

quantity of floating seeds off Java, and the casting up of *Barringtonia*, *Aleurites triloba*, and Nipa Palm seeds on the shores in germinating condition.*

These large drifts from the forests have a further interest, in that they let drop their remains to the bottom of the deep sea, thereby not only serving as food to the deep-sea animals, but leaving their husks to be preserved as fossils in deep-sea deposits. I shall refer to this latter point in considering deep-sea questions in the sequel.

We anchored off the town of Dobbo, not in the least altered in the few years since Wallace's visit, with its line of Macassar trading vessels drawn up on the beach; its "prau" builders at work, and a crowd assembled to gaze at us. We were visited by Malay notables in their finest dresses of coloured silks, and by Dutch half-caste missionaries who came in tail coats and tall hats.

The sun was excessively powerful at Aru, and I felt the glare on the white sandy beach more severely than anywhere else during the voyage. In wading in search of seaweeds on the coral shore platform, I positively found the water much warmer than was pleasant to my legs. The water was very shallow, only half way up my knees, and was heated by the reflections from the white bottom.

We encountered the Malay language for the first time at Dobbo, and since no one there, except the missionaries, who spoke Dutch, understood any European language, it was fortunate that our navigating officer, Staff-Commander Tizard, had learnt the language when engaged in surveying in the China Seas and on the coast of Borneo. He arranged for guides, and started us with a small stock of the language.

It is the easiest in the world to pick up a little of. There is no grammar, and any one who has got a Malay dictionary can talk Malay. "I go," "I shall go," "I went," are all expressed by the same word in Malay, and one is irritated on discovering how thoroughly satisfactory such a simple arrangement is, to reflect on the endless complications of verbs and their inflexions in so many other languages and on the time which one has wasted over them.

I made several excursions on shore with one or more guides. One whom I generally took with me was a very active fellow, and I soon found him too quick for me in the close hot forest. I have always found it a bad plan to let native guides suppose that one is easily tired and unable to keep up with them, so I adopted an expedient with the man which has served me in

* Chamisso, "Bemerkungen auf einer Entdeckungs-Reise, 1815-1818," pp. 366-401. Weimar, 1821.