

APPENDIX D.

DESPATCH REPORTING VISIT OF INSPECTION TO NORTH-EAST COAST OF THE POSSESSION.

No. 100.]

Brisbane, 16th September, 1890.

SIR.—I have the honour to report that on the 23rd July I arrived at Awaiana (Chads Bay), from which point it was my intention to make a brief inspection of the north-east coast of the Possession. It will be remembered that Captain Ansell was murdered at Awaiana more than a year and a-half ago, and that the murderers were after much trouble captured, tried, and executed, and that the tribes implicated were subsequently settled in their possessions by the Government. We anchored about 400 yards from the beach in front of some houses built recently near the sea. A number of people were to be seen walking on the shore and about the houses in sight. I landed in the dingy alone, as they seemed to be undecided as to whether they should remain or run. Many of them did go away, but of those that remained two or three soon recognised me, as I had met them in their own village to resettle them after the disturbances mentioned above. The leading man of Awaiana is Tiririwe, who occupied the same position at the time of my previous visit to the tribe, when I was struck by his quiet manner and moderation. The man next in importance is Ohinokwapo, who was also an old acquaintance. The people were very quiet and extremely honest in their dealings with us. I expressed a wish that some one should go and fetch Komodoa (whose native name is Wamahoi) from Polotona, to meet me at Awaiana, as he had much to do with them when he was aiding the Government against the Awaiana people and their allies. Tiririwe started off himself for Polotona at once, and returned before daylight with Komodoa. Some time after I landed the Rev. A. Maclaren and others came ashore, and he was presented by me to the people as a missionary who was to settle among them. The ordinary phrase "to settle," whether in broken English or in the native dialect is expressed as to "sit down;" and the result of my intimation was somewhat ludicrous, as Ohinokwapo showed great energy and activity in getting the people to come and sit down, that their missionary might proceed to discharge his professional functions there and then. When they understood the real state of matters they seemed to be pleased with the proposal of their having a missionary among them.

2. As it was necessary that the steamer should go to Samarai for coal the vessel left Awaiana on the morning of the 24th, and I remained in the district until the return of the "Merrie England," on the evening of the 26th. During that time I was able to pay a visit to the neighbouring important Taupota tribe, and to commit to writing a brief vocabulary of the Awaiana tongue, which I have the honour to forward, as enclosure No. 1* hereto, and of which I would respectfully ask to be furnished with a hundred copies when printed. On the 24th I had a visit from Komodoa, who returned home about noon. He and Awaiana are on very friendly terms, and he has some influence with them through his connection with the Government. They have rebuilt nearly all their houses, and have planted large quantities of food and receive traders and others quietly and kindly. They are a healthy people, and seem to live in perfect harmony now with their neighbours, although little more than a year and a-half ago they informed me that they and Taupota reciprocally ate members of their respective tribes whenever they had the opportunity of doing so. It seems probable that this change is to some extent due to the moderate views of Tiririwe and the counsel of Komodoa.

3. On the 25th I went to Taupota, accompanied by the Rev. A. Maclaren and Tiririwe. We were well received by the people there, although my two principal friends in that tribe were both absent. There also arose a somewhat awkward mistake on a matter of dialect. There is or was a man of the tribe well known to me by the name of Tom. Tom was asked for, and they brought me sugar-cane. It was repeated, "bring Tom," and more sugar-cane was brought, which in turn was bought and paid for in tobacco; they looked delighted when they were again asked to "bring Tom," and about a score of people rushed off in all directions for sugar-cane, the name or which in their language is "Tom." Not to be deluged with sugar-cane, I was reluctantly obliged to desist from further inquiries in respect of my friend Tom, who was a useful assistant when we were operating against Awaiana. After a little, the chief of the tribe, Dauerona, a powerful young man of twenty-nine or thirty arrived, and was presented to me by Tiririwe. He was made a present of a new shirt, which the chief of Awaiana put on to him, after which Tiririwe addressed the Taupota people in a loyal speech, only the drift of which was comprehensible to me; but it amounted to this, that peace is a good thing for them, and that they cannot "fight" the Government. Dauerona was greatly delighted with his shirt, but, of course, did not make any return present. He, however, kindly took me to his own house, and showed me the whole of his establishment. The Taupota people receive very kindly all boats that call there. They treated well some sick miners who arrived there some time ago from Duau (Normanby) in distressed circumstances. Two boats arrived at Taupota the night I left there, and they spent the night there. All this is an immense advance since I first landed there, when there was the greatest difficulty in opening communication with them. They have plenty of food at Taupota, and a considerable quantity of cocoanut-trees, but neither there nor at Awaiana, where there are fine groves, do they seem to make copra at present. The whole tribe probably amounts to about 500 persons. On the way back a site for a mission-house was inspected by Mr. Maclaren. It is on some grass-covered undulating ground which presents to the sea a coral rock cliff about 100 to 120 feet high. It should be a healthy place, commands a splendid view, and would be conveniently placed for reaching the Awaiana, Taupota, and Garua tribes. On the way back we met the chief, Namanamara, and some of the people of Garua, who were out fishing. I informed the chief that Tiririwe and the Rev. A. Maclaren would pay them a visit next day, of which the chief warmly approved. This was done, but they could not induce the chief to come to visit me at Awaiana, where I was employed, no doubt on account of his recollection of the severe measures taken against Awaiana formerly. They were, however, quite friendly. Mr. Maclaren and some of my staff visited the villages on the coast between Awaiana and Cape Ducie, and found the people well-behaved everywhere. During my stay I received close attendance from the principal men, and all the assistance they could give me in respect of their language. The position of these tribes and of the proposed mission station is shown in the rough traverse of the coast forwarded herewith as enclosure No. 2 (*vide* Map Appendix).

