

of passing a pleasant evening, especially when the band played.

The Dutch Government have a large coal depot here. One day we proceeded farther up the harbour for the purpose of taking in a supply, lying alongside a jetty during the operation; it was, however, a slow and tedious process, for no inducement could make the coolies get in anything like a reasonable quantity per day. It was a pretty place, and as we had the additional facilities of lying alongside a pier, many excursions were taken. All along the beach are small groves of cocoa-nut palms, which furnish food and shade to the natives dwelling in their huts beneath. Away at the back are the favourite burial-places of the Chinese, whose tombs are curious horseshoe-shaped inclosures, their white walls making very conspicuous objects on the hillside; while scattered far and near are numerous little plantations filled with small trees which have a bright green foliage. These are the gardens of clove-trees, which have made this island so famous throughout the world. On the completion of the coaling we returned to our first anchorage off the town. The passage down the harbour afforded one of the most astonishing and beautiful sights to behold. The bottom was absolutely hidden by a continuous series of coral, sponges, actiniæ, and other marine productions of varied forms and brilliant colours; the waters were clear as crystal, and the depth varying from