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ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

OF

AUSTRALASIA,

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH.



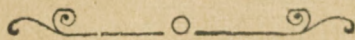
FIRST REPORT

ON

NEW GUINEA.

BY

MR. JOHN F. MANN.



Sydney :

TURNER AND HENDERSON.

1889.



ERRATA.

Page 1	...	last line	...	read "these pots."
2	...	line 15	...	omit "which."
2	...	" 28	...	read "adapted."
3	...	" 31	...	omit "small and."
4	...	" 28	...	" "these canoes."
7	...	" 7	...	read "brush."
9	...	" 5	...	" "pricked."
10	...	" 17 from bottom,	"	" "was here."
10	...	" 15 "	" "	" "they."
11	...	" 15 "	" "	" "along."
12	...	" 19	...	" "to the chief."
14	...	" 8	...	" "inches."
19	...	" 3	...	" "lacerated."
20	...	last line	...	omit "had."
21	...	line 4	...	read "stripes."
21	...	" 21	...	" "bay."
22	...	" 12	...	omit "as."
27	...	" 8 from bottom,	read	"ended."
31	...	" 1	...	" "is."
35	...	" 18 from bottom,	omit	"of course."
46	...	" 19	...	read "is."
50	...	" 1	...	" "appear."
51	...	" 5	...	" "sealing wax."

MR. MANN'S REPORT ON NEW GUINEA.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

NOTE.—In order to account for the irregularity in the paging, and want of uniformity as regards the type, etc., of this publication, it is necessary to inform the reader that the first part of this report was published in a condensed form in Vol. II. of the "Proceedings of this Society." This was subsequently re-written in a more extended form, so as to be in keeping with the second part, which appears in Vol. III. As the writer is desirous of including the whole under one cover, he has no alternative but to adopt the present course.

To Sir Ed. Strickland, K.C.B., M.R.G.S., etc.,
Vice-President Royal Geographical Society of Australasia.

COMMODORE ERSKINE, in command of Her Majesty's ships on the Australian station, having, at the request of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, kindly consented to afford accommodation for a representative on the occasion of his visiting New Guinea for the purpose of proclaiming a Protectorate over a part of that island, and having been selected for that important duty I at once set about making arrangements for the voyage. Intimation of the Commodore's acquiescence in this matter was received by me on Saturday afternoon, the 19th October, 1884, and as the flag ship, H.M.S. *Nelson*, was to leave on Wednesday, the 22nd, little time remained for me to make preparations and to arrange my affairs.

These matters having been settled during the few days I had for that purpose, I proceeded on board the *Nelson*, and was most kindly received by the officers. The ship left her moorings off Mrs. Macquarie's Point about 9 a.m., and proceeded slowly down the harbour by the easternmost channel, and cleared the Heads about 10 a.m. The sea was beautifully calm, notwithstanding the very severe storm which had passed over Sydney during the previous night.

The non-combatants on board besides myself were Mr. A. Keyser, an English gentleman; Mr. Lyne, special commissioner, *Sydney Morning Herald*; Mr. Cooper, an accomplished artist; and Mr. Stuart, son of the Premier.

Our destination in the first instance was Brisbane, to which place the Commodore had to call on business connected with his mission. After an exceedingly pleasant passage we anchored in Moreton Bay about 11.30, Saturday, October 25. The Government steamer *Kate* was in waiting, and ready to take those who wished up the river to Brisbane, a distance of thirty or forty miles, where we arrived about 5.30. The following day (Sunday) I took the opportunity of visiting some of my friends who reside at a charming spot about two miles from the town, near the river.

I had but little time to identify many of the landmarks somewhat familiar to me thirty-eight years ago, on my first visit, or to take a comprehensive view of the city and surrounding country, but what I did see impressed me favourably—fine streets, shops, and houses now cover the space which then was forestland—but for the noble river I should not have recognised the place at all. The celebrated old mill, which at that time formed such a prominent object, is now to be identified with the Observatory. It stands upon a hill adjoining the town, but is somewhat shorn of its former imposing appearance.

When Brisbane was a penal settlement, the prisoners had to grind all the corn used, and to this windmill, which was of great height, a treadmill was attached. The ban of prison settlement was withdrawn by Sir George Gipps in 1841, when the mill and public buildings were abandoned, and, as is always the case, they rapidly began to decay.

I question much whether any remains of the old prison buildings now exist. One interesting relic of bygone days, however, was met with in the person of the caretaker of the Observatory, who was a seaman with Captain Blackwood when that officer hoisted the Union Jack on the Fly River in 1845.

My visit brought to my mind many recollections of former days. I was then about starting on an expedition across an unknown country as a companion of Leichhardt—a country now occupied by flocks and herds, towns and villages, railroads, sugar plantations, gold mines, etc., etc. The native blacks had then full run of the city, and a day or two after my arrival had the audacity to attack the residence of the Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Mr. Gregor, who, fortunately for himself, was absent; but they murdered his brother, wife, servants, and all the family except one little girl, about ten years of age. I saw the poor little thing trembling with terror in the arms of her rescuer, almost dead with fright. These murders were witnessed by a half-caste boy, who was enabled to identify the ring-leader as one known as “Mill Bong Jemmy,” a notorious ruffian. “Mill” means “eye,” “Bong,” “dead,” otherwise “Deadeye” or “Blind Jemmy.” Every man who could muster a gun turned out to give chase, including a party of the 99th regiment then quartered there. These blacks were nearly intercepted while crossing the river at Breakfast Creek by Mr. Thornton of the Customs, and his boat's crew. They then attacked a sawyer's hut, when “Mr. Jemmy” was shot, the bullet entering his ear. I saw him, still alive, being brought into Brisbane on a dray. Few, if any, of the aborigines now remain, and, unless recorded in the police books, I doubt whether any present resident ever heard of such a tragedy having been enacted.

Monday, October 27.—We left Brisbane about 10 a.m., and in due course saw the *Nelson* in the distance to all appearance steaming out to sea. The bay is so wide and uninteresting, being little better than an open shallow roadstead, as to convey the idea of a ship being in the open sea. The navigation of this port is extremely intricate, and it was at least 5 p.m. or later before we were fairly clear of all dangers. Wind light and fair enabled us to carry fore and aft sails.

Sunday, 2nd November.—At daylight this morning land was visible on the starboard side—first glimpse of New Guinea! As we approached the country presented a very beautiful appearance: native villages were seen along the shores and many huts perched on the hill sides. The country is mountainous, and extremely

high summits loomed in the distance; at first sight one might suppose that it was occupied by a civilised population. Extensive tracts (on the hill sides at least) were naturally clear, and the edge of the forest in places so straight and distinct as to lead to the supposition that the land had been cleared by settlers; the grass, however, is coarse and rank, and looks better from a distance. Occasional wreathes of smoke burst forth from the hill sides. I thought at first that they were intended as signals, but heard afterwards that they were caused by hunting parties of natives.

The outer coral reef soon became visible, and at about 8 a.m., as we steamed slowly along, our excellent band, which always played at that hour, struck up a programme of sacred music—the first music of any sort ever heard in these cannibal regions. I give the whole programme:—

PROGRAMME, H.M.S. *NELSON*.

SUNDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 1884.

Prayer from "Mosé in Egitto"	<i>Rossini.</i>
Slow March—"Silver Trumpets"	<i>Viviani.</i>
Adagio—"O, How Kindly"	<i>Beethoven.</i>
Sunday Troop on Moody and Sankey's Hymns—		
" Precious Promise "	<i>Daley.</i>
Overture from Rossini's "Stabat Mater" ...		<i>Mercadante.</i>
Andante from a Sonata by Beethoven, known as		
" St. Jerome's Love "	————

G. DALEY,
Bandmaster.

We were now close to the reefs, the colour of the water over which was extremely beautiful—a lovely green; the deep water was well defined, being dark blue, this, with the picturesque mountains in the background, presented a most lovely picture. We steamed slowly along, and soon entered the passage through the reef, which forms the approach to Port Moresby. This entrance, known as "Basilisk," was so named by Captain Moresby, who discovered it when in command of H.M. ship of that name in 1873.

The depth of water here is twenty-one fathoms, and the length and breadth of the channel about three-quarters of a mile. A prominent hill, Paga Point, bore right ahead, a few degrees east of north about three miles distant, this point forms the south-eastern headland of Port Moresby. Fisherman and Elizabeth Islands lie westward of our course, the former, about three miles distant, is of coral formation, low and well wooded; the latter two islands are of small size, about 180 feet high; these are separated from Mourilyan Island by a narrow passage having a depth of from three to four fathoms. Mourilyan Island is about half a mile long and about three hundred feet in height, and is separated from the mainland, Palli Palli Point, by a narrow strait, two to three

fathoms deep. These last islands virtually form the western entrance of the "Port," which is about a mile and a half across. We anchored at 11 a.m., in twelve fathoms, about one and a half mile from the Mission Station and native villages.

H.M.S. *Espiegle*, Capt. Bridge, from Cooktown, with Mr. Chester, the Government Resident Thursday Island, on board, now hove in sight and anchored inside of us; H.M.S. *Raven*, Commander Ross; *Harrier*, Commander Wilcox; and *Swinger*, Commander J. L. Marx, were already at anchor, together with the Missionary schooner *Ellangowan*, Captain Liljeblad.

