Your Excellency has already held responsible positions in other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, and we congratulate you upon the honour which has been conferred on you in being appointed as Representative of Her Majesty in this country. We assure you that we regard this appointment with great satisfaction, and trust our support may be of constant service to you in the discharge of the arduous duties which your position entails.

Trusting it may please Your Excellency to accept our address of welcome,

We have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

A. H. BUNTING
A. ALVAREZ
R. F. WHITTEN
CHAS. WM. ABEL
} Committee representing the residents of Samarai.

To His Excellency the Hon. G. R. Le Hunte, Governor of British New Guinea.

[*Enclosure No. 2 in Despatch No. 30, of 24th April,* 1899.]

Samarai, 21st April, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,—The pleasure to me of my first visit to Samarai has been very greatly enhanced by the kind welcome you have accorded to me, and by the terms of the address which you have done me the honour to present to me.

I am deeply sensible of the responsibility of the duties which devolve upon me in administering the Government of this large, and at present but little known, country; and I am in the same measure grateful to you for your assurances of loyal support in the work in which everyone of us has his part. By patient but persistent efforts towards progress, by mutual support and encouragement, by straightforward, just, and considerate treatment of the natives, who as yet are savage and ignorant of the ways and intentions of white men, you will, with the blessing of God, see the development of this great country, of which you, gentlemen, are pioneers, grow under your hands steadily, if perhaps more slowly than in more favourably situated colonies. Even now your trade returns show a tangible result of enterprise, and encouraging prospect for the future. I feel it a great honour and compliment to have been called to take this position among you, and share in your labours. You have been kind enough to refer to my past services. If they have had any success, it is due to the help and encouragement I have always found accorded to me by those with whom and for whom I have worked, and my responsibilities and duties will sit lightly on me when I can feel assured, as I do here, of the same good relations and feelings between us.

If material encouragement were needed, I have only to turn my eyes to this beautiful little settlement, where the forethought and energy of my remarkable and distinguished predecessor, Sir William MacGregor (to whom this country in particular is so greatly indebted), has wrought such a change, adding beauty to nature, and health to civilization. I am afraid that even our little centre of government—Port Moresby—must yield the first and brightest place to Samarai, and I shall always look forward to coming here whenever my far-ranging course will allow me.

I have to thank you again for your kind welcome, and to assure you of my earnest desire to further in every way in my power the peace, security, and development of this important outpost of the British Empire, of which your present home forms so bright and pleasing a part.

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE.

APPENDIX E.

DESPATCH FROM THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR REPORTING VISIT OF INSPECTION TO CERTAIN PLACES ON THE NORTH-EAST COAST OF THE POSSESSION.

British New Guinea, 16th May, 1899.

No. 31.]

MY LORD,—In continuation of my Despatch No. 30 of 23rd April, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I left Samarai at 3 a.m. on Monday, 24th April for the North-East Coast.

TAUPOTU.

2. On that day I called at the mission station at Taupotu, where I saw Mr. Clark, a layman in charge of the station, and his school children and native teacher Peter Mussen, of Erromango in the New Hebrides. I took Dr. Blayney with me and he was of use to Mr. Clark, who was not well.

TOPOURA.

3. Proceeding north, I landed at Mr. Kennedy's place, Togo, near the village of Topoura. Mr. Kennedy was formerly attached to the Anglican Mission, but is now representing a syndicate of Manchester and Liverpool gentlemen. He has applied for a block of land here, and is beginning to plant cocoanuts on the Ceylon method. His nurseries were beautiful, and those planted out looked very healthy. The soil is evidently very good. The nature of the coast hereabout changes completely. Steep grass-covered hills, cut up and intersected by innumerable valleys and ravines with precipitous sides, and gullies with waterfalls, the heads of the mountains being covered with bush, amongst which are numerous clearings for gardens. In some places, as about Cape Frere, these grass ridges fall very precipitously into very deep water; in other places the shore has rich grass flats. The grass is the thick heavy spear grass, which is the curse of this country as far as the comfort of persons wearing European clothes is concerned, and it kills sheep. Cattle, however, do well on it. Mr. Kennedy informed me that the natives will not use the grass land for planting, as it takes more labour to keep the grass down than to clear off the bush, and they now go long distances to find planting ground in the forest. The denuding of the hills of timber has evidently been going on for a long time, and will, as elsewhere, eventually produce bad results, diminishing the natural supply of moisture to the soil.

WEDAU.

4. We arrived in the afternoon at Wedau, the headquarters of the Anglican Mission, where I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Bishop Stone-Wigg and the Rev. Copland King, and three lady workers with them, Miss Sully, Miss McLaughlin, who has charge of the school, and Miss Thompson, who nurses the children. We were very kindly received by the Bishop and his students.

An address of which I enclose copy was presented to me, and "God Save the Queen" was sung by the students. I was very concerned to find the Bishop far from well, patiently suffering from a slight touch of the sun, which had affected the facial nerve and one of his eyes, and also from a painful boil on his leg. I need hardly tell Your Excellency, as one who knows the Bishop, that he did not allow these to interfere with his work or his kind attention to us. We afterwards saw the children in school, between forty and fifty boys and girls, heard them read, sing (the tonic sol-fa system), and do arithmetic. Two boys had got as far as algebra and geography. I examined their copy and exercise books, and found them a pattern of neatness, clearness, and accuracy in writing. After they were dismissed we had the satisfaction of seeing the boys play football with the real genuine instincts for the game; they are extremely fond of it.

5. After evening native service with the Bishop and his little flock in the pretty chapel which forms part of the building, we embarked, and at 2 a.m. left for Porlock Harbour. I was very pleased that Dr. Blayney allowed the Bishop to form one of our party to the Mambare.

MUKAWA.

6. We sent a mail ashore at Mukawa as we passed Cape Vogel, where the new station of the mission is nearly completed.

7. We passed the "Ivanhoe" (a brigantine) becalmed on her way to the Mambare with the new lot of miners.

PORLOCK BAY.

8. We anchored that afternoon in Porlock Bay and landed. There are no native villages here, but we saw traces of natives. The greater part of the shore of the bay is a network of lagoons, where we got some shooting. We saw the white or "Burdekin" duck, white pigeon, spurwinged plover, curlew, sandpipers, and a handsome blue waterhen with scarlet beak. Corporal Gera, coxswain of my boat, shot two fine wallaby with his rifle, and another was shot by one of the other boat's crew. They are excellent eating, especially as a variety to tinned meats. The scenery on the lagoons is very picturesque, clumps of trees dotted about on islets, and in the background the two high mountains, Mount Victory (a still smoking volcano) and Mount Trafalgar.

