silver medals and testimonials of the most flattering character from the Horse Guards. On his arrival in this colony he showed them to one of the principal merchants in Queensland, who, after perusal, said any man with such credentials could go through the world without difficulty in any position, and if there was no place open for him they would have to make one. Mr. Fuller remained but a short time inactive, feeling a conviction that he ought to be about his Master's work; and having made up his mind to start as a bush missionary, with knapsack full of bibles and tracts, he travelled about seven hundred miles into the interior—making his way first of all to Roma, thence to Fort Bourke, back to Roma, and thence to Rockhampton, Cape River Diggings, and Ravenswood, at which latter place the people became so attached to him that a number invited him to stay among them permanently, one man offering £220 towards the erection of a church. Under influence however, of a conviction that he ought to preach the Gospel to the heathen he refused, and again made his way to Toowoomba, and for a short period filled the pulpit for Dr. Nelson, Presbyterian Minister, where he once more felt urged to go forward on the mission to the aborigines. About this time committees were formed in Ipswich, Brisbane, Warwick, and Toowoomba to aid him in his efforts, but for want of combined action had in a great measure failed in their object. Some people had charged Mr. Fuller with foolhardiness. He (Mr. Buckle) believed him to be a simple, earnest follower of Christ. On his (Mr. Buckle's) arrival at Fraser's Island he found Mr. Fuller successfully exerting himself among the blacks, and making good progress himself in learning their language, and becoming acquainted with their customs. He had already formed a vocabulary of their tongue of 1000 words. One of the natives with him, named Lenny, was assisting him to learn the native tongue, and he, in return, was teaching Lenny English; and there was another black who could already read the Scriptures. He not only taught them to read, but also to sing, and Mr. Buckle could assure them the melody was most cheerful and exhilirating. Whilst Mr. Fuller and the native were reading that portion of Scripture about the casting out of the devils, he (Mr. Buckle) was anxious to find out whether they believed in a devil, and from inquiry among them could come to no other conclusion than that they not only believed in a devil, but also in a Supreme Being, and of the existence of the soul after death. The grand object at which Mr. Fuller was aiming was to preach the Gospel to them in their mother tongue, which he believes he will be able to do before long.

Mr. Thorne then moved the first resolution,—"That this meeting, fully sympathising with the movement for the civilising and Christianising of the aborigines of Queensland, pledges itself to assist as far as possible the mission established for that purpose on Fraser's Island, by the Rev. Mr. Fuller."

The Rev. Mr. Lavers, who regretted that indisposition had prevented him from taking a more prominent part in the proceedings, said that the resolution had his entire sympathy, and that he would do his best to aid in carrying it into effect.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. R. Jones read the second resolution,—"That, with a view to making such support available, a committee, to consist of the following gentlemen, be appointed to collect subscriptions and forward the cause of the mission generally, with power to add to their number—namely, the Rev. Messrs. Knipe and Lavers, His Worship the Mayor, Messrs. W. Walker, G. Horsburg, sen., R. Coutts, T. Murray, J. E. Noakes, J. W. Todd, R. Jones, J. Robinson, W. Young, H. S. Grenfell, W. S. Roberts, and E. Thorne."

Mr. Murray, in seconding the resolution, said he had had occasion to mix with blacks a goood deal. He had also been down to Fraser's Island, and thought there was little to be done among the old people, but that the young ones were equally susceptible of education, and with similar good results, as were the children of Europeans.

The resolution was likewise carried, and votes of thanks to the chairman for presiding, and to the managers of the church for granting its use to the meeting, having been passed, and a collection made, the proceedings were brought to a close.

THE NEW NATIONAL SCHOOL, INDOOROOPILLY.

