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ISLAND LINE OF STEAMERS

HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION

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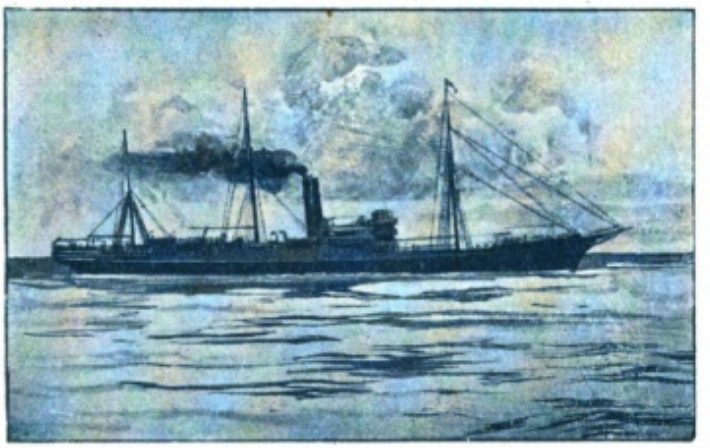

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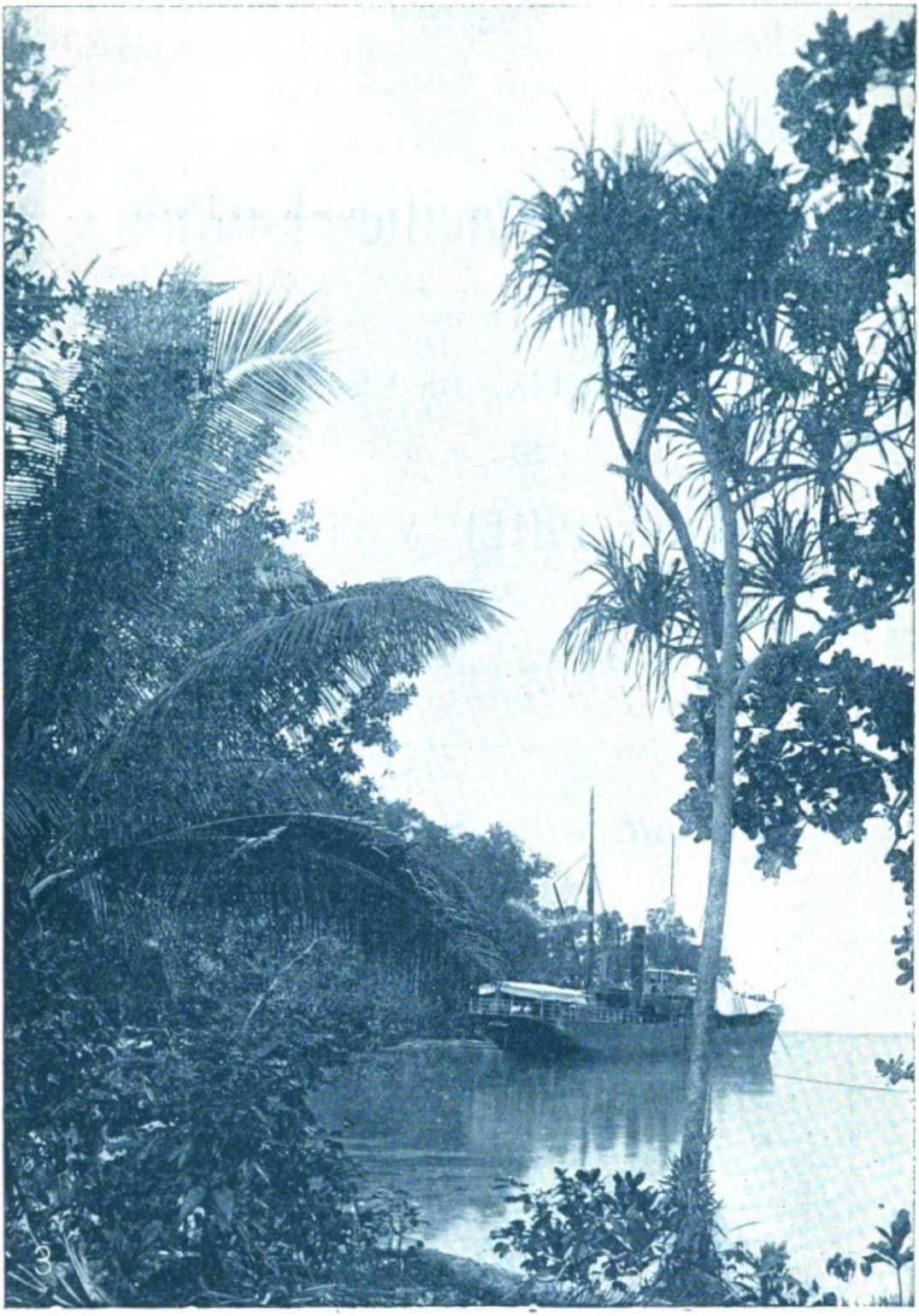

Messrs. Burns, Philp & Company's Steamer Titus alongside Marau Sound, Solomon Islands.

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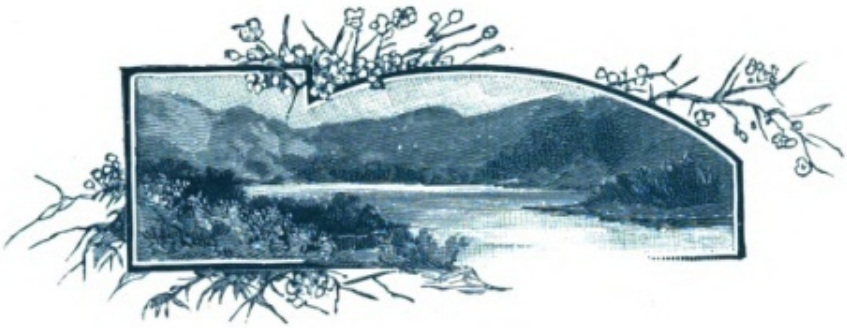

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BY THE

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LORD HOWE ISLAND.

LEAVING Sydney, two days' sail brings us within sight of the twin peaks of Lord Howe Island, Mount Gower and Mount Lidgbird. The island was discovered by Lieut. Ball in 1788, when that officer was in charge of the "Supply," in the early days of the Australian settlement. A good deal of the land is fertile, and several families live on the island in comfort. It is, as far as government is concerned, a part of New South Wales, being in the King electorate, which at the present time (1898) returns the Premier. Leaving here, the next point of call is the historic and beautiful Norfolk Island; but just after leaving Lord Howe one gets a glimpse away to the south-east of that remarkable geographical feature, Ball's Pyramid. This is a rocky peak, rising abruptly to a height of

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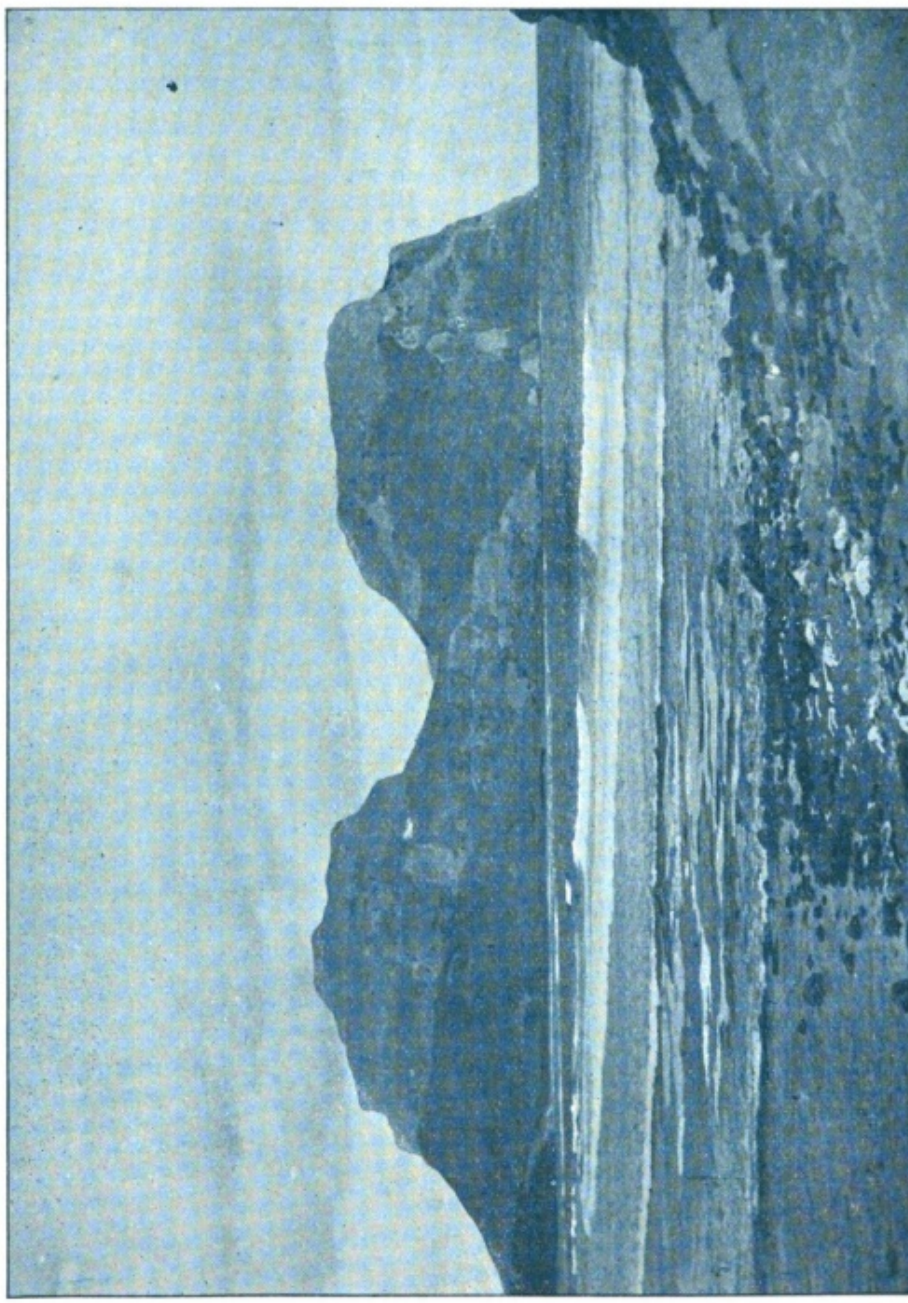
nearly 2000 feet. It is visible for a very great distance, and the effect of the rising or setting sun glittering on the stately peak is very beautiful.



Lord Howe Island.

M. V. Murphy.

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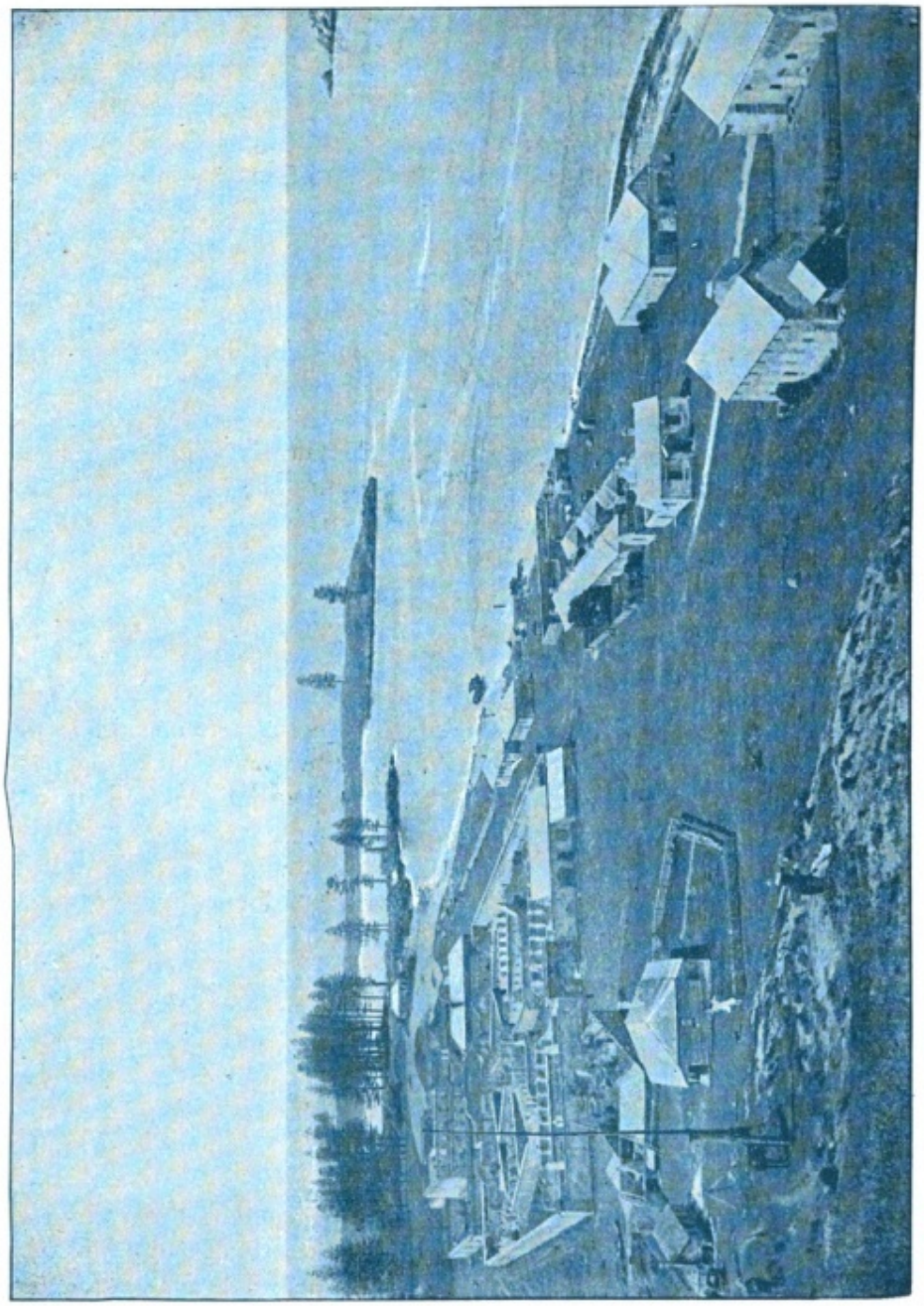

Kingston, Norfolk Island.

