

# **THE FUTURE OF THE KANAKA**

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The future of the Kanaka by Edward Jacomb

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**EDWARD JACOMB**

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OF THE KANAKA**



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BY

EDWARD JACOMB

AUTHOR OF "FRANCE AND ENGLAND IN THE  
NEW HEBRIDES"

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## INTRODUCTION

I FEEL that I should preface this book with an explanation. It was written in the summer of 1917 far from many sources of reference, and in haste. I believed (rightly or wrongly) that I possessed certain information ~~about the Pacific~~ in general, and the New Hebrides in particular, which though fragmentary it was desirable to leave in a readily accessible form in case misfortune should overtake me in the war. It was clearly undesirable to publish it at the time and, moreover, I hoped to be able to expand and complete it. But since my arrival in England I have been very fully occupied in other ways, and now that the war is over its publication has suddenly become a matter of urgency. So I give it as it is.

I have already given a detailed account of the New Hebrides in a book entitled "France and England in the New Hebrides"—here I discuss more general questions and principles. I think, however, that I ought to state two things very plainly. The first is that if the present state of affairs in that unhappy Group is to be fully dragged out into the light of day, there is only one way of doing it, and that is by means of a

Commission with powers to inspect all official Records both British and French. And its chief point of inquiry should be this. What is the death-rate amongst Kanaka labourers on European plantations? Every native indentured since the inception of the Anglo-French Condominium on December 2, 1906, should be traced systematically.

The second is that it is the universal desire of the natives of the New Hebrides to pass under the British Flag. There can be little doubt that the disastrous experiment of the Condominium will, in the present general settlement of the world, be brought to an end. If that be so it will pass either to Britain or France. Should it pass to France it will be in defiance of the principle of self-determination of little races for which the Great War has been fought and won, and the settlement will not be a final one. Sooner or later the Group must pass to Australia. If it be later it will pass empty of a native population. Therefore let it be sooner.

EDWARD JACOMB

NORTHWICK HALL, WORCESTER

*April 1919*

# THE FUTURE OF THE KANAKA

## CHAPTER I

### THE FUTURE OF THE PACIFIC

#### I. THE SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY

WE learn from history that the centre of gravity of human activities is constantly shifting. If we investigate the phenomenon we see at once that it by no means depends on bulk of population. It depends mainly on the racial temperament of nations. Although history, as we generally conceive it, is occupied chiefly with southern and middle Europe, that is to say with but a small and generally turbulent minority, yet we must not omit to remember that the History of Mankind includes also within its compass the proceedings of the vaster though quieter races of the Orient and Africa. Being so greatly ignorant of the histories of the Orient and Africa, and circumscribed as we are by records which extend over little more than two thousand years, it is impossible to state with certainty what those shiftings have been, whence their origin, or what