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**A Voyage To New Guinea, And The Moluccas, From
Balambangan: Including An Account of Magindano,
Sooloo, and other Islands; And Illustrated With Thirty
Copperplates, Performed In The Tartar Galley, ...**

Forrest, Thomas

London, 1779

Chapter II. Departure from Balambangan - Touched at the Islands of
Cagajan Sooloo, and Pangatarran - Arrived at Sooloo, where we found a
Molucca Prow loaded with Nutmegs - Touched at the Island ...

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CHAPTER II.

Departure from Balambangan—Touched at the Islands of Cagayan Sooloo, and Pangatarran—Arrived at Sooloo, where we found a Molucca Prow loaded with Nutmegs.—Touched at the Island Tonkyl—Left it unexpectedly—Saw the Island Sangir—Passed Karakita, Palla, and Siao—Passed the Islands Ternate and Tidore—Arrived at Malaleo Harbour, in the Straits of Latalatta—Sailed thence, and arrived at Biffory Harbour—Tuan Hadjee visits the Sultan of Batchian.

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November.

ON *Wednesday* the 9th of *November*, in the morning, I rowed out of the north-east harbour of Balambangan with the aforementioned crew; saluting the settlement with five guns, and having three returned. About noon we had rain and calms; then light southerly winds. Towards evening we anchored in four and a half fathom water, muddy ground, close to the Island of Banguay; the ships at Balambangan being still in sight. Here we sent ashore our canoe, which brought some water out of a small river on the island Banguay. In the evening we weighed, and rowed on. We soon got a fresh breeze at south-west, and about midnight anchored; but, finding the current set to the eastward, weighed again.

On *Thursday* the 10th, at sunrise, we had calms and light breezes from the north-west. We then had passed the islands called the Salenfingers, but

but just saw them. At seven we rowed with fourteen oars, and continued so most part of the day, flacking at times when it was very hot. In the night we had a squall from the north-east, with thunder, lightning, and rain. The night was dark and gloomy; but this, being common in low latitudes, little affects those who are accustomed to it, as it seldom does harm: and, had our vessel been tight overhead, we might have passed the night tolerably; for during these tornado's, it is the custom of Malays to lie to at sea, as they are generally accompanied with uncertain gusts of wind. This we did for several hours, dropping a wooden anchor from the weather-bow, which kept the vessel's head to the sea, and made her lie easy. But the rain beat through the Palm leaves with which the vessel was covered, so violently, that we Europeans found it very uncomfortable: the crew did not much mind it.

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Friday the 11th, at sunrise, we saw the Island of Cagayan Sooloo, bearing east, distant about eight leagues. It is of middling height, and covered with trees; but not quite so much as Malay Islands generally are; some spots upon it appearing from sea clear of wood, and cultivated. A fresh wind springing up from the south-west, and increasing, we fixed the lateen mizen for a foresail. At three P. M. I discovered in the road, or harbour, a prow, with many people on board, and canoes going backwards and forwards to her from the shore. At four, I anchored pretty near this vessel, and found her to be a Mangaio prow, or armed vessel that goes a cruising, generally amongst the Philippine islands, called Bifaya. She was not above four tons burthen, looked very smart, having a gallery fore and
aft



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ast for the rowers to sit on, as we had; having also the tripod mast and lyre tanjong, and mounting four brass swivel guns, called Rantakers, carrying each a four ounce ball. She belonged to the Rajah of the island; and I apprehend from the hurry they were in, when we first appeared, that they were a little afraid.

When we were at anchor, the westernmost part of the island bore W. by S. two miles distant, and the easternmost part of a reef, that lay off the said west part of the island, bore S. by W. one mile distant. This formed a good road, if not a harbour; being shut in from the eastern swell, by a reef of rocks: two small islands bearing at the same time, E. by S. three leagues distant, called the Mambalu islands, in Mr. Dalrymple's maps. Early in the morning of the 12th, I went on shore, and waited on the Rajah, who spoke good Malays. I enquired the destination of his privateer; he answered, *Dio Pigy Mangaio, de Nigri Bifaya*: "She is going a cruize amongst the Philippines." I carried with me a tea kettle, some tea and sugar candy—and he drank tea with me, furnishing tea pot and cups. I told him, tea was (*English punio Ciry*) English Beetle, alluding to the beetle leaf, which all East Indians chew. He laughed, and said it was very good Ciry.

