

who has omitted to mention that he was himself mainly accessory in preserving the lives of those that were saved; it is but justice to recollect, whilst we admit the facts, that they occurred in a country where an ineffectual attempt to save the life of another, under the slightest shade of suspicion, is followed by the punishment of death.

The Alceste having anchored off Macao on the morning of the twenty-third, the Ambassador and his suite landed on the same day, and again experienced the hospitality of the Factory, who gave up their houses for their accommodation. The Portuguese governor, like his superiors at Rio Janeiro, abstained from showing the Ambassador any attention, and for the same alleged reason—the death of the Queen of Portugal.

The town of Macao offered nothing to our observation that is worthy description. The country in its neighbourhood is full of rare plants, of which the *nepenthes distillatoria* is one of the most singular. The rocks of the neighbouring islands consist of a very large-grained granite, contain masses of shorl, and are remarkable for groups of crystals of felspar which often occur separated from the other constituents.

CHAPTER IX.

THE *Alceste* left Macao roads on the evening of the twenty-eighth of January, and shaping her course for Manilla, made Point Capones on the second of February; and having beaten into Manilla Bay during the night, anchored the following day about noon at the distance of a mile and a half from the town. The Embassy landed the same afternoon on the northern bank of the river which flows past Manilla in a suburb opposite the city, and found themselves in the midst of a crowd occasioned by a procession in honour of the purification of the Virgin. This festival falls on the preceding day in our calendar, as the Spaniards of Manilla continue to adopt a system of reckoning time which the first discoverers of the Philippine Isles established.

A scene that presented itself to us on landing produced a favourable impression on our minds as to the wealth and population of the colony. A great number of the better classes of both sexes, chiefly in European dresses, were driving about in open carriages drawn by sleek and high-mettled ponies bred on the island. Amongst the pedestrians were many of the inferior clergy, distinguished by their large cocked hats with long tassels before and behind. The mass of the crowd was made up of the half casts; of whom, both men and women were remarkable for their well proportioned figure and erect gait; the latter especially being tall, very finely shaped, and having a dignified carriage. Their dress was well adapted to the climate, and admitted the freest play of their limbs; consisting of a loose linen tunic, which scarcely reached the *cabaya*, or em-

brodered petticoat, wrapped round the waist. Their long black hair was worn in a knot on the back of the head, or partially concealed by a transparent handkerchief, of the manufacture of the country, which was fastened above the forehead and allowed to flow freely over the back of the head. Their slippers, worked with silver or gold thread, being unconfined to their feet, caused a kind of sliding walk. The dress of the men consisted of a pair of pantaloons and a loose shirt, of the cloth of the country, which descended below the knees, and had a stiff worked collar; and was rendered unbecoming by a large round straw hat with a very high and wide crown.

The whole crowd of equestrians and pedestrians was pressing anxiously forward to meet the procession, when the bell of an adjoining convent proclaimed the hour of sun-set. In a moment every foot paused, and every sound was hushed. Looking around, we saw every head uncovered and every person wrapped in silent prayer. The bell ceased, and all again moved on, and seemed to resume their interrupted trains of thought. In a few minutes the flashing of torches announced the approach of the procession. The image of the Virgin, enthroned in a canopy of flowers mingled with tinsel, which reflected the light of tapers borne by attendant monks in robes of white and grey, was the only object which I could distinctly observe. My imagination went back to the processions which I had so lately seen in China at funerals and marriage festivals; and I could not but regret that the ministers of the pure religion of Christ, and those of the vilest idolatry which disgraces human nature, should endeavour by like methods to influence the minds of the people. Turning away, we walked towards the shore; and on our road partook of some refreshment at a small shop kept by three Indian girls who seemed not a little surprised at seeing persons of the apparent rank of their visitors on foot; for in Manilla a pedestrian of respectability is an uncommon spectacle.

The next morning His Excellency, accompanied by his suite,

entered the city of Manilla on a visit to the governor; and having passed through some long gloomy streets with houses of one story, lighted by oyster-shell windows, reached the palace. We were received in a large unfurnished room with unaffected politeness and a cordial welcome by Don Mariano Fernandez Folgarez the Governor, who proffered us every kind of civility for the time we should remain at Manilla, and invited all the members of the Embassy to dine with him next day. On leaving the city, which appeared strongly fortified, the Embassy passed over a draw-bridge into the suburbs, impatient to see the inhabitants, of whom they had caught but an imperfect glimpse the night before. The mulatto women lost something of their attractions when seen in open day, not from their appearing less comely, but from their carrying in their mouths immense cigars. Many of these were seven or eight inches long, and an inch and a half in diameter; of such magnitude, indeed, that the mouth seemed scarce large enough to grasp them. When they were fully light, and pouring fourth volumes of smoke, they might have been taken for chimnies to machines rendered locomotive by the powers of steam.

The manufacture of cigars affords employment to a great number of native women, and exhibits to the stranger an interesting example of local customs. It is carried on in a spacious gallery of a square form. Upwards of two thousand females of all ages are seated at low tables at which they make cigars by rolling the leaves of the tobacco plant on each other. The most scrupulous precaution is taken to prevent their smuggling it in any form. Superintendants walk round the tables and collect the cigars as they are made, and examine the persons of the workers at the close of their labour. This process, for an account of which I am indebted to Captain Basil Hall who witnessed it, is rather singular. Thirty women, for the most part elderly, and thought particularly trustworthy, seat themselves, excepting one, round a circular landing-place without the entrance to the gallery. One only stands

at the door of the gallery with a rattan in her hand, and allows thirty girls to enter, counting them off as they come in. When the thirty have passed, they go up to their respective examiners, and having freed their long black hair, hold it in their hands at arm's length; they then shake their handkerchiefs and loosen the other parts of their dress, and suffer the examiners to pass their hands over their bodies to ascertain if any tobacco be concealed close to their persons. In this manner successive parties are searched, till all the girls have undergone the examination. The examiners then rise, and in the same way examine each other.

The government monopolizes the sale of tobacco, and, to keep up its price, is said to destroy the extra produce of a very fertile season.

The suburbs of Manilla are principally composed of houses built, in the native manner, of matted bamboo for the walls, and the leaves of the palm for the roofs, mingled with houses of stone, with churches and convents. The bamboo dwellings are inhabited by the mulattos, called mestis, natives and Chinese, all of whom, especially the mulattos and Chinese, are the tradesmen of the place. None of them stand very high for honesty, but the Chinese maintain their character for pre-eminence in cheating.*

The Chinese are charged with various crimes, are watched with much suspicion by the government, and are as cordially hated by the natives of Luconia as by the Javanese. They at least have their share of punishment. Two of them, and a native, were executed for the crime of murder during our visit at Manilla. The malefactors were strangled by a method peculiar and frightful.

It is but justice to make an exception in favour of some of the mulatto women, who are said to be the chief negociants of Manilla, and yet give no other security for their purchases than their words, for a credit of two years. The author of the *Voyage aux Indes Orientales* states, that he has known a mulatto woman furnished with merchandize to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars, with no other security than a verbal promise, which she has kept with the utmost fidelity. — Vol. II. p. 347.

A frame-work, furnished with a number of iron collars at the height of the neck of a man of ordinary stature, when sitting, is placed in the most public square in the suburbs, having in its front a number of stools of variable elevation, like the music stools of this country, to raise or depress the culprit. When the unfortunate wretch is brought to the requisite height, the collar, always much too small, is put round his neck, and by a screw behind is tightened with sudden violence. The execution usually takes place in the morning soon after sun-rise, but the bodies are not removed till sun-set.

In accepting the invitation of the Governor to dinner, the Embassy had an opportunity of seeing many of the most respectable of the colonists, and found that the stateliness usually attached to the Spanish character, entered in no degree into their polite standard of manners. We sat down at two o'clock to a sumptuous board, of which the *Olla podrida* was not the least attractive ornament. Mirth and temperance presided, although sometimes chequered with clamour. Two of the party, an Andalusian and Gallician, asserted their respective superiority in the art of salad-making, and in their loud appeals to the company seemed to use more earnestness than the occasion merited. One of these gentlemen was master of the ceremonies wherever he appeared, and seemed well adapted for managing the gay frivolities of life. He was grand carver at the Governor's table, and chief beau at the ball; and whether eating, drinking, or dancing, was pre-eminent in action. In the discharge of the duties of his official situation, all Manilla said that he equally excelled; and that he was behind no one in hospitality to strangers all the Embassy can testify.

Shortly after dinner the party adjourned to another room, and partook of coffee, tea, and cigars. About five, in conformity with general custom, they drove out in carriages upon a broad road that winds round the city. Soon after sun-set they returned to the Governor's, and were now joined by his two daughters and other ladies, all dressed in the European style. The evening concluded with music and dancing.

On the following morning I joined a party of friends on an excursion to the village of Los Bagnos, on the southern bank of a celebrated lake called Laguna de Baie. This lake is situated to the east of Manilla, and is stated to be forty-five leagues in circumference. Its waters are fresh, and empty themselves into the sea by the river Passig. This river is navigable at all seasons of the year to very heavy boats, and flows about twenty miles before it reaches the Bay of Manilla.

We left Manilla in a felucca provided by the Governor, and which was rowed by sixteen natives, who used the slow majestic manner of the Spaniards, rising on their feet at every stroke. The scenery on each bank of the river was replete with romantic beauties, and greatly resembled that of Java. Palms and bananas, mingled with trees of a more umbrageous character, surrounded the wattled bamboo huts of the natives, supported on piles some feet from the ground. They are guarded by this construction against the effects of inundations which sometimes occur from the overflowing of the river and lake; but being built entirely of wood, are very liable to fire, especially as every native keeps it in some shape or other in his dwelling for lighting his cigar. Widely spreading conflagrations often occur and consume whole villages in a few hours. A very singular effect is said to be then produced by the air confined in the joints of bamboo, becoming expanded by heat, and bursting them asunder and scattering them in all directions. The same circumstance, however, which renders them so capable of destruction, makes the calamity less severe, as a bamboo hut can be erected in a few hours.

