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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 XVI. Sail for Kamaladan Harbour - See some Sooloo Prows - Meet with Tuan Hadjee in the Banguay Corocoro - Pass the Island Lutangan - Harbour of Booboan - Obligated to anchor on the Coast of ...

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## CHAPTER XVI.

*Sail for Kamaladan Harbour—See some Sooloo Prows—Meet with Tuan Hadjee in the Banguay Corocoro—Pass the Island Lutangan—Harbour of Booboan—Obliged to anchor on the Coast of Sooloo—Pass within Liberran Island, on the Coast of Borneo—Directions for that Passage—Pass Balambangan—Arrive in Pelampun Harbour, behind Pulo Gaya—Meet some English Vessels—Proceed to Abia, in quest of the Mindano Officers, by whom I write to Rajah Moodo—Gale at N. E.—Haul the Vessel ashore—Depart thence, and arrive at the English Factory on Borneo.*

1776.  
January.

ON the night of *Monday* the 8th of *January*, as has been said, I got over the bar of the Pelangy, accompanied by two of Rajah Moodo's soldiers. We then steered to the south of Bunwoot, loaded our arms, and got every thing in readiness, for fear of being way-laid by the Sooloos. Next day we pulled down our attop covering, and threw it over board. At 4 P. M. the south end of Bunwoot bore S. E. five leagues: it was then shut in with Timoko hill.\* About noon I spoke with a prow from Sooloo: she belonged to Rajah Moodo, and was bound to Selangan.

On the 10th, had most of the night a very fresh wind out of the Illano bay, which was now open. At sun rise, could see Lutangan island, with a gentle rising on it, bearing N. W. six leagues, while Baganean

\* Plate XXI.

point

point bore N. E. half E. Baganean point was then in one with a Sugar Loaf hill a good way up the country. At sunset, Lutangan bore W. half N. Stood to the northward, for Kamaladan harbour, near which Rajah Moodo had directed me to lay in rice, for our provision, at a village called Se Tappo, where Dattoo Affim his relation lived.

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January.

Variable winds during most part of the 11th. We had anchored at two A. M. in six fathom sand and mud, within two miles of a low point, which lies to the northward of Pulo Lutangan. To the eastward of this low point stretches a reef of coral rocks, about three miles with two and three fathom upon it. About noon weighed and worked up the harbour, wind at N. E. At one P. M. came in sight, between Lutangan and the main, four prows, with no colours hoisted: when we stood towards them, they sailed and rowed from us. We then put about, upon which one of the smallest stood after and spoke to us. They were Sooloo prows, and seemed to be working into the harbour of Kamaladan: I asked the master of the small prow that spoke to us, why the others ran away, and why they showed no colours; to which he made an evasive answer, not caring perhaps to own they were afraid. Kept working into the bay that lies before the harbour of Kamaladan,\* with a flood tide, by which we gained ground.

On the 12th, at three in the morning, anchored in five fathom, sandy ground, in a small bay on the N. E. side of the large bay mentioned yesterday; weighed when the flood made, and at day light perceived the Sooloo prows mentioned yesterday, bearing away towards Mindano.

\* Plate XXI.

Kept



1776.  
January.

Kept working into Kamaladan harbour; at ten before noon saw a corocoro near us. Sent Ishmael the Jerrybatoo in the boat on board. He found her to be the Banguay corocoro with Tuan Hadjee, and Tuan Bobo, one of the Batchian officers: they said they were bound to Samboangan. Ishmael took the opportunity of asking Tuan Hadjee for the value of a slave, which the latter sometime had owed him. Tuan Hadjee replied, he would soon be with the English at Borneo, and there would settle the debt. Jerrybatoo told me, that Tuan Hadjee would hardly believe I had been able to get the vessel decked and made into a schooner. At three in the afternoon, I anchored before the village called Se Tappo, where stands Dato Affim's house. The Dato was gone somewhither into the Illano bay. I could not get rice as I expected, none being ready; but I got some sago in its stead. Here were lying three Sooloo prows. From them I purchased some coco nuts and rough rice. They behaved civilly, as in a neutral port; any where else I should not have chosen to be a night with them in the same harbour. Kamaladan harbour was described in the account of Magindano.

