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 XI. Departure from Ef-be Harbour - Stop at the Kanary Islands - Account of Round Harbour - Searched for Nutmegs - Leave the Kanary Islands - Pass between the Islands Bo and Popo - Pass Gibby ...

urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-1505

CHAPTER XI.

Departure from Ef-be Harbour—Stop at the Kanary Islands—Account of Round Harbour—Searched for Nutmegs—Leave the Kanary Islands—Pass between the Islands Bo and Popo—Pass Gibby—Tuan Bussora goes off in the Night, with Tuan Hadjee's Corocoro—Anchored near the Islands Syang and Eye, and got fresh Water—Departure thence—Saw the Island Gilolo—Saw the Island Morty—Saw the Islands of Kabruang, Salibabo, and Tulour—Arrive in Leron Harbour on Salibabo—Transactions there.

BEING all ready to sail, about ten A. M. of the 31st, as has been said, we rowed out of Ef-be harbour. We presently saw a large corocoro, coming from towards the island Ceram. This put us on our guard; but she steered another way. In the evening we were got abreast of the Beehive, which lies about five miles W. N. W. from Ef-be harbour. Sounded thirty-three fathom muddy ground.

On *Saturday*, *April* the 1st, calms, with rain in the night; had a current in our favour, setting west. The morning being very clear, we could see Ceram, which appeared not above twelve leagues off. By noon, the westermost Kanary island, which is the largest, bore N. N. W. about four leagues, we being then in latitude 2° 10′ S. afternoon we lost ground with the ebb tide. 1775. April.

Oh

1775. April.

On *Sunday* the 2d, gained in the night, with the flood tide; rowed a good deal in the morning, and got to the eaſtward of the great Kanary, where we anchored in five fathom clear ſand, within muſket ſhot of the ſhore, the Dolphin's noſe bearing S. E. by S. five leagues. The boat's crew found a good watering place in a pond, at the ſouth end of the great Kanary. While we ſtopped here, Tuan Hadjee fitted up the ſmall corocoro, which had been preſented him by the conſort of the Rajah of Salwatty: much as I diſliked the equipment, I complied with it, finding he was reſolved. Got a great many Kanary nuts, the kernels of which (generally two or three, but always in three cells) are full of oil, and as big as a ſmall almond; but more luſcious.

Monday the 3d. Weighed about ten, A. M. and ſtood over to Long Iſland,* where we anchored, within a land locked harbour, in ſeven fathom, muddy ground. To day we had the wind at weſt. The ſmall harbour lies on the left hand, as you paſs from the ſouthward, between Long Iſland and Turtle Iſland. The ſtrait is about a mile broad, with good ſoundings, eighteen and twenty fathoms.

The paſſage into the harbour, which is a circle of about eighty fathom diameter, is bold, and a muſket ſhot acroſs. In the middle of the harbour is a round coral rock, dry at low water, and bold all round. A firſt rate might lay her ſide to it, lying in ſix fathom water, muddy ground. Table Iſland, as in the view, appears higher than Long Iſland. To the eaſtward of Turtle Iſland, are many ſmall low iſlets covered with trees.

* Plate XV.

Tueſday

Tuesday the 4th. Wind at west. Rowed northward into a creek, where we lay close to the shore, and had a clear spot to land upon; whereas, in the harbour before mentioned, which I shall call Round Harbour, it was every where very muddy and swampy in landing. From this creek we went into the woods, and cut a new foremast and bowsprit of bintangle wood, which is light, yet strong, and of a colour like fir. Found abundance of ratans, many of which we cut for our use. We also searched for nutmegs and cloves, but found none. Sultry weather. To day, four of our people amusing themselves in the boat, which could carry ten, overset her on purpose, and turned her bottom up: having afterwards righted her, all four laid hold of one end, and, by suddenly striking out their feet behind, and forcing the boat forward, a deal of water ran out of her, over their heads. She being thus lightened a little, one man went in, and baled her dry. I have often observed one of my people free a sampan, (canoe) by (being in the water) pulling her suddenly backwards and forwards, making the water splash out. Thus they cannot be drowned, if overset. 1775. April.

Wednesday the 5th. Wind still at west: went a sounding about Turtle Island, where we had gathered many turtle eggs.

Thursday the 6th. Variable winds and calm: sounded about Clump Island. Tuan Hadjee and Tuan Buffora seemed much afraid of meeting with the Dutch.

