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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

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Chapter IX. Description of the Coast of Magindano South of the Bar of the
Pelangy to Tubuan River - Account of Mr. Baxter's Journey to Marra -
Leno Harbour - Farther Description of the Coast round ...

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CHAPTER IX.

Description of the Coast of Magindano South of the Bar of the Pelangy to Tubuan River—Account of Mr. Baxter's Journey to Marra—Leno Harbour—Farther Description of the Coast round Cape St. Augustine—Haraforas.

1773.
December.

AS the N. E. monsoon was set in, I heard one day Rajah Moodo express great resentment at Tuan Hadjee's not returning from Tukoran, as by agreement, to go on an expedition to the Molucca Islands.

The coast to the left of the bar of the Pelangy, looking down the river, is called Bewan. So they say, *Angy kasa bewan*: "to go to the left:" as we say, going from London to Newcastle, is going to the northward.

After passing the mouths of two creeks on the left, just without the bar, where salt is made, you come to Timoko Hill, which looks at a distance like a bowl, bottom up, and lies close to the seaside. A little to the southward of it are the salt works of Kabug.

From Timoko Hill to Tapan Point, is a good sandy beach. The Point is rather low, but not flat. Midway appears inland the hill of Kablallang: being clear of wood, it is covered with green grass, which makes

makes it remarkable; and, a little to the northward of the Point, is Timowan, by the sea shore. Having rounded Tapian Point, about two miles farther opens the river Muttubul: its bar is almost dry at low water. About three leagues farther runs Tubuan river, which is deeper, and remarkable for a projecting spot of sand and gravel, thrown up at its mouth by the violence of the swell, during the S. W. monsoon. This river washes a plain, about eleven miles long, and one mile and a quarter broad, in a serpentine course. I am told that, during the heavy rains, it covers the plain with one or two foot water.

1775.
December.

In the month of November, when I was there, it seemed a brisk rivulet, sufficient to float down the rafts of bamboo, like the catamarans on the coast of Coromandel; on which rafts the Haraforas bring their rice, yams, potatoes, &c. from their plantations to the river's mouth. Their plantations are scattered up and down, often far from one another: the nearest is three hours journey from the mouth of the river.

In going from the mouth, up the plain, to the farther end, which, as I have said, is above ten miles, you must cross the river about ten times, in an east direction. The ground, through which this path winds, as indeed most of the plain, is covered with long grass. Here and there grow reeds and wild sage. No timber, but on the adjacent heights. About six miles up, are little rising grounds, and groves of bamboos.

Having got to the head of the plain, I found the river make a fork, one stream coming from the S. E. the other, which I did not visit, from the E. N. E.

The



1775.
December.

The road leads up the S. E. stream, mostly in the water, among large stones, between steep hills, covered with tall timber.

I travelled about two miles up this road, having three of Rajah Moodo's men to attend me, in the purpose of going to Marra, where formerly some Illano people dug for gold. But I was so fatigued with clambering over rocks, when I had got the two miles up this rivulet, being then about twelve miles from Tubuan, that I was fain to come back, and send in my stead my chief officer, who was gratified with the opportunity.

In Tubuan river, the land wind coming down the valley, from midnight till morning, rendered the air much colder than I could have expected, in the latitude of 7° N. and the quantity of water, that sometimes comes down, so carries the sand and gravel, as to make a projection or spit on the coast, pretty remarkable to those who sail along shore. The coast here is bold, and may be approached with safety. At Tubuan, Rajah Moodo has a cocoa garden: I gathered of the fruit from the trees, which I had never before seen.

I now give Mr. David Baxter's account of his journey.

“ At eight in the morning, of *Wednesday* the 22d of *November*, I set out from Tubuan, accompanied by Papinshan, a person whom Rajah Moodo had ordered to attend us to the gold mine: there were three attendants besides.

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“ After walking up the valley of Tubuan, about ten miles, we struck off S. E. to a small river, up which we proceeded three or four miles. We then all bathed. We afterwards turned to the left up a hill called Tebangen; about half way up, we reached some Haraforas houses, where was a wedding, and a great company drinking a very pleasant, though strong liquor, made of rice and molasses. There were two large jars, and four men drank out of each. They had every man a small reed or bamboo, about the size of a tobacco pipe; through which, when they had swilled several minutes, other four came and relieved them. Here we dined: the Haraforas were pleased to see me eat pork. About two o'clock we pursued our journey up the remainder of the hill, which was high and steep. Four miles on the other side, we got to the houses, where we were to stay all night; and these I reckon twenty miles from Tubuan. In the evening we fired a musket as a signal to the people (to come in the morning) who were to go with us to Marra. The name of this country is Temalan.