MAMBARE.—TRAITOR'S BAY.

9. The next morning we proceeded to the Mambare, passing the Mitre Rock at noon, and came to anchor in Traitors' Bay, off the westernmost mouth of the river. I landed and inspected the detachment of armed native constabulary, a lance-corporal and four men, and the Government storehouse, which with a couple of huts are the only habitations on the shores of the bay, which are low and wooded.

DUWIRA.

We visited the village of Duwira, a short distance inland on the other side of a creek which we crossed in a canoe. We found Busimaiwa (or Bushimai as he is commonly called by Europeans) the chief. He is a very powerfully made man. Your Excellency will remember that in 1897, after being arrested with eight of his men on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of Mr. Green, the Government agent of the district, and taken to Port Moresby, where they were imprisoned, he and his men made their escape, crossed the great Main Range, and made their way across the island back here—losing two of their number, from starvation, on the way. They were all, however, rearrested within a very short time—a circumstance which impressed them strongly with the power of the Government. They were subsequently released for want of evidence, and have ever since been loyal to the Government. Bushimai has just built himself a new house of native material after the more civilized fashion he has seen elsewhere, raised on piles, and with verandas on two sides. The houses here are the worst I have seen yet—small, low, and not raised on piles. The natives are of a darker colour and stronger physique than to the eastward. They look like fighting men.

10. A complaint was made to me that a native from the Gira River, who had come over there, had been arrested by the police, and was in custody. On my return to the bay I found that a young lad had been made a prisoner in consequence of an order which the corporal said he had received to arrest any native from the Gira. As there was evidently some mistake about this, I directed him to be taken up with us to Tamata Station on the following day.

11. We left next morning in two whale boats in tow of the small steam launch, with Captain Harvey as pilot, and proceeded up the river, which was moderately full. We noticed large hornbills, pigeons, starlings, which make pendent nests in colonies among the branches of high trees; kingfishers, two of a brilliant blue colour, and one—a very small one—of a deep violet; and a handsome fish-hawk, with creamy white head and breast and a rich chestnut back. We also saw at several places along the bank of the river the beautiful scarlet creeping plant which has been named after Signor D'Albertis.

12. We met Mr. Clunas in his boat paddling down the river. He said everything was quiet up the river, but that Nelson, the engineer of the large launch the "Ruby," was lying very ill at the station, and the launch in consequence laid up.

13. We camped for the night in a native garden on the right bank. The mosquitoes were very numerous. Fortunately the night was fine.

APOCHI AND UMI.

14. We left next morning, and stopped at Apochi village (chief Mamboda) and at Umi village, where we found the men dancing in honour of the return of Amurapi, their old chief, whom we brought back to his home after having been detained in custody at Port Moresby for some months on suspicion of being concerned in Mr. Green's murder. He gave evidence at the trial held at Daru reported in my Despatch No. 25 of 11th April. As we had passed up the river natives at several points had recognised him in the boat, and

manifested their joy at seeing him back. He was conducted to his house by his people, and taking his seat and his lime gourd, which I noticed was placed ready to his hand, began to chew his betel-nut without any outward sign of emotion. His old wife, dressed in a double breastplate of beads, then climbed up to his platform, and their meeting was very affecting. At Apochi village a complaint was made of the action of the village constable of Umi, in levying blackmail. On inquiry at Umi, we found that the natives of Apochi had stolen a tomahawk from a European. The village constable of Umi had acted promptly, mulcted the offender in a large fine of sago, consumed the sago himself, and caused the hatchet to be restored to the white man. He was directed to restore an equivalent quantity of sago to the Apochi man for his error in having converted the fruits of his office to his own uses.

15. I was very pleased to notice here, and elsewhere, the friendly greetings which Captain Butterworth received from the natives on the river, with whom he had so much trouble before. Dr. Blayney, too, whenever he was recognised by anyone who had been a prisoner at Port Moresby, was saluted in a very friendly way. I took the opportunity, whenever it occurred, of commending the Bishop (and his ministers, whenever they should come) to the good-will and care of the people, and also encouraged them to help the white men passing on the river. I heard no complaints of any wrong or ill-treatment by the whites. The natives are evidently coming back to the river, and are planting and building along its banks, especially on the upper part, nearer to the station. While we were at Umi village, Captain Harvey went back to tow up a boatload of miners whom we had passed a short distance below. They had, I heard, been three weeks on the beach at the bay, waiting for a chance to get up the river.

TAMATA.

16. We arrived at Tamata Station about noon, and were hospitably received by Mr. Armit, Acting Magistrate and Gold Warden for the district. I found Nelson, the engineer of the "Ruby" launch, lying in the house, which was used as a hospital, evidently very ill from malarial fever and pleurisy. I had brought Dr. Blayney with me in order to give any sick miners or others here the benefit of his skill and treatment, and more especially to advise me from from his own personal observation, as he had not been here before, on the difficult question of procuring proper medical assistance for the increasing mining population who so much require it. I was very sorry to hear of the continuous high mortality amongst them out on the "field." The country over which they are scattered looking for gold is two days' walk through the bush from this station. I was informed that five deaths had occurred in the previous week, and news of another had just been brought in. One man here was suffering terribly from a diseased hand the result of an old wound. Necrosis of the bones had set in, and the case was beyond the skill of Mr. Armit, who has some practical knowledge of medicine. Dr. Blayney desired to remove both Nelson and this man to the "Merrie England." Anticipating the possibility of the launch being laid up, Mr. Robertson, the chief engineer of the steamer, had come up with Captain Harvey, and as she requires repairs which cannot be effected on the spot, it was decided to take her with us to Samarai.

17. In the afternoon I had a meeting of the storekeepers and miners then at the station, some fifteen or more, who had sent me a petition asking for certain facilities, and discussed the several questions with them.

The first one was that of roads to the field. The present road is a narrow bush track over which it is not yet practicable to use pack-horses or mules, and almost impossible even to carry a sick man. I promised to do what I could to improve it with such means as Mr. Armit could utilise. There is no doubt that a main road over which pack animals can travel should be opened up in the general direction of the field, leaving the prospectors and diggers to cut branch tracks to the various workings which, being alluvial, are only temporary, although I was informed there are likely to be miners on the field for several years to come. If a good reef is discovered it would be right to make a road to it. The great difficulty is the labour to make it. The local natives, as is usually the case, do not care, and have no necessity to work for any time; the mortality amongst those imported from the Eastern Division has been so great that the place has a bad name amongst them. The best men, and those who seem to do well now there, are from the far West of the Colony, the Fly Estuary; but the cost of getting them to the Mambare is very serious. Prison labour is not available. The question is a difficult one, but of great importance to the development of the country as well as to the health and lives of those who are occupied in it. I shall do my utmost to solve it, and I am sure I can rely on Your Excellency's support, and that of the Governments of the colonies who are sending their men and reaping the direct benefit of the result, for the gold all goes to them, and is spent in their markets—not ours.