Friday the 7th. Variable winds and calms, with thunder and lightning to the southward. Caught quantities of fish in Round Harbour, whither we sent the boat at night. The people burnt torches,

1775. April. and ſtruck the fiſh with lances, from the boat, in ſhallow water. We got more turtle eggs; but were not ſo lucky as to catch a turtle, tho' we ſaw many prints of their fins. During our ſtay here we found the iſlands unfrequented; nor had they ever ſeen Britons before.

Saturday the 8th. Much rain and calms. Caught ſome fiſh in Round Harbour, but not ſo many as yeſterday. To day, Mr. Baxter, my mate, having ſtruck Capez, a perſon belonging to Tuan Hadjee, it had like to have made an uproar among the people, ſeveral looking angry and ſeizing their arrows; but, immediately on his, at my requeſt, making an apology to Tuan Hadjee, the affair was made up.

Sunday the 9th. Calm moſt part of the night, with a fine clear morning; ſailed at ten. Wind S. W. ſteered N. W. reſolving to go round Morty. Having a ſevere head-ake, I could not obſerve. We found the current ſet to the northward. About ſunſet we paſſed between the iſlands of Bo and Popo.

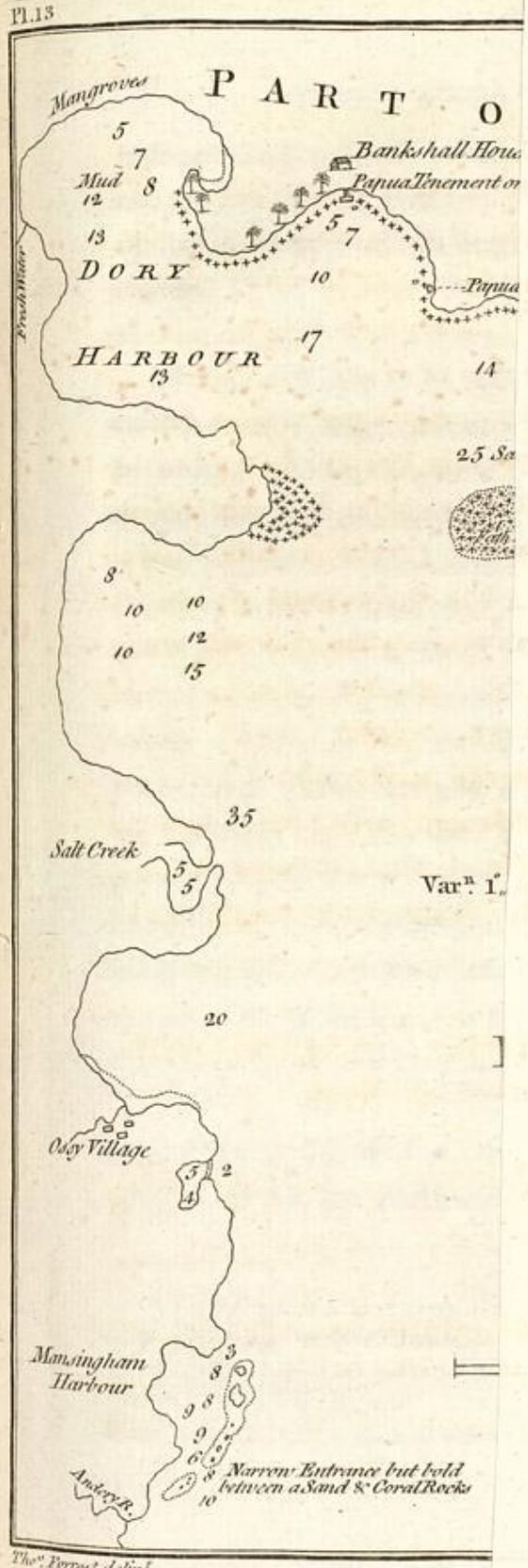
Monday the 10th. In the morning could ſee Gag, bearing N. N. E. alſo Pulo Piſang, Bo, and Popo, all at the ſame time.

At noon we were in 00° 50′ S. latitude. We then ſaw Gibby bearing from N. by E. to N. E. by N.

