

pigeons eject the whole fruits, and they habitually eject the hard kernels, as I saw quantities of them lying about under the trees on a small island at the Admiralty Islands, on which the birds roost in vast numbers.

As soon as ever a few littoral trees, such as *Barringtonia* and *Calophyllum inophyllum*, have established themselves by means of their drifting seeds on a freshly dry coral islet, the Fruit-Pigeons alight in the branches in their flight from place to place, and drop the seeds of all kinds of other trees with succulent fruits. I have seen the Pigeons thus resting on two or three small littoral trees, which as yet form almost the only vegetation of Observatory Island, a very small islet in Nares Bay, Admiralty Islands.

Hearing the sound of music in the native district of the town of Banda one evening, I made my way towards a house from which it came, in the hopes of seeing a Malay dance. Instead of this I found Malays indeed dancing, but to my disappointment, they were dancing the European waltz.

I saw a Mahomedan's dancing-party in one of the houses; the performers were of course all men. The room in which they danced was widely open to the street, and lighted up. About twenty men dressed in their best sat on mats placed against the wall round the room, the host occupying a place at one end; two members of the party rose at a time and danced. The movements were very slow, and frequently the two dancers led one another by the hand and, presenting themselves to different sides of the assembly in turn, bowed with great ceremony; the whole reminded me somewhat of a quadrille.

Amboina, October 5th to 10th, 1874.—On the ship anchoring at Amboina, it was found necessary that a salute should be fired. The "Challenger" being, as a surveying ship, provided with very few guns, was usually excused this ceremony, but it was thought by the Dutch authorities that the natives would not properly understand the arrival of a foreign man-of-war, without the usual honour being paid to the Dutch flag; so two small Armstrong breech-loaders were let off alternately through the bow ports.

The old Dutch saluting guns on the fort seemed to return the unpleasant noisy compliment with some difficulty, and one of them leapt off the parapet into the ditch, in the excitement of unwonted exercise. It is to be hoped, that before long the intolerable nuisance of saluting will be done away with; it is most astonishing that civilized persons can be so much the slaves of habit, as to make a painful noise of this kind when necessity does not require it; every one concerned dislikes the noise, and there is a great waste of material.