

MELANESIA

IN
PICTURES



MELANESIA *in* PICTURES



UTUHA PASSAGE, FLORIDA, SOLOMONS.

By the
Right Rev. Bishop J. M. STEWARD.

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1931.



THE CALVARY, MARAVOVO, SOLOMON ISLANDS.

PRAYER FOR THE MELANESIAN MISSION.

ALMIGHTY GOD, for Whom the Isles do wait, send down Thy Blessing on the Melanesian Mission : the Bishops ; the Priests and Deacons ; the Sisters of the Cross ; the Native Brothers ; the Doctor, Nurses, and all Workers ; the Captain, Officers, and Crew of the "Southern Cross" ; and all who teach or are taught in the Schools. Guide them, O Lord, in every difficulty ; protect them in every danger ; strengthen them in every temptation ; and gladden them with the sense of Thy Presence.

Lord of the Harvest, send forth labourers into Thine Harvest. Guide by Thy Holy Spirit those who are fitted for this work, that they may willingly offer themselves unto Thee, and by Thee be enabled to set forth Thy glory, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Melanesian Mission Staff.

BISHOP:

The Right Reverend

WALTER HUBERT BADDELEY, M.A., D.S.O., M.C.

Address: Postal—Siota, British Solomon Islands.

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 Fox, Miss Helen ('28), Pawa.
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 The Sister Margaret ('29), Siota.
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 Butu, Judah ('24), Maewo.
 Doedoke, Wilson ('24)*, Bugotu.
 Gilandi, George ('24)*, San Cristoval.
 Hageria, Benj. ('21), Bugotu.
 Kelo, Clement ('28)*, Gela.
 Langlangmele, Simn. ('24), Raga.
 Marau, Martin ('19), Ulawa.
 Mumeg, Mackenzie ('29)*, Vanualava.
 Pengone, John ('06), Gela.
 Qorig, Benj. ('06)*, Motalava.
 Sulu, Reuben ('27)*, Gela.
 Tagar, Basil ('29)*, Motalava.
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 Tavoia, Henry ('29)*, Raga.
 Toganiande, Jas. N. ('21), Guadalcanar.
 Toke, Hugo ('17), Guadalcanar.
 Tome, Johnson ('18), Pawa.
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 Wetelwu, Stephen ('29)*, Gaua.

* Signifies Deacon.

650 Melanesian Teachers.



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J. R. SELWYN.



Bishop
CECIL WILSON



Bishop
G. A. SELWYN.



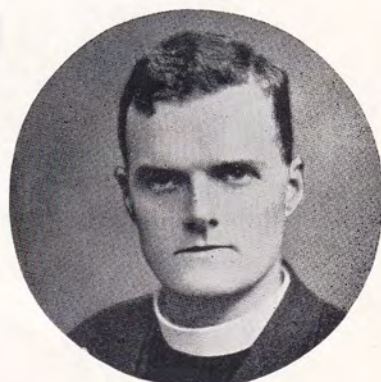
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C. J. WOOD.



Bishop
J. M. STEWARD.



Bishop
J. C. PATTESON.



Bishop
J. H. DICKINSON
(Assist. Bishop)



F.



Bishop
WALTER HUBERT BADDELEY.



CHAPEL ON "SOUTHERN CROSS."



UREPARAPARA, BANKS ISLANDS.

DO TELL US what Melanesia is like, and what the people are like ! If you are interested in the Mission, and especially if you have friends or relations living in the Islands, this is probably the first question you would put to anyone connected with the Mission ; and it is not an easy question to answer. The scenery is so different in different parts of the Diocese, and the people of the different islands are even more different than the scenery ! So this little book is published in the hope that it may provide a fairly good and fairly comprehensive answer to that very important question. Half a dozen pictures will tell one more about a place than half a dozen letters ; and here are more than two dozen pictures for “ the ridiculously small sum ” of One Shilling !

