

## HUMAN HEAD TRADE STILL FLOURISHES

The grisly trade in preserved human heads is, in spite of the efforts of the missionaries, still flourishing in New Zealand. The present market value is about £20 for a good specimen, with the exchange made in either cold cash or muskets and powder. A few years ago ironware, mostly axes and agricultural implements, provided the basis of the bargaining, but these days the Maori has learned enough to know that firearms can reduce his enemies quicker than anything else and at the same time provide the means of more trade to reduce more enemies.

Before the trade was put on a commercial basis, honour to the dead was the reason for the preservation of human heads. On their death friends are still honoured in this way, but care is always taken to prevent such heads from falling into the hands of the white traders. The heads used for trade are those of enemies.

The heads not sold are generally exhibited either on poles in front of the chief's living-quarters in a village or in the sterns of the war canoes. They are frequently dressed with oil and treated always with the greatest respect. Unfortunate cases have been known where women taken as prisoners of war by an enemy tribe have had to pass on their way to the fields the gruesome sight of their husbands' preserved heads grimacing at them from the top of poles.

"The picking-up of real good heads" by the traders has increased so much that lately slaves have been tattooed alive, later to be killed. And one scoundrel slave had the conscience to bolt before he was



Kororareka—Headquarters of Whalers.

## GENERAL REVOLUTION CAN BE AVERTED ONLY WITH SOCIAL REFORM

[LONDON

The Napoleonic War ended seven years ago, Bonaparte last year died his lonely death on St. Helena; but far from improving with the end of the war, economic and social conditions of the people in Great Britain, and the manufacturing centres of England particularly, are worse to-day than ever before—they are worse than appalling.

Europe is at peace, with the ears of her peoples laid back catching up on the

industrial manufacturing development that last century gave this nation such a lead in world trade, a lead that is being lost surely and not so slowly. The demand overseas for our goods has slackened, the machine has replaced the worker, unemployment figures, increased by general demobilization of the army, are staggering. There is not enough food, people are starving, child labour in factories has not lessened in its brutality.

The Six Acts (passed in 1819 after the Manchester Massacre for the suppression of seditious meetings and publications and the seizure of firearms) may have stopped public disorder, but it has done nothing to remove the causes of the discontent. George III, whose interference with political matters was not helped by his insanity, has been dead two years; his son, George IV, even in an age when virtue is unfashionable, has done more to bring the Crown into contempt than any preachings of the Republicans.

The Combination Laws, which make strikes criminal and trade-unions illegal, have been neither repealed nor modified. Humanitarian Wm. Wilberforce in his appeals for the abolition of slavery might as well talk to the moon. Postage is not available to the

people. The gaming laws are sending hundreds of hungry people away as convicts to the brutal penal settlements in Australia.

The Bow Street Runners, the only police force in the country, are known only with contempt for their corruption and their evil inefficiency. Gin shops—with their slogan, "Drunk for a Penny—Dead Drunk for Twopenny"—are the centres of social life. General education is almost unknown. There is no franchise for the general public, who have nothing to do with the laws of the country but their obeying of them.

The years ahead are likely to be written in history as the years of reform, reform in every sphere of life. If a general revolution is to be avoided, those reforms had better not be delayed too long.

## MARSDEN TO MAKE FOURTH JOURNEY TO N.Z. MISSIONS

While Explorer Cook (Captain J.) was edging his way round the uncharted coasts of New Zealand more than fifty years ago there was at that time scrambling round his Yorkshire home a youngster named Samuel Marsden, son of a blacksmith. To-day Samuel Marsden is Senior Chaplain in New South Wales of the Church Missionary Society and Superintendent in New Zealand of the society's work.

The Rev. Samuel Marsden arrived at the Bay of Islands to preach his first sermon on Christmas Day, 1814—the text was, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy"; a large congregation of Maoris were no less interested because they were unable to understand a word of the new-fangled English language.

The missionary trail in New Zealand was blasted, after many difficulties, by three assistants—Wm. Hall, shipbuilder and carpenter; John King, shoemaker; and one Thos. Kendall (see other columns re news of Kendall in trouble). They arrived in New Zealand in 1814 and made preparations for the first coming of Marsden; of great help was the good work and negotiation of Chief Ruatara, whom Marsden had befriended earlier in Australia.

With the Bay of Islands as the headquarters, the good work of the missionaries has spread rapidly. The missionaries, Marsden in particular, have come to be loved and respected by the Maoris, and not only because of the distribution of axes, cloth, and other goods made as often as stocks allow.

Missionary Marsden made a second trip to New Zealand in 1819, a third a year later. News of his fourth visit is now expected.

Two hundred acres of land were bought near the Bay of Islands for 12 axes, and later 13,000 acres at Kerikeri for a nominal payment from Bigchief Hongi (a close friend of Marsden). Several more missionaries have arrived in New Zealand to further the work, the need for which is pressing.

Efforts to suppress the introduction by the whalers of liquor (*uakipo*, or Stinking Water), to eliminate the preserved head trade, and the practice of blackbirding the Maoris into service on the whaling and trading ships are only some of the services done for the natives in the name of Christianity. In addition has been the church and school teachings, the setting-up of missions, the distribution of much-needed European goods, seeds, and animals, and the spreading of information for the cultivation of crops to provide food and other comforts of life.

## FAILURE PROPHESED FOR INVENTOR'S PLANS OF LOCO. TRANSPORT

[STOCKTON

Inventor George Stephenson, former cow-herd and colliery gin-horse driver, has received full authority to action the construction of a travelling locomotive service for goods and passengers between Stockton and Darlington. The directors of the scheme intended to use waggons and horses over this new route, but so successful were the trials in 1814 of My Lord, Stephenson's first travelling engine, that they have decided to let the inventor and his works have a run. The most eminent engineers of the day are sceptical, prophesy general failure, but these are changing times, and it well may be that Stephenson has got something. The enterprise will be watched with interest.



The Rev. S. Marsden, Senior Chaplain.