

only a pathway to the town outside the glacis. The fort itself is completely commanded from the neighbouring heights, but can scarcely be said to be armed, as there are only two or three guns mounted for saluting purposes, the rest lying on the ground. Outside the fort is a shallow wet ditch, and inside it is in excellent order and beautifully clean; indeed, one cannot but admire the scrupulous cleanliness of the Dutch in all their Eastern settlements, so well are they kept that there is hardly a dead leaf or twig to be seen on the roads. On arrival, the Challenger saluted the Dutch flag, but the salute from the fort in reply was fired at intervals of about two minutes between each gun, and occupied three quarters of an hour; of course no one had patience to count the number of guns; all breakfast time it was said, "Now surely that's the last," when bang would go another gun.

The mercantile part of the town is a long street facing the sea, with another behind it. Running at right angles to the streets are roads leading into the country, bordered on each side by country houses or native huts, each building detached with a plot of ground round it. Many of the native houses had a small covered stall, by the roadside, where some parcels of eatables were exposed for sale. The hedges were generally formed of Crotons, which were very fine. The detached houses naturally give the settlement a long straggling appearance.

Here, as at Banda, the officers and civilian staff were made honorary members of the club, where the illustrated papers of London, Paris, and Berlin, besides numerous Dutch periodicals, were found. During the stay the monthly steamer from Sourabaya arrived, after making the usual round by Koepang and Dilli, in Timor, and the Banda Islands before calling at Amboina, proceeding thence to Ternate and either Kema or Menado in Celebes Island on the return voyage to Sourabaya.

There is a large market near the west end of the town of Amboina, which was well attended; the articles for sale were the usual sago cakes, rice, areca palm nuts, sweet potatoes, fish, &c.; the fruit consisted of pine apples, oranges, and bananas. The supplies were for Europeans scanty and dear; beef 2s. per pound, fowls 1s. 6d. each, ducks 3s. to 4s. each, eggs 2s. 6d. per dozen. Washing is fairly and moderately done, the price being 2s. per dozen. The Malay term for a washerman is "Orang Menatu."

The population appears to consist of Europeans, Amboinese, Malays, and Chinamen, with a few Arabs. The Chinamen appear to monopolise the small trade, and two or three Europeans the wholesale business. The articles for sale are usually of a very trashy nature, the stalls being more like those at a fair than anything else, and the goods of the cheapest description.

A large quantity of coal is kept in stock under sheds at Tanjong Mungayen, a point a little over a mile south of the town pier. Running out from this point is a rickety wharf, which has four fathoms water alongside it. Vessels proceeding there to coal should