

eight to ten fathoms. All along the uneven bottom were rocks and stones, offering a variety of stations for the growth of these animal forests. It was a sight to gaze on for hours, and no description can do justice to its surpassing beauty and interest. It had generally been considered that this coast was particularly rich in all kinds of marine productions, such as corals, shells, and fish, but the results of our dredging outside the harbour did not in any way prove such to be the case, to our great disappointment. During our stay the mail-steamer arrived; this seemed to be almost the only chance to break the dull monotony of a residence in this enervating climate, unless an earthquake happens, which affords a grand opportunity for something to talk about to new arrivals.

Life at Amboyna, and at almost every other place of the Dutch possessions, at the best is dull. Once or twice a month the Resident gives a reception, when all the Europeans and most of the Mestizos come and dance till late; and as there are some seven or eight hundred people in the city, and the larger portion are usually invited and attend, it is frequently a brilliant affair.

We had been here six days when it was determined to make a move from the anchorage. Accordingly, all was ready, and on the morning of the 10th October we were again under weigh, steaming through beautiful calm seas, with numerous islands