One of the surest signs of the prosperity of the agricultural districts, and the permanent and respectable character of the settlement which is going on over the country, is the continual demand for the erection of national schools. No sooner has one district obtained a school than another determines to follow the example. The latest effort in the way of providing school accommodation is a new National School at Prior's Pocket, Indooroopilly, which is now open, under the charge of the teacher, Mr. Atethy. A very successful tea-meeting was held in the school-room on February 21, to celebrate the opening, at which Mr. Charles Lilley presided. There was a large attendance, fully 150 people sitting down to the tea, which was of a very plentiful and substantial character. After tea, a public meeting was held, and addressed by several speakers. The chairman opened the proceedings by stating the pleasure he felt at presiding at a meeting of the kind, and his delight to see such a large amount of interest taken in the proceedings. Mr. R. Macdonnell next addressed the meeting in a very sensible speech, in which he exhorted the parents present to assist the teacher as much as possible by seeing that their children regularly attended the school. The meeting was then addressed at some length by Messrs. Atethy, Brookes, Jarrott, and the Rev. Mr. Woolcock, all of whom urged the necessity of the parents allowing their children the full benefit of the educational advantages placed within their reach. The chairman in his remarks pointed out that in a great measure the success of the school depended upon the exertions of the parents of the children. He explained that the greatest advantage to be derived from a system of free education was to place within the reach of every one a thoroughly good practical education, and thereby prevent the growth of pauperism in the community. He also contended that in country schools agricultural chemistry should be taught to the boys. The great object of this was to teach the young the use and value of the land of which they had such vast quantities, and that everyone who wished could gain a livelihood by the culture of the soil. He was in favor of compulsory education, at least for children from 6 years to 12 years old, and that for older children whose labor might be of value to their parents the system of half time, which was in operation in Lancashire and other places, could be advantageously adopted here. All pupils from the age of 14 upwards, should have instruction in physical science and agricultural chemistry. The object of a national system of education should not so much be to make distinguished scholars as to give a sound practical education to the whole community. He had considerable faith in the value of the three "R's" as a groundwork of education. He disagreed with the idea that a good education should have the effect of leading men from the ordinary avocations of life, and that its chief value was to make them rise to the highest positions in the social scale, and that the system failed if they all did not become judges, chancellors, and other high dignitaries. The object should be to give general instruction and impart a good sound education. He pointed out that the building of school-houses was one of the greatest signs of civilisation in a country district, and also an encouragement to settlement, as it enabled them to remain on the land without having to go to the cities for the education of their children. He congratulated them upon the success that had attended their efforts, and said he remembered passing through the district when there was not a trace of settlement or cultivation, and now the signs of population and prosperity met him everywhere. The report of the School Committee, which was read, stated that the sum of £86 has been paid into the hands of the Inspector-General of Schools. Something over £100 is about the third of the entire cost of the building and fencing, and this is the amount which the Board requires the residents to subscribe. Several of the subscribers have not as yet been called upon, so that the committee believe with the sum of £9 15s. already in hands, and with the subscriptions not yet collected, they will shortly be able to give a good account of their stewardship. The proceeds of the sale of tickets for the tea-meeting it is intended to devote to the formation of a library which the committee contemplate forming in connection with a mutual improvement society. The proceedings, which were of a very pleasant character throughout, were brought to a close by a very hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, and the singing of the National Anthem.

SAVINGS BANK RETURNS.

The following is a return of operations for the month of February, 1871:—

New accounts opened	247		
Accounts re-opened	63		
Accounts closed	268		
Increase in number of accounts ...	42		
Number of deposits	1323		
Number of withdrawals	860		
Total sum deposited ...	£18,392	7	9
Total sum withdrawn ...	19,196	15	10
Amount to the credit of 5979 depositors on Feb. 28, 1871	340,835	7	3
Amount to the credit of 5937 depositors on Jan. 31, 1871	341,630	13	9
Decrease for the month of February	775	6	6

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, CHARLES PARISH, now residing in Leichhardt-street, Spring Hill, in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Leichhardt-street, Spring Hill, containing the requisite number of bedrooms and sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is my own, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of Parish's Family Hotel. I am married and have a family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 11th day of March, 1871.

2571 CHAS. PARISH.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, GEORGE HUGH FISHLEY, now residing in Edward-street, Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Licensing Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Brisbane, in Edward-street, containing six bedrooms and three sitting rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house belongs to Sheppard Smith, Esq., and rented from L. A. Bernays, Esq., and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Wansfell Hotel. I am married, and have no children. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 18th day of March, 1871.

2564 GEORGE H. FISHLEY.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, PATRICK M'GOLDRICK, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for the district on TUESDAY, the 18th of April ensuing, for a COUNTRY PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances belonging thereto, situated at M'Lean, Logan Bridge, containing two sitting-rooms and six bedrooms. The house and premises are my own. I am a married man, and without a family, and have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 18th day of March, 1871.

2593 PATRICK M'GOLDRICK.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, WILLIAM GOODWIN GEDDES, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a COUNTRY PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Caboolture, containing five bedrooms and two sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is my own property, and is now licensed under the sign of the Caboolture Hotel. I am married, and have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 18th day of March, 1871.

2562 WILLIAM GOODWIN GEDDES.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, DONALD WILSON, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances belonging thereto, situate in Boundary-street, South Brisbane, containing the required number of sitting and bedrooms, exclusive of those required by the family. The house is my own property, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Boundary Hotel. I am married, and have a family, and have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 18th day of March, 1871.

