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 [illegible]s. When they understood that we were friends, the armed band melted and disappeared as quietly and 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.

At this station we had a good example of the extreme care that is required in introducing new products into the country. A few weeks previously to my visit a large and valuable consignment of tropical economic plants was received, and had been sent to be planted out at Rigo Station for subsequent propagation and distribution. I went to inspect these, and to my surprise and annoyance found that there were several plants of *Coffea arabica* among these seedlings and that all of these were afflicted by the dreaded "coffee leaf disease," *Hemileia vastatrix*. Yet these plants were sent to us by one of the most experienced and competent of Botanic Garden directors. We have already coffee plants in full bearing in the Possession, and, fortunately, at a great distance from Rigo. The diseased plants were all burned *in situ*, and no coffee will be tried at Rigo for a year or two, so as to make certain that the disease is extinct. Various kinds of rice and cotton seemed disposed to do well. But the great difficulty is that we cannot get settlers to turn these things to profitable account.

The Saroa chief happened to come to the station when I was there. He carried his bâton of office as chief of his tribe, and is evidently gaining the respect of himself and of others. He said all was quiet and peaceful in his district.

3. The burial question, which at first was the source of much trouble in this district, is now practically disposed of. It was the general idea that no person died save through the evil agency of some other, and religion and relationship required that it should be discovered who had procured the death of the deceased, and that this person should be punished. It was not considered right that the dead body should be finally disposed of until all these points were settled. By compelling the different tribes to bury the dead before decomposition sets in, the search for the evil-eye, the necromancer, or the poisoner has been cut short, and murder has consequently ceased to be general, and as an institution in the district has practically become a thing of the past.

4. Another serious thing connected with this district is much more difficult to deal with than even the matter of interments.

The number of deaths from snakebite is distressingly great. The district is in some places infested by a small species of black snake of great fierceness. The natives declare that whenever a man goes near it this serpent rushes at him, uttering sounds which they describe as a hiss or a whistle. Shortly before I was at the station one of these reptiles made a charge at the Government Agent, but it was killed before it did any harm. A short time previously a boy of twelve or fourteen was in the bush near the station when a snake of this kind made a rush at him, with the usual peculiar whistling sound. He thought it was the call of young cockatoos in a tree, and began to look up into it for them. He did not discover his mistake until he received a bite from the snake, from which he died a few hours afterwards in great agony. I am inclined to think that when all necessary information has been obtained it may be advisable to offer a reward, under proper precautions, for each snake of this kind killed in the district.

5. On arriving at Kerepunu we received the unwelcome news that there had been a great disturbance in the Aroma tribe, a party fight, in which the whole tribe was concerned, and which had resulted in two or three deaths and in many men receiving spear wounds. The worst part of the affair was that though the tribe, the largest on the coast line, had thus contended in domestic battle they were now united in determination to jointly resist Government interference, and for this defiance of the Government the necessary preparations were being made by the tribes. On the 28th of June I landed at Paramán, one of the Aroma villages, with the Resident Magistrate, the Government Agent of the district, and the Commandant, and about a score of constabulary, all raw and quite untrained recruits, hardly any two of them understanding each other's language. The steamer left the same day for Cooktown. The day I landed I had an interview with Koapena, who has always been regarded as the most important and influential man in the district. He admitted that the people of Maupo and the neighbouring villages had fought a great battle, in which thirty-three were wounded and one killed, while some others were likely to die. He assured us they would all fight against the Government if any attempt was made to arrest an Aroma man. The neighbouring tribes had not been concerned in the disturbance, and it was soon clear that they could be kept apart from the whole affair by judicious management. At Paraman, for example, where we camped, there is a Papuan teacher of the London Missionary Society, who is doing very good work. Chiefly under his influence and example that community was perfectly loyal, unsuspicious, and trustworthy. A new native teacher had also just been stationed at the first group of villages east of the Maupo villages, and although only recently established, still his presence was of decided use to the Government side, although of course the teachers took no part whatever in any of the active measures of the Government.

