

approximate to the Negrito race. It is of course a question for consideration whether the Negritos or the Papuans are the primitive inhabitants of New Guinea. The Papuans are undoubtedly the more vigorous race, and it is not unlikely that they may have to a large extent displaced and driven to the mountains, or perhaps somewhat intermingled with, a more feeble pre-existing Negrito population.

There is, however, in the study of the crania collected in New Guinea, an element of uncertainty which should not be lost sight of; as, from the practice of head hunting and preserving, it is not possible to pronounce definitely whether those skulls collected by several travellers, which had been preserved as trophies, really belonged to the race occupying the spot where the skulls were obtained, or had belonged to people of some other tribe or race conquered in war. The Rev. S. Macfarlane has given an interesting explanation of how it is that in these trophies the lower jaw so seldom accompanies the skull, for the man who first wounds the enemy gets the one, whilst he who kills and beheads him gets the other. It will require therefore a more intimate knowledge of New Guinea than we yet possess to enable ethnologists to state precisely the exact distribution of the brachycephalic and dolichocephalic races in that island, and this result can only be attained with accuracy when a sufficient number of skulls known to have belonged to the people occupying each district has been obtained.¹

The Australian race, though separated by a strait only about 80 miles wide at Cape York from New Guinea, has not apparently exercised any influence there. For the northern Australians, although they make canoes, are not a seafaring people, and they are much inferior in civilization to the Papuans. There is indeed one island in Torres Straits, Kowrarega, inhabited according to Macgillivray² by a mixed race, formed by a complete fusion of the Papuans with the Australians. The Papuans, on the other hand, do seem to have somewhat modified the characters of the tribes inhabiting the north coast of Australia. Mr. Paul Foelsche, who lived for a number of years in the Northern Territory of Australia, states³ that the hair of the head of the men is invariably thick and curly, and he has met with instances where it strongly resembles that of the Papuans, but these are very rare. In the women, as a rule, the hair is with few exceptions not so curly as that of the men.

The archipelago immediately to the north and east of New Guinea, of which the Admiralty Islands form almost the western limit, is also inhabited by a Melanesian people.

The people of *New Britain* are, according to Dr. Finsch,⁴ pure Melanesians, their hair

¹ Dr. O. Finsch in his *Anthropologische Ergebnisse*, 1884, expresses his belief that the people of the south-east coast from Fresh Water Bay to Keppel Bay, also those of the islands in Torres Straits, of Saibai Island and of Salwatti in the extreme north-west, are all of the same race, *i.e.*, pure Melanesians.

² Voyage of the "Rattlesnake," 1852.

³ Notes on the Aborigines of North Australia, *Trans. and Proc. of Roy. Soc. of South Australia*, Adelaide, 1892, p. 1.

⁴ *Anthropologische Ergebnisse einer Reise in der Südsee*, Berlin, 1884.