The harbour is protected on the south by the reefs; on all other sides it is closely surrounded by steep hills of picturesque form, scantily timbered, and having a very barren appearance at present, here and there in the valleys and sheltered places clusters or groves of trees of rich foliage are to be seen, amongst which palms and cocoa-nuts are conspicuous. On the steep and stoney mountain sides are many irregularly shaped patches of land under cultivation by the natives, containing bananas and yams, each patch being surrounded by a neatly-formed fence.

The mission buildings appeared to be perched on a cliff, and were readily distinguished from the native houses along the beach. We were anxious to get on shore, and immediately after our luncheon lost no time in doing so. Our first duty was to call on the Rev. W. G. Lawes, the resident missionary, who, with his wife, has resided here for ten years.

The mission-house is a well-built structure of wood, and raised about five or six feet from the ground, having a broad verandah on either side; there are several other detached houses in connexion with the mission, occupied by native teachers and others. We then visited the villages, there being in fact three; one at the north side of Ethel Island, a small rocky islet close to the landing place, and which from the ship looked like a cliff. This island is united to the mainland by an isthmus of shingle sixty or seventy yards long, which is completely covered at half tide; a second village on the mainland, immediately opposite the island, and extending westerly along the beach; and a third, commencing about 100 yards to the right of the landing place, and extending easterly along the beach; this village is sheltered by a grove of cocoa-nuts. The native name of the islet and village is "Elevara," and of the others, "Tanobada," and "Lohiabada" respectively; the united population is about 1000.

It was to Lohiabada that we next directed our steps. The houses are similar in every respect, built upon piles along the beach, so that at high tide they are completely over the water. These piles are of the most crooked and flimsy description, hardly a straight stick to be seen, and the wonder is how they can support the weight they do, especially when a gale of wind is blowing. Access to

their habitations is by a roughly-constructed ladder which extends in most cases the whole breadth of the platform upon which it lands you; a second ladder of two or three steps is often required to gain entrance to the "drawing-room," though I noticed that some of the floors were on a level throughout. Each house has a platform upon which the whole family lounge for hours together. These houses are from fifteen to twenty feet or more in length, by about eight to ten feet in breadth; they are well put together, the roof and sides being very neatly thatched with pandanus and other palm leaves, and are completely waterproof; sides of old canoes are shaped down to form planks for the floors.

We were soon surrounded by natives; the children were in swarms. They are not a large-sized race, being below the average height and weight of a European. Many of the men were well-made fellows, lithe, active, and muscular, with by no means a bad expression of countenance; their skin varied from a light copper colour to bronze. The men, who were all slightly tattooed across the forehead and upper part of the face, were perfectly nude; their hair, which is coarse, frizzy, and black, is allowed to grow to a great length, and is then combed out to its fullest extent from the head; this affords perfect protection from the sun, though some of them had their hair cropped short, and several were quite bald-headed. They wore necklaces formed of small shells, or the teeth of dogs or wallaby, with narrow bands of the same description across the forehead, to which discs of pearl-shell were fastened; suspended around their necks were crescent-shaped pieces of pearl-shell, and on each upper arm was an armlet of plaited hair or fibre of some sort. The septum of the nose of both men and women was perforated, through which was thrust a long curved and pointed bone, or a piece of bamboo. The rim around each ear was cut and kept distended by means of pieces of bamboo or anything they chose to place there.

All the females, including the very small girls, wore petticoats made either of pandanus or of stained grass of some sort; these reached to the knees. Their bodies were covered with tattoo marks; these took the form of squares or parallelograms about four inches long and three inches wide, filled in with devices of various sorts—some were cross-barred like heraldic signs, others with zig-zag or cuneiform patterns, etc. I designate this the "block pattern," so as to distinguish it from other forms adopted by the women further westward. These women also wore ornaments and armlets similar to those worn by the men.

The operation of tattooing occupies many years, as only a small part of the body can be done at a time; the process is tedious and painful. No girl is considered to be marriageable until her entire body is covered with marks. We noticed that numbers of the children were covered with most loathsome sores. Mr. Lawes says that they all suffer in the same way, but gradually grow out of it.

The women were busily employed in baking earthen pots, as the manufacture of earthenware is carried on to a great extent here. These pots are placed on the fire with the open side downwards, and then covered with wood. The time required for this process I did not ascertain. When taken from the fire, and whilst hot, they are splashed over with some decoction, I believe of mangrove bark, which gives them a reddish-brown appearance.

Anchored off the village were several large trading canoes, called by the natives "lakatoi," of very curious and ingenious construction. Four or more large canoes of from forty to fifty feet long are lashed together, and a raised platform built over each end and sheltered by a neatly-thatched roof. The cables by which they were moored consisted of long canes or rattans. A mast was fitted in the centre, well supported by guys and stays, and decorated with streamers of pandanus and clusters of white cowrie shells. These canoes or rafts take a long time to construct, and when completed are, in the first instance, handed over to the female friends and relatives, who are allowed to sing, dance, and to otherwise show their agility to any extent they choose, which liberty they take full advantage of, the men shouting their approval. Several of these large canoes were being fitted out for a voyage.

On our return to the *Nelson* after our rather hasty visit on shore, we heard that a protectorate had already been proclaimed, and the Union Jack hoisted on the 23rd October by Mr. Deputy Commissioner Romilly, who, acting upon a telegram from Lord Derby, had, with the assistance of Lieutenant Wilcox, of H.M.S. *Harrier*, hoisted the British flag and proclaimed a protectorate. The mistake had evidently been caused by the Colonial Department and the Admiralty issuing instructions to their respective officers without communicating with each other. The commodore has decided upon treating this as a preliminary ceremony, and has named Thursday, the 6th November, as the day upon which he will formally hoist the flag.

Monday, 3rd November.—As the Commodore is desirous of making the ceremony as imposing as possible, he has, after consultation with the missionaries, Messrs. Lawes and Chalmers, despatched the *Espiegle*, Capt. Bridge, eastward, with the latter gentleman on board, to Round Head, and the *Raven*, Capt. Ross, with a native teacher, westerly, to Redscar Bay, in order to collect the most prominent chiefs at those places; the Rev. W. G. Lawes at the same time collecting some of the island chiefs, these being all members of the Motu tribe.

Numbers of natives came alongside in their canoes, and as the order was given to allow them on board, the decks were soon crowded; as the first party of them were about half-way down the companion ladder, a bugle sounded; this caused them to beat a hasty retreat, but they soon regained confidence, and walked

about everywhere. They seemed interested in all they saw; the sailors took great pains to explain everything to them.

Tuesday, 4th.—All officers who could get away from the ship again visited the shore, one party of sportsmen went to the "Fisherman's Island," about five miles off, where pigeon and quail are said to abound. In company with Mr. Lyne, I took a long walk around the village, and then watched the natives, who were busily employed in loading their large trading canoes with earthenware. Some of these canoes were drawn up on the beach between the houses so that the men could wade out to them; others were moored a short distance off, and were loaded by means of smaller canoes, which made repeated trips to and from the shore. Men were to be seen arriving from all quarters, carrying, suspended from a pole across their shoulders, roasted wallaby and other game for provisioning the fleet, and numerous women were hastening along from the wells, about a mile distant, at a sort of double pace, each bearing a large earthenware pot of water for the use of the crews. It was altogether a busy scene. The lamentation of the women on the approaching departure of their husbands and relatives was distressing in the extreme. They raved, cried, danced, shouted, and exhibited every emotion of deep grief.

Wednesday, 5th November.—Shortly after daylight this morning three lakatoi left their moorings, and with a light wind sailed slowly away from their village. In the early morn, before the sun had time to exert his influence, it was extremely delightful. These canoes sailed majestically along with all sail set, and streamers flying from every available point. They were crowded with natives, for the wives and relatives of the men who formed the crews were on board. The whole scene was animating, and with these nude bronze figures moving about, their immense heads of hair decorated with feathers and flowers, was one of intense interest, and one which I would not have missed witnessing for a great deal. Each canoe was steered by four men, each man having a large steer-paddle.

The mat sails were of peculiar form, having two peaks, and shaped much like the tail of a swallow. The largest canoe had two masts, and a double set of sails. Each of them was also provided with smaller sails of oblong shape, used only when going before the wind. They passed about a quarter of a mile astern of the *Nelson*, and brought up between the mainland and Mourilyan Island, which Mr. Chalmers says is the place where the final leave-taking occurs. On one occasion Mr. Chalmers accompanied the fleet on a trading voyage. "How very slowly your canoe sails," he remarked to the head man on their first morning out. "How can you expect a canoe to sail fast when so much sorrow and sadness is left behind? Wait for a day or two, until we forget our sorrows, and then you will see how fast we can go," was the reply.

About 10 a.m. the wind freshened from the south-east, which raised a short, choppy sea, in the midst of which five other lakatoi, accompanied by many smaller canoes, were to be seen working slowly along under the lee of the land, being urged along by means of poles and paddles. Paga Point was at last reached, when all sail was hoisted, and they stood across the harbour close hauled. I think that some of them weathered Mourilyan Island, but others joined their companions who had anchored there in the early morning. About four hundred men were estimated as the required number to form these crews.

The *Espiegle* returned about noon, and the *Raven* about 2.30. Amongst the natives which the former ship brought were two chiefs, who had only the day before been at war with each other in respect to some native who had been stolen, the result being that many men had been killed and others wounded, and one village burnt to the ground. These men were fine-looking fellows.