The Rajah who was very civil and facetious—asked after Tuan Hadjee, who he had heard was on board. I told him, he would pay his respects to him that afternoon. I was accompanied by Tuan Imum, one of my helmsmen, a kind of a Musselman priest, and a great favourite with Tuan Hadjee, who deferred his visit, as we did not choose

to



to be both out of the vessel together, for my two Europeans did not as yet know a word of Malays.

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The Rajah ordered a very good fowl to be dressed in a curry, of which Tuan Imum and I partook, after walking about and bathing in a fine pool of fresh water.

I presented him with a pocket compass, two pieces of course chintz, and a little tea and sugar candy, which Malays are generally fond of; and of which I had laid in a pretty good stock at Balambangan. In return, he gave me a goat, some fowls, fruits, &c. and, immediately after dinner, I returned on board.

About two in the afternoon, Tuan Hadjee, who was very well pleased to hear of the civil treatment I had received from the Rajah, went on shore. He returned at six, with fowls, fruits, &c. which the Rajah had given him, in return for some presents he had made. During our short stay here, I repaired, and made at least water tight, the leaky roof of the vessel.

In the cool of the evening, I sounded the harbour, and found the most water in it six fathom, the least three, with three fathom on the bar at half flood. The tide rises six feet on the springs, and a rising and setting moon makes high water. The bar is coral rocks, about thirty yards in width, and ten yards across, or over: within and without the bar is clean sand, free from rocks; and it will admit with safety, vessels drawing fifteen feet water.

Cagayan



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Cagayan Sooloo is a pleasant looking island; the soil is rich, and the vegetation is so luxuriant, that I found every where the grass called (Lallang) Couch Grass, grown to the height, even of six feet; the soil being black mold. The Rajah told me there was another harbour on the east coast of the island; which is about twenty miles round, lies in the latitude of 7° N. and longitude $116^{\circ} 45'$, and its distance from Balambangan is 100 miles E. by S.

The island is dependent on Sooloo, the Rajah being a Dattoo* there, and is much frequented by Mangaio Prows in general. Even the small Mangaio Prows, of the Oran Tedong (men of Tedong) a barbarous piratical people, who live up certain rivers, on the north-east part of Borneo, are admitted here, as the Rajah is, I suppose, too weak to dare to refuse them. These Oran Tedong, are not Mahometans: this circumstance, and their country being under the dominion of Sooloo, may be the reason why the Sooloos will not permit them to come into any of their ports on that island, as they discountenance their piracies. Something more of the Oran Tedong will be said hereafter.

On *Sunday* the 13th, we rowed out of Cagayan harbour, early in the morning, and found a strong current set to the southward. At sun set, Cagayan bore north, five leagues distant, we having been retarded by calms. A fresh breeze springing up soon after from the N. N. W. steered E. by N. some islands that lie to the northward of Cagayan being in sight; and the Mambalu islands to the southward

* Dattoo, signifies baron—nobleman.

bearing



T O N E W G U I N E A.

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bearing S. S. W. seven leagues. Our latitude, observed at noon, was 6° 40' N.

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On the 14th, at sunrise, we had a fine breeze from the northward: at ten it shifted to the westward, and blew fresh; hoisted our mizen for a foresail, and set a lug main sail. At the same time, our canoe broke loose; and, as it blew very fresh, we could not recover her. At noon, it being more moderate, we set our proper sails. At 4 P. M. there being little wind, we rowed with all our oars, being eighteen in number; and, at three in the morning, we had some severe squalls, followed by heavy rain. Our course to day was E. by N. It being cloudy, we had no observation.

On the 15th, at three P. M. we saw the island of Pangatarran.* At sunset, we were within three leagues of it, and kept rowing and sailing all night; we struck all our sails in a squall, within a cable's length of the shore, but had no soundings. At midnight anchored, in two fathoms water, sandy ground, abreast of an old ruined fort; but saw no people.

On *Wednesday* the 16th, finding nobody here, I weighed and rowed more to the northward. I then saw some people belonging to the island, and some Sooloo people. From those I learnt, that there

* Pangatarran, a long flat island, has no fresh water; nor is any good anchoring near, except in some few places. It abounds in Coco nuts, and a fruit called Guava. Tappool, Seafce and Pangatarran, are the only islands of the Sooloo Archipelago to which the Spaniards have preserved a title, by consent of the Sooloos. Tappool and Seafce are of middling height, well cultivated and inhabited.

