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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 IV. Tuan Hadjee returns on Board with a Messenger from the Sultan of Batchian - Sailed from Bissory Harbour - Had an accidental Interview with the Sultan of Batchian, on the Island Bally - ...

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C H A P T E R IV.

Tuan Hadjee returns on Board with a Messenger from the Sultan of Batchian—Sailed from Biffory Harbour—Had an accidental Interview with the Sultan of Batchian, on the Island Bally—Sailed thence for Tomoguy—Put into Selang Harbour—Description of it—Sailed thence, and put into a Harbour on the Island Gag—Description of it—Sailed thence, and arrived at Tomoguy, where we narrowly escaped Shipwreck—Hauled the Vessel ashore to repair.

1774.
December.

ON *Thursday* the first of *December*, a fishing boat came on board. She was the only embarkation I had seen since we left Tonkyl, excepting the small canoe off Karakita. At night, I lay off in twelve fathom water, muddy ground; but, in the day I hauled close to the peninsula: I was then hid from the sea. This I did to avoid being seen by any Dutch cruiser in the offing, that might be passing this way. A large ship might lie close to the peninsula, in five fathom water, muddy ground, and heave down conveniently, as it is steep.

On *Friday* the 2d, it blew very fresh from the N. W. saw nobody all day—gathered, near the sea shore, some ripe limes from the tree.

On *Saturday* the 3d, about noon, Tuan Hadjee returned by sea; he came in a small prow or canoe, mounted with outriggers, and had three prows besides with him. He was accompanied by a messenger
from

from the Sultan of Batchian, with a present of fowls, fruit, rice, &c. and about twenty pounds of cloves in a basket. The messenger's name was Tuan Bobo. In return, I presented him with a whole piece of English scarlet broad cloth, for the Sultan; and two pieces of gingham for himself. I observed Tuan Hadjee sent most of the fine goods he had got from Mr. Herbert, at Balambangan, ashore at this place, by Tuan Bobo.

1774.
December.

At four in the afternoon we rowed out of Biffory Harbour, and stood to the southward: at midnight, we anchored behind a small isle, called Pulo Bally, in two fathom water, sandy ground.

On *Sunday* the 4th, in the morning, we had a hard squall of wind from the N. W. with rain. About ten in the forenoon, came on board in a canoe three persons, who said they were Rajahs on the island Ceram. After Tuan Hadjee and I had a little conversation with them, concerning that island, and other matters, in which they told me that cloves certainly grew on many parts of it, they went ashore to the island Bally. We then weighed, and got under sail, intending to touch at the island of Waygiou, or somewhere near it, in order, as I had agreed with Tuan Hadjee, to purchase, and fit up a corocora, to enable us to prosecute our voyage to New Guinea; for we thought Batchian was too near Ternate to do that business there.

Presently after we saw a boat standing towards us, with a white flag. Tuan Hadjee told me it was the Sultan of Batchian. As it then blew fresh, and the wind came round from the N. W. to the west, and W. by S. I put back to regain the island. I found the vessel work
very



1774.
December.

very ill, being hard to veer; and I regained the anchorage with difficulty. The Sultan had many small prows attending him; one of them came very opportunely to tow us in behind the island.

I then went ashore with Tuan Hadjee, to pay my respects to the Sultan of Batchian. He sat under the shade of a covered canoe, that was hauled up, upon some boards laid across the gunnel; and, when I came within ten or twelve yards of him, he ran forwards and embraced me.

After being seated in the canoe, I told him in Malays, which he spoke very well, that I was going to Tanna Papua, (New Guinea) and asked the favour of him to assist me with a linguist. He very readily consented to my request, and desired me to go to the island Tomoguy, near the large island Waygiou, where he would give direction, that one captain Mareca should accompany me to New Guinea, and be my linguist. In the conversation I had with the Sultan, I told him the English wished him very well, but, would have nothing to say to the Molucca islands; and I advised him to keep on good terms with the Dutch. When I had staid with him about an hour, I took my leave. I found I was the first Englishman he had ever seen.