M. V. Murphy.

NORFOLK ISLAND

is slightly under 1000 miles to the north-east of Sydney. It was discovered by Cook in 1774. A few years later, Botany Bay was sanctioned as a convict settlement, and the officers in charge

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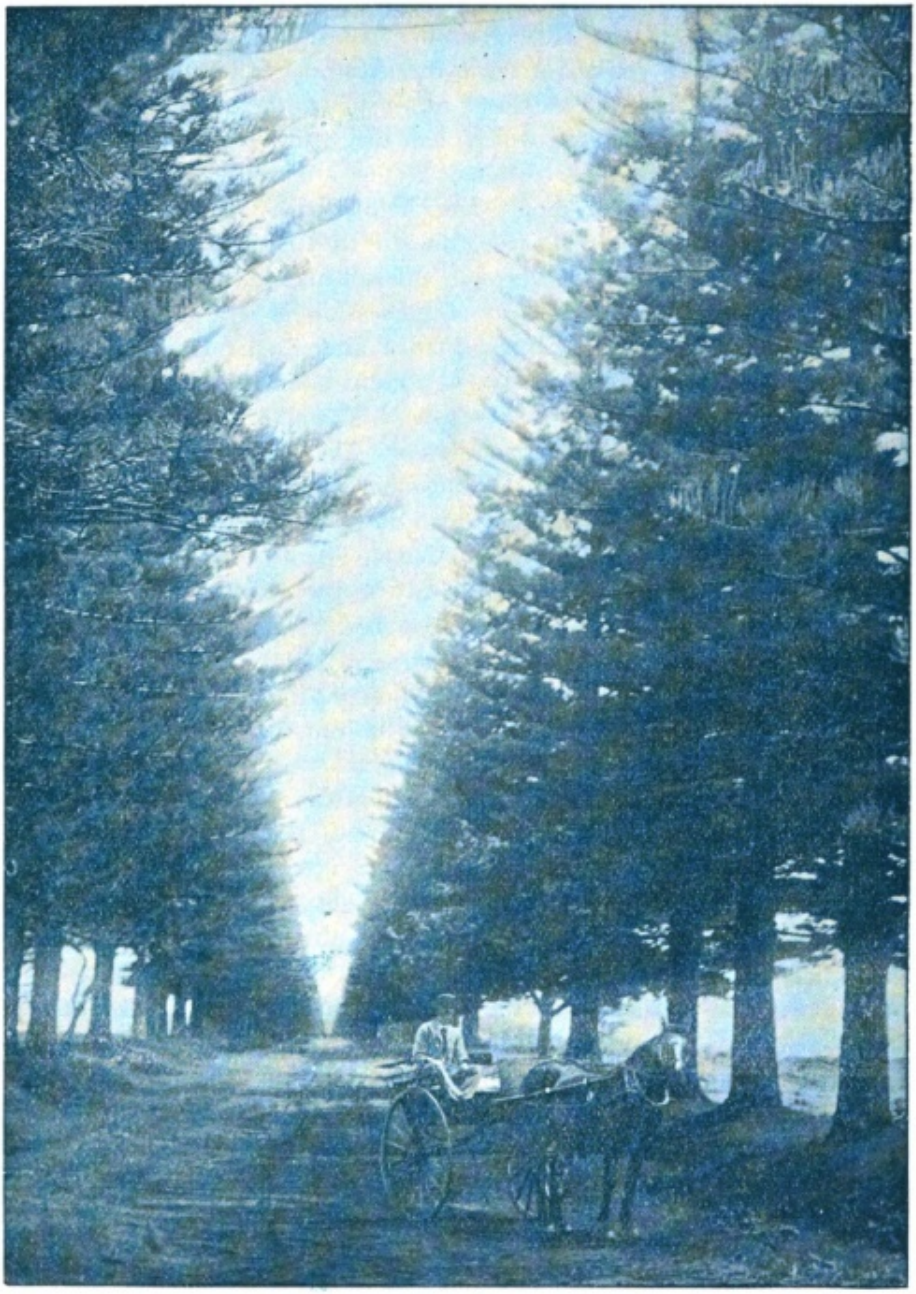
only put off to a ship with difficulty. But the mails having been landed, and the cargo taken off or put on, as the case may be, our vessel is once more on her way bound for the New Hebrides.



M. V. Murphy. **Pine Avenue, Norfolk Island—more than a mile long.**

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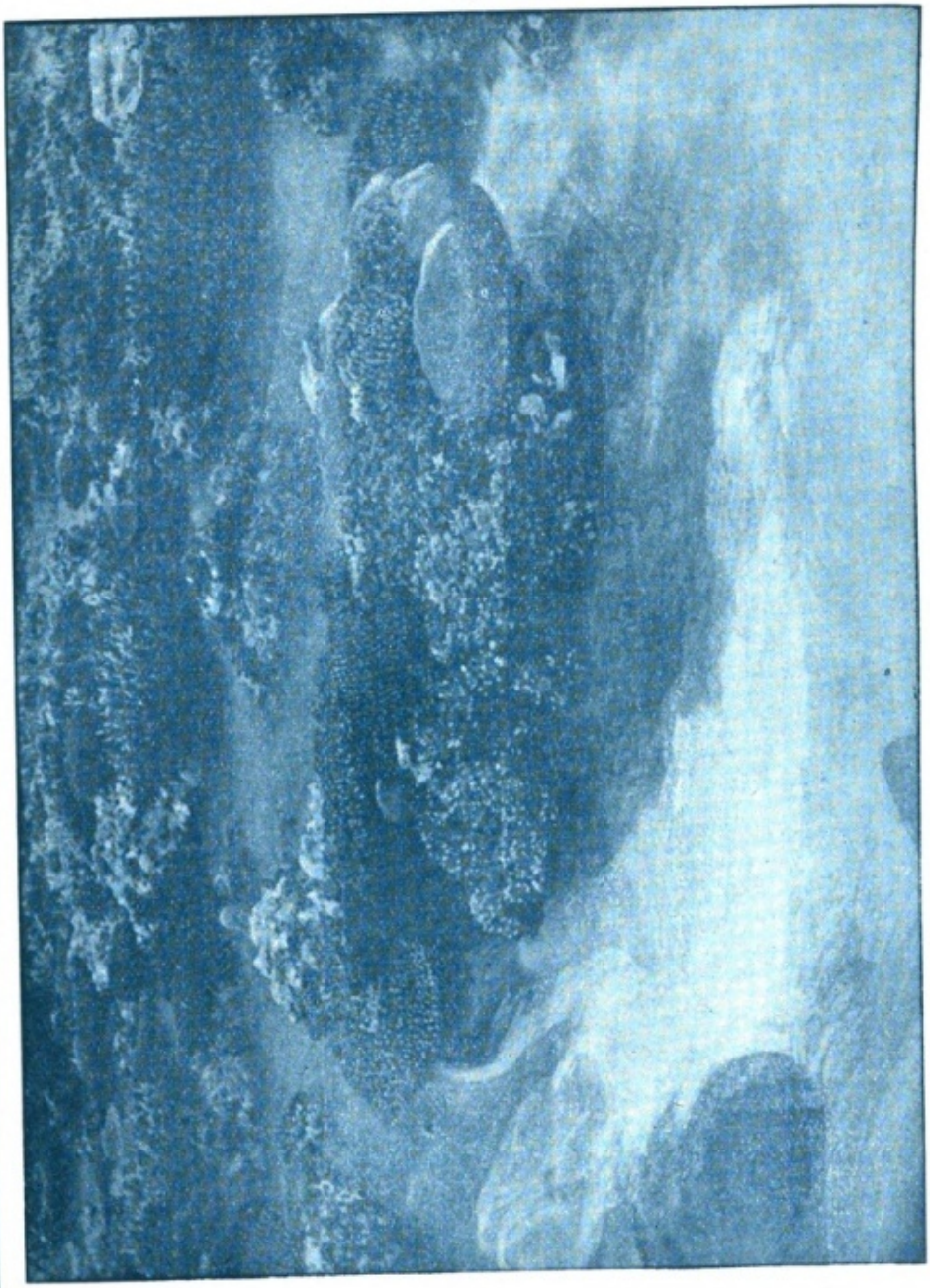

Coral at Low Water, Aneityum Island.

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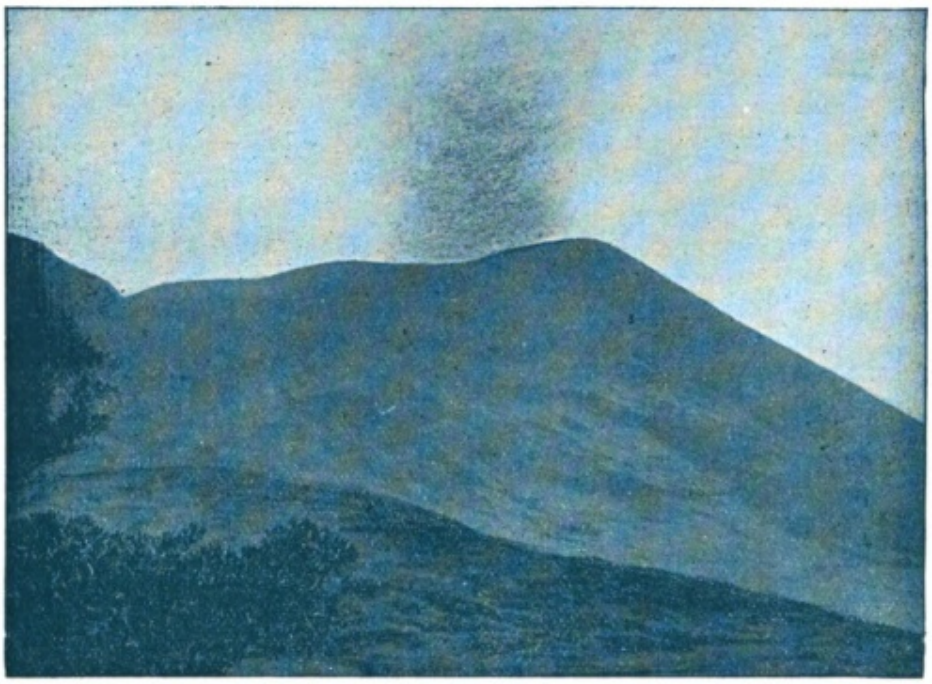
umbrella as it rises. Every few minutes the roar of a fresh eruption is heard, and dense masses of smoke come up, accompanied by the molten lava and volcanic rock. It was so when Cook visited the spot a hundred years ago; it was so, no doubt, for ages before, and the roar and the smoke will still continue long after the present generation has passed away. The forces at work within seem inexhaustible, and the navigator of future generations will use the fiery top of the mountain for his lighthouse and danger signal as did those who first sailed these waters. The circumference of the crater is about 600 feet, and the height of the



Volcano.

volcano three thousand feet. It is comparatively easy of access, either from the mission station, at Port Resolution, or from Sulphur Bay, and many parties have approached it from those points and looked down into the boiling cauldron. The roar of the coming eruption warns the sight-seer to draw back from the mouth, and also to be on his guard for falling lava or rocks. One well-known missionary in the group succeeded in lighting his cigar from a piece of the molten stone that fell close to his feet. Smoke issues from various points up the side of the mountain,

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and into Sulphur Bay a stream of boiling water pours, in which the natives are accustomed to cook their food.

Hot Spring, Sulphur Bay, Tanna.

EROMANGA.

