

THE WHITE WOMAN OF THE NORMANBY.

In our telegrams of a fortnight ago was an item relating to the capture of a white woman from the Normanby blacks by the Queensland police. The "Cooktown Independent" of August 31 contains the following interesting particulars concerning the affair :

Considerable excitement was manifested on Sunday when it became known that the Normanby police had captured from the blacks the white woman who has been seen on several occasions during the past fourteen years by explorers and prospectors. There had been a tribal fight last week, and the "white woman" remained on the field of battle to tend her wounded Benjamin, where she was discovered by Mr. Jodrell, who gave information to the police. The black troopers, under their white officer, secured the woman and mounted her on a horse after feeble but determined resistance and bitter outcries; but while escorting her towards Cooktown the police were fiercely assailed by nearly three hundred blacks bent on effecting a rescue. During the melee, which ended in the rout of her tribe, the poor creature was thrown from her horse and dragged a considerable distance, receiving fatal injuries, although no time was lost in conveying her to the hospital. She is apparently about 40 years of age, with matted hair once auburn or golden, but now gray, and her eyes hazel. Her skin is as white as the most delicately nurtured lady, although when captured she was robed like Mother Eve before the fall. She is probably an Albino of the Australian type, as Wallace's boy, who can speak her language, says her parents were black, and that she had a brother as white as herself, who perished some years ago in a bush fire.

Since the foregoing was written the poor creature has died, and after a careful examination of the body we have come to the conclusion that she was European, probably Scandinavian, as her yellow hair and light hazel eyes would denote. The nose has evidently been

denote. The nose has evidently been flattened by artificial means, but it does not grow up under the forehead like that of an aboriginal. Although the skull does not denote very high intellectual power, it is superior to the average aboriginal, and the hands, feet, and ears are small and decidedly European in shape. The ears appear to have been pierced for rings when young, the punctures being quite different in shape to those bored by native instruments. The poor wail and her deceased brother were probably as children saved from a massacred ship's company 20 to 30 years ago, and she may have been somebody's darling, who still mourns her fate among the pine forests of Sweden, or on the steepes of Jutland—but whatever her story she has taken it with her beyond the reach of man.

A sensational case (says an exchange) has just occupied the attention of the Criminal Tribunal at Archilona, in Spain, which might serve as the groundwork of a drama. A young doctor of that place was engaged to a local beauty, whom he jilted on his removal to Granada, where he presently learned that the young lady had found another lover. Returning abruptly he found them in company, and asked her which she preferred. She replied that her heart was still with her first love, and the rival was contemptuously bowed out. Two months later the doctor married the beauty, and the second admirer continued to be friendly with both; but a little later on a small box was sent by railway to the husband, which he opened in the presence of his wife. It contained an infernal machine, which exploded, literally tearing both the recipients to pieces. The rival has been placed upon his trial as the presumed author of the crime.

A New Guinea correspondent of a Queensland exchange says a party of Roman Catholic missionaries have discovered a new river running almost due north, which they have named the San Joseph; they have traced it to the base of Mount Yulu and to the western

of Mount Yulu and to the western shores of Mount Owen Stauley. They report the country on the other bank of the river as exceedingly fertile and very thickly populated, the natives being very friendly. The missionaries, in all, visited fifteen villages, some of them of great size, one containing two thousand in-