

Outside the harbour a slight southeasterly swell was experienced, which rendered the landing on the weather shore of Banda Island a little difficult. A coral reef, which dries at low water, skirted the shore for about 50 yards at the landing place, immediately outside of which the depth was 20 fathoms, so that the pinnace was barely able to anchor. The party was conveyed on shore in small boats, the native labourers from the plantation running the canoes clear of the worst seas, and then carrying the members of it to land in arm-chairs.

Whilst breakfast was being prepared, a Javanese band of a dozen musicians and two dancing girls, hired for the amusement of the labourers, and evidently a part of the establishment, gave an entertainment. At first it was thought that stringed music was

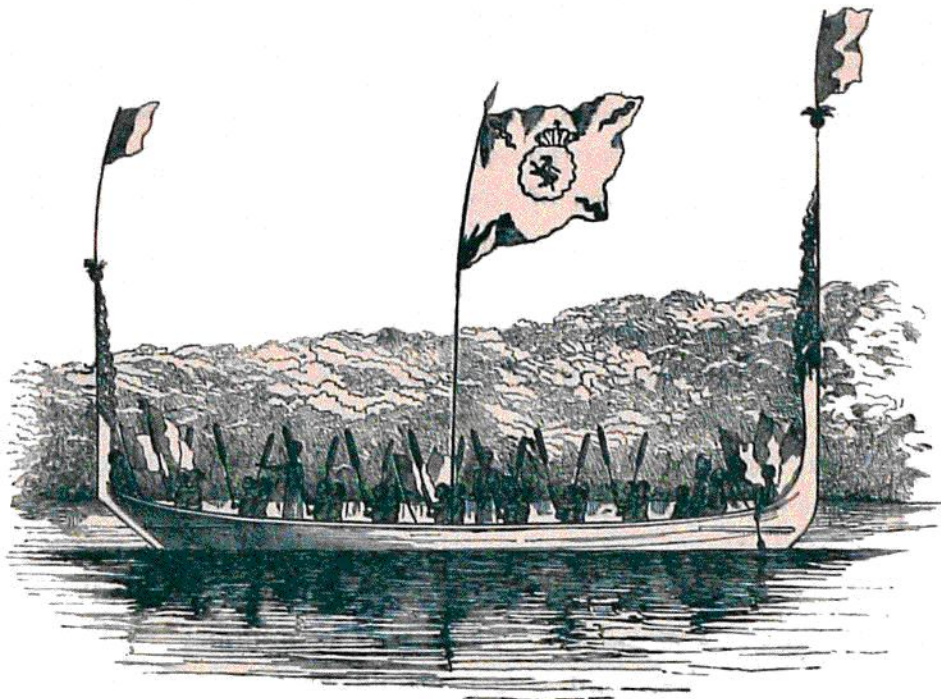


FIG. 186.—Resident's Canoe, Banda.

heard, but it was found that the sound was produced from the usual Javan instruments, some dozen bell-shaped gongs with raised knobs on their tops, standing on the ground, and a number of melophones made from bamboo laths, arranged like musical glasses. The girls were dressed in the usual sarongs, with a long scarf crossed gracefully over their shoulders, the face, arms, and hands were coloured with a yellowish dye, and the hair bound into a knot above their heads, and ornamented with a wreath of flowers. The dance consisted of graceful bendings of the body accompanied with movements of the arms and scarf, and a musical chant.

After breakfast the party rode to the top of the range of hills running through the island. When the land is viewed from seaward, it appears to be covered with an almost