The position of the Aroma tribe has been peculiar during the last year or two. They have made peace with all the tribes with whom they used to fight formerly, and they had ceased to give their neighbours any trouble. They were thus orderly subjects, as far as their relations with their neighbours were concerned; but they seemed to have the idea that they could and would resist the interference of the Government in their domestic concerns, in all that related to Aroma itself. The principal man of the community, the well-known Koapena, has certainly been greedy and cunning. Some of my officers believed him to be thoroughly disloyal, others had a somewhat better opinion of him. My own view of him has been that he was too shrewd and too covetous to not stand on the Government side so long as he thought it was the stronger. I have had no doubt of his power to do evil, but it always appeared to me that his influence in any other direction had been greatly overated. The little power he has really had he has owed chiefly to the belief he took care to propagate, that he was supported by the whites. In this case Koapena was either disloyal, or he had no power whatever over even his own immediate neighbours, for on the 28th and 29th they all armed themselves and joined the rest of the people that assembled to resist the Government. He himself tried to derive profit from both sides and was trusted by neither. The tribe did not make any secret of their opinion that the constabulary, whose unsteadiness they had been watching, would run away as soon as they were surrounded by 400 or 500 spearmen. As a matter of fact, I had not very much more confidence in the constabulary than Aroma had. For this reason, and because I hoped that it might be possible to subdue Aroma by firm, continued moral pressure, I determined to avoid if possible any actual bloodshed. This did not at first appear to promise very much. The Rev. W. Pearse, who knows these tribes perhaps better than any other European, thought we should have to fight, the Mission teachers were of the same opinion, and Koapena said he was sure of the same thing; but that may have only been to frighten and deceive us, that he might gain credit with the tribe.

APPENDIX F.

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

No. 19.] Baili, 30th April, 1894.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that I left Samarai on the 24th February on a visit to the North-East Coast of the Possession. The same day we reached Wedau, the headquarters of the Anglican Mission, and found all well and quiet there.

A dozen men were engaged at Taupota and two volunteered at Wedau to act as carriers for inland travelling. The Taupota people had acted in the same capacity before, when Mr. Moreton and Mr. Maitland went towards the main range from Collingwood Bay, and were on this last occasion all engaged and shipped in a few minutes.

2. On the 25th I landed at Paiwa, and invited Rabuna, the chief and rural constable of that district, to be of the party. He came readily, with his son, and was of much use as a willing worker and conciliatory interpreter.

With the launch and whaleboat I made on the 26th and 27th a traverse of the coast from Ipote (Cape Vogel) to Dako (Fir-tree Point). On this part of the coast there is a fringe of mangrove, with irregular shore reefs. In the mangrove bights there are a great many small coral islands that cannot be seen from a vessel passing two or three miles from the coast. These afford numerous places of shelter for small trading craft in all weathers. There are no villages near the beach. Behind the mangrove frontage there are twenty or thirty miles of low rolling hills before the main range is reached. On these, many of which are grass covered, there are numbers of food gardens, giving evidence of the presence of a very considerable population. Small fresh-water creeks are of frequent occurrence, but none of any importance open there.

3. A party, consisting of Mr. Guise and Mr. Armit, with carriers, had been prepared to examine some portion of the main range in this direction. They were landed at Dako Creek on the 26th and were proceeding to work their way from that point towards the mountains. On the 27th, however, I came on the Mobiri Creek, which I went up sufficiently far to see that the country there was well populated, and that the creek went within half a dozen miles of the foot of the nearest mountain, Maneáo. On the 27th arrangements were made to land the party on the Mobiri Creek, and they left for that on the 28th. In the afternoon I received a note from Mr. Guise saying that the natives were numerous and unfriendly, and objected to the presence or passage of the party. A friendly chief, however, came to the steamer and I went with him to the camp on Mobiri, at a place called Pibubu. As soon as we arrived there this chief was sent with friendly messages to others, accompanied by Rabuna and by the sergeant of constabulary. Soon after this some natives arrived at Pibubu with food for sale, and professed to leave us on friendly terms, and to be willing to bring us food next day. On the following morning I went ahead with some local natives, Rabuna, and the sergeant. We soon met a large number of natives on the way to our camp at Pibubu, with two or three pigs and other food. They helped to carry the baggage.