On Saturday the 13th, Weighed and worked out with the ebb tide. At four P. M. anchored in a small bay on the west side of this spacious harbour in five fathom, muddy ground. Found abundance of oysters on the smooth large stones, with which the points of the small bays are lined. About sunset we weighed and stood out of the harbour. I was then informed by the people I had sent ashore in the afternoon, to cut wood, that they had been at the homes of some Haraforas, who kept hogs in pens, under their houses. I regretted I had not gone ashore and seen the oddity; as I had observed the Haraforas at Tubuan  
and

and Leno harbour, do not breed hogs, being perhaps forbid, though they kill and eat wild hogs.

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January.

Standing out of the harbour on *Sunday* the 14th, we passed a cluster of four or five small islands to the westward: some of them bushy islands, some low and flat, with trees, having regular soundings, from seven to twenty-eight fathom muddy ground.

At night, being about three miles off the S. E. point of Lutangan, we had irregular soundings, seven, eight, and ten fathom, sandy ground, and coral rocks. At noon we were in the latitude of  $7^{\circ} 9'$  N. the south point of Bafilan, which makes like a Chinaman's hat, bearing S. W. by S. eight or nine leagues. At sun-set, Bafilan bore from W. S. W. to N. W. by N. the nearest part being then about three leagues distant. Saw a low point on the south part of Bafilan.

In the night of the 15th, we passed the low point mentioned yesterday; it is part of a small low island: we had thirteen fathom sand, within a mile of it. Stood on steering W. S. W. and entered a sound formed by three islands with hummocs on them, and several low small islands. The sound lies about seven miles south of Bafilan, and is formed by the islands named Boobooan, Tapeantana and Lanawan,\* in Mr. Dalrymple's map. The wind coming to the N. W. worked almost through the sound, which has smooth water, and would hold a number of ships, in ten and twelve fathom depth, sandy ground. The tide turning, we ran back, and at sun-set descried Tonkyl, a low

\* Plate XVII.

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island,



1776.  
January

island, where we had stopt at the beginning of the voyage. The east end of Tonkyl stretches to the eastward of Belawn, an island with a hummoc; we also saw Duo. Blod, bearing W. by N. about six leagues.

*Tuesday* the 16th. Most of the night the wind was at N. W. which I did not expect in the middle of the N. E. monsoon: this caused a chopping sea. Made several trips near the Sugar Loaf islands, called Deppoolool, the tide favouring us. In the morning, the wind easterly brought fine weather; it then came again to the W. N. W. Worked through between Tataran and Deppoolool, where the tide sets very strong. Past Batoo Mandee (Washed Rock) which is no bigger than a boat; found eight and ten fathom depth of water, about a mile N. W. of it. The hills of Sooloo bore now W. S. W. many small prows steering by us N. E. Having twice past this channel, between Dep-poolool and Tataran, I observed in the N. E. monsoon, the tide set strong to the westward, and on the contrary.

On *Wednesday* the 17th, in the morning, the wind was so scant, that we could not weather Sooloo. Therefore, we came to under the island Bankoongan, which forms a good harbour. We anchored in seven fathom sandy ground, within pistol shot of the island, and one mile and a half from the main land of Sooloo. I sent ashore to the island, and gave a fisherman to understand, that the vessel belonged to Magindano, being not without my apprehensions of falling into the hands of the Sooloos. At six P. M. failed to get round by the east end of Sooloo. At eight saw a great fire on the shore. All night I was very uneasy, being upon an enemy's lee shore. Had I fallen  
into

into their hands, they would certainly have kept me a long time amongst them, being jealous of my reception at Mindano.

1776.  
January.

On the 18th, early in the morning, passed to the eastward of Sooloo with a fresh gale. Saw several small boats fishing for pearls to leeward of the island, where was no swell; but, the wind blowing in sudden squalls off the island, the men were continually wet with the spray. Could not weather Tappool. At sun-set, came to near the S. end of the island Pong Pong, which lies S. W. of Tappool in twelve fathom. There are several shoals to the southward and near Tappool. Here the tides run regular. Tappool abounds in cattle and coco nuts.