4. On

4. On the morning of the 27th we steamed northwards past Girumia (Cape Frer^c), and early in the afternoon reached the anchorage of Yassiasa, three or four miles north of Cape Sebiribiri (Cape Vogel). Mount Girumia is from 2,000 to 2,500 feet high, and on the side next the sea is steep and covered by grass. There are some patches of cocoanuts on the side next Taupota, near the beach, but it could not support any considerable population. It stands out so far from the general coast range that by crossing the low, hilly, and undulating ground on its landward side one would pass from the head of the bay, north of Taupota, into the south end of Goodenough Bay. The southern end of Goodenough Bay is remarkable for a number of little plateaux of apparently quite level ground, some of them probably 700 or 800 feet above sea level, formed by the washing down of débris from the glens above, or by the elevation of sea bottom. The coast range seemed to be generally about 2,000 to 3,000 feet high, but of the mountain tops we seldom had a glimpse even. They are destitute of forest almost to the summit on the seaward side, and are very steep. The nature of the country changes at the head of Goodenough Bay, the coast range running on in nearly the same north-west direction, while a stretch of low, hilly, wooded, undulating country, from twenty to twenty-five miles broad, projects into the sea to form Cape Sebiribiri (Vogel). A sketch traverse of the part of the coast examined by boat then is attached as enclosure No. 3 hereto (*vide* Map Appendix), on which is shown the position of the villages and tribes visited. For about two or three miles back from the sea this part of the country is partially cleared by present or former food gardens. Near the villages there are considerable clumps of cocoanut-trees, but not enough to furnish any very large export of copra after supplying the wants of the inhabitants. Of course these natives, like all others, up to quite a recent date, have had no incentive whatever to plant any more cocoanuts than met their domestic requirements; indeed it has in a great many cases been better for them to confine the planting of cocoanuts to narrow limits, so as not to excite the envy and invite the hostility of other tribes.

5. Soon after we anchored near the little island of Kairaga a whaleboat with three natives of Killerton came out to us from a small fishing station on the beach, tenanted by some men employed there in the trepang fishery by a Samarai trader. The principal person, a Europeanised Polynesian, we did not see as he had gone to Morata to purchase food. This industry, however, will not be of such permanent importance, as it will soon be exhausted. We saw a band of from sixty to seventy men collecting the slug on one reef. Two or three small native canoes came alongside the steamer, but the natives were at first very shy. We induced some of them, however, to accompany us to the several villages round the bay. The first village visited was called by the natives Ataiyo. It, like the others, is built on the beach, and on an old site, with cocoanut, mango, and other trees growing between the houses. When we landed the people did not run away, but spears were put in convenient places, at the doors and on the verandahs of houses, while a considerable number of men carried iron-headed adzes on their shoulders. Women kept a little in the background, but did not leave the village. Unfortunately it was a very difficult matter to hold oral communication with them, as they understood only a few words here and there of the Awaiana dialect, the most northerly one of which we had any knowledge; and the Killerton boys fishing there had not learned the local tongue. The chief, who gave me his name as Noe, but who it appears is also known as Paisa, did not appear at first, but he soon came up to us when they were made to understand that he was to receive a new shirt as a present. From that time he and all his people were unrestrainedly friendly. They brought us some cocoanuts; they are beginning to learn the use of tobacco, but at that time they were not very desirous of obtaining it. In this village there are thirty or forty houses. They are built on piles, not over water, are small, oblong, with side walls about three feet high, but the space between the floor of the house and the ground is generally closed in roughly with cocoanut leaves. The roofs are so low that few of them can be dry. From this point along the whole of the north-east coast the houses are of the same kind—that is to say, comparatively inferior, but that may be due to the want of iron tools. The space between the houses is always kept clean. They cook in wide-mouthed clay pots profusely ornamented. They plant chiefly, as far as was seen, bananas and sweet potatoes. No breadfruit-trees were noticed. The small villages of Inageto and Ogerema were also called at, but they have no great importance in the community. At the village of Ginada, about ten houses, the people received us kindly. A man named Iberiga was put forward as chief. They were very quiet people but not sullen, and none carried arms. There are a considerable number of cocoanut-trees at intervals from this village to Kibirisi Point. After visiting the village of Kitora, which is about the same size as that of Ginada, we walked along the beach to the most important community in or near the bay, who occupy two contiguous villages, Tarapui and Yarogu; the common name is Kápikápi. There are about thirty houses. The chief is Ipóte or Ipoteto, and is by far the most important man in this district. We saw him at the village of Ataiyo, and he was informed that a visit would be paid to Kápikápi, but he evidently did not expect that we should be able to reach it so soon as we did, and, consequently, he was not there to receive us. His people were very friendly, not carrying arms nor sending away their women or children. Opposite Kápikápi there is a small island, a few acres in area, of coral formation, covered by trees, which is also subject to Ipóte, and is called by the natives Ikara, or Ipoteto Ikara. We found there about sixty to eighty natives—men, women, and children. There are there two masses of coral rock about fifty to eighty feet high, with perpendicular or overhanging sides, and a more or less flat top. On each of these are built about a dozen small but dry houses, which appear to serve as a refuge for the whole tribe in times of necessity. They ascend to them by wooden ladders which can be pulled up. A stock of spears is stowed away among the houses. It seems that the whole of the people visited here are one tribe or confederation of septs, and that hostile incursions are made on them from Morata on the one hand, and from Collingwood Bay on the other, by a people which the Kápikápi men call Maisina, and of whom they are greatly afraid. The son of Ipóte was at Ikara Island, and he received a present for his father. Having established friendly terms with these people, we went along the coast by boat as far as the village of Mukawa, which is built near the sea in a grove of cocoanuts, about a mile and a-half beyond Kibirisi Point. This village is also, as far as could be judged then, subject to Ipóte. It contains about a score of inferior houses, the occupants of which were timid but friendly. They seem to be very poor; in fact, all the people seen in this district wore very few ornaments, and seemed to possess but little of the usual native property. These expressed themselves as greatly fearing the Maisina tribe. The whole community appears to require protection, although they are by no means few in numbers.

