

undulating country extends up to the ridges of the Owen Stanley Range. They are unacquainted with the use of iron, and, though friendly disposed towards white men, could not be persuaded to exchange their spears, adzes of jade and basalt, etc., for hardware or other articles.

The border of Dyke Acland Bay is occupied by a group of villages to which Sir W. Macgregor gave the name of Oro; but, as it was derived simply from the words used by the local guide on approaching the shore, there is some doubt whether it is a tribal name or not. These villages are situated amidst the forest and grassland sloping down from the Hydrographer's Range, the spurs of which are inhabited by a population of about 3,000. At the eastern extremity of Dyke Acland Bay lies Cape Nelson, remarkable for its numerous indentations, some of which, such as Maclaren Harbor and Port Hennessy, so named by Sir W. Macgregor, are excellent havens of refuge for shipping. Within the perimeter of this cape lie two mountains, — Mount Trafalgar, rising to a height of some 4,000 feet; and, to the south of it, Mount Victory, probably 3,500 feet high. The latter is an active volcano; for in the early morning steam was observed rising from its two crests, and from a ridge at a lower elevation, and, as the day advanced, the whole top of the mountain became obscured by dense exhalations. Whereas Mount Trafalgar is clothed to its summit with forest, the volcano is precipitous, and crowned with masses of bare rock. Another large inlet, Collingwood Bay, lies between Cape Nelson and the next promontory, which terminates in the two headlands, Kibirisi Point and Cape Sebiribiri (or Vogel).

On the western shore dwells the Maisina tribe, in villages of inferior construction. The houses hold only one family each, and their roofs project to about three feet from the ground, thus forming verandas. These natives also are unacquainted with iron and tobacco, and adorn themselves with the usual ornaments of feathers, shells, and dog's teeth. The country towards the interior is low, and densely covered with forests, in which the *casuarina* is conspicuous. Several villages stud the coast between Kibirisi Point and Cape Sebiribiri; and opposite one of them, named Kapikapi, rise two singular masses of coral, probably eighty feet high, on each of which stand about a dozen houses. These, being stocked with spears and approached by wooden ladders, removable when necessary, are probably used as strongholds.

After Cape Sebiribiri, Goodenough Bay is reached, stretching to East Cape on Ansell's Peninsula, — a district that has gained a sad notoriety from the murder of Capt. Ansell and the destruction of the "Star of Peace" in 1888. The head of the bay is interesting from the miniature plateaus, elevated about 300 feet above the sea-level, of which the land is composed, and which have been formed by the soil washed down from the ravines in the background. The climate of this part of New Guinea is probably healthy; but the absence of navigable rivers would prove a great obstacle to the cultivation of suitable lands in the interior, if such should be found.

Sir W. Macgregor also visited the Trobriand, Murua (Woodlark), and Nada (Lauchlan) Islands, situated far away to the north and north-east of East Cape, between the parallels of 8° 25' and 9° 23' south latitude, and the meridians of 150° 30' and 153° 40' east longitude. Nada is a group of islets, about nine in number, forming an atoll, with a lagoon seven to twelve fathoms deep, and is inhabited by 169 natives. Murua, to the west of Nada, is about thirty-eight miles long, and possesses a good harbor. The natives have entered the iron age, and have abundance of food, consisting of yams, *taro*, and sweet-potatoes. The Trobriand Islands lie to the north-west of Murua. The whole group is of coral formation, and is densely covered with forest, and the fertility of the soil is indicated by the abundance of cultivated food. The natives also catch large quantities of fish. They were very friendly with Sir W. Macgregor's party, and very eager to trade. These islands are so much more important in extent and population than had been reported, that several weeks might be spent in thoroughly exploring them.

WALTER DAMROSCH has set Lord Tennyson's poem to music in last week's *Truth*.

## BOOK-REVIEWS.

*Primitive Folk-Studies in Comparative Ethnology.* By ELIE RECLUS. New York, Scribner & Welford. 8°. \$1.25.

Few writers on science, and none on geography, command a more attractive style than Reclus. His vast reading supplies him with a wonderful wealth of analogy; he is never dull; and his philosophizing, which he is not shy to offer, is fresh and progressive.

In the volume before us he undertakes a study of the sociology of half a dozen "primitive" or savage nations, the avowed object being to furnish from them a picture of the condition of man in general in prehistoric ages. Of these half-dozen nations, two are selected from America, — the Eskimos or Inuits, and the Apaches, — while the other examples are from India, as the Nairs, the Kolarians of Bengal, and the tribes of the Neilgherry Hills.

The ethnography of the American portion leaves considerable to be desired. The author includes in the Eskimos the Chukchis (Tchouktches) of Siberia and the Koloschs of the North-West Coast, neither of whom are in any way related to the Inuit. He further speaks of the Kolosches as distinct from the Tlinkits, though these are merely two names for the same people. In enumerating the Apache tribes (p. 123) he confuses them with the Yumas, who belong to a wholly different stock, and again with the Pah-utes (p. 140), who are distinct from both. These unfortunate errors throw a shade of inaccuracy over his descriptions, because, though correct in themselves, they do not always apply to the peoples whom he sets out to depict.

His authorities are usually carefully selected, and his quotations highly illustrative. A tendency to force into prominence certain sociological theories is perhaps visible. Thus, the doctrine of primitive communal marriage is evidently one he holds in high esteem, and seeks to support by all the evidence possible. Much that he adduces to this effect would bear another interpretation. The observations (pp. 69, 70, and elsewhere) on the strange relations which have ever existed between the sexual passions and the religious sentiments are very suggestive, and deserve further expansion and analysis.

Of these studies, that on the Kolarians of Bengal is perhaps the most vivid, and, though it is the last in the book, the reader may profitably begin with it, in order to learn promptly the style and resources of the author.

## AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

BULLETIN No. 73 of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station is on agricultural grasses best adapted to North Carolina soil and climate.

— A novelty in periodical literature is the *Kings' Jester*, the first number of which has just appeared. It is devoted to the wit, humor, art, and advantages of advertising, and is published by Herbert Booth King & Brother, the well-known advertising agents of this city.

— Messrs. Macmillan & Co. announce as among their publications this summer a "Text-Book of the Developmental History of the Vertebrates," by Dr. Oscar Hertwig, professor of comparative anatomy in the University of Berlin, translated and edited by Dr. E. L. Mark, professor in Harvard University, fully illustrated; also a "Text-Book of the Developmental History of the Invertebrates," by Drs. Korschelt and Heider of Berlin, translated under the supervision of Dr. E. L. Mark of Harvard, fully illustrated.

— Darwin's book on "The Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs" has been issued as one of the Camelot Series by Walter Scott of London, the New York publishers being A. Lovell & Co. The edition includes an introduction by Joseph W. Williams. As the price is low and the volume attractively made up, the book is worth examining by those interested.

— Part II. of Whiting's "Short Course of Experiments in Physical Measurements" has just been issued, and covers measurements in sound, dynamics, magnetism, and electricity. Mr.