At day-light of the 19th, sent the boat to Pong Pong for fresh water: she returned at noon with all the jars full. Weighed, and lay up W. N. W. At sun-set, the west end of Sooloo bore N. E. by N. ten leagues: saw two low islands ahead.

On *Saturday* the 20th, wind at N. N. E. By day light, anchored in eleven fathom sand, close to a low sandy island: sent thither some hands, who picked up many kimas of about eight or nine pound each. The island is called Dasaan. Where we lay at anchor, Taviti bore from S. W. to S. Seaffee S. E. and Tappool E. S. E. At eight in the morning, weighed, and stood to the southward of many low little islets. At four P. M. we perceived low land bearing from N. to N. E. which I take to be the islands called Tajo, or the banks so called, where many pearls are got. At sun-set, saw another low island bearing N. W. At noon, a large prow stood athwart us, steering S. W. Got all ready to receive her, suspecting her a Mangaio.

Z z z

On



1776.  
January.

On the 21st, kept lying up N. W. with a full sail; wind N. E. by N. About midnight, had a strong rippling of a current. At sunset, could see the double hummocs of Taganak bearing N. N. W. and Baguan N. W. half N. about four leagues distant: fine weather, and tolerably smooth water. In passing by Sandakan harbour, the island Bahalatalis is very remarkable: bearing S. it appears a slipper; bearing S. W. a double slipper.

*Monday* the 22d. At midnight passed to the northward of Baguan about two miles. In the morning, could discern the island of Liberan and many small ones without it. About noon, discovered a small island bearing N. W. by N. in the figure of a jockey cap. A dry sand bears from it S. S. W. about two miles. Stood to the southward of them both in twenty-three, twenty, nineteen, and twelve fathom, muddy ground.\*

I have, hitherto from Basilan, taken names of islands from Mr. Dalrymple's map, which I have found very exact, and which gives the foundings without Liberan; but, as I have gone twice in a small vessel along the N. E. coast of Borneo within Liberan, and each time the same track, it may not be amiss to hint something about it, in case ships should be obliged to pursue it, from circumstances precluding the other track without Liberan, where the foundings are laid down, and which, doubtless, is the preferable.

\* During the N. E. monsoon, the wind blows direct on this coast; but, being checked by the land, its force is never great, and the weather is generally fair. A land wind sometimes prevails at night, but reaches only a little way.



In passing to the southward of Liberan,\* keep pretty close to the island. There are said to be some deer, which, on being hunted with dogs, immediately take to the water, and are then easily killed. I would advise no one to venture after dark into the inner channel: the outer may be navigated with much less danger. If at anchor, the boat may not improperly be sent ashore to the main opposite the island. At low water spring tides, many fine large oysters may be found in the mud; but, if the time is not nicely hit, none can be had.

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January.

From Liberan to Soogoot river's mouth and point (for a long spit runs off it) you cross the bay of Labook in four, five, six, and eight fathom muddy ground. In the middle of this bay, I once found by night a small spot of coral rocks. Though my commodies touched upon it, I could not, by reason of the darkness, get its exact situation; but, before and after, we had five fathom. Here the flood tide sets S. W. into the bay of Labook, about three knots and a half on the springs. Liberan lies in the latitude of  $6^{\circ} 2' N.$  longitude  $116^{\circ} 08' E.$

In crossing this bay with a N. W. by N. course from the island of Liberan, you will soon perceive, at Soogoot river's mouth, some shaggy pines, looking as trees generally do at rivers mouths in Malay countries, that is, like hedge rows, and somewhat disjoined from the land. Steer without them for a flat island, very like Liberan: I call it Cheese Island, from its shape: it lies north half east seven miles from Soogoot point. Steer pretty close, but to its southward: many smaller islands and reefs of rocks are without and near it. Two small islets bear S. S. W. and S. W. of it, about a mile and half distant. The more eastern is a little shrubby island; the other, about one mile far-

\* Plate XXIV.