18. The next question was that of leaving the "Ruby" launch on the river until private launches, which are expected before long, are available. I informed them that I was quite willing to do so subject to my requiring her services for any Government work at any other part of the colony, as for example, for my expedition up the Fly River, which I hope to undertake during the next north-west season (at the end of the year), and for which she would be absolutely necessary. I was very anxious, if possible, to leave our small launch on the river to take the place of the "Ruby" while she is away at Samarai, for it will be necessary to get another engineer for her from Australia; but I found it was not possible, although both the captain and chief engineer gave me every assistance in the matter. The only man of the engine-room staff available is the present driver of the small launch, but he did not feel himself competent to undertake the charge of her away from supervision and assistance. If he had I should have left him, and I explained this to the miners, who said they quite understood it.

19. The next point was that of the labour law, which they asked should be altered to meet "the special requirements of the district." This, I found, meant the introduction of corporal punishment for runaway carriers. I at once informed them that there was no use discussing that subject, for I would not entertain it. There is no doubt that the men suffer great hardship and loss, both from want of carriage and from carriers running away, from fear, homesickness, or the unknown reasons which affect the minds of these natives brought for the first time into contact with Europeans, and work to which they are not accustomed, and sickness from which they do not suffer at their homes. The labour is burdensome and new, and it will only be by gradual degrees that they will get accustomed to it, and furnish reliable work. I think, however, that the maximum punishment of fourteen days' imprisonment, to which they are liable, is very slight; and as the time they are away is counted as part of their contract

period, it falls heavily on the employers—usually the storekeepers—who have been put to considerable expense in procuring them. I promised to consider this point when the law is before the Legislative Council for any other amendments. The practice is for the storekeepers to keep a supply of carriers and send them up with the diggers to the fields carrying their baggage. I was assured that they were never kept to work in the field when they got up there, as I had heard had happened. I heard of no case of carriers deserting from ill-treatment, and many of them are beginning to re-engage. I saw some of them starting for their journey to the fields. It takes them a day and a-half to get there, a day to come back, and they have a day's spell. They carry about forty pounds load on their back. Their pay is ten shillings a month, in trade or cash at their option, and the present usual period of engagement is three or six months. The boys I saw were from the Eastern Islands; they seemed well and happy.

20. I am very anxious to materially assist the miners here. I have never had any experience of them before. I believe they have faults like other men, and I am told they sometimes grumble and rather expect to have everything done for them. I can only say that I found them perfectly civil, reasonable, and straightforward. We understood each others' difficulties. Their faces and features told more than words can express of the severe strain on a European constitution which the climate and privations of the district entail on those who from force of circumstances, duty, or their own will, have to face it. I shall appeal to Your Excellency and your Government and its powerful colleagues, when the proper time comes, to support me in trying to save the lives and ameliorate the condition of those who have to live there, when I submit my proposals for establishing and maintaining proper means of affording them medical relief and effective administration. The present means—as good as was practicable—are not sufficient or effective.

21. Another request that was made to me in the petition was to have the present settlement declared a township. I could not deal with this without reference to the Government Surveyor.

20. I afterwards inspected the armed native constabulary quarters, and the detachment of sixteen men under the sergeant stationed here. Sergeant Tom has been six years in the force and done good service. He has a small but very tidy house for himself and his wife, a new comer from Pari, a village near Port Moresby.

23. I inspected the gaol, where there were a few prisoners awaiting trial, and a wild-looking lad from the Upper Ope River, who had been arrested as a spy in the camp when a premeditated attack on it by the natives of that part was apprehended. I directed his release, and told him to tell his people that they might come over at any time unarmed without fear of molestation, but not to make fools of themselves by talking of fighting. I also directed the release from detention of the Gira lad I have mentioned in paragraph 10 above. He returned with us very happy in the boat to the ship next day.

24. I visited the so-called hospital, a native building, where Nelson was lying under the care of a resident, Mr. Rohn. This had been supported at first by the earnings of the "Ruby," then by voluntary contributions, which, however, failed, and the hospital was now closed for want of funds. I was sorry to hear that some of the miners who had been successful, and had recently passed through with rich results, had not been willing to contribute any portion of it to the relief of their sick comrades, or neighbours as distinguished from mates. I have asked Dr. Blayney to give me his recommendation as to the establishment of a hospital here or on the field, under the charge of a qualified medical officer. It is imperative that one or the other be provided.

25. I was much pleased with the work done about the station by Mr. Elliott, who has been acting as outdoor officer under Mr. Armit. He is a man of energy and experience amongst miners. He is at present only temporarily employed by the Government.

26. His Honour Judge Winter tried the cases which were for hearing that night, so that we might return the next day. I found that I should gain no material advantage by going on, as I had first intended to, to the country where the miners are working, for they are so scattered that it would take a considerable time to visit any number of them, and they had signed the petition to me, and were sufficiently represented by those of their comrades who had interviewed me.

27. The next morning early I paid a visit to the miners' village which adjoins the Government station. Their houses, which are built all of native materials, are clustered thickly together on a little knoll overlooking the creek leading on to a flat, which has been partially cleared and planted with grass by Mr. Whitten, one of the storekeepers. Mr. Whitten had applied for a freehold of the land occupied by him, but the Government had decided only to give him a lease of it; he has appealed for a reconsideration of the decision on the ground that he was practically promised a freehold, and had spent a considerable sum on the land. He asked for a freehold of the land, including part of the flat, and a lease of the lot in the village occupied by him. I visited the land with him, and told him I would refer his appeal to the Executive Council. I must confess that the sanitary condition of the vicinity of the miners' village filled me with dismay, and the more so as drinking and cooking water is taken by the native servants in the village and in the Government station from the creek immediately below the village. One of the first Administration Acts should be the enforcement of some proper sanitary regulation. I directed Mr. Armit to requisition for four 200-gallon tanks for the station: the only way of catching the water was in only old rusty biscuit tins.

28. We left at 10 o'clock with two launches and three boats. I gave Mr. Whitten the opportunity, of which he was glad to avail himself, of sending some time-expired contract boys back to Bartle Bay by us. We reached the mouth of the river at 4·30, and were on board the "Merrie England" by 5 p.m.