1775.
December.

“ At three in the morning of *Thursday* the 23d, we set out from Temalan, and had our landlord for our guide. We walked for the most part between the S. and S. E. Here Rajah Moodo's soldiers leaving us, Papinshan and the Haraforas held a council who should accompany us: for they were all afraid, being at war with the people of the country near Marra. However, two Haraforas went with us. At noon we stopped at a plantation called Punagba, and eat some sugar cane; we then set out again, and crossed many low hills, valleys, and small rivers; the largest of which last, is called Medapa: I thought its water tasted like a mineral. Some rain made the roads very slippery, the soil being clay. Having walked to day about sixteen miles,

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December.

at four in the afternoon we came to the place we proposed for our residence all night: it had six houses, and was named Panababan. We saw another plantation called Lanow. At this place appeared some coco nut trees, the first I have seen since we left Tubuan. I asked why there were not more coco nut trees, and was answered, that the few inhabitants did not stay above one or two years at a place; which is also the reason their houses are so badly built, eight or ten foot from the ground. They all seem to be slaves to the Magindano people: for these take what they please, fowls or any thing in the house they like best; and, if the owners seem angry, threaten to tie them up, and flog them.

“ On *Friday* the 24th, at eight in the morning, we set out with two new Haraforas; because the other two we had yesterday, went back. The road was very bad, as few people travel this way. It runs mostly between the S. and S. E. We crossed several small rivers; the name of the largest is Kaloufoo: on the hills we saw a great many cassia trees. To day we were infested with worms like centipedes: they bit like leaches. Like them, they could hardly be got off, and then the place bled plentifully. About two in the afternoon, we arrived at Marra, where we expected to find gold. We went to work, and made troughs of the bark of a tree, about two foot long, and one broad; then dug where the people had worked before, from two foot deep to four. The soil was brown mold and sand: we washed it several times; but after several trials, found no gold. Neither did I find the country people wear any gold ornaments: on the contrary, they wore brass rings.

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December.

“The ground has been wrought about twelve yards square, close to the west side of the river. The Haraforas declared that the former diggers found pieces of gold as large as the end of one’s finger, and some smaller. The river is very large, and runs N. E. by N. and the land to the eastward is very high. I think we have walked about twelve or fourteen miles to day. Our Haraforas built us sheds to sleep under; and boiled our rice in bamboos, although it rained very hard. I had eat some pork, which the Haraforas gave me. On this, Papinshan said, joking, you must not sleep with me; yet I slept in the hut they had built, close by him. *Saturday* the 25th. Having had so bad luck yesterday, and very little sleep, as it rained very hard most of the night, before sunrise we got up, and began our journey back: we cut some cassia in our way. Found the worms very troublesome: the Mindano people call them limatics. Some bit me by eight in the morning; nor did the bleeding stop till after noon. About ten we came to Panababan, where we had slept the second night; and about five to Temalan, where we had rested the first night: so we walked as much to day, as we did before in two days. On the 26th, after crossing the river Tubuan many times, as we descended the valley, we got on board the vessel by noon.”

Mr. Baxter had got a fresh colour by his journey.---I must own, I had a hearty laugh at his returning without any gold, though I was at the same time disappointed.

About twenty miles S. S. W. of Tubuan Bar, juts Bamban Point. Between this and Tubuan, lie several bays and small villages; if five or six houses together on the sea side, deserve that name. They are

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all inhabited by Magindano people, who sell to the Haraforas, iron chopping knives, called prongs, cloth, salt, &c. for their rice and other fruits of the earth. For the Haraforas dread going to sea, else they could carry the produce of their lands to a better market. They are much imposed on, and kept under by their Mahometan lords; and are all tributary to the Sultan, or to some Rajah Rajah † (nobleman) under him. Their system proves thus the feudal.

Bamban Point, of middling height, projects into the sea, in a S. W. direction, and has some coco nut trees scattered on its ridge, by which it may be known: it lies in latitude $6^{\circ} 45'$.

About three miles S. S. E. from the said point, is Leno Harbour,* round a bluff point with a peaked hill. Give the point a small berth, as there runs off it a shoal, near a mile in length, with deep water close to it. The opposite land is bold.

