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THREE MONTHS IN CAMBODIA.

BY A MADRAS OFFICER.

My brother being agent for a Singapore Mercantile firm in the trade they carry on with Cambodia, and having resided there for some years and made himself acquainted with the language &c., I thought I could not have a better opportunity of seeing something of a country so little known to Europeans, than by accompanying him on one of his trading expeditions thither. The following are a few notes taken during my trip and sojourn of three months in the land of "Srok Kumai," as Cambodia is termed by its inhabitants.

On Saturday the 8th of April 1854, three of us, my brother, Mr V. and myself embarked on board the barque "Polka," Captain Welch, bound to Campoot. The vessel belongs to a Chinese firm in Singapore, who for the last few years have regularly traded with Cambodia. Our party consisted of a

Chinese Interpreter, called Baba Kee, and two servants, one a Madras boy, and the other a Malacca Portuguese. We weighed anchor at 11 o'clock A. M., and aided by a light fair breeze, soon sighted Johore hill, which bore from us N. by E. and Bantam Point S. S. E. At 8 o'clock on Sunday morning we had Pedro Branca distant from us about 8 miles, bearing E. by S. and at 12 o'clock P. M. Romania Islands, bearing W. S. W. On Monday at daybreak, we sighted Pulo Aor, bearing N. N. W. and distant about 16 miles, and at noon Pulo Timao bore W., the latitude by observation being  $2^{\circ} 50''$  N. From this time till we sighted the Brother and Sister, which we did on Saturday afternoon, nothing occurred to break the monotony of our voyage except passing a steamer, steering south, on the evening of Tuesday the 11th. On Sunday the 16th at 7 o'clock A. M. we sighted Pulo Obi and the large island of Kuthrall and at noon dropped anchor in Campoot roads, having run 550 miles in 9 days.

A stranger anchoring in the harbour for the first time, would never imagine that a town was anywhere in its immediate vicinity, as no signs of life are perceptible from the sea. The harbour itself is a good one, and capable of accommodating any number of vessels. It is in latitude  $10^{\circ} 31'$  N. and longitude  $6^{\text{h.}} 56^{\text{m.}} 45 \text{ sec. E.}$  of Greenwich, mean time, being land-locked on both sides, the large island of Kuthrall or Kho-dud, extending on the left, (its extreme northern headland called "Gunong Kwalla," bearing from the anchorage  $S. 61^{\circ} 55' W.$ ) and several small Islets on the right, including Temple Island, (bearing  $S. 56^{\circ} 15' E.$  and which is as near as possible 100 feet in height). Immediately opposite the anchorage, bearing due north from it, frown two singularly shaped mountains called the "Paps," which are covered with vegetation to the very top and form a striking object from the sea, their elevation being about 480 feet. At the back of these hills trending north-westerly, are a range of mountains similarly clothed with the most luxuriant vegetation to their summits, their ridges being serrated, but their peaks not differing much in apparent height. These mountains the Cambodians call "Teglian" or the abode of the destroyer. They have many traditions connected with them, and sacrifices are from time to time offered to the spirits who are believed to inhabit them. In modern charts, these

series of mountains have been styled the "Elephant Range." Cape mountains, a similar group on the right, bear from the anchorage S. 78° 45' E. It is a pity the water shoals so much on approaching the harbour, the navigation in consequence being rendered very intricate. From 3 to 3½ fathoms, being about the soundings for a considerable distance before the anchorage is reached, vessels of the least draught of water are obliged to anchor upwards of 2½ miles from the mouth of the river. Midway between the anchoring ground and the shore is a bar, on which, at low tide, there is not more than 2 feet of water. This makes the loading of vessels very slow, as cargo boats can only come out of the river at high tide. The river itself is deep and tolerably broad, it is edged with mangrove swamps on both sides till very near the town of Campoot, which lies on the left bank, about 2 miles from its mouth. The shore of the country, as far as the eye can reach, is also fringed with Rhizophoræ, or mangrove scrub and at low tide an extensive mud flat is the only apology for a beach.

Soon after we anchored, the Chinese Supercargo of the vessel, accompanied by his family, consisting of five ladies, went on shore. His wife, mother and sister-in-law, composed the five, they were all of true Chinese descent, and had very lately arrived from China, being induced to leave their native country in consequence of the disturbances which had arisen there. The ladies were great curiosities in Singapore when they arrived, as they were among the first of the small footed gentry that had hitherto honored Singapore with their presence. These celestial charmers had stowed themselves away in the long boat during our voyage, and they seemed to have a great objection to shew themselves to the Europeans on board, as they never stirred from their snug domicile from the day they entered it, till they prepared to get into the boat alongside to take them ashore at Campoot, a work by the by, of no small danger and difficulty to them, as their small feet, or "golden lilies" as they are termed by the Chinese, being only about 3 inches in length, and encased in a shoe with a heel nearly as long as the foot, seemed scarcely sufficient to support them when standing. However by the assistance of a few men they managed to get dropped into the boat, more like bags of rice than anything else. These ladies were all most beautifully dressed,

being clothed in silks of the richest colours and their hair arranged with the help of pins and artificial flowers, about a foot high and spread out like a fan. Our interpreter Baba Kee, accompanied the Chinese supercargo on shore to get for us a large boat for ourselves and luggage. At 7 o'clock the next morning (Monday) Baba Kee returned to the ship with two boats, which after breakfast we loaded with our things and started for Campoot. We had much trouble in getting over the bar, as the tide was then low and our boats heavy; however, by all getting out, taking off shoes and stockings and tucking up our trowsers, we succeeded by dint of pushing and dragging in getting our crafts into deeper water; once into the river we had no further trouble as the current was setting upwards and we soon reached our destination. We landed on the right side of the river immediately opposite the town of Campoot. Here the King of Cambodia had ordered a house or rather two houses to be constructed for Europeans; this he had done at the request of Mr A. who had mercantile transactions with his Majesty for some years previously and who had represented to the King, the inconveniences his agent (my brother) had sustained, by having no place to live in or godowns to store produce &c.

These houses are situated on the brink of the river, at right angles with it, the two being immediately opposite one another at a distance of about twenty-five paces, and between them, at the sides furthest off from the river, a cook room or kitchen is built, so that the whole forms three sides of a square. Each house is in the shape of a parallelogram or rectangle (dimensions 80 feet in length by 25 in breadth) divided into three rooms above, with the same number of godowas below, the habitable part is elevated about 10 feet from the ground. A long verandah, about 8 feet in breadth, stretches along the front of the upper rooms in each house; at one end of the verandahs are stairs or rather substantial ladders and there is a communication between both houses by means of a gallery supported on posts from the end of one verandah to that of the opposite building. The rooms themselves are lofty and well lighted by means of two windows in each apartment. These houses rest on brick walls, the upper part is solely composed

of lath and plaster but the weight of the roof is supported by immense posts and cross beams, at an interval of about ten feet from each other. The roofs are tiled and calculated to last for at least fifty years, for each tile is separately fastened down with mortar before another is laid over it, the whole thus forming a solid mass. The only roof in the Straits of Malacca I have ever seen similarly constructed, is that of the stadt-house at Malacca. The floors of these buildings are planked, roughly it is true, as the planks are not planed and joined by bevelled edges together, but at the same time they are very substantial, each plank being about two inches thick and 40 feet in length, so that a couple extend the whole length of the buildings. The carpenters, sawyers and bricklayer's tools used in the erection of these houses, were commissioned by the King from Singapore, and their use &c. taught to the Cambodians, by a couple of Chinese who had resided for some time in the Straits. The tiles also were sent from Singapore, at the expence of the King. The houses are certainly the best in Cambodia. The King himself at Oodong, the capital, