APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

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

No. 58.] Government House,
Samarai, 24th October, 1893.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that on the 21st of September I crossed from the D'Entrecasteaux Group to Wedau, the principal station of the Anglican Mission on the north-east coast of the mainland, in order to make a short visit of inspection to the ill-known coast north of that.

2. On arrival at Wedau I learned that the Rev. C. King, the head of the mission, had gone to Wamira to open a native church. I followed him, accompanied by Captain Hennessy, the Resident Magistrate of the district. We arrived as the church bell was ringing to assemble the people in the new building. This is a large native house capable of accommodating over 300 people. It is built on a good shingle site, at a spot convenient for the community. It has been put up by the natives at low wages, about $\frac{1}{25}$ of a lb. of tobacco a day to each man. The work was superintended by Mr. Tomlinson. It has good hardwood posts that will last a long time, but the thatch is only grass, which will not long remain watertight. Taking it as a whole the building is creditable, and evidently impresses the builders themselves. Between 250 and 300 natives were present at the opening, the sexes about equally represented. The men were all seated on the shingle floor on the west side, the women on the other, in rows. Their behaviour was as quiet and orderly as could be expected, but there was some noise caused by one admonishing the other to keep still. They have also a peculiar habit of whistling by way of mutual exhortation to quietness. It was plain that they wished to be orderly. Now that their church is opened they will soon learn to be so.

They first sang a hymn, in which they acquitted themselves surprisingly well. Prayers followed, and an address by Mr. King, to which they listened attentively. Mr. Tomlinson, a lay brother of the mission, then spoke to them; and I briefly addressed them, Mr. King interpreting.

The morrow was to be a day of rejoicing, to celebrate the completion and opening of the church. It was manifest that the mission had made progress there, at least as much as could reasonably be expected if one bears in mind the extremely limited number of workers put at Mr. King's disposal, and that even that few were inexperienced when they began.

3. Next day we proceeded to the Paiwa District, at the head of Goodenough Bay. As Mr. King had not previously had any opportunity of visiting the more distant parts of his mission district I was glad to be able to ask him to join me. I did so in the hope that a personal acquaintance with its pressing wants would enable him to speak with greater authority to those responsible for the general constitution of the mission.

We had on board the steamer the man Rabuna, one of the chiefs—apparently the most influential one—of the Paiwa District. The circumstances connected with this man are related in my Despatch No. 50, of 5th September, 1892.

Briefly they were these:—I was obliged by bad weather to land on their shore late in the evening when accompanied only by two small unarmed boys. They carried away our boat during the night and were with some difficulty restrained from acts of personal violence. Next day they fiercely assailed a large armed party. In the conflict a seaman of the "Merrie England" had a spear driven clean through his thigh, and Rabuna, the leader of the natives, was arrested after a great struggle. He was awarded a sentence of twelve months' imprisonment. When the term of his imprisonment was nearly over he was brought to Samarai for easier transmission home, and he was then employed with the other prisoners on the work of reclaiming the swamp. He was duly informed when the twelve months expired, and was told that he could go home by the first native canoe going in that direction or could remain until I should visit the district, when he could accompany me. He preferred to remain, and though he slept outside the gaol he regularly went of his own accord to work as before until he left Samarai. He took some interest in police work and gaol administration, and was desirous of improving himself, although he did not appear to be of the highest order of Papuan intelligence. When I landed him at his village not a native was to be seen anywhere. He ran about the villages and shouted, but all to no purpose. They were not sure yet that the Government was prepared to make peace with them, and would not again attempt hostilities. Rabuna was left alone there and told that I would call on them on the return journey to see him and his people. This took place on the 8th October. Soon after we came in sight of the place Rabuna could be seen running along the beach directing us to the best spot for landing. He was in the uniform of a village constable. Some two score of his people were with him. At first they were very timid and shy, but speedily got over that and dismissed their fears. He was appointed rural constable for the Paiwa District, and undertook to prevent all fighting and murders in future in that neighbourhood. He was very pleased and immensely proud of himself, his clothes, and his appointment. He evidently has a large amount of influence in the district, chiefly on account of the great number of his brothers, sons, and nephews. There can be no doubt that this man will be of signal use to his district, to the mission, and to the Government.

That this is so is largely due to the prison system of the colony, which, as has been several times pointed out before, has been so admirably carried into effect under the supervision of the late Mr. Gleeson.

Rabuna went with me to the opening of the church at Wamira. He was known to every person there, and they took the deepest interest in his repatriation. The women greatly sympathised with him because in his absence his wife had united herself to another man; but I found at my second visit she had again changed her mind and returned to Rabuna. Rabuna was invited to speak at the opening of the Wamira Church. He told them they must not fight or murder any longer; that the Government

would not allow it. He informed them that he and his people wanted in their ignorance to kill me and my two little boys, and for this he was taken away. They should remember that as a warning to themselves.

The Paiwa people being unsettled and uncertain as to the action of the Government have, during the absence of Rabuna, neglected their houses and gardens. But they will now speedily better all these things.

Being otherwise occupied I was unable to inspect the villages near Mosquito Islands. They have always been found quiet and friendly, and this was reported by Mr. King and Mr. Armit, who visited them, to be their present condition.