Tueſday the 11th. In the night paſſed between Gibby and the two low iſlands of Yo and Utu, that lie to the eaſtward of it. Of them, the iſland nearer to Gibby, is about two miles round. At the ſouth point

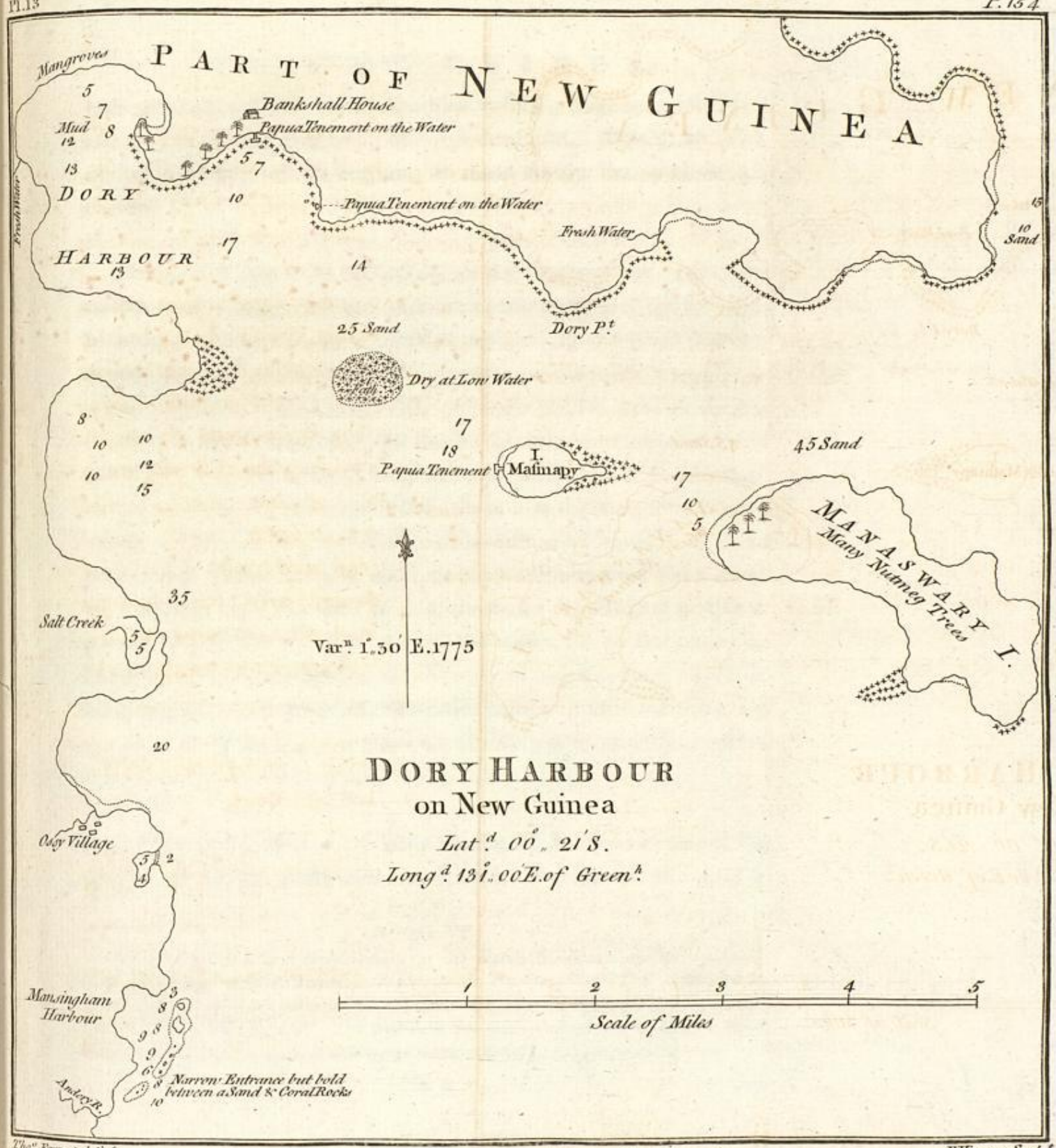
1775.
April.

Pl. 13



Thos. Forrest delin.t

Published



Tho.s Forrest delin.t

Published by Capt.n Tho.s Forrest as the Act directs Jan.y 30.th 1779.

F. Vivares Sculp.t

1775.
April.

point of the larger is ſaid to be a harbour. The paſſage between Gibby and the two iſlands may be about five miles broad. The N. W. point of Gibby bearing weſt ſix leagues, we could not ſee Patany Hook, on Gilolo. 1775. April.