Perhaps some of your friends ask you “ Where, exactly is Melanesia ? ” And, perhaps you are not quite certain, yourself, which is the best map to find it on, or exactly where it is to be found on the map. Well, here are simple directions :— Find a map which shews both Australia and New Zealand. Take the northernmost point of Australia and draw a line at right angles to it. Then from the northernmost point of New Zealand draw a straight line, due north, and the point where these two lines meet will bring you into the middle of Melanesia. Or,

if you understand all about latitude and longitude, find the Equator and longitude 160 east. This line, for about 20 degrees south of the Equator runs straight through the Diocese. The Mandated Territory, (the New Part of Melanesia), will be found a little to the left of the Solomon Islands and nearer the Equator, and the New Hebrides, a little further south and to the right.

The Mission was founded just over eighty years ago, by the first Bishop of New Zealand, Bishop George Augustus Selwyn, and the first Bishop of Melanesia, Bishop Patteson, was consecrated just seventy years ago and ten years later was killed by the natives of Nukapu, one of the islands of the Santa Cruz Group.



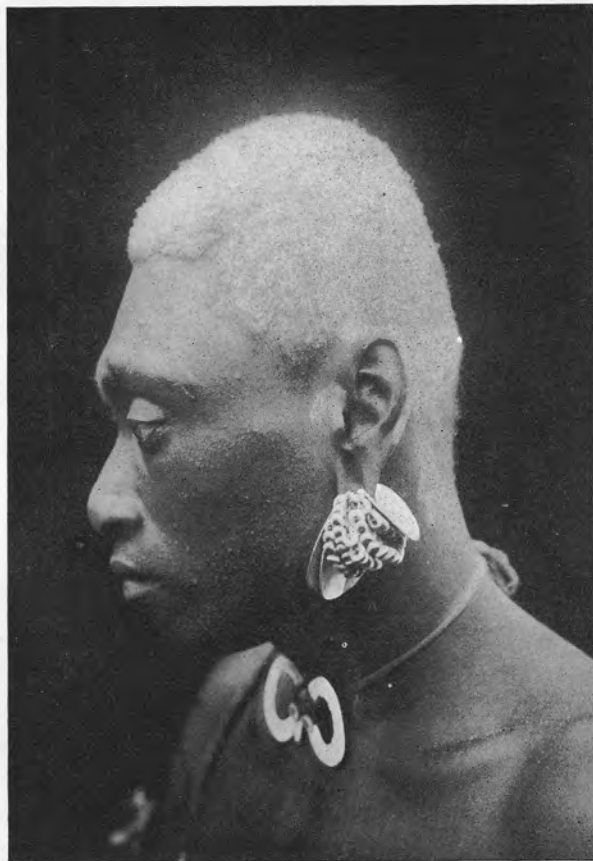
ALTAR OF ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, ULAWA, SOLOMON ISLANDS



A CORAL ISLAND MAIDEN IN GALA DRESS.

These islands were first discovered by Spanish adventurers hundreds of years ago ; and this is the reason why so many islands are called by Spanish names, Santa Cruz, San Cristoval, Guadalcanar, Ysabel and the like. The Solomon Islands are said to have got their name because the Spaniards thought that they had found gold there, and decided that these must have been the Islands from which King Solomon got the gold for the temple and his palace ; and, in Spanish and in French maps and charts, they are still called "The Isles of Solomon."

Theoretically, the Diocese includes all the Islands of the Pacific that lie south of the Equator, east of Australia, west of Fiji and north of New



A BOY OF ARAWE, MANDATED TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.



GATHERING COCOANUTS.

Zealand, but one of the largest of the Islands, New Caledonia, is French and the greater part of the New Hebrides is Presbyterian, while the far north of the Solomons is Wesleyan. But even in these parts, isolated members of our Church look on the Bishop of Melanesia as *their* Bishop.

A glance even at a small-scale map (though one of the maps published by the Mission will be better for the purpose) will show that the Diocese of Melanesia is divided into several quite distinct groups.

