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The History of Melanesian Society, Vol. 1 of 2 (Classic Reprint)

By W H R Rivers

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The History of Melanesian Society, Vol. 1 of 2 An earlier book of mine, The Todas, was intended to be a sample of scientific method as applied to the collection and recording of ethnographical facts. The present book is a demonstration of ethnological, rather than of ethnographical, method. When The Todas was written, I had fully realised the insufficiency of current methods of collecting the facts of ethnography, but I was then under the sway of the crude evolutionary doctrine of the time, and did not see that the need for sound method was equally great in the theoretical treatment of these facts. It was only in the act of writing this book that I came gradually to realise the unsatisfactory character of current ethnological methods. From that time, method again became my chief interest, and it is primarily as a study in method that this book is put forward. The methods I have used have led to the formulation of a scheme of Melanesian history so complicated that it may seem at first sight...



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