

from the branches or fences, or creep up around the simple dwellings.

While here, the English residents made our stay as agreeable as possible. There was a dance at the Consulate, and this with two or three cricket-matches soon brought the time round to say farewell to Manilla.

We left Manilla on the evening of the 14th January, and on the 15th passed down San Bernadino Straits, with land fully in sight on both sides: on the left, the island of Luzon, with the fine volcano of Taal, many high volcanic peaks richly wooded to the top, and low intervening volcanic ridges, partially cleared, with here and there pretty groups of cottages, and patches of yellowish grass or bright green sugar-cane; on the right, the islands of Cabra and Lubang, and then the long stretch of coast of the wild island of Mindanao, showing little cultivation, but said to be full of deer and other game, and to be inhabited by a dangerous race of "Moros," as the Spaniards call all dark men beyond the pale of Western or Eastern civilisation.

About noon on the 16th we passed through the narrows among the islands, and into a little closed sea, about 70 miles long and 35 miles wide, extending from the north point of the island of Tablas to the strait between the north-east angle of Panay and the south-west point of Masbate. It is bounded on the north-west by Tablas; on the north-east by Romplon