Starting from the Equator, we come first to what is now, probably the most "romantic" part of the Mission; the Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

The romance may be said to begin with the name itself; for the centre of government and the sphere of work of the Mission, at present, is not in New Guinea at all!

The history of this part of the Diocese is romantic too, for it is that part of the Pacific Islands south of the Equator, that was taken from Germany



A WOMAN OF NEW BRITAIN.



CHIEF AT ROAS BAY, MALA.

during the war, together with "German" New Guinea (which gives its name to the Territory) and was "mandated" by the League of Nations to Australia.

It consists of the two large islands of New Britain and New Ireland, the smaller islands in the neighbourhood and about a third of the huge island of New Guinea; the other two thirds being respectively "British" and "Dutch" New Guinea, the former of which is now called by the native name of Papua, this, by the way, is where the Diocese of New Guinea lies.

Modern followers of the Mission work in the southern Pacific have to tread very cautiously. The Diocese of New Guinea is in Papua. The Mandated Territory of New Guinea is in Melanesia, and Polynesia is quite a different place altogether, with Fiji as its capital; but Melanesia is politically under the Governor General of Fiji, who is also High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, and, so it is said, has to ask permission of himself whenever he wishes to leave Fiji to visit his outlying territories in the Pacific. But, he has no jurisdiction in the "Mandated Territories."



VIEW FROM KIA CHURCH.



MAKING THATCH FOR THE CATHEDRAL ROOF.

There is some excuse if people are sometimes a little confused over the political and ecclesiastical divisions in the Pacific !

The Ecclesiastical History of the Mandated Territory is also full of romance.

After the close of the War, there was a considerable influx of British into the Territory. The Church in Australia saw its opportunity and its responsibility.

But it was faced with a serious dilemma. The Diocese of New Guinea did not feel that it could accept this vast addition to its sphere of work. The formation of a new Diocese would mean the raising of a capital sum sufficient for its endowment. This was then, and is now, beyond the capabilities of the Church in Australia.

Until 1925 there seemed to be a possibility that the Church would be unable to take up its responsibility and seize its opportunity in the Territory.

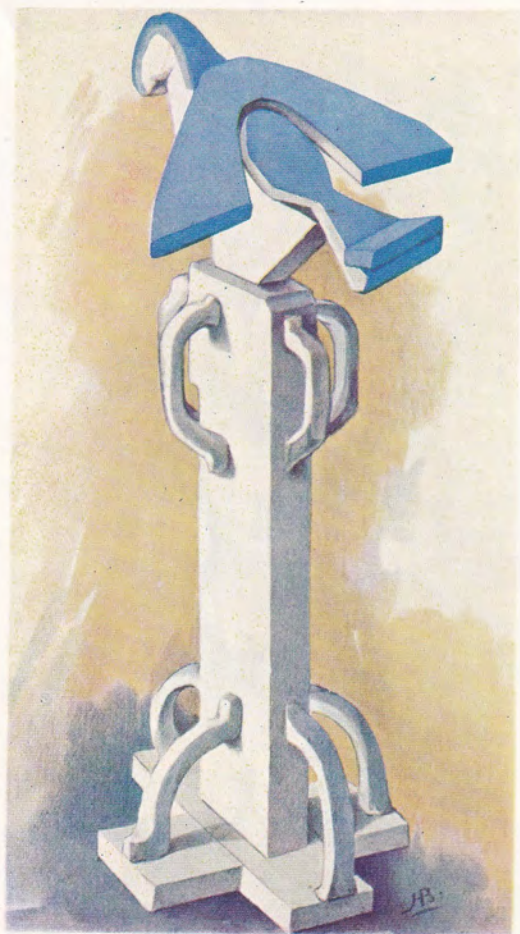
In that year the Bishop of Melanesia met the leaders of the Australian Church in Sydney and offered to take the Territory into his Diocese until such time as the Australian Church could undertake the work.

It was a bold—perhaps rash—step to take ; but it seemed the only thing to do. The Australian Church accepted the offer ; the Church in New Zealand gave its consent ; the Diocese of Melanesia now reached from Norfolk Island to the Equator.