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1776.  
January.

ther W. S. W. I call Tufty island, as bearing a tuft of trees. Leave them to the southward, and keep in six and seven fathom muddy ground. You will then see above water a small sand, on either side of which you may pass. It lies about nine miles N. W. by W. from Cheese island. You then come to Ragged island, eight miles east of the east point of Semaddal island. This Ragged island has some short stunted trees upon it, and many shoals near and within it. Here anchor may be cast, to examine the passage, which has six or seven fathom water, muddy ground: the shoals are generally bold, and of coral rocks. S. W. of Ragged island is a very shaggy point upon the main. Having passed Ragged island, you steer N. W. in five, six, and seven fathom water, muddy ground, for Pine-Tree island, which has a fine white beach. From it One-Tree island bears W. by N. You may steer between them in ten fathom. From Pine-Tree island the course is N. N. W. and N. W. by N. to an island that has a reef extending far off its east end: it is situate eight miles due south of the east part of Malwatty: I call it Bird island, many birds roosting there in the night. Its west end is bold. If a ship takes day light, as the water is generally smooth, she may with great safety go this last-mentioned part of the track, as the shoals are all bold, and show at a distance; especially if the weather be clear. There is another track from Pine island towards Bird island: steering from Pine island west, and leaving One-Tree island on the right hand, you will then keep in a nine fathom channel all the way to Bird island, without passing any shoals, or spots of rocks, but one, which is not far from One-Tree island. Between Shaggy point and Semaddal island, but nearer the island, is a channel with four fathom water. Up this channel the tide runs three and four knots.

N. W.

N. W. from Bird island, about five miles, are four or five freestone rocks, like the ruins of a building, about twenty foot high. Leave them to the southward, and a spot of sand within a mile of them, to the eastward. In the channel is nine and ten fathom. You may then steer for Malwally, on which are two harbours, one on the S. W. the other on the S. E. side of it. The latter is perfectly good, but has a narrow entrance. Malwally lies in latitude  $7^{\circ} 0' N.$  lon.  $115^{\circ} 20' E.$

1776.  
January.

On *Saturday* the 27th, we passed a shoal bearing E. by S. from Maleangan, five miles from the shore of Banguay, and five from that of Borneo; the hummoc on Banguay bearing N. N. W. We then stood on between Banguay and Maleangan. The best channel is close to Maleangan, a shoal lying about half a mile from it. At ten, anchored between Banguay and Balambangan. Sent the boat ashore for intelligence. She returned in two hours, having found no inhabitant, but devastation. We then weighed, and stood for Borneo.

In the morning of *Sunday* the 28th, could see Matanany bearing S. S. W. had a great swell and much rain. At sun-set, Kaitan point\* bore S. S. W. and Pulo Gaya S. W. by S. at the distance of eight leagues.

*Monday* the 29th. In the morning steered in behind Pulo Pangir, and then proceeded to a harbour near Pulo Gaya, behind an island called Pelampan, no bigger than an ordinary house. Hither from Pulo Gaya leads a reef, covered at high water, and dry at low, in

\* Plate XXV.