When these dwellings were so numerous as to form a village, a principal building was seen rising above them, sometimes distinguished by a gothic spire, and sometimes by a crucifix. Gothic spires and gothic arches, formed of bamboo, are common on the island, introduced, it might be supposed, by Europeans; but, according to all accounts, they are purely native, excepting the cross which usually surmounts them.

In our passage up the river, we passed many of the canoes of the natives formed of the hollowed trunk of a tree, about twenty feet long, two wide, and one deep. These have sometimes an awning extending almost the whole length of the boat, formed of the plaited leaves of the palm, supported on six posts; and on the bottom, an elastic platform of split bamboo, on which passengers can recline at full length. A very thick entire bamboo always passes along the outside of the gunwhale, which, offering an increased surface of great buoyancy to the water when the canoe heels over, prevents its upsetting. These canoes are often shaped like a fish, having the head and stern carved to represent its head and tail, and the body rounded to the shape of its belly. They are rowed by four paddles, and make great way even against a strong current.

On approaching the lake, we found the country low and marshy, cut by innumerable rivulets, and in many places flooded. Herds of buffaloes, of a pale blue colour and little hair, with very long curved horns turned back close to the head, were crossing the river, having the nose and eyes alone above the water. Little boys, on these occasions, often stand on the backs of the headmost animals, holding by a string fastened to their heads, and in guiding them guide the whole herd.

The stream of the river having been strongly against us, we gained the entrance of the lake too late to reach Los Bagnos that night, then distant about thirty miles, and therefore directed our course to the Convent of Benangonan, situated on its bank. The lake, soon after leaving the river, exhibited an expanse of water which seemed to justify the calculation of its reputed extent. So great indeed was its breadth, that its boundaries were very ill defined, although many of the circumjacent mountains are high. The surface was covered with wild fowl too shy to allow our obtaining any shots. The bamboo nets, or rather fences, used by the natives for taking fish, were very numerous, and must render its navigation in the dark very dangerous. They are mere bamboo mats fastened to poles, and placed upright in the water,

and so united as to form a kind of labyrinth from which the fish, having once entered, cannot disentangle themselves.

A dark night prevented our seeing the scenery in the neighbourhood of the convent of Benangonan. We landed on a kind of pier near a mound of stone, on which was erected a huge cross in front of a court that led to the convent. The guide who accompanied us having made known to its inmates that we were travelling under the protection of the Government, obtained for us immediate admittance. We were received by an Augustine friar, who led us into the refectory of the convent, and informed us that the Superior was absent, but would soon return. The convent, like most others in Luconia, was capable of lodging a great number of monks, but appeared to contain only two Augustine fathers. Our host, seemingly about forty years of age, something below the middling height, and rather corpulent, conversed with us in Latin, and finding one of the party was a medical man, begged his advice for a complaint which he endeavoured to express by laying his hand on his stomach, and exclaiming repeatedly, "*fames habeo*." As his plump figure, ruddy complexion, and laughing eyes, seemed to forbid the supposition of real disease, we were disposed to believe that he had some other object in view than obtaining medical advice. When he found, however, that "*fames habeo*" did not render his complaint intelligible, he went into other symptoms, and when he had obtained a prescription was satisfied.

In about half an hour after our arrival, the Superior came in. He was a tall majestic figure, and entering enveloped in his cowl and leaning on his staff, presented an admirable subject for the pencil. When freed of his cloak, he exhibited a countenance of intelligence and feeling. He welcomed us cordially, and immediately gave directions for our supper and beds. He had been, he said, on a visit to the Indians of his neighbourhood, some of whom were dying, and others dangerously ill of an epidemic disease that had been some time prevalent on the island, and peculiarly fatal to the natives inhabiting the shores of the lake. One of the alleged

causes of the distemper was, a quantity of fish, which had been thrown upon the shores of the lake by the force of a hurricane, and had remained till they became putrid. A more probable cause of its fatality to the natives, was their refusing to use the means successfully employed by Europeans for its cure. St. Croix indeed states, that the Laguna de Baie communicates with the volcanoes of some of the surrounding mountains; and mentions, in proof of his assertion, that "during the summer of 1808 a great quantity of dead fish appeared on the surface of the lake, giving to the waters a fetid odour, and rendering them undrinkable." He adds, that they followed the course of the river Passig in such immense quantities as almost to fill its bed, and to cause the apprehension of a plague at Manilla; and supposes their mortality to have been the consequence of the water having been strongly impregnated with sulphur.*

Whilst conversing about the disease, the chorus of distant voices drew us to the window of the convent. A procession of Indians by torch-light, headed by a native priest, was approaching the church of the convent, forming one of the sides of the quadrangle in its front, to implore the removal of the distemper. The half-illuminated figures of the Indians, their far projected shadows, the gloom of the surrounding scene, the large cross occasionally but faintly disclosed by the gleam of the torches, and the dashing of the lake upon the shore

Ce lac paraît avoir quelques communications avec les volcans des montagnes qui l'environnent. Une des preuves les plus fortes qu'on en puisse donner, c'est qu'en 1800, ~~on~~ vit, pendant les chaleurs, une très-grande quantité de poissons morts sur la surface du lac, dont les eaux cessèrent d'être potables, et avaient une odour fétide et corrompue. Le grand nombre de ces poissons qui suivaient la cours de la rivière, fit craindre la peste à Manilla ou tout ou moins une épidémie. Une chose digne d'être remarquée, c'est qu'une très-grande quantité de ces poissons n'étaient pas entièrement morts; le corps paraissait conserver du mouvement et de la sensibilité, lorsque la tête était déjà en putréfaction. Le lit de la rivière en était rempli, tant le nombre en était prodigieux. On jugea que, dans la communication du volcan avec le lac, il s'était répandu beaucoup de soufre, et que c'était une des principales causes de cette mortalité; les eaux en étaient très-fortement imprégnées. Je ne me permettrai pas de rapporter ce fait, s'il n'était avéré par tous les habitants de la colonie et par les proces-verbeaux que j'ai eus entre mes mains. — *Moyens aux Indes Orientales*, par M. Felix Renouard de Sainte-Croix, tome II. p. 217, 218.

heard in the pauses of the hymn, associated with our recollections of the romantic tales of our earliest days.

An excellent supper of boiled fowls and Spanish wine prepared us for our beds. The invalid did not appear at table, but received his fair proportion of our fare in a separate apartment. Having been refreshed by a few hours' sleep, we started soon after midnight for the hot baths, and reached them about six o'clock in the morning.

As we approached the shore, now lightened by the rising sun, the beauties of the lake opened upon us in great splendour. The village of Los Bagnos stands in a recess of the shore, surrounded with conical hills rising above each other and clothed with a dark foliage chequered with patches of vivid green to their very summits. The same hills formed part of a series which winding on our right and left, formed one of the boundaries of the lake, and gradually vanished in the distance. The sun, as he rose above the hills, shed his rays on the glassy surface of the water, and disclosed an expanse resembling a sea in extent, and only broken by a beautifully wooded island that seemed to rest like a bird upon the waves.

We landed opposite a small convent in a state of great decay. On our left was the native village of bamboo huts raised. On our right were some small round buildings with doomed roofs, enveloped in the steam which issued from them. Steam was also rising in several places from the woods at their back, and might have been supposed the smoke of cottages buried in their shade.

Impatient to examine the objects around us, we hastened to the convent, and after some time awakened and astonished its inmates. It was inhabited by one of the native priests, and one or two females of rather doubtful relation to the worthy father. Having passed through a large lumber room and up a ladder, we entered a spacious apartment furnished with a large table and a few old chairs, and communicating at one end with the chapel, and at the other with the dormitory of the establishment. From the latter came forth, on our entrance, the clerigo, in person and dress

grotesque, as to tax our risibility very severely in avoiding to offend him by our mirth. Imagine a figure little more than five feet high, having a large head with black hair, projecting forehead with a wart in the centre that looked like the budding of a horn, pig's eyes, flat nose, expanded nostrils, wide mouth and thick lips, dressed in an old-fashioned suit of black cloth, without stockings, and his shirt hanging below his knees, rushing out wild with astonishment, and only answering with grins the questions put to him. When the excess of surprise was passed, he walked successively round each of the party, viewing him narrowly from head to foot, but at length was motioning us to be seated, when he found fresh occasion for astonishment. Mr. Griffith, the chaplain to the Embassy, had entered the room with a double-barrelled gun in his hand, and was now introduced as a brother clerigo. A protestant clergyman was, no doubt, in himself an object of great curiosity to one brought up in the extreme of bigotry, but a clergyman with a double-barrelled gun seemed to disturb all his notions of ecclesiastical propriety. He immediately went up to Griffith and examined him with great deliberation, walked round him again and again, and did not recover himself till repeated requests for refreshment induced him to depart. He soon re-appeared with shoes and buckles, and his shirt properly adjusted, and calling loudly about him, brought out one of his female associates, a very striking contrast to himself. With some of his peculiarities of physiognomy, she was tall; thin, and withered, decorated with crucifixes and other ornaments, and might have illustrated Smollett's description of the Indian wife of Lismahago. She had more self-possession than her friend, and speedily supplied us with some delicious chocolate, the famed produce and preparation of the island. Having drunk it, large glasses full of the coldest water that could be procured was, according to the custom of the country, handed to us. As the chocolate is taken very hot, a draught of cold water after it is a great luxury, and according to local report, very wholesome.

On visiting the hot springs we found several of them situated

nearly in front of the convent, and on the very margin of the lake. They rise bubbling through the surface, and forming small streams, unite in a torrent which flows into the lake. Round buildings with doomed roofs have been built over many of them to serve as vapour-baths; and the water of others are conducted into large tanks, which serve as open baths. These were formerly used as appendages to an hospital built for the use of the natives; but the baths are in ruins, and the hospital has entirely disappeared.