6. From Cape Kibirisi to a mile or two past Mukawa there are a number of grass-covered plateau, separated by narrow, deep gullies, and coming right down to the sea. These do not present rocky cliffs towards the sea, although they are very steep, and rise very suddenly to about 100 feet. The Rev. A. Maclaren proposes to establish a mission station on one of these in the vicinity of Mukawa. There are several small villages on the beach, and some on the higher ground beyond Mukawa. This place would seem to be in every way a very suitable site for a mission station. These people are now, as shown above, being brought into contact with Europeans for the first time. It is not probable that they will at any time cause serious trouble of any kind. They are poor, and require support against their neighbours, and will, on this account, be all the more prepared to welcome a mission station and Europeans among them.

7. After leaving the Mukawa district, we found that the coast was uninhabited as far as opposite the Sydney Islands. The low hilly undulating coral formation is continued, at least twenty miles broad, between the sea and the great mountain range ; but the hills become higher and more rocky until they reach an altitude of 800 to 1,000 feet opposite the Sydney Islands. These latter are only a few acres in extent each, of coral a few feet above sea-level, covered by trees and are uninhabited. The coast line there, and for the next half score of miles, appears to be formed mainly by a succession of coral and mangrove-covered islands, separated from each other by narrow sinuous channels. On one of these, on what will probably be found on survey to be a fine little harbour, I visited a trepang fishing station, quite recently opened, and the most northerly on the coast. There were four small boats then engaged in this work, the largest one in charge of a European. On this island, and on all the others as far as I could see, there is no permanent native occupation. The amount of trepang obtained was not great. A tribe of natives live inland several miles from the sea, quiet, inoffensive people, who bring sweet potatoes and bananas for sale. Anchorage for large vessels seemed to be obtainable at many places along the coast here. The low, hilly country is occupied here and there, as indicated by cleared ground ; and plantations were visible on the distant spurs of the great main range of mountains. At the spot marked on the Admiralty chart as Fir-tree Point, the steamer was watered, anchored about two or three hundred yards from a creek, at the mouth of which good fresh water was procured. About ten miles beyond this an opening in the mangrove forest on the coast seemed to point to the presence there of a river of considerable size, but it was found on examination to be a salt-water lagoon, the entrance to which probably contains too many coral reefs for it to be useful as a harbour even for small craft. Two large native canoes were seen at the head of this lagoon, but the occupants fled to the forest on catching a glimpse of us. A small present was put in the nearest canoe, which a native came and took possession of before we had left the lagoon. About two miles beyond it the steamer anchored in Phillips Harbour, which has apparently much to recommend it as an anchorage. It was so named in honour of the chief engineer of the "Meric England."

8. From Phillips Harbour the head of Collingwood Bay was examined. On the evening of the 29th we went in the whaleboat to a spot at the head of the bay whence smoke was seen to arise near some very tall trees, and which ... the appearance of being a village site. As we got up near this place a large number of natives were seen on the beach running about among the houses and cocoanuts in a state of great excitement. No women or children were visible, but the men did not appear to be armed, and some of them came to the water's edge and made signals to us to land, several of them wading into the water to meet us, while others walked up cocoanut trees and began to throw down nuts, evidently meant for us. As we landed one man came forward holding in his right hand by the hind legs a large yellow and white full-grown dingo. In a moment he swung it round his head and dashed it on the ground two or three times. The first blow seemed to break its neck. It was then laid down flat on the ground in front of us, and the great majority of the sixty or eighty men present retired back from the beach among the houses and trees behind. The man that took the lead in inviting us ashore received a piece of red cloth and a plane iron ; but it was not without some difficulty that he was induced to come near enough a white man to take hold of these things. They wished that we should exchange presents by laying them on the ground, so that we and they should not come into immediate contact. We succeeded, however, in inducing perhaps about half-a-score of them to approach and shake hands. Our visit was only a short one, as night was near, and they expressed satisfaction at the intimation that we would return next day.

9. On the 30th an inspection of the coast was begun at Phillips Harbour by boat, which was continued some miles beyond Keppel Point. Besides a coloured boat's crew there was with me the Rev. A. Maclaren. The first village visited was a small one of seven or eight houses, only about 300 yards from our anchorage. The occupants were shy and avoided our people the previous evening, but some presents were left for them, and this morning they were joined by some natives from the villages on the other side of the bay, who doubtless informed them of our harmless intercourse with the people there. Some thirty or forty men met us as we landed, not carrying arms, but their spears were hid in the grass near. Besides these they use the stone club, to which they attach such very great value that they could not be induced to sell a single specimen ; and for defensive purposes they employ a wooden shield covered by plaited cane, and shaped like a small gothic window, about two and a-half feet long and a foot broad at the lower end. Their women and children were not then in the village, but they were brought back during the day, and some of the men went on board the steamer in the afternoon. Although they were at first very timid, they were friendly when they saw that no harm was intended them. With this, and with the other villages in the head of Collingwood Bay, which collectively constitute the "Maisina" tribe of the Kapi Kapi people, we had but scant success in holding oral communication, as this language did not appear to have much in common with the dialects of Murua and Awaiama. It was therefore plain that the utmost that could be done during this visit would be to convince the natives that we were friendly towards them, and to draw them into communication and show them that Europeans could supply them with articles useful in everyday life. A number of natives passed round by the beach and reached the second village almost as soon as we did. The male inhabitants came unarmed to meet us as we approached the beach in front of their village, and invited us to land ; but they were unwilling that we should enter the village, which was hidden from view from the water by a thick intervening belt of trees. About thirty men were present, but neither women nor children. One man was induced to come with me into the village, and as we entered it we saw several men carrying away bundles of spears from the houses, which they deposited in the scrub not far