The Australian Church already had a Chaplain resident at Rabaul, the capital of the Territory, and now a handful of Priests and Laymen are hard at work, building a branch of our Church there.



ROAS BAY, MALA.



LECTERN.



FONT.



VIEW FROM SIOTA.



NATIVES OF SANTA CRUZ GOING TO MEET "SOUTHERN CROSS."

It is all pioneer work, the natives in the parts where we are working are untouched by Christianity, and there is a large population of men and women of our own race (some of them in very isolated districts), to be cared for, and there are gold-miners in the interior.

Our pictures shew that the people, too, are romantic enough in appearance.

We appeal confidently to you to see to it that this bold venture of Faith for Christ and His Church shall not fail for lack of support, in men, money and prayer.

Coming south, we get into "Old Melanesia" and the Solomon Islands. Here, for obvious romance, head-hunters and cannibals, witch-doctors and professional murderers, we have to look more to the past than to the present, though witchcraft still lingers on and it would be a rather rash statement to say that cannibalism is quite extinct even now.

Still there is a wonderful work yet to be accomplished even here. A strong, self-supporting Native Church to be built up amongst these strong, virile peoples.

Much has been done ; the native contribution in money would put to shame many a parish in England, and the contribution in personal service, not only Teachers in the village schools, but Deacons and Priests too, is a proof that the people have grasped the true meaning of Christianity as a Missionary Faith ; but much still remains to do.

Old Melanesia still needs your help, your persons, your prayers, just as much as does New Melanesia.

The work there may not be so “ romantic ” but it is as hard and, perhaps, more important. The foundations, well and truly laid by the heroes of the past days, still lack the completed and glorious building that alone must be our aim. The history of noble sacrifice in the past confirms us in the faith that the same spirit of willing offering of our best, will not be lacking in the future.

From the Solomons we go, still south, till we reach Santa Cruz and the Reef Islands, consecrated by the blood of our first Bishop. Once the scene of a great work for God ; lately, through sickness, lack of staff and many other reasons, fallen back, but now, with two resident Missionaries and



THE CATHEDRAL, SIOTA, SOLOMON ISLANDS.



FISHES AND CORAL.