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were



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were two Molucca Prows at Sooloo, loaded with nutmegs and mace; and, at Tuan Hadjee's suggestion, I resolv'd to go thither, as it was not out of our way, to endeavour to persuade the Noquedahs (commanders) to carry their nutmegs to Balambangan. I therefore immediately got under way, rowed and sail'd towards Sooloo. At midnight could see lights ashore, in the town of Bowang, which is the chief town of Sooloo. As Pangatarran abounds in Coco nuts, I laid in a good stock.

On *Thursday* the 17th, I anchored in Sooloo road, just before sunrise. I found riding here the Antelope, Captain Smith, a ship belonging to the Honourable Company, and only one Molucca Prow, beside many small prows and vessels belonging to the Sooloos. As I anchored close to the Molucca prow, the Noquedah came on board, and inform'd me, that the other prow, after disposing of her cargoe, had sail'd; he likewise told us, that he had sold, or at least bargained for his nutmegs with the Sultan: therefore he declined going to Balambangan. He was very glad to see Tuan Hadjee.

As I was anxious to see this eastern vessel, I went on board; I found her about thirty tons burthen, high built, and fitted with the tripod mast, and lyre tanjong. I bought from one of the crew, about twenty pounds of very good mace for a red handkerchief: I also bought some sago cakes. The people belonging to this prow were exceeding civil, and lent me their canoe (sampan) to fetch water.

Captain Smith perceiving I was without a boat, very politely sent his to attend me; in which, after visiting him, Tuan Hadjee and I went on shore, and paid our respects to Mr. Corbet, the English resident,

dent, who received me with great civility, and entertained me at his house. I then went and paid my respects to the Sultan, whose name was Israel: he was son to the old Sultan Amiralmoomine, and had his education at Manilla, where his father and he had long been prisoners, and were relieved last war from their captivity, by the arms of the English. Amiralmoomine being old, had given up the reins of government to his son Israel.

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After dining with Mr. Corbet, in company with captain Smith and his officers, I went and paid my respects to Dato Alamoordine, who was intended to succeed Sultan Israel, as he had no children. I also visited the Datoos Almilbahar the admiral, and Almilbadar the general. I found the Sultan, and all these gentlemen, concluded I was going to Magindano;* nor did I deceive them.

In the cool of the evening, I had the pleasure of seeing the Sultan's niece Potely (princess) Diamelen, and the general's daughter Fatima, ride on horseback, accompanied by several Datoos and others. Their manner is, to ride backwards and forwards, the length of a long broad street, upon sandy ground, forcing their horses on a quick trot, and checking them when they attempt to gallop. The horses accustomed to this, trot very fast.

These two ladies were remarkably handsome, and were reckoned fair; which they certainly were by comparison. They wore waistcoats of fine muslin, close fitted to their bodies; their necks to the upper parts of the breast being bare. From the waist downwards, they wore a loose robe, girt with an embroidered zone or belt about the

* The English used to call it Mindano, and I shall often call it so.



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middle, with a large clasp of gold, and a precious stone. This loose robe like a petticoat, came over their drawers, and reached to the middle of the leg; the drawers of fine muslin, reaching to the ancle. They rode across with very short stirrups, and wore their hair clubbed, atop, Chinese fashion. Before the exercise was over, Diamelen's hair fell loose, and hung in black shining ringlets, most gracefully down her back, as far as the saddle. They often put sweet oils on their hair, which gives it a gloss. The ladies fat their horses remarkably well; and this is an exercise women of fashion indulge all over the island. Their saddles have in the middle a vacancy, which must make it easy for the horse, like those recommended for troopers, by marshal Saxe in his Reveries.

Here I got excellent refreshment: Oranges full as good as those in China, and all kinds of the best tropical fruits—very good beef, fowls, &c.

On *Friday* the 18th, we had squally weather, the winds at S. W. At noon we parted from our grapnel, and let go another, by which we held fast. Captain Smith assisted me in the evening very readily with his boat and people, to sweep for the lost grapnel, to no purpose, the ground where it happened to be dropt being rocky. I had from Mr. Corbet a stout bamboo for a foremast, also two English ensigns. I should have stayed here longer, at least until I had got a canoe; but, the road being exposed to the north west wind and swell, tho' sheltered from all other winds, and this being the time of the shifting of the monsoon, I thought proper to be gone.

