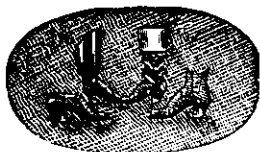


beautiful, uninhabited, trackless save for the little thread that wound like a magic clue of safety through the midst of indescribable chaos. Forest on forest, huge and dark and knitted inextricably together with creeping liana and 'lawyer'; gorge after gorge, precipice shouldering precipice, all in the shadow of the never-ending trees, all veiled with constant rain—this was the way. Steeper and steeper the track grew, as we neared the big ranges. It was admirably engineered, but, even so, one had to walk a good deal here and there, and the carriers halted often, streaming with sweat, to lay down their loads and take breath. As for the views, wonderful though one knew them to be, one saw very little of them, save at the rest houses, where clearings had been made. In Papua, if you want to see where you are, you must (usually) climb to the top of a hill, and cut a big break in the trees, to clear a view. But when one did get a look, from the rest house, at sunset, and saw half the world stretched out below, far and thin and clear, down to the small blue thread of the St. Joseph winding across the plains, and the Coral Sea, lying on the horizon, like a golden shield—well, it was worth every step of the way. In the

mountains of New Guinea, one gets surfeited with beauty of scenery; after a while, the eyes look coldly, even though the mind perceives the loveliness of all these blue and violet and hyacinth peaks, shaped like the wildest fancies of a goblin dream, and piled upon one another unto the very arch of the sky. And one is usually wet, and often hungry, and generally tired—so that much of one's admiration comes afterwards, when one has finished the journey, and got back to civilisation. Still, the great ranges of New Guinea are undoubtedly among the finest sights that the round world has to show her wandering children.

(To be continued.)

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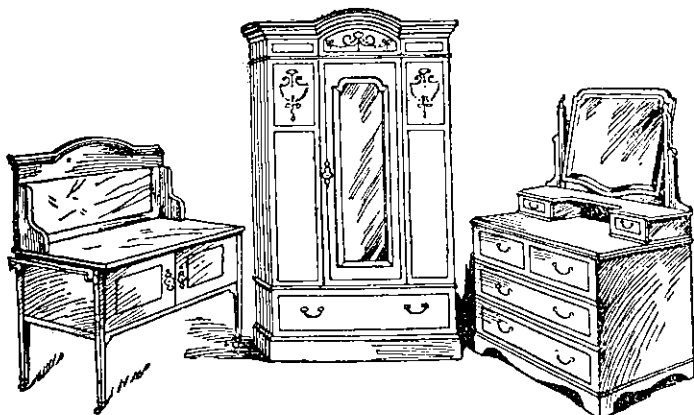
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