The construction of the vapour-baths was very simple, and had been probably well adapted to its purpose. On looking into them by a very small door, I found a floor formed by a bamboo frame laid over the hot spring, which had been formed into a well several feet in depth. It had been originally intended that the patient should stand on the bamboo, and thus be enveloped in steam; but this purpose could not be effected when I saw them, as the water rose above the frames, and was intolerably hot. There were three baths, which were all supplied, as far as I could judge, by the same stream, which having run under them and successively filled the respective reservoirs, passed off in a channel to the lake. The water of the bath nearest the source of the spring, raised a thermometer immersed in it to 174° of Fahrenheit, and the steam of the same bath to 108° ; the water of the second bath raised it to 168° and its steam to 100° ; the water of the third bath to 164° and its steam to 99° . Aided by a pair of thick shoes I ventured unto the bamboo in the bath of lowest temperature; and felt no other inconvenience than the sense of great heat on first entering, and was less sensible of this in a few seconds. My respiration was quite easy, and my pulse beat at 108 full and soft. I had only remained long enough to ascertain these facts. when the heat at my feet drove me away.

The temperature of one of the springs, at its source in the open air, was higher than that of any of the baths, being 180° . The lowest temperature of any of the springs was 120° . The temperature of a large stream, at its junction with the lake, was 168° . In

bathing a few yards from the point of communication, we experienced a singular but pleasant sensation produced by an alternate flow of hot and cold water.

By far the most interesting and singular hot stream, in the hidden recesses of a wood, was discovered by the steam ascending above the trees in several directions, marking its devious course. It had worn a deep and unequal bed in a rock of compact lava, the surface of which it had rendered soft, and was overhung with trees of luxuriant foliage, and fringed with flowers of delicate hues. I did not meet with this rivulet, the temperature of which was 160° , till within an hour of leaving Los Bagnos, and could not therefore follow its windings and trace its source. It was with the greatest reluctance that I was compelled to quit a scene replete with more novelty than any that I had ever before witnessed. Let my reader picture to himself a smoking stream running with much force over a rocky bed, through a wood of umbrageous trees whose branches met above it, and he may form some slight notion of its very peculiar characters.

Sonnerat has stated, and his statement has been copied by other authors, that a species of fish lives in these springs. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that I was unable to verify this observation. All the animals which I saw in them, and I saw two, a small snake and a frog, were not only dead, but boiled. The same author states that a plant vegetates in them, and in this respect my experience partially accords with his. I found a small plant, apparently a species of *Arenaria*, vegetating in a soil that raised the thermometer plunged amongst its roots to 110° , on the side of a spring, the temperature of which was 120° .

The hot springs were so mingled with others of the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere, that it was easy to put one hand into hot and the other into cold water. St. Croix states that some of the springs, near their source in the mountains, have a very strong taste of copper. I could discover no metallic flavour,

but observed an ochreous film floating on the surface of some cold pools; and a deposit of the same kind on the banks of one or two of the hot springs.

It is said that the craters of extinguished volcanoes exist in the neighbourhood of Los Bagnos, and contain a considerable expanse and depth of water, the habitation of enormous alligators. That the mountains chiefly consist of lava is probable, as the shores of the lake are composed of black sand, the debris of compact lava, and because the bed of a large river which runs into it is interrupted with blocks of the same rock.

The woods are very thick, and seem to have been but little trod by man, and abound in magnificent plants. The unwearied search of three persons, in a small space within the immediate precincts of the convent, from early in the morning till late in the evening, was far from exhausting their numerous species.

The trees which characterise the scenery are different species of palm, especially the coco nut, *Cocos nucifera*, and the areca nut, *Areca catechu*, and the *Nipa fruticans*. Of other trees the more general and conspicuous were the teak tree, *Tectona grandis*, a very large non-descript species of *Ficus*, the jack fruit *Artocarpus incisa*, and the bread fruit *Artocarpus integra*, the guava and mango. Of the less prominent, two species of *mimosa*, with white and yellow flowers, were very abundant. Of other plants, I find remaining to me references to specimens of the genera *Asclepias*, *Bauhinia*, *Cordia*, *Hedysarum*, *Hibiscus*, *Justicia*, and *Poinciana*. On the walls of the convent a *Justicia* with yellow flowers grew in the greatest profusion. The *Justicia bicolor* was a very common plant on the margin of the woods, and the *Vinca rosea*, of great size and beauty, was the plant of waste ground not only in the neighbourhood of the convent, but in every place that I visited on the island.

A considerable plantation of a species of *Musa*, from which the natives obtain two sets of fibres, the one fine for manufacturing the *nippis*, the other coarse for making cordage, grew near the village of

Los Bagnos. The nippis is a beautifully clear fabric, which forms the outer shirt-shaped garment of the native men, and the tunic and handkerchiefs of the women. . It is said to be sometimes made of fibres so fine that they require to be manufactured under water, because if exposed to the sun and air they become too fragile to work. The cordage made from this plant is less prized in the Philippines than that manufactured from the fibres that grow near the roots of a palm, and are of a black colour, forming rope called *cabo-negro* by the Spaniards, by which name the palm itself is also known. The cordage is black, and strongly resembles horse-hair. The palm is no doubt the *anau* of the Sumatrans, which Mr. Marsden informs us " is the *Borossus gomutus* of Loureiro, the *Saguerus pinnatus* of the Batavian Transact. and the *Cleophora* of Gærtner."*

Late in the afternoon the arrival of the Ambassador, Mr. Ellis, and Captain Maxwell, giving the clerigo fresh occasion for astonishment, he again repeated his circumambulations. At the table of His Excellency, at which he was with much difficulty induced to take a seat, he gained himself a higher place in our estimation by his readiness in giving a complimentary turn to his answers when questioned by the Ambassador. Whilst thus situated, his female companion and a young girl stood apart at some distance, and seemed as much amused with his grotesque appearance as any other of the party, expressing their emotion by the most immoderate fits of laughter.

Having passed the night the greater part of us on benches and tables in the refectory, or in the chapel surrounded by the images of the virgin and of the saints, we again embarked on the lake, and after a very boisterous passage arrived at Manilla the same evening, and immediately went on board the *Alceste*.

Early the next morning we left Manilla Bay with a favourable breeze, and were out of sight of land before dark. On the 16th we

made the Great Natunas, and the next day passed the Timbelan Islands, and that night discovered Gaspar island, having run about one hundred and sixty miles a day in nearly smooth water. Expecting to be in the straits of Gaspar the next morning, I rose early to ascertain our situation, and looking from my cabin window, saw Pulo-Leat, a finely wooded island close on our larboard beam. The morning was fine, the wind was fresh and favourable, and the vessel was moving rapidly through the water; every appearance promised a rapid passage through the straits which we had just entered. I had scarcely withdrawn, when a violent vibration of the whole ship, accompanied by a rumbling noise, urged me again to look out; the vessel no longer moved, and the waves beat against her like a rock. She had struck on a coral reef*, and having grated over it for a few seconds, heeled slightly over to the starboard side and settled upon it. On deck, where I instantly hastened, every countenance told the distressing truth. A dead silence prevailed for some moments, every man retaining the posture in which the disaster found him, till Captain Maxwell, by his orders, roused the suspended faculties of all. "All hands on deck to shorten sail—man the pumps—clear the best bower anchor," were the almost simultaneous orders. An attempt was then made by throwing the sails aback to drive the ship off the rock, but in vain. The rapidity of her motion at the instant of striking, rendered it highly probable that she had received serious injury; but every doubt on this subject was soon removed by the appearance of large portions of the keel floating alongside, and by the report of the carpenter. He had sounded the well, and found two feet and a half water, and soon after seven feet, and that it continued to gain rapidly. Every sail was now taken in, and the anchor was let go to keep the ship upon the rock, from the apprehension, if she went off, of her instantly sinking. Some bread and powder were then attempted to be saved;

In a chart by Captain Lestock Wilson, the track of his ship Vansittart passes over the very spot where the *Alceste* struck, and eighteen fathoms water are marked in the same place.

but before they could be reached, the magazine and bread-room were under water.

At this crisis, when our safety hung probably on the most feeble chance, no disorder prevailed; every man did his duty calmly, diligently, and effectually. The boats being cleared and lowered, the Ambassador, his suite, and part of his guard, within half an hour after the striking of the vessel, were in the barge, and making for the nearest point of land, distant about three miles. After leaving the vessel we saw more accurately the dangerous nature of her situation. The reef on which she had struck was distinctly seen from the boat extending a few yards from her. Beyond, the water was dark and deep, and continued so for nearly half a mile, and then became so shallow that the beautiful but fatal coral was continually seen as we approached the shore. When about a mile from the land, sunken rocks covered by not more than from one to three feet water, surrounded us on all sides. The boat struck several times, but was saved from any serious accident by the skill of Lieut. Hoppner who commanded her. After sailing or rowing for about an hour, we gained what had appeared from the ship to be land covered with wood, but to our mortification discovered nothing but insulated masses of granite interspersed with trees growing in the water. The rocks being too small to receive us, and not appearing to be above high water mark, some men were sent forward amongst the trees to seek for land, but returned after a fruitless search.

Having been joined by the other barge, with the servants of the Embassy, we coasted along the shore in quest of a more convenient place for debarkation. Several creeks which seemed to penetrate inland were in vain explored, they all terminated in deep swamps. Similar attempts were reiterated, till anxiety to send back the boats for the relief of others on board determined His Excellency to land on the first rocks which should be found sufficiently large or numerous for the reception of the party. This intention was at length effected in a small bay, where the rocks were so mingled with trees as to afford firm hand-hold. Having with some difficulty

placed ourselves upon them above the rise of the tide, and having taken our fire-arms from the boats, they immediately returned to the ship.

Several gentlemen now went forward over the rocks, and soon returned with intelligence that land was not far a-head. A party was therefore dispatched to examine it more closely; and proceeding in the direction of the shore discovered a more convenient landing place, and a small hill on which an encampment might be formed. Several men were immediately dispatched to this place to fell trees, and to clear a space for the reception of persons and baggage; and a marine was stationed on a projecting rock to direct the boats to the new landing-place as they successively approached the island.

We had now leisure to contemplate some of the circumstances of our situation. Spars and planks, the remains of a boat, and the marks of fires scattered amongst the rocks on which we first obtained footing, indicated that other unfortunates had, at some period, found on the same island a doubtful asylum. The roots of trees intertwining with each other, and forming arches over a bog which exhaled a disgusting effluvia, formed the path from this place to the hill. No vestige of a human habitation was visible, and the discordant screeching of a bird alone marked the presence of any animated being. The heat of the day as it advanced, and the exertions of the men in clearing the ground, produced great thirst, and rendered it necessary immediately to seek for water, of which scarcely any had been saved. A search for this purpose was conducted in several directions without success; and night coming on, was relinquished in the hopes of better fortune on the morrow.