On



On *Saturday* the 19th, I sailed from Sooloo road, with the wind at N. W. blowing fresh, and steered N. E. At noon we saw the two islands of Duoblod; the northermost is the smaller. At four in the morning we saw the island of Basilan. It is an island belonging to Sooloo, and about the same size; the west end of it bore E. by N. distant six leagues. Here I found the ebb tide set very strong to the eastward, much stronger than the flood tide sets to the westward: this is the case during the S. W. monsoon, and the current had not yet changed.

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Sunday the 20th. Next to Duoblod, in an east direction, is an island with a large hummoc or hillock upon it; it is called Tantar in Mr. Dalrymple's map. As the weather threatened, I attempted, but in vain, to get to it, the current and tide setting strong to the eastward, between it and two very small islands called Dippool, which lie south of it, and are shaped like sugar loaves; the one much larger than the other. I therefore bore away for a low island, lying farther east. At eight A. M. I reached it, and found it surrounded with coral rocks, yet I came to amongst them, with a wooden anchor, in three fathom water, the weather looking very unsettled, and the wind blowing fresh at N. N. W.

On *Monday* the 21st, about noon, I spoke with a small fishing boat, or prow, with only one Sooloo man in her; who told us, that further on, was a harbour, into which we might go; and informed me that the island was called Tonkyl. I accordingly weighed, but observing that it was a dry harbour, I did not chuse to go into it. However, I anchored in three fathom water, on a small spot of sand, just



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just without the harbour. Here I bought some very good fish, exceeding cheap, of some of the natives who were out in their boats. Notwithstanding I lay under the lee of the island, close to the shore, yet I gave a reward to some of the natives for bringing fire wood on board, not chusing to trust my people on shore to cut it, as I perceived many armed men, of whom I was suspicious; and who calling out, endeavoured to persuade me, but to no purpose, to go into the harbour.

The weather still having a very unsettled aspect, I was unwilling to put to sea, to continue our voyage, but thought of going over to the island Basilan, which was then in sight, and where I was told by Tuan Hadjee's people, there was choice of good harbours;—at the same time, the fisherman, of whom I had bought the fish, offered to come early next morning, and conduct me to a very good harbour on that island: I accordingly engaged him.

About eleven at night the wind came from the eastward, along shore, and blew fresh. We got up our grapnel, but the vessel casting wrong, touched upon the rocks. As she forged on without any fail, I instantly took out the piece of wood which secured the fore bamboo of the tripod mast, near the stem, and let the mast fall. Luckily it fell aslant against the mizen mast, which broke its fall, and saved it. We then, with poles, set the vessel's head round, got up the mast, and made sail to the S. E. with the wind at E. N. E. I was apprehensive that had I been cast away upon this island, the Sooloos might at least have plundered us.

In the morning the weather was more moderate. We found one of the flocks of the grapnel straightened a little, probably by having caught
caught



caught hold of a rock. At noon we were in latitude $5^{\circ} 30'$ N. having run forty-eight miles on a S. E. by E. course since morning. The sea was now smoother, and ran in a more even manner than it did, when we left the land; it being then very irregular, and the vessel making water.

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On *Tuesday* the 22d, we had moderate weather, and ran eighty-two miles on an E. S. E. course: and at noon, we were in the latitude of $5^{\circ} 3'$ N.

To day Tuan Hadjee told me, that it was highly imprudent to go to the coast of New Guinea, whither we were bound, being only one vessel; and that we ran the risk of being cut off by the Papuas. He said nothing of this at Balambangan. We had there proposed to go to the northward of Morty (which island lies near the north part of the island Gilolo or Halamahera, the largest of the Moluccas) in the vessel we had; and now for the first time he started objections. I considered it imprudent to do any thing absolutely opposite to his opinion or advice, therefore agreed to go between the island Gilolo and Celebes, in order to purchase, and fit up a Corocoro*,

* A corocoro is a vessel generally fitted with out-riggers, with a high arched stem and stern, like the point of a half moon. They are used by the inhabitants of the Molucca islands chiefly, and the Dutch have fleets of them at Amboyna, which they employ as guarda costas. They have them from a very small size, to above ten tons burden; and on the cross pieces which support the out-riggers, there are often put fore and aft planks, on which the people sit and paddle, beside those who sit in the vessel on each gunnel. In smooth water they can be paddled very fast, as many hands may be employed in different ranks or rows. They are steered with two commoodies, (broad paddles) and not with a rudder. When they are high out of the water, they use oars; but, on the out-riggers, they always use paddles. Frequent mention is made of corocoros in the history of Amboyna.

at



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at some convenient place thereabouts, that we might be two vessels in company. This pleased him much. I found he had a strong inclination to visit Batchian, the Sultan of which was his near relation.