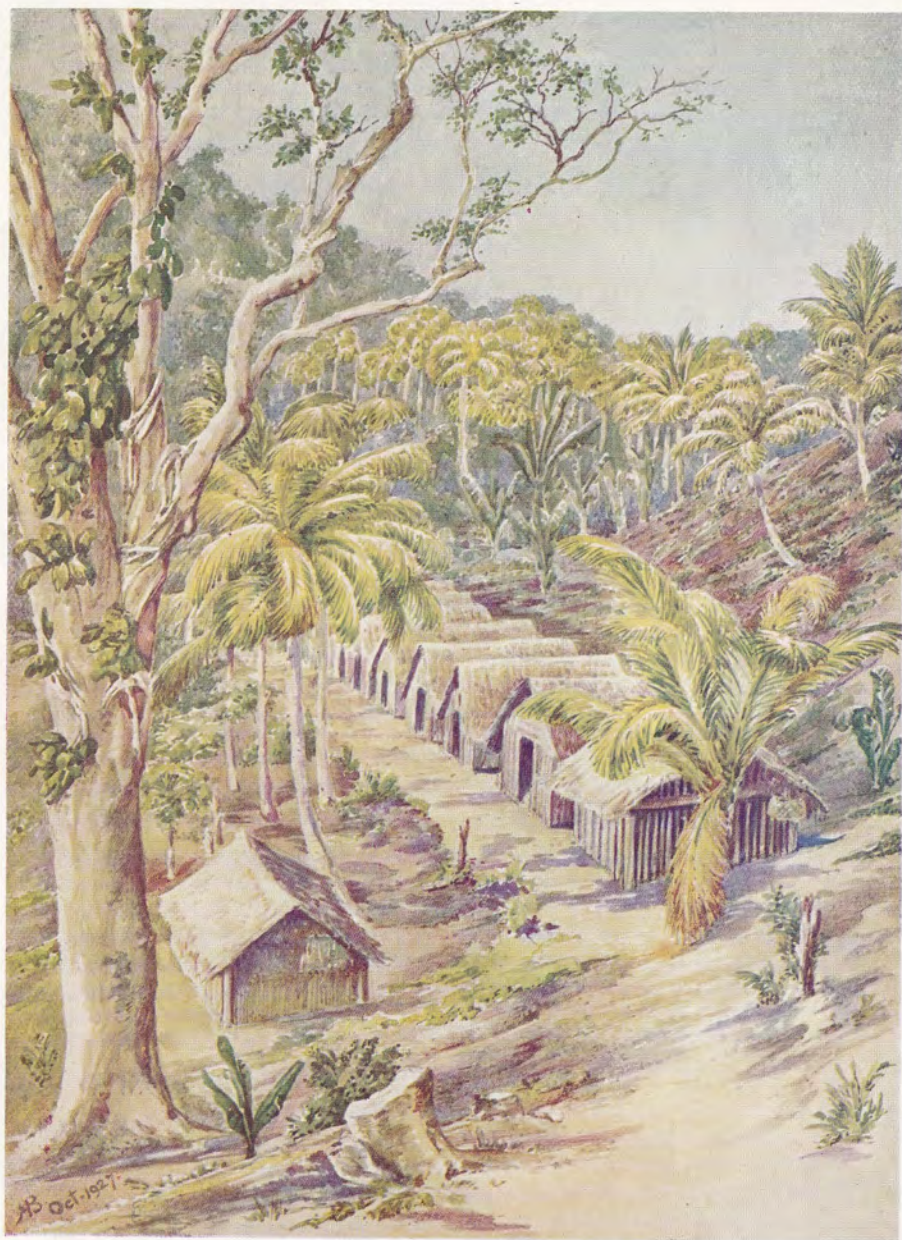
A DANCER. MANDATED TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

a strong detachment of the "Brothers of Melanesia" shewing every sign of a restored vigour and a fresh life. A wonderfully interesting, isolated little settlement of the Church, with a glorious history in the past (and who can doubt) an even more glorious future before it.

Turning off at a tangent from the Reef Islands, we come to the Duff group, the main island of which was known to the old-time voyagers as Disappointment Island. Anyone who has waited, rolling in the heavy swell, for an opportunity to land there, and then had to spend the night steaming round and round in circles, hoping for better luck next day, will fully appreciate the reason for this name!

This group is nominally under the oversight of the Missionary in charge of Santa Cruz and the Reefs.

The present Priest-in-charge once spent eighteen days in an open boat trying to get back from the Duffs to his home in the Reefs; so perhaps the "days of romance" are not passed, even in "Old Melanesia."



COLLEGE, LOLOWAI.



NATIVE HOUSES, MARAVOVO.

it is a dramatic entertainment, generally a farce at that, where all the points (perhaps fortunately not always clear to the European onlooker) are greeted with roars of delighted laughter.