During the whole day, and till a late hour in the evening, boats were employed in bringing provisions and baggage from the ship.

At the commencement of the evening all those who had landed being assembled at the place of encampment on the hill, a table formed of boxes and hampers was covered with what provisions were at hand. The Ambassador, the gentlemen of his suit, and the officers on shore, sat down to a gloomy and unrefreshing meal;

the seamen were served with biscuit and rum, and the servants were supplied from the Ambassador's table. Exhausted by the fatigues of the day we were glad, soon after our repast, to seek some rest.

Nothing could be more mournfully picturesque than the scene which about this time presented itself. The place in which the table had been spread was a cleared space of about twenty feet square, in the midst of a wood on the declivity of a hill to which an avenue had been cut from the sea-side. It served as a sleeping ground to many of the party. At its extreme part towards the hill, the Ambassador's cot was suspended between two trees, its white curtains forming a curious contrast to the sable foliage by which it was surrounded. Along its sides and those of the avenue, hampers, trunks, bags, Chinese toys, and an endless variety of other articles were scattered in wild confusion. Reclined on the larger packages were the wearied seamen, whose jokes proved their insensibility to their situation, and were sadly contrasted with the moans of some sick men placed apart from their companions in recesses cut amongst the trees. The dull light of a few candles threw a meagre gleam over these objects, and scarcely showed to the cots and hammocks suspended amongst the trees, or strewn on the ground, the few who obtained them: the greater number of the party considered themselves fortunate if they found flags or blankets to defend them from the ground. Fires being lighted and sentries placed, to defend us from any possible danger, we laid ourselves down to watch anxiously for day-light. Captain Maxwell and a part of his officers and crew remained on the wreck all night.

Early the next morning the party rose with a painful thirst, and without the means of satisfying it, but many materially lessened it by bathing. Several detachments, headed by gentlemen of the Embassy and officers of the ship, started in several directions to dig for water; but returned, in different parts of the day, without having gained their object. Others, amongst whom was the author of this narrative, visited the ship by one of the first boats that returned to

her, and on their way met Captain Maxwell going on shore, where his presence was likely to be of the greatest service in establishing order amongst his men, and where his counsel was required respecting the best means of procuring relief from some neighbouring port. He expressed great concern that no water had been discovered on the island, as very little had yet been obtained from the wreck.

We found, on reaching the vessel, that she had heeled over so much on her starboard side, that it was very difficult to mount her quarter-deck by the larboard gangway. The topmasts had been cut away, some of the yards had been lowered, and others were taking down to form rafts for the conveyance of things on shore, and for the safety of those on board in the event of any sudden breaking up of the vessel, whose timbers threatened to give way about midships.

The noise, and the scene which prevailed on board, were inexpressibly awful. The wind was high and the swell of the sea considerable, and the vessel knocked fearfully against the rock. The rending of the sails, the rattling of the ropes, the splashing of the waves, the howl of the winds, the roar of the sea, and the shouts of the seamen, combined in horrid confusion. Linen, books, and all kinds of packages, covered the upper deck. The water rose to the main deck from below, and beat over it through the starboard ports. Pieces of furniture floated in every direction. The cabins, in which but two days before we had reposed in comfort and security, were either empty, or filled with motley lumber. One alone was an exception to this state. A collection of plants, seeds, and minerals, which had been made in China, was still in a great measure uninjured, but only mocked the vexation of the owner, who saw no chance of preserving it. Every one at the time being necessarily too intent on securing the means of general subsistence to attend to an individual's interests, it could only be recommended to the attention of the officer commanding on board, and by his directions was afterwards placed on a raft, which, with every thing upon it, was burnt by the Malays.

Whilst we remained on board, two casks of water floated up from

the bottom of the ship, and were immediately hoisted on deck. So invaluable a prize in our circumstances must have ensured, it will be imagined, all possible care; yet such was the inconsiderateness of the sailors, that they staved one of them in getting it over the side of the ship, through mere heedlessness.

The Ambassador, during our absence from the island, had resolved to embark with his suite in the barge, and with the cutter in company, to sail for Batavia that evening, for the purpose of obtaining as early relief as possible for his fellow-sufferers. Being informed of this arrangement by a message from Captain Maxwell, we hastened on shore. The barge had put off before we arrived, but waited for the cutter outside a reef about a mile and a half from shore.

After taking a hasty farewell of my friends, I went on board the cutter, and reached the barge about half-past six. She contained the Ambassador, the Hon. Mr. Amherst, Mr. Somerset, the gentlemen of the suite, Mr. Cook, captain of the guard, and Lieutenant Hoppner commanding the boat, fifteen seamen, four marines, and two servants; in all thirty-three. In the cutter were Mr. Mayne, master of the *Alceste*, Mr. Blair, midshipman, ten seamen, and three marines. Having been detained some time alongside each other in distributing arms and provisions, and in determining on signals and their mode of sailing, the boats got under weigh at seven o'clock, the cutter taking the lead.

The objects immediately to be attended to were the sunken rocks which stretched out a considerable distance from the shores, and the pirates who infested the seas and inhabited the islands in our neighbourhood. To avoid the first, we stood directly out to sea for more than an hour, and then having sounded in nineteen fathoms, steered a southerly course: to avoid the pirates, we endeavoured to clear land during the night.

At day-light the next morning no other land than the extreme point of Banca was visible. Our stock of provisions and water having been examined, a small allowance of each, with a proportion

of rum, was served out to the two boats. Of meat and biscuit we had enough to last on a short allowance to the end of our voyage, if it should prove at all favourable; but of water we had not more than seven or eight gallons for forty-seven persons. Of rum and wine there was a full quantity; but these were more likely to increase than assuage thirst, from which, considering our latitude, we were to expect our chief suffering. But our apprehensions in this respect were in some measure relieved about ten o'clock in the morning, by a heavy fall of rain, of which we caught seven or eight gallons by different methods. Having an awning over the after-part of the boat, we obtained a considerable quantity of the water which ran from it, but found it so strongly impregnated with paint as not to be drinkable. A blanket was therefore spread, and soon gave a bucket full: an inverted umbrella, which collected water as in a funnel, was also of great use.

At twelve o'clock at noon we were, by several observations, in lat. $3^{\circ} 39'$ South, long. $106^{\circ} 39'$ East, Batavia bearing S. S. W. distant 152 miles. A squall, which brought the rain, having been followed by a dead calm, the crews of the boats were immediately divided into two watches each, who rowed alternately. At the close of day the barge spoke the cutter and gave her an allowance of biscuit and rum, and a light, which had been obtained with the greatest difficulty by firing gunpowder on oakum.

At the approach of night a gloom stole over our spirits, and was considerably increased by the calm, which, calling for a great exertion on the part of the men, made us tremble for their strength, whilst it gave the probability of a long and painful voyage. To relieve them as much as possible, every person of the suite occasionally rowed, exciting by his example the emulation of the men; but the cheering exhortations of our gallant officer accompanying the strokes of his effective oar, was of more sensible advantage: "Never say die my lads," was a certain appeal to the energy and the pride of his men.

The calm continued all night, but a breeze which sprung up the

next morning enabled us, with the assistance of the oars, to make some way. At noon we found ourselves in lat. $4^{\circ} 52' 30''$ S., long. $106^{\circ} 45'$ East, Batavia being distant 78 miles. The wind again failed us early in the afternoon, and did not spring up till the next day.

In the evening the whole party began to feel the inconvenience of their constrained situation, having been unable to get out of the sitting posture. One or two attempted to lie at the bottom of the boat, but were effectually prevented, by the feet of their companions, from obtaining any rest.

The following day at noon we were by observation in lat. $5^{\circ} 35'$ S., long. $106^{\circ} 37'$ E., Batavia bearing South 22° E. distance 38 miles. Our approach to land was marked by large trees floating past us covered with birds. At half-past three the cutter, which was two miles a-head of the barge, hoisted her colours, as a signal for land, which was soon afterwards distinctly seen bearing south-east, distant about ten or twelve miles. Every exertion was immediately made to gain it before night, but the land-breeze coming very strong off shore, the boats were obliged, about six o'clock, to come to an anchor. The men were at this time giving way very fast: their thirst was so intense that many attempted to relieve their suffering by drinking salt water; and one man was taken severely ill with pain in the head and delirium, and uttered the most lamentable cries.

About eight P. M. the breeze slackening, we again attempted to gain the shore by rowing; but were obliged by the weakness of the men, and the force of an adverse current, again to anchor about six miles from Krawang Point. Although so near the shore, this was one of our most uncomfortable nights. The swell of the sea was so great that the rolling of the boat scarcely allowed us to keep our seats; and our spirits, worn by anxiety and watching, were not in a state to encounter with composure any fresh inconvenience.

At day-light the next morning the oars were once more plied, and with better effect. Soon after shutting in Krawang Point, one of the men being observed drinking the water alongside, received a

severe reprimand. The poor fellow paid little attention to the exostulation till he had taken a hearty draught, and then swore " 'twas fresh ;" and fresh it proved, for we were now opposite the mouth of the Krawang river, whose waters, from their lower specific gravity, rolled on the surface of the sea. This unexpected and seasonable supply gave us fresh vigour ; the men tugged lustily at the oars, and a sea-breeze springing up, every sail was set to a favouring gale. The masts of the ships in Batavia Roads were soon visible, and by half-past ten A. M. we were alongside the Princess Charlotte transport, of Whitehaven, and received by her commander, Captain M·Kain, with all possible kindness and hospitality. Our appearance on reaching his ship sufficiently indicated our misfortunes. Many of the party had lost their hats and shoes ; scarcely one had a coat ; the faces of several had been skinned by the sun, and all had beards of a week's growth. It would be in vain to describe our sensations at this fortunate termination of our voyage. They who have never experienced, for a considerable period, a painful anxiety under circumstances of danger and deprivation, can scarcely appreciate the feelings consequent on their cessation. But whatever were the emotions of our minds, or the wants of our bodies, their influence did not prevent the Ambassador from immediately attending to the relief of our friends on the island. It was ascertained, in a few minutes after our arrival, that the Honourable East India Company's cruizer Ternate, Captain Davidson, was then in the roads, and that she would probably be a fit vessel to dispatch to their assistance. Mr. Ellis, with his usual alacrity in the service of others, instantly volunteered to enquire into the business, and soon ascertained that she was well adapted to the service in view, inasmuch as she sailed well and drew little water ; but he feared she was too small to hold the whole party, together with the luggage saved from the wreck. It was, therefore, determined that the Princess Charlotte should accompany her ; and both these vessels sailed for Pulo Leat at day-break the next morning.