After a march of about three miles we reached the village of Mapama, consisting of some seven or eight houses. The men of this place that had not already joined us were there; but the women and children were absent. The men were unarmed. They asked us to pass a village some half a mile beyond Mapama without entering it, and this was done accordingly. About a mile further on we came to the Kwagira River, a mountain stream, two feet deep, and about sixty yards wide, but with a bed some 150 to 200 yards across. It is evidently subject to heavy floods. It opens into the sea about a mile and a-half south of Dako Point. This was about four and a-half miles from Pibubu Camp. A headquarter camp was placed on the left side of this river on a convenient ridge. There I was visited by a large number of natives, all of whom appeared to be very friendly, and willing to assist the party with food and transport. I had not met anywhere less suspicious natives, or more willing carriers.

4. All the land we crossed between Pibubu and the Kwagira was deep alluvial forest land, but more or less wet or swampy at several places. The men are decidedly smaller than Gulf men, but larger than eastern island men as a rule. They are of a brown colour. They wear the hair in tags or ringlets, but a part over the forehead is cut short or shaved off; they have whiskers round the cheek and under the chin, but all hair except the eyelashes is removed from the face. They do not tattoo, but have raised cicatricial marks over the deltoid. The legs are very scraggy. They wear a perineal band of mulberry cloth painted black, brown, and yellow, and girdles of matwork about an inch and a-half broad, plaited without an end. They are made to fit so tightly that it is difficult to get them over the hips. Some have shell necklaces and pendants, but the most common ornament is an armlet consisting of a complete section cut out of the shell of the cocoanut. They complained of the hostile disposition of the Maisina tribe, and showed me the remains of a small village on the Mobiri burned by that sept in one of their incursions a year or two ago.

In the bed of the Kwagira no quartz was noticed, but there are curious gray striped blue and white stones that seem, some of them at least, to be carried from the jade deposits. All the adzes of these people are of jade; they call it sapáru. The occurrence of this article among the Cloudy Bay natives was noticed three or four years ago. It now appears that it is brought across the main range from the Maneáo district.

5. The natives on and near Dako were friendly, some of them going on board the steamer. They brought food for sale, but they are not free from suspicion of Europeans.

6. On the 5th March we reached the anchorage at the mouth of the first river north of the Clyde of the charts. In my despatch, No. 58, of 24th October, 1893, it was stated that observations taken under circumstances that were not quite favourable, had shown the mouth of this river to be in latitude 7 degrees 58 minutes 30 seconds, and thus inside German territory. Renewed observations now give from ten pairs of meridian stars the latitude of 7 degrees 58 minutes 27 seconds. It must, therefore, be accepted, until a mixed commission lays down the boundary, that the lower portion of this river is beyond British jurisdiction. Captain Jones went up it some seven or eight miles, where it was forty or fifty yards wide, and found that it takes a south-west course, which after three or four miles would take it into British territory. There are not a few scattered houses or small groups of houses on it; but there is no large village as far as it was examined. The natives are naked, of a dark bronze colour. They wear the hair in ringlets and remove it from the face. They have ornaments of Job's tears, earrings of turtle shell, and head ruffs of cassowary feathers; while spears of palmwood, gothic-shaped shields nearly

three feet long and covered by cane matwork, and stone clubs constitute their arms. Their canoes are of one piece, well shaped with graceful lines, and are carefully made and well finished, and painted a reddish brown. They have a small outrigger at a large distance from the hull, and are very fast.

When we anchored at the mouth of this river, which they seemed to call Ikore, I was still under the impression that it might be wholly in this Possession, but seeing that the lower three or four miles was not so, it was decided to not examine any further portion of it, as the upper portion could only be reached by travelling overland from the Clyde mouth.

7. On the 7th I went to the mouth of the Mambare River, of which the Clyde is one opening, to land coal for the steam launch and to select a headquarters camp. On returning to the steamer it became known that the Ikore natives, who had in the morning visited our camp in a friendly manner to sell food, had, after the Europeans left, stolen a rifle, a pouch, two blankets, &c., and that several canoes were drawn up at the first bend of the river, apparently with hostile intentions. As that part of the river was beyond our jurisdiction I ordered the immediate withdrawal of those of our party that remained camped on the beach, and the avoidance of any collision with the natives. Next morning we landed at the mouth of the Mambare, some two miles inside our boundary, and began the examination of that river.