On *Wednesday* the 23d, we had moderate weather, and westerly winds; steered S. E. by E. seventy miles. At noon we were in the latitude of $4^{\circ} 34'$, and one hundred and fifty miles east of the meridian of Tonkyl. This day we had many rippings of currents, which I imputed to the monsoon's changing.

On *Thursday* the 24th, we had fair weather; steered S. E. eighty miles: at noon our latitude was $3^{\circ} 55' N$.

On *Friday* the 25th, we had westerly winds and squally weather. Ran under a foul weather mainfail, and steered as best suited the vessel's ease, between the south and east, as she laboured much, and shipped water. Kept baling, as we had no pump, every half hour. Many of the rattan lashings were also found broke.*

In the morning we saw the island of Sangir, appearing large and high; the body of it, bearing about north-east, was covered with clouds. We steered to the northward of a cluster of five islands, which lie to the southward of Sangir; the two principal are called Karakita and Palla, as I was informed by Abdaraman, one of Tuan Hadjee's people, who had been there. Each of these two islands may be about five or six miles round. They are about three miles asunder,

* The ends of the beams went through, or pierced the vessel's sides; the beams were tied to handles on the planks, which were nailed to the timbers.

bearing

bearing N. N. E. and S. S. W. of one another; Karakita being to the northward, and are both cultivated; Palla, rather the largest, has a table land upon it. In passing Karakita, we saw a small canoe about two miles from us, which shunned us, paddling away very fast. On the north-west side of Karakita there is a bay, perhaps a harbour. Abdaraman could not particularly inform me about it. Opposite to the mouth of the bay there appears a beautiful row of coco nut trees on the ridge of a hill, as in the view.

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Abdaraman told me there was a harbour at Pulo Siao; which island we saw bearing south from Karakita about ten leagues, and was partly wrapped in clouds, it being very high. To the westward of Karakita, and north-west of Palla, are three islands, one of them not above one mile round, which appeared like a gunner's coin or wedge. The other two are something larger. To the southward of Sangir, and near it, are also three small islands.

A small rocky island, with a few coco nut trees upon it, and many rocks, like sugar loaves, around it, bore E. S. E. from Karakita four miles, which, from its shape, we called the Rabbit. We passed to the westward of it within half a mile, the current setting to the southward. Karakita lies in the latitude of $3^{\circ} 16'$ N. and longitude $122^{\circ} 20'$ E. In my run from Tonkyl to Karakita, it was impossible for me to be certain of my course and distances, as I steered so many different courses to keep the vessel easy. I expected to make Sangir sooner than I did. The currents at the beginning of the north-east monsoon are uncertain, and sometimes very strong here, as they also are in the China seas and Bay of Bengal at this season of the year. I had the

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greatest reason to think I was set to the westward; and have, from my remarks when I returned, chiefly, placed the island of Sangir $2^{\circ} 40'$ E. of the meridian of Tonkyl; although, by my run, I made it to be much more.

On *Saturday* the 26th, we had moderate weather, with calms towards midnight. We then rowed a good deal, cheering up the rowers with a dish of tea, which refreshed them, and they were fond of it, having no idea of spirituous liquors; neither did any of them smoke opium, which Malays often do, thereby rendering themselves unfit for duty. In the morning the high land of Siao bore N. W. half N. and at noon we were in the latitude of $2^{\circ} 16'$ N. To day, expect to see Myo and Tyfory, two small islands near Ternate, as we sometimes rowed three knots an hour.

Early in the morning of *Sunday* the 27th, by the light of the moon we saw the island Myo, which is of middling height. Presently after we saw the island Tyfory, just open with its south end, bearing west; Ternate Hill bearing at the same time south-east, distant about ten leagues. Myo lies in latitude $1^{\circ} 23'$ N. and longitude $122^{\circ} 50'$ E. Tyfory is a flat island, not so large as Myo, and lies about W. by S. from it, five or six miles distant.* There is said to be a good road on the coast of Myo, and that many wild goats are upon it. It was formerly inhabited, when the Spaniards had the Mo-

* Myo and Tyfory, in former days, furnished four hundred men as militia to the Sultan of Ternate. At Myo there is a harbour; and it produces cloves.

