

the interior of the island is not well known, for the Spanish authority appears to be confined to a narrow strip of land along the coast; and as the Spaniards allow the wild Malay tribes to be governed by their own rajahs, very little is done towards civilising them, or opening up its resources, which (if report be true) include gold, silver, and quicksilver mines. One day we proceeded to the island of Basilan, some 20 miles distant, and took in a supply of coal from the government depot, and then returned to our late anchorage, swung ship for magnetic and azimuth corrections, and finally left on the 5th of February.

The winds were light, and for the most part unfavourable for reaching Greenwich Island, which it was desirous to sight, so as to fix the correct position of this rock. Recently a new route from Australia to China and Japan has been advocated, including in its track a course somewhat near the position assigned to this island. A vessel leaving Sydney, after reaching 20° south latitude, would make for Teste Island, the weathermost of the Louisiade group, to the west of the enormous reefs stretching to the eastward for about 200 miles. The discoveries made by H.M.S. *Basilisk* have opened up this course; for the surveys by that vessel show that, immediately to the east of Teste Island, the reefs sink from the surface to a depth of 10 or 12 fathoms. From there a run of 40 or 50 miles brings the vessel to Goshen