The sailors had been busily employed during the day in decorating the ship. The spacious deck was closed in by flags of all nations, and presented a very gay appearance. About 4 p.m. all the chiefs, together with Messrs. Lawes and Chalmers, were assembled on board. After a long ramble about the ship, the natives were arranged on the main deck. The master of the ceremonies being a native teacher—a Raratongan, Ruatoka by name—who seemed to have great influence over them. One chief, Boe Vagi, was noticeable on account of his wearing a red wide-awake hat and a shirt. These had been given to him by Mr. Chester, on the occasion of that officer proclaiming annexation on behalf of the Queensland Government in 1883. Another chief came on board "dressed" in something supposed to represent a shirt, but it was so torn and filthy that the native teacher, after a little private talk, induced him to take it off, in order that he might look somewhat respectable. Boe Vagi had already worn his for two years.

A large tub of boiled rice and sugar was now set before them, and squatting around, each chief was supplied with a large basin-full, as well as with an iron spoon to eat it with. Before commencing to eat, grace was said by the native teacher, but not before some of the fighting men had managed to secure a spoonful or two of the rice. The teacher stood in their midst, one hand across his breast, his head bent low, with his other hand he shaded his eyes, he then in native language uttered the prayer. Some of the Port Moresby men as they sat on the ground placed their heads between their knees, for want of the orthodox hat, during the time, but I am afraid that the teacher's words were lost upon them, their thoughts being centred on the boiled rice. They were not long in clearing out the basins, and no doubt a second edition of it would have been acceptable, but the tub was empty, so they turned their attention to the ship biscuits, two of which had been served out to each man.

When this feasting was over, the Commodore came upon deck and addressed the assembly as follows :—

“ I have asked you to come on board to-day in order that I may explain to you about the ceremony which will take place to-morrow on shore. I have been sent to this place to notify and proclaim that Her Majesty the Queen has established a protectorate over the southern shores of New Guinea, and in token of that event I am directed to hoist the British flag at Port Moresby and at other places along the coast and islands. To-morrow, therefore, I intend to hoist the British flag here, and to read a proclamation which will be duly translated to you, and copies of which I hope to be able to send to you printed in your own language, and in the meantime our English copy will be given to each chief for the information of the people. I desire on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen to explain to you the meaning of the ceremonial which you are about to witness. It is a proclamation that from this time forth you are placed under the protection of Her Majesty's Government, that evil-disposed men will not be able to occupy your country, to seize your lands, or take you away from your own homes. I have been instructed to say to you that what you have seen done to-day on board Her Majesty's ships of war, and which will be done again to-morrow on shore, is to give you the strongest assurance of Her Majesty's gracious protection of you, and to warn bad and evil-disposed men that if they attempt to do you harm they will be promptly punished by the officers of the Queen. Your lands will be secured to you, your wives and children will be protected. Should any injury be done to you, you will immediately inform Her Majesty's officers who will reside amongst you, and they will hear your complaints and do justice.

“ You will look upon all white persons whom the Queen permits to reside amongst you as your friends and Her Majesty's subjects. The Queen will permit nobody to reside here who does you injury. You will under no circumstances inflict punishment upon any white person ; but if such person has done you wrong, you will tell Her Majesty's officers of that wrong, in order that the case may be enquired into. You must know that it is for your security, and to prevent bloodshed that the Queen sends me here to you, and will send her officers to live amongst you.

“ And now I hope that you clearly understand that we are amongst you as your friends ; you will all keep peace amongst yourselves, and if you have disputes with each other you will bring them up before the Queen's officers, who will settle them for you without bloodshed. Should bad men come amongst you, bringing firearms and gunpowder, and intoxicating liquors, you are not to buy them, and are to give notice at once to the Queen's officers, so that such men may be punished. Always keep in your minds that the Queen watches over you, looks upon you as her children, and will not allow anyone to harm you, and will soon send her

trusted officers to carry out her gracious intentions in the establishment of this protectorate.

“ I wish to inform you that the Queen will very shortly send a high officer to take charge of this protectorate, and that I am ordered when I depart from New Guinea to place the protectorate in the charge of Mr. Romilly, who will be the representative of the Queen until the arrival of the high officer of the Queen.”

Boe Vagi having been selected for the high appointment of chief of the Motu tribe, was duly installed in that responsible position by the Commodore, who called him forward, and shaking hands with him, introduced him to Mr. Romilly; and in order to make the ceremony more imposing and to endow it with an air of authority, presented him with an ebony stick having a silver florin at the top, as an emblem of office. Then addressing the assembled natives, said—

“ I present him with this stick, which is to be an emblem to him of his authority, and all the tribes who are represented by this chief here are to look to the holder of this stick, Boe Vagi. This florin represents the Queen's head, the Queen of England; and if at any time any of the people of these tribes have any grievance or anything to say, they are through this man, the holder of this stick, Boe Vagi, to make it known to the Queen's officer in order that it may be enquired into. This stick is to be the symbol of his authority, and all the tribes are to have communication through him with the Queen's officers.”

These addresses were translated to the assembled chiefs and other natives by Mr. Lawes. The Motu language sounded extremely pretty as spoken deliberately by this gentleman. The Commodore took the opportunity of lecturing those chiefs who had the previous day been at war with each other, and impressed upon them the necessity for reference to the Queen's officer in the event of any future dispute. The whole group was now photographed as they sat on deck. The chiefs were made the centre of the picture, and were surrounded by many other natives, the officers of Her Majesty's ships, all the civilians present, and many of the seamen and marines. After this the chiefs visited the Commodore in his own cabin, when each received a present of tobacco, a shirt, knife, tomahawk, etc., and had the opportunity of admiring himself in the large pier-glass, and was much astonished at the apparition.

On their return to the deck some firing took place. A Nordenfeldt was fired several times at a target; a Gardiner or Gatling did great execution from the fore-top. One of the large guns was laid for a range of 3,600 yards in the direction of Elizabeth Island, and great was their surprise when they saw the water thrown into high columns of spray as the shell struck the surface at that distance. One man was so much terrified at the report of the guns that with a finger in each ear he crouched behind a coil of rope. He tremblingly grasped my hand, but he could not be reconciled to the

noise. It suddenly occurred to these natives that the guns were pointed in the direction of the canoes at anchor under Mourilyan Island, and they expressed apprehension of their being in danger. They were, however, assured of their safety. As soon as the firing ceased, all the natives were sent on shore, being well pleased with the result of the day's ceremonies.

In the evening the ship was partially illuminated, blue lights were burnt at the yard-arms, rockets ascended from the *Nelson*, also from the *Espiegle*, and the electric light was shown. This light was most effective, illuminating the Mission Station and native villages. It was then directed upon the canoes at anchor; it is difficult to say what the crews thought, but they soon exhibited lights, they, no doubt, expected a shot to accompany the light. These proceedings were brought to a close by blowing off the steam syren or fog-horn. We heard afterwards that this noise caused great consternation amongst the natives, some ran to the forests and hid themselves; many were the surmises as to what caused it; some thought it was a large dog howling for food.

Thursday, Nov. 6th.—This day being fixed for hoisting the British Flag and reading the Queen's Proclamation on shore, the sailors and marines, with the non-combatants, embarked on board the ships' boats, the steam pinnace towing the barge with the marines, the other boats being well laden with blue jackets.

H.M.S. *Espiegle*, *Raven*, and *Harrier* also contributed their spare men, thus constituting a very formidable flotilla, and presenting a most charming and exciting scene, as the boats, each flying the white ensign, sped lightly across the now calm and transparent water of this beautiful bay. We landed without trouble. The blue jackets were at once marched to the Mission House, adjoining which they formed two sides of a square. The Commodore landed soon afterwards, and was duly received by the marines, who, with the splendid band, had remained at the landing place as a guard of honor. He then, accompanied by his officers, walked to the Mission House, and the marines, headed by their band, followed, and formed the third side of the square, the Mission House forming the fourth. The Commodore soon appeared on the verandah of the Mission House, and was received by a general salute, the troops presenting arms.

The Commodore was accompanied by Mr. Deputy-Commissioner Romilly; Mr. Chester, the Government Resident, Thursday Island; the Rev. W. Law, Chaplain to the *Nelson*; Staff-Commander Osborne; Fleet-Surgeon Knott; Paymaster Bowen; Chief-Engineer Giles; and Private Secretary Warren. The other officers of the *Nelson* who took an active part in the ceremony were Capt. Henderson; Lieuts. Tillard, Fenton, Digby, Portman, and Thynne; Major Dowden, R.M.; Lieut. Drake, R.M.A.; Surgeon Pickthorne; Midshipmen Hennicker, Sullivan, Cleeve, Blackett, Walter, Hunter, Tollemache, and Lambton; Assistant-Paymasters Greenwood and Cubitt; Engineers Carrington and Medus; and Clerk Bannon.

H.M.S. *Espiegle* was represented by Captain Bridge, Lieuts. Ommanny, and Thompson, Staff-Surgeon Irvine, Paymaster Forand, Commander Ross, and Lieut. Lucas of H.M.S. *Raven*, and Lieut. Wilcox, and Mr. Broadhurst of H.M.S. *Harrier* were also present.