A very short steam brings us to Dillon's Bay, in Eromanga, where the Rev. Hugh Robertson, at present one of the oldest missionaries in the island, has his station. When one has spent an afternoon at Mr. Robertson's place, he gathers some idea of the capabilities of the islands, particularly in the direction of producing oranges and lemons. The mission station is situated at a beautiful fresh-water creek, which empties itself into Dillon's Bay, close against the house. It is under the shadow of a hill famous in missionary history—the Martyr's Hill, as it is called, from the fact that the Rev. John Williams, the pioneer of missions in these seas, and his companion, Mr. James Harris, met their deaths on the shore at its base, while on its crest the Rev. Mr. Gordon and his wife were murdered a quarter of a century later. Williams, in his youth, was apprenticed to the ironmongery business, but his religious zeal was fired by frequent visits to the tabernacle at

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Moorfield, and he resolved to devote his life to mission work. In 1816 he went out to the South Seas, and after some good work in the eastern islands he turned, in 1839, to the Hebrides group. He arrived off the group in the middle of September, and under date, "Monday, 18th," just after returning from a satisfactory meeting with the Tannese, he has the following entry in his diary:—"This is a memorable day, a day which will be transmitted to posterity; and the record of the events which have this day transpired will exist after those who have taken an active part in them have retired into the shades of oblivion." This was the last sentence he ever *wrote*, though he dictated the doings of the

Mission Station.

next day to his amanuensis. On the morning of September 20th, 1839, Mr. Williams and Mr. Harris landed. They went up the course of the creek for some distance, and were then set upon. Mr. Harris attempted to get back to the boat, which was in the creek, and Mr. Williams tried to reach the beach with the object, apparently, of swimming out to the ship. Both, however, were overtaken and clubbed to death. A flight of arrows was put into the boat, but fortunately nobody was struck, and an effort was made to bring the boat round to where the body of the missionary lay. The natives, however, kept up the assault on the boat while some

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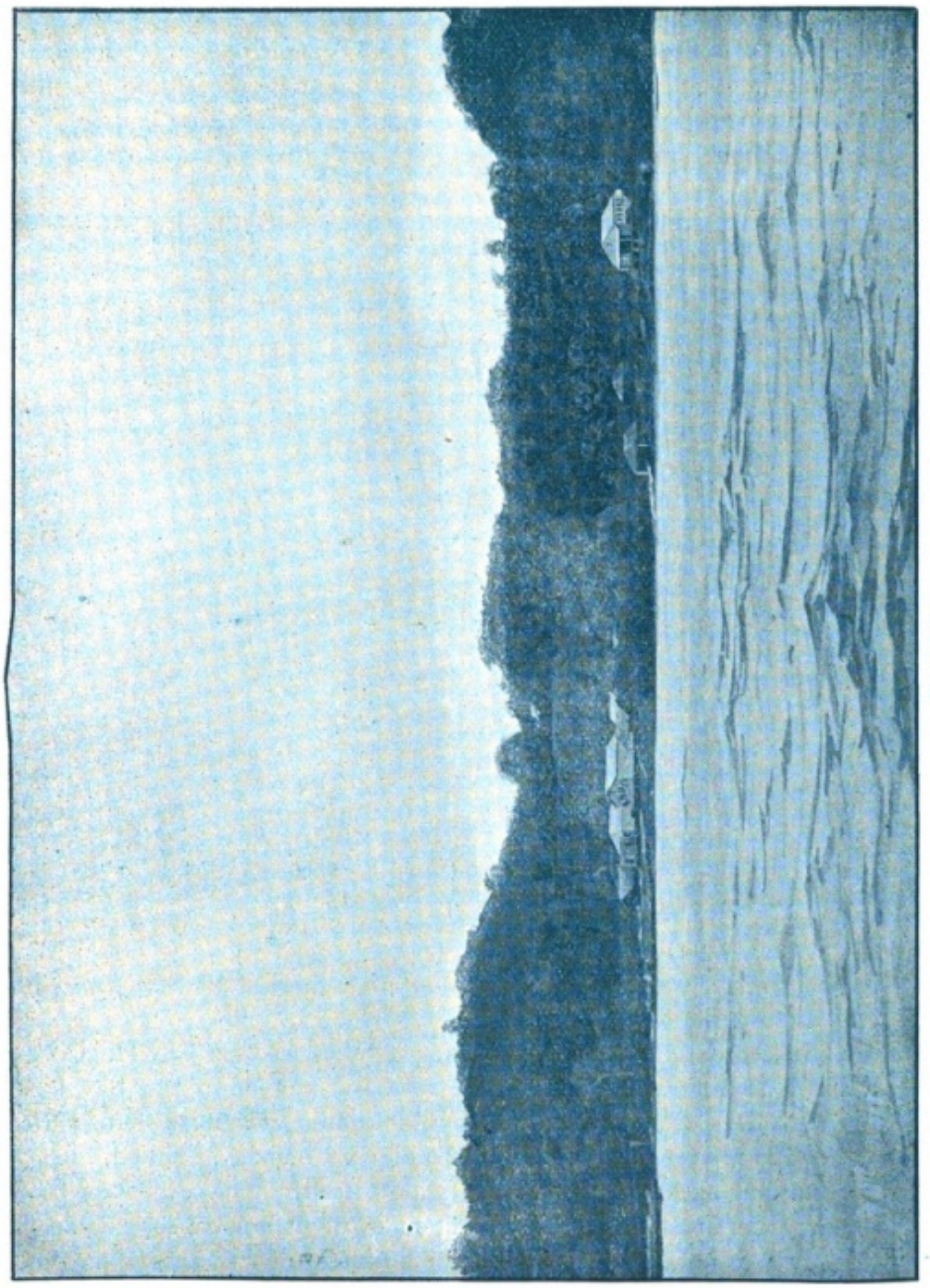
amidst the busy hum of men after fourteen days of the circumscribed society of shipboard.

"Well, everything is what it is, large or small, good or bad, the



Port Vila.

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philosophers tell us, not absolutely, but relatively, and relatively to the places at which we have hitherto called, Vila is important. One house, or, perhaps two, has been within the range of vision when we have dropped anchor hitherto, but as we plunge through the rip off Devil's Point and steam up Vila Harbour—a harbour large enough for the evolutions of a fleet we have in view three or four pretentious-looking buildings straight ahead, while dotted around the coast-line in the immediate neighbourhood are some half-dozen or so smaller houses. It is a half-French, half-English settlement; each English building has its

A. N. H. Co.'s Stores, Port Vila.

French counterpart, and the notices on the doors of the shops are in both languages.

"The centre of the English colony at Vila is The A.N.H. Co.'s store, which bears, in letters to be read half-way down the bay, the sign "A.N.H. Co." Australasian New Hebrides Company the letters are intended to represent, Messrs. Burns, Philp & Company, Limited, being the managing agents for same. It is now nearly ten years since the company was first formed, and a great many of its original shareholders were then, as now, leading Melbourne business men. The employees

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are well-conditioned, in spite of those who say that the islands are unhealthy, and cheerful, notwithstanding those who aver that they are lonely. They preside over an establishment which, in the diversity of its contents, is simply a pocket edition of Whiteley's, embracing everything that the most fastidious could desire to eat or the most æsthetic to wear.

"I strolled along what appeared to me a jungle path, but what according to an inscription on one of the buildings, was the 'Rue de Commerce,' towards the French end of the settlement, past the French

Rue de Commerce, Port Vila.

store and the French hotel and one or two private houses. The store was much on the lines of the one I had left apparently, though not so large, while there was a distinct likeness between the hotel and those to be seen on worked-out Victorian goldfields—a long wooden building, having plenty of bottles on the bar shelves, with taking labels on the outside, but little inside. I conversed for a while with the son of the proprietor a young man with but an imperfect knowledge of English. It was, not, however, until I began to question him on the relative merits

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bay at all. It is formed by the mainland of Sandwich on the south, and by small islands lying to the north; but the entrance is so wide and the exit so narrow that it has, when entered, the appearance of a bay.

Picking Coffee, Port Vila.

NGUNA.

Across from Sandwich is the little island of Nguna, where there is a very nice mission house and quite an imposing church, at present under the direction of another of the veteran missionaries, the Rev Peter Milne.

MAI.

Sailing due north, we are soon in sight of the striking three-hilled island called Mai, or Three Hills, the former being the native equivalent of the latter. It is somewhat curious that Cook gave the island the name of the Three Hills without any knowledge of the fact that the natives had already given it that name in their own language. There are, or at any

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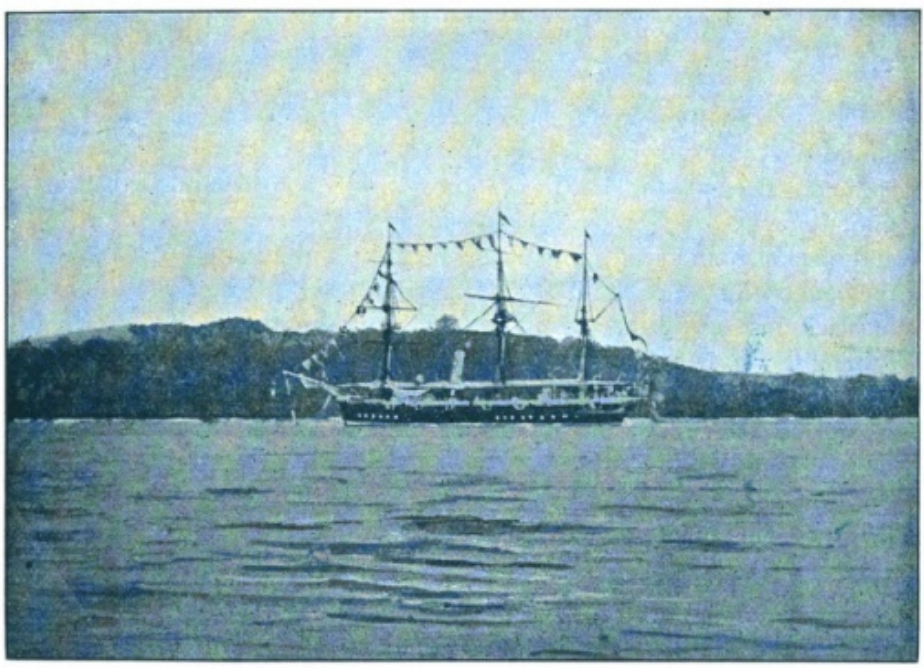
somewhat picturesque-looking, and is said to be the only piece of land in the group belonging to Her Majesty the Queen. The story of its acquisition is that it was generally used by the English man-of-war patrolling the New Hebrides for target practice. The vessel would sweep up the bay at full speed, and the guns would be directed on the little islet, which would receive the full charge The island was being rapidly "shivered" to pieces by the war vessels, when the chief entered a protest—though it was not clothed in official language - to the captain. "You shoot him plenty time, big fellow gun, bimeby land he altogether go," was the way the potentate resident on the adjacent land, who



H.M.S. Royalist on the New Hebrides Station.

claimed the ownership of the islet, drew attention to its steady diminution. Target practice could not be suspended because of the feelings of a native chief, and the captain promptly entered into negotiations for the purchase of the land outright. Ten sticks of tobacco was the price soon agreed upon, and the land passed into the possession of Her Britannic Majesty, and received the official name of Royalist Island, but to the unregenerate it is now more commonly known as "Ten Stick Island."

The west coast of Malekula is, so far, unoccupied by English settlers,

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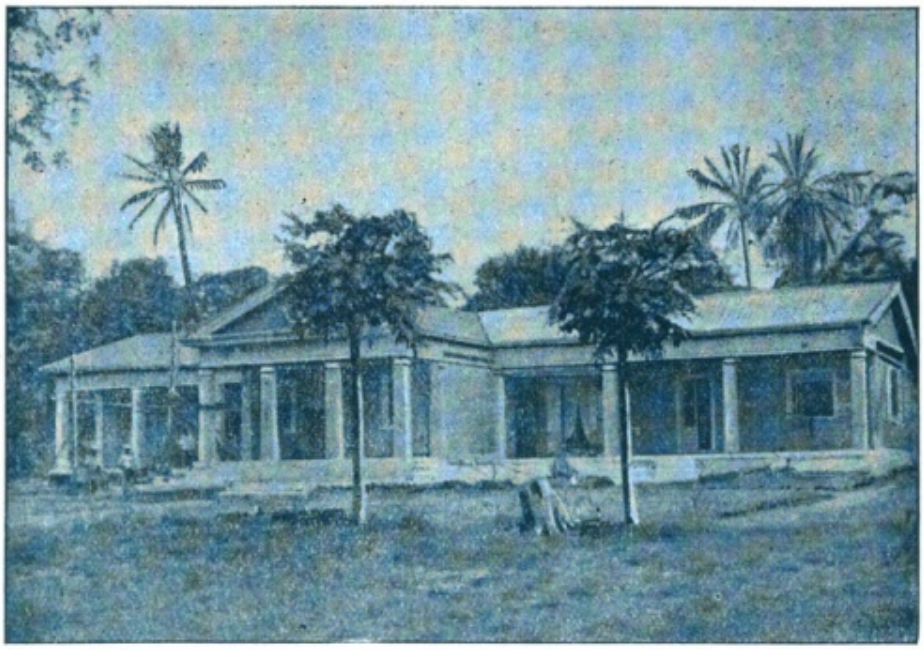
and it is therefore necessary to retrace our steps, skirting its southerly end on our way to Ambrym, prior to making the numerous calls necessary either on, or just off, its eastern side.

AMBRYM.

Ambrym is one of the most remarkable islands in the New Hebrides, its name being made famous hereabout by the possession of a striking natural feature in the shape of an active volcano, and of a noble charitable institution in the shape of a fully-equipped hospital. Some four or



Dr. Lamb's Hospital, Ambrym.

five years ago a tremendous eruption of the volcano occurred, not from the smoking crater, but at a new point. The lava poured down the sides of the mountain—over 3500 feet high—on its way to the sea, and the track which it made in the luxuriant vegetation is still visible. As it reached the sea in an immense volume, a column of steam and water was forced straight up to a height of several hundred feet. A man-of-war was at anchor close by at the time, and one of the officers obtained an admirable photograph of the phenomenon. The hospital is many miles from the burning mountain, but still not far enough to be out of its sphere of influence for mischief, and when the breeze is from the east a

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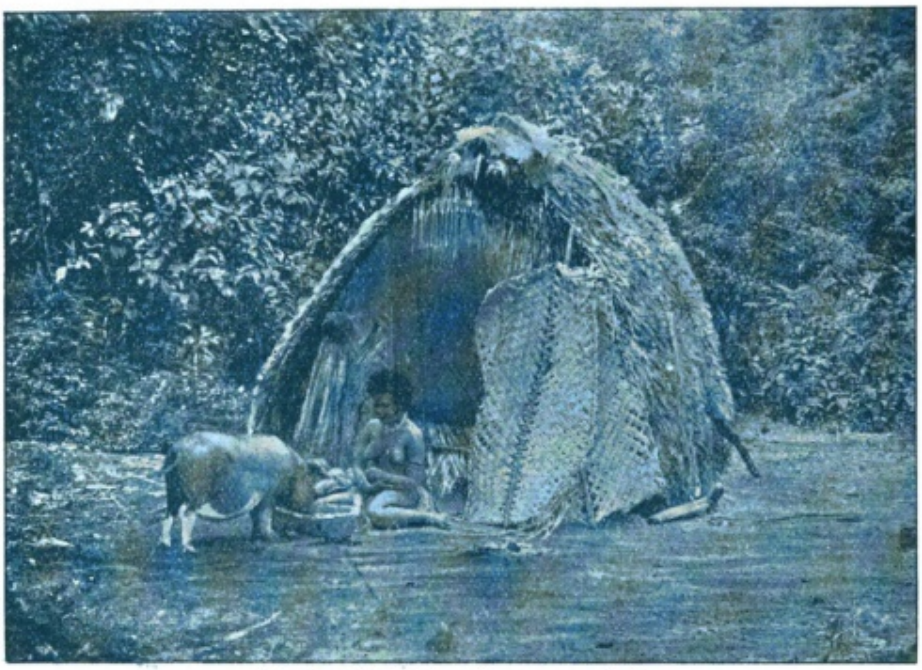
Like all the other islanders, they are gradually being civilised, but even yet they view with jealousy any attempt of a white man to establish a settlement on their land, and a pioneer there would be by no means safe.