far away. In the village were some pigs and quantities of taro and sugar-cane. The form of salutation known to these people seems to be to touch the nose and the navel. They have a few cocoanut trees in the village, and they brought us some nuts. The chief, whose name is Ainao, a man of about 55, blind of an eye, was very friendly, and so were all his people. They eat the betel-nut, but they possess none of the dexterity in carving limespoons, &c., so conspicuous in the Trobriand group. They do not tattoo, but suffer from *Tinea desquamans*. They seem to cut off the eyebrows instead of pulling them out, and many wear beards. No case of leprosy was noticed, but there were traces of elephantiasis. Many of them wear the hair in long matted ringlets. All wear a sihi of native cloth, apparently made from the bark of the bread-fruit tree, tied round the loins and passed between the legs. They wear armlets plaited from small ferns, and narrow shell rings with earrings of turtle or cocoanut shell, and strings of white cowries, large and small. The village consisted of a number of separate houses for family use, apparently each large enough for only one; but there is a large club-house for the accommodation of the males of the community. The houses are very inferior. The large club-house is only a roofed shed, with a sleeping platform six or eight feet high, running from end to end of the building. A peculiarity of the houses here, which was observed in general use on this coast as far as the boundary, is that on one side there is a veranda formed by carrying the roof of the house down in the same plane until it is about three feet from the ground. A platform is built under this, on which the occupants seat themselves, and lay past temporarily such things as fishing-nets, spears, and the wide-mouthed clay-pots in which they cook. Their spears are made of palm-wood, and they seem to have no ebony.

10. The next village visited appears to be called Augo. Some of our former friends got there before us, and we were received in a very kind manner. The chief kept out of sight at first, but soon appeared, and was very friendly. They did not carry arms. The thoughtless lighting of a match dispersed the whole assembly in such a state of consternation that they ran against each other, and several were knocked over; one ran on to a house-post with such blind force that he fell sprawling on the ground. But after a few minutes they were nearly all got back, and one native purchased a box of matches as soon as he understood what they were. We were well received at the large village we visited the previous evening. The chief and several of his people waded out to us, and no arms were visible. This community occupies a group of small collections of houses, only about forty altogether, extending for half-a-mile along the coast. The tall old cocoanut and other great trees about furnish evidence that this is not a modern village site. There must have been more than a hundred able-bodied men present. Though friendly and unarmed they were very shy, and it was not possible to detain any given man near us more than a few minutes. They resembled the people met with in the smaller villages in everything save that they possessed a great many more ornaments and had about half-a-score of large canoes. These were all drawn up high and dry on the beach. They are made of a single tree, about thirty-five to forty feet long, about two and a-half feet in width, and sharp at each end. They are provided with a very small outrigger, which is at an unusually great distance from the canoe; and on the cross sticks joining the canoe to the outrigger there is a platform about twelve feet square. No women or children were seen. The men were greatly afraid, and fled precipitately on seeing a looking-glass, but their confidence was soon restored. They did not understand the use of iron, and had no wish to obtain any; but some was left with them and they were shown how to employ it. Of tobacco they were, of course, quite ignorant, and we found that the pieces of bamboo they carried were used exclusively as nose flutes, and not as pipes. A large number of them ran away when a pocket compass was used to take some angles, but they finally ventured to examine it. We parted on very friendly terms, after they had made what appeared to be earnest inquiry as to whether we had come down from the clouds.

11. The next village visited is a large one on a new site near the sea, about a mile further up the coast. The occupants were as friendly and less boisterous than the stronger community that are their neighbours on the south side. The village consists of about a score of houses only a few months old, on a level sandy site, surrounded by casuarina trees. The chief, Dibiki, a quiet respectable looking man of about fifty, and his son received us very kindly. They are well provided with canoes, and can turn out at least forty or fifty fighting men. The reason for their building a village on an entirely new site we could not discover. At this place I was not presented with a dog, but with a bundle of taro plants instead. They seemed to be poor in property and ornaments, and are probably refugees. From near this village a large native settlement could be seen near the bight of the bay, some four or five miles distant, and our course was directed thither. But a violent squall meeting us caused a landing to be made at a native house near the beach, rather less than half way to the northern village. On approaching this house, which was one of the usual type, built on very slender posts and with a veranda on the weather side, some noise was made to attract the attention of the inmates. A young man promptly appeared at the door of the house and began to shout out "Wele, wele." It was evident that our approach in the heavy wind and rain had been unnoticed, and the state of alarm of the inmates was extremely great when they looked down and saw a white face looking up at them. The young man who first appeared seemed to be the owner of the house, and his weapons were on the platform on the veranda, quite beyond his reach. After some hesitation he descended the ladder that lead up to the house, and although in a frightful state of alarm, was induced to accept a piece of scarlet cloth and some other trifle. There followed him a boy of about twelve, then a woman carrying a young child astride on her thigh, and clothed in a short petticoat of native cloth, descended, and in spite of every endeavour to get them to remain, all ran away in the rain to some houses at a little distance from us. They alarmed the inmates there, and all fled to the bush. In a short time, however, some of them appeared again at a little distance, no doubt greatly influenced by the small present given to the first man; and after some trouble friendly relations were established with the whole tribe, forty or fifty of which visited us. Of iron and tobacco they were entirely ignorant. Here, for the first time in the Possession we found people using stone adzes of a stone resembling jade in colour. Whether it is real nephrite or not cannot at present be said, but samples have been submitted to Mr. Jack for examination. This mineral takes a very keen edge, and is so tough that the thin edge does not chip or splinter. They would not exchange these jade adzes for steel. They seemed to be the only kind of adze used in the head of Collingwood Bay, and in the lower half of Holmeote Bay, when they begin to be mixed with adzes of basalt.