Mrs. Lawes, the only lady on the island, was accommodated with a seat near the Commodore, the Revs. Messrs. Lawes and Chalmers being in close attendance; also, all the Chiefs who had been on board the *Nelson* the previous day were present, with many other men, women, and children, Boe Vagi being conspicuous in his red cap, shirt, with silver-headed stick.

The Commodore, standing in front of the verandah, read the Proclamation,* as follows:—

“ PROCLAMATION.

“ Proclamation on behalf of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India, establishing a Protectorate of Her Most Gracious Majesty over a portion of New Guinea and the islands adjacent thereto.

“ To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting—

“ Whereas it has become essential for the protection of the lives and properties of the native inhabitants of New Guinea, and for the purpose of preventing the occupation of portion of that country by persons whose proceedings, unsanctioned by any lawful authority, might tend to injustice, strife, and bloodshed, and who under the pretence of legitimate trade and intercourse, might endanger the liberties and possess themselves of the lands of such native inhabitants, that a British Protectorate should be established over a certain portion of such country and the islands adjacent thereto.

“ And whereas Her Majesty having taken into Her Gracious consideration the urgent necessity of her protection to such inhabitants, has directed me to proclaim such protection in a formal manner at this place.

“ Now I, James Elphinstone Erskine, Captain in the Royal Navy, and Commodore of the Australian station, one of Her Majesty's naval aides-de-camp, do hereby, in the name of Her Most Gracious Majesty, declare and proclaim the establishment of such Protectorate over such portions of the coast and the adjacent islands as is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunto annexed.

“ And I hereby proclaim and declare that no acquisition of land, whensoever or howsoever acquired, within the limits of the Protectorate hereby established, will be recognised by Her Majesty, and I do hereby, on behalf of Her Majesty, command and enjoin all persons whom it may concern, to take notice of this Proclamation.

* This Proclamation was read by Commodore Erskine on each occasion of hoisting the flag.

" SCHEDULE.

" All that portion of the southern shores of New Guinea commencing from the boundary of that portion of the country claimed by the Government of the Netherlands, on the 141st meridian of east longitude to East Cape, with all islands adjacent thereto south of East Cape to Kosmann Island inclusive, together with the islands in the Goschen Straits.

" Given at the Harbour of Port Moresby on the sixth day of November, 1884.

" (Sd.) JAMES E. ERSKINE, Commodore.

" God Save the Queen."

This was translated by Mr. Lawes. The " Union Jack " was then slowly hoisted by Sub-Lieutenant Gaunt, Flag-Lieutenant H.M.S. *Nelson*, the troops presented arms, and the " National Anthem " was played. At the same moment a dense cloud of white smoke, followed by the booming of the *Nelson's* guns, was distinctly seen and heard as that grand old flag, the Royal Standard of England, was proudly hoisted at the main. All the ships were now dressed with flags. This was followed by a *feu-de-joie*, at which many of the natives evinced some little fear.

The Commodore then delivered the following very admirable address :—

" Officers and men, Mr. Romilly, and Gentlemen,—This interesting and important event being now formally concluded, it only remains for me, in Her Majesty's name, to express the fervent hope that under the blessing of Almighty God the establishment of this Protectorate may conduce to the welfare, peace, and happiness of the people of this territory; that the British flag which has this day been planted on these shores may be to them the symbol of their liberty, and the proclamation I have just read the charter of their rights and privileges; that it may be to them a protectorate in deed as well as in name, protecting alike from the aggressions of evil persons, whether they be British subjects or foreigners; that the blessings of civilisation and Christianity, the seeds of which have already been sown by the hands of valiant and good men who are here this day, may increase and multiply to their good; and lastly, that as the Union Jack, which has on several former occasions been hoisted on the shores of New Guinea, this day for the first time floats over this island under the authority and the command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, I most fervently hope that this important ceremony may tend to ensure the integrity and maintain the security of the Australian colonies, and promote the best interests of their people, and this important event may thus redound to the honour of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria."

This was followed by three hearty cheers for the Queen. Captain Bridge led off with a " Hip, hip, hip," the troops presented arms,

and the ceremony brought to a close. These proceedings altogether were most admirably arranged. The flag was hoisted as nearly as possible at 8 a.m., and we were all on board again by nine to breakfast, having taken only a cup of coffee and piece of bread before leaving.

The scene from the Mission House was very beautiful, looking from the verandah and over the square formed by the men, the native village of Lohiabada, sheltered by a grove of cocoanuts, was seen beneath at a distance, perhaps, of two hundred yards. The tide was high, so all the buildings were standing in the water, a great improvement on the shingly beach when the tide is low. This was backed up by high hills of picturesque shape. To the south the view extended to the horizon, the white breakers on the coral reefs being plainly visible. The bay comes beautifully round on the east side to Paga Point, about two miles distant. The huge size of the *Nelson* and other ships filled a blank. Continuing the panorama south-westerly, the Fisherman and Elizabeth Islands are seen; then Mourilyan Island, Jane Island (600 feet), and Roua Mountain (1420 feet high), overlooking Fairfax Harbour. Immediately below we looked down upon the small Ethel Islet or Rock Elevara, and the other native villages. The sea was calm; there was scarcely sufficient wind to blow out the flag just hoisted. The whole scene was indescribably beautiful. The high tide permitted the large boats to come close to the beach, as about one hundred yards from the shore a reef of coral exists. A little dynamite might be applied with good effect to make a passage here.

At first it was supposed that the natives did not understand the nature of the proceedings; this being the third time that the English flag had been raised—in the first instance by Mr. Chester, on behalf of the Queensland Government; the second, by Mr. Romilly, on the 23rd October; and on the present occasion. Mr. Chalmers said that he overheard one native express his satisfaction at these proceedings thus: "Now we know that Queen Victoria is our protector."

Shortly after our return to the ship the large boats were hoisted on board; they were run up by the men, who kept time to some lively airs played by the band, and were soon safely stowed, a powerful derrick and suitable tackle working from the main-mast.

In the afternoon, Captain Osborne invited me to accompany him and several of the officers on a visit to Fairfax Harbour, which is a westerly continuation of Port Moresby. We, in the first instance, called at the native village on the north side of Jane Island. This island is a conspicuous feature in the port; it consists of a peaked hill 600 feet in height, and about half a mile in length. It is steep and stony from the water's edge, and is nearly bare of trees, but much of this steep land is enclosed and under cultivation. The village is situated partly in the water, as

there is but little level space between it and the base of the hill. The houses are similar to those near the Mission Station. The residents, especially the women and children, crowded to see us; many of the men came on board, and had a hasty look at the pinnacle. At length, after an interesting palaver, which not one of us on either side could understand, we started for Fairfax Harbour, having four of these fellows on board.

The entrance to this harbour is denoted on the south side by a low headland, called "Point Ryan." Immediately opposite, towards the north, at a distance of about half a mile, is another low point called "Coglan Head." (I may as well state that these are not native names.) This inlet, which is irregularly shaped, is completely land-locked and surrounded by steep hills. An extensive mangrove flat bounds the north-western side. The extreme breadth north and south is about a mile and a half, with a depth of water of from three to five fathoms.

At Cutler's Point two of the party, accompanied by two natives, landed. They had come fully equipped for a shooting excursion, while we made a tour of the harbour. The hills around are very picturesque, and one, Mount Roua, a rugged-looking mountain to the north, rises to a height of 1420 feet. I noticed several villages of all sizes packed about the hills, and numerous patches of land under cultivation fenced around in order to protect the crops from wallaby and pigs. The surrounding country had a poor, barren appearance, being scantily clothed with a sort of dwarf eucalyptus, with large patches of tropical foliage in the more sheltered places. These hills are said to produce good grass in favourable seasons, when the whole aspect of the country is changed, but no rain had fallen for many months, so the country was suffering from drought.

We were much amused by our two native friends; they were both perfectly self-possessed, and acted as though a trip in a steam launch was an every-day occurrence with them. One was a tall, elderly man, with hair inclined to grey; he had taken up his position well astern in the pinnacle, alongside Lieut. Drake, who managed to keep up a conversation with him; he was evidently of an inquisitive turn of mind, for we expected to see him plunge head foremost into the water, as he constantly leant over the side in order to ascertain how the propeller worked. The other was an intelligent young man; he exhibited several extensive scars on his arms and legs which he explained were received while killing a boar. As some danger is evidently attached to the slaughter of this animal, perhaps that is one reason why their tusks are so much sought after and valued by them. Captain Osborne gave this young fellow a cigar, which he at once lit, and smoked vigorously for a few minutes, but it was too much for him, he suddenly turned quite pale and his chin sank on his chest; he then made an effort to place the cigar in his armpit, the usual receptacle for everything, but having neglected to extinguish it he at

once changed his mind, then, cigar in hand, he sank helplessly down, and assumed, naturally, the resigned attitude represented by the "Dying Gladiator." He was thoroughly subdued. While in this unconscious state, Captain Osborne goodnaturedly extinguished the cigar for him. However, he showed great pluck, and made several efforts to arouse himself, so that by the time we again called at Cutler Point he was enabled to exchange a few words with his two companions who had been away with the sportsmen. The result of the sport consisted of a wallaby, a very handsome slate-colored makaw, and one or two other birds of no use. We had noticed many white pigeons of large size flying about.

The head of the pinnace was now turned shipwards. We again called at the island to land our four amusing friends, who had evidently enjoyed their outing, but I am afraid that they were late for their afternoon tea. Then picking up and taking in tow the skiff, which was beating up against a fresh south-easter, well laden with excursionists, who were more or less drenched by the spray, we were soon on board the *Nelson* again.

Friday, November 7th, 1884.—Hoisted the anchor about 6.15 a.m., and passing safely through the Basilisk Passage, steered westerly for Hall Sound. We gave the coast a wide berth, and arrived at our destination at 3 p.m., the distance being about eighty miles. We were accompanied by the Rev. James Chalmers, Mr. Chester, and Captain Liljelelad, also two or three Port Moresby natives as interpreters. Yule Island, or "Lavao Motu," according to the natives, shelters the Sound and affords good anchorage in from ten to fourteen fathoms, except when the wind blows heavily from the southward. This picturesque island is from four to five miles in length, with an average breadth of one mile, the land rising to a height of upwards of five hundred feet. The surface is diversified by hill and dale, much of which is naturally free from timber, but extensive tracts of dense tropical brush forest of the richest foliage cover the sheltered portions. It was on this island that Senhor d'Albertis fixed his abode for so many months. Our anchorage was about a quarter of a mile from the south-eastern point; on the rising ground, on the spot where the residence formerly stood, there now appeared a group of about twenty natives, from which position they were enabled to look down on the ship, and were closely scanning our movements.

Looking easterly, at a distance of about two miles and a-half, the Mission House at Point Delena, was distinctly seen on the mainland, perched upon a terrace overlooking a small native village on the beach. This was backed up by steep, heavily-timbered hills, of from seven to eight hundred feet high, which sloped abruptly down to the "Point." In a northerly direction the extreme bight of the Sound is bounded by a dense line of mangrove trees; the country here is apparently low, and has a very

uninviting appearance. A broad gap in the mangroves denotes the embouchure of the united rivers, Ethel and Hilda. At a distance inland Mount Yule (10,046 feet high) forms a conspicuous object, and other high mountains could be seen, possibly Mount Owen Stanley (13,500 feet high). Two or three small canoes, in which a few women and children were fishing, hovered about under the steep hills on the northern side of the island; these hills are timbered to the water's edge.

Senhor d'Albertis thus describes the island: "Yule Island appears a narrow tongue of land about four miles long, separated from the mainland on the S.E. by a channel two and a-half miles; on the east and north by Hall Bay, which is from three to five miles wide. Long., $146^{\circ} 30'$ to $146^{\circ} 33'$; lat., S. $8^{\circ} 45'$ to $8^{\circ} 49'$; maximum height from 500 to 750 feet. Mount Yule can be seen to the north thirty miles inland, and Mount Owen Stanley every clear day (13,200), distant sixty-five miles. Soil calcareous, with volcanic base of recent formation, is proved by the coralline rock found on the highest peaks of the hills, whilst igneous rock is found on some parts of the shore; good water in places; prevailing wind, S.E.; harmless serpents, ants, and insects abound. The hills opposite side (700 feet), madrepora—a coral formation. *Eucalyptus*, etc."

About 4.30 a party of us landed at a pretty little beach on the island, which was hidden from the ship by a rocky headland. This rock was stratified, and much tilted towards the west, it had much the appearance of sandstone. I had no chance of examining it. The natives who had been so closely watching our movements had retired to their huts, evidently uncertain as to whether our visit was one of peace or not. The beach was hemmed in by a narrow strip of brush trees, covered with vines, creepers, flowers and beautiful hibiscus of various sorts; these, hanging in graceful festoons from the high branches of the trees, amongst which many splendid palms were seen, presented a very charming picture.

The village—a temporary one—was in a small space in this brush at the end of the beach. As we advanced we could see by their movements that the natives were undecided how to act. We had with us an interesting boy, about fourteen years old, from the Mission Station, Port Moresby, who could speak the language. He said a few words, when the men came forward to meet us. These poor fellows had evidently been preparing a peace offering. They filled our hands with betel-nuts, led us to their camp, spread mats, and did everything they could to give us a hearty welcome. The expression "Nahmoo" was freely used by them; this we found to mean peace, good, friendship, etc.

This temporary abode consisted of about half-a-dozen raised platforms, made of bamboo, or light wood, sheltered from the sun or rain by sloping roofs of pandanus or banana leaves. They

were very neatly made, the sides of some being partly enclosed by banana leaves split into ribbons and plaited. Several women soon put in an appearance to attend to the cooking which was going on in the camp. Many large earthen pots, of Port Moresby manufacture, full of something, were boiling away at a rapid pace, and these required attention. Two or three separate platforms served as tables or sideboards, upon one of which I noticed several pieces of plate, of Port Moresby manufacture; the whole place was in good order, and very clean, the pathways being well swept.

We were at first led by the hand to the platforms, but the seats not being very convenient, a mat was spread, of which Captain Henderson and others took possession. Lieutenant Drake, of the Marine Artillery, who is very tall, was in consequence looked upon as a sort of chief, and attracted much attention, especially from one villainous-looking ruffian, who had seated him in the principal place on his platform, and had lent him his calabash of lime; but Drake preferred to feed his friend, and it was an amusing sight to see this very ugly savage—his only costume being a few untidy feathers—opening his mouth as wide as that of a young colonial magpie when expecting its grub, as Drake gave him the lime-stick to suck.

With the exception of two or three ugly fellows, the men were by no means bad looking. They were well made, of moderate physique, and quite nude; some of them had their faces painted in stripes of black, white, and red, a sort of pitch being used. They wore the usual nose and ear ornaments, and their enormous heads of hair were more or less decked out with feathers. The women were not so fully tattooed as those at Port Moresby; they each wore the grass petticoat which reached to the knees. They were evidently greatly delighted with our visit, and readily brought us cocoanuts, laughing and talking incessantly the whole time. Many men who joined the party a few minutes after our arrival, had been lying in wait with bows, arrows, and spears; these they put aside as they approached, when they saw that our visit was one of peace. We managed to pass a very pleasant and merry hour with these people. As they accompanied us to the cutter, the *Raven* entered the Sound, and great was their astonishment to see this second ship steam up to the anchorage. The *Raven* had on board many chiefs from the coast villages, whom Mr. Chalmers had collected. They were brought on board the flagship, and we derived much amusement during the evening from talking to them and admiring their get up. The band, which plays at this time, was a great attraction. About 8 p.m., Mr. Chalmers, in his whaleboat, accompanied by Lieut. Drake as stroke-oar, left the ship for the purpose of visiting an important village about 15 miles distant, and of obtaining some of the chiefs.

Saturday, November 8th.—Early this morning several natives came on board. The men had just commenced to scrub the decks,

so several of the visitors secured scrubbing-brooms fell in with the sailors, and worked away most vigorously. About eight o'clock the whale-boat was seen in the distance returning, and the steam pinnace was sent to tow her up. Mr. Chalmers had secured six chiefs, besides native teachers and their wives. It was a long pull. They arrived off the village in the middle of the night, and had to land through surf in the dark—a hazardous thing to do, as Mr. Chalmers was doubtful as to their reception by the natives. We had now nineteen men on board, especially selected for their influence and high standing, besides the native teachers and their wives. Having enjoyed a good feed of rice and sugar they were addressed by the Commodore, the interpreter being a Port Moresby native, a great linguist. He first received the address from Mr. Chalmers in his own language, "Motu." The stick of office was given to a chief of the name of Lavau of the Lolo tribe, Delena. The other chiefs were from Nara or Cape Suckling, Kirori or Cape Possession, Miva, and other places around Hall Sound, representing a population of from ten to twelve thousand persons. During this ceremony we had an opportunity of noticing the variety of dress—ornaments, I should say—worn by these men. The girdle was broad and different from those at Port Moresby, which consists solely of a piece of string; these, as well as the armlets, were extremely tight around the body and arms, their idea being that this tightness causes them to grow tall, but the effect conveyed a very uncomfortable feeling. Some of them wore boars' tusks, crescent-shaped pearl-shell ornaments, and necklaces of dogs' teeth, etc. One or two were quite bald-headed, or nearly so; this exposed the marks of deep furrows and scars on the skull, caused evidently by heavy blows received during fights more or less friendly with each other, but generally the hair was collected on the top of the head in a large knot or bundle. Some had their faces painted, or streaked with red or black; one man had adopted yellow as his colour, and with a head-dress of feathers and croton leaves stuck about his body, he made rather a conspicuous figure. Most of them wore bands or garters of cowrie shells. Mr. Lyne and myself landed about 8 a.m. at Point Delena, on the mainland, and found Lieut. Maxwell and a carpenter crew busily engaged erecting a flagstaff. They had been at work since daybreak.

We landed easily at a pretty little beach at the base of the high hills which here leave but little margin between them and the sea. This margin was occupied by the native village, a small place with about 150 inhabitants, the houses, though similar in every respect to others we had seen, were not standing in the water, perhaps a dozen good-sized houses all together. We stopped and inspected most of them, and had a talk with the residents, who were extremely pleased to see us. In two of the houses we noticed, much to our amusement, infants sound asleep, each suspended in a net from the verandah, they

were rolled up, and had much the appearance of a football. These net-bags or cradles afford a ready means for placing a child out of reach of all danger, and of allowing it, at the same time, to enjoy plenty of fresh air, but this arrangement supplies no protection whatever against the attacks of mosquitoes. A similar net hanging close to one of these infants contained a litter of small puppies.