The harbour, where you lie in seven fathom sand, opens only from the S. to the S. S. W. but the reef off the point above mentioned, greatly defends its entrance, from the S. W. swell. Though the harbour be not very spacious, it would conveniently hold several large ships, which should have all hawsers ashore. Close to the harbour, I found a great pile of coral rock: the crew of every boat that comes in, add one stone a piece. Farther down, at the bottom of the harbour, are many mangrove trees. Here is a cut, or an indent into the coral rocks, about a hundred foot broad, and as many fathom in length, with the depth of five or six fathom; where ships of any size might

† Rajah Rajah, signifies person of rank.

* Plate XIX.

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lie safe moored, perfectly smooth. About five leagues farther, lies the island of Dunnowan, behind which is said to be good anchorage; and one league beyond Dunnowan, a harbour called Tuna. Near Tuna live the people called Bangil Bangil: they do not so much as attempt to build houses; but live under bushes, and in hollow trees. They surprize the wild hogs in their puddles, by covering their own bodies with mud. The hogs in no fear approaching, fall under the enemy's shafts.

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From Tuna, S. E. about four leagues, is a remarkable sandy islet, with foul ground about it, except just to seaward, where it may be approached within one quarter of a mile, in seven fathom sand: this has been mentioned in the journal.

The islet (if a spot may be called so) exceeds not half an acre. N. W. of it three miles, is a low point. Inland, the mountains bearing N. W. look like a cock's comb, seen from near the shore. The land between this sandy spot, and the harbour of Tuna, when bearing N. E. is like a saddle joined to a Bungalo roof or hog's back, the saddle lying to the northward. I went ashore on the islet, expecting to find turtles eggs; but the sand was too hard, and mixed with broken corallines for turtles to lay.

The coast then runs S. E. about nine leagues, to the great bay of Sugud Boyan. The land immediately N. W. from the entrance of the said bay, is of middling height, and even out line. It has a fine sandy beach; but no appearance of houses.

From this land, the two islands of Serangani or Belk, bear S. E. ten leagues. The width of the entrance into the bay of Sugud
Boyan



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Boyan (that is harbour of Boyan) may be about five or six miles broad, as I could judge in passing it. There is said to be but a small distance between the lake of Buloan (mentioned in the description of the river Pelangy) and Sugud Boyan, over a flat country; and in that part of the country, the indigo plant taggum grows abundantly amidst the long grafs. After burning the grafs, the indigo springs afresh. Here are many wild horses, bullocks, and deer. Within four leagues of Serangani, is the harbour of Batulakki, with ten fathom water, by the people's account. To the northward a little way, are two clear spots on the hills, of a conical shape.*

I said that the left coast from the bar of Magindano, to the southward beyond Tapian point, is called the Bewan; but I have learnt that the Bewan properly ends at Glang, which lies at the north entrance of the bay or harbour of Sugud Boyan; so that the Bewan district comprehends the Nigris of Kabug, Tenawan, Muttubul, Tubuan, Leno, Krang near Pulo Dunnowan, Tuna, Looan, and Glang near Sugud Boyan.

The district of Serangani, contains the Nigris of Tugis, Balchan, Nea, Pangean, Batulan, where is the harbour of Batulakki, Louang, Balangannan, the islands Belk and Serangani. I never was beyond these islands: what I add, is therefore from report.

The district of Kalagan, west of Cape St. Augustine, called Pandagan, contains Kasaraddan, Dabow, and the island Bunwoot, inhabited by about two hundred persons; whence English Bunwoot has its name.

* Plate XVII.

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

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Then the district of Kalagan, north of Cape St. Augustine, contains Eu, Sumoolug, Tukka, Baloc. Next is Catil, already taken notice of. The three districts, Bewan, Serangani and Kalagan, are all under Magindano. Off this part of the coast lie some islands abounding with turtle.

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The Haraforas are thinly scattered; and, being all tributary, many together seldom stay long at one place. This cannot be for want of water, pasture, or fertile ground; as with the Tartars on the continent of Asia. On this island, almost every spot is covered either with timber, brushwood, reeds or grass; and streams are found every where in abundance. Nor can it be to avoid wild beasts; there are none on the island: a good cause why deer, wild horses and other wild cattle are found in so many parts of it. I suspect, that the Haraforas are often so oppressed, that some have wisely got inland, beyond the tax-gatherer's ken.

In the district of Kalagan is a high mountain, a little way west of Pandagitan, which emits at times smoke, fire and brimstone. When the mountain has not for some time thrown out any brimstone, the inhabitants believe that the god who rules there is angry. They therefore purchase, for perhaps five or six Kangans, an old slave; whose blood they shed to appease the deity.

Having thus given the geography of the coast of the island Magindano, partly from my own observation, but chiefly from the information of Fakymolano, and other persons of credit, it will not be amiss to say something of the island inland.

C H A P-