I imagine Gibby to be about four or five leagues long, and about twelve round; being narrow, and divided into two hills, with a low neck between. * From the more northerly hill, a long low point ſtretches toward Gilolo; and in the ſaid hill appears a remarkable gap or cut, when it bears about N. half W. Off this N. W. end of Gibby, from the ſouthward, appears alſo an iſland; behind which, as I was told by Tuan Buſſora, whoſe family lived at Gibby, ſome French ſhips had lately lain, and got from Patany many nutmeg and clove plants, which they carried to their iſlands of Bourbon and Mauritius. † This perſon went off in the night, with the ſmall corocoro that Tuan Hadjee had fitted up. I cannot help imagining he expected to be able to get aſhore, and afterwards to overtake the veſſel, as he left a ſlave on board, and his wearing apparel. Neither of my Europeans knew of his going off, until ſome little time after he was gone; and I did not chooſe to lie to for him, as the wind was then freſh and fair; beſides that, hereabouts were ſaid to be many Dutch cruiſers.

At eight A. M. we ſaw low land, bearing N. E. Towards noon the wind came to the northward, with which I ſtood N. W. finding

* Plate VII.

† The French have ſince carried them to the iſlands Mahe or Sechelles; and ſome were even ſent to the Weſt Indies.

Tuan Buſſora had, in converſation, informed me, that the eaſt coaſt of Gilolo was better inhabited than the weſt. The weſt coaſt being more immediately under the eye of Dutch ſeverity, the inhabitants poſſibly get to the eaſtward, to enjoy more freedom.

1775. April.

the current ſet N. E. for we faſt approached the low land we had diſcerned at eight in the morning. Still approaching the low land in the afternoon, I wiſhed much to get to it; but, in the night, the wind coming thence, I ſteered to an oppoſite quarter, N. N. W. and N. W. Towards morning I put about, and ſtood N. E. right for the land, the wind coming from the N. N. W.

Wedneſday the 12th. At day light I ſaw again the land mentioned yeſterday. There were two iſlands, low and flat: the more northerly was the ſmaller. As I expected anchorage near them, and did not like to keep the ſea with uncertain winds, in the track of Dutch cruiſers, I promiſed a reward to twenty rowers, if I reached them. This made them exert themſelves, and at ten A. M. I got within four miles of the iſlands: the wind then coming fair, I ſtood on; at noon had no obſervation; P. M. anchored on a bank of great extent, depth ten fathom, ſand and long weeds. Towards evening, the wind dying away, we rowed back towards the two low iſlands. Sent the boat to the ſmaller, named Pulo Eye, for water; but, it being late, there was not time to dig. Anchored in the ſtrait between the iſlands, the tide running three knots: caught fourteen fiſh in the night, each weighing ſeven or eight pounds. *

Thurſday the 13th. In the morning I went aſhore to the larger iſland, called Syang. On cutting an arrow plant, (a ſpecies of pine) I found freſh water drop from it; I then dug, and got good water. The weather threatening, I haſted on board, and rowed behind a low ſandy iſlet, not above an acre in content. It had a few buſhes on it; and, by the freſh prints of turtle fins, we were guided to ſome of their

* Plate XI. N° 3.

eggs.

eggs. This islet lies on the west side of the island Syang, with two fathom water, sandy ground, behind it in some places: in other places it is rocky. We touched upon the rocks; but, the water being smooth, we got no hurt. P. M. it was squally to the N. W. which, however, came to nothing. Had it come to blow at N. W. we lay very snug behind the small island, where no squall could affect us. Dug for water: some rain water, which was sweet, ran off the surface into our wells. 1775. April.

Friday the 14th. This morning we found the water in our wells brackish: weighed about two P. M. rowed from behind the little sandy island, and anchored in seven fathom abreast of where we had first dug for water, being the northermost part of the larger island. Had much rain, with winds at S. E.

On *Saturday* the 15th, weighed at one A. M. there being appearance of fine weather. We were immediately carried to the eastward, entirely out of our course, by a tide or current. We therefore rowed and sailed back to Pulo Eye, and anchored at seven P. M. in five fathom rocky ground, two miles from the shore, its south extreme bearing E. S. E. We had hard squalls from the eastward, with rain: struck our mast.

Sunday the 16th. Weighed, and ran behind Pulo Syang, and anchored in seven fathom sand and rocks, opposite the watering place, it bearing E. by N. three miles distant. The trees there appeared green, but low; some tall timber trees, stripped of their bark, being behind them. We sent our boat ashore, and filled our jars with

1775. April. with good water at the well we had firſt dug. In attempting to weigh our anchor from this place, there being a great ſea and a freſh gale at E. N. E. we parted our cable, and then ſteered N. N. W. the veſſel making much water.