4. We lost two whole days in making the short journey from the Mosquito Islands to Cape Nelson, the master of the steamer being unacquainted with those waters, and the light being considered unfavourable. A few natives were seen at Port Hennessy, where we anchored for the night. These were quiet and friendly, old acquaintances. To not lose further time in the steamer I determined to traverse the rest of the coast in a boat, with the small and inefficient steam launch of the "Merrie England."

The first day we got as far as the bight of the bay west of what is called Porlock Harbour. There are no villages on the coast between those two points, but there are apparently not a few inland near the foot of Mount Trafalgar. This part of the north-east coast is exceedingly picturesque and curious. The formation seems to be conglomerate lava, in most places at least near the sea. It would appear to have come from the mountains Trafalgar and Victory, probably when they formed one huge volcano, and the softer mass of lava has flowed out seaward, widening and cooling as it went, the great cake breaking up at its circumference as it increased in area, so as to leave giant fissures running from the outer edge in the direction of the centre. These fissures now form deep-water fiords, sometimes two or three miles deep and half-a-mile or more broad, with steep sides of rock 200 or 300 feet high, covered with dense vegetation.

The water is deep round the cape, the points sharp and well marked, the formation being still so new that its original form has been but little altered by the grinding power of the ocean. There is almost always a fringe reef round the end of each point; and there is as commonly a central streak of deep dark-blue water in the centre of each fiord. The number of these is much greater than is shown on the Admiralty chart.

Mounts Victory and Trafalgar are respectively about 4,500 and 4,000 feet high. The former was emitting great quantities of steam from many places on its two summits. The Rev. Mr. King and his two native boys say they saw flame come out of the top of the mountain. I have not myself seen fire on it, but sometimes a column of smoke arises which is distinct in colour from the steam clouds near it, and deposits of a grey ashy colour can be made out distinctly with a good glass. Recently there seems to have been a great flooding on the north side by a stream from a gully between Trafalgar and Victory. It has left a track probably 200 or 300 yards broad, and has run down to the sea, widening as it descended, and killing all trees it touched over an area of probably three or four square miles.

There are some tribes resident at the head of Porlock Bay, but they are a little distance inland, and we could not then visit them. I had met some of them before near MacLaren Harbour.

5. On the 26th we traversed something over two dozen miles of the coast from Porlock Bay to Ketakerua (Dyke Acland) Bay. The whole of that area is quite flat, low, and swampy, with casuarinas on the beach wherever it is sandy and dry, and with mangrove trees elsewhere. It has no inhabitants.

We were much pleased to meet on that day with the mouths of a large river which I had looked for before, but had missed by only half-a-mile. The reason was that the river opens on the point, which doubtless it has formed by deposit, and I looked for it in the bay beyond, after passing the point itself in the steamer. Astronomical observations, made on the return journey, showed the principal mouth of this river to be in latitude 9° 2′ 20″ south, and longitude 148° 55′ east. The easterly mouth is about sixty to eighty yards wide and was fourteen feet deep with a strong current, but it was then swollen by rain that had fallen during the previous night. The largest mouth is about a mile further west. It is two or three hundred yards wide, but has a bar at the mouth with only three feet of water at low tide. There is good anchorage in seven to ten fathoms of water just outside of this bar. That this river brings down a large quantity of fresh water can easily be understood from an examination of the general chart. There is no river in Collingwood Bay worthy of the name, so that this river at 9° 02′ must drain a large area of inland country. Its examination will be a matter of great interest, but must be deferred at present.

There are many salt or brackish water inlets in the mangrove flats between this river and Ketakerua Bay, but they are of no importance whatever. In the afternoon we were overtaken by a furious squall, a heavy thunderstorm from the region of Cape Nelson. Fortunately we had reached the point forming the eastern end of Ketakerua Bay before it was on us. Had we been exposed to it in the open bay east of that, the feeble launch of the "Merrie England" would in all human probability have gone to the bottom. We found, however, admirable shelter in the east end of Ketakerua Bay.

A large creek about 150 yards wide opens into the bay there, into which it pours a considerable quantity of brackish water. It is probably a local river of considerable dimensions. This corner of the bay has, perhaps, insufficient water to admit large vessels under its best shelter, but it is very suitable for small craft. The bottom is sand or mud, and the bay is free from coral until its west end is reached. The country is flat and swampy for several miles inland from Ketakerua Bay, but on the west it is bounded by an extension of the Hydrographer's Range, which extends away into the interior in a series of nearly detached hills, from a few hundred to two or three thousand feet high. These are forest-clad, but many clearings have been made, apparently for cultivation purposes.

6. About the middle of Ketakerua Bay the land is a little higher, and forest trees take the place of mangroves to a large extent at some places. There are several clumps of cocoanut trees near the beach, and we soon found three or four villages of considerable size near there. Before we got within a couple of miles of the first one it was evident that the inhabitants had discovered our presence, and were preparing for our first visit to them. The glass showed the men to be assembling together, all dressed in paint and feathers, each man armed with shield and spear, as well as with a stone club. One man

came toward us along the beach at full speed, and at about a mile from the village took two armed warriors from a post in the bush, where they had clearly been stationed as sentries. The three then ran towards the village as hard as they could, and all the warriors of the tribe concentrated on one spot on the sandy beach. On our making the usual demonstrations of amity and good will they hesitated, and in reply to our calls of "wela," one of the retreating sentinels replied "ela," and another "ena" (peace), and in a few moments there was a transformation scene, and shields, spears, clubs, feathers, and paint disappeared as if by magic, and we were invited to land. That, however, we did not then do for two reasons—a heavy surf was breaking on the beach, and we had little time to spare, as we did not know where we might pick up the steamer which was not in sight. However, the best of terms was established, and we induced a large number of them to swim out to us on logs of wood, and with these we did some trading.