The north-west opening of the Mambare, called "The Clyde" on the Admiralty charts, is about a mile and a-half from the principle mouth of that river. After a winding course of about two and a-half miles "The Clyde" brought us into the main channel. The Mambare is about 150 yards wide with a current of from one to two knots in the lower reaches. The first three or four miles lies through low land covered by sago trees, pandanus, breadfruit trees, palms, mangrove, and forest trees. Gardens were met with at less than four miles up; and at about five miles a group of three small villages was reached. The gardens are well cleared and weeded; the cultivation good. They plant taro, sugar-cane, edible hibiscus, yams, and bananas, but they have no tobacco, papaya, nor pumpkin. All those that had been down the river at work in their gardens fled up stream before us, paddling with all their might, some standing others sitting. On reaching the first village they seized spears, shields, and other property, and assembled at the most distant of the three. We landed at the first, about half a mile from the furthest, and put on a pole a piece of turkey red and a plane-iron, making the usual overtures of peace. Several of the men got three or four dry cocoanuts each to offer us, but as we approached all fled except one man, who was accompanied by a youth, apparently his son.

The elder man put his fingers in his ears and performed on the bank a high "pas seul," consisting of three hops to the right and three to the left, to the music of his own voice. This welcome he continued industriously until we passed, breaking off only sufficiently long to pick up a small knife I threw him, while the younger one put some cocoanuts into the water for us. We did not land there. Several recent clearings were passed a few miles above these villages, but the people at work concealed themselves until we passed them, and then came to the bank and shouted to us.

About four miles above the villages there is a ledge of rocks runs half-way across the stream, which might be dangerous to navigation if one did not know of its existence, as its top is below the surface of the water. In the afternoon we were overtaking two or three canoes that were proceeding up the river, apparently on a trading or visiting excursion. Those in the nearest one threw overboard a pig in a cage, shields, claypots, pandanus leaf mats, &c., and paddled for bare life until they found a suitable place into which to draw the canoe.

During the day we passed many fine fields of sago trees, and some good alluvial land, but the banks were not more than three or four feet above the river, which was then considerably flooded.

We pitched camp about a score of miles from the sea, with two or three large clearings in view in front of us. Soon afterwards a number of natives appeared on the bend of the river, about a mile and a-half distant from us, and they were gradually encouraged down to nearly opposite us, when they were visited by the boat, and some mild trading was started. They left on friendly terms, and said they would return in the morning with food for us.

Next day we received an early visit from the owner of the place on which we were encamped, and from the chief of the tribe of the district. Both became very friendly and hospitable, and were very well treated by us. The chief was greatly delighted with a present of a tomahawk. They sold us more food, chiefly taro. We reached their village in the forenoon, but the men we had met down the river had not reached home, so that all those in the village fled as we landed.

At the lower portion of the village they had put a taboo to prevent us from landing. This consisted of long poles stuck into the edge of the bank supporting a string some four or five feet from the ground, with tufts of green grass suspended on it at intervals of three or four yards. This they had not done at the upper portion of the village, where we landed.

There was a considerable grove of cocoanut and betel palms about the village, which contained about thirty houses. The houses are rounded at each end, apparently each large enough for one family. They are covered in down to the ground, so that there is a ground floor, and then a platform on which the people live, about five feet from the ground. In ornamental shrubs they have only crotons, some of which are remarkably fine. On one tree in the village were three human skulls and parts of their skeletons, all of very small size for adult bones; and on a tree close to them were a certain number of pigs' skulls. They had a great many canoes, each able to carry from four to six men. Three or four miles further up we reached another village of a dozen houses. The string and grass taboo had been put up there to prevent us from landing. There was no person in the village, but we saw three men about half a mile up the river. On the right side, opposite the village, there was a piece of shingle beach, on which were some canoes in process of construction, being made under a roof to protect the workers from the sun. We did not enter the village, but tied a small bit of red cloth and a plane-iron to one of the taboo poles. When we had got a quarter of a mile from the village a race was started by the three men we had seen, down the river for the red cloth. A man appeared from near the canoes, who seemed almost certain to beat them, when another stepped out of the "bush" from behind the houses and carried off the prize.