12. The large village in the bight of the bay was reached about 3 p.m. The inhabitants were of their own accord coming to meet us unarmed, but a native came all the way along the beach from the village last visited, and reaching the spot almost at the same time as we did, introduced us to this people. This is the largest single village on the bay, containing probably 400 or 500 people. The site is evidently a very old one, and contains many coconut and other cultivated trees. The houses are arranged in small groups, which are at some distance from each other. They seemed to desire that we should spend the night there. Like their neighbours they did not know the use of iron or of tobacco, but they willingly exchanged their jade-stone adzes for a few small beads. A few women were seen, clad in short petticoats of native cloth. Here I was closely interrogated as to whether I had descended from the clouds. One man had a few small red beads in his nose, probably procured in the course of trade from those that had come into contact with the men fishing at the Sydney Islands. These people were wealthy in ornaments of the ordinary kind, headdresses of shells and feathers, earrings of shells and turtleshell, armlets of cocoanuts, strings of dogs' teeth and of small white cowrie shells. They do not tattoo, but wear a sili of coloured native cloth. They bury their dead in the village, and plant about the graves different kinds of dracenas and crotos. The houses are similar to those already described. Probably nearly 100 men escorted us to the beach in a very friendly manner, but all were suddenly dispersed through one of our party proceeding to light his pipe with a match. As we were leaving a dog was produced, to be killed for presentation to us, but we were able to prevent this and to save the dog's life. Some pieces of hoop-iron were given to them, but what they desired was small beads. The chief, who is a very intelligent man, treated us in the kindest manner. Unfortunately we could hold but little communication with them, save by signs. He pointed northward along the coast, and intimated that when we met people there we should touch the nose and navel. This was understood at the time to refer to the villages further along the coast, but about two miles beyond this we met a canoe with fourteen or fifteen men, to which, no doubt, the chief referred, although that could not be made comprehensible at the time. The clamour of the natives in all these villages was so great that to obtain rest during the night it was deemed necessary to camp at some distance from any village, and we accordingly slept ashore on what appears to be the Keppel Point of the charts. A few miles of flat country lie there, between the sea and Mounts Victory and Trafalgar, much of it only a foot or two above high water mark, all covered by wood, partly mangrove and partly forest trees. The head of the bay is full of coral patches and shoals; but there is no barrier reef, and generally no shore reef. The fisheries here are therefore not likely to be of much value. Two creeks opened into the bay, south of Keppel Point, of sufficient size to discolour the water for several miles, but they only drain the southern slopes of Mounts Victory and Trafalgar.

13. From near Keppel Point we were able to make out the volcanic nature of Mount Victory. This mountain is very steep and rugged, presenting towards the top great masses of bare rock. Its altitude is probably from 3,500 to 4,000 feet. Its sides were scored and marked by brown lines from near the summit to its base; these at first looked as if caused by lava running down the mountain, but the closest inspection could detect no presence of lava, so that it was concluded that these lines had been caused by recent great earthslips. Some of the fishermen occupied near the Sydney Islands spoke of a smart shock of earthquake that had been felt about three weeks before in Collingwood Bay, so well marked that one man was thrown off a campstool on the ground. A shock was felt on the mainland about the same time, as far as Port Moresby. In all probability there is a close connection between these phenomena and the great earthslips on Mount Victory. The summit of the mountain was not visible from near Keppel Point, on account of a dense cloud which rested on it when the tops of Mount Suckling, 11,000 feet, and Mount Trafalgar, 4,000 feet, were quite unclouded. A column of steam could, however, be seen rising out of a ridge not far from the top of Mount Victory, and a few days later we had an opportunity in the early morning of seeing numerous columns of steam rising, some from the very tops of the two crests of Mount Victory, others from spots a considerable distance from the highest points, issuing from crevices and hollows all round the two peaks. By 7 or 8 o'clock this steam always formed a dense cumulus over and about the top of the mountain, which looked like a thundercloud, and completely hid it from view. On Mount Victory vegetation is very scant, a species of pine being most conspicuous. Mount Trafalgar, on the contrary, is covered over the summit with dense forest. Flame was not at any time seen by us on Mount Victory, nor could we obtain from the natives any information regarding it. A traverse of the coast line in the head of Collingwood Bay is attached as Enclosure No. 4. (Vide Map Appendix.)

14. From Keppel Point to Hardy Point there are no villages on the coast, but there are some at a little distance inland, as evidenced by clearings on the lower southern spurs of Mounts Victory and Trafalgar. When we were on a small island north of Keppel Point the great drum of some villages in the forest could be distinctly heard giving notice of our presence in the district, but although smoke was visible in several places, no natives could be seen there. As we passed Hardy Point, however, a large number of small fishing canoes were seen on the reefs which lie at some distance from the shore there. In the afternoon of the 31st July we anchored in Port Hennessy, a fine harbour between Hardy Point and Cape Nelson, named after the master of the "Merrie England." Some natives appeared on the low heights near, with bunches of spears in their hands, but they could not be induced to come near the steamer. The following day, accompanied by the Rev. A. Maclaren, I examined in a whaleboat with a coloured crew several miles of the coast of this very interesting and picturesque country in the neighbourhood of Port Hennessy. The whole of this cape consists of a succession of ridges and deepwater inlets. Speaking roughly, the ridges are about half a mile to a mile apart. They are flat on the top and covered by grass, but with a margin of mangrove or forest trees near the water. They are of conglomerate, and usually rise abruptly to a height of 100 to 150 feet. Round the end of each there is a shore reef projecting from a quarter to half a mile into the sea. The inlets separating these ridges are often a couple of miles long and more than half a mile broad, with deep blue water running up the middle. These afford, as in the case of Port Hennessy, the most perfect protection for shipping in all weathers. Soon after leaving Port Hennessy we saw several small canoes out fishing on the reefs, and after some little trouble established relations with them and purchased from them fish and other things. When up near to the inlet named Maclaren Harbour, so named in honour of the Rev. A. Maclaren, we saw some twenty-five or thirty large fishing canoes, each with six or eight occupants. They all started to make for the shore, going up two of the nearest inlets; but some were induced to remain, and in a short time there were about a hundred men round us. They did not seem to have any fighting spears in their canoes, the only missiles they had being

being for catching fish. They soon gained confidence, and were very desirous of obtaining beads and red cloth, but did not wish to give anything for iron of any kind, though prepared to part with all they had for the former articles. As they were engaged fishing, not a few of them wore nothing, but most of them had a sash of painted native cloth, with a square lappet hanging down in front. They wore headdresses of cassowary feathers or arcs of ground shells crossing the head from ear to ear, earrings of shells and turtle shells, nose rings of the same materials, and breastplates made of a number of pigs' tusks. They use jade tomahawks, and were greatly surprised to see how a knife cuts; but they were inclined to think that there was some trick about it, and were not at all anxious to obtain knives. One of their number they regarded as chief. Their cry to us was "Abino" and "Wele," meaning, apparently, "peace" or "good."