The Sultan is a handsome man, about forty-four years of age. Tuan Hadjee, whilst we were with the Sultan, sat on the ground, and every time he spoke to the Sultan, nay almost at every word, lifted his hands close together to his head, it being the Molucca custom to do it frequently, and much oftener than in Indostan.

Pulo



1774.
December.

Pulo Bally* is an island about two miles round, and lies in the latitude of $00^{\circ} 30' S.$ There is good anchorage to the eastward of it in twelve and thirteen fathom water, muddy ground. It has abundance of wood and fresh water; and as I went behind it from the S. W. I believe there is no danger that way. A small island, called Siao, lies near it. About three leagues S. W. of Bally are some dangerous breakers, which I saw very high, as it was stormy this morning. About two in the afternoon, we weighed and stood on to the southward, the weather being moderate: but we found a large swell from the westward, and passed within the shoal which has been mentioned. The breakers were exceedingly high upon it. The channel between it and the opposite shore of Batchian is about five miles wide. About ten at night it fell calm, during which I found a great swell again from the westward, and the sea broke several times; owing, I suppose, to a strong current. On the south-west point of Batchian is a long low point, which I call Flat Point. We passed it in the night, about three miles off, and had no soundings with seventy fathoms of line. It lies in latitude $00^{\circ} 38' S.$ and longitude $123^{\circ} 38' E.$

On *Monday* the 5th, in the morning, Flat Point † bore N. W. by N. and the high hill of Labuhat, on the east side of the straits that divide Batchian from it, bore E. by S. At the same time we could see the island Ooby very plain, and Pulo Tappa bore S. S. E. Had no ground within half a mile of the shore. About noon we were abreast of the straits above mentioned: they are called sometimes the straits of Betyang; and we could see within the straits a hill with a flat top, like what is called the frustum of a cone. The Dutch fort Barnavel is said to be at the foot of it.

* Plate III.

† Plate III, and IV.



1774.
December.

At noon we were in the latitude of $00^{\circ} 45'$ S. Labuhat Hill bearing E. half N.

Conversing with Tuan Hadjee about Batchian, he informed me, that a great deal of cloves might be had from thence, and from Gilolo also, if any ship should think of trading that way; the Dutch being much off their guard to what they were formerly. He also told me, pearls were to be had amongst the Moluccas.

On *Tuesday* the 6th, we had squally and rainy weather, with W. and W. N. W. winds; steered east. About ten in the morning, the wind coming to the S. E. ran into the harbour of Selang. *

In steering along-shore, the island Selang, that makes the harbour, may be easily perceived. It is not flat and low, neither is it very high; but the east part slopes down to where it seems to join the main land of Batchian; the straits there being narrow, and not five foot deep. The island forms two harbours with the main land; an outer and an inner harbour. There is no danger in running into either, but what is plainly seen. I would advise to keep near the island. In going into the inner harbour, keep still near the island, and you will pass between two reefs, both of which may be seen even at high water, as they will then be only covered with three foot and a half water, and the coral rocks show themselves very plain under water in so small a depth. The width between the reefs is about 100 fathom, and the depth 12 fathom, soft muddy ground; the inner harbour being about two miles broad and three long, and the general depth ten fathom. The latitude of Selang harbour is $00^{\circ} 50'$ S. and its longitude $124^{\circ} 10'$ E.

* Plate V.



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

51

In the evening we rowed out of the harbour; but the wind coming to the eastward, we put back, and anchored behind the second point, in the outer harbour.

1774.
December.

On *Wednesday* the 7th, in order to compleat our water, as I did not immediately find any on the island, we rowed behind a reef of rocks, in the outer harbour, and anchored in seven fathom good holding ground, close to the main land of Batchian.