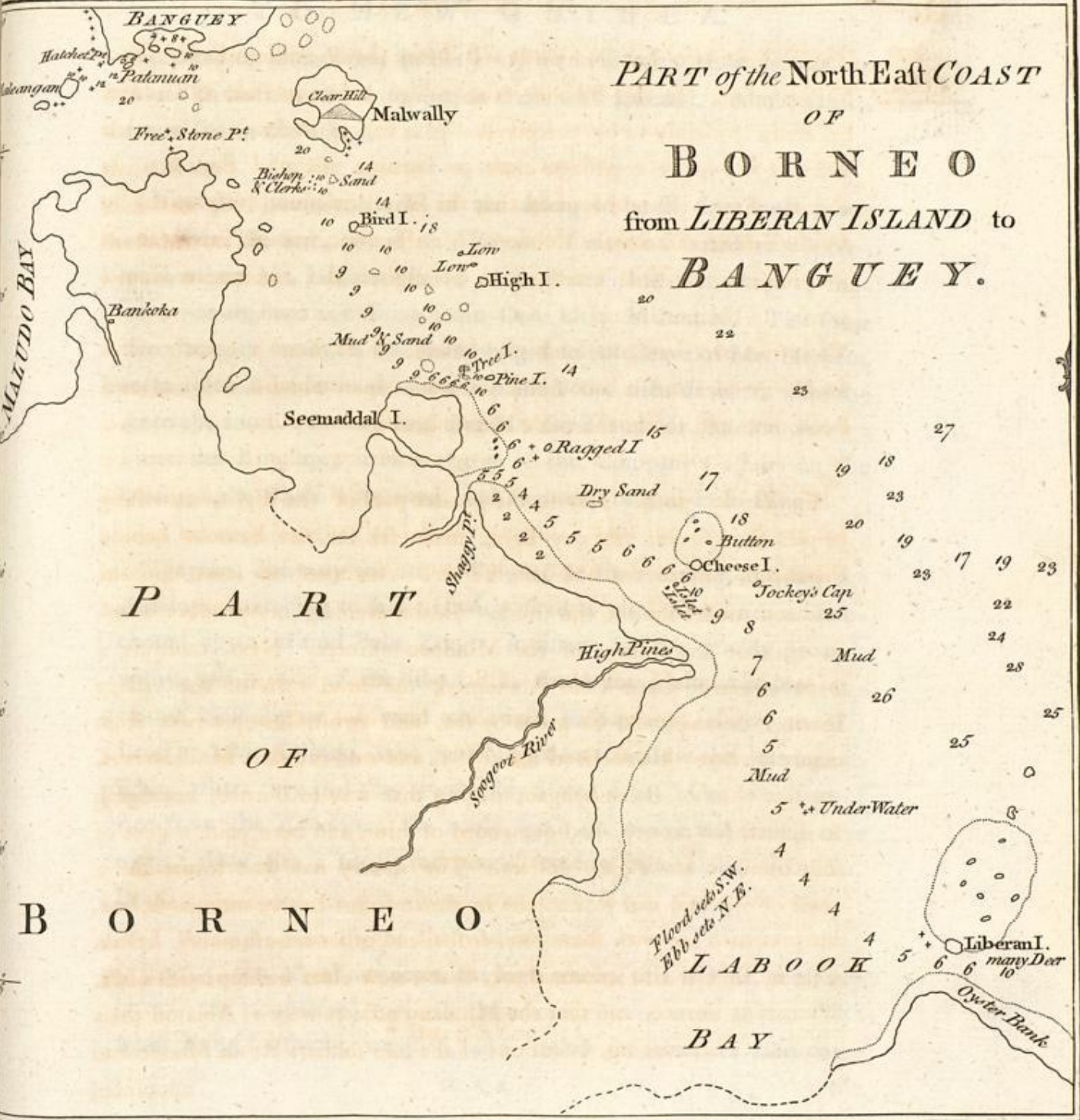
length



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January.

length about two hundred yards: it bears south of Pulo Pangir and Kaitan point. In this harbour, the passage between Pulo Gaya and the main is plainly to be perceived. It is full of rocks; but between them is said to be a passage close to Borneo. Beyond this strait is Patatan river. Here I learned that the Mindano prow, dispatched by the Sultan and Rajah Moodo to Mr. Herbert, was at Tawarran on her return. On this intelligence, I weighed and ran up to Gemel point, to the northward of Kaitan point. Dispatched three men to Tawarran over land, to fetch my letters. Felt here a great ground swell, in two and a half fathom water; upon which I weighed and stood out, and found the cable almost broken.

*Tuesday* the 30th. Lay to the greater part of the night, unwilling to pass Pulo Gaya. At day light, made sail for the harbour behind Pelampan, where we had lain before. Anchored in seven fathom sand and mud, close to the shore. In the evening my people returned without any tidings of the Mindano officers. Next morning I went ashore to Oran Caio Mahomed, the head man of the village Inanan, distant about six miles by sea, and two miles up a river from where we lay. He received me civilly, and told me that Mr. Herbert, the late chief of Balambangan, passing that way to Borneo, and being in distress for money, had demanded of him, and been paid, a debt of four hundred and eighty dollars. The money was due to me for a chest of opium I had sold to the headman about twelve months before. He presented me with some rice, fruits, and other refreshments. Oran Caio Mahomed also informed me, that a new chief had superseded Mr. Herbert at Borneo, and that the Mindano officers were at Abia on their return. That evening, I sent one of the two soldiers Rajah Moodo had appointed

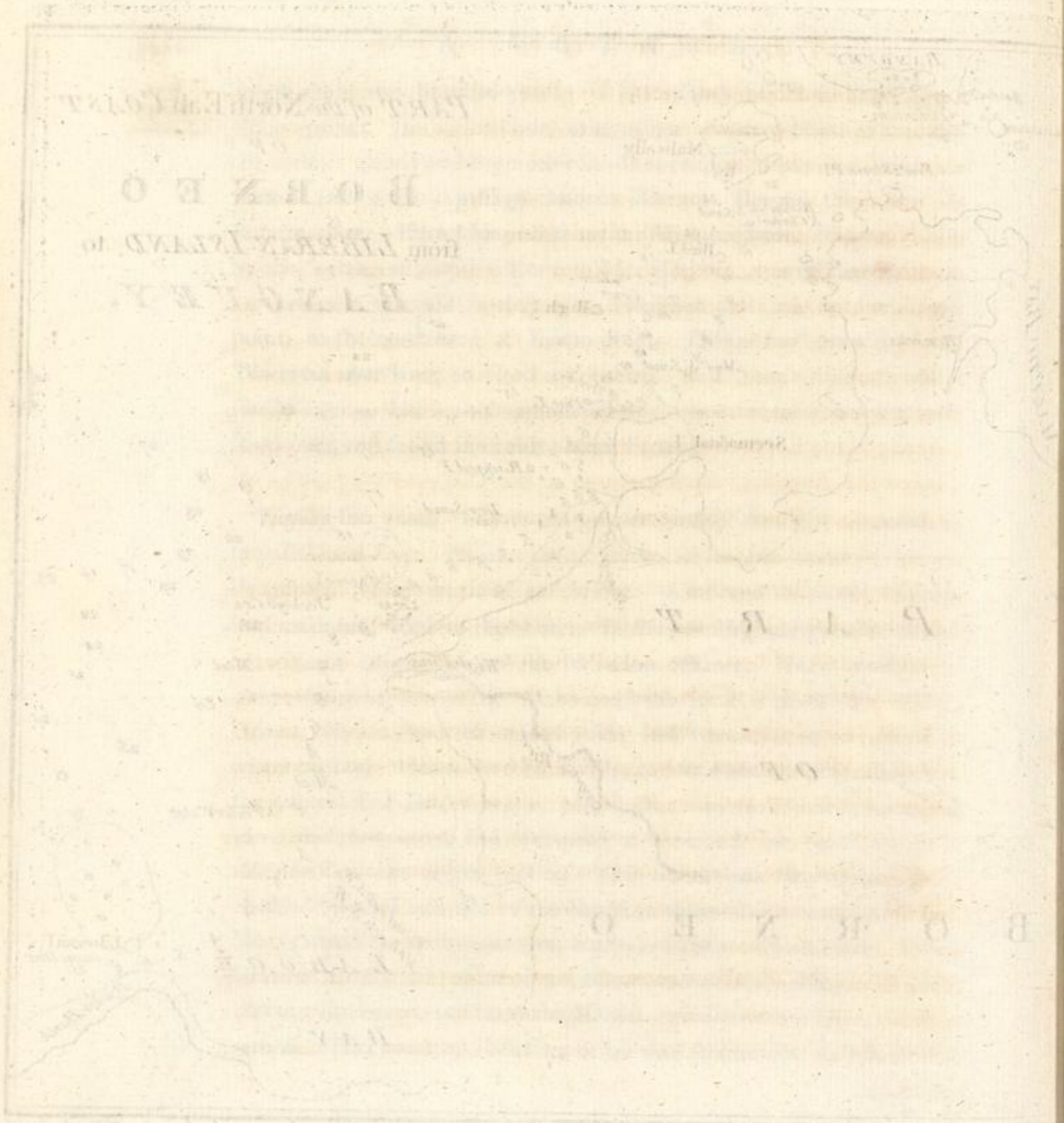


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F. Vivares Sculp<sup>t</sup>