15. About a couple of miles further south another lot of canoes were met with engaged in fishing on the reef. They retired as we approached them, and we failed to get into communication with them there, but on returning to the next inlet to have lunch we were able to open friendly intercourse with them. From the rough traverse of the coast prepared then and attached hereto as Enclosure No. 5 (*vide* Map Appendix), the position of Maclaren Harbour and of Port Hennessy will be seen, as also the position which appears to Mr. Maclaren as that best suited as a site for a mission station in this district. No village was seen on the coast, but two or three miles inland from Maclaren Harbour there are several villages and clumps of cocoanut trees, evidently the possessions of the tribes with whom we fraternised. It is probably on account of having their planting lands for the most part on the low spurs of Mount Trafalgar that they have their villages so far from the sea. There are some gardens of yams and sweet potatoes not far from the shore, but these are insignificant for the large population occupying this part of the country. As far as I could judge, this place will make an admirable mission station; there is a large population in the neighbourhood, and it extends northwards nearly right round Mount Trafalgar; there will be fine protection for vessels, and the natives, at least at present, are friendly. There will, however, be a difficulty in obtaining planting lands to make a mission there self-supporting. A small present was left at a suitable spot on a ridge near Port Hennessy for the natives seen there. It was soon removed, and a return gift of native ornaments left in its place. Eventually they were prevailed upon to visit the steamer, and they so far gained confidence that when we anchored in Port Hennessy on the return journey the chief and his son did not hesitate to pay us a visit on board, and they all seemed to understand they had nothing to fear from us and were ready to sell us food.

16. Leaving Port Hennessy on the morning of the 2nd August, we continued our journey into Holincote Bay. Near the southern end of the bight there seemed to be the opening of a large river, but examination by boat showed that there were there only some small creeks, that the country is very low and wet, and thinly inhabited. It is forest clad, bearing a mixture of casuarina, mangrove, and forest trees. The sea has evidently been gaining ground along that coast, as there are masses of dead and broken trees along the beach for many miles. We anchored in the afternoon opposite a group of villages in Holincote Bay, the native name of which appears to be Oro. These villages, some half-dozen in number, are built close to the sea in cocoanut groves. The most southerly one is in a small bay nearly a mile deep and about half as broad. It was the scene a few months ago of the occurrences related in my despatch No. 36 of 18th April, 1890.

17. The steamer was anchored in front of one of the other villages, and a small boat was sent ashore there to try to open communication with the natives. They were found fully armed and prepared to fight, but were soon shown that there was no wish to open hostilities against them, and their preparations appeared to be only precautionary and with a view to defence. The property removed from the other village was put into a boat, which pulled round to the village at the head of the bay. As soon as the boat appeared a few of the inhabitants, apparently the last to do so, were seen running away at full speed from the place. Most of them seem to have done so as soon as the steamer appeared in the distance. The articles, consisting of palm-wood spears, stone clubs, jade adzes, corsets of Job's tears, armlets, nets, shields, lime spoons, &c., were landed and stored in a house with a good roof, and a small conspicuously placed present was left for the owners. It was not expected that any natives would come near us, and as a matter of fact we never saw or heard one of them after landing at the village. The place had a neglected look about it, the houses falling into decay, and all property, if any remained, removed and secreted. Some people were seen returning to the village before our boat had got out of the bay.

18. Next morning some of us landed at the village next that to which the property had been restored, and got into communication with the natives. It was a small village of about eight or ten houses. No women or children were seen, and at first only a few men, who retired out of sight as we landed. Some of them came out of the scrub to us unarmed, and one of them was induced to accompany me to the next three or four villages along the coast. As he approached them he shouted out, "Oro kaivara enao." At the first village, which was a small one of about ten houses, the men remained, and received us in a manner not unfriendly, but with some suspicion. But at the third village, a large one of perhaps forty or fifty houses, it was not an easy matter to get into friendly relations with the people, who were all armed. A large number of them soon laid down their arms and came round us, wishing to exchange their ornaments for beads and red cloth. It could not be made out that there was any chief having control over the whole tribe; but two or three possessing some influence were won over, and became very friendly. But when some of the rest of the party and my boat came up opposite the village they evidently expected to be attacked, and all rushed to arms. In a minute or two some eighty to a hundred men stood in the back part of the village armed with spears and stone clubs. It may be remarked that, what is very unusual, every man in the community seemed to be armed with one of these formidable weapons. They were prepared to let us have anything else they possessed, but no inducement was sufficient to make them part with a single stone club. As no notice was taken of their hostile demonstration, which doubtless was only assumed for defensive purposes as no approach towards any attack on us was made, after a few minutes some of them brought the spear, shield, and stone club back to their houses, and returned to us; but the main body could not be convinced that we should not do something terrible before we left, and they remained armed in the background. One old woman approached Mr. Maclaren crying and pointing towards the village that had been pillaged by Dr. Loria, and made earnest signals for us to go away, manifestly dreading that the place where we then were would be treated similarly. As we were leaving they were all extremely suspicious, but they showed no disposition whatever to molest us. On the return journey the steamer was anchored in the little bay already spoken of, in front of the village, the property