On the way back we landed there and remained with them an hour or two. The steamer anchored about a mile out from the beach in five fathoms of water. On the second visit no one carried arms, but all received us in a friendly manner. They invited us ashore by waving mats of Pandanus leaves. Their houses are of the small square type peculiar to that part of the country, on posts about four feet high, and with a small verandah on one side only. A few women remained during our visit. They are swaddled in a cloth of the paper-mulberry, which is made in the usual way by beating out by a mallet. Many men and boys wore nothing whatever, others wore a band of mulberry cloth.

Their spears are made of palm wood. Their shields are shaped like a Gothic window, and covered, sometimes neatly and tastefully, by wicker work of split cane; they are generally about 2⅓ feet by 1. Their stone clubs are of the disc or pineapple form. They have a few shell ornaments and no tattooing. They have crude pottery of great interest. Each piece is shaped like a crucible, often about four inches deep by about three wide, but sometimes three or four times that size. It is very thick and but poorly ornamented. They do not like to part with their stone weapons or implements. They have stone axes of jade which take a fine edge and cut well. A large vine that I could just cut through with a heavy sweep of an 18-inch knife at one blow was divided by a not very strong man with four strokes of his light jade axe. They sold us some sago—which they called by the more common name of "yabia," a few yams of an inferior kind, sugar cane, and cocoanuts. They do not seem to have much food. They have a large number of canoes, made of a soft wood, of one piece, with a solid outrigger. One man suffered from a large scrofulous ulcer; many had lupus cicatrices on the face and elsewhere. Several of the children had yaws. There was much of the scaly ringworm, but neither elephantiasis nor leprosy. Several had lost an eye from ophthalmia, and one or two were seen that are totally blind. Two or three cases were noticed of a disease that seems to occur all over the country, consisting of a number of what appears to be fibrous tumours, most numerous near the joints. They are painless, but have not been scientifically studied. They are probably parasitic. They are not a wealthy community, and do not seem to be well nourished. Athough they clearly wished to be friendly, it was very difficult for them to get over their timidity. Every now and then a group of them would suddenly disappear, and glimpses could be had of them removing and secreting their best possessions. Two men came forward and presented themselves to me as chiefs, the one of Oifabama, the other of Eroro. They seemed to think they had some claim on my generosity. This was admitted to the extent of giving each a few beads. Oifabama is the place that was assaulted and plundered by Dr. Loria, and as that tribe is near to and visits Ketakerua, the hostile attitude at first assumed by the latter, their subsequent timidity, and their anxiety about their property, become reasonable and explicable.

7. At a former visit to that part of the coast the only name that could be made out was "Oro," and that name was given to the bay where Dr. Loria committed his excesses. Eroro is the name of the district or tribe immediately north of that, but the Eroro people seem to wish to be regarded as separate from the people in the bay. The name of the bay itself is Oifabama. It is seemingly applied to the tribe and to the country as well. Between Oifabama and Ketakerua there are no villages proper on the coast, but there are not a few natives on the spurs of Hydrographer's Range. Where the coast meets this range and begins to turn away towards the north-west there are coral reefs, sometimes a couple of miles from shore, and there are some large and deep inlets in the ten miles south of Oifabama Bay. In one of these, which has about from three to four fathoms of water, there are some clumps of cocoanut-trees, a few rest-houses, and a small fresh water river, from which we replenished the steam launch. There are some villages up this river. The natives of Oifabama maintained *much reserve* towards the steamer and her people, communicating with them in a distant sort of way, at first desiring to make exchanges by way of mutual deposits on the ground at a safe distance. They always went armed when at the distance of a couple of hundred yards, and kept in groups. Women and children were not to be seen. At previous visits they were treated with extra liberality to try to efface and to compensate the wrong done to them; but it was now plain that they must in future be treated exactly like their neighbours, and receive no more free gifts. The heedlessness of one official was no match for the sharpness of these quick-eyed and deft-fingered natives, and he allowed them to steal a tomahawk, which at once made communication more difficult, and confirmed their attitude of armed neutrality. I left the bay next morning before the steamer, but was informed that when the ship's dingy went ashore to fetch the post used for the theodolite when observing, the natives seemed to order them off, and when they did leave conducted themselves as if they had forcibly expelled them.

On the afternoon of the 28th Mr. Armit and Mr. King went to visit the villages of Eroro, but deeming the appearance and attitude of the natives unfriendly they did not land. They returned to Oro Bay and landed at the little village on its north side, where they were well received. They could have only very constrained communication with the plundered tribe in the head of the bay.

By astronomical observations we found the head of the bay to be in latitude 8 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds south, and longitude 148 degrees 29 minutes 20 seconds east.