29. We found the "Ivanhoe" at anchor there; she had come in that morning and was landing her passengers—thirty-six miners—on the beach. I consulted Captain Harvey and Mr. Robertson, the chief engineer, as to the possibility of assisting them by sending the "Ruby" back to Tamata Station with them, and both officers immediately volunteered to go back with the "Ruby" next morning. I went on board the "Ivanhoe" and saw Captain Steele, and then met the miners on shore. They were very grateful for the chance of getting up without any detention—certainly for several days—amongst the mosquitoes and sandflies on the unhealthy beach. They paid their "miners' rights" to Mr. Armit, and arranged with Captain Harvey for their passage in the launch, and next morning I had the satisfaction of seeing the "Ruby," with four heavy boats in tow, steam away to the mouth of the river.

We spent that day (Sunday) quietly, and had the pleasure of the company of Captain Steele, of the "Ivanhoe," and two of his daughters. The Bishop held service on board, at which Bushimai was present with the constabulary.

GIRA RIVER.

30. The next morning, accompanied by Captain Barton, I went in the steam launch to the mouth of the Gira or Ikore River, which enters the sea at the north-west point of this bay in German territory. It appears to be a narrow stream some sixty or seventy yards wide—it may have been eighty at the mouth—with an evidently often impassable bar.. It was a perfectly calm day, and the wind off shore and the breakers were in continuous lines for some distance out to seaward. It has been proposed to make the navigation of this river free to both nations in exchange for an alteration of the present purely arbitrary boundary, from a magnetic point marked on a tree on the beach to the river bank, which is a natural boundary a few hundred yards further on, and which would entail on the other Power the present to us of a few hundred square acres of uninhabitable timber-covered swamp. In my opinion, any officer sent by either Power to examine the spot would not hesitate to recommend that the river mouth be made the boundary without any question of an equivalent exchange. If one is necessary the "free navigation" of the river is of equal value to the territory involved.

MITRE ROCK.—DOUGLAS HARBOUR.

31. From the Gira Mouth we returned to the ship (finding Dr. Blayney in the act of successfully amputating the hand of the sick miner), and picking up two boats we steamed to the Mitre Rock, which stands up so curiously out of the sea about three-quarters of a mile from the shore, where we were able to land, finding it low water and the sea quite calm, and from there to Douglas Harbour, an excellent little anchorage just to the southward of Cape Ward Hunt. In the evening on our return one party turned in shore to shoot pigeons, while the rest of us in the other boat went on with the launch. Very shortly after, one of the boiler tubes gave out, and the boat had to tow the launch for two and a half hours—almost the whole way to the ship—before it was plugged and steam could be got up again. As soon as we reached the ship, as it was past 8 p.m., and a dark rainy night, I sent the launch off to look for the second boat, with which she shortly returned.

32. The following day, 2nd May, we spent at anchor waiting for Captain Harvey's return. Captain Barton and I went shooting along the south side of the bay, striking in occasionally from the beach. After passing through a belt of thick bush we came to more open flat country covered with thick long grass and plentifully timbered. We found a large clearing for native gardens, and then came to a creek and low swampy ground. A cutter from Samarai with twelve miners had come in during the day, and on our return we met some of them. They told us that 50 more were coming to Samarai in the s.s. "Moresby." From what they told Captain Barton, I am afraid that some of the Australian newspapers have been giving too alluring accounts of the gold digging on the Mambare, and I fear that unless a large supply of provisions accompanies the new comers, there may be a serious want of means of subsistence. There are already between 150 and 200 men on the field, and within the next month or so, from all accounts, that number will probably rise to 300. I noticed a large proportion of elderly men amongst those I had seen.

33. Captain Harvey had returned at 2·30 p.m. with the "Ruby" and three boats in tow, but he thought it would be too late, by the time steam was up and the ship ready, to sail that evening, and we therefore did not leave until 4 a.m. on the 3rd. I intended to visit the Musa River, and hoped to find Dr. Cecil Vaughan, who is representing a Sydney syndicate and is going to take up a block of land for planting indiarubber. There was a young woman at Tamata who had been taken from Oro Bay (between the Kumusi and the Musa) under the following circumstances: In December last Mr. Elliott was sent with the "Ruby" launch and a boat along the coast to search for runaway carriers from the Mambare. He went as far east as Cape Nelson, and on his way back, being short of food for his police, he sent them ashore to a village in Oro Bay to procure some. They were received with a shower of spears, on which they fired a volley and rushed the village, but only captured this girl whom they brought to Mr. Elliott, and she was then taken away to the Mambare, a proceeding which, without prejudging Mr. Elliott's reasons which I am not yet acquainted with, seems to me very questionable; for however good his motives may have been, her own people will have placed but one construction on it, and it was very likely to lead to trouble with the next European who might visit them without a sufficient force to protect him. The natives of this district have been visited but seldom and have the name of being wild and intractable, or at least difficult to deal with. I therefore readily adopted a suggestion of Judge Winter that we should visit the place and return the girl ourselves. An unexpected difficulty, however, arose—we could not find the place she came from. We ran past Oro Bay, a small inlet to the north of Dyke Acland Bay, and between Cape Sudest and Ketakerua Bay, and then turned north again, as she said that she did not belong to any of the Oro Bay villages, but apparently from some place to the west of that place, and she was evidently afraid of being landed there. As the evening fell and the water was very shallow and unsafe, I decided to go back to Oro Bay, go on to the Musa, and try again on our return to Traitors' Bay, as Mr. Armitt was returning to the Mambare after our visit to the Musa, and we had to pick up the "Ruby," which had been left at anchor there, for we were going to tow her to Samarai for repairs. We got back to Oro Bay, but it was too late to land and visit the village. It was here that Dr. Loria, an Italian naturalist, in 1890, took away, without asking the owners, a number of specimens and curios, and opened graves. Sir William MacGregor visited the place as soon after as possible, and returned such of the property as Dr. Loria disgorged—not all he had taken; but the report shows that it was very doubtful if it was returned to the exact place from which it had been taken, and he found it practically impossible to make the action of the Government understood to the people. They were very suspicious, and inclined to be hostile, and there has been practically no direct intercourse with them since. I must take the first opportunity I can of visiting the place again and communicating with them.

34. We left at 3 a.m. next morning, and anchored off the mouth of the Musa River at 6 o'clock. At 8·30 we left the ship with Captain Harvey in the launch, and two boats in tow with the whole of our party except Dr. Blayney, who stayed to see after his amputation case and the other patients. We found the river moderately full. After a little difficulty in crossing the shoals on the bar, we steamed up without further hindrance, as the river-bed is much freer from snags than the Mambare. There is a little

wooden hut with a galvanised roof erected on piles on a point at one of the mouths, which Dr. Vaughan uses as a landing store. Its position seemed to be somewhat precarious, as the point appears to be washing away. Judge Winter said that the mouth had altered so since he was here last that he would not have recognised it.

