

Besides this he had been first in another field of enterprise. With the intention of procuring cheap labour, he sent one of his ships to the New Hebrides in 1847 to bring back a cargo of the Islanders. In the course of two voyages more than a hundred Natives were obtained by some means or other. Whether they were legitimately persuaded, decoyed, or kidnapped, I am unable to discover, but the captain of a vessel which called at the Hebrides soon afterwards complained that since the visits of Boyd's ship it was exceedingly difficult to get the Natives to come on board. Believing that all those of their countrymen who had been taken away were already dead, they had put to death the unfortunate wives who remained behind.

Boyd landed his Native immigrants at Boydtown, and then sent them on to his sheep stations in the interior, intending that they should be trained as

shepherds or hut keepers. They were paid sixpence a week and, in addition, received a new shirt and cap once a year. They do not, however, appear to have taken kindly to their new work. Many of them escaped and made their way to Sydney, where they caused considerable consternation by appearing practically naked in the streets. Those who remained on the stations were of little use and got into mischief unless constantly watched. Two years later Boyd went bankrupt. His creditors allowed him to retain three of his whalers and the yacht "Wanderer," in which he sailed to San Francisco.

When Webster met him he was nursing the grotesque idea of founding a republic in the Solomon Islands. Even supposing the minds of the Solomon-Islanders of those days to have been receptive to an experiment in constitution-building, it cannot be admitted that Boyd, whose life had been a denial of republican principles, was the right man to put it into practice. What was such a man doing with such an idea in his head? And what sort of republic did he intend to found? Had a complete change of outlook accompanied his bankruptcy? or