A man followed us up the river, overtaking us by cutting off the bends, and expressed his feelings by alternately dancing and perorating, executing his dance with much grace, holding his lime bottle in one hand and his bag net with pocket gear in the other. A few miles further up we came to a group of small villages, the largest of which had about a dozen houses in a small grove of cocoanut trees. The people had all fled, but we landed and left the usual small present.

The country passed through on the second day was very little higher or drier, and at night we had to camp in a small taro garden, through which water was running in all directions. There were no permanent native settlements. At one point we seemed to pass only four or five miles from the nearest peaks of Mount Victory. There does not appear to be any existing crater there. It has three principal summits, the south-western one of which is at present quiescent. On the other two there are ashy-looking deposits among the rocks, with numerous large fumeroles giving out little spiral clouds of smoke. It seems to closely resemble the little hills described in my despatch, No. 58, of 24th October, 1893, as met with in Seymour Bay. There has not long ago been a thin forest of fair-sized trees on the tops of the mountain, but they are now all dead, and reduced chiefly to dry trunks and stumps. It could be ascended from the west side.

On the 5th three or four native canoes appeared at the bend of the river above us; each contained some four or five men got up for battle. They hesitated on seeing our demonstrations of peace, and a woman who was in one canoe made a man take a pandanus mat and wave it to us in reply to our red flag. On rounding the corner we found a new unfinished village of seven houses. They were built on posts about five feet high, with low side walls and good sago-leaf roofs. Their gardens were young, and the settlement was evidently a recent one. The land all round it was very low, and water ran over the bank from the river and through, below, and between the houses. The most conspicuous objects were two shelter platforms on a tree, at about fifty and sixty feet respectively from the ground. These were reached by an excellent and ingeniously constructed ladder. It consisted of six long canes, each about an inch in diameter. They are arranged in pairs eighteen inches apart. They are attached to tree stumps below, and to branches of the platform tree above, halfway between the two platforms. The canes of each pair cross each other, and a stick about two inches in diameter and four feet long is laid into the three angles formed by the crossing canes; this forms the step. The canes then cross in the opposite direction over the step to form angles for the next stop, and so on. It is therefore really a woven ladder, and one of great strength and very neat, without tyings of any kind save at the ends. The platforms are apparently only a retreat for the spearmen, whence they could with safety to themselves throw their missiles on an enemy sacking the houses.

Most of the people fled up the river in canoes, but a few remained to receive us in the village. They have the small gothic shield covered by woven cane, common to this part of the country, palmwood spears, stone clubs, and adzes of jade. Men and women wear a native cloth. The men have the hair long and hanging down the back. They are of good physique, but many suffer severely from ringworm. They use claypots for cooking, and like all the north-east coast tribes, eat lime and betelnut. "Ena" is the word for peace on this river. Some of them went up stream before us and brought us a few unripe bananas. Food did not seem to be abundant with them. We saw no other village that day, and camped at night in a small taro garden, which was, when we landed, very nearly above water.

On the forenoon of the 6th we met two or three small canoes, but the occupants fled. At noon we reached a small house on the left bank, on dry land, about a foot above water, in a cocoanut grove, and only half a mile from a village of half a score of houses on the right bank. Before lunch was finished about a score of natives were induced to come to us on friendly terms. They brought us cocoanuts, taro, and sugar-cane. They called the river Musa—sometimes Mutscha or Musa Tabota. It is not improbable that "Musa" means "the river." They were fairly strong men, but many suffered from ringworm and hydrocele. When we landed at the village one of them brought us a present of pig skulls. This village has a tree platform, and a palisade at the side of easiest access. A mile further up there is another small village at which we were kindly received in a heavy downpour of rain. They bury their dead in the village and cover the grave with a neatly thatched cage. They wished to sell us jade adzes, claypots, and sago for beads and plane-irons. We had again to camp in a wet taro garden.

