

islands, many of which were either unknown or incorrectly laid down on the charts ; so a running survey was made of this archipelago. Three days of most pleasant cruising followed, during which frequent soundings and trawlings were onward, and on the 29th September the volcanic group of Banda was in sight, covered with an unusually dense and brilliant green vegetation, indicating that we had passed beyond the range of the hot dry winds from the plains of Central Australia.

As we proceed, on passing the shores of Great Banda, composed seemingly of a series of perpendicular crags from 200 to 300 feet high, covered with luxuriant vegetation hanging down in festoons of bright green unfading verdure to the water's edge, a beautiful sheet of water is disclosed, like an inland lake, showing up the northern shores, covered with dense matted masses of foliage, while scattered about ahead are two or three small islands, with the swell chafing their abrupt sides as they rise out of the bright blue sea, which is only ruffled here and there by light breezes, or flecked by shadows from the fleecy clouds that slowly cross the sky.

Banda is a lovely little spot, its three islands inclosing a secure harbour, from which no outlet is visible, and with waters so transparent that living corals, and even the minutest objects, are plainly seen on the volcanic sand at a depth of seven or eight fathoms.

We anchored within the circle formed by these