On the morning of the 28th September I went in the boat and launch to visit the Eroro villages, supposed the previous night to be not quite friendly in appearance. Many people seemed to have left the villages. We landed at the most northerly one. The great majority of the people retired into the "bush" behind the village, but a few remained and others returned. They were very timid and shy;

but I saw no sign or symptom of any aggression or hostility on their part. A number of men came up to me from the lower villages, and the chief man among them clearly invited me to visit them and to sleep there. After trading away what they had brought with them they quietly returned home. These villages, like those of Ketakerua, do not seem to have food in any great abundance. They closely resemble Ketakerua in everything. When returning I again visited the Eroro villages; they were evidently much frightened by this second visit, and all but a few people disappeared. Those that remained were quite friendly, and soon recovered confidence. A visit was again made by Mr. Armit and Mr. King to the village on the north side of Oifabama Bay, which is always very friendly, but no notice was taken of the Oifabama people. They would have received a visit had there been any display of cheap valour at a distance, but there was none whatever. It was necessary to practically ignore them as a guide to their future conduct.

It was much regretted by me that I could not remain a day or two at Eroro, as on this last visit I succeeded in breaking the ice with two very intelligent men from whom I could shortly have obtained a small vocabulary of their language.

I should make it quite clear that, whatever may have been represented or inferred to the contrary, no European whatever has ever been able to hold any conversation with any natives north of Collingwood Bay. As far north as Cape Nelson the coast tribes have some idea, the further north the fainter, of the position of the Government. This knowledge has gradually made its way up the coast from Paiwa and Kappi Kappi, chiefly since the conflict with the Paiwa tribes. Through those conversant with the Kappi Kappi language, communication can now be had with the Maisina and Kaierra districts, south of Cape Nelson, but north of that point we understand only occasional words heard, and the tribes know us only as masterful beings possessing beads and iron. Of Queen Victoria they never heard, of the Government they at present know nothing whatever, and they cannot, of course, understand how it is that one European should make war on them, plunder their houses and graves, and another should meet them with fair dealing. Some knowledge of the Eroro language is therefore a pressing necessity. In that direction I expect much assistance from the Rev. C. King, who has an aptitude and a taste for such work. I confidently expect that in a year or two the Government of the Queen will be known as such as far as the British-German boundary.

8. On the 28th September we traversed some thirty miles of coast from Eroro to Gona (Holnicote) Bay in the launch and boat. From Eroro to the Cape Sudest of D'Entrecasteaux the coast lands are low and swampy, covered by dense forest, often with mangrove trees near the sandy beaches. There are no cocoanut groves and no villages between Eroro and the Cape Killerton of the Admiralty chart. In the neighbourhood of Cape Killerton coral reefs are met with near shore, and they continue as far as the south end of Gona Bay. It is not quite clear what point is really the Cape Killerton of the charts, but near its position several groves of cocoanut trees are found near the shore, and there are numbers of temporary native houses, though there is no permanent residence there. The south end of Gona Bay is formed by a prominent mangrove point, with boulders of dead coral above water for about a third of a mile round it. This latter fact is striking, because in a little bay just south of this point a considerable fresh water river, quite fresh at its mouth even at high tide, opens there. The immediate contiguity of this river and the coral reef is probably explicable on the supposition that the mouth of the river has not long occupied its present site. The lower part of the river is much obstructed by great trees left in its channel, and by sandbanks. Half a mile up it was from sixty to seventy yards broad and about four feet deep. A mile or two further up there are some cocoanut trees and signs of native occupation.

The south end of Gona Bay has several picturesque bights with clumps of cocoa-nut trees, and four or five mangrove islands. Between these and the mainland there is a boat passage only at high tide.

Gona Bay itself is a very fine one, with a great, gentle curve of sandy beach on its south and west sides, and it contains several villages with many inhabitants. There was some difficulty in getting the launch through the thick and rank sea-grass near the south end of the bay, as it filled up the space between the propeller-blades and all but stopped progress. It was thus sunset before we arrived at the villages of Basabua and Mombara on the south side of the bay. These had not been previously visited, and they were naturally somewhat surprised by our appearance for the first time at such an hour. The women filled their great net-bags with property and made off; the men seized shields and spears to be ready for defence or attack, and all was clamour and uproar.

We soon succeeded in allaying the fears of those that stood their ground. We landed only for a minute to leave a plane-iron, a small knife, and a piece of red cloth, and then steamed away to look for a camp for the night. We made for an open-looking space at the head of the bay, where it was hoped there might be some shelter for the launch, but on approaching the spot, about an hour after dark, a great shrieking and yelling arose, showing that it was the site of another village. We then went about a mile further up the coast and camped for the night on the beach.

Before daylight next morning we were visited by some natives, who soon increased in numbers. They said they were from Arose, a village a short way inland from our camp. They were unarmed and perfectly friendly, and desirous of trading with us. A number of people also came up from the village of Gona, which we passed the previous evening. One noticeable peculiarity of these people is that the men wear a strip of painted mulberry cloth, closely resembling in pattern those worn at Bailala in the Papuan Gulf. But many wear nothing. Some are circumcised, others not. One man made his wife take off her jacket of Job's tears that he might sell it for a plane-iron. Nearly all wear their hair in long tags or ringlets with tufts of fibre plaited into the ends. There were some extremely powerful men among them. All were very quiet and amiable.

On starting, we went back to the village of Gona. As we approached it two elderly women, in jackets of Job's tears and mulberry cloth petticoats, appeared on the beach, and seemed to warn us off with imprecations; but seeing that no notice was taken of them, these beldames soon made off, and so did every one in the village. We waited for the arrival of some of those that were returning along the beach from visiting us at our camp. They went into the village by a side path instead of coming straight to us, and I saw some of them remove their spears, stone clubs, and axes into the "scrub." Then all disappeared. After two or three minutes we returned to our boat, and scarcely had we done so when some of them followed us with bunches of bananas, etc. We did not, however, return, as they received us inhospitably when we were ashore.