HISTOIRE GENERALE DE L'ASIE PAR D'AVITY. p. 904.

lucas;



lucas; but the Dutch will not now permit any body to live there, lest it should be convenient for the smuggling of spices. Tuan Hadjee told me he has been assured that some few spice trees grow upon it, which the Dutch know nothing of, being persuaded they have long ago been rooted out.

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On *Monday* the 28th, we had moderate weather, and in the night we rowed a good deal. I found Tuan Hadjee in high spirits, cheering up the rowers with a certain Tactic song, to which a man beat time with two brass timbrels. This song was in the Mindano tongue, and is much used by Mangaio boats, not only to amuse and cheer up the mind, but to give vigour to their motions in rowing. This I encouraged, that we might soon get past the Dutch settlements of Ternate and Tidore. I also gave each man a red handkerchief for their encouragement. The current was much in our favour. To day we passed Ternate and Tidore, and at four P. M. were abreast of Macquian, having moderate weather, with northerly winds. At sunset we passed Macquian, and sailed within three miles of the westernmost of the five Giaritchas, lying in latitude $00^{\circ} 25' N$. The Giaritchas are a cluster of five small islands, lying about six leagues S. S. W. of Macquian. They are of middling height, with many bare rocks, intermixed with green spots and trees. When the southernmost bears S. by E. about ten miles distant, there appears a small rock to the westward.

On *Tuesday* the 29th, having passed the Giaritchas, we steered south for the straits of Latalatta. At ten at night we got into a little harbour, called Malaleo, which is on the north-west part of the island

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Tappa;



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Tappa; and off the said north-west part of Tappa, are three small isles, or large rocks, about twenty-five feet high, with some bushes upon them. I was told that those rocks have some caves in them which produce birds nests. * I therefore call them the Bird-Nest islands, as none of Tuan Hadjee's people could give me their proper names.

To sail into Malaleo harbour, steer for these islands, if you come from the northward, and leave them on the right hand. The harbour, which is a kind of cove, will soon shew itself; and in going into it, you must keep the right-hand shore on board, to avoid a shoal on which the sea breaks, that is on the left hand, at the entrance of the harbour. A ship may lie in this cove in four fathom water perfectly

* Edible birds nests, built by certain birds like swallows in caves close to the sea, and into which the sea flows. I have taken them from the face of a perpendicular rock, to which they strongly adhered, in rows like semi-cups, the one touching the other. Captain Tattam at Tappanooly, told me, he has watched those birds, and that they rob other birds of their eggs, part of which (the white perhaps) they mix up with something else; and of this they form their nests. The best are white and pellucid, worth five or six dollars per pound. There is another kind got in caves in land: they are dark coloured, full of feathers, and of very little value. Great quantities of the white kind are carried from all Malay countries to China, where they are in great esteem, very deservedly, as when stewed, they are exceeding delicate and nutritious. The Chinese have a trick of moistening them, to make them heavy for sale.

It is very probable the birds use that glutinous sea plant called Agal Agal, in making their nests, as Mr. Dalrymple, in his account of the Sooloo curiosities, says the natives reported to him.

I have seen on small islands, in the Sooloo Archipelago, under overhanging rocks at the sea side, a glutinous substance sticking to the rock, yellow and pellucid, and of an insipid taste. The fishermen (Badjoos), that frequent those islands in covered boats, told me, the birds used it in building their nests.

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land-locked, within twelve yards of the shore, to which it would be proper to have a hawser carried and made fast to a tree. Here we found a very fragrant smell come from the woods. The latitude of Malaleo is $00^{\circ} 06' N.$ and longitude $123^{\circ} 35' E.$

