

even by the rest of the group, and had their great crime been suffered to go unpunished, would in all probability have become more fearless and daring than ever.

The blow I inflicted not only required to be done promptly and effectually, as a punishment for the murder of my officers, but was richly deserved for other outrages. It could not have fallen upon any place where it would have produced as much effect, in impressing the whole group with a full sense of our power and determination to punish such aggressions.

Such has been its effect on the people of Malolo, that they have since been found the most civil, harmless, and well-disposed natives of the group.

Notwithstanding that the opinion of all the officers who were present and cognizant of all the facts was, that I had not gone far enough in the punishment I had inflicted, I found myself charged on my return by the administration, as guilty of murder, and of acting on this occasion in a cruel, merciless, and tyrannical manner. To make out the latter charge, it was alleged that I had made the natives actually crawl to my feet to beg pardon. The part of the whole affair for which I take some credit to myself is, that when I judged it had become necessary to punish, it was in like manner obligatory on me to study how it could be done most effectually; and from the knowledge I had obtained of the customs of the natives, during the time I had been engaged in the group, I was enabled to perform this painful though necessary duty, in a manner that made it vastly more effectual, by requiring of them their own forms of submission, and their own modes of acknowledging defeat.

All the facts of the case are before my countrymen, and they will be able to judge whether I should, for my conduct in the punishment of this atrocious massacre, have been arraigned on a charge of murder, and of acting in a cruel, merciless, and tyrannical manner, and this without any previous inquiry into the facts or motives that led to my actions, and merely on the report of a few discontented officers of the squadron, whom the good of the service compelled me to send back to the United States. These grave charges were not made known to me until two days before the court was convened for my trial upon them.

While I am unable to refrain from stating wherein I consider some of the officers blamable, I must mention with high praise the promptitude with which the bodies were saved from ministering to the cannibal appetites of the murderers.

The punishment inflicted on the natives was no doubt severe; but I