On coming down the coast we passed Gona, and landed at two of the largest villages on the south side. Great numbers of men, women, and children came to meet us with much clamour and excitement, but all very friendly. We remained an hour or two with these people. The men brought taro, sugar-cane, cocoanuts, and a few yams for sale, also a few stone axes and clubs. They seem to be accomplished thieves. At the first village I purchased a drill from a native, and gave it to the man that was steering the boat with special instructions to look well after it, as I wished to send it to the Museum. These drills, armed with flint, they use for boring holes in shells when making beads. When I had entered the boat at the second village to start for the steamer a native offered me a drill for sale. On looking at it I at once recognised the peculiar chalcedony point of the drill I had already purchased. The native had abstracted it from the boat. He did not ask for further payment, but looked as if he had done his duty and expected a reward for it. The wild native is in all such matters much more than a match for the native in a state of domesticity. One or two of the former constantly amuse and entertain the latter, regaling him with betel nut and sugar-cane, while others plunder him.

These natives have a very great number of canoes, of a single piece, with small outriggers at a great distance from the canoe. They seem to have a large area of flat forest land behind their villages; but probably much of it is wet.

It will be easy to bring the occupants of Gona Bay into regular trading relations when a few words of their language have been obtained. They are lively and spirited; some of the men seen were of magnificent physique. They do not seem to know or to use tobacco in any form. This district appears to be the only one on the mainland of the Possession in which this plant is unknown. They use the betel nut and its accessories. There is seen from the head of Gona Bay, and it was still more clearly in view further up the coast, a very remarkable area of forest land, covering some scores of square miles, extending from the back of Hydrographer's Range down into the great flat country north of that. This great area has a very gentle slope from a few hundred feet above the sea down to nearly sea level. It is forest clad. The surface is apparently quite even and the slope very gentle and uniform. Seen at a distance this great slope seems to be exactly suited for plantation purposes. It is not possible to say at present whether it is occupied or not. There were no clearings visible, but, on the other hand, smoke was seen at several places on it. I know of no place in the colony which, looked at from a distance, seems equally inviting for European settlement.

On leaving Gona Bay on 29th September we soon came to the mouth of a large river, the name of which is Kumusi. This river, from its size and position, cannot but be of great importance. As it seemed from the configuration of the interior of the country extremely probable that a river existed somewhere in that neighbourhood search was made for it on my former visit to this part of the coast. Unfortunately the steam launch—of the insufficiency of which I have had so often to complain—broke down at a point only a mile or two from the mouth of the river we were in search of, and my boat was swept out by bad weather, so that I was obliged to return to the steamer. Another reason that delayed the discovery of this fine river was that it, like the river in latitude 9 degrees 2 minutes, opens not in a bay but on a prominent point of the coast. As far as known at present, for we are still nearly quite ignorant of the native language of the district, Kumusi is the name of the river, of the district, and of the large tribe that lives just north of its mouth.

The Kumusi has two mouths nearly half a mile apart, separated by a small island. The country is flat near the mouth, covered by forest; mangrove or casuarina trees grow near the beach. The southern mouth is about 150 yards wide, the northern twice that size. It brings down a large body of fresh water, evidently from the interior. Fresh water can be got at sea half a mile from the mouths of the river. Its examination will be of engrossing interest and very important. When returning I camped at the mouth of the Kumusi to obtain its position from astronomical observation. It is in latitude 8 degrees 26 minutes 50 seconds south, and longitude 148 degrees 14 minutes east. Wishing to obtain the variation of the compass at this place I had a small lamp placed on the point immediately north of the river to serve as a referring mark for stellar observation. Before it was quite dark some natives came along the beach, saw the lamp, examined it, and exultantly carried it off.

To get into friendly relations with these tribes we have several times left a few small articles for them as presents, suspended in prominent places. They hence not unnaturally inferred that my lamp was meant for them. They were beyond reach of the voice, and the large mouth of the river was between them and me; but if one can judge from the capers cut, and the gesticulations indulged in, they must have been greatly delighted by their assumed present. Next morning a considerable number of them, including the chief man of the tribe, came to our camp at dawn, and were very friendly. I gave the chief a shirt, of which he was exceedingly proud. They wished to go for food for us, and were desirous we should remain there for some time. We tried to make them understand that the lamp was not for them, and it was understood that they sent to the village for it. But in all probability it was already distributed in fragments, and in any case we could not wait for the return of the messengers. The fact that these men were friendly, free from suspicion, and unarmed, showed they did not think they had stolen the lamp.

On leaving the Kumusi we next visited a village of that tribe about three or four miles north of the river. Oddly enough, women and little boys were among the first, if not the first, to meet us there, the men, though they assembled on the beach and invited us ashore, being as we approached more timid than the weaker sex. On my intimating my wish to visit their village I was at once conducted thither, anxiety being shown to remove from my sight all spears and clubs both on the way and in the village itself. The village, which contains about two dozen houses, is only about one hundred and fifty yards from the beach. The people present seemed numerous for the house accommodation at their disposal, but that is so in respect of all the villages in this part of the country. It appears that the men do not sleep under cover except in bad weather. Each man has a remarkably well-plaited mat of cocoanut leaf on which he sleeps on the ground with a little fire near to him on one side. The midrib of the cocoanut leaf is split and the two halves of the leaf are then plaited very cleverly into each other so as to form a very well worked, symmetrically shaped, oval mat. Some of them are even provided with appendages near the head of the mat, which is cut square across, resembling sleeves in outline. This is for the arms to rest on. The same bed gear I have seen also at the islands north-west of Kiriwina, but not elsewhere.