The Ambassador having learnt that the English Governor, the

Honourable Mr. Fendal, and Sir William Keir, Bart., commander of the British forces in Java, had not quitted the island, dispatched letters to them, and to the Dutch Governor, Baron Van der Capellan, stating our situation. Mr. Cooke, who carried them on shore, soon returned with intelligence that boats were coming off to take us to Batavia. An aide-de-camp also arrived from the Baron with an invitation to the Ambassador and gentlemen of his suite to his house, and the offer of every supply our necessities might require. The boats arrived at four o'clock, and took the Ambassador and his suite on shore, where carriages waited our arrival to convey us to the house of His Excellency the Dutch Governor, with whom we dined; but through the active kindness of our English friends, did not find it necessary to accept of his proffered services to their full extent.

I have now related all those circumstances of the unfortunate wreck of the *Alceste* of which I was a witness. For the following brief narrative of the occurrences on the island, after the departure of the Ambassador, I am indebted to the Journals kept there by the Hon. Mr. Abbot and Mr. Brown, and to conversations with several other officers of the ship.

After the sailing of the Embassy on the evening of the 19th of February, provisions, baggage, and some water, were landed from the wreck, but the last in such small quantity that the utmost anxiety prevailed respecting the result of efforts then making to form a well at the bottom of the hill. But successive parties having toiled at it all night, Captain Maxwell was, before morning, cheered with the intelligence that water had begun to rise; and on receiving a specimen found it, although slightly brackish, very drinkable.

It becoming generally known at an early hour that water had risen to the height of three feet, a general rush was made to the well, and every thing capable of holding it put into requisition by the thirsty sufferers. They found the supply too small to afford them much relief, but received effectual succour in a heavy fall of rain, the same probably which had reached the barge. Every one being in

consequence much refreshed, set actively to work in carrying the baggage and provisions to the top of the hill, which was three hundred yards from the landing-place, very abrupt in its ascent, and covered with thick and prickly underwood. The party also suffered much from the heat of the sun as the day advanced, and from the bites of musquitoes and of small black flies, which rose in clouds beneath their feet.

Through the example of Captain Maxwell, foremost in every toilsome effort, and the perseverance of his officers and men, every article on shore was removed to the top of the hill during the forenoon. This labour accomplished, the men were mustered in divisions, and addressed by their commander in a few words, pointing out the necessity of subordination, and reminding them, that although a sufficient quantity of provisions had been saved to last them many days, yet as the fate of Lord Amherst and his companions, on whose safety depended their early succour from Batavia, must be uncertain, it was necessary to keep on short allowance; and that, as they were in a situation in which they were liable to the attacks of pirates, their surest defence would be union and discipline. Different parties were then directed to separate duties. Whilst one was employed in tending the landing-place and unlading boats as they arrived from the wreck, another cleared the hill for a regular encampment, freeing its summit from the smaller trees and underwood.

On the morning of the 20th great exhilaration was excited by the discovery that the well would afford a quart of water for each man; but was speedily diminished by the intelligence that the first lieutenant and thirty men had been driven from the wreck by some Malay prowls.

It appeared, that whilst all hands on board had been employed in removing stores unto a raft alongside, two Malay boats, full of men, were observed bearing down upon them. The party not being able to muster any other arms than a few handspikes, took to their boats, and making for the shore, were instantly chased by the Malays.

As they approached the island, and were struggling with a baffling current, eight more Malay boats came round a projecting rock, and gave them chase. The Malays were gaining rapidly upon them, when two of the *Alceste's* boats coming in sight from the landing-place, the pirates relinquished the pursuit and made for the wreck.

On receiving this information Captain Maxwell ordered the drum to beat to arms, and all the weapons which had been saved to be brought together. On examination they were found to consist of a few rusty muskets, some cutlasses, and the officers' swords. A small supply of powder had been procured from the ship, by drawing her guns, but of balls there was scarcely a round. Ingenuity quickly supplied this deficiency in the means of defence. A large number of young, tall, straight and tough trees, which grew around the encampment were immediately felled, and formed into pikes of eight feet in length, having their points hardened by fire; whilst all the pewter and tin vessels were melted into balls. Measures were then taken to guard against surprise. The crown of the hill was surrounded by a strong bulwark formed of the trunks and branches of trees; and picquets were stationed at the well and at the landing-place. The day, consumed on the island in the execution of these necessary measures, was spent by the Malays in plundering the wreck and landing their booty on a rock in its vicinity.

Having lighted fires, the party retired to rest under much anxiety; well knowing the ferocious disposition of the Malays, whose numbers might be readily increased to an overpowering amount.

During the night an alarm was excited through the whole encampment by the challenge of the sentry, who heard something approaching him through the neighbouring thicket. A search being immediately set on foot, the intruder was found to be a large monkey attacking some fowls at the foot of the hill. Other animals more disgusting and noxious than monkeys infested the ground of the encampment: several persons were bitten by scolopendras and scorpions.

Early the next morning two boats, well manned and armed, were

sent off to take possession of the ship, and to obtain if possible more arms and provisions. On approaching they saw two Malay prows leaving, and almost at the same instant observed smoke rising from several parts of her deck, and driving through the ports; and in the next, flames bursting from every quarter. Finding it hopeless to attempt getting on board, the boats returned to the island. The Malays left the wreck as soon as they had set it on fire, and were not again seen during the day.

The day having been spent on shore in strengthening the fence, the party retired within it at night with some confidence; but were again alarmed, and by the same cause, a large monkey. The sentry who guarded one of the approaches to the hill, confident that he saw a Malay, discharged his musket, and roused by its report the little garrison, who turned out under arms. Their confusion was much increased by a shout from the picquet at the landing-place, who, hearing the report of the musket, cheered with the purpose of awing the pirates. These alarms, although absurd when their causes were discovered, kept the party on the alert for the remainder of the night.

Early the next morning a party was again dispatched to the ship, still on fire, and found her copper on the larboard side alone above water, and so hot, that by throwing water upon it they scarcely cooled it sufficiently to permit their getting on board. Here every object declared the skill of the pirates in the business of destruction. The masts were totally consumed, and their iron rings had fallen to the bottom of the wreck. The upper and main decks were destroyed, and the lower deck was covered with charcoal, which yielded to the foot, and probably rested on a half-consumed base. Cases of wine and many other articles in the lower part of the ship had been preserved from the fire by the water which covered them, and had floated up in consequence of the destruction of the decks. After lading the boats with wine, flour, and some arms obtained by diving, the party returned to the shore.

During the absence of the boats, twelve sail of Malay prows

came round the south point of the island, and reconnoitred the landing-place, and had not quitted their situation at the close of day. The usual precautions being taken, the party retired early to rest, and passed the night without interruption.

The two following days, during which no prows appeared, were employed in forming another well, and in completing the fortification. The latter had now become a fortress of some security. It consisted of a strong fence six feet broad surrounding the brow of the hill, and was formed of large piles driven into the ground, intertwined with the leafy branches of great trees; and it communicated by two gates commanded by bastions and platforms, with the avenues leading to the wells and landing-place. Thus protected, the party felt themselves a match for a force much more numerous than their own.

Early on the morning of the 26th, two Malay boats having in tow two canoes laden with plunder, being observed off the landing-place, the barge was manned and armed under the command of Lieutenant Hay, and sent after them. They immediately cut away their canoes and made all sail, but were rapidly gained upon by the barge which soon came up with the sternmost. Mr. Hay then made signs for her to shorten sail and come to a parley; and these not being attended to, fired a musket to bring her to, but was instantly answered by a swivel which she mounted in her bows. The barge now endeavouring to run alongside, one of the Malays at each attempt pushed her off with a long pole, whilst his comrades attacked her crew with their spears and swivel. They threw their spears with great deliberation, poising them above their heads and taking a steady aim. A strong side-wind fortunately blowing at the time, drove them in a slanting direction, broke their force, and rendered them untrue to their mark. No person in the barge having a serviceable musket, excepting her commander, he marked the man who managed the swivel, and brought him down by his first shot; and by his next the most active spearman. The sailors not being sufficiently near the pirates to use their cutlasses or boarding-pikes, could only throw

back the spears which fell amongst them. To prevent their escape, they threw the barge's grapnell into the prow, which, to their astonishment, instantly sunk; the grapnell having probably passed through her bottom. Six of her men (of whom there had been ten originally) immediately appeared in the water swimming with great dexterity. Although three of them were severely wounded, they all continued to fight, refusing quarter, and endeavouring to wound the barge's crew with their long spears. At length the three wounded men, being much exhausted, were dragged on board; one of them died in a few minutes, another within an hour, the third survived. Of the others, one swam towards the Alceste's gig which was making after the barge, and was taken on board, the remaining two disdaining captivity dived and were seen no more. During the action the other Malay boat although at no great distance from her consort, did not attempt to interfere, but setting every sail made her escape. The barge having returned to the island, the wounded man was immediately dressed, and kindly treated. The dead Malay was buried; he had been a very powerful man, and even in death excited admiration by his muscular form and stern countenance. The prisoner was put under the guard of a marine at some distance from the fortification, that in case of his escape he might not be able to carry intelligence of its strength and the numbers of the party to his companions. The sequel proved the propriety of the measure. Having been a few days afterwards employed by his guard to cut wood, he escaped to his companions. None of the barge's crew had been seriously wounded.

