

savages. We anchored off the trading settlement of Dobbo, which the Malays and Chinese annually visit for procuring the birds of paradise, &c. We landed on the beach, along which a luxuriant grove of cocoa-nut trees extended for more than a mile. Under their shade were the houses, arranged with much regularity, so as to form one wide street, from which narrow alleys branched off on each side.

The people who thronged the shore were of a dark brown colour, many with large mop-like heads of hair; besides a few Papuans, Malays, and Chinese.

From what could be seen of the natives, they appeared to be a strange race; with an intelligent expression of countenance. Their dress consisted of a cloth round their waist, reaching to their knees; their arms and ankles were decorated with rings made of wood, shell, beads, or coloured glass. The lobes of their ears were perforated with large holes, from which enormous earrings were suspended, sometimes two and three in each ear. They wore necklaces and finger-rings; and all appeared to have a band of plaited grass tight round the arm, to which they attached a bunch of hair or bright-coloured feathers, by way of ornament: this seemed to complete their ordinary decorations.

At the southern extremity of the landing-place the sandbank merges into the beach of the island, and is backed by a luxuriant growth of lofty forest