Here I found fresh water very accessible; a reef of coral rocks sheltering this little harbour from the S. and S. W. swell, the point of Labuhat (the extreme to the westward) being then shut in with what I call Attop Point, as many nipa or attop trees grow there. To day it blew very fresh from the westward. Between this and the straits of Labuhat, or Bytyang, which we have passed, lies, as Tuan Hadjee told me, a most commodious harbour, called Wyoua; but we did not go into it.

Hitherto we saw no boats, houses, or people. Sent a little way into the woods in search of clove trees, but none were found. The people, however, discovered many nutmeg trees very tall. There was no fruit visible on the branches; but many old nutmegs were lying on the ground, and most of them had sprouted.

Here all hands bathed, which we generally did when fresh water was accessible. We also got on Attop Point many kima, which made excellent curry.

H 2

On



1774
December.

On *Thursday* the 8th, we weighed in the morning, and sailed out of the harbour of Selang with a first land wind: it then fell calm. About ten A. M. the wind came fresh from the south-west; steered S. E. Passed a spot of coral rocks with five fathom water on some parts of it, lying S. E. by S. from the east point of Selang island, and about two miles distant from it. I was told by some of Tuan Hadjee's people, that there was a passage for ships within it, and I found upon it a great rippling of a tide or current. At four P. M. we saw the islands that are said to lie to the southward of Pulo Dammer, and are called Gorongo. They bore east. In the night we steered S. E. to avoid some rocks, which Tuan Hadjee said lay to the eastward of us.

In the morning of the 9th, we could see Pulo Pisang * bearing east about eight leagues; it is covered with trees; and two islands called Liliola and Tapiola, covered also with trees; the islands Gorongo, that lie south of Pulo Dammer, (mentioned yesterday) bearing north. They lie in $1^{\circ} 10'$ S. latitude; Pulo Pisang lies in latitude $1^{\circ} 30'$ S. and longitude $125^{\circ} 40'$ E. At sunset Pulo Pisang bore S. by E. half E. We could then see the high land of Ceram very distant: hauled up N. E.

On *Saturday* the 10th, in the morning we could see the islands of Bo, bearing S. S. E. At the same time Pulo Pisang bore S. W. by S. We had very smooth water, with the wind at N. W. and N. W. by W. steering N. E. I had no observation at noon, Pulo Pisang then bore S. W. 16 leagues. Pulo Bo, bore south, and Pulo Popo south east; could also see an island called Gag, of middling height, bearing north east. There was little wind, sometimes it was calm.

* Plate VI. N^o 4.

Sunday

Sunday the 11th. All night we steered north east, with the wind at west, and rowed a good deal. In the morning, several small islands, flat and low, bore from E. by N. to E. S. E. they were about four in number; one in particular, called Piamis, had a pointed peak, might be three or four hundred feet high. At noon, Pulo Gag* bore N. N. E. five or six leagues. We were then in the latitude of $00^{\circ} 35'$ south.

1774.
December.

At one P. M. Pulo Gag bore from N. half E. to N. E. by N. about four leagues distant. Another island, in appearance, as high as Gag, bore N. W. by N. half N. about ten leagues distant: this we found afterwards to be Gibby.† Two small islands, one of them with a hummoc upon it, lay S. by W. from Gag; they are named Doif. Some high land appeared to the eastward, which I was told to be the island Waygiou.

At sun set, a boat with three Papua men came on board; I hired them to tow us into a fine bay on the south east quarter of Pulo Gag. Here we anchored in eight fathom water, muddy ground, within fifty yards of the strand.

At eight in the evening, Tuan Hadjee went to Tomoguy, whither we had been directed, (a place near Gibby Monpine, on the west coast of the island Waygiou) in the same boat, leaving her owner, who was a Papua man, and spoke good Malays, on board of the galley.