Soon after the return of the barge the midshipman at the look-out rock reported that fourteen sail of Malay boats were standing down towards the island from Banca. They soon after anchored between Pulo Leat and a small island, in the very situation which Captain Maxwell had pointed out to Lord Amherst for the anchorage of the prows which, as had been determined upon between them, should be sent for the relief of the party from Batavia. The

hopes of all raised by this circumstance, were further excited by several men leaving their boats and wading towards the shore, the foremost of the party bearing in his hand a small flag. Mr. Sykes, an officer of the *Alceste*, accompanied by two others, having in his hand the English colours, walked out to meet them; and as he advanced laid down his arms and held up his hands, to show that he was offenceless: on seeing this the Malays threw aside their spears. He then made signs that not more than three of them should come forward, which being complied with, the two parties soon met. The Malays immediately payed Mr. Sykes every mark of humility and respect, and were led by him to the Captain, who anxiously waited their arrival at the landing-place. Through the medium of a sailor who spoke a little Malayse, he learnt that they were not from Batavia, and that they had come to Pulo Leat, to gather sea-slugs and sea-weed. Their spokesman, whom they called their rajah, was extremely solicitous that the Captain should visit him on board his prow. This proposition was urgently opposed by Captain Maxwell's officers and men, who felt but too well that their own safety depended upon his. Having continued on the wreck whilst his presence could animate or direct the exertions of his men, he left it but to assume a more painful situation on shore. Amidst a variety of dangers constantly pressing him, from the time that the Embassy left Pulo Leat to his removal from it, he cheered, restrained, armed, and protected his men by his counsel and example, and so convinced them of the value of his existence, that they watched him as the guardian star which alone could lead them to safety. Several officers accepted the invitation, and accompanied by a force sufficient for their security against any perfidious attempt, visited the prow; and having met with hospitable treatment, returned in the evening with a present of fish and Indian corn for the Captain.

Early the next morning these amicably disposed Malays were seen actively plundering the wreck, in which friendly office they were

soon after joined by several of the pirates with whom they had disclaimed all connection.

The pirates probably came from all the different islands in the neighbourhood, as they bore down upon the wreck in every direction. During high water their detachments occasionally anchored as close as possible to the landing-place, with the apparent intention of reconnoitring, and of intercepting any boat that might attempt to leave it. With the first purpose also they communicated with the party under different pretences, and once received a letter which they engaged to send immediately to Minto, an European settlement on Banca. When the tide ebbed they got under sail from the apprehension of grounding, and re-visited the wreck, but re-appeared off the landing-place at the next flood-tide.

The danger of the shipwrecked band became hourly more pressing; their enemies increased in number, and the period allowed for the arrival of intelligence from Batavia had elapsed. The sea could be distinctly seen for several miles from a tall tree on the most commanding part of the hill. How anxiously did one or other watch from its extreme height the approach of any vessel! In vain did his companions enquire what he saw; "Nothing," was the usual answer; or if for a moment he beheld an uncertain point in the distance, it either expanded into cloud or vanished into air.

It being now the 1st of March, Captain Maxwell looking to the possibility of some fatal accident having befallen the Ambassador and his companions, contemplated an escape with his officers and men in the boats which remained. He therefore ordered them to be properly examined, their oars and sails to be repaired, and every thing to be got ready for cutting through the pirates and making a voyage to Batavia.

The boats not being thought sufficiently secure at the old landing-place against any unexpected attack of the Malays, were removed to one more to the southward, where a sandy beach was

covered and commanded by a precipitous rock. The party could only reach the summit of this by crossing from a lower rock by the trunk of a tree, which they used as a draw-bridge, and could throw down at a moment's warning. It was constantly occupied by a picquet, and from its inaccessibility was called the Gibraltar rock. It communicated with the hill by an irregular avenue cut through the wood.

Very early in the morning of the second of March twenty nine prows anchored between the two landing-places, and immediately began to load their swivels and to erect platforms on their decks. No doubt being entertained that they meditated an immediate attack, every preparation was made to receive them. The party was mustered under arms, and double guards were placed at the landing-places.

In the evening the same rajah, who had before visited the Captain, came on shore. He still insisted on his friendly views, but accused a part of his companions, to whose prows he pointed, with the intention of attacking the party that night, rendering at the same time his own professions suspicious, by requesting that two of his people might sleep on the hill; a request that was of course refused. His probable object in making it was to ascertain the exact force of the party, of which the Malays had been kept in ignorance, and no doubt believed to be greater than it was. To produce this impression, whenever a conference with the pirates took place, Captain Maxwell so disposed his men, that whilst the usual picquets were visible to the prows, their ambassadors saw people moving about them in every direction, some peeping from behind rocks, and others appearing in different parts of the wood, whilst a body of officers surrounded themselves.

Having dismissed the rajah, Captain Maxwell mustered his force, and ascertained accurately the extent of his means of defence. The party, including servants, consisted of one hundred and ninety men, of whom forty-two were armed with muskets, forty with boarding-pikes,

and twenty with cutlasses; the others with poles, having sharpened pieces of iron or knives fastened to their ends, or having points hardened by fire.

The Malays allowing fifteen men to each prow, which was a moderate calculation, were between four and five hundred in number, armed with spears and crisses. Taking into consideration every circumstance, especially his advantage on the score of fire-arms, the defensible nature of the ground, and the strong position on the hill, Captain Maxwell felt no apprehension of the result of an immediate attack. On the other hand, he could not but reflect, that the number of his enemies would hourly increase, and that whatever loss they might suffer in action they could readily compensate; whilst his own, without relief from Batavia, would be irretrievable. The gloomy anticipations this last view of his situation must have excited he locked in his own breast; and having addressed his men, pointing out in a few words his confidence in their valour, his certainty of their success, the probability of their being attacked that night, and the measures he wished to be taken, dismissed them to their several posts. Those who were not on guard retired to sleep on their arms, and the pirates did not interrupt their repose.

By day-light the next morning the number of prows off the landing-place had increased to forty-five, and were soon after joined by ten more. All possible preparation was made to defeat their attack, but their endless supplies created a cruel anxiety, and the hopes of succour became feeble as its want became greater. Their proverbial treachery forbade any attempt at treating with them, and their force was sufficient, if well exerted, to prevent the arrival of boats coming to the relief of the party, whilst the rocky and shallow nature of the coast would not suffer the approach of a ship within several miles of the island. To conquer or to die was no new or fearful alternative to British sailors; but to die by the hands of savages in a remote corner of the world, whence their fate could never reach the knowledge of their friends, and in a conflict from which their

country could derive no good and themselves no glory, was indeed a bitter thought. In a pensive but determined mood they awaited the moment of attack, their desperate courage receiving a keener edge from the known sanguinary and unappeasable temper of their foes. The day was cloudy with a drizzling rain. Those who occupied the hill, and were not engaged in duty, separated into groups and took refuge in their huts, and discussed the various circumstances of their situation. Whilst anxiously weighing every chance of relief, and endeavouring to open new paths to hope, an officer on the look-out tree called out for a telescope. A feverish expectation agitated all who heard him, but all were silent. They had so often been deluded by a similar demand, that at first no one dared to ask what he expected to discover. At length Captain Maxwell, having handed up his glass, ventured to enquire, "Do you see any thing, Sir?" "I think I see a sail," was the cautious answer.—"In what direction?" "To the southward."—"What kind of vessel is she?" "I cannot at present determine."—"How is she steering?" "Apparently N.N.E., but I am not certain." Nearly half an hour then elapsed in consequence of the haziness of the atmosphere before more satisfactory answers could be obtained, although "Well what is she?" was the repeated demand of the impatient expectants. At length the welcome affirmation "She is a square-rigged vessel, steering N.N.E.," soon followed by "She is preparing to anchor, but I am losing sight of her under the south point of the island," diffused a general and a cheering hope. In the next instant it was reported from the landing-place, that the whole Malay force, having seen the vessel, were getting under weigh and endeavouring to effect their retreat. Every one immediately hastened to the shore, and beheld the pirates crowding all sail and standing from the island. In their haste to be off, two of their prows grounded, but got clear before they could be reached by a party of the *Alceste's* officers and men who, armed with pikes, rushed into the water and swam after them.

A party now went round to the south point of the island, and having obtained a view of the ship, returned with the intelligence that she was at anchor about twelve miles from the island, and had hoisted English colours. As it was possible that she might not have arrived for the purpose of relieving the party on the island, it was necessary, if possible, to communicate with her immediately, to prevent the chance of her getting under weigh during the night. To do this was somewhat difficult, as it was nearly dark, and low water, and a boat might be intercepted by some lurking prow; yet notwithstanding these obstacles, the attempt was made, and happily succeeded. The gig was carried for nearly a mile over the shallows on the shoulders of her crew into deep water, and under the command of Mr. Sykes and Mr. Abbot, dispatched for that purpose. These gentlemen having got round a small island off the west point of Pulo Leat before dark, obtained sight of the vessel, and having taken her bearings, made the most of a favourable breeze, and reached her about nine o'clock. On mounting her deck, they encountered in Mr. Ellis a sufficient explanation of the occasion of her arrival. She proved to be the Ternate, who had parted company with the Princess Charlotte soon after leaving Batavia Roads.

Captain Maxwell having seen the gig fairly off, assembled his men, and having expressed to them his entire approbation of their conduct up to that moment, declared his intention to permit no relaxation of discipline as a consequence of the arrival of the ship and of the disappearance of the pirates. The former, he observed, might have arrived without the intention or the means of succour, and the latter might return in a few hours with redoubled force.

It was ten o'clock the next morning before the gig returned to the island. She had left the Ternate at four A.M., but had been prevented by the force of a contrary wind and current from arriving earlier, not being able to contend against them. The Ternate's cutter, which had left the ship at the same time, was compelled to return. In the afternoon, one of the Alceste's boats was sent off to the Ternate for a carronade and a supply

of ammunition, and returned with them early the next morning. The carronade being immediately mounted in the launch and loaded with cannister shot, its range and effect were tried and found so satisfactory, that the return of the Malays was heartily desired: they did not revisit the island till after the departure of the Ternate. Two boats were sent off to the ship during the day with some sick and lame men and a quantity of provisions and baggage, and a large raft was formed to assist in the conveyance of the persons and things that remained.

On the 6th, all but the Captain and eighty men had left the island and were safe on board the Ternate, with the greater part of the removable packages. Early on the following morning, Captain Maxwell and the last of the party, after burning the fence and every article that could not be carried off, took their farewell of Pulo Leat. By ten o'clock, all the party being safely on board the Ternate, she got under weigh for Batavia Roads, and anchored in them on the afternoon of the 10th of March.