35. We noticed at the mouth great numbers of flying foxes, and on our way up hornbills, black cockatoos as well as white ones, bee-eaters—a very pretty variety with green back, brown-breasted, and long tails; the long-tail dove—a rare bird; white cranes and the red or "Nankeen" crane; the great crested goura pigeon. The scarlet D'Albertis creeper was common. We camped in the rain on the left bank in low muddy ground about twenty miles up.

36. On the morning of the 5th we proceeded and passed the site of a deserted village with the remains of a tree platform on a high tree on the right bank. Your Excellency will recollect how, in August, 1895, Sir William MacGregor when on the river met a large invading force of cannibals. There is no doubt that they came from Cape Nelson on the north of Collingwood Bay. They passed him going up stream and he met them coming down again loaded with the bodies, some cooked and cut up, some still whole, of men, women, and children, whom they had massacred. I think it very probable that the victims were surprised in the village I mention; it must have been depopulated. We passed the Totore Creek running into the river from the eastward, and shortly after came to Kivosi village on the right bank with two very picturesque tree houses, one about ninety feet high with the ladder in good order; that of the other was broken off high up. They were on separate trees. There were about half-a-dozen houses in the village, and a palisade fence on the land side. We had passed canoes with men in them some distance below coming from their gardens, who had made friendly signs to us to go on and they would follow. When we got to the village there were only three or four women, who after making signs to us to go on—we landed—fled. We left a turkey-red handkerchief tied to a pole in the village and went on our way. We were now about thirty miles up, and were much surprised to see no signs of Dr. Vaughan's settlement, as his engagement with the Government was to take land within twenty miles up stream, and we heard he was about twenty-four. We had passed a native in a canoe who said that he came from Dove village a long way further up. We could not distinctly understand from him, for want of an interpreter, where Dr. Vaughan was.

37. We then passed a very sharp and narrow bend in the river through which the current was running with great force, and immediately above this the injured boiler-tube of the launch gave way again, and she had to cast us adrift. We had only one boat, as Mr. Murray had gone down stream from our camping place of last night with the other, shooting; and we found it impossible to make headway with one boat heavily laden now with the rest of the party and their gear.

38. Just at this point we came across a man in a canoe and tried to obtain from him information about Dr. Vaughan's whereabouts, but we did not make out whether he understood us or not. We gave him a piece of turkey-red, and turned at 12·45 in a reach with some native huts in sight on the right bank, but some way above us. We left the launch behind to repair her tube and proceeded down the river. We saw the women running from Kivosi village before we passed it, and therefore did not stop again then as the men had not yet got up to it. We stopped at the mouth of the Totore Creek, and while the boys boiled some water we pulled some way up it until we were stopped by a fallen log across the channel. It is a small narrow stream about 30 feet wide, with a considerable current; the water was muddy; it probably comes from some lagoon between the main river and the foot of Mount Victory. Captain Butterworth found a native track from the mouth of the creek, well used, probably leading to gardens. As we left the creek the launch came by, and taking the boat in tow we proceeded down the river, hoping to get out before it was too dark. Our average speed going up was about two or two and a-half knots an hour, and coming down about six or seven. The river had fallen about fifteen inches since we entered it. Captain Harvey informed me that as we passed Kivosi village the man to whom we had given the turkey-red had brought a bunch of bananas for us, so he landed and found the women and children there and gave them some tobacco. He made out from them that Dr. Vaughan's place was some way higher up the river than where we turned.

39. It got dark before we reached the mouth, and a very heavy rain-squall coming on just at the wrong moment we found that we could not safely get the launch over the bar; so we left her, anchored out of reach of snags, at the outer end of an island, and reached the ship in the boat about 8 p.m. Mr. Murray and his boat had returned to her before. The next morning, before we sailed, I went ashore and left a note for Dr. Vaughan, in the store-house on the point, telling him of my attempt to get to his place, and asking for more information about its exact position.

40. We proceeded again towards Cape Sudest, and the woman recognised her home at a village called Buna, in Gona Bay. I at last discovered that she had been only on a visit to the village in Oro Bay when the collision with Mr. Elliott's police took place. I took only one boat, so as to avoid an unnecessarily large party, and we landed with her at a village, which we found completely deserted by men, women, and children. We had seen men hurrying away, with spears in their hands, before we ever left the ship. From this we went on a short way to a larger village—they almost join. This one consisted of about twenty small but well-built houses, raised from the ground, some particularly neat and tidy, and the rubbish, &c., was swept away into heaps on the outskirts. The villagers had left the place "all standing," to use a sea phrase. The half-eaten taro, the shell-fish in the bowl, the comb dropped in the skein of raw fibre, the fishing-net with the shuttle in the loop of the last new row, the child's unfinished castle on the sand, surmounted by a sea-battered, much-treasured butter-tin—all draw the picture of the sudden flight of alarmed surprise. The only living creature in the place was a very diminutive pig, which attached itself to us with a feeling of security which its owners had not shared. Captain Butterworth—to whose experience and tact the credit of our success is due—with the woman and his native servant as escort, and carrying a piece of turkey-red over his arm as a signal of peace, went off into the bush to try and get into communication with some of the natives; and we remained in the village, examining the houses but disturbing nothing. We found one or two spears left in the thatch outside, so as to be ready to hand. They were long, sharp-pointed, and slightly carved, of the heart of a palm-tree; shields made of very tightly plaited strips of pandanus-leaf, and formed in the shape of a mediæval window—narrow and lancet-shaped. In one house we saw a piece of native cloth prettily marked with designs which might represent butterflies. I saw a pretty oval bowl made of pottery, with a pattern round the edge. Their canoes were long and well-built, with long, sharp-pointed ends.

41. After some time Captain Butterworth reappeared at a short distance with two men, and called to me to come forward by myself, which I did, and the men advanced towards me calling out "Orokaiwa" (peace) and holding out their hands. I did the same, and we were soon on good terms, and we all then joined the rest of the party. One of the men had a peculiar face, somewhat like the illustrations I have seen of the typical Red Indian of North America. He wore his hair in long twisted locks on one side of the head.