This branch of the Kumusi tribe were not only kind but even very courteous. As soon as I entered the village a man rushed off and brought a new pandanus mat, which he spread for me under the shade of a cocoanut tree; others brought cocoanuts to drink. All the population seemed to be present except the young girls. They dress their hair and bodies like the tribes described above. Their country is flat and swampy, and appears to grow much sago. They are very fond of beads, but do not seem to know much about iron yet.

We found that the steamer had anchored opposite the conspicuous little hill, 600 feet high, which lies about sixteen miles south of Mitre Rock. They had had some intercourse with the natives, who were friendly. These people were visited by me formerly, and subsequently by Mr. Whitten. They have always been found peaceable. They were visited by Mr. Armit and Mr. King on the return journey with the same result. Unfortunately they did not succeed in obtaining the name of the hill, the district, or the tribe.

10. On the 29th the steamer anchored in Douglas Harbour, about a mile south of Mitre Rock. It affords very good anchorage and perfect shelter except from the east, to which it is nearly open. At night Captain Jones and myself observed at Mitre Rock for its position. I have already described the rock in my Despatch No. 100, of 16th September, 1890. It is certainly the most conspicuous object on this part of the coast. Mitre Rock is not, in my opinion, the boundary between the British and German territories, although it has almost come to be regarded as such.

In the "Report on British New Guinea from data and notes by the late Sir Peter Scratchley, by Mr. G. Seymour Fort," it is stated, Part I. (111)—"From Bentley Bay the vessel cruised along the north-east coast to Mitre Rock, which forms the boundary of the English territory on the north-east coast."

Unfortunately we cannot gather clearly from the report what was the opinion of Sir Peter Scratchley on this or any other point, as his notes and opinions are blended with the observations and opinions of Mr. Fort. In Mr. Lindt's book, "Picturesque New Guinea," it is said of Mitre Rock, page 102, "Some of us landed on the rock, but not having a line with us we could not ascend. It is in German territory, just beyond the parallel."

This was the outcome of a special official visit to the rock by Sir Peter Scratchley and a large staff, which included Mr. H. O. Forbes as an expert. But how the position of the rock was ascertained is unknown to me.

In the Letters Patent, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated 8th June, 1888, it is stated under "Boundaries" . . . . "as far as East Cape, and thence north-westward as far as the 8th parallel of south latitude, in the neighbourhood of Mitre Rock, together with the territory lying south of a line from Mitre Rock, proceeding along the said 8th parallel to the 147th degree of east longitude."

In the Proclamation of Sovereignty over the Possession, dated 4th September, 1888, the words of the Letters Patent, as quoted above, are followed literally. The fair meaning of these words seems to be that not Mitre Rock, but the 8th parallel of south latitude is the boundary, although it appears to be assumed that Mitre Rock is on the 8th parallel, as the line is to go from Mitre Rock, "proceeding along the said 8th parallel."

The existence of several river mouths, probably all openings of one very large river, near to Mitre Rock, makes the question of its geographical position of much importance. My observations, made at the rock itself, put it in latitude 8 degrees and nearly 3 minutes—that is, nearly three miles inside of British territory as I understand the boundary. But these observations cannot be regarded as definitively conclusive, as they were made with only a 5-inch theodolite, which was set up in water, and used on a night when there were clouds and some drizzling rain. Still they leave no reasonable doubt that the rock is nearly three miles south of the boundary.

The German view of the question of the boundary may be found set out with perfect clearness in the "Schutz brief" of His Majesty the German Emperor, of 17th May, 1885:—

"These territories (over which His Imperial Majesty's protection is extended) are the following:—The part of the mainland of New Guinea which is not under English or Netherlands sovereignty. This territory, which We, on the motion of the company, have allowed to be named 'Kaiser Wilhelm's Land,' extends on the north-east coast of the island from the 141st degree of east longitude to the point in the neighbourhood of Mitre Rock where the 8th degree of south latitude cuts the coast, and is bounded by a line running south and west, which follows the 8th parallel of latitude to the point where the same is cut by the 147th degree of east longitude."

This definition leaves no room for question as to what is the boundary. It is clearly the 8th parallel of south latitude; it mentions "Mitre Rock" merely as a referring mark. There are no natives resident in the vicinity of Mitre Rock, nor are there any permanent habitations within ten miles of it on the coast beyond it. Low, rocky, wooded hills come down to the sea for about three miles beyond the rock, forming picturesque little bays between these headlands. Some four or five miles beyond the rock there is a river mouth, debouching on a low point covered by casuarina and mangrove trees. A large volume of fresh water is discharged by it through a channel about 200 yards wide; it is evidently a river that comes from the interior of the country. I camped there one night for the purpose of ascertaining its position by observation. Under favourable circumstances its latitude was found to be 8 degrees 2 minutes 10 seconds—say, in round numbers two miles inside the boundary of the Possession. About a mile beyond this point there is a second opening about a third of the size of the first one; it also occupies the end of a projecting low point. Something like a mile beyond this second opening there is a third and larger mouth. Unlike the other two, this one does not open on a point, but in the head of a deep bay, where it cannot be seen from the sea. The second and third openings are south of the first one, and therefore further inside the British boundary. In all probability these three openings are all mouths of one large river, which drains a great interior area of country. The amount of fresh water discharged by them is very large.