On *Monday* the 12th, in the morning, I went ashore upon Gag, and found a small clear rivulet, where we watered. We also supplied ourselves with wood, then weighed and rowed out, intending to proceed

* Plate II. and VII.

† Plate VII.

to

1774.
December.

to the island of Tomoguy; as we expected Tuan Hadjee, by this time, had been there.

At the mouth of the harbour we met a boat with four Papua men, and two women, which I hired to tow us out, there being little wind, and we therefore rowing at the same time. I observed the two women plied their paddles more than the men: their hire was a red handkerchief. Having got out of the bay, we found a tide or current set strong to the northward: so we continued all night steering north east, thinking the tide set then to the southward. At noon we were in the latitude of $00^{\circ} 10'$ south.

The 13th was calm in the morning; a little before noon, we saw a boat standing towards us. At noon, Pulo Gag bore from W. by S. to S. W. by W. six leagues; and the south part of Gibby, bore west, half north; our latitude was then $00^{\circ} 10'$ south. A high island called Ruib, at the same time, bore N. by E. half E. and part of Waygiou, which remarkably figures a cock's comb,* being a long indented ridge of a hill, with some white chalky spots upon it, bore E. N. E. At this time, we were within sight of the beach of a long flat island, called Yew, which bore from E. by N. to E. by S. And we saw ten small low islands to the southward. But, before I go farther, I must say something of the island Gag, and then return to Tuan Hadjee, who came on board a little after noon, in the same boat wherein the night before he had left that island.

Pulo Gag, in latitude $00^{\circ} 18'$ south, and longitude $126^{\circ} 40'$ east, is an island of middling height. When plainly seen, it looks very like

* Plate VIII. N^o 2, 5, and 6.

land



land of Europe, not being loaded with wood, as islands in Malay countries generally are. From this circumstance, I judge it to be rather barren in general; tho' the valley where I landed, and which appears in the view, had a rich soil, with a most luxuriant vegetation; and that part of the island, on the north side of the bay, is covered with tall timber trees; whereas, the trees on those other parts that appear in the view, to the south west, are rather dwarfish. I was told that a good many sago trees grew upon it. This island is not inhabited, tho' travellers by water, in their way from Patany-hook, on the island Gilolo, and from the island Gibby to Waygiou, often put into the bay where I did, to pass the night, and sometimes stay there a fishing for several days; the Island Gag being about half way betwixt Gibby and Waygiou, and almost in the track. To go into the bay, send first a boat to lie upon the spots of coral rocks, that are on each hand in the entrance, which is sufficiently broad. These rocks show themselves by their bright colour under water; but never above water, even at the lowest. Off Pulo Gag lie several banks, with ten and twenty fathom depth, sandy ground: on those banks is good fishing.

1774.
December.

A little after noon, as I have said, Tuan Hadjee returned on board in the same boat that carried him from Gag; he brought captain Mareca along with him, who was to be our linguist to New Guinea. We therefore immediately bore away for the island of Tomoguy, where Captain Mareca lived, and which was not yet seen, it being hid by the larger islands of Batang Pally.

We



1774.
December.

We passed to the southward of Batang Pally, * by the north side of a small low island, not half a mile round, covered with trees, leaving it on the right hand, and still steering round Batang Pally. After sunset, we arrived at Tomoguy island, and passing southward, anchored to the eastward of it, in eighteen fathoms muddy ground, pretty close to shore: it was then near eight o'clock, and very dark. On the Papua man's going ashore, I rewarded him handsomely for the use of his boat.

On *Wednesday* the 14th, in the morning it began to blow at north east; being a lee shore and very steep, we rode for some time in great danger. We dragged our grapnel from the mud soundings, but it luckily hooked the coral rocks, and held fast, while the sea broke under our stern. I could not but be vexed Captain Mareca had brought us to an anchor in so bad a place, when many safe harbours were near; and the darkness, when we anchored the night before, prevented my seeing the badness of our berth. About noon, when the gale had moderated a little, Captain Mareca came to us in a corocoro, with ten men and paddles. They presently carried out a wooden anchor, and rattan cable, which by floating, made an excellent warp; they also towed us, and we got out of our danger.