On *Monday* the 17th, moderate weather, wind at E. and S. E. By noon we had run from Pulo Syang eighty-four miles on a N. W. by N. courſe, and were in the latitude of 01° 55′ N. We could then ſee ſome high land, bearing W. N. W. it was part of the great iſland Gilolo. Steered north, the wind at S. E. by E. The ſea being ſmooth, we did not make ſo much water as before. At ſunſet we ſaw plainly the land: it appeared in two bluff points, bearing from W. by N. half N. to W. S. W. We ſaw alſo a point of low land bearing N. W. Steered N. N. E. when the wind permitted, not chooſing to keep near the land.

Tueſday the 18th. Calms, rain, and variable winds. By an indifferent obſervation at noon, we were in 02° 39′ N. the N. E. point of Gilolo bearing W. N. W. where an almoſt table land jets out, and promiſes a bay to its ſouthward. At one P. M. ſaw the iſland Morty bearing N. N. W. Rowed a good deal in the night, and rewarded the rowers. I remarked the north eaſt promontory of Gilolo to be rugged land.

Wedneſday the 19th. Light airs and calms. At three A. M. a freſh breeze from the S. W. by S. Steered N. E. and N. N. E. Towards noon it was dead calm: we then rowed a little while in latitude 03° 29′ the north part of the iſland Morty bearing N. W. five leagues;

the

the ſouth part of it S. W. half S. ſix leagues. Could ſee, at the ſame time, the north eaſt promontory of Gilolo bearing S. by W. very diſtant. I reckon the north part of Morty to lie in 03° 40′ N. It was calm ſome part of the night. 1775. April.

Thurſday the 20th. Having rowed a good deal all night, in the morning found the current ſet us to the N. W. Morty then bore from S. S. W. to S. S. E. the north part of Gilolo bearing S. W. very diſtant. At noon we were in latitude 04° 05′ N.

Morty, * to the eaſt, north, and north weſt, ſloping gently to the ſea, and terminating in low points, bids fair for good anchoring ground. The iſland is pretty high, but riſes no where ſuddenly: the outline, taken on the whole, is not uneven, though ſome portions are. At ſunſet Morty bore from S. E. by E. to S. S. E. ten leagues.

On *Friday* the 21ſt, rowed and ſailed in the night, it being fine weather. We ſteered N. W. and N. W. by W. as the wind permitted. About ten in the morning, ſaw land bearing W. N. W. ten leagues diſtant. At noon, were in the latitude of 04° 41′ N. then diſcerned other land, bearing from N. W. to W. N. W. forming in ſaddles and hummocs. The land firſt ſeen was the iſland of Kabruang, † which makes like a peaked hill. Salibabo, cloſe to it, has a table land; and the land appearing in hummocs is Tulour, or Tanna Labu, which Valentine ‡ calls Karkalang. At ſunſet we lay to, fear-

* Plate XI. † Plate VI. N° 2.

‡ Since my being in England, I have ſeen Valentine's map of Leron harbour, and found it very exact.

ing

1775. April.

ing the current might drive us paſt Salibabo, where was (one of Tuan Hadjee's people told me) a good harbour at a place called Leron, and whither we propoſed to go for proviſions.

Saturday the 22d. At two in the morning, made ſail, and ran between the iſlands Kabruang and Salibabo, into the harbour of Leron.* Anchored in ten fathoms muddy ground, having the ſea open only from S. by E. half E. to S. E. by E. We had ſince morning hoiſted Dutch colours, and ſent the boat aſhore as a Dutch one. Immediately after we had anchored, came on board to queſtion us, a blind Chineſe, who ſpoke very good Malay. I preſented him with a fathom of courſe chintz. In the afternoon I went on ſhore in the corocoro with Tuan Hadjee, and the two Batchian officers, to viſit the two Rajahs, ſo many being on Salibabo. I gave each a piece of Tappies, and they permitted the people of the village to ſell us proviſions. I found that the people of this iſland were at war with the inhabitants of Kabruang, the iſland oppoſite, and diſtant only five or ſix miles. I was ſhocked at landing, to ſee a man's head, lately cut off, hanging by the hair from a branch of a tree, under which we paſſed; the blood yet dropping from it on the ſand.