2563 DONALD WILSON.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, SAMUEL K. TOES, now residing in Wharf-street, in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Wharf-street, containing six bed-rooms and four sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is my own property, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the York Hotel. I am married, and have a family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 11th day of March, 1871.

2488 SAMUEL K. TOES.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, EDWARD JOSEPH BAINES, now residing at Kangaroo Point, in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Kangaroo Point, containing six bedrooms and three sitting-rooms, exclusive of what I require for the use of my family. The house is my own property, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Pine Apple Hotel. I am married. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 16th day of March, 1871.

2482 EDWARD JOSEPH BAINES.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, JAMES QUINN, now residing at German Station, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a COUNTRY PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at German Station, containing four bedrooms and two sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is my own property, and is now licensed under the sign of the Prince of Wales Hotel. I am married, and have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 16th day of March, 1871.

2480 JAMES QUINN.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, THOMAS HOLMES, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' General Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S GENERAL LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances belonging thereto, situated in Queen-street, containing six bedrooms and five sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is rented from Mr. J. Bryden, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Belfast Hotel. I am not married, and have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 16th day of March, 1871.

2481 THOMAS HOLMES.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, GEORGE ARCHIBALD ORR, now residing at Bald Hills-road, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publican's Licenses, to be holden on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a COUNTRY PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at the Bald Hills-road, containing six bedrooms and three sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by the family. The house is my own property, and is now licensed under the sign of the Edinburgh Castle. I am married, and have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 14th day of March, 1871.

2477 GEORGE ARCHIBALD ORR.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Goodna, in Queensland.

I, WILLIAM BENN, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a COUNTRY PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances belonging thereto, situated on the Ipswich-road, containing the requisite number of bedrooms and sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is the property of Mr. John M'Donald, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Oxley Hotel. I am married, and have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 17th day of March, 1871.

2595 W. BENN.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, JAMES DINSDALE, now residing in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Licensing Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Edward-street, containing the requisite bedrooms and sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is rented from the Executors of the late Peter Hartley, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Exchange Hotel. I am married and have no family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 15th day of March, 1871.

2489 JAMES DINSDALE.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, MAURICE O'ROURKE, now residing in Leichhardt-street, Spring Hill, in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Spring Hill, containing six bedrooms and four sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is my own property, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Sir John Young Hotel. I am married, and have a family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 16th day of March, 1871.

2478 MAURICE O'ROURKE.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the Police District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, FRANK RAYMOND, now residing at Sandgate, in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Meeting for the granting of Country Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a COUNTRY PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at the Esplanade, Sandgate, containing nineteen bedrooms and six sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is the property of Mr. Deagon, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Sandgate Hotel. I am married, and have a family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 14th day of March, 1871.

2495 FRANK RAYMOND.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, WILLIAM DEAGON, now residing in Edward-street, in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this District on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Edward-street, containing the requisite number of bedrooms and sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is rented from Mr. J. Stamm, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Prince of Wales Hotel. I am married, and have a family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 15th day of March, 1871.

2491 WILLIAM DEAGON.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, HENRY BIGGS, now residing in Eagle-street, in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Eagle-street, containing the requisite number of bedrooms and sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is rented by me from the A.S.N. Company, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Steam Packet Hotel. I am married, and have a family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 15th day of March, 1871.

2493 HENRY BIGGS.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, CHARLES PARISH, now residing in Leichhardt-street, Spring Hill, in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Leichhardt-street, Spring Hill, containing the requisite number of bedrooms and sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is my own, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of Parish's Family Hotel. I am married and have a family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 11th day of March, 1871.

2543 CHAS. PARISH.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, HENRY DARRAGH, now residing in Queen-street, in the district of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Queen-street, containing five bedrooms and four sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is the property of Mr. J. Munce, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Provincial Hotel, but which I now wish to be changed to the Post-office Hotel. I am married, and have a family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 9th day of March, 1871.

2541 HENRY DARRAGH.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the District of Brisbane, in Queensland.

I, WILLIAM FRANCIS CLARK, now residing in the District of Brisbane, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Meeting for the granting of Publicans' Licenses, to be holden for this district on TUESDAY, the 18th day of April next ensuing, for a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at George-street, containing six bedrooms and three sitting-rooms, exclusive of those required by my family. The house is my own, and has hitherto been licensed under the sign of the Shakespeare Hotel. I am married, and have no family. I have held a license before.—Given under my hand, this 15th day of March, 1871.

2494 WILLIAM FRANCIS CLARK.