I immediately made sail for a place called Manafuin, about two leagues from Tomoguy; and there I anchored in a smooth bay, in twelve fathom water, clean sandy ground. The people, who assisted us so opportunely, were rewarded to their wish.

* Plate VIII. N° 2.

On



Thursday the 15th. In this bay, I passed the night very happy with the thoughts of having just escaped shipwreck. Tuan Hadjee and I had agreed to haul the vessel ashore at Tomoguy, or some where near it, not only to clean, as I feared the worms had got into her bottom, but to raise her one streak or plank, as I found her, in crossing from Tonkyl to the Moluccas, rather too low, the sea often coming over her gunnel, which was no higher than her gallery beams, and getting into the hold through the thatch. I had not been ashore at Tomoguy; and, from the danger I had experienced near it, I imagined we could not there do our business with safety. I therefore proposed to haul ashore, where we were. To this Tuan Hadjee objected, as did most of the people that belonged to him: so I did not insist upon it.

1774.
December.

About noon, Captain Mareca came on board in the corocoro that had so greatly assisted us yesterday. He said, we might haul ashore at high water, close to his house, the vessel being previously lightened, to enable her to float over the coral rocks. To this I consented: so we weighed, and rowed back to Tomoguy, Captain Mareca's corocoro towing us at the same time. We anchored in fifteen fathom, opposite his house, until the tide served; and having taken up some of the coral rocks, as well as lightened the vessel, we hauled her ashore at a village, consisting only of Captain Mareca's house, the house of the Papua man, whose boat carried Tuan Hadjee from Pulo Gag, and three more little habitations.

Tomoguy is an island about two miles round, shaped like a horse shoe; the hollow being that bay, where I had lately made so narrow an escape. On the island rises a hill, which takes up about three fourths

I

of



1774
December.

of its compass; and on the side of this hill, which may be a hundred and fifty foot high, are plantations of tropical fruits and roots. The hill towards the west, is rather steep, the Horse Shoe bay lying to the eastward. From the hill I could see, to the southward, many low islands, of which I took some notice the day before I came to Tomoguy. I could also see distant land to the southward; they called it Batanta and Famiay. The island Tomoguy lies in latitude $00^{\circ} 15'$ S. and longitude $127^{\circ} 4'$ E.

the people that belonged to him: so I did not meet upon it.

CHAP-
had to greatly assist us yesterday. He said, we might haul ashore at high water, close to his house, the vessel being previously lightened, to enable her to float over the coral rocks. To this I consented: so we weighed, and towed back to Tomoguy, Captain Mares's consort towing us at the same time. We anchored in fifteen fathoms, opposite his house, until the tide served; and having taken up some of the coral rocks, as well as lightened the vessel, we hauled her ashore at a large, consisting only of Captain Mares's house, the house of the Portuguese man, whose boat carried Tuan Hadjee from Palo Gag, and three more little habitations.

Tomoguy is an island about two miles round, shaped like a horse shoe; the hollow being that way, where I had lately made so narrow an escape. On the island rises a hill, which takes up about three fourths of



1.2



l. *Latalatta* 3' s. *Straits S.* t. *Tappa Island* x. *Entrance into the*



s. *Skirt of Tappa N.W. 1/2 mile* b. b. b. *Birds Nest Islands* 2'

<p><i>PART</i> of</p> <p><i>TAPPA ISLAND</i></p>	<p>Malaleo Harbour</p> <p><i>Lat^d 00.6' N.</i></p> <p><i>Long^d 123.35' E.</i></p>	<p>Harbour of Gag</p> <p><i>Look out for the Sa</i></p>
	<p><i>r. River's mouth</i></p>	

