Bowdler Sharpe Collection

Of course you will let us have an official Report on these birds, valueless tho' they may be. It will encourage this Government to send you collections from time to time. The Brisbane Museum people are very slack in such matters: you have an opportunity <u>now</u> not to be lightly lost... There a few other articles in the case which I think may interest Dr Reid.

It would be a great pleasure to hear from you.

Very sincerely yours

F R Barton

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

3rd Nov: 1899

Dear Dr Sharpe,

I have not had an opportunity to send you anything in your line for the last few months, for my duties called me away along with my Chief to Australia to discuss the future administration of this Possession with the Premiers of the Contributing Colonies.

I have sent you from time to

time small parcels of skins & butterflies; but I fear they were not valuable enough to excite any interest.

During our absence an Expedition has been up country behind Mount Yule in the MEKEO district. The results were not scientifically of much value. A large part of the collection made was lost in crossing swollen streams, for the rain was almost incessant. I have used my influence to have the remnant sent to the British Museum, & have made the box & packed it myself, & addressed it to the Secretary at South Kensington. Among other things there is a specimen of LORIA MARIA in spirits. The little man who looks after the skeletons asked me to send him if possible a few birds. Did he get two birds (in a parcel sent to you some months ago) from which I had cut off most of the flesh? There is also an ASTRARCHEA in the case. It is either in a state of incipient albinism, or is a new variety.