They at once began to get cocoanuts for us, and eventually some more men appeared by ones and twos, but they were evidently very nervous, and would not advance till I had gone up to them and shaken hands. They were all, however, most friendly. They were fine strong men who had the look of fighting about them. We made them presents, and at Captain Butterworth's suggestion I gave a special one—a tomahawk—to the man who had been the first to come in. All were rejoiced to see the girl we brought back. The scene of the meeting with her husband was most touching. He had been out in his garden, and they had sent for him. He appeared on the far side of a small creek which crossed the beach and formed the outlet of a stream which ran behind the village. When he caught sight of her he hastened through the water, while I noticed she slipped a long net bag in which she had her new possessions—calico, biscuits, &c.—over her forehead, letting it hang behind her, and went to greet him. Their meeting was one of unaffected joy. The husband was actually in mourning for her; with glistening eyes, and grasping my hand, he showed me the grey seed necklace he was wearing, and the jacket worked with Job's tears (worn by widowers), which he was carrying under his arm, and patting her shoulder made me understand that he did not want them now. Many others came up and saluted her with evident affection, and so we left them trooping off arm-in-arm to the village to call their wives and children together, for they had not ventured to come back while we were there to hear the wonderful story of their lost one's adventures and return. We left on most cordial and friendly relations with everyone, and promised to return some time. Our little friend, the pig, swam bravely off to our boat with the first of the party who was carried on board, but got rebuked by one of his owners for his pains; upon which he trotted off to the village in a very decided huff.

42. I have described this episode in some detail for two reasons—firstly, because it afforded us all the greatest interest and pleasure; and secondly, because it shows how a fresh little link has been forged in the chain which will bind this far away people to Her Majesty's Throne; and it is by touches such as this that the links that are strongest and safest are welded. I have little doubt that the woman's experience of the care and comfort of civilisation—for she lived with the neat and bright young wife of the sergeant in charge of the Tamata constabulary, and was herself a very well-manuered and well-conducted girl—will have its good effect in her home life, and though she may exchange her red calico for her native made "rami," and probably did, before we were many miles away, the influence for good and peace will remain. Mr. Armit, the Resident Magistrate, who had accompanied me from the Mambare, will soon visit the place again. It is probable that it was never visited before by white men, unless Sir William MacGregor touched there in his boat going up this coast, but there is no sign of it on the charts. My only regret was that it was not the place where the conflict with Mr. Elliott's police had occurred, and from which the woman had been taken in the first instance; but that will be an object for future attention on my next visit to this part of the Colony.

Ope River.

43. That evening we anchored off the mouth of the Ope River, and the next day, Sunday, 7th May, we decided to go up it while the steamer went to the Mambare; left Mr. Armit, and brought away the "Ruby." We took two boats and proceeded to the mouth of the river, where we were met by a number of most friendly natives, waving branches and shouting "Orokaiwa." Each boat took a canoe in tow and pulled up the river. Passing some small villages on either hand we stopped at the village of Koïla, of which Tabade, an intelligent man of about thirty, is chief. He wore a shirt, also a red sash and belt. I noticed in the village sprouting cocoanuts fastened together round high poles, which were tied at the upper end to the stems of tall areca palms. They made a tapering pyramid of green leaves and greyish-brown husk, which was very pretty and effective. I heard that they were being kept for a feast, the natives having a great liking for them in that stage of development. Tabade embarked in my boat, and we proceeded up river. I do not recollect ever being on a more beautiful stream. The banks lined now with the handsome dark-leaved nipa palms springing from the water, now with the spreading sago palm with its curious candelabra-shaped flowers rising straight above it, here a village landing place with a group of tall graceful areca palms, across which a leaning cocoanut would curve above a cluster of red and golden crotons. A canoe or two, with a crew of well-made men wearing scarlet hibiscus flowers in their hair and glistening white necklaces and breastplates of dogs' teeth and boars' tusks. The water a deep brown, on which the reflections were so vivid that it was sometimes difficult to distinguish the real from the image, and each little vista of light and shade through the vegetation for many yards back from the edge of the water was reproduced in its minutest detail. Here the stream ran under the high wooded sides of Gumboro Hill, round which it winds for miles "with the perversity of rivers," as someone said—instead of making a short and direct cut to the sea; there it pushes through sedges and small water lillies on which ran a pretty kind of water-weed stalking bird with scarlet crest and immensely long delicate feet.

44. We pulled up about six miles and had luncheon, and returned, stopping at the village of Momonga, built amongst cocoanuts on a crest of a hill under Gumboro. From here there was a most beautiful view. Far away to the distant blue foot of the great main range stretched a vast plain from left to right, covered entirely with bush, and probably composed in a great part of sago swamp. The summit of Mount Victory showed for a moment through the clouds, and the dark mass of Mount Scratchley threw a great valley into relief, through which the Mambare River probably flows. Captain Barton collected a number of words of the Ope dialect, which when further extended, when opportunity affords, will be embodied in an appendix to a subsequent despatch. It is similar, but differs in some degree, and especially as regards numeration, with the dialect of the Mambare. I was again pleased to notice the cordial way in which Captain Butterworth was recognised and greeted by the natives we met on the river. We returned to the mouth of the river, and landed Tabade (who was anxious to accompany us to Samarai, but we had no means of returning him), and re-embarked on the "Merrie England," which happened to arrive at the same moment—with the "Ruby" in tow—from Traitors' Bay.

45. Captain Harvey reported that on his way back from the mouth of the Mambare he passed a steamer, the "Isabel," with about seventy-five more diggers for the "field." She was towing a launch, so that they will have means of ascending the river. It was unfortunate that the "Ruby" had to be taken away just now, as, besides the convenience to the miners, she would be earning a considerable amount of revenue. When I sent her back to Tamata with the "Ivanhoe's" passengers she made over £40 in that one trip.

46. On Monday, 8th, at 5 a.m., we left and anchored that afternoon at Port Hennessy, one of the peculiar and deep-water inlets in Cape Nelson. We landed, and after some little difficulty in assuring the natives that we were on a peaceful errand, we got a guide to show us the track to his village. The ascent from the water's edge to the ridge was very steep. After that, we walked for about one and a-half miles along the high, grassy, flat-topped ridges, which would probably be excellent pasture land for cattle, and which separates the several "fiords" of the Cape. It was too late, however, to reach the place to which our guide pointed as his home—at the bottom of a deep gorge—before dark; so we had to return, promising to go there on our next visit to them.

Collingwood Bay.