Native Dwelling House on Aoba.

MALO and TANGOA.

Crossing back to Malo, we sail through the picturesque strait known as the Malo Pass, which separates the islands of Aure and Malo, and proceed to the park-like islet of Tangoa. Tangoa has an importance in the group quite disproportionate to its size, from the fact that it is the seat of a very important educational establishment under the control of the Presbyterian church. It is a training school whither the natives are brought from the other islands and given an educational course of three years in simple English subjects and in the truths of Christianity. The course completed, they are sent back to their native islands to assist in the work of Christianising the other natives. The idea seems an excellent one, for the native ought to be able to exercise an influence over his fellows greater than any stranger. The whole establishment is on quite the grand scale, including the principal's and the assistant's houses,

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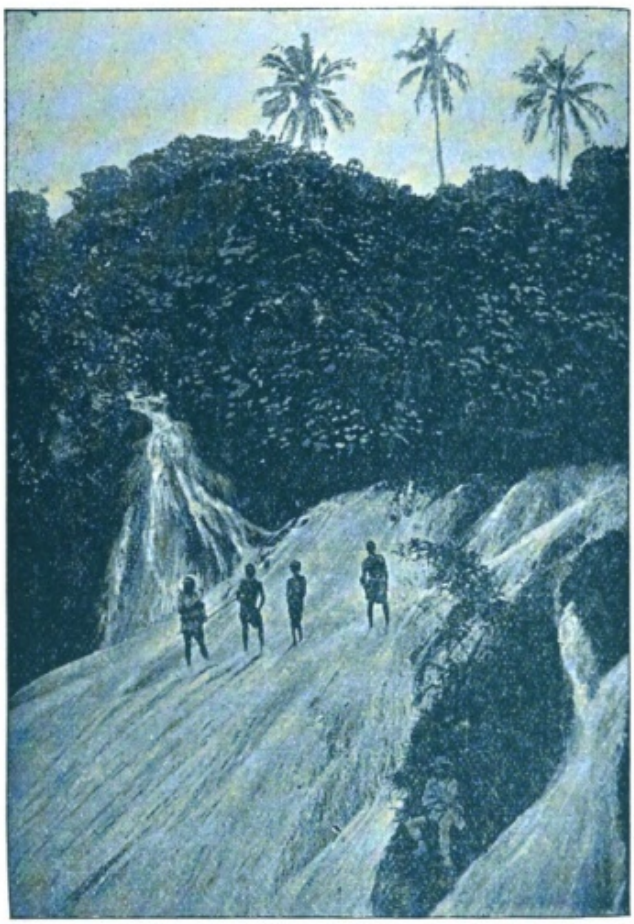
the resident missionary's house, a school, and a church, and about 50 native houses. These last named are very different from the squalid dens dumped down promiscuously, to be seen in the average native village, and should do a great deal in themselves towards leading the natives to



Waterfall, Lakerere, Aurora, New Hebrides.

a higher standard of living, as far as mere sanitary arrangements are concerned. The houses are constructed of native material and, to an extent, in the native fashion, but they are large and airy and, are set out symmetrically. The situation of the whole training school is a charming

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a good deal of speculation has been indulged in as to whence they acquired the art. Two theories are advanced: the one is that they took it from the Spaniards in the days of the New Jerusalem, and have

Ithuma River, Aneityum.

passed it on from generation to generation since. Again, there is on the island a very ordinary species of wasp which constructs a rather elaborate clay nest. This nest is found to bear a very striking resemblance to the pottery turned out by the natives, and it has been suggested that the reasoning man has borrowed the idea from the instinctive worker. The theory is plausible enough, but, on the whole, it is more likely that the Spaniards were the original teachers. There is but one more call to make, on the extreme point of the island, and then we are done with New Hebrides group, and are *en route* for the Banks group.

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Cocoanut Tree.

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be procured on the easiest terms, and while labour that could be employed profitably for both parties is idle and largely uncivilised. Some day, perhaps, things will be different, and there are not wanting

Banana, Mr. Chevillard's Plantation, Vila.

signs that the time will come when the New Hebrides will be an important dependency of some country.

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The Solomon Islands.

THE SOLOMON ISLANDS were discovered by Mendaña, the Spanish explorer, in 1567. The voyager named the group in the belief that he had found the source of King Solomon's wealth, although upon what grounds it is difficult to say, for there were neither pine nor cedar, hewn stones nor precious stones, gold nor brass to be seen at that time; and even now that traces of the metals have been discovered, the quantity is not sufficient to support the theory that Solomon obtained his huge supplies from this part of the world.

Captain Carteret, of the "Swallow," visited the islands after they had lain for 200 years untouched by European feet, and he was closely followed, in 1768, by Bougainville, whose name is given to one of the larger islands.

The subsequent history of the Solomons is stained with the blood of many voyagers, traders, and missionaries. In 1851 the owner of the yacht "Wanderer" was killed on the south coast of Guadalcanar, and in 1896, on the same island, the ill-fated Baron Norbeck von Foullon and several members of the expedition conveyed there by the Austrian gunboat, "Albatros," were slaughtered. In 1857 some French priests were murdered on the islands of Ysabel and San Christoval while endeavouring to found missions. At Rubiana, Messrs. Guy and Atkinson met their death at the hands of the ruthless head-hunters. In 1880 Lieutenant Bower, R.N., of H.M.S. "Sandfly," was, together with several of his boat's crew, killed on the island of Mandoliana by a head-hunting party of the Florida natives; and nearly every part of the group has its own scene of violent and sudden deaths. Warships of several nations have visited and shelled the villages of the offenders, and now matters are gradually improving, though an occasional outbreak and attack tends to make the traders most careful for their safety.

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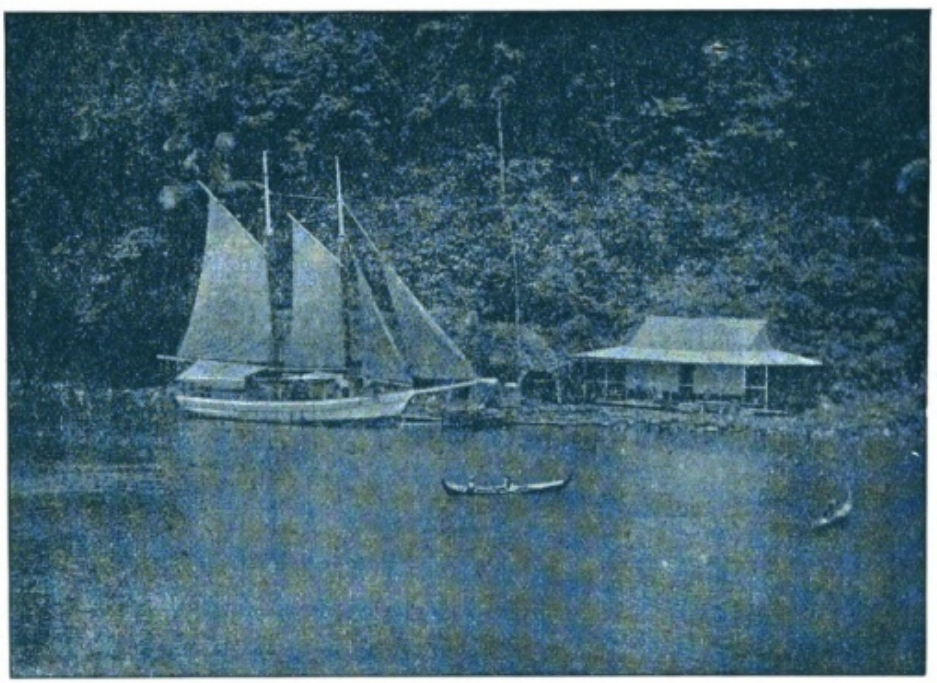
The inhabitants are said to be Papuans, but the most casual observer cannot fail to be struck by the remarkable variations in type met with during a run through the group. Resident traders can tell at a glance which island produced any "nigger" picked out from the mixed crowds found in the coastal villages or in the vicinity of the trading stations. The Buka and Bougainville boys are Melanesians, intensely black, as though polished with blacklead, and have close, curly hair. The Malaita boys are Polynesians, reddish in colour, with straight hair, generally bleached to an auburn shade, worn long, and combed out into an "aureole." The Rubiana natives are of the Malay type, cruel, thin-



W. H. Lucas. **Simbo, Solomons.**

lipped savages, with aquiline noses, black-skinned, lithe and agile. The Guadalcanar boys are light brown in colour, happy and good-natured, and generally tractable, although the hill tribes bear a most evil reputation for treachery and murderous instinct.

Generally speaking, the Solomon Islanders are cannibals and head-hunters, though in the districts more frequently visited, and especially in the vicinity of the Commissioner's residence, they are abandoning their old habits. At the present day, however, the chiefs of Rendova, Vella Lavella, and New Georgia make raids upon the less warlike tribes of

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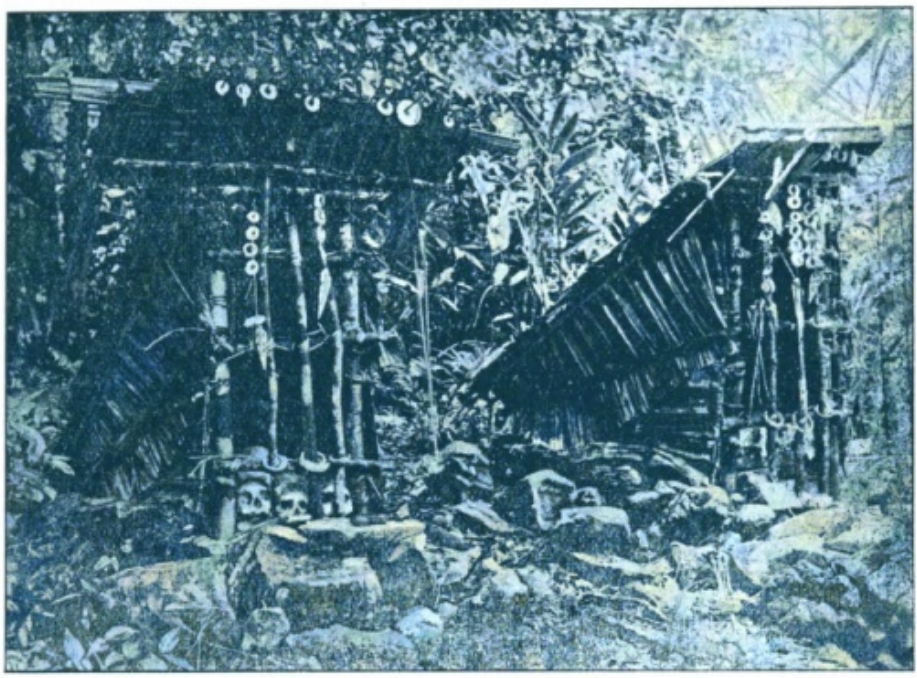
sun-shades, made of woven palm leaf, three-cornered in shape, and coquettishly "raked," the abundant curly hair filling the place of a crown.



REPOSITORY for Head-hunters' Trophies (Skulls of Prisoners and their Wealth taken during Raids).
W. H. Lucas. **Simbo, Solomons.**

Their canoes are graceful and light, built of planks sewn together with plaited fibre, the seams caulked with the pounded kernel of the tita, or putty nut, which is abundant throughout the group, and they do not make use of the outrigger, so general in the islands both to the N.W. and S.

About four hours' coasting along a succession of small islands brings us to the entrance of Blackett Strait, a deep, clear channel between Kulambangra and Wana Wana islands. The former island is 16 miles long by 13 miles broad, and has two lofty peaks, each 5,000 feet in height. It is a beautiful sight to watch the white mists drifting up to the summit of these immense peaks, whose heights appear all the greater from the fact that they rise almost directly from the sea. The scenery along this winding channel is very charming. The dense forest extends to the very edge of the shore, and masses of foliage in varied shades of green, red and brown droop over, dipping into the violet water.

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Then comes the "Back Passage," between Wana Wana and New Georgia. This is a narrow opening, not wider than the ship's length in some places, but ten fathoms deep, and walled in by perpendicular, submarine coral cliffs, fringed with fantastic growths of a thousand shapes and shades of colour. White cockatoos fly screaming across the strait, scarlet and green parrots noisily invest the tall trees, while the great island pigeon croons his monotonous call from the hidden depths of the forest. Occasionally the shy crocodile may be seen swimming in the

W. H. Lucas. **Native House, Solomons.**

distance, but he is too cautious to allow the sportsman to get within gunshot.

As the passage widens, great shallow patches and low, mud-coloured reefs are seen, and the steamer creeps through the dangerous and twisting channel at "dead slow." Then deep water is reached, and at full speed again the steamer proceeds along inside the great barrier reef which lies to the eastward of New Georgia, to Rubiana.

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RUBIANA.

Here there are two trading stations, Mr. Norman Wheatley's, on the main island, and Mr. Frank Wickham's, on a small island close to the shore. Mr. Wickham's island is only a few acres in extent, but it is thickly covered with cocoanut palms; and his stores and dwelling-houses are placed on the side facing the shore in such a snugly-sheltered spot that, during the north-west season, when the gales are howling over the island, the owner can sit on his verandah and watch the storm sweeping along on either side, while he remains in perfect shelter and comfort.

W. H. Lucas. **Chief's Tomb, Rubiana.**

Mr. Wheatley is engaged in clearing some of the level country behind his station for cocoanut planting. The soil is covered with thick growth, and full of great coral rocks, so it is no light undertaking to clear it; but already he has a fair area planted with young trees. As soon as the ground is cleared, sweet potatoes are planted with the view of preventing the growth of new scrub, an object which is effectually carried out by that succulent and saccharine tuber.

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This place was formerly the "headquarters" of the head-hunting community, and although the practice is dying out amongst the shore dwellers, still some of the Rubiana boys carry the long-handled axe with which they were wont to secure their trophies. The natives are intensely black, and rather small and fine in feature. The practice of

W. H. Lucas. **Rubiana Native, Solomons.**

enlarging the lobe of the ear is indulged in to a positively ridiculous extent. The procedure is to pierce the lobe and insert a weighted ring, which causes gradual enlargement. Then a strip of bamboo or other flexible wood is bent into the shape of a hoop, but left unfastened.

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strangers may look, they touch at their peril. Formerly the canoe house was ornamented with many smoke-dried human heads, the eyes and ears inlaid with mother-o'-pearl; but recent changes in administration

W. H. Lucas. **Canoe House, Rubiana, Solomons.**

and the destruction of all war canoes found afloat by British men-of-war have discouraged the natives, and their ghastly trophies are either hidden away or destroyed.

Rather more than a day's steaming down the great channel lying between the German and British Solomons—a channel as calm as a lake—brings us to

SAVO.

This is a circular volcanic island about 10 miles in circumference, with a jagged and irregular coast. The sides of the crater rise up 1800 feet close to the shore, leaving but a narrow strip of beach and thickly-wooded lowland, upon which there are numerous native villages. The last eruption of the volcano occurred about 50 years ago, when large quantities of water, dust and ashes were ejected, and several natives were killed. The interior of the crater is still intensely hot, and filled

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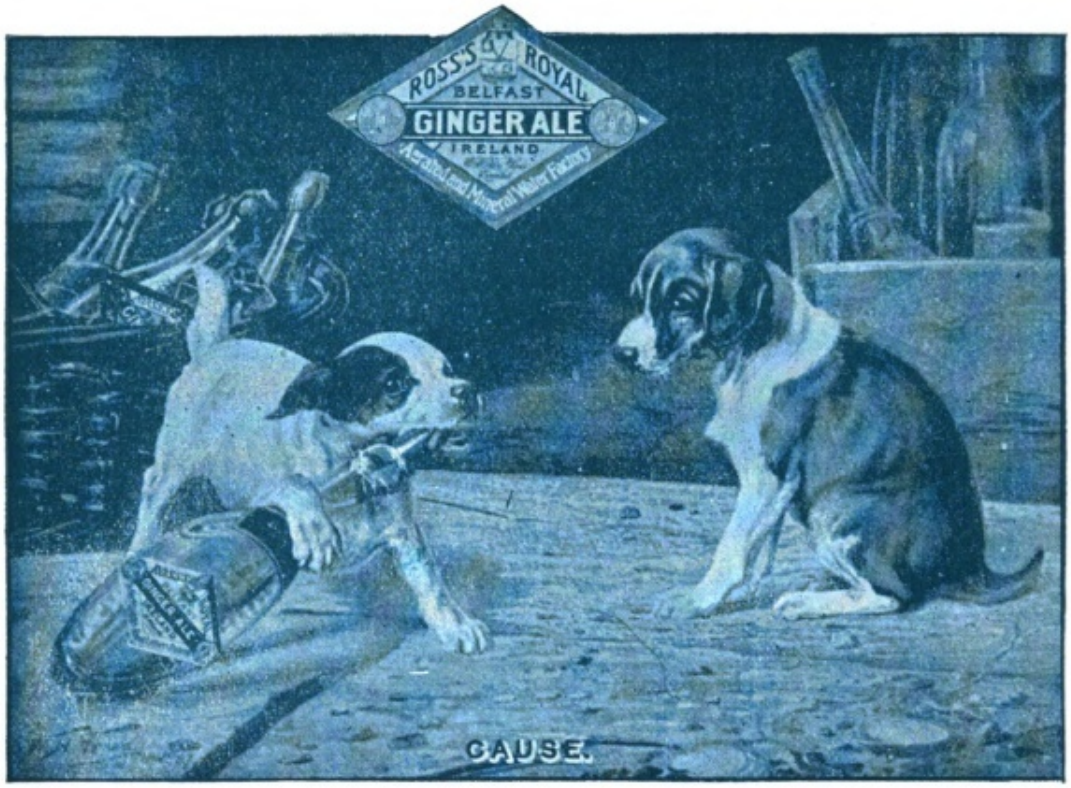

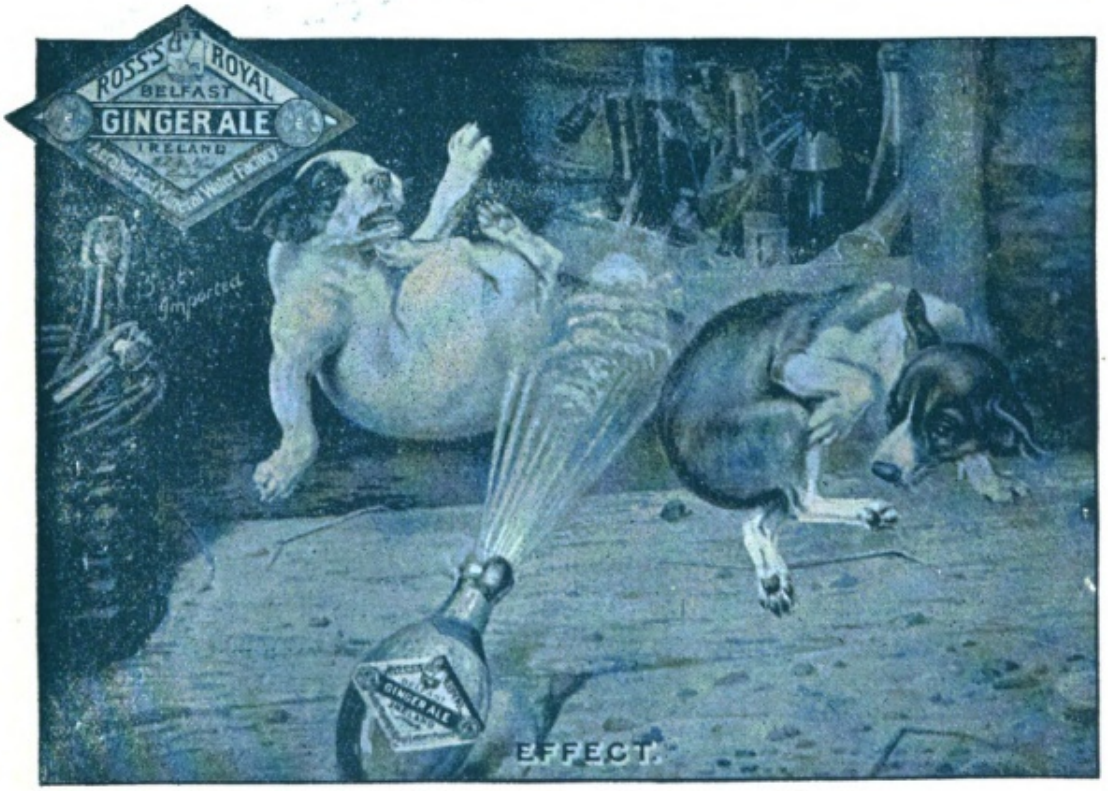

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Mount Lammas stands clearly outlined against the sky in purple on blue, while all below him is maize and green, flecked with white rifts of floating cloud.

W. H. Lucas.

Gavotu, Solomons.

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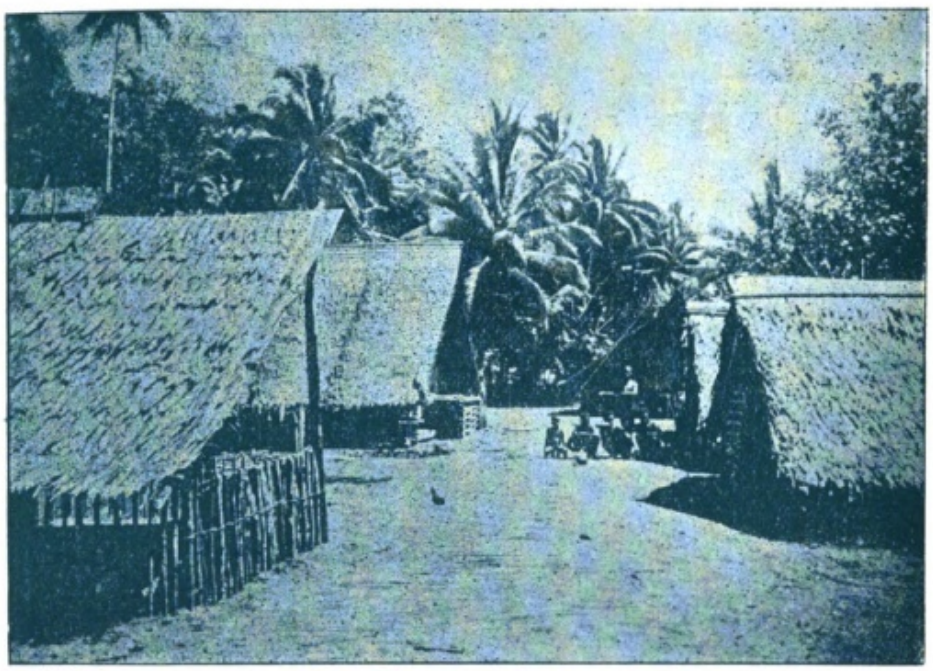
To the right the low wooded hills of Florida roll down to the beach, while the harbour shows wonderful variations of colour—blue, purple, yellow, and emerald green—according to the varying depths of the water—veritable colour sketches, in which the giant hand of nature covers an immense canvas with an infinitude of delicate colour-touches that contribute to a singularly vivid whole. In the evening, when the moon rises, the scene becomes one of a softer loveliness, and from the dense forest comes the shrill barking of the great tree frogs, while bats, both large and small, flit silently through the moonlit air.



W. H. Lucas. **Guadalcanar, Solomons.**

A few miles to the south lies

NEAL ISLAND,

the head station of Messrs. Butchart and Griffiths. This is truly one of the gems of the Pacific. About ten acres in extent, with a snow-white beach and emerald green turf, it is crowned by a magnificent banyan tree, lofty, spreading and multitudinous as to its aerial roots, clothed with graceful, broad-leaved vines. Huge clusters of bright yellow-flowered orchids and dark-green ferns are grouped in masses on the broad boughs, which at times are fairly alive with chattering birds of sheeny black plumage and cunning red eyes. There is just a little clump

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of trees on one side of the island. Paw-paw trees, loaded with fruit, and a few young cocoanuts are scattered over the cleared ground, and the station buildings, stores, and the ubiquitous copra house occupy the remainder of the island. The hulk of a large schooner lying on the beach, and the gentle swell breaking on a small outlying reef, complete the scene, and make it one of the most picturesque imaginable.

Some miles down the coast of Guadalcanar is

AOLA,

another of the Pacific gems—a small island station belonging to Captain W. Pope, lying off the coast of Guadalcanar. On the "mainland," just opposite Aola, lies a plantation belonging to Captain Svenson, where

W. H. Lucas. **Captain W. Pope's Station, Aola, Solomons.**

cocoanuts are being extensively planted, and a nursery for raising coffee plants has recently been established. The flat upon which this plantation is situated extends for many miles along the eastern coast of Guadalcanar, and varies from one to seven miles in width. Although at present somewhat heavily timbered, it offers a splendid field for any capitalist who is prepared to expend a little money in clearing and planting. Here the cocoanut will pay handsomely in the fifth year after planting, and will steadily increase in value up to the tenth year, from which time onwards it yields its regular returns. In the meantime, while waiting for the cocoanut crop to commence paying, coffee, vanilla,

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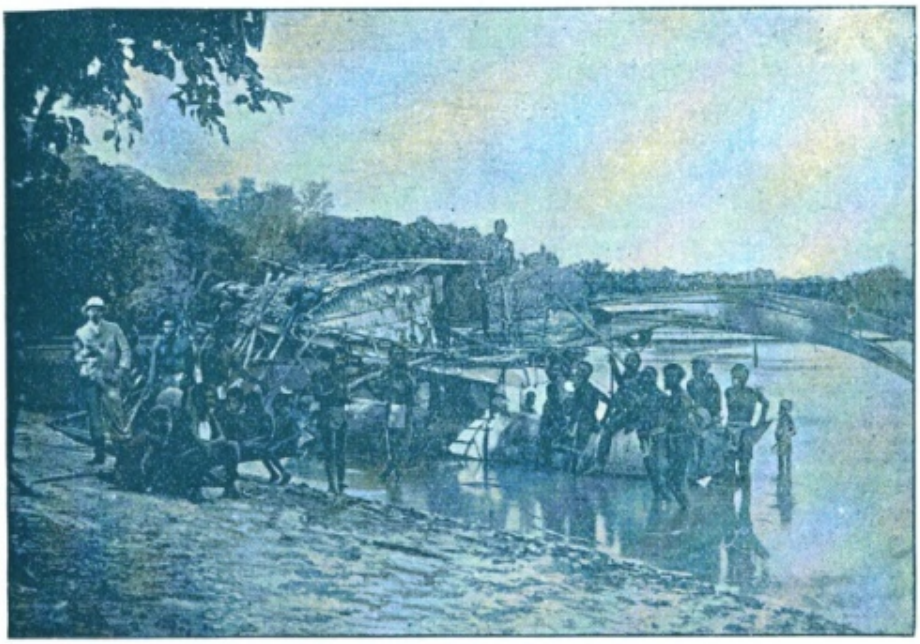
Santa Cruz Group.

A few hundred miles to the south-east lies Santa Cruz Island, the largest of the Santa Cruz group, and another of those islands connected with the early Spanish expeditions. *En route* we have passed close to a few small tracts of land in mid-ocean, the Swallow group, the Duff group, and the Reef Islands being amongst them. In connection with



Reef Island Natives and Canoe.

the Reef Islands there is an authenticated story which goes to indicate the extraordinary endurance of the native. A small party of natives were wrecked on the islands, and fearing that if they encountered the residents they would be murdered, they decided to make for Santa Cruz, which they believed could not be far away. Their canoe had, however,

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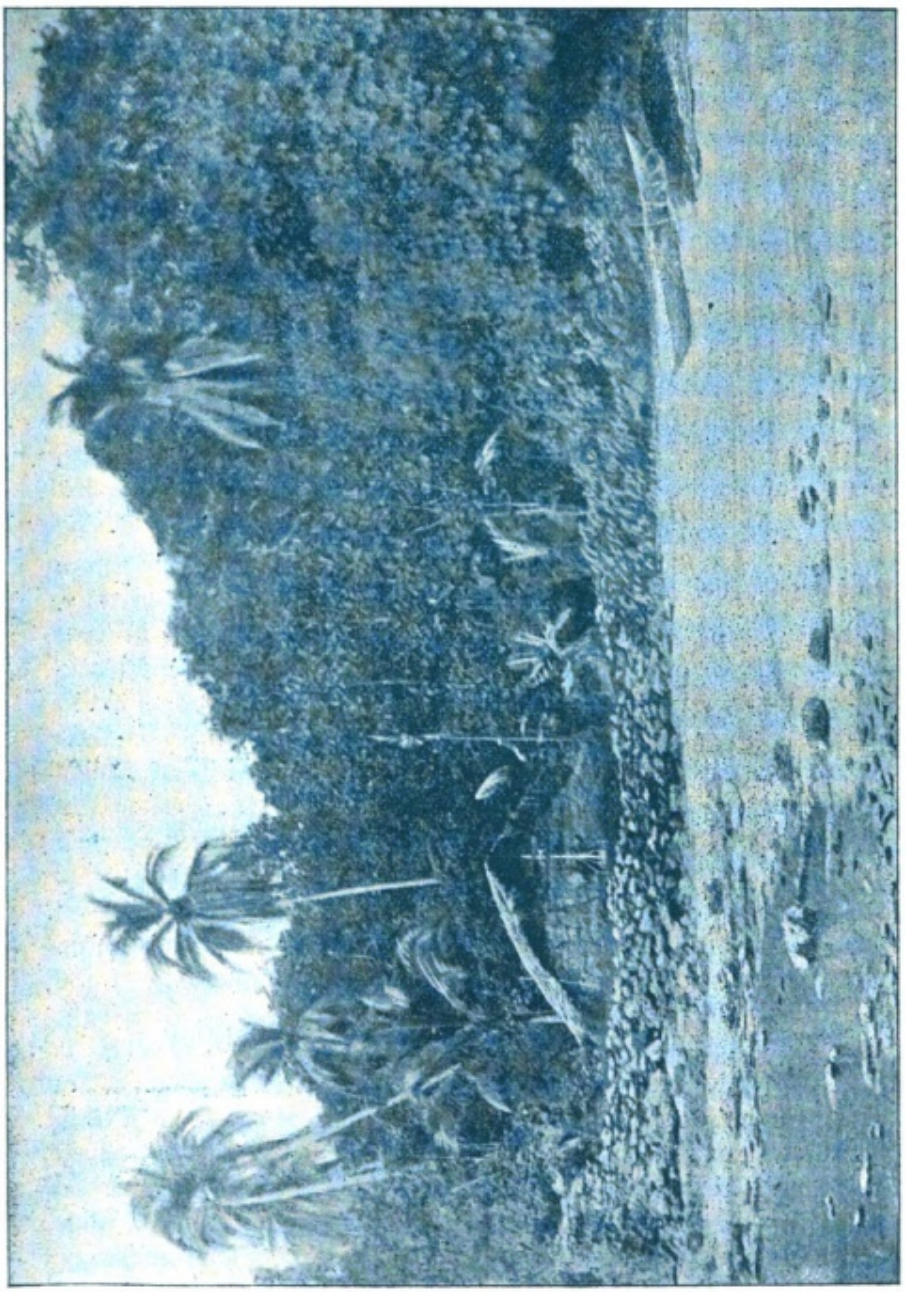

Spot where Commodore Goodenough was attacked in 1875.

Santa Cruz.

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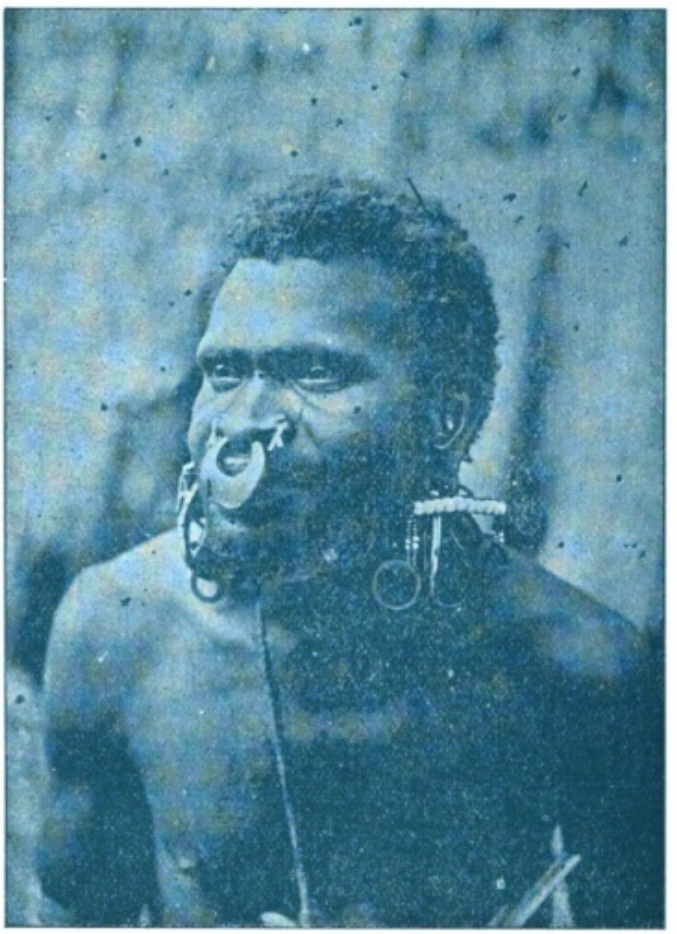
and to the handle a remarkably effective rattle of hollowed nuts is attached. This is purely an ornamental article, used in the dance which takes place on the occasion of the great periodical pig battues, entitled the 100 pig dance. At the ceremony the clubs are brandished, the rattles producing a hideous clamour, to which is added the joyous yelping of



W. H. Lucas. **Native of Santa Cruz.**

the performers and audience—a truly pandemoniacal noise. Their canoes are outriggered, graceful in form, neatly finished, and white-washed with lime, the sea-going or war canoes being double in form and very large.

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The climate is humid, to say the least, rain falling nearly every day in the year; in consequence the vegetation is particularly luxuriant, and cleared land requires constant attention to keep it free from gratuitous growths.

An interesting article is the feather "money" of Santa Cruz. It consists of countless crimson feathers, plucked from a small bird and disposed in successive layers over a band of woven fibre three inches in width. This band is woven in one continuous length, year after year, and when ten feet are made, ten "tallies" of strung shells are affixed.

W. H. Lucas. **Santa Cruz House.**

A piece of 20 feet in length is worth a chief's ransom in the eyes of the people, and, indeed, only chiefs can afford to store up their wealth in this form. Intrinsically, the feathers and fibre are worth nothing, but the countless thousands of unfortunate birds that must have been sacrificed, the years of patient labour required to pick out only the special scarlet feathers of a certain length, to lay them in symmetrical rows and then bind them into the interwoven fibre must represent a huge value in applied (or mis-applied) energy. However, after all, the

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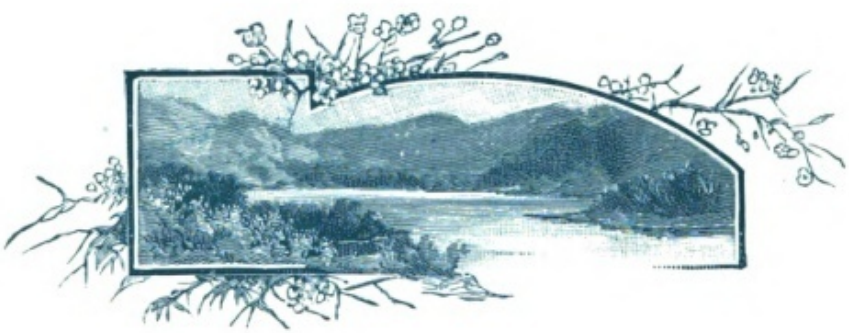
value of any currency depends entirely upon the acceptance by mutual consent of a certain arbitrary standard, and this condition being fulfilled in the case of the Santa Cruz scarlet feathers, we need not criticise nor blame the natives for their choice of a medium.

Tortoise-shell is eargerly sought after by the natives, and though the shell turtle is found in the islands, they will offer their curios and mats in exchange for pieces from which they make a curious ornament, worn by every man who can afford it. It is a disc of the shell, fastened to the cartilage of the nose and allowed to fall over the mouth in such a way that at a distance the wearer appears to have an abnormally long upper lip, and at short range seems to be wearing a respirator. This "ornament" must be peculiarly inconvenient at meal times, as it completely covers the mouth, and must be lifted up to admit every mouthful.

There is plenty of scope for pioneer work in the Santa Cruz and adjoining islands, but they offer rather less inducements than their more fertile and extensive neighbours, the New Hebrides and Solomon Islands.



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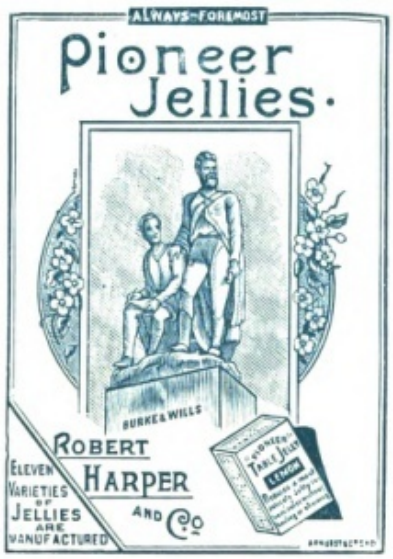

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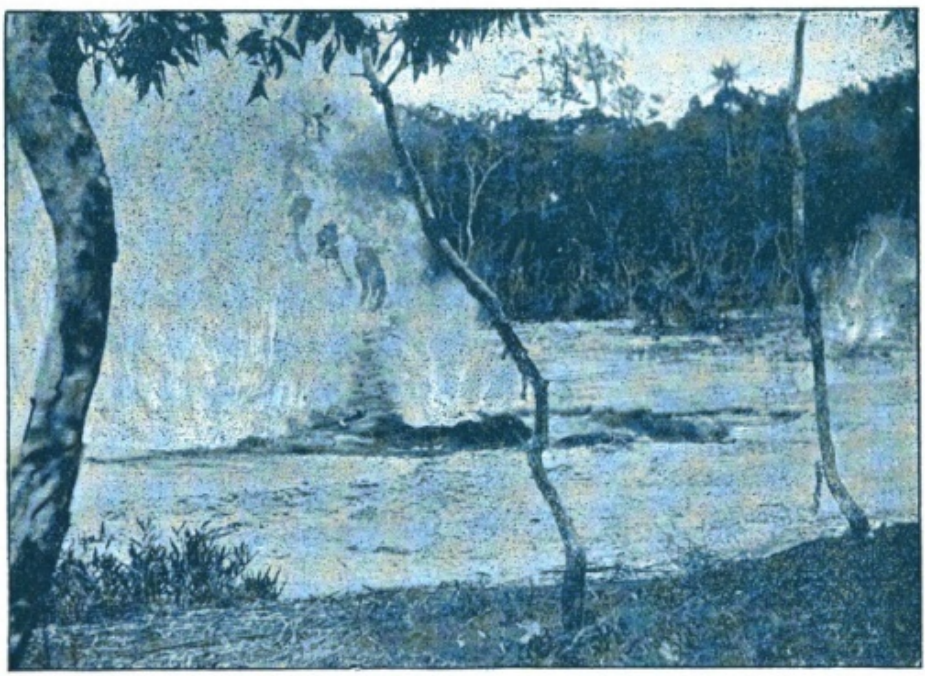
island, situated on the extreme west of British New Guinea, has been ascended by a steam launch for a distance of some 500 miles. The highest known point of land in the possession is the summit of Mount Victoria, the culminating point of the Owen-Stanley Range, which is over 13,000 feet high. Of the numerous islands which belong to the possession, the majority are lofty in comparison with their size. Most of them are well timbered, but some, like Kiriwina and Nada, are coralline and flat.



Rev. Dr. Brown. **Geyser, Ferguson Island, New Guinea.**

Much could be written of the administration of this wonderful island —of the brief sway of Sir Peter Scratchley and the Hon. Jno. Douglas, and of the magnificent services performed by the retiring Lieutenant-Governor, Sir William MacGregor, who ruled this delightful people so wisely and so well during the ten years that the British Empire has held sovereign sway over them. Interesting matter could be made of the special laws laid down for the regulation of the natives, and pages could be filled with authentic accounts of hand-to-hand scrimmages which Sir William MacGregor, Captain Butterworth, the Commandant of Police, and other Government officers have had with rebellious tribes about the Fly and Mambare Rivers, in which "blood and hair" incidents are

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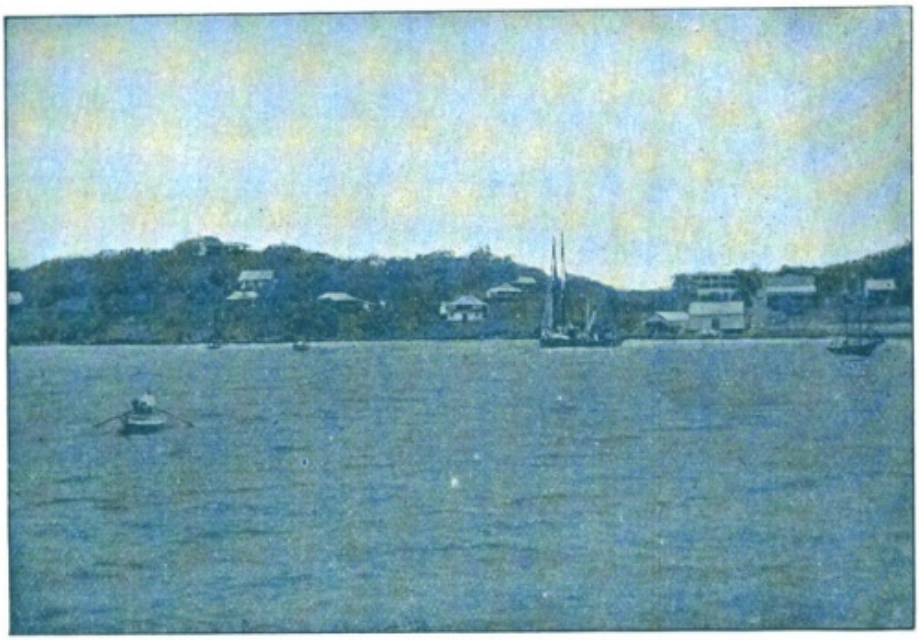
common; but then, space is limited, and readers interested in these narratives are referred to the archives of the Government Printer's Department for the details, together with the true and particular account of the amount of copra, pearl-shell, beche-de-mer and gold sent away from these shores from year to year.

PORT MORESBY.

A dark indigo sea, with a belt of palest green where the deep waters are shoaled by coral reefs near the shore, forms a lovely foreground as the ship approaches the settlement of Port Moresby, the seat of Government and port of entry for the central portion of British New Guinea.



W. H. Lucas. **Port Moresby, New Guinea.**

The sun-kissed waves ripple on a stretch of yellow sand, and further on a fringe of deep olive-green foliage marks the mangrove swamps that lie at the foot of the coastal range, undulating and rugged. In the background, fading away in a glorious sun-lit haze, rises the impassable Owen-Stanley Range, the backbone of Eastern New Guinea, its cloud-blurred peaks towering skyward to a height of some 13,000 feet or more, with Mount Victoria faintly indicated against a pale blue canopy miles

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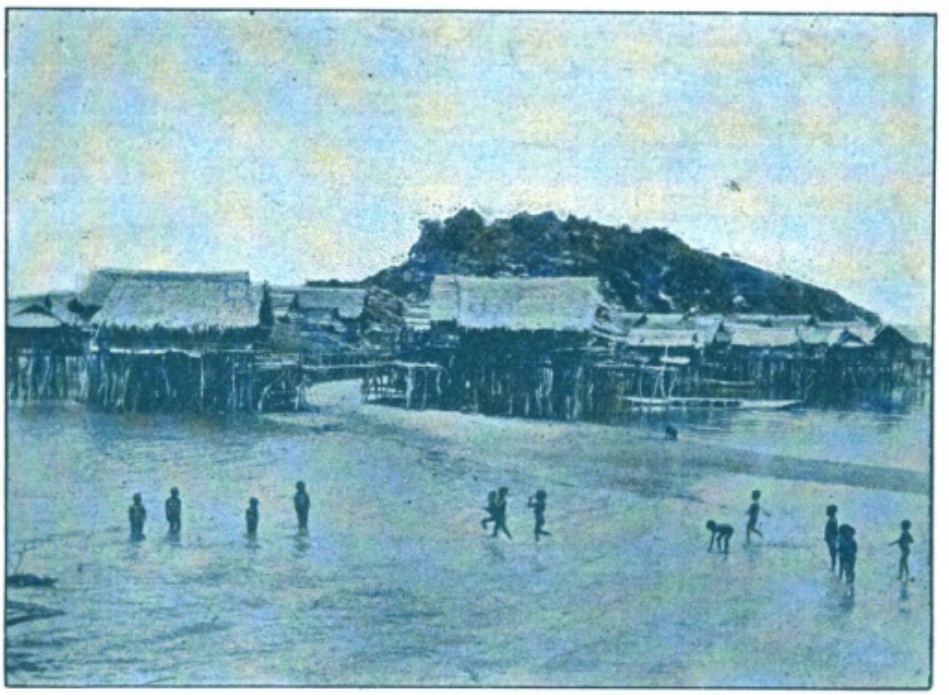
away in the distance. As one nears the land the "deep blue sea" changes to a beautiful green, the barren-looking hills that gird the shore appear sparsely covered with stunted gums and thirsty, sun-dried grass, rising and falling in grand irregular lines as they were thrown up by Nature's hand thousands of years ago. On the hillside to the right of the eastern point which guards the entrance to the harbour is seen the Resident Judge's house, a plain land-mark along the frowning coastline; and further to the right are the native gardens, reached by a winding road, which leads from the port, over the hills, to the beach in front of



Village, Port Moresby, New Guinea.

the Judge's residence. On rounding the point, the vessel comes up to her anchorage in front of Ela, the European quarter of the port, nestling in the shelter of the rugged gum-clad hills, which rise and fall from east to west in an irregular, quaint outline in the form of a horse-shoe. About three miles to the north-westward, and approached by a Government road, are three native villages, built of straw-thatched huts perched on

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W. H. Lucas. **Trading Canoe, New Guinea.**

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and refuse, and intermingling with the piccaninnies with charming sociability. Although the native hut, and indeed the native village often leaves much to be desired on the score of cleanliness the Motuan is scrupulously clean as to his body. The youngsters live in the water, despite the sharks and alligators, and everyone in the village has a dip at least once a day. They are exceedingly fine swimmers, the women

Native House, New Guinea.

especially excelling in this exercise, and use a hand-over-hand stroke which propels them at a great speed through the water. They are also born boatmen, and manage their quaint, clumsy-looking outrigger canoes with surprising skill. Most of the "boys" near the port are quite expert with the sculls, and can manage a skiff with the greatest ease. Nothing gives them greater pleasure than a sail or a row, and a boat's crew can

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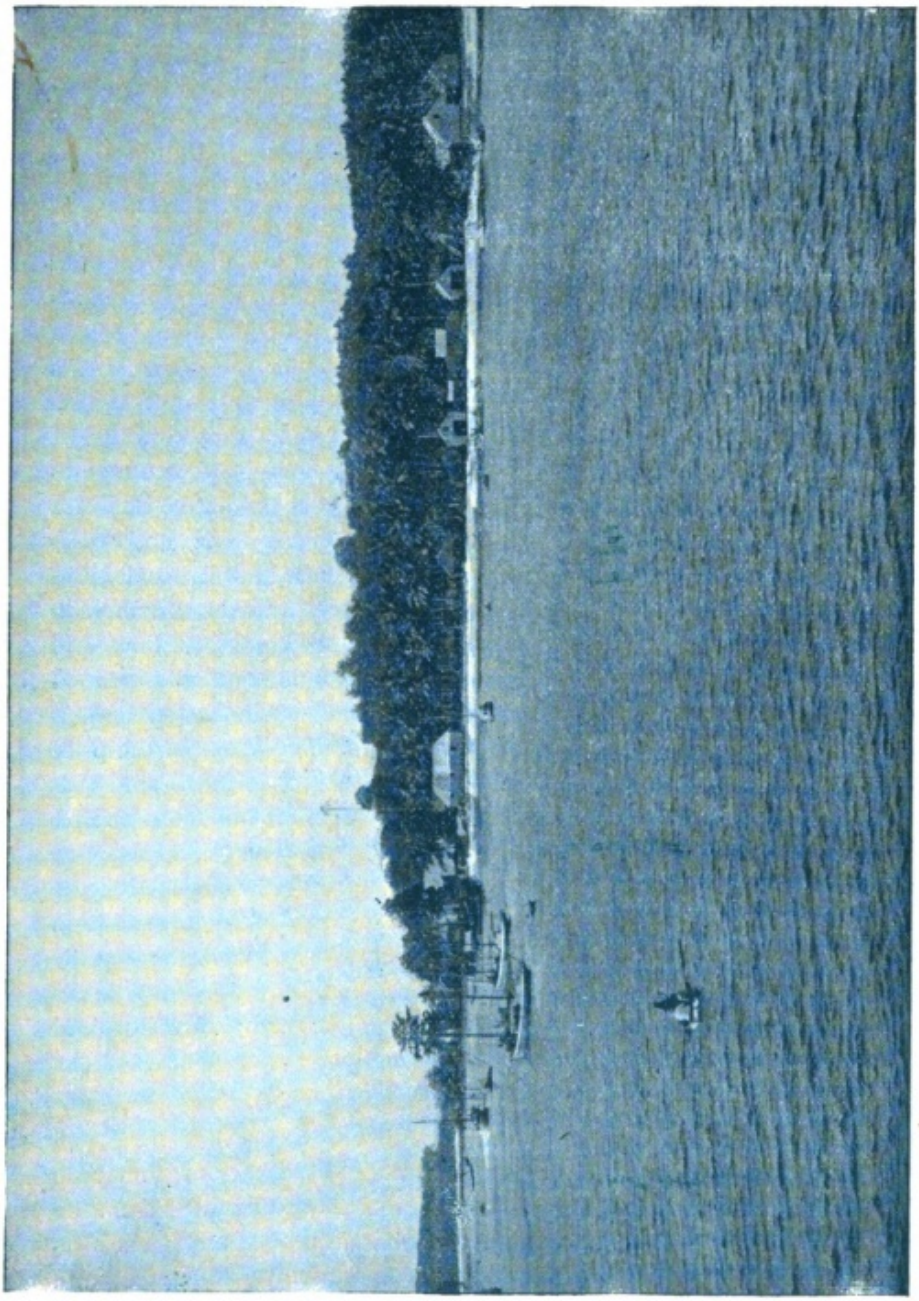

Samarai, New Guinea.

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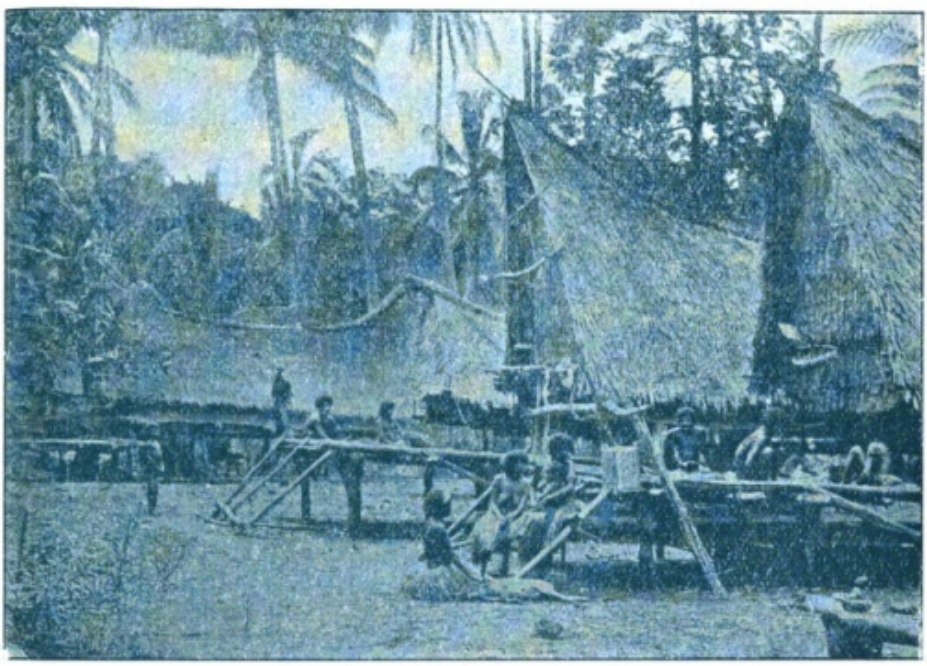
one's guns, cameras, &c., can be hired for a trifling sum, and which is placed at the command of the traveller and his party during the stay of the steamer. There are so many points of interest that it is difficult, off hand, to decide which shall be visited first, though the matter will most likely be settled by a challenge from the Reverend Abel, the head of the London Missionary Society's Mission at Quato, for an eleven of the ship to play a cricket match against his "boys." Should such an invitation arrive, take the advice of one who has been there, and give your sailing orders for Quato, for though you will possibly get a sound



Sariba, near Samarai, B.N.G.

thrashing at the game, you will have such a good day's fun that you will reckon your time well spent. Sariba (or Hayter) Island, which is about three or four miles from Samarai, and divided from the south-eastern extremity of New Guinea by the China Strait, will well repay a visit. There are on this island—which is about five miles long by two and a half miles broad—a large number of native villages, the inhabitants being a delightfully friendly and interesting people, living in the most picturesque of dwellings, and ready to join in any fun that may be going.

