

between the Meangis and Tular or Talaur Islands, south of the Philippines. The ship was nearest to the Island of Kakarutan, of the Meangis Group. The large hilly island of the Talaur Group, Karekelang, was seen in the distance, covered with forest, but with numerous patches of cultivation.

A canoe, sharp at both ends and without outriggers, of the Ke Island build, manned by 22 men and boys, came off to the ship. The men wore turbans, like the Lutaos of Zamboanga, and were many of them apparently of the same race, but appeared to be a mongrel lot, and were very dirty-looking. They did not, as far as we could ascertain, understand either Malay, Spanish, or Dutch, but asked for tobacco. They brought mats and very pretty blue and red Lories alive for sale. The birds were secured to sticks by means of rings made of coconut shell as at Amboina. The men did not chant or use drums as they paddled. They had the Dutch flag flying.

**Drift Wood from the Amberoh River, New Guinea, February 22nd, 1875.**—On February 22nd, at noon, the ship was about 70 miles north-east of Point D'Urville, New Guinea, where the great Amberoh River, the largest river in New Guinea, runs into the sea.\* This river probably rises in the Charles Louis Mountains, on the opposite side of New Guinea, which reach up to the great altitude of 16,700 feet. So large is this river, that even at this great distance from its mouth, we found the sea blocked with the drift wood brought down by it.

We passed through long lines of drift wood disposed in curves at right angles to the direction in which lay the river's mouth. The ship's screw had to be constantly stopped for fear it should be fouled by the wood. The logs had evidently not been very long in the water, being covered only by a few young Barnacles (*Balanus*) and Hydroids. Amongst the logs were many whole uprooted trees. I saw one of these of which the stem was two feet in diameter.

The majority of the pieces were of small wood, branches and small stems. The bark was often floating separately. The midribs of the leaves of some pinnate-leaved palm were abundant and also the stems of a large cane grass, like that so abundant on the shore of the great river (Wai Levu) in Fiji (*Saccharum*). One of these cane stems was 14 feet in length, and from 1½ to 2 inches in diameter.

Various fruits of trees and other fragments were abundant, usually floating confined in the midst of the small aggregations

\* The mouth of the river, which is lined with Casuarina-trees, was passed by Rosenberg on his way to Humboldt Bay in 1862. "Nat. Tydsch. voor Neder. Indie." Dcel. XXIV., p. 334. Batavia, 1862.