Sunday the 23d. Freſh northerly winds; got into the inner harbour, and anchored in three and a half fathom water, muddy ground. Here I found we lay much ſmoother, than where we lay yeſterday in ten fathom. To day many ſmall canoes came on board; we bought kalavanſas, potatoes, ſome rice, and two goats, all very reaſonable in their price, which we paid in coarſe calicoes, red handkerchiefs, &c. Theſe iſlands being well cultivated, abound with inhabitants and proviſions.

* Plate XVII.

To

1775. April.

Abaka; the fruit of which is bitter, and full of black seeds. They had many hogs, but I bought none.

PLAN of Part of PAPUA
AND
NEW BRITAIN or the SALOMON ISLANDS,
Copied from Dampier,
Collated with De Bry, Herrera &c.

Scouten's
C. Bueno Disco
Pt. Primero
El Armada
St. Iago
Des Marathas
Bum Porto
Port St. Andres
R. de los Virgines
R. St. Augustin
R. St. Peter & St. Paul
St. Germano
Bolomo or the Whale
Buenopaz
Pt. Arrigo
Malaguita
Burning I.
Bay St. Nicolas
Pt. Sachala
Pt. Gaspar Rio
Burning I.
Buena Bayo
Bay Natividad de N. Senora
King William's Cape
Squally I.
C. Salomanver
Wishart I.
Garret Dennis I.
Ant. Cave's I.
Dimas
Buenaventura
St. Flora
I. de Ramos
Slinger's Bay
St. Isabella
St. George
Berti
St. Nicolas
St. Mark
St. Mary
St. John's I.
St. Iago
C. St. George
St. Anna
S. Carolina
DAGOA I.
Port Montague
Bulingh I.
Traitor's I.
Long I.
3 Sisters
Geelvink's E. Pt.
Bocuroons Is.
Engaano
Broken Is.
Sketch of the Geelvink's Discovery
Vide Hist. des Mar. aux Terres Aust.

Mea
Belomas
Isabella
Nombre de Jesus
Malarta de Armada
S. Thiago
I. Dagoa
DE BRY
1596.

Scale of 10° 600 Nautic Miles.
60 120 180 240 300 600

COPY
of Part of DAMPIERS Chart,
FROM
Cape Good Hope, to New Britain.

Pt. of Providence
Cape Good Hope
Scoutens I.
Going out
Return
St. Mathias
Squally I.
C. Salomanver
Wishart I.
Garret Dennis I.
Ant. Cave's I.
Slinger's Bay
St. John's I.
C. St. Mary
NOVA BRITANNIA
NOVA GUINEA
Burning I.
St. Rob. Bick's I.
Crown I.
Burning I.
Long I.
Rocks I.
St. Geo. Rocks I.
C. Glouster
Ann
Port Montague
St. Georges Bay
C. Orford
K. Williams Cape
Dampiers Passage

1775. April.

price, which we paid in coarſe calicoes, red handkerchiefs, &c. Theſe iſlands being well cultivated, abound with inhabitants and proviſions.

* Plate XVII.

To

To day we had a good deal of rain; a great ſwell without, made high breakers on a point of rocks, which forms the harbour on the right hand coming in, and on which a few buſhes grow. We obſerved great rejoicings aſhore, and ſeveral Dutch enſigns diſplayed. Sent Mr. Lound the gunner about ten A. M. to examine a prow or boat that lay for ſale about two miles off, to the N. W. of Leron; ſuch ſeeming an expedient purchaſe, as the galley was very leaky. I found ſome difficulty in agreeing about the terms that afternoon, becauſe ſhe wanted ſome repairs; ſo in the evening, when we went on board, conſulting with Tuan Hadjee and the Batchian officers, we reſolved to have nothing to ſay to her, and to be gone immediately in our own veſſel; for we dreaded a rupture with the people of Leron, who began (we were told) to ſuſpect our galley a Mindano piratical cruiſer. 1775. April.

Monday the 24th. At break of day, a ſmall canoe with only one man came from Kabruang, to ſee who we were. Of this though we did not inform him, he ſeemed in haſte to return, without landing on Leron, the two iſlands being at war. Leron is a very good harbour; but, in going into it, it would be proper to ſend a boat ahead, and examine the entrance.

The people of theſe iſlands are of the Malay colour, with long hair. They are under Sangir, which is ſubject to Ternate. They are much oppreſſed by their Kolanos, or chiefs; and, for trifling offences, ſold for ſlaves. Their arms are, lance, ſword, target, and dagger. They manufacture a coarſe kind of cloth, made of the wild plantan tree, called Abaka; the fruit of which is bitter, and full of black ſeeds. They had many hogs, but I bought none.