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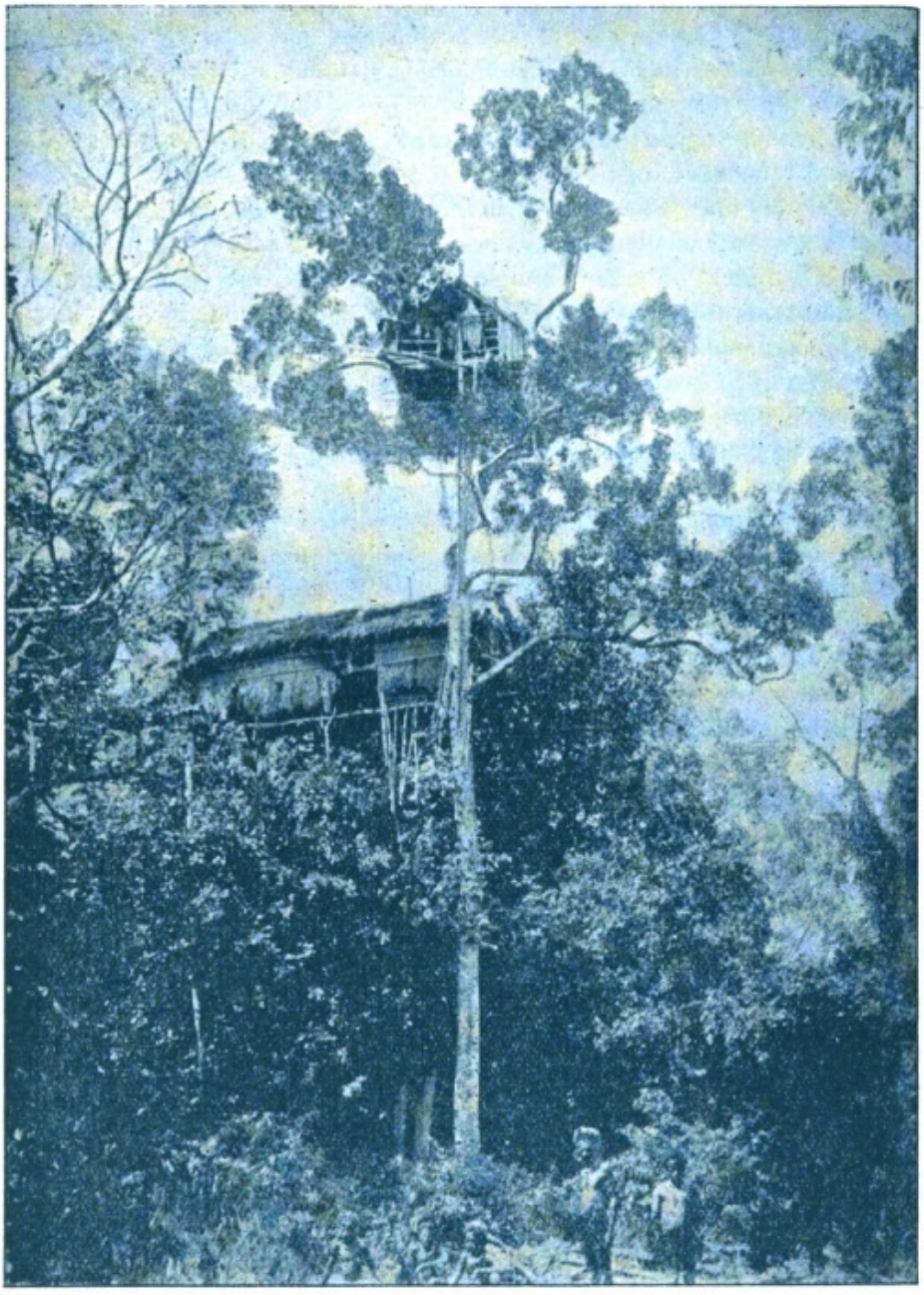

Tree House, New Guinea.

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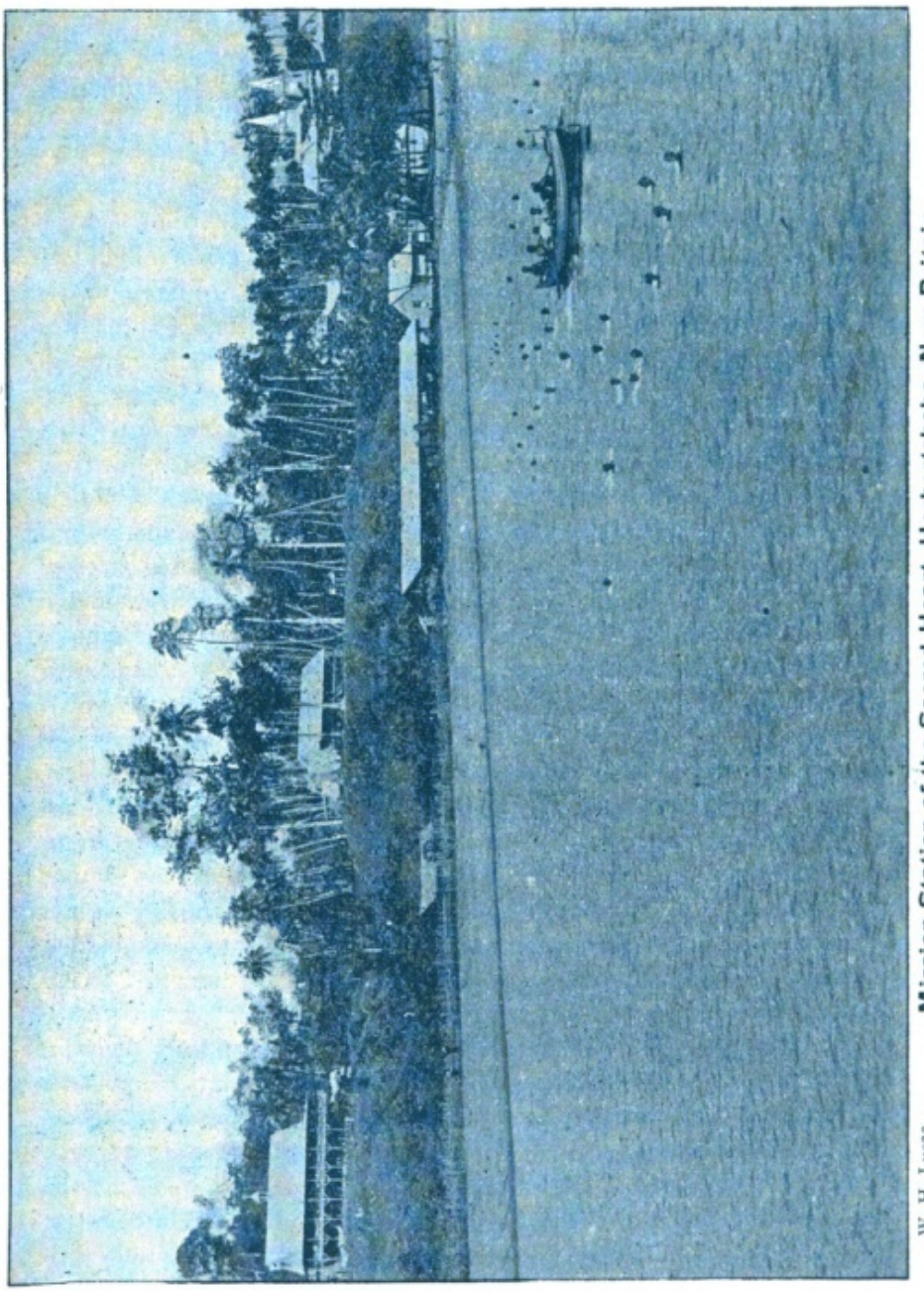

W. H. Lucas.

Mission Station of the Sacred Heart, Herbertshohe, New Britain.
(Natives Swimming off to the Trading Steamer).

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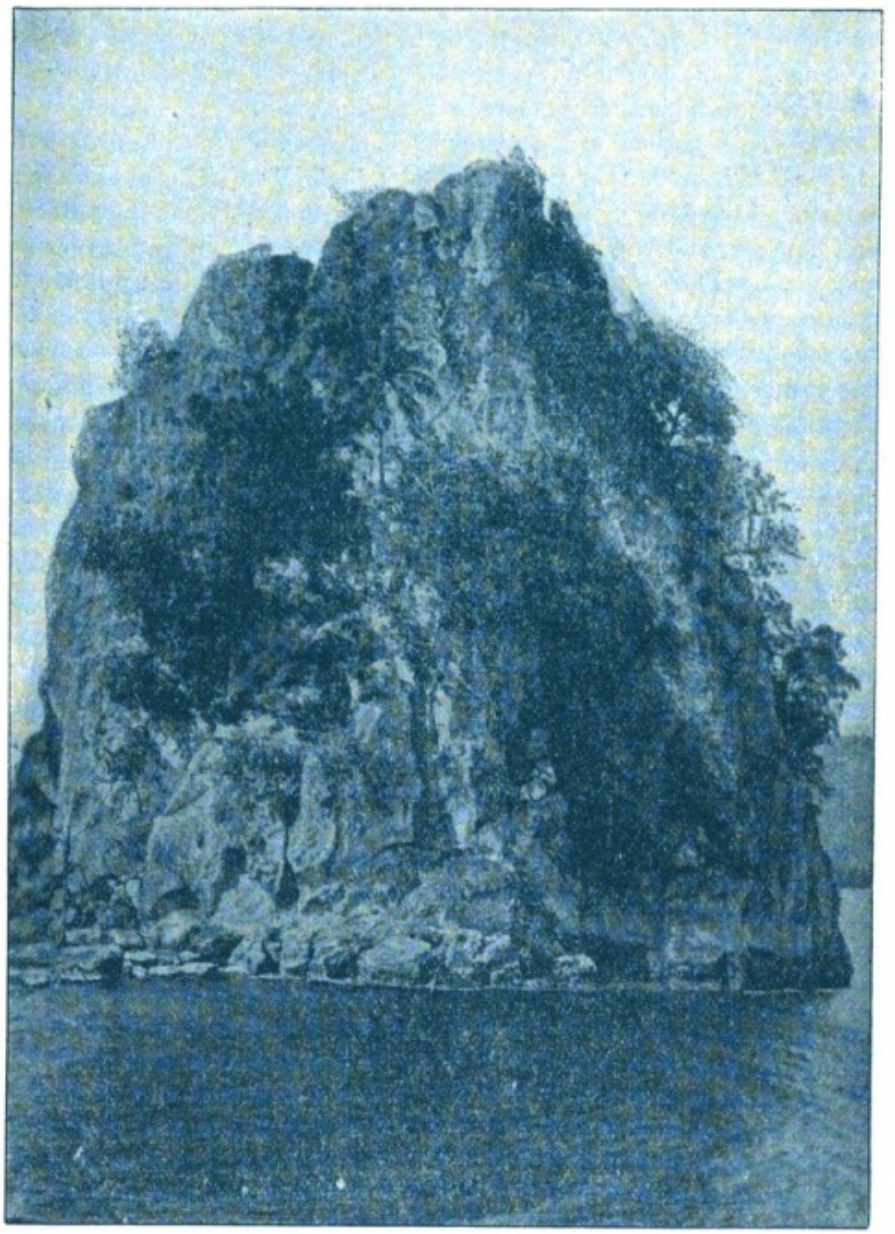

W. H. Lucas. **Beehive Rock, Matupi, New Britain.**
Blown up about 30 years ago during a Volcanic Eruption).

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MIOKO.

Mioko is a trading station, situated on one of the Duke of York Islands, a few miles from Herbertshöhe. It is prettily situated on a cleared point of land, with a reef-encircled lagoon spreading to one side, and deep water in front. A very extensive native village stretches along the shore, the huts clustering somewhat in the vicinity of the station, and becoming more scattered the further they are situated from that source of all that is sweet and light from the aboriginal point of view. Just opposite to the steamer's anchorage the house of the "Duk Duk" is situated. This mysterious individual appears to be a gentleman of

Making Fish Traps from Rattans, New Britain.

some importance in the conduct of native affairs. He wears a mask, and a coat of woven native grass reaching to the knees, and performs weird dances and contortions at certain times and seasons, for the benefit (or otherwise) of the natives, as circumstances appear to dictate. The path which runs between the Duk Duk's house and the shore is *tambu** so far as women are concerned. No female dare pass over it

*This word is spelt "tabu" generally in the Southern Pacific, but in these northern islands the sound is softened by the insertion of an "m" before the "b."

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the right hand a long, broad-leaved reed with a small red flower was firmly held. Some had artistically-arranged head-dresses of lace-like fern leaves; others wore brilliant bunches of yellow and red foliage, fastened round the neck and hanging down the back. Some had painted the upper part of the face with white lime, in the form of a mask; while others wore patches of black or red on the cheeks or forehead. With the exception of the covering afforded by ferns, flowers and paint, they were naked from the waist upwards. They stood facing in one direction, chanting vigorously, and beating time by striking the ground with the reed and the right foot simultaneously. After a few minutes the

Mioko, Duke of York, New Britain.

chant ceased, and a perfect storm of yelps broke out. Then the masters of ceremonies ran in and out of the ranks, the performers faced round in the opposite direction, and the chanting began again. This was repeated four times with great vigour and heartiness, and the procession then re-formed, and, marching off, gradually dispersed.

"We were informed that the performance was held out of respect to a woman who was *in articulo mortis*, or 'close up die,' as the natives expressed it, and the performers would receive gifts of shell money out of the deceased's estate as a reward for performing the complimentary dance."

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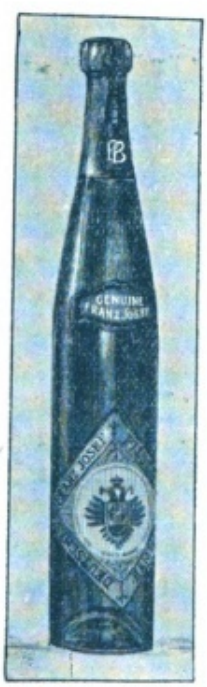

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