

what seemed the portal (as it were) to the most unknown and, up to this date, the least explored region of the earth. It is well known that but few Europeans (if any) had ever trodden the shores we gazed upon, the exploration of which appeared so flattering to the imagination, so likely to be fruitful in interesting results, whether to the naturalist, the ethnologist, or the surveyor, and altogether so well calculated to gratify the enlightened curiosity of an adventurous explorer, that all were in high spirits at the apparent prospect of getting into the interior of New Guinea, for its plants, birds, animals, and inhabitants would be entirely a new study; so speculation ran high on what the next few days would bring to light as we neared the anchorage.

The obstacles which hitherto have been said to bar access to the interior of this continent are fevers, impenetrable forests, and swarms of hostile cannibals; but experience has since contradicted more or less these discouraging reports.

The fevers will be found restricted to certain localities; the cannibals may, by judicious treatment, not prove so bad as represented; and the difficulties of locomotion may be overcome by exploring the great rivers which are known to reach the coast from the interior.

For several days past we had noticed numerous trunks of trees, brought down probably by the river Amboruth, which forms the delta terminating in