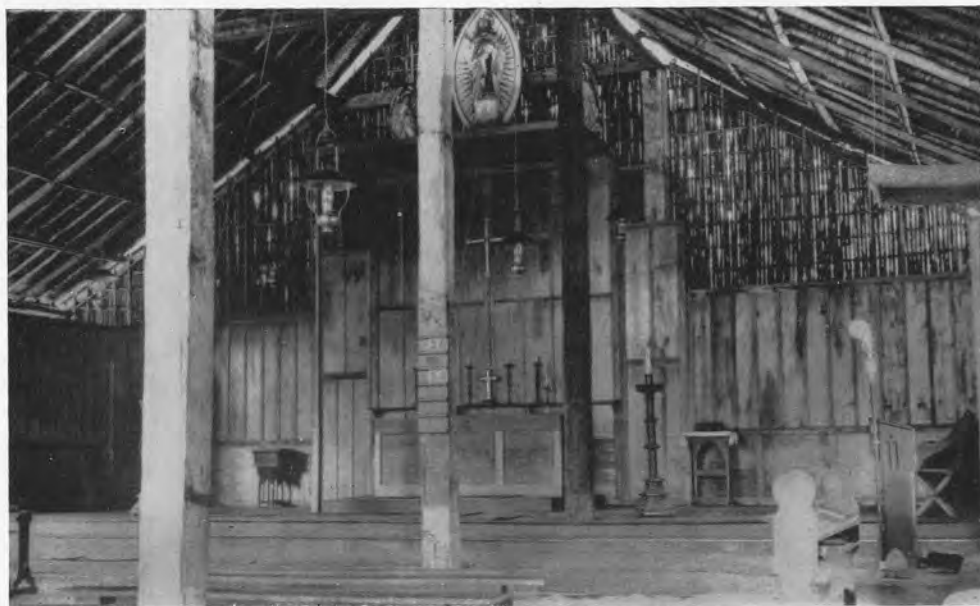
Perhaps the visiting Bishop is in danger of taking too gloomy a view of things. All the problems and troubles are inevitably saved up for him to hear, for those who live and work among them are not depressed.

They see the courage, cheerfulness and faith which are there all the time, sometimes hidden, but still there ; and they believe in and love their people.

They have their own special difficulties there. Most of the Christians are in the third or even the fourth generation of Christianity. The old zeal is sometimes lacking. Heathen customs, long thought dead, have a bad habit of cropping up again. Love of money, laziness, lethargy, are their main faults ; but they are by no means universal. A splendid little body of Native Clergy, a wonderfully large number of good and faithful Teachers, a plentiful supply of students for the College, boys and girls for the two Central Schools ; all shew that the Church in Southern Melanesia is by no means dead or even moribund, and gives one grounds, not only for a hope, but also for confidence that it has a future before



DANCERS' ORNAMENTS.



THE CATHEDRAL, SIOTA.

used to make two voyages a year round the whole diocese. She lent a helping hand from time to time over the greatest distances. But now she is worn out and too expensive to keep up. Two smaller ships are to take her place, the larger of which our friends in England are now building and will equip and send out as a present to Melanesia. Very many of the District Missionaries depend entirely on these ships for their very necessities. Without such ships the Bishop cannot keep in touch with his vast and scattered flock. We, in England, are going to see to it that he gets the ship he needs so badly.

For places within an area of 100 miles from his headquarters, the Bishop uses his launch, and can give a "lift" to the District Missionary on his travels.

Apart from these, the Missionary is dependant upon canoes, such as the natives use for travel, open boats, in which if one is lucky one can average a "speed" of two miles an hour, or on his feet. Not only are there no motor-cars in Melanesia, but there are hardly any roads larger than bush-

tracks where one has to walk in single file. Many of these tracks lead through swamps or up hills from two hundred to two thousand feet high.

And yet the Missionary does get about, carrying all the necessities of life, bed, table, chair, food and cooking utensils with him. It is not to be wondered at that he frequently breaks down under the strain and comes back to England a comparatively young man, but "used up" as far as work in Melanesia goes.

And after all this, he is continually grumbling because he can't go back!

And now you will understand why we are always "begging." (1) For a New Ship. (2) For Medical Comforts and the Hospital work. (3) For Men and Women. (4) For Money and (5) for your Prayers.

And we thank God, and thank you, for the splendid response that has been made to our begging in the past, and for the even more splendid response that we confidently expect in the future.



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Office Address—Melanesian Mission, Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

Telephone—Victoria 3975. Telegrams—"Melanesia, London."

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Associates of Melanesia undertake to
(a) Pray for the Mission;
(b) Give or collect £1 yearly. 6. Sermons or meetings. For Lecturer apply General Secretary. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The "Southern Cross Log"—
The illustrated monthly magazine of the Mission. Price 2/- yearly, payable to the Office Secretary. (Gratis to Associates). 5. Articles for Sales of Work, or for use abroad. |
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