Further along the beach, beyond the village, is an extensive flat, thickly timbered, and fringed by mangroves. In this dense forest, a suitable tree for a flagstaff had been cut and dragged up the hill to the site, which was about thirty yards in front of the Mission House. This house is situated on a terrace, or level space; at an elevation of about fifty or sixty feet, overlooking the village, the ascent to it for this short distance is steep. A large patch of the forest has been cleared in order to obtain room for the buildings as well as for cultivation. This clearing extends partly up the side of the hill, which rises immediately at the back of the house, and is the result of a considerable amount of labour. Numbers of natives assisted the working party. The flagstaff required a good deal of pulling and hauling to set it upright in the hole prepared for it, as it stands forty feet above the ground. Two ropes were manned, principally by natives, while others assisted the sailors at the "dead lift," and it was soon in position and firmly secured by four guys. The morning was close and sultry, but the sailors on shore were kept well supplied by the native teacher and his wife with cold water from the spring. The Mission House, into which we were invited, was the picture of neatness and cleanliness, built as usual on piles, and well thatched with pandanus, the sides were mid-ribs of sago palm and the floor of old canoes. The teacher and his wife are Raratongans. The former, a good-looking man, was cleanly attired in a shirt and trousers; and his wife, a very fine woman, with an abundance of glossy black hair, in a loose flowing calico robe; she had a most pleasing countenance. They contrasted favourably with the aboriginals, being in every respect of a superior race.

In the afternoon the official ceremony took place. The landing party—officers, marines, sailors, and non-combatants—were taken on board H.M.S. *Raven*, and that vessel towing two long lines of boats, steamed to within half a mile of the shore. The landing was easily effected, but the march to the flagstaff was somewhat marred by the men coming unexpectedly to the small opening in the fence which surrounds the Mission premises—it had been formed to admit one person only at a time—so the band was suddenly interrupted in its gay tune, and a halt had to be called while a wider aperture was made; and the men were soon in square around the flagstaff. Shortly after they had formed, and before the arrival of the Commodore, I noticed a remarkable personage ascending

the hill, and fancying I saw some hesitation in his movements, I went to meet him, and shaking hands most cordially, led him to a prominent position near the flagstaff. He was a tall man naturally, and his height was rendered more apparent by the head-dress of cassowary feathers he wore; these plumes, amongst which was entwined a wreath of parrots' feathers, red and blue, radiated at least eighteen inches from his head; his body was blackened all over, he being in mourning, as I was told, for his mother; around his neck were two or three necklets, one being a frill or fringe of cassowary feathers, and the other a narrow band of shells or dogs' teeth; a similar band or fillet around his forehead supported a disc of pearl-shell. Armlets, leg-bands, nose ornaments, and earrings, together served to give effect to this remarkable savage. On the top of the hill we were joined by another extensively got-up individual. He was a strongly built, muscular fellow, not so tall as his companion in black. With the exception of several black streaks across his forehead, and down his cheeks and nose, his body was not painted. He also was gaily adorned with feathers, shells, and other ornaments. I recognised our yellow friend; these and one or two more were in fact the "mashers" of the tribe.

In the centre of the square, and immediately opposite to the Commodore, with her husband alongside of her, sat "Kaloka," the only queen in New Guinea. There was nothing particularly queenly in her appearance. She was a stout, well-built, middle-aged woman, with well-developed limbs, the whole of her body being most elaborately tattooed in the "block pattern." She wore the usual grass petticoat, a necklace or two, and an armlet around each arm. Her hair was gathered in a knob at the top of her head. Her residence is at Naara, Cape Suckling. It appears that her father, who was an influential chief, on his deathbed or mat, bequeathed his power and authority to his daughter. This uncommon bequest was duly considered and argued before the proper authorities, and the highest legal advice obtained, the result being that this bequest was allowed unanimously by the chiefs, and "Kaloka" became queen. The old man evidently possessed great influence, and his daughter must have been a favourite, especially with her own sex, or she would never have been allowed to hold her present proud position. Now she is treated with great respect; at dinner and other meals the *entrées* and other dishes are handed to her in the first instance, and she is otherwise attended by numerous maidens. Her husband, Naimi by name, has the reputation of being a good sort of man, but the general opinion is that she had married somewhat beneath her.

The Proclamation having been duly read and the flag hoisted, the men were ordered to fire a *feu-de-joie*. The first volley caused all the natives who could get away, to run. Many hid among the bananas; others, with a finger in each ear, threw themselves flat on

the ground. They thought all was over at the first round, so many returned only to run away again at the second and third. The poor queen was much to be pitied; she was greatly agitated, and once or twice waved her hand as though her queenly dignity was sufficient to cause the noise to cease; but as the second and third volleys followed in quick succession, she despairingly looked around for consolation, which she evidently did not see in the countenance of her husband, who, though treating all this with an assumed indifference, was evidently as greatly agitated as his queenly wife.

The *mashers*, each one, yellow, red, and black, wished themselves far away, or that they had remained at home. They were much startled and frightened, and, with a finger in each ear, hid their faces between their knees, or on the ground, or behind each other; and it was a great relief to them all when the men were marched off to the boats. The queen now desired to retire altogether, but was induced to sit on the steps of the Mission House in order to be photographed. Her visit on board the flagship was not announced by a Royal salute, but the special gifts at the hands of the Commodore, who treated her most courteously, were much more to her taste, and were duly appreciated.

We remained a short time to enjoy the scene, which, looking seaward, or about west, was very pretty. To the left we gazed down upon the densely timbered flat where the flagstaff had been cut; immediately below us was the village, and to our right, at a distance of three or four miles, the southern end of Yule Island formed a beautiful object. Close behind us, or east, at the back of the Mission House and village, arose the high hills already alluded to.

The soil is volcanic, and very good, so that the bananas, amongst which grew a plentiful supply of mammy-apple, melons, etc., seemed to be in a thriving condition. We took a very friendly farewell of the teachers, and also of the "mashers," whose courage had returned on the departure of the sailors, and who were now evidently trying to make it appear to us that the fear they had exhibited was only "put on," that they understood everything, had often witnessed the firing of a *feu-de-joie* before, and that they only hid their faces for fun. We were soon again on board the *Raven*, and transferred to the *Nelson*, thus affording our painted friends an opportunity for washing their faces. Many of the officers had gone in search of game, both in the forest around Delena and on Yule Island; but they did not meet with any great success, though I believe that much game exists there, as well as numerous birds of paradise.

Yule Island has the reputation of being a very unhealthy spot. Its appearance would certainly lead to a contrary impression. This unhealthiness may be accounted for by the proximity of the low-lying mangrove flats at the head of Hall Bay, four or five miles

distant. Mr. Wm. Macleay visited this island in 1875. We heard that the orange and lemon trees he planted were thriving well.

Sunday, 9th November.—The *Raven*, having on board Messrs. Chalmers, Chester, Lyne, and Cooper, left her anchorage this morning about seven, for the purpose of collecting chiefs from some of the important villages between here and Freshwater Bay, in the Gulf of Papua. The *Nelson* soon afterwards followed, and about 2 p.m. anchored in Freshwater Bay, off the village of "Motomoto," in about nine fathoms of water, at a distance of from three to four miles from the shore. This bay is an open roadstead, exposed to all winds from the southward. The village contains about two thousand inhabitants. We could see from our anchorage the numerous houses of the village, with their conical roofs, ensconced in a dense grove of cocoa-nuts. These trees extend for miles along the beach. The coast here, and for some distance inland, is low, but high ranges appeared in the background.

A boat was seen approaching, which was at once recognised as the whale-boat attached to the Mission Station. The native teacher was soon on board, though it was a hard pull against a strong south-easter. After obtaining some information he returned at once to the shore.

About 4 p.m., in company with Dr. Pickthorne, I started for the shore in the whaleboat, in charge of Lieutenant Maxwell. On nearing the beach we found that the cutter which had left the ship some time before us well laden with excursionists, was unable to pass through the surf, and was anchored on the outside. The surf was breaking on the beach in long lines of rollers; we looked in vain for an opening, but as no one had noticed the course taken by the teacher's boat, we were at a loss to find the proper passage. We pulled for a comparatively smooth-looking spot about a quarter of a mile to our left, but a roller suddenly arose quite under our boat, and in a moment we were in the midst of breakers, so we were obliged to beat a hasty retreat. There was now no alternative but to make a bold dash for it—the men had already taken off their "jumpers,"—so pulling to within a short distance of the cutter, we headed for the shore, and were soon elevated on the crest of a wave. First the stern of the boat was gradually raised high in the air, then, returning gradually to a more horizontal position, we were carried irresistibly forward for some distance, and left by the kindly wave in the trough of the sea, but rather broadside on; so the orders "easy port oars," "pull hard starboard," "now altogether," were quickly given, and readily replied to by the crew, half-a-dozen powerful, athletic young fellows. We were again soon in position, and ready for the next roller, which was not long in following the first.

The natives were in crowds on the beach, and exhibited the wildest emotions of delight, dancing and capering, shouting, talk-

ing, and making such a din as to drown the noise of the surf. They would rush into the sea as far as they dared, and get washed back again by the waves. When nearing the shore one fine young fellow rushed through the surf, and in a moment was sitting alongside Maxwell in the boat, but he was not there for long; whether from the effect of the point of Maxwell's elbow, or from the sudden lurch of the boat, he was soon again in the waves. As we gained the shore this man, with many others, at once ran the boat on to the sand, and then like a good fellow carried me to dry land. By good management we escaped a wetting; the boat did not ship more than a foot of water.

The crowd of natives consisted of men and boys of all ages—they completely surrounded us—we had to shake hands wholesale. Maxwell had signalled that the landing was impracticable for the cutter, so two or three small canoes which were hauled up on the beach were pressed into the service, and the natives afforded every assistance in getting them alongside, but they were at once swamped, and the occupants had to struggle ashore the best way they could. In the meantime we were closely examined by the crowd. My white hair and coloured socks attracted much attention, and I was duly pinched to see if I was the genuine article. It was altogether an exciting scene. I could scarcely grasp the whole incidents at once, as everything so new to me passed with such rapidity. But I had time to recognise some of my companions in their struggles to get on shore. Suspended in a clear sea-green wave, many of them formed an animated transparency of singular interest, the outlines of the figures being so distinctly marked. Our friend Keyser, being in a white cricketing dress, was very conspicuous. But this transparency or dissolving view was of short duration. Some were landed on "all fours," but all ran to dry land so soon as they could obtain a footing. The natives were very assiduous in their attentions.

Our landing-place was at the extreme end of a long narrow sandspit, which banks up the direct outlet of the Williams River, thereby causing it to flow for some half a mile in a westerly direction, and parallel with the sea beach. The village is virtually situated on the river bank, at the angle so formed, which point is from 150 to 200 yards across from the sea beach. To gain the village from our landing-place necessitated a long walk of at least half a mile over loose coral sand. The water having been bailed out of the whaleboat, with the assistance of many natives it was dragged round the point into the river, so re-embarking we pulled up in beautifully smooth water to the village. As we went along in the boat we could see that many of those who had managed to get on shore were at once taken in hand by one or more full-grown natives. They would seize you by the hand or wrist, and so lead you along, unless you quietly resisted. Davey, one of the quarter-masters, who had got on shore from the whaleboat, a fine, big,

powerful man, was the first to enter the village ; he attracted much attention. As each person walked along in charge of several natives, and surrounded by a host of boys, it conveyed the idea of some one being taken off to a police station, surrounded by a crowd of larrikins.

The scene on the river was charming, the evening lights and shadows at the time agreeing well with the occasion. Ahead of us we could see the quaint houses of the village peeping out from amidst the dense grove of palms and cocoanuts which surrounded and sheltered them, and which, at the same time, cast a deep shade over the placid water of the river. Several small canoes, more or less decorated, were hovering about. Towering above all these I recognised one of the large "lakatoi," which I have described as having left Port Moresby on the 15th, on a trading voyage. The mast of this canoe, which was a very crooked one, as well as the rigging and hull, was decorated with numerous pennants or streamers and clusters of cowrie shells, so that the whole craft stood out in bright and fantastic relief against the dark shadows of the background. On the opposite side of the river, which was about two hundred feet across, and of fresh water, the ground was low, but covered with beautiful foliage, and had much the appearance of a botanic garden.

We landed in front of a detached villa, about half-a-dozen of which are here situated about one hundred yards below the village, when the business of shaking hands with a fresh lot of natives commenced, and the same expressions of surprise at our white skins were renewed. One tall fellow, the owner of the villa, at once took me by the hand, and, closely followed by Pickthorne, led me up to his house ; as usual it was built on piles, and surrounded by a neat fence. Close to this fence stood a sturdy native, resting upon a large black club, his attitude was exactly that represented by "Hercules;" he was quite passive, but was watching intently our proceedings, for many of our companions from the cutter had now arrived. Our tall friend, as we passed gently tapped this man on the shoulder, and pointed to the club, as much as to say, "we don't want this warlike implement here." The club was readily given up and thrown inside the fence. This little incident was most neatly done ; the man had thoughtlessly brought this weapon with him, but our friend was desirous that no warlike implement should be produced except for barter purposes, and this trade had already commenced.

The door of the house was low, and the inside, where I noticed a small fireplace, was by no means inviting, so we objected to crawl in. Seeing our hesitation, our friend spread a mat on the ground, of which Pickthorne and I took possession, while he ran off for some cocoanuts, but before his return we were recalled to the boat. So following the mission whaler, which was well laden with chiefs, we passed through the surf easily, and were,

after a heavy pull against the S.E. wind, once more on board the *Nelson*. As the cutter was delayed until dusk in getting the excursionists on board again, the electric light was brought into requisition for her guidance.

The *Raven* dropped anchor near us, about dusk, with several chiefs on board, having visited the villages, Oiapa, Lokea, and Lesi of the Elema tribe, which numbered about 20,000 inhabitants, and extends from Cape Possession to Maclatchie Point; the village, Motu Motu, being perhaps the most central spot.

At 8 p.m., after the chiefs, about a dozen in all, had enjoyed the usual feast of rice and sugar, they were addressed by the Commodore, who, by means of an interpreter, explained the occasion of his visit, and the intent of the proceedings for the following day. The stick of office was then given to Chief Semese, who had shown kindness to Mr. Lawes when establishing a native teacher here a few months previously.

These men formed a remarkable group; as they sat together on the main deck they were the centre of attraction, and were extensively interviewed by us. They were tall and apparently a muscular set of fellows, their dress consisted of nothing, decorated with a feather, shells, teeth, bones and streamers of native cloth, pandanus, sprigs of bushes, crotons, etc., stuck about them, some had daubs of black or red paint on their faces, pearl ornaments on their foreheads, and necklaces. Our arrival was so unexpected that they really had no time to dress themselves, so excuse was allowed for their scanty wardrobe. Their visit to the Commodore's cabin was the cause of much surprise. Their attention was at once directed to those ornamental parts of the cabin which were inlaid with pearl-shell, and they looked with a longing eye upon some of these discs, their astonishment was great when they suddenly recognised themselves in a large mirror; one chief had but one eye, but that was a "piercer," his forehead and chin receded so that his profile was like the ace of diamonds, and included some of the red colour, he was perfectly prognathous, his hair tied from off his face in a bundle, decorated with a feather, served to show off a cadaverous and villainous countenance to advantage, but one should not judge solely by appearances, for this fellow was honest enough to say on seeing himself in the glass, that he had no idea he was such an ugly man. These natives remained on board the night and were accommodated by the master-at-arms. This is another evidence of the confidence placed by them in Mr. Chalmer's word.

Nov. 18th.—We landed at 8 a.m. The cutter, containing about fifty men, was towed towards the shore and anchored outside the surf, and the whaleboats from the ships made repeated trips in landing the party. The tide was very much lower than on the previous evening, thus exposing at least one hundred yards more

of the sand-spit to view. The surf was the same, not heavy, but quite sufficient to compel caution to be used in crossing it. The natives appeared in crowds, and afforded material assistance in landing and launching the boats. The beach was very shallow, so few got on shore without a wetting. It was an amusing sight to see blue-jackets, rifle and cutlass in hand, officers of all ranks, including marines, with helmet and sword, non-combatants and others, mounted on the backs of these greasy, feathered savages, being carried through the water to dry land. These poor natives awarded us a most enthusiastic reception. I hastened ahead, as I was desirous of seeing the village before the arrival of the Commodore. A flagstaff had been erected on the sand-spit about half way between the landing place and the village. Looking back from this point I saw the Commodore's barge approach the surf; as the first roller raised the stern of the boat high in the air, I thought that nothing could possibly save it from being overturned, and wondered how the occupants could keep their seats; two or three of these waves followed in rapid succession, but with admirable management the Commodore and companions were landed in a comparatively dry state.

I at first called upon my tall friend who had so kindly invited me to his house on the previous evening, and met with a cordial reception; he now had several cocoanuts, and opening one, I for the first time in my life enjoyed a drink of the milk. A little beyond this villa was a cluster of two or three houses; here we were introduced to some of the women, who had hitherto kept in the background; they did not impress us very favourably as regards beauty, on the contrary, many of them were so bedaubed about the shoulders and breast with red clay and coconut oil, as to give them a very greasy and uncomfortable appearance. These women were, I believe, in mourning for some relatives, but it by no way added to their charms. Many of them were frightened, and started off for the village as fast as their skinny legs could carry them; one with her child hastened to the river bank, and was about launching her canoe, when I induced her to stop; she was quite pacified by receiving a piece of tobacco. Their bodies were not so completely tattooed as their Port Moresby sisters, but they wore the same grass petticoats and ornaments; by degrees they gained confidence, and mingled fearlessly with the crowd.

The village, which is supposed to contain from 1500 to 2000 inhabitants, is irregularly laid out. The houses are neatly built, most of them being surrounded by a fence, and completely shaded by tall coconut trees, bananas, palms, and other trees, and separated from each other by narrow, well-kept pathways.

The construction of the chiefs' houses is very singular, a long platform, say 20 or 30 feet by 10 or 12 feet, and raised 10 or 12 feet from the ground, is completely shaded by a roof, the ridge pole of which (the end resting on the ground) forms an angle of

from thirty to forty degrees. The best description, I think, is by comparing the roof to a broad, overturned boat, the stern resting on the ground, and so shading the whole platform. These houses were all built in one direction, so that shelter was obtained from the south or south-west winds. I believe that men only are allowed to lounge here. Women and children now peered at us by dozens, they crowded on the platforms of the other houses and watched us timidly from the doors; some of the former were still frightened, but the children were delighted; one little thing caught hold of my hand, and for a time I had to walk her up and down the platform, she skipping and jumping about as happy as possible. I do not think their religious code very strict or severe. Imitation gods, or figures of some sort carved on boards or logs of wood, were hanging about; the temple was fitted up apparently as a lodging house. Some of the men wore a piece of wood about the size and shape of a hand looking-glass, carved with a grotesque face, intended either for a charm or ornament.

A goodly supply of Port Moresby earthenware had been landed from the "lakatoi," and was stacked in a heap. Cooking was going on most vigorously, either by boiling, or, rolled in a banana leaf, the food was grilling on the fire. I did not enter any of the houses; the doorways were low, and the inside not very inviting. Pigs and dogs of a most miserable description were running about. Being the first white people ever seen by many of them, our presence caused great excitement; our clothes and skins were continually subjected to close inspection. I had to exhibit my white hair constantly to fresh groups. One can readily excuse them in this item of curiosity, when it is considered that the colour of their hair is universally black. Some of the young women we saw in the village were very comely with their sparkling bright eyes; the expression of their faces was extremely pleasing. The scanty clothing they wore showed off to advantage shapely, well-rounded, and graceful forms; their movements were marked by modest timidity, accompanied by a certain amount of dignity. Unfortunately their teeth were discoloured by the use of the betel nut. Many of the young men had decorated themselves with the blossom of scarlet hibiscus and gay bright crotons. These leaves and flowers stuck about their heads and bodies made a very picturesque, and at the same time, a wild scene. I noticed many arrows and spears stuck in the roofs of several of the houses belonging to the chiefs, shot there for some particular purpose.

I felt sorry to hasten away from these people, but the Commodore, standing near the flagstaff, and surrounded by his officers, had commenced to read the proclamation. Numbers of natives were assembled also, while others, men, women and children, were scattered over the intervening space, either singly,

or grouped together, hand in hand, watching the proceedings with evident curiosity. I induced many to accompany me to a closer view, and all went on well till the first volley of the *feu-de-joie* was fired, when numbers turned and fled, others placed a finger in each ear, and with the expression of terror on their faces, threw themselves flat upon the sand, and this they repeated at each volley; one or two whom I had induced to approach would have run away too, but I laughingly held them by the wrist, and they soon became reconciled. As the last volley was fired a remarkable personage appeared on the stage; he had just emerged from his villa, and followed by a crowd of admiring boys, advanced in a stately manner towards us. He was a muscular, well-proportioned man, and stood about 5 feet 10 inches, or 6 feet, in height, his hair, well-combed up from his head, was encircled by plumes of birds of paradise, intermingled with many other gaudy feathers; he wore in the centre of his forehead a disc of tortoiseshell mounted on one of pearl, across his brow were several bands of shells and dogs' teeth, the ends of these bands, and the cords which fastened his head-dress (also profusely ornamented with shells and teeth), hung down his back, around his neck numerous necklaces suspended a boar's tusk, and a crescent of pearl-shell; the lobes of his ears were cut to such an extent as to almost reach his shoulders, being kept expanded by large pieces of bamboo, his earrings consisted of numerous open rings of tortoiseshell, fastened to the edge of a narrow band of plaited string, the outer edge having a row of dogs' teeth along it, these were attached by a string to the ear, and rested on his shoulders. I measured one 9 inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$. Armlets and bracelets adorned his arms and wrists, while around his ankles and above and below the knees he wore bands of cassowary feathers and cowries, which jingled as he walked along. His waist was encircled by a broad belt of most uncomfortable tightness; he was by no means a ferocious-looking man, on the contrary, his appearance was in his favour; he did not change his countenance or utter a word, but retained a solemn silence: he had come solely for the purpose of being admired. After an introduction to the Commodore his portrait was taken, and then surrounded by us all, the original was closely inspected and interviewed.

This man had been "got up" regardless of cost, but whether the whole of these decorations were his own private property, or whether they were the contributions of his friends, who had opened their jewel cases for the occasion, I did not ascertain. To quote the expression of our companion, Mr. Keyser, "he was the dressiest individual who never wore clothes." He completely put the *mashers* of Point Delena into the shade. The intrinsic value of the decorations of this gorgeous swell was about eighteen pence; according to his estimation, and probably that of his friends, they were priceless. All the precious stones and gems of eastern

potentates and monarchs sank into insignificance in comparison with these. The boar's tusk was worth a dozen Koh-i-noors, and those ear-rings and shell-discs were of more value than all the clusters of rubies or emeralds worn by any single Rajah, so thought these poor people who now introduced the "swell" of their village for the purpose of creating astonishment in our minds by the idea of their wealth and resources.

His delay in putting in an appearance might have been caused by our early visit, taking him somewhat by surprise while dressing, or it might be that he kept in the background until the ceremony was over, not choosing to risk his dignity or reputation in following the humiliating position adopted by his friends, by kissing the dust at each volley of the rifles. Such a proceeding would not have suited so distinguished a personage as our magnificent friend. As an "all-round swell" he was irresistible. There were several other "mashers" or exquisites, but all inferior to this man; not one could approach him. They were each more or less decorated with pearl ornaments, crescents, discs, and feathers; one man desirous of attracting attention—a good-looking, clean-skinned young fellow, wore his pearl disc immediately between his eyes, resting upon his nose. It was about the size of a small saucer, and much the same shape, and suspended by a shell band around his head, so in order to be able to see before him, he was compelled to hold his nose high up in the air; a stray feather or two and a croton leaf stuck in each armlet enabled him to "do the block" with confidence and to his entire satisfaction. I had the honour of shaking hands with him.

The chief "*Semese*," the recipient of the silver-headed stick, was also a conspicuous personage, he was wholly devoid of ornament of any sort, not even a dab of paint, yet the fellow seemed quite happy. Many of these natives had brought bundles of spears, bows and arrows, and all kinds of curios for the purpose of trade, and several of our party invested largely.

We had now to make our way to the boats. The men had been taken off to the cutter, which was still anchored outside the surf, but we lingered on the beach as long as possible, feeling sorry to leave our new acquaintances, who in crowds followed us, and from whom we had received so much attention. At length, many of us, mounted on the backs of our oily and feathered friends, amidst many absurd and amusing scenes and jokes, were carried through the surf, each one getting more or less wet in the transit. We were on board the *Nelson* again by 10 a.m., quite ready for our breakfast, having partaken only of a small piece of bread and a cup of coffee before going on shore. Altogether we passed a most enjoyable and exciting morning, and had witnessed a ceremony and such a phase of savagedom as never before, perhaps, was seen.

Shortly after our return to the ship, the Commodore's dog, "Port," was missed. This pointer was a favorite with us all; he

took every opportunity of getting on shore. Many were the surmises as to his possible fate. The surface of the sea was scanned by every available telescope on the possibility of the poor fellow having struck out for the ship, but not a speck could be seen, so he was left to his fate. He was a well marked animal; his natural colour was white and light brown, but by lying about on the deck at times when the pitch was melting in the seams, he had often a difficulty in rising, and never did so without some of the pitch adhering to him, consequently his body was "barred," and "cross-barred," in all directions; so far as this marking went, he was quite in the fashion, for the natives, as already described, mark their faces with stripes of pitch and paint; this may cause him to be respected, otherwise, judging by the miserable specimen of dogs we saw running about, poor "Port" would fare badly; if he ever helps himself to pig, he will, most assuredly, be killed and eaten.*

It is difficult to believe that these people "were, and possibly are now, the greatest savages on the face of the earth." Such were Mr. Chalmers' words as we approached the anchorage off Motu Motu. Nor can one readily believe that not many months before our visit these men invaded the territory of Urevado, chief of Karadi and Haunabada, on the Apisi River, and, lying in ambush, slaughtered about forty of the inhabitants as they were returning unarmed from their plantations. One woman alone was brought away alive, but a dispute arising between them concerning her, an arrow was shot through her heart, and her body was thrown into the sea.

These people are physically very much superior to those seen at Port Moresby, and apparently are a different race, being darker skinned, I fancy, with a different shaped face and expression of countenance. They have an off-hand, self-possessed, determined, independent manner, mingled with a great amount of good nature. This was a grand holiday for them, and they, especially the younger portion of them, were determined to enjoy themselves, which they certainly did. Others, some of the older people and women, looked on in silent astonishment. I did not ascertain at what age the young people commenced to chew the betel nut. The teeth of all those under ten or twelve were perfectly white, which greatly improved their appearance.

The rich foliage around denotes good soil. The cocoanuts extend for miles along the beach east and west, but only a short distance inland, when they are followed up by sago and other palms. The difficulty in landing at Motu Motu will always be an obstacle to its becoming a port of any consequence. The surf at times must rage with fury along this shallow beach, as it is exposed to the

* I have since heard that Port was eaten by an aligator whilst swimming the river.

full force of southerly winds. Our landing, possibly, was made in favourable weather, yet it required considerable skill and management to avoid an accident. Otherwise the abundance of fresh water, the apparent ease by which access to the interior can be gained, and the fertility of the soil would render this an important site for a settlement.

About noon anchor was weighed, and the ship's course again directed for Port Moresby.



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