The Princess Charlotte did not arrive off the island till several days after the Ternate had left it, and was then obliged by adverse currents to anchor twenty miles from the shore. One of her boats, having on board Mr. Mayne and Mr. Marrige, immediately attempted to reach it; and on approaching the old landing-place, found a fleet of Malay prows at anchor. She immediately put about, but not before she was seen by the pirates, and chased by two heavy prows full of men. The pirates gained rapidly upon her, and but for one of those providential circumstances which had more than once saved the shipwrecked band, would have overtaken and overwhelmed her feeble crew. The winds had been so light, that the boat had been obliged to depend chiefly on her oars for making any way, whilst the large spread of canvass used by the prows, enabled them, even in a very light breeze, to go fast through the water. At the moment that escape seemed most doubtful, a heavy squall filled the sails of the boat, and frightened the Malays back to the island.

CHAPTER X.

IN my first visit to Java, my opportunities of seeing the island were confined to a few excursions into the interior ; but they enabled me to estimate the amiableness of the natives, to enjoy the delightful scenery, and to examine some of the singular productions of their much-favoured land. In my second unforeseen, but more lengthened visit, when deprived of all means of scientific research, and all the objects for which I had undertaken the voyage, I readily yielded to the dissipation by which the equal kindness of our countrymen and Baron Van der Capellan hoped to seduce us into a forgetfulness of our misfortunes. The seven weeks that we remained on the island were almost entirely spent in the immediate vicinity of Batavia ; and although they afforded us ample opportunities of observing the manners of the colonists, gave us few facilities for holding any intercourse with the natives. In looking over my journal, I find one day's occupation so very similar to another, that in taking my reader through a day's routine of engagement, I shall do my best to give him a notion of the local circumstances that meet the eye of a temporary dweller in the purlieus of Batavia.

Batavia is built in a low, swampy soil, close to the sea ; its streets running nearly north and south, at right angles with the beach. These streets are very broad, and many of them terminate in fine roads leading into the heart of the island. On the principal of these, about three miles from the town, at a place called Weltevreden, was situated the cantonment of our troops ; and here were the quarters of the Embassy, whilst they remained in Java.

The house which they occupied was the ordinary residence of Mr. Fendall, confined at the time by illness to his country seat. It was situated on the western side of a large plain, opposite to an immense massy unfinished stone building, begun by General Dandals, and intended as a residence for the Dutch governor. A few hundred yards to the left, on the opposite side of the road, and on the northern side of the plain, was the house of the Commander-in-chief of the British forces, before which the English flag was still hoisted. On the right and on the southern side of the plain were stone barracks, occupied on our arrival by part of a British regiment still remaining on the island, but which gave place to the shipwrecked crew of the *Alceste*. The road passing in front of our quarters led to the intrenched camp of Cornelis, and beyond to Buitenzorg, the country-seat of the Dutch Governor. By crossing the road and the plain, we reached a bazaar, or market, and through it a second road parallel to the other, also terminating in one of the streets of Batavia. The bazaar was composed of two lines of shops extending about four hundred yards, and occupied by natives and Chinese. The former were chiefly venders of fruits and vegetables; the latter of manufactured articles, both domestic and foreign.

Visiting Batavia by the way of the bazaar was my frequent exercise early in the morning, when the fresh land-breezes gave rather the coolness of a temperate than the heat of a torrid zone. I usually reached it when the natives were bringing their vegetables to the market, and witnessed that abundance and variety of delicious fruit which form such a peculiar and attractive character of many countries bordering on the equator, but more especially of Java: the stranger, in purchasing fruits in this island, finds no coin too insignificant to obtain them in abundance. Their kinds were too numerous and too novel to admit their recognition then, and still less their enumeration now; but I may notice a few of the principal.

First in beauty and flavour was the celebrated *Mangostan*. This fruit, which has been so often eulogized by different travellers, cer-

tainly merits much of the praise that has been lavished upon it. It is of a spherical form, of the size of a small orange; is when young, of a reddish green colour; when ripe, of a reddish brown; and when old, of a chesnut brown colour. Its succulent rind is nearly the fourth of an inch in thickness, contains a very powerful astringent juice, and in wet weather exudes a yellow gum, which is a variety of gamboge.* On removing the rind, its esculent substance appears in the form of a juicy pulp, having the whiteness and solubility of snow, and a refreshing, delicate, delicious flavour. To define it by more precise language is very difficult. We were all anxious to carry away with us some precise expression of its qualities, but after satisfying ourselves that it partook of the compound taste of the pine-apple and the peach, we were obliged to confess that it had many other equally good, but utterly inexpressible, flavours. This fruit, from its perfect wholesomeness, may be eaten in any quantity; and as it possesses no luscious qualities, it does not soon cloy the palate. The mangostan tree is worthy of the fruit it bears. It grows to the size of a very large cherry-tree. Its leaves are three or four inches long, of an oval form, of a shining green colour, and might be taken for those of a magnolia. Its blossom is a spreading corolla of four petals, of a reddish pink colour, and often decorates the plant at the same time with its fruit. Its branches are pendant, and, when loaded with fruit, curve in graceful arches quite round the stem. As much of the habit of this plant as can be expressed by a branch, is beautifully given in the Atlas to Mr. Marsden's History of Sumatra.

The bazaar afforded in equal profusion with the mangostan, the custard apple, rambootan, poolosan, and dorian. The custard apple well deserves its name, for its loose pulp enveloping black seeds more resembles in flavour a mixture of apple tart and custard, than

The gamboge of commerce is derived from a plant, *Garcinia Cambogia*, of the same genus as the Mangostan, *Garcinia Mangostana*.

any thing else to which it can be compared. The rambootan, which is well figured in Mr. Barow's work on Cochin-China, is a red fruit about the size of a plover's egg, and is covered with long hair-like processes, whence its name, rambootan or hairy fruit. On removing a thin rind, lined with a substance much resembling white French kid, the pulp appears in the form of the plover's egg, boiled and deprived of its shell. Its flavour is very agreeable, and apart from the mangostan would be considered excellent. The poloosan, in the form and flavour of its pulp, resembles the rambootan, but is thought the better fruit; it differs from the rambootan in wanting the hairy processes. The dorian, to taste which the first time requires some resolution, is a large fruit of a roundish oval form, and in size and in the colour of its elevations on its surface, is not unlike the pine-apple, but is the produce of a large tree. The esculent part of the fruit enclosed in a thick rind, consists of a yellowish white pulp enveloping several large seeds. Its smell to a stranger is quite intolerable, and arises from sulphuretted hydrogen, which stains silver spoons used in eating it. Although its flavour is at first scarcely more agreeable, it is voraciously devoured by the natives, and is soon highly relished by Europeans, who lose the consciousness of its odour.

Pine apples, cocoa nuts, and the bread fruit, are too well known to require any description; and with respect to their abundance I have only to remark, it would be difficult to name either fruit or vegetable that is so common in England as they are in Java.

Beyond the bazaar, I entered on the road, lined on both sides with tall trees, chiefly the *Canarium commune*, growing on the banks of canals, always filled at an early hour with natives of both sexes. The women had on a kind of petticoat, which reached above the breasts; the men were entirely naked. The dwellings of these people, formed of bamboo and the leaves of palm, and sheltered from the sun by the various shade of palms, mangostans, and bananas, stretched in long lines on the banks of the canal. In a plantation of cocoa nuts and sugar trees I drank of a liquor called

toddy, obtained from the latter. The sugar tree is a tall palm, bearing a round fruit, which grows in large bunches from a common footstalk. To obtain the toddy the natives wound the stalk beyond the bunch, and place a vessel beneath it; and having allowed it to remain all night, find it in the morning full of sap. When drunk before sun-rise this fluid is a refreshing brisk beverage containing much carbonic acid, is much relished by the natives, and was to my taste very agreeable. As the day advances and the heat increases, it runs rapidly into the vinous fermentation, and afterwards passes into vinegar.

The sugar tree, called *airang* by the natives, is one of the most valuable plants that nature has given to the Javanese. The same juice that gives them the toddy affords, by some simple process, a brown sugar: the finer fibres of the bark are made into excellent ropes, and the coarser ones are made into pens. I may here mention that the ink used by the Javanese is beautifully soft and black, and probably equals in most respects that of the Chinese. At my request a Javanese manufactured it in my presence. He used two ingredients, one a gum resin, which he called *damuh*, and came, he said, from Sumatra; the other a gum in all respects like gum arabic, called *cowistah*. Having filled a joint of bamboo to the very brim with the *damuh* reduced to powder, he fixed it in the ground, and then set the resin on fire, and collected its smoke in a plate which he suspended over it. When he had thus obtained a sufficient quantity of its soot he mixed it in a mortar with the *cowistah* dissolved in water, and triturated them together till by an evaporation they obtained the consistence of paste, then placed them in the sun to dry, and thus completed the process.

I always found in the vicinity of the huts, amongst a variety of other beautiful plants, the *Champaca* of the natives and of Linnæus, the *Michelia suaveolens* of other authors. Its flowers are used by the Javanese to perfume and ornament their dress, and to decorate the dead bodies of their relatives, and are sold in large quantities in all the bazaars. The *Hibiscus rosa Chinensis* and the *Poinciana pulcher-*

rima were amongst their favourite ornamental plants. The *Murraya exotica* and *Justicia picta* adorned their hedges, and the *Gloriosa superba* in full blossom flourished in every moist and shady place; and the *Sida rhombifolia* and *Phlomis zeylanica* were universal on waste ground.

Beyond the huts of the natives the road winds through the Chinese burial-ground, and changes all its former beauties for the loathsomeness of a bog covered with tombs. The Chinese burial-ground excites the notion of a great battle having been fought, and the slain having been hastily and promiscuously buried. So crammed is the whole space with its lifeless inhabitants, that the soil loosened by fresh burials, has often yielded their remains to the action of the rain and surrounding water which rises all around the graves. It is impossible to avoid shuddering at the consequences that must be induced by the quantity of noxious effluvia necessarily engendered by these circumstances in a country within six degrees of the line. The *Nelumbium* and the *Lotus*, in full bloom, flourished amidst the tombs, and formed a singular contrast to their gloomy situation.