Some half score of miles beyond the rock there is a conspicuous low point with short casuarina trees, forming the north-west boundary of a bay some three miles deep and four or five broad, on which there is another large river mouth. It is from 250 to 300 yards wide, and discharges a large volume of fresh water. Observations taken at that place put this opening in German territory, the latitude found

by me being 7 degrees 58 minutes 31 seconds. The night was hazy, and the temperature varied considerably, so that the observations were taken under conditions that were unfavourable. They should be repeated before this position is finally accepted, and if possible by an instrument superior to that at my disposal. At the same spot the variation of the compass on the average of two needles was found to be 5 degrees 25 minutes 30 seconds.

It seems very probable that this river mouth is only another outlet for the river to which the other three belong, as the fourth one had for the three or four miles it was ascended a south-westerly trend. If all four mouths belong to one river, it must, before breaking up, be of large dimensions.

Some slight intercourse was had with the natives on the fourth river mouth ; they were friendly but extremely shy and timid.

It is quite clear that the examination of this boundary river or rivers, of the Kumusi River, and of the river in latitude 9 degrees 2 minutes, will be of the greatest interest. Their existence gives quite a different value to the north-east coast. Hitherto it could not be seen how the interior of the great country lying between the central chain of mountains and the coast could be reached. Heretofore these rivers have escaped detection from their peculiarity of opening on points and not in the head or bight of bays, where they have been looked for. I hope to be able to take up their systematic examination in a few months.

On the 5th October the steamer anchored near Cape Nelson, not far from Hardy Island, for the night. Mr. Armit and Mr. King went to try to meet some of the natives, and to complete the traverse of a small bit of coast, while I observed for the position of Hardy Island, an important point for the sketch survey of the coast. It falls very far short of the dimensions given to it on the Admiralty charts, being in reality only thirty-five yards in diameter, and too low for any vegetable growth. It is merely a small patch of sand on a large coral reef. It was found to be in latitude 9 degrees 10 minutes 38 seconds south, and longitude 149 degrees 18 minutes 50 seconds east. Next day I traversed the coast in the boat and launch from Hardy Island to Phillips Harbour. In the morning several canoes came off from the mainland, opposite Hardy Island, to the steamer. They had been all visited by me on a former occasion, and were not so timid as might have been expected. For about a dozen miles south-west of Hardy Island the coast is exceedingly picturesque, the deep narrow fiords that have been described as extending round Cape Nelson being continued on the south side. They have the same strip of dark-blue deep water running up the middle, but there are much more extensive reefs near them extending also further out to sea.

On the wooded spurs of Mount Trafalgar that wall in these deep narrow fiords there are many native habitations and great numbers of gardens. This district, on the south side of Mount Trafalgar and Cape Nelson, is apparently the richest for native agriculture on this part of the coast. Several canoes came out to us, and we met not a few natives, all of whom were very friendly and wished to trade. In a bay at the foot of Mount Trafalgar we landed to interview a large number of natives we saw on the beach there. They had built temporary houses, and had a number of large canoes. They said they belonged to Maisina, in the head of Collingwood Bay, and had come to visit Kaierra, the coast district south-west of Hardy Island. They were very friendly, and keen traders. Like most of the tribes in this part of the country they usually make their ornaments of Job's tears. Of these this particular tribe had necklaces and earrings with long graceful pendants, that recall to mind similar Indian jewellery made of silver. They had stone clubs, of the disc form, with axes of jade. Two of them had some red cloth, and spoke a few words of the Kappi Kappi tongue, and insisted on shaking hands. Three or four small coast villages, some of which were visited, were passed before we reached the first Maisina village in the head of Collingwood Bay. The inhabitants were all peaceful and friendly, selling us some food or anything else they had.

Early in the afternoon we came in sight of Makimaki, the first of the Maisina villages on the north. This large old place I had visited before, nearly two years ago. As I had the launch at my first visit, and approached now in a rowing boat only, the launch having been left behind, they did not recognise me, and did not seem quite at ease as we neared them. A body of men were posted on the south side of the creek, feathered, painted, and armed to the teeth with spears, shields, stone clubs, and mouth-pieces made of boars' tusks and red seeds. When they understood that we were friends, the armed band melted and disappeared as quietly and as quickly as if it had been of snow. A large body of natives, unarmed, met us at the mouth of the creek. To one man who seemed of superior intelligence I gave a shirt, and took particular notice of him. It turned out afterwards that the selection was a happy one, for it appears he is the principal chief of the whole of Maisina. He conducted me to the village, which they were not quite willing that we should visit, and he supervised things generally. He evidently was afraid his people would steal and get into trouble. When I bought anything he took possession of it, and put it at once into the trade bag. This put me more carefully on my guard against pilfering, but my eye was taken for a moment from one of the Job's tears earrings with pendants which I had purchased. I laid it on my knee as I sat until I took out a few beads to pay for something else offered, and in the twinkling of an eye it was gone. I looked for it and found it in the ear of the chief himself, in the ear that was farthest from me as he sat near me. Another man had abstracted it and put it in his ear. Probably the chief would have kept it had I not noticed it, but I quietly took it out of his ear and put it in the bag, no one taking any notice of this.

