

whose wide-spreading branches and bright green foliage are offered to the hand of industry for fulfilling the varied purposes of life, whether useful or ornamental—all gave to the general aspect a picturesque beauty only to be met with amongst these lovely islands.

It was soon time to retrace our steps, yet I could not help stopping again and again to gaze on these scenes, and to endeavour to fix on my mind an impression which at the time I knew I should wholly or partially lose. The form of the beautiful nutmeg fruit and other spice-producing trees, the sago-palm, or betel, may possibly remain clear and separate, but the thousand and one beauties that unite them into a perfect scene must surely fade away.

It was past noon when we again reached Government House; and now each of our party strolled away, either to the Club or for a farther walk in the country, so as to pass the time until the evening, when a reception in honour of the "Challengers" was held at Government House, finishing up with a ball.

All the rank and beauty of Ternate were of course there to meet us, besides the officers from a small Dutch war-ship in port. The company was a medley of nationalities. There were Arabs in jaunty turbans and long, flowing bernouses; curious-looking Chinese in silks and long tails; Malays, with close-shaven crowns and richly brocaded jackets; and sober, quiet-looking Dutchmen in evening dress. Nor