appointed to attend me, in the boat, manned with eight people, to Abia, to learn if the information were well founded. About sunset, saw a sail in the offing.

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Next day, found the vessel in the offing to be the Speedwell snow, with Mr. Herbert, bound to Madras. I went on board the Speedwell, where Mr. Herbert assured me he neither had sent ashore to Inanan, nor received any thing from Oran Caio Mahomed. The snow stretching off to sea, I was soon obliged to take leave of Mr. Herbert, from whom I understood that a ship and sloop, then in sight, were the Antelope and Euphrates, and that Mr. Broff and Mr. Salmon were on board the Antelope, having charge of the Company's affairs on the coast; upon which I returned, and anchored behind Pulo Pangir.

*Thursday, February the 1st.* Weighed in the morning, and saw the Antelope stretching to sea. Having fired a gun, I returned and anchored again behind Pulo Pangir, in fifteen fathom muddy ground, within half a mile of the island. In the evening the Antelope anchored close by us. I went on board to pay my respects to Mr. Broff and Mr. Salmon, who gave me orders to follow the Antelope to Rhio, where they said they would stay fifteen days. Got two bags of rice from the Antelope: she could spare no more, and sailed next night. Had also a supply of goods, chiefly blue cloth, from Mr. Broff.

To day, the 2d, about noon, the boat returned from Abia, with my letters, and acquainted me, the Mindano officers were there. The wind being southerly, weighed, and steered for Abia, to land there

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February.

the other Mindano foldier, and to fend to Rajah Moodo what I owed him, being two hundred kangans.

On *Saturday* the 3d, anchored behind Ufookan ifland. In the evening, the Mindano officers came on board, their prow being hauled up within Abia river, to repair. I fent letters by them to Rajah Moodo and Fakymolano, and to the former about fifty per cent. more than I owed. I gave alfo ten pieces of blue cloth to the four officers, who were men of fome rank; and two pieces of blue cloth to each of the foldiers, who had hitherto accompanied me. I fent alfo four pieces of blue cloth to the Spanifh writer at Mindano, who had written out the grant of Bunwoot to the Englifh: being fo exhausted, when I left that country, I could not reward him as I wifhed. The Mindano officers feemed very fenfible of the trouble I had taken to find them out; and we parted very good friends.

On the 4th, towards evening, we had a great swell from the northward, though we lay in a manner land locked. In the morning, the gale freshened, and our grapnel came home. Got clofe in fhore, into nine foot at high water; at low water, the vefsel touched a little. At midnight, being high water, hauled the vefsel afhore, in a fmooth bay, upon foft fand.

On the 5th, found the flook of our grapnel ftraightened. To night the moon was wholly eclipsed: all day we had fresh gales, and a great fea broke on the Point, without us: floated at midnight.

To day





To day, the 6th, the gale abated; and the weather settled: cleaned and breamed the vessel's bottom. The people of Abia came on board, and brought us fish and fruit. Fixed beacons on the bar of sand, that reaches between the south part of Ufakan island and the main, to direct our going out at high water; finding it impossible, on account of the vast swell, to get out to the northward of the island, although the tide favoured us. About midnight got out, having touched two or three times on the bar, which happily was soft sand. Having got fairly over, we found a great swell from the northward. On the 7th, at noon, we were abreast of Pulo Gaya; at sun-set, Point Tiga bore W. S. W. three leagues. Sailed on for the island Labuan, on our way to Borneo, for provisions. Labuan is the island, to which the English retired from Balambangan: it lies opposite the mouth of the river of Borneo Proper.