47. On the 9th, at 6 am., we sailed for Collingwood Bay. Taking the steam launch with two boats in tow we left the steamer off Hardy Point in order to make the inside tour of the bay, while the steamer went the outer course to Phillips Harbour. We landed at a large house on the beach to the north of Itoto Point (to the north of Keppel Point), where we saw some natives, but they all disappeared, and as we had no time to spare we left a piece of red calico and some tobacco tied on a spear for them, and went on. After some difficulty in finding a passage through the reef, which runs a long way out from the point, we arrived at Wanigela, the Anglican Mission Station, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Abbott, with Mr. Dakres as his assistant. We saw the lads, and their dining-room and chapel adjoining it. All the houses are built of native material, and a low fence surrounds the whole. We were fortunate in finding a large number of the Karikari tribe, from the villages on the coast to the immediate north of Wanigela, who had come to pay their first visit to the mission station. Many of them were in mourning, and Mr. Abbott informed me that there had just been a severe epidemic of dysentery, which had come along the coast, he believed, from the eastward. They were very shy of us, and when I attempted to approach them alone they all retreated except one old man. Taking his hand in mine I followed them, and he called out to them to come back, and we went on to a large house by a creek, where I soon got on friendly terms with them, and they brought me their chief Diu, an intelligent-looking man. I took his hand, and we walked back together to the station, followed by his men. I made them understand how we had visited one of their places on our way and left the red cloth and tobacco there for the people, who had run away from us. I gave the chief a good present, and we left them well pleased. Captain Barton took a photograph of some of them, and of the mission lads. Mr. Abbott has twenty-five boys; they all looked well and happy, and with his humorous energy he will, I believe, do a great deal of excellent work here.

Maisena.

48. We then went on in the boats to Maisena, a large village, the centre of a powerful community. Mr. Abbott accompanied us. These people were until recently very much opposed to the mission, but are now most friendly to it; and Mr. Abbott is inclined to shift his headquartes to this place. I doubt, however, if it is as healthy a position as Wanigela. The houses here are large and well built, and there were seven or eight in high trees. These have been built as places of refuge since the affray with the Dori tribes, which invaded them in August last. The mountaineers came to raid the Maisena gardens in the same way as the latter had for generations raided their neighbours for miles along the coast. The Maisena went to protect their gardens and were worsted by their enemies who killed 18 of them, including their chief, a man of power and influence. His son, a youth of inferior physique, was presented to me, and I made him a present on account of the help his father had given to Europeans whenever they came to Maisena. The people of the village were very willing to barter their weapons and ornaments for trade. Their pottery was large, well moulded and ornamented, and had an approach to glazing on it Many of their feather ornaments were very pretty. They use tortoiseshell combs. Their spears are particularly well made—long, light, and tapering to a very fine point at the shaft. The shape of the canoe was quite different from that of the Ope ones, being square and ornamented instead of the long curved sharp-pointed end of the latter. One is probably better suited to river than to sea navigation.

Mr. Abbott was anxious that I should appoint a leading man, Waikassa, as village constable here, and I was willing to do so; and sent to the boat for the blue "sulu," red sash, and belt, which is the village police uniform. Unfortunately the individual had run away, being under the impression that he was going to be recruited as an armed native constable and be taken away. The investiture had therefore to be postponed to a future time, and his uniform having been shown to the people was returned to the boat. He was probably not congratulated on his bravery when he returned to them. The women and children all left the village as we approached and did not reappear.

Phillips Harbour.

49. We then proceeded to Phillips Harbour, a few miles further on, and at the south end of the bay, where the "Merrie England" was lying at anchor. There is a picturesque abandoned group of houses on very high piles on a small island off the point close to the ship. An amusing incident occurred on the way. A pig which we had bought at Maisena managed to jump overboard with the intention of gaining the shore, some three-quarters of a mile away. He swam gallantly, but we pursued him in the launch and recaptured him; he fought desperately for liberty and life. The view of the mountains from here is very fine. Immediately above towers Mount Gorupu, which is called part of Mount Suckling on the Great Main Range. It is, however, so far to the north of the main trend of the Range that its actual connection with the latter is a matter of speculation at present. On the other side, some twenty miles away to the north, the two high mountains Victory and Trafalgar raise their picturesque outlines 4,000 feet above the plains behind Cape Nelson.

50. Early next morning, the 10th May, we landed Mr. Abbott at the low point, near the ship from which he would make his way back to Maisena, where his canoe would be waiting for him. On the eastward of Mount Gorupu we saw what appeared at first sight to be an immense waterfall; but on careful inspection I came to the conclusion that what appeared to be the fall was rock laid bare by some great landslip, of which I could see traces in the piled-up masses of detached boulders below, and that the white foam was an alkaline deposit very like those formed by the streams from the sulphur springs on the side of the Souffrière Mountain in Dominica. There was, however, some difference of opinion amongst us. I judged by the insufficient watershed on the particular part of the mountain to produce such a volume of water (as large at least as the Barron River Falls near Cairns), and by the absence of any mist or spray, and the sharp well-defined and unchanging outline of what appeared to be the foam of the cataract. I may be wrong, however, in which case one of the most magnificent waterfalls in the world is to be seen there. On the left was a narrow fall of great height on to what appeared to be a horseshoe-shaped ledge of great width, over which a broad cataract of white falls a considerable distance down the mountain side.

MUKAU.

51. We anchored off the new mission station at Mukau on Cape Vogel in heavy rain, and accompanied by the Bishop and Captain Barton I landed, and we made our way up the steep path on the face of the hill to an undulating grassy flat. We passed through two small clusters of huts—they were completely closed, and though I could hear the people talking I could see no one—their inhabitants had been driven from the beach by the Maisena raiders, and came to the fine wooden house which is being erected for the mission station. There were four Europeans working here—Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson, Mr. Sage, and Mr. Foote; and two young native girls from Taupotu, who were bright and well mannered. As we were wet through we only inspected the house, which is substantial and comfortable and well on towards completion, and then re-embarked. We brought ashore for the mission a large lantern and fittings, which the Bishop intends to erect for the convenience of vessels passing the Cape. If it is properly kept alight, and found of practical use, the Government might give some contribution towards its maintenance.

YASI YASI.

52. We anchored the same evening at Yasi Yasi on the south-east side of Cape Vogel Peninsular. The weather was very wet and we did not land. Walter Nelson, the driver of the "Ruby" launch, died here that night. He had been sinking for the last two days, and Dr. Blayney had told me that he had not expected he would live to reach Samarai. He leaves a widow and family in Cooktown. He had been for several years connected with the "Merrie England," and had charge of the "Ruby" for about nine months, and was a steady respectable man.

WEDAU.

53. Next day, 11th May, we anchored at Wedau and landed the Bishop, who, I hope, was the better for his short trip with us, though he was still far from well. Nelson was buried in the mission cemetery. The Rev. Copland King performed the service, which was attended by the officers and men of the ship, our party, and the constabulary, and several of the christian natives. We noticed how very small in size they were compared to those further west.

MILNE BAY.—LABE.

54. That night it turned out wet and squally, and we left for Milne Bay and anchored in a small shallow bay close to the shore at Labe Mission Station.

MITA.

We walked about a mile across to Mita village, where we found Yakobe, the chief, lying sick in his house with fever. The houses here, which have the curved ridge pole and high peaked ends, have carved lintels with coloured patterns. There was one piece 42 feet long running the whole length of Yakobe's house carved at the ends with representations of the pelican (?) and ornamented with a scroll-like pattern throughout its length. I told Yakobe that I had read in Sir W. MacGregor's reports about his activity and help to the Government, and that I had seen his daughter at Mr. Abel's school at Kwato well and happy.

WAIMARA.

55. We then steamed to the head of the bay, where there is an outlet of a river, on which there are a number of villages known collectively as Waimara or Waimala. We had some difficulty in finding a navigable channel through the mangroves, as the main one was blocked with snags; but under the guidance of a native lad (who I learnt had been in the Customs boat crew at Samarai), in a canoe, we found our way up a creek, passed through a palisade of stakes, and landed at a track which led us to a village on the right bank of the main stream. The whole place had very recently been inundated by the river, which was then in flood from the heavy rains inland. We paddled about in mud. The houses were large and well-built on piles, with flat discs of wood below the head of the pile to prevent rats getting up. They were ornamented with carvings of birds. In this case the birds had some prey in their beaks, and whether by accident or design the artist had portrayed very humorously the satisfaction of the captor and the despair of the prey. The villagers were all away except a woman or two and a couple of old men, one of whom, I was told, was the head man, but they said there was no chief. There was a large number of houses across the river, and a native teacher sent a lad to ask me to come to a place further up—probably the principal village, but our time was short, and the only means of crossing the swollen river not very convenient. They use long narrow canoes without any outriggers, which they paddle, either sitting or standing, with great dexterity, but they looked very insecure craft for those unaccustomed to them. We therefore sent a message to say that we would come again under more favourable circumstances and visit the other village. We noticed a cemetery in the village profusely planted with bright flowing crotons. One grave was evidently that of a person of importance, probably the defunct chief. It was carefully thatched and covered with small stones; in the branches of a small tree on the fence was a skull which had apparently been there some time. The best way of approaching these villages seems to be from the landing on the beach the other side of a point at the further side of the mouth of the river.

WAGA WAGA.

56. From Waimara we proceeded to Waga Waga, a picturesque village built on a sandy beach on the south side of the bay, and found here Mr. Meek, a naturalist who is collecting for a well known private collection in England. There were also some miners, old explorers, who had been prospecting in the district. They had found traces of gold but not in payable quantity as yet. I was informed that an affray had taken place about a day's march inland between two prospectors Messrs. Gray and Linden, and the natives, in which one of the former had been speared through the face and otherwise wounded, and that he was now in Samarai; both men were said to have fired in self protection and one native had been shot, but whether killed or not was not known. As soon as we reach Samarai further particulars will be obtained and such action taken as may appear necessary. Labour is being sought for here for the Mambare without success, and it is believed that the death there of some men recruited from the place where the affray took place had some connection with it.

57. The houses in Waga Waga are numerous and well-built. There is a large population, numbers of children, and of pigs. The physique of the men is much better than of those we saw at Mita and Waimara. They were, however, peculiarly silent, none speaking to or taking any notice of us. I am told that this is their habit. Their canoes are fine—one we saw was sixty-five feet long with carved ends; on one there was a representation of a European firing a gun from a sitting posture at a large bird (pelican ?), which was protecting a young one behind it; they have no outriggers or sails; the natives often cross the China Straits in them. We visited the mission station, a clean, tidy place at the east of the village under the charge of Bega, a native of Suau. He has a comfortable house and a fine church of native timber, which he has built himself. It has a curious sunken gangway up the middle of the floor which is boarded; he has been here nine years. I met the chief of Waga Waga, Isirere, at the mission station, and complimented him on the general state of the village and people. The village constable reported that he had no complaint of any kind to make, but I told the chief he ought to get more children to go to school, only twenty being the number given by the teacher.

58. We left the next morning, Saturday, 13th May, and arrived at Samarai, the whole trip from Port Moresby to Mambare and back to Samarai having occupied twenty-nine days.

There were about twenty miners waiting to go on to the Mambare, and a small steamer the "Lucy" arrived the following day from Cairns with twelve men on her way to the same place. I am afraid that all new-comers will experience the greatest difficulty from want of carriers. The labour question for the goldfields is one which will require very careful consideration, but I hope to be able to devise some means of meeting it. Some better control of the recruiting and engaging of natives for this particular work is much needed if their confidence is to be gained and the bad impressions of the Mambare removed. I shall not, however, deal further with this subject in this despatch.

59. I find from what I hear here that it will be advisable for me to go with the police to the place where the attack was made on Mesrs. Gray and Linden behind Milne Bay, and I shall leave for there to-morrow with the steam launch and boats, as certain repairs which were necessary to make to the "Merrie England's" boilers, &c., will not be finished for two or more days. I shall then proceed on my visit to the islands.

I have, &c.,

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

[*Enclosure No.* 1, *Despatch No.* 31, *May*, 1899.]

COPY OF ADDRESS FROM BISHOP OF ANGLICAN MISSION.

Bartle Bay, British New Guinea, *viâ* Australia.

April, 1899.

SIR,—As representing the Diocese of New Guinea, established for the benefit of the white settlers and natives of the Possession, we desire most cordially to welcome you on the occasion of your first visit to Bartle Bay. Nothing can exceed our loyal attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty, in whose name you are come. May she long be spared to continue her wise and beneficent rule! We are assured, sir, that you will govern the Possession impartially in the interests of all who dwell therein, and that the weaker race will never fail to find in you the strong protector which they will often need. We are confident that we may welcome in you the true Imperial spirit, which, while giving due place to the importance of commercial expansion, will not allow it to override the higher interests of the peoples whom Almighty God has entrusted to our care.

We assure you of our earnest desire to be of service to the Government which you represent, in any way that lies within our power.

We pray that you may be preserved in health and strength to carry out the task allotted to you; and in the Litany we use a special suffrage, that you may "be kept and strengthened in the true worshipping of" Him from whom all power is derived.

We are, &c.,

M. J. New Guinea.
COPLAND KING.

To His Excellency George Ruthven Le Hunte,
Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea.