

THE corroborative proofs of the murder of COLLINS, MORGAN, and the Dutchman, as narrated by the three blacks to Mr. T. PETRIE, are given. The boat has been recovered ; and the articles enumerated in our report of the finding, have been identified by BUCKLEY, the father-in-law of COLLINS. The murderers are known, can be punished if it is so willed, and there only remains the question how?

The law is merciful in not taking the evidence of the blacks ; and, so far as legality is concerned, the perpetrators of the murder may escape. It is necessary to guard the aborigines to a certain extent from the violence of imaginary wrongs—but when the murderers are known, let the same justice be meted out to the blacks as would be to the whites for a crime of a like nature. If there is any squeamishness in the matter— if they escape with impunity—the lives of the whites will be held lighter than ever.

The matter in all its details should be placed before the Attorney-General of New South Wales, and some means devised whereby the offenders should suffer. If the lives of our fellow-colonists are worth caring for, the murderers should be arrested ; and if there was hitch in jurisprudence, whereby they escaped they would be known by some hundreds in the district, could be shunned, and not be allowed to come into the town. It does appear a hardship that while a white would be brought to trial for the murder of a black the latter should escape through particular quibbles in the law of evidence.

We cannot believe that the inhabitants of the district will quietly submit to such an insult ; more especially as some of those whose names are mixed up in this affair are judged to have been guilty of the death of other whites. Before this notice meets the eyes of one half of our readers, it is more than probable that our new Judge, the late Attorney-General, will be in the district ; and if the whole particulars were laid before him, with the evidences of guilt, he might give instructions how to proceed. Those who reside in the more settled portion of Australia, may not feel so strongly as we do on the subject in our isolated position ; yet Englishmen, all over the world, will understand the necessity of teaching the natives to respect the life of the white man. If the law is found remiss in punishing, and in hunting up the murderers, it is not to be wondered that private revenge should stain our history, teaching the natives that they will not escape with impunity when they commit murder. That law may be vindicated—the protection granted to Englishmen they deserve, while pursuing their calling in the development of a new trade in this part of the world, we ask that a point maybe strained, so that the perpetrators of these murders may not escape. An old facetious friend of our own observed, that nothing like justice would be done until the aborigines had killed a bishop.

Why he selected such an official we cannot imagine, unless pious horror might become an incentive to justice. We are satisfied that something would be done if any man high in authority was murdered by the blacks ; and we see no reason why the murders should not be avenged, even though the sufferers were but humble fishermen. The three men who were murdered on the Island of St. Helena were engaged in a calling which promises to yield a good source of income. Arrangements have been made whereby the dugong oil may be made known at home, as superior to cod liver oil for use in cases of pulmonary affection ; and if a trade should be created, as it most likely will, there

will no thanks be due to the laws under which we live, if the murders of the three white men are not avenged.