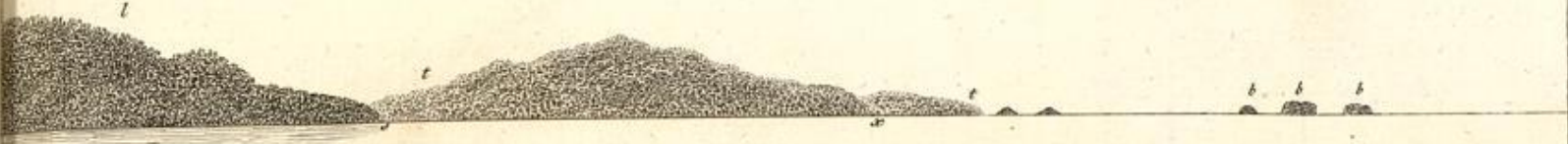
r. River's mouth

o. Othwe Cone S.W. 12'

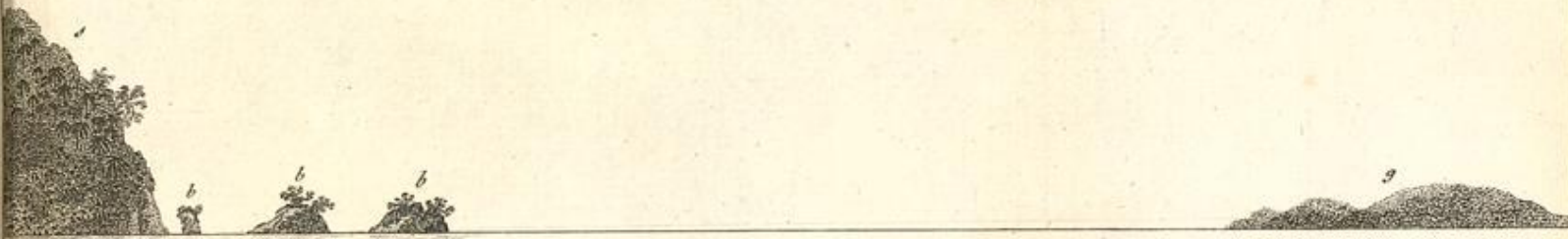
ished by Capt^o Tho^s Forrest as the Act directs, Jan^y 30th 1779.