of which was restored; but the natives there studiously avoided all communication with us. Their neighbours previously visited were much less suspicious and were induced to lay aside their weapons, and seemed to be at last convinced that no evil designs were entertained against them. It was explained to them, as far as it was possible to do so, that the property of the neighbouring village had been restored by us, and that it was our duty to prevent all deeds of violence. It would be assuming too much to suppose that all this was completely understood, but probably a general impression was conveyed to them which may be communicated to their neighbours, who evidently belong to the same confederation, and from which it may result that Europeans will not be regarded in that district as being of necessity enemies. A small traverse of the bay and neighbourhood, prepared by Captain Hennessy, is attached hereto as enclosure No. 6 (*vide* M. p Appendix). The bay is not a good harbour during the south-east winds, to which it lies open. The country behind all these villages is broken, consisting of high ridges, covered partly by grass, partly by forest, and running back into the Hydrographer Range of Mountains, a few miles from the sea, reaching an altitude of from 3,000 to 4,000 feet. The locality has, I believe, been selected as a site for a European station of the Anglican Mission, for which it seems to be admirably suited in every way. It may be remarked that one was not able to ascertain with certainty what is the name of the tribe, and it may be found that it is not "Oro" after all, a name which was arrived at chiefly from the call of our local guide, "Oro kaivara enao," addressed to the people. These tribes closely resembled those of Collingwood Bay in appearance, dress, and ornaments. A few had some tattoo-marks on the face, but this was neither well done nor deeply marked. A few of the men wore jackets made of net-work, and covered thickly with the inwoven seeds of a kind of *Coix lacryma-jobi*. They have a plentiful supply of cocoanuts (Adiba), some clumps of which grow high up on the ridges, and seem to live on the usual native food, yams, taro, bananas, sweet potatoes, and sugar-cane. No cases of leprosy, elephantiasis, or chest disease were noticed; but there were examples of the never-failing lupus, and tinea desquamans is common. The district is in all probability a very healthy one, although there are a few small patches of mangroves in the bay. On the spurs of Hydrographer Range, which practically extend down to the sea for the whole length of the range, there is a native population of probably 2,000 or 3,000. Several villages were seen which it was not possible to visit at that time.

19. On the 3rd of August the steamer was anchored in Robinson Bay, from which point I examined the coast by boat as far as the boundary northwards and for about a dozen miles southwards. The name "Boundary Cape" was given by the late Sir Peter Scratchley to the point of land that projects towards the east near the 8th degree of south latitude, and off which is Mitre Rock. The name appears to me to be very appropriate, and is retained in preference to the previous name in the traverse of this part of the coast, roughly and hastily made, which is attached hereto as enclosure No. 7* (*vide* Map Appendix). Boundary Cape consists of several scores of square miles of low wooded hills of metamorphic rock, covered by forest, and reaching a height at several points of about 400 to 500 feet. There are no cocoanut groves within four or five miles of Mitre Rock, and no villages were visible. Mitre Rock itself is a mass of conglomerate, about sixty feet high, and about the same in diameter at the base, covered by small trees and bushes at the top, and with an opening running through it from north to south about twelve feet high and a yard broad. It is about a quarter of a mile from the mainland, and is an excellent landmark. At the first point south-east from Mitre Rock there is a similar rock about half the size of Mitre Rock standing several yards clear of the coast line as seen from the south. To this rock, which is a very conspicuous object, the name of Craig's Pillar was given. Mr. Craig is the second officer of the "Merrie England," and has been in the service since the declaration of sovereignty. About three miles south of Mitre Rock there is a small island of an acre or two in extent and only a few hundred yards from the mainland. This has been named Harper Island, in honour of the senior seaman of the steamer. This appears to be what is called on Sir Peter Scratchley's chart "Ile Riche of the French." This has not been followed, because it is quite plain from D'Entrecasteaux' book, and from the charts of M. Beautemps Beaupré, that D'Entrecasteaux thought the whole elevated country at Boundary Cape was an island, and this he named Ile Riche, apparently after M. Riche, naturalist of the frigate "L'Esperance." Less than half a mile south of Craig Pillar there is a fine little harbour, which was examined by Mr. Craig in the steam launch. He reported that it gradually falls from thirteen fathoms near the entrance to about three fathoms not far from the head of the harbour, into which a freshwater creek opens. This harbour would afford protection to vessels in almost any weather. It is about a third of a mile wide at the entrance, and perhaps nearly a mile in depth. It is named Douglas Harbour, after the second engineer of the steamer, who has accompanied me over a large part of the Possession. From Robinson Bay the inspection of the coast was continued south. Occasional small groves of cocoanuts began at the bay and became more frequent and larger after three or four miles. Two or three natives were seen on the beach about two miles from the bay, but a little further on some half-dozen were observed fishing on the reef, at a point near to which were many cocoanut-trees. Those nearest to us retired on those further off, and they speedily responded to our signals and invited us to land. The boat had to go back some distance to find a place where there was no shore reef, and by the time we had returned about a third of a mile a large crowd of natives had assembled, in which were at least fifty or sixty able-bodied men, besides a large number of women and children. They carried no weapons with them. Although they seemed to be very eager for us to land, they did not wish to hold much intercourse with us after we were once ashore. Of iron they knew nothing, and there was much difficulty in getting them to accept it even after they were shown how a plane-iron broke up stones, and how a knife cut wood. Tobacco they would not accept, but they wished to procure small beads and red cloth. They are, like so many other Papuan tribes, clever thieves, and seem to have managed to steal some things from us in spite of our vigilance. They appeared to me to be very friendly, and to be peacefully disposed. They are of the ordinary Papuan type. They wore sashes of painted native cloth, and the women a short petticoat of the same material. The men wear their hair in matted ringlets, or as a great mop. They have a profusion of head-dresses of cassowary feathers, shells, fibre, and have masses of earrings of cocoanut and turtle-shell, usually something of the same kind in the septum of the nose, but never shell pencils.