Sunday, 8th April, we spent camped in a small taro garden, barely above water. There were clear indications of a native population in the district, but the permanent abodes are no doubt on the dry land near and on the spurs of Mount Victory. This place was in latitude south 9 degrees 16 minutes 9 seconds, and longitude east 148 degrees 52 minutes approximate.

On the 9th some native canoes came up the river after us and seemed very friendly but were shy, probably frightened by the boys shooting the white-crested Goura pigeon, which is very plentiful on the Musa. We could not find any dry land on which to lunch, and had to build a platform to get out of the water. At night we reached our highest camp, about thirty-five miles from the sea. The river was there three fathoms deep and had fallen about three feet below the top of the bank before it was measured. It was about eighty to 100 yards wide, and had a current of from two to three knots. The banks were there beginning to rise, and the channel of the river was only then becoming sufficient to contain all its water. The forest consisted of very large trees. The position of this highest point was latitude south 9 degrees 19 minutes 10 seconds, and longitude east 148 degrees 53 minutes approximate. Our camp was in a large garden, and we were evidently on the margin of the settled country, when we had to turn back. The natives were all friendly as we descended the river, and were anxious to trade with us. On the Musa the people excel in making native cloth, many specimens of which were obtained for the public collection, some with very tasteful designs.

Their pottery is often bowl-shaped, and ornamented by etchings with the edge of a shell. The people were desirous of being on friendly terms with us, but each village seems to be on the alert against a native surprise. Nothing can be said at present as to the value of the upper Musa, but the lower portion seems to be practically worthless.

19. On the 11th I left the mouth of the Musa in the whaleboat, towed by the "Merrie England." Near Porlock Bay we picked up Mr. Moreton and his party. His report of their examination of Mount Victory is annexed hereto. At night we camped on the beach opposite Hardy Island. Here we were visited by probably 200 or 300 friendly natives, the large population occupying the spurs of Mount Trafalgar being now accustomed to our visits. They brought us food and were very keen on trading.

It had been arranged that we should meet the party of Mr. Guise and Mr. Armit at Dako, or in that vicinity, on the 12th April.

I landed at Dako at 2 p.m. of that day and found there three young men from the Maibira district, who had arrived about an hour before me with a note from Mr. Guise to indicate where they were. There could be no better proof than this of the beneficial influence of the party on the natives of that part of the country, for these three young men had come alone, halfway nearly to Maisina, their hereditary enemies, to meet me at Dako, having had no communication with me for nearly six weeks.

Next day the party arrived at Dako, accompanied by a considerable number of natives and two important chiefs. Not only had these natives learned to respect and trust the white man, but they had also been taught the accomplishment of smoking tobacco, formerly unknown to them. The position of the Dako Point was found to be latitude south 9 degrees 33 minutes 10 seconds, and longitude east 149 degrees 25 minutes 56 seconds.

On the 14th the steamer towed the boats to Phillips Harbour, and a party was sent to visit Maisina and to warn them to not interfere with their neighbours in future. It appears that they repudiated the idea of making war on others, but the warning does not seem to have made a deep impression on some of them, as one man stole something from the boat and shook his spear at a constable that went after him. The men of the constabulary have been so frequently admonished to not use their weapons except in case of urgent necessity that this bravo thief was suffered to escape, which very probably would not have been the case had I been there myself. It would have been profitable to Maisina to witness the example then that will surely have to be put before them sooner or later. We were visited at Phillips Harbour by the chief and people of probably all the villages of that neighbourhood. Some very remarkable pottery was obtained at Maisina for the public collection. The pieces are bowl-shaped and have on the outside raised designs, as if a small cord had been half inserted into the clay and left there. This raised form of design is the only example I have seen of relief ornamentation in Papuan pottery.

20. As there had been no dangue fever on the steamer after the 1st April the vessel was well cleansed and fumigated on the 13th and 14th, and was admitted to pratique on the 15th.