Tho^s Vavros Sculp^t

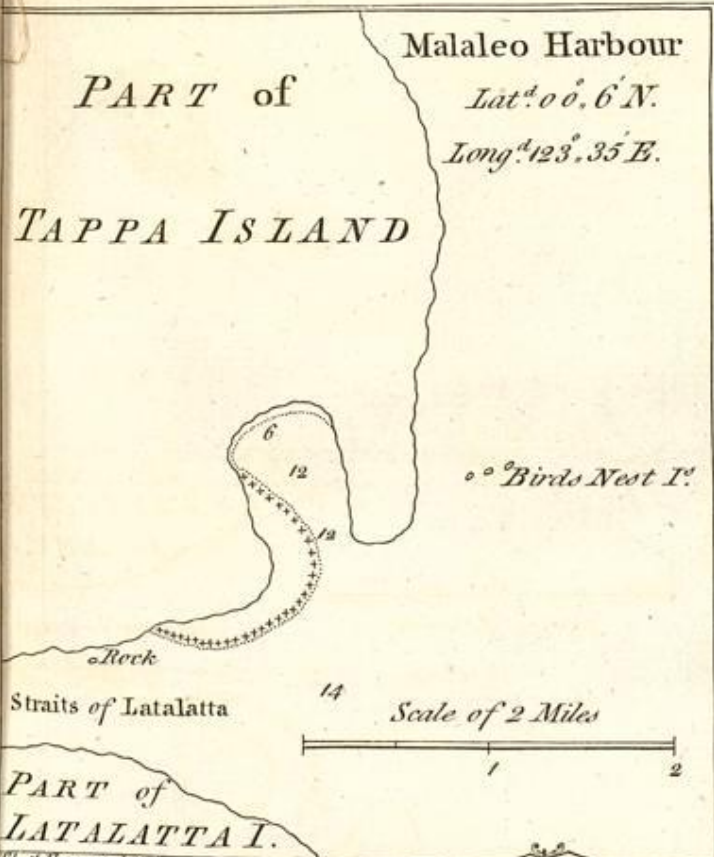




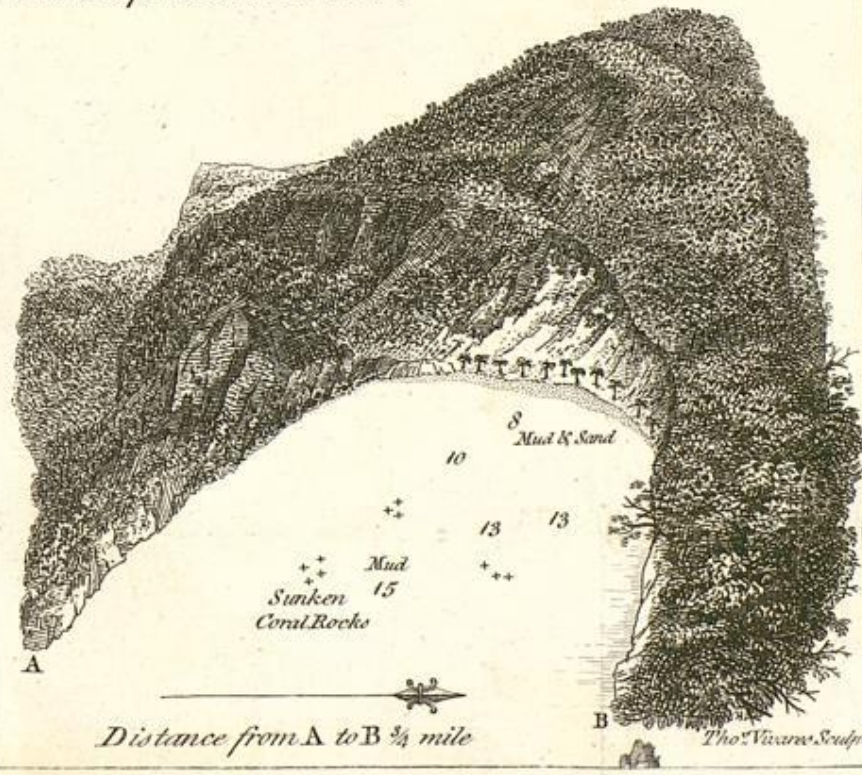
l. Latalatta 3' s. Straits S. t. t. Tappa Island x. Entrance into the Harbour of Malaleo b. b. b. Birds Nest I. S.S.W. 5'



s. Skirt of Tappa N.W. b.W. 1/2 mile b. b. b. Birds Nest Islands 2' g. Giaritcha N. 8 L.

