

islands, between Great Banda and Banda Neira, at the foot of Gunong Api, or Burning Mountain, a conical active volcano 2300 feet high. Banda Neira is in full view before us. It is composed of hills, which gradually rise in a succession of ridges to the height of about 500 feet, covered with beautiful vegetation to the very top. On one of these prominent positions is Fort Belgica, with bastions surmounted by circular towers, resembling some old feudal castle, from which flies the Dutch flag. Its walls are white and dazzling in the bright sunlight, and beneath is a broad, neatly clipped glacis, forming a beautiful green descending lawn. At the foot of this hill is Fort Nassau, which was built by the Dutch when they first arrived, in 1609. On either hand, along the shore, extend the chief villages of Neira, with rows of pretty shady trees on the *bund*, or front street, bordering the bay; while at some little distance behind the beach are spice plantations and large groves of cocoa-nut trees. In front of our anchorage the town stretches along, consisting of scattered houses, with not much sign of regularity. One or two roads run up the valley, where are pleasant groves of orange, tamarind, nutmeg, bamboo, banana, and other stately tropical trees and plants, lending their shade and beauty to the scene, which, with the white walls and red-tiled roofs of the houses, together with the many strange faces and still stranger dresses, formed a great contrast to