Next day we, after touching at Ipote (Cape Vogel), landed Rabuna at his own Paiwa village. People began to assemble at the landing-place as soon as he left the ship for the shore. Before he landed the women began to cry, one of them exclaiming "My son, my son." When he reached the men they cried, and finally Rabuna and his son, who had accompanied him, cried. At first one might have thought they had lost some beloved relative during his absence, but all these tears were expressive of joy and not of sorrow. No doubt this will add greatly to his prestige in the district, but any ascendancy he may have earned will be safe in his hands, for he seems to have become a very respectable and trustworthy man. The Taupota men, who were spoken of very favourably by Mr. Guise, were all landed at home in good health and spirits. A call was made at Wedau to give the Rev. Mr. King some information respecting the recent examination of parts of the Anglican mission field, and to press on him the urgent necessity for expansion in their establishments if they intend to really occupy the north-east coast.

On the following day we reached Samarai and found all well there.

I have, &c.,

To His Excellency Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., Brisbane.

WM. MACGREGOR.

[*Enclosure to Despatch No.* 19.]

British New Guinea,
Dedele, 30th April, 1894.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that, on leaving you at the mouth of the Musa River on the 3rd April, I proceeded, according to instructions, with the whaleboat and a crew of eight boys to Porlock Bay, to have a look at what appeared to us from the steamer a mud river, coming down from between Mount Trafalgar and Mount Victory, and also to see what probability there was of reaching the top of Mount Victory from that side, and to do so if possible. I arrived at Porlock Bay that afternoon, and left the camp on the beach next morning with six of the crew, heading inland about south-east. The country at first passed over is perfectly flat for some two or three miles and covered with sand. A thick growth of long reedy grass covers this flat, intersected with open spaces and with dead trees here and there. At one spot there had been a cocoanut grove, but the trees were all killed. We followed up a shallow stream, the water just covering the sand for some yards wide—very heavy work from the number of quicksands. We then tried the grass ridges, hoping to make a short cut across a bend of the stream, but were glad to get back to the bed of the stream. The soil on these ridges was good and wallabies numerous. Next day we followed up the stream, which rapidly assumed the aspect of a torrent averaging some ten yards wide. This had to be crossed and recrossed numerous times, and that with great difficulty. This day the dry bed of the stream, I should say, averaged over 300 yards wide, and was composed of sand, shingle, and boulders. Specimens of these I have forwarded to Mr. Jack, Government Geologist. About one mile above our camp was an island of one and a-half miles long. We camped in the evening some six miles in a straight line from the boat. During the night we had heavy rain, so that in the morning the torrent was so swollen, and what with a touch of fever, I remained in camp. On the following day we continued up the bed for something over a mile; here the bed narrowed considerably. A branch coming in on our right from Mount Victory we followed, intending to get on to the spur further on, but we were soon blocked by a waterfall. We tried to climb on to the ridge here, but it was so steep that we only got part of the way up and had to return. We then got on to the spur from nearer the junction previously mentioned, but after going some distance were again blocked in same manner. I then tried the main branch, which soon narrowed into a gorge terminating in a waterfall some forty feet high bringing down nearly as much gravel and sand as water. I sent a boy up a shelving rock to see what prospect there was of tackling Mount Victory in that direction, but he reported "No good." Some hundred yards below this there was a hot-water stream coming out of the bank on the Mount Victory side, in which was a black fungus with a yellow covering; some of this I have also sent down. Finding the impossibility of getting up in this direction, we retraced our steps to the old camp intending to try the spur at the back, and up which we started next morning. This spur we could see was practicable for a good distance up, but impracticable further on, and therefore instead of wasting time and energy on an impossibility, I returned to camp, and started back for the boat, having really done nothing except picking up a few geological specimens and satisfying myself that to attempt the ascent of Mount Victory in future I should try the western side, although there is a spur leading down to the creek some miles below our camp which might possibly be of use.

We had wet weather throughout, and only saw the tops on the morning of the 8th, when there appeared to be more steam coming out, and from more places than I had previously seen from a distance. I washed several dishes of dirt from different gullies, but could not raise a colour of gold.

I have, &c.,

His Honour Sir Wm. Macgregor, M.D., K.C.M.G., Port Moresby.

M. H. MORETON.