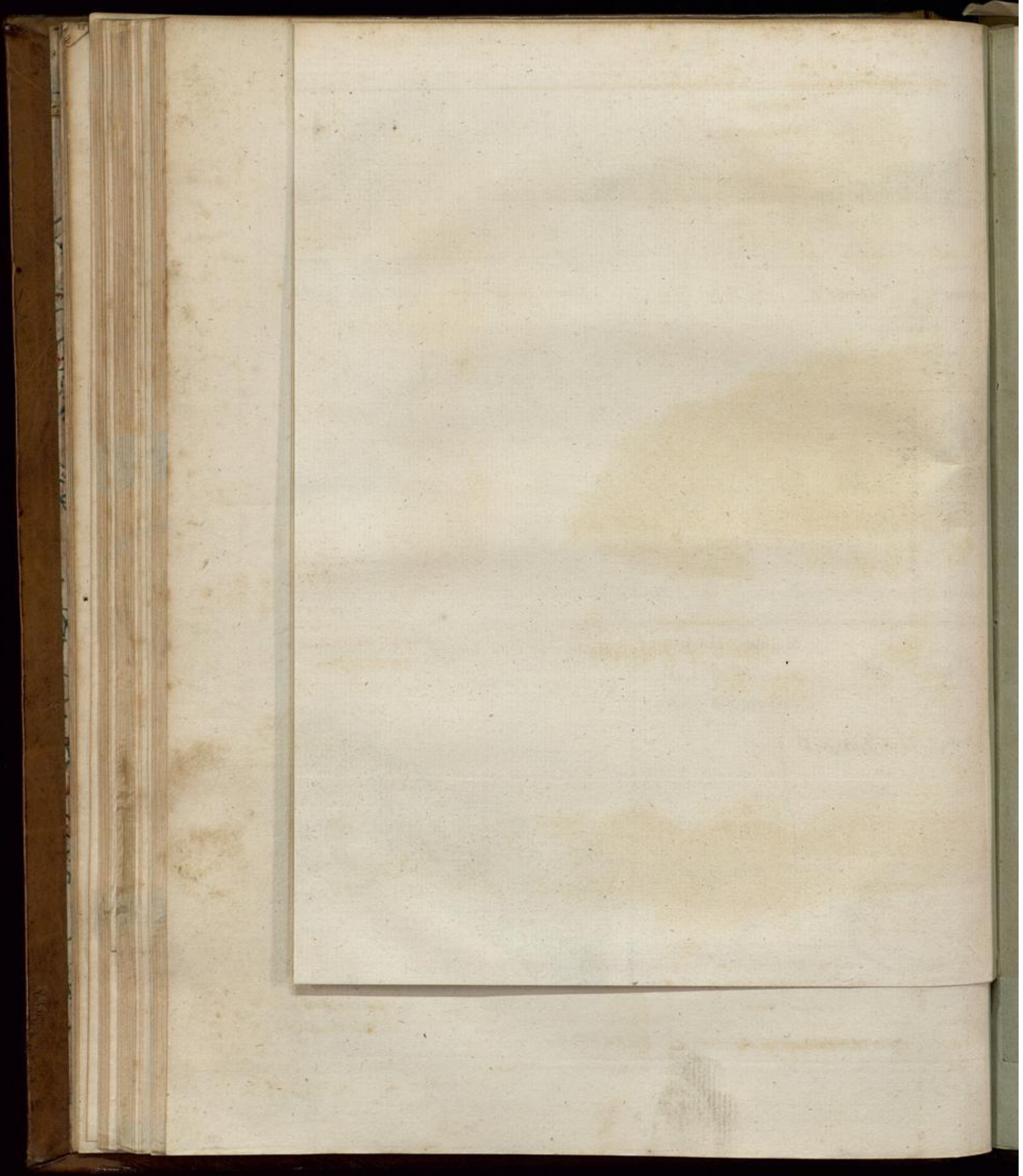


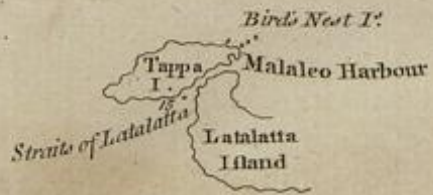
Harbour of Gag *Lat^d. 00° 18' S. Long^d. 126° 40' E. of Green^h.*
Look out for the Sunken Rocks.



*Tho' Forrest delin.
 Published by Capt. Tho' Forrest as the Act directs. Jan^r. 30th. 1779.*







View on entering the Straits of Latalatta

*b.b.b. Birds Nest Islands
n.N.W. & W. 50 Yards*



View of the Entrance into Bistory Harbour

r. River's mouth

o. Obuse Cone S.E.W. 12'

Tho. Vivares Sculp.

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