* The name of this Cape on the Admiralty charts is Cape Ward Hunt. The name Boundary Cape was adopted by me out of respect to Sir Peter Scratchley, as it is so named in the map of his cruise in the s.s. "Governor Blackall." But in deference to the wish of the courteous and distinguished Hydrographer to the Admiralty, Captain Wharton, F.R.S., the original name is reverted to.—W. M., 13-10-31.

pencils. They do not tattoo. Their language is different from any known to us. They use stone adzes of jade and of basalt, and disc-shaped stone clubs of the latter material. They laughed at the idea of giving one of their weapons for anything we could offer them in exchange. Some knives and plane-irons were left with them. After remaining with us for about ten minutes they all fled to the bush near, probably when some one of them stole something, but no notice being taken of the sudden scare, they all, or nearly all, returned in a few minutes. We parted on very friendly terms, and it can hardly be doubted that when they find out the value to them of iron they will warmly welcome the next Europeans that land there. A few miles further south the acquaintance of a large tribe was made. This part of the coast presents a sandy beach, but as there is neither barrier nor shore reef the sea must break heavily on the beach in south-east weather, and we had some trouble in landing there. Before we got up opposite the large village which this tribe has built on the beach we saw upwards of 100 men hastening along the coast towards us, making signals to us to land by waving white cloth and pandanus leaves. They received us in a very friendly manner, no one carrying arms or weapons of any kind. They were very desirous of obtaining beads, red cloth, looking-glasses, &c., but they too knew nothing of iron. They assisted our people to procure a supply of fresh water, which we were in want of. Here, as at the last tribe visited, women came fearlessly about us and tried to obtain empty tins, bottles, beads, &c., in return for their ornaments. As soon as they had obtained a certain quantity of things from us the greater portion of them retired along the beach about a quarter of a mile to examine what they had got. Throughout they remained quite friendly, and showed no distrust. In almost every known tribe in the Possession the presence of hair on the face is considered highly out of fashion; but in this tribe several men wore false whiskers from ear to ear round the point of the chin. Some specimens of these were purchased for the official ethnological collection, but were, unfortunately, with much else, swept out of the boat by the sea the same night. This tribe lives near the south end of the hilly country which forms Boundary Cape or the Ile Riche of D'Entrecasteaux, and they have all kinds of soil in their district, from hilly ground to sago swamp. On several of the higher hills there are clumps of cocoanut-trees, several miles inland, which would indicate that the country is inhabited in that direction, at least all round the foot of these hills. One of the low hills near the village has, I understand, been considered by the Rev. A. Maclaren as a suitable site for a European station of the Anglican mission. As to its adaptability for such a purpose there can be no doubt. It would be an important station as there is a great extent of nearly level country lying between the Owen Stanley Range and the proposed stations at this place and at Oro. Some four or five miles further south we were obliged to camp on the beach for the night as it was impossible to go further in a shallow river whaleboat with a troublesome beam sea. After it was dark a landing was effected, but there was no protection from the south-east breeze, which was blowing freshly. It was noticed when we landed that there were the footmarks of many natives on the beach, and a wide beaten path was seen leading inland. A strange native carrying two spears was suddenly found standing behind the two Europeans of the party during supper. This man, as soon as my notice was taken of him, fled precipitately. An alarm was also created about midnight by the appearance of some four or five armed natives on the beach. A number of natives approached our camp at dawn. They came unarmed, and without much difficulty or hesitation joined us on the beach. The number increased so that by 7 o'clock there were from 400 to 500 natives round us. In addition to this, women arrived with children at the breast, and many infants and youths of both sexes came to see us. They wished after seeing beads and red cloth to obtain these by purchase or by theft. Four or five were detected stealing, as a very sharp watch was kept. Those caught in the act were once or twice rather roughly handled, but it seemed to be regarded by the others as a matter of course, and they took little notice of the occurrence. It was very difficult at first to get them to understand the use of iron, but when it once became comprehensible to them the women were very desirous of exchanging their elaborate corsets of net and inwoven job's tears for knives. It was noticed that these articles of dress were very common here and were always worn in this and the tribes north of them by the women of the community, while at Oro, where they were first seen, they were always worn by the chief men. In dress and ornaments they resembled the tribes met with near them, but they were certainly the most friendly and the least suspicious tribe met on the coast, while they form at the same time the largest one. An arrival took place about 9 o'clock in the forenoon, which seemed to be a great event in the community, dividing attention with ourselves. A small party was seen coming round the point of the coast south from us about a mile. As soon as they appeared a number of men went to meet them. Five figures came along with what appeared to be spears in their hands, and clad in what looked in the distance like coats of mail and head pieces. They came on with a swinging martial stride that convinced one they were the picked warriors of some neighbouring tribe, but to my surprise I found they were five women wearing bodices of job's tears and with the head and arms painted exactly of the same colour. They were escorted by two fine looking young men with great mop heads and armed with spears and stone clubs. What the women carried were not spears, but long walking sticks. The leading woman walked up and embraced very affectionately a man who was waiting to receive them, and the two walked away arm in arm at the head of about half of all those on the beach, the others remaining with us. This powerful tribe will be within easy reach of the nearest proposed mission station. Their country is perfectly flat, all covered by forest—casuarina near the sea, mangrove and forest trees further inland. It could hardly be said that there was among them any one man of commanding influence. One of the most prominent men, however, made me a present of some ornamented cuscus skin, an article which almost everywhere is regarded as a badge of chieftainship, and of some other ornaments. He did not then seem to appreciate the large knife given him as a return present, which doubtless soon made him the most envied man of his tribe. The behaviour and appearance of this fine tribe was altogether very gratifying and we parted on the best of terms. Hardly a word of their language was understood by us.

20. This concluded the list of the tribes visited during this inspection tour. One would gladly have given much more time to it had such been possible, but brief as it was it has added much to our knowledge of the north-east coast. It was hoped that a river of large size would be found in the head of Collingwood Bay, or in Holmeote Bay, leading into the great flat country which lies north-east of the Great Owen Stanley Range. No such river, however, was found, but it is quite possible that one may, by opening through several mouths through mangrove swamps, have escaped notice. Unless such a river is found it will be very difficult to find access to the large area of flat country in the interior there. It is quite