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February.

On *Thursday* the 8th, at day light, I found that I had mistaken the point Keemanees, which lies S. W. of Pulo Tiga, for Labuan island, and that I had got into the bay of the same name, so far, that from seven fathom, muddy ground, the rock off the point bore N. W. by N. I stood out with the land wind, and then anchored. With ten warps, of about seventy fathom each, I got round a kind of button rock, as large as a house, that lies off the point of Keemanees, and joins to the main by a reef of rocks, above one mile in length. We warped round in two and a half, and three fathom, sandy ground. From the said rock, a dry spot of sand bears W. N. W. about six miles distant. At midnight, I anchored in thirteen fathom, muddy ground, within five miles of the Button Rock: it bearing E. N. E. On the 9th, weighed,

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February.

and steered S. W. wind N. E. passed a kind of table land, on the main of Borneo, leaving it on the left hand. About noon, got sight of Pulo Labuan; it makes like two hummocs of middling height, close together; and bears about eight leagues S. W. of Pulo Tiga.

Anchored at night. In the morning of the 10th, steered S. S. W. for the mouth of Borneo river. The best direction is to keep in soft ground. Passed many fishing stakes, that at a distance, look like masts, all within Pulo Mara. At four P. M. got over the bar, on which are three fathom at high water. Rowed a good deal: at midnight got up the river, and anchored abreast of the resident's house. I found here the Luconia Snow, Captain Roffin, belonging to the honourable Company.

On the 11th, at sun-rise, saluted the factory with five guns, and had the same number returned. At seven o'clock went ashore, and waited on the resident, Mr. Jesse, who, by the kindness of his manner, made my short stay very agreeable; nor did the behaviour of my old shipmate, Captain Roffin, add a little to my satisfaction. On *Friday* the 16th, came in a Buggefs prow, under English colours.

After having mended our sails, and got provisions and water, I failed on the 17th, from the town of Borneo; but, at noon, the flood tide making, I came to an anchor. Weighed again in the afternoon, and worked down against a fresh wind at N. E. When dark, the ebb being over, I came to, about a mile within the bar.

On

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

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February.

On the 18th, we had variable winds and calms the former part of the day ; during the latter, the wind was at N. N. E. and N. E. Early in the morning, we weighed ; and, having rowed down close to the bar, we anchored. At day light, weighed, and got over the bar : at ten, the ebb being over, anchored. At two P. M. weighed again, and worked towards Pulo Mara. At four, found the vessel made more water than usual : she had sprung a leak on the starboard side, three streaks from the keel. Wore, and ran back to Borneo ; and at eight in the morning, came to, abreast of Mr. Jesse's house. To day, just before bearing away, we saw a China junk, under Pulo Mara.

Next day, the 19th, got every thing out, and hauled the vessel ashore. On the 20th, I employed three Buggefs calkers, who, that day, calked the starboard side of the vessel, and payed it with lime and oil. We found the leak to be a large nail hole. Next day, we calked the larboard side of the vessel, and payed it with the same mixture. The Chinese junk that came from Amoy, passed us, and was moored head and stern, abreast of the town. I had the curiosity to go on board, and measure her : her length over all, was one hundred and twenty foot ; her breadth, thirty foot upon deck ; but more below. The shank of one of her wooden anchors, was thirty-six foot long. On the 23d, got a hauser from the Luconia, and hove the vessel off the ground.

On *Tuesday* the 27th, I had got every thing ready for sea. In the afternoon, Mr. Jesse and Captain Rossin came on board ; also Mr. Kirton, Captain Rossin's chief officer, a very ingenious young gentleman, who had sailed round the world with Captain Carteret, and had com-  
manded



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manded several country ships. We then weighed, and ran down the river. At sun-set, they left us, and I saluted them with three guns. I followed my friends to the town; at eleven, took leave of them, and returned on board. As it may not be amiss to say something of the north part of the island of Borneo, the reader will find it in the following chapter.

CHAP-

