

THE
CRUISE OF THE MARCHESA
TO
KAMSCHATKA & NEW GUINEA

WITH NOTICES OF FORMOSA, LIU-KIU, AND VARIOUS
ISLANDS OF THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO

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With Maps and numerous Woodcuts

DRAWN BY J. KEULEMANS, C. WHYMPER, AND OTHERS
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'Ignotis errare locis, ignota videre
Flumina gaudebat, studio minuente laborem'
Ovid. Metam. iv. 294

IN TWO VOLUMES—VOL. II.

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET
1886

CHAPTER XIII.

NEW GUINEA (*continued*).

aknik—Arrive at Ansus—Signification of the native comb—Dress of the women—Paperipi—*Paradisca minor*—The King-bird—Development of its plumes—Canoës and their decoration—Skulls and corpses in the trees—Narvoui—*Cascado*—Cooking a corpse—*Korowaar*—An unpleasant adventure—Return of our hunters—Wooden pillows—Return to Waigiou—Leave for Salvatti—How the Rajah lost his nose—We secure a live *Selcucides*—Method of catching them—Character of the Papuan—Leave for Misol Island—Uncertainties of navigation—Anchor at Efbé—Northern limit of the Eucalyptus.

To ensure the safety of the ship on her voyage old Kawari had looked out the necessary amulet from the bunch that hung on his chest, and placed it at its post of action between his shoulder-blades. We were therefore protected from the malevolent designs of the Faknik,—evil spirits who are the cause of storms and adverse winds, and whose dwellings are the caves by the seashore. They are ever on the alert to drown the mariner, and to cause him—as does the Manuen on land—every kind of misfortune and distress. A good amulet, we were glad to learn, is most efficacious against their spell, and we were further protected by a very liberal supply of tobacco which, if thrown into the sea as an offering, is often, Kawari told us, of the greatest use in the event of an amulet proving inefficient. The old pilot's charm, however, was by one of the best makers in Dorei, and at the end of our voyage the tobacco was intact.

The village of Ansus lies on the south shore of Jobi Island, at the head of a deep channel formed by various islands and coral-

or two longer, become eroded on the inner web, and somewhat curved, so that the feather is sickle-shaped. This curvature becomes after a time more pronounced, ultimately assuming the shape of the perfect feather, though its colour still remains unchanged. The shaft then becomes completely denuded of feather, and the terminal disc acquires the brilliant metallic green colouring of the perfect plume. This process occurs only during the first change of plumage from the immature state—a change which is produced by the gradual assumption of colour in previously existing feathers, and not by moult. Afterwards, at the yearly moult, the prolonged tail-feathers make their appearance in very peculiar hook-shaped feather-cases, on the rupture of which the plume discloses itself in its complete state.

In the jungle near the village there were few striking flowers, or at least few that we had not met with elsewhere. A *Nepenthes*, which grew in some abundance, with dwarfed and ungracefully-shaped pitchers, was, however, new to us, as was also a *Cypripedium*, of which we found a single specimen only, growing at the bottom of a large tree. This latter orchid was very handsome both as regards shape and colouring, the flower-stalk bearing three or four blossoms with pendulous ribbon-shaped petals, twisted into a graceful spiral, and tinged with purple. The dorsal sepal was marked with alternate stripes of dark brown and yellow, while the lip was of a paler shade of the same colour, less distinctly striated.¹

Numbers of canoes surrounded the *Marchesa* from morning till night during our visit. Such a thing as a built boat is unknown, and all are “dug-outs,” made by burning out the trunks of trees with charcoal. This is an operation over which much time and labour is spent, and after the finishing touches have been put to

¹ This orchid, which I have since learnt to be a species new to science, is allied to *Cypripedium philippinense* (Reichb.), figured in the “Bot. Mag.” pl. 5508, but the twisted petals are very much shorter, being only twice the length of the lip, and the colouring of the sepal of a far brighter yellow. I have named it *Cypripedium gardineri* after my friend Mr. Walter Gardiner of Clare College, Cambridge. The genus *Cypripedium*, I believe, has not been previously recorded from New Guinea.

the craft, they are filled with water and kept sunk for a time, in order to counteract the tendency to split. They are outriggered



CYPRIPEDIUM GARDINERI.

almost without exception on one side only, and though the outriggers are but clumsily constructed as compared with those of the Dorei Bay people, the Ansus men are much more given to adorning their boats than their western neighbours. Bits of red and white