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On *Wednesday* the 30th, at sunrise, we weighed and rowed out of this snug small harbour; we turned to the right, and entered the straits of Lalalatta, which divide the island Lalalatta from the island Tappa. These straits are about one mile and a half in length, and in some places not above forty yards broad, with good soundings in them. At the end there is a little island like an ordinary dwelling-house in size. Opposite to it, and not fifty yards from it, across the channel, on the island Tappa, we found a charming pool of fresh water, where, after filling our jars, we all bathed: we then weighed, left it on the right hand, and suddenly came out of the narrow straits, already mentioned, into the wide straits between Latalatta and the island of Mandioly, which may be eight miles across. We lay to part of the night, and at daylight passed a rock within thirty yards of the island Mandioly, like a pidgeon house in size and shape, with a bush or two atop. We left it on the left hand, as we steered into the harbour of Bissory. When the said pidgeon-house rock bears north, or even long before that, the peninsula of Bissory, which forms the harbour, will show itself as in the view. Look out for the reef that lies off the peninsula to seaward, and giving it a reasonable birth, you may steer in eighteen, sixteen, and fourteen fathom muddy ground into the harbour. There you lie perfectly smooth in twelve fathom water: fresh water is to be got in a small river, the bar of which is smooth.



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November.

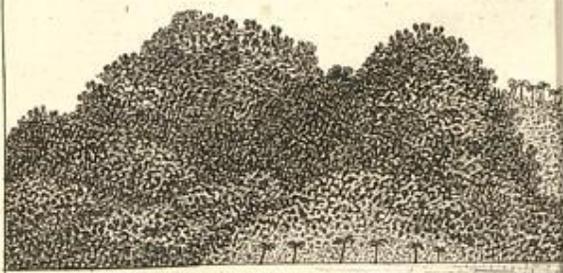
smooth. The harbour of Biffory lies in latitude $00^{\circ} 18'$ south, and longitude $123^{\circ} 40'$ east. About ten miles south of the Pidgeon-House Rock, there is another rock, nearly of the same size, and as near to the land. I call it, from its shape, the Obtuse Cone. It has also a bush or two atop.

On the 31st, we had fair weather and westerly winds; we saw no boats, nor any people all day long. Tuan Hadjee prepared to go to visit his relation, the Sultan of Batchian, accompanied by my servant Matthew. They had about fifteen miles to walk.

C H A P.

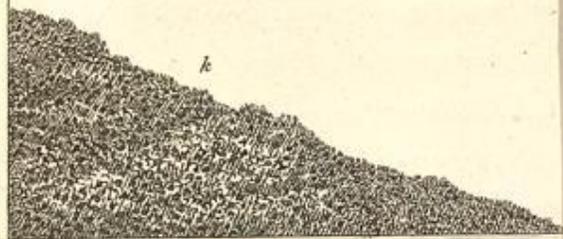


Pl. A

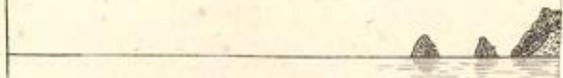


n. S. W.

Bar



k. Karakita S. S. E. 6'



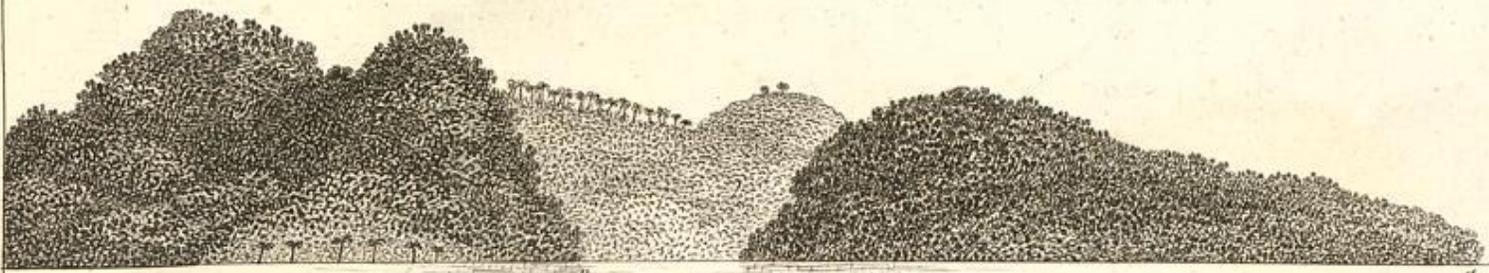
Thos Forrest delin^r

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n. S. & W.

Bay

in

Karakita

s. S. & W. & W.



k. Karakita S. S. E. 6'

p. Palla 12'

s. Siao 12 L.

g. Grave I. S. & W. & W. S. L.



Rabbit I. E. S. E. 6'

Tho: Forrest delin: t

Tho: Vwares Sculp: t

Published by Captⁿ. Tho: Forrest as the Act directs, Jan^y. 30th. 1779.



30

1774.
November.