From Makimaki we went to the largest village in the district, that of Viaku. I had on two previous occasions been to this place and had always found the people friendly ; but Mr. Hely reported that at a subsequent visit by him a man was noticed to get behind him with hostile intentions. As the people are very numerous I was prepared for some disturbance there, but I was agreeably surprised at being met in the most friendly manner by a great unarmed crowd. These people are the most lively and the most spirited on the coast. They are also the most wealthy, possessing great store of stone clubs, jade axes, and other property. They have now discovered the full value of iron, and are extremely keen on buying it in any form. Never have I seen natives so eager to purchase plane-irons. They fought and struggled with each other for the possession of a stone club or jade axe with which to buy a plane-iron ; and they fought and scrambled over the plane-iron when it was given to them. Even the women could not keep out of it. Towards us they were perfectly friendly in every way.

As I was anxious that Mr. King should make the acquaintance of this great tribe, the most powerful and the most enterprising in the whole of his district, I sent Mr. Armit and him in the boat and launch to visit them next morning. They were received similarly, and there was still the same unquenchable thirst for iron. They were welcomed by the chief to whom I had given the shirt at Makimaki. Mr. Armit says that he has great influence and authority at Viaku, and that he was very kind and hospitable there. By these people iron will no doubt soon find its way to the inland tribes.

The steamer anchored in Phillips Harbour. The position of the little island forming its eastern boundary was found to be latitude 9 degrees 29 minutes 45 seconds south, bearing 323 degrees to the top of Mount Victory. Many natives, who are now quite well acquainted with us, visited the steamer from all the villages near, bringing food, pigs, weapons and utensils for sale. They understand there a good deal of the language of Kappi Kappi (Cape Vogel). I have been under the impression hitherto that the Government would probably be challenged by Maisina to fight for supremacy, but it seems now as if that powerful community already admitted their inferiority and accepted the Government authority. But of course the first real test will be when some native has to be arrested there.

This practically concluded my visit to the north-east coast. Labour and exposure were freely incurred in trying to bring this important coast line better within our knowledge. This will be clearly shown when I state the fact that I observed more than 250 stars with the theodolite for geographical purposes, while Captain Jones observed nearly two score stars with the sextant, chiefly for longitude. The traverse of the coast line has now been completed from Fir Tree Point to the boundary. I am inclined to think it will show that the great north-east coast is the most interesting and by no means the least valuable of the districts of the Possession. The police, with the Commandant and Stipendiary Magistrate of the district, were left at Paiwa when I proceeded further north that they might make certain inquiries and arrests. The police effected very little, and, it is to be feared, somewhat lessened their prestige by letting a prisoner they had captured make good his escape. This is, perhaps, partly owing to the Commandant having been incapacitated for work for two or three months past. Still, the visit of the magistrate and police must have done good at some places.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

To His Excellency Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,
Governor of Queensland.

APPENDIX B.

DESPATCH REPORTING VISIT TO EASTERN END OF THE POSSESSION.

No. 68.]

Government House,
Port Moresby, 14th November, 1893.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that I left Port Moresby on the 26th of June last, for the purpose of visiting the eastern end of the Possession.

1. The first halt was made at the village of Kaile, one of the places east of Port Moresby that used to be all built over the sea. A large part of the village has now been built ashore. As soon as the people found that this could be done with safety, the process of removing ashore was spontaneously commenced. This, and other instances of the same kind, would seem to show that the object, in this country at least, of building on piles over deep water, was simply to be more safe from attacks by their neighbours.

The grievance of the Kaile tribe was that they had no rural policeman of their own. A suitable man was presented, and was duly and publicly appointed. This was all the more necessary, because the chief of the tribe is a man of the old school, and is practically useless in bringing forward his tribe. He has not been able yet to get over the narrowness of his old habits and ideas so as to go even as far from home as Port Moresby, but he sends his son there when necessary.

On my first visit to Kaile I found this tribe so cowed and hemmed in by others that for some months previously only armed parties would go ashore to bring food and fresh water. Now they are on terms of good friendship and perfect equality with all the tribes of the district, whether inland or on the coast.

2. As soon as I arrived at Kappakappa the chief and policeman of the tribe came on board and reported themselves; fortunately they had nothing to submit that required my attention. This village is now practically all removed ashore, and is well and comfortably built. They have large plantations of food, and several thousand young cocoanut trees are thriving well, and will be in bearing in two or three years.

From Kappakappa I went to visit the Government Station at Rigo. On the way I saw the small establishment that one of the Malay settlers has made for himself. He bought some dozen acres of land, married a woman of the Kappakappa tribe, and has worked industriously. He has several hundred cocoanut trees doing well, and many fruit trees, and puts a good example of industry and application before his neighbours.

Some half dozen of the Solomon Islanders that came from Fiji to join the constabulary have taken up allotments of land between Kappakappa and the Government Station at Rigo. They have received the land in lieu of return passages, as they wish to remain in this country permanently.

The Station for the Rigo District is now a substantial settlement. It grows enough food for the police and prisoners, and sometimes sends supplies to Port Moresby, and the planting of cocoanuts is being still further extended. When all the cocoanut trees that are now planted out at the station are in full bearing, they should suffice to pay the whole expenditure of the station, including the salary of the Government Agent; but this will, of course, not be realised for several years yet.