

it first began work in Australasia, it has expended in that field £351,296.

It is therefore a matter of thankfulness to find the Australian Church rising to its responsibilities and undertaking, as it has done since 189: the entire support of the Mission to New Guinea. We rejoice also to learn that the Mission is now to be placed under the charge of a Bishop, whose support has been guaranteed by the Church in Australia. The Rev. Montagu John Stone-Wigg, Canon of Brisbane, has been selected to fill the Bishopric.

From the organ of the Australian Board of Missions we glean the following particulars regarding New Guinea, written by the Rev. C. Bice, a former missionary of the Society in Melanesia:—

New Guinea lies to the North of Australia,



DOREY HARBOUR, NEW GUINEA.

and at the nearest point comes to within less than 100 miles of it. Next to Australia, it is the largest island in the world, being nearly 1,500 miles long, and 500 miles broad, and it has great mountains standing up thousands of feet above the level of the sea.

There are a great many very beautiful and wonderful things in New Guinea too, but perhaps the most beautiful of all is the bird called the "Bird of Paradise." We used to be told that this lovely bird had no feet or legs; it was supposed to be always flying about in the air, and never needing to rest, very much I suppose, as when I was a boy, I used to fancy the angels. And surely the angels also are hovering there, although they are not seen, for I am sure our kind and loving Father has a message of love and peace for the poor people, and the little black children who live there. But now

I must tell you candidly that the Bird of Paradise has legs and feet.

There are many other beautiful birds also in New Guinea of the parrot and cockatoo species, and lovely pigeons with great feathery crests on their heads. The animals are not numerous, and they are mostly of the Kangaroo and Wallaby family.

The woods are full of most interesting and lovely things, such as crotons and other gay shrubs, and very rare and beautiful orchids. One tree of great interest to children grows in the forest, the rubber tree, from which the rubber used in school is made. And there too grows the cocoanut palm, perhaps the most wonderful tree ever created. From that tree alone, the people can provide themselves with almost everything they want! With it

they can build their houses, their fences, and their canoes, and the fruit yields them both meat and drink. No wonder they are fond of the cocoanut, and sing their songs about it. And God has given them another very wonderful tree, which we call the "Bread Fruit" tree. It is a beautiful evergreen, and the fruit grows upon the branches of it. This fruit, when cooked, is not unlike our own bread. But fancy bread growing on trees! They cook this bread fruit in ovens

made of stones, which they make very hot, or else they roast it in the embers of a fire. They then scrape off the black crust, and eat it as we do bread. When they want to make it into cake they pound it up, and roll it out, and pour cocoanut cream over it. And this is very nice.

And then again there is the bamboo, useful in so many ways to the natives. I think it is the next most extraordinary tree to the cocoanut. They use this tree to build their houses, to cook their food, to carry their water, to make their canoes, to fence their gardens, and in a great many other ways. Out of it also they make a variety of musical instruments, and pipes for smoking, and combs for their hair. Their hair is not like ours straight, but frizzy, like a big mop. Their combs, too, are not like ours, for they do not comb their hair down, but up. If you hold up your hand with