

TERNATE.

A small Dutch gunboat was lying here, the officer in command of which supplied a plan of the anchorage, and furnished every information.

On the 15th, in the morning, the Dutch flag was saluted, and the salute was returned by the gunboat, the echo from the high mountains giving a very peculiar ringing report to the guns. In the afternoon the Resident or Governor came on board and was saluted on leaving with thirteen guns. The usual salute allowed by the Dutch authorities is eleven guns, but as the Sultan of Ternate is entitled to that number, the Resident at this station is allowed thirteen.

The Moluccas consist of the islands of Ternate, Tidore, Metir, Makyan, and Batian, with the adjacent islets. The first European to visit them was Bartema of Bologna in 1506. He was followed in 1512 by Francisco Serrao, who commanded an expedition despatched by the Portuguese from Malacca.

In November 1521 the Moluccas were visited by the ships of Magellan's squadron after Magellan had been killed at Zebu. They anchored off Tidore Island, where they were honourably entertained by the King, who entered into a league of friendship with them. At that time the islands were rich in productions of all kinds: cloves, ginger, sago, rice, figs, almonds, oranges, lemons, and sugar cane. Neither was there any want of goats and fowls, the ships being furnished with provisions in such quantities, that, to use their own expression, "it was marvellous to behold."

Shortly after the visit of Magellan's squadron in the same year (1521), the Portuguese appeared in force in the Moluccas, with nine ships, commanded by Antonio de Britto. The simple sovereigns of the Moluccas received their guests with caresses, and contended for the honour of entertaining them, and even allowed them to establish a military settlement in their country. For this purpose the island of Ternate was selected, and here, in the kingdom of the most powerful chieftain of the islands, the Portuguese Commander established himself. De Britto, to his astonishment, found in the Moluccas some of the companions of Magellan; these he seized and imprisoned.

After the Portuguese had established themselves at the Moluccas, disputes arose between them and the Spaniards respecting the ownership of the islands, and a commission met near Badajos to decide the question, but like a great many other conferences it ended in talk, each side maintaining their own view of the question. In 1529, however, the Emperor Charles V. relinquished to the Portuguese all the countries lying west of a meridian 17° east of the Moluccas. Notwithstanding this treaty, in 1545 a Spanish expedition under Villalobos visited the islands, and entered into an offensive and defensive treaty with the King of Tidore against the Portuguese, but this only lasted until their differences were for a time patched up with that nation, when Villalobos abandoned the Tidore Islanders to the Portuguese.