Beyond the burial-ground the town is soon reached, and affords at an early hour, the singular spectacle of smiths, carpenters, and other artisans, chiefly Chinese, going to their day's employment in their own carriages; a kind of cabriolet, drawn by two Javanese ponies, which can be kept at a very reasonable rate. All but the very lowest class in Java disdaining or being afraid to walk exposed to the sun, a discriminative mark of rank in other countries is here in a good measure wanted. After passing through the town of Batavia I always felt a real or imaginary sickness and torpor.

Many of us, in conformity with the local belief that it is dangerous to be in the sun after eight o'clock in the morning till five in the afternoon, kept within the greater part of the day. A party, however, much to the astonishment of the inhabitants, frequently amused themselves at cricket in the plain before our quarters, during the heat of the day; and what perhaps was scarcely to be expected, took no harm from the exercise.

A drive before dinner, after five o'clock, into the town or the country is the general custom of the colonists, and was one of our pleasantest amusements. The number of carriages which crowded the road, and were filled with people of all ranks, ages, sexes, and colours, forms a highly animated picture. The most brilliant equipage was that of the first Dutch commissioner, drawn by eight beautiful grey ponies, driven in hand by his secretary.

Our evenings were sometimes spent at balls given by our countrymen or by the Dutch authorities, and gave us opportunities of seeing all the beauty and fashion of the colony. The old Dutch colonists, who associated but little with the English during the British government of the island, appear to have altered more in their dress than their habits since they were described by Mr. Barrow. The gentlemen have laid aside their velvet suits, and the ladies for the most part have assumed the European costume; but both sexes are still addicted to heavy meals. About twelve the dancing usually ceased for a time, and a supper consisting of large joints of different kinds of meat and of fowls was served up, of which the Dutch part of the company seemed to partake very heartily. After supper the more moderate guests separated, but a great number resumed the dance and partook of a second supper about two or three in the morning; and some choice spirits kept it up till day-light, and regaled themselves a third time.

Many of the ladies were well dressed, and had personal charms, especially in the eyes of those who were returning from China. A few of them appeared in the costume of the country, which had much to recommend it, being well adapted to the climate. It consisted of an embroidered robe and petticoat, fitting neatly but not closely to the form. The robe hung down to the knee, and was confined round the waist by a belt fastened with a clasp glittering with diamonds. The gentlemen, both Dutch and English, wore European habits, to the lightness of which they paid little attention. Nothing is more strange than that Europeans in hot climates should

submit to the most oppressive sensations from a pertinacious adherence to national clothing.

A visit to Buitenzorg, the country residence of Baron Van der Capellan, gave us our only opportunity of seeing the beautiful scenery of the island. Buitenzorg is distant about thirty miles south of Batavia, is a thousand feet above the level of the sea, and is situated on the banks of a torrent at the foot of the Sallak Mountain. The Sallak of six summits rises to the height of six thousand feet, and is covered with verdure to its highest pinnacle. The dense and impervious vegetation clothing its steep declivities gradually unfolding towards the base disclose the huts of the natives, planted on gentle slopes, which are terraced into paddy fields, intersected with rivulets, and skirted with groves. Boundless luxuriance and softness are the leading features of Java scenery. Yet whilst the landscape is rarely broken by bare and rugged rocks, it possesses all the grandeur arising from lofty mountains, deep ravines, and rushing torrents, and possesses in an eminent degree that picturesque character which is peculiar to tropical countries, and results from the universal growth of the palm tribe. Very often also it derives a character of the highest sublimity from the tempests which visibly gather round the summits of the mountains. In looking upon the Sallak, I have often watched one of these grand natural spectacles which must be seen to be fully appreciated. The Sallak stretches away nearly north and south, losing its height at first abruptly, and then in gentle undulations. A large dense, but broken cloud, rising gradually from the southern limit, acquiring in its progress increasing magnitude, and sending before it a faint breeze, usually announced the approach of a storm. Soon becoming of the deepest black, it ascended to the summit of the mountain, and incorporated with a thunder cloud that already clothed it. Its volume thus increased assumed the form of a stupendous crescent, the upper horn enveloping the front, the lower, the base of the mountain; whilst the landscape behind, seen through its hollow, and still illumined by a brilliant sun, was distinctly visible.

The extreme parts of the cloud then gradually approached, and sending before them a rushing wind, closed the mountain from my sight. Its upper part now suddenly increased in blackness, flashes of lightning played within it, and it descended in heavy rain. Such are the appearances which are almost daily witnessed amongst the mountains of Java.

The temperature at Buitenzorg is never oppressive. At Cissarrhoa, fourteen miles further inland, and at a higher elevation, the thermometer, at ten o'clock on the morning of my visit there, stood at sixty-six degrees; and at Japannus and at other places of still greater elevation, it is generally so low, that the inhabitants use fires in the morning the greater part of the year. A Dutch gentleman who resides at Japannus, and to whom I had the pleasure of being introduced, carried in his ruddy complexion and active form the best signs of breathing a pure and temperate air. Yet this is the climate which has been looked upon with so much horror by Europeans, and as far as regards Batavia with justice. It is impossible to visit this city, and not to be astonished at the infinite pains that have been taken to unite in one spot all the possible causes of disease. It is built close to the sea on a wet alluvial soil, is surrounded by swamps, and intersected with nearly stagnant canals, the receptacles of all the decomposing animal and vegetable matter ejected from the houses and sewers on their banks. The carcasses of buffaloes and other animals brought down by the rivers, are stopped near the mouth of the harbour by the extreme shallowness of the bar; and undergoing putrefaction, contaminate the air around them. The houses are so built as to admit very little ventilation, being closely packed together, with their ends opposed to the sea and land breeze: indeed, so afraid is a Dutchman of having his perspiration stopped by cool air, that he closes all his doors and windows during its prevalence. These circumstances in almost any climate would generate disease, but must be dreadfully operative within six degrees of the equator: their effects are aided by the use of large meals, strong drink, and much sleep.

That the causes of disease are strictly confined to the town of Batavia, is proved by the circumstance of our troops having enjoyed excellent health at Weltevreden, only three miles beyond it. Here too the Embassy resided during seven weeks without experiencing any illness of consequence, although they generally entered the town two or three times a week. The diseases that fell under my care, whilst in Java, generally yielded to the simplest remedies, and never required the use of those powerful means which are thought necessary to combat the disorders of hot climates. Whether the indiscriminate use of mercury in almost every disease that calls for the aid of medicine in Java, has not led to much mischief, appears to me at least doubtful. As soon as symptoms of fever manifest themselves, no attempt seems to be made to analyse its cause; "it is the fever, and nothing can cure it but mercury." Mercury is accordingly given to an indefinite extent: if the patient live, "the mercury cured him;" if he die, "the disease killed him:" the remedy is never in fault. We were glad to leave, however, the vicinity of a place that had been the grave to many thousand Europeans, and embarked in high spirits on board the *Cæsar*, a ship taken up for our conveyance to England, on the morning of the 12th of April.

On leaving Java we carried on board with us two animals of interesting characters:—an immense snake, and an orang-outang. Of the one I have already given some account, and shall refer the description of the other to the concluding part of this work, as he is too important a personage to be hastily dismissed; and to say all that I wish about him in this place, would too long interrupt the order of the narrative.

We left the island with prosperous weather, and had continued on our voyage, accompanied by every favourable circumstance till the morning of the 5th of May, when being about two hundred miles to the south of the Mauritius, we were once more thrown into great peril by the ship's taking fire. About seven in the morning we were roused from our cots by violent shrieking, and the cries of fire. The whole ship was instantly in dreadful confusion; the smoke

pouring up in volumes from below, but coming from no determinate point. In this frightful predicament the self-possession of Captain Maxwell and his officers, and the promptness and courage of the *Alceste's* crew, saved us from destruction. Captain Maxwell, called from his cabin by the noise, instantly pointed out the duty of each person. Lines were formed from the ship's sides for handing buckets, and water was speedily at hand. "Where is the fire?" asked Captain Maxwell of the mate of the vessel. "In the spirit-room," was the whispered reply. "Mr. Holman*, ascertain the part of the deck which is over the fire, and let the carpenter be in readiness to scuttle it." Mr. Holman disappeared for a minute, returned, and placing his foot on the plank, exclaimed, "Here's the fire." In an instant the plank was cut away, and the fire seen raging beneath. Water was poured down in torrents, and in a few minutes the glad intelligence, "The fire is out!" was heard in the convincing tones of Captain Maxwell.

This danger past, we arrived safely in Simon's Bay at the Cape of Good Hope, on the evening of the 27th of May.

The gunner of the *Alceste*, not more remarkable for his coolness and courage in the midst of danger, than for his intelligent and manly conduct in all his relations as an officer. This tribute of praise springs less from the opinion of an individual unqualified to judge his merits as a seaman, than from the universal testimony of his shipmates who delight to tell of the merits of the gunner.

CHAPTER XI.

DURING our former stay at the Cape, I made many observations on the geological structure of its mountains, which, although important, I did not relate in the former part of this work, with the view of combining them with others made in our second visit. I will now endeavour to detail both nearly in the order in which they occurred; and in so doing shall take a general view of the geological appearances that are displayed by the mountains most accessible to a passing visitor at the Cape of Good Hope.

“The three hills which terminate the peninsula (at the Cape) on the north are, the Table Mountain, in the middle; the Lion’s Head, sometimes called the Sugar Loaf, on the west side; and the Devil’s Peak, on the east. The Lion’s Head, which is about 2100 feet high, is separated from the Table Mountain by a valley that descends to the depth of fifteen hundred or two thousand feet below the summit of the Table Mountain, which is itself 3582 feet above the level of the sea. On the west of the Lion’s Head, the ground, after falling, rises again, forming an inconsiderable elevation, known by the name of the Lion’s Rump, from which the ground descends gradually to the sea. The amphitheatre formed by these three mountains, is about five or six miles in diameter, in the centre of which is placed Cape Town.”*

The walk which best exhibits many of the different facts visible in these mountains, and which I am about to describe, lies through a large chasm, called a Kloof, between Table Mountain and Lion’s Head.