

Straits, when all risk ceases, and the open sea is gained. The weather for some days was dull, gloomy, and squally, with showers of very heavy rain, so that but little progress could be made to the eastward; frequent soundings and occasional dredgings were made from an average depth of 2000 fathoms, with but scanty results.

Finding the prospect of being able to reach Greenwich Island getting more and more improbable, it was decided on the 21st February to shape a course for New Guinea; and later in the day we crossed the Equator for the fourth time. In the afternoon of the 23rd we sighted Mount Cyclops, in New Guinea; this is a high serrated ridge, rising 6000 feet from the level of the sea, and covered with dense tropical forests up to its summit. Shortly after, Cape Caillie and Cape Bonpland came into view; they are two rocky bluffs which mark the entrance into Humboldt Bay, so named by Dumont d'Urville, who, in command of the *Astrolabe*, visited this part of Papua in August 1827; the only other vessel recorded is the Dutch war-steamer *Etna*, which anchored here in 1858. Opposite to Mount Cyclops rises Mount Bourgainville, over 4000 feet high, most lovely and fertile, springing abruptly from the ocean, with its green heights piled gracefully together, presenting a mass of evergreen vegetation most inviting to the eye. This was our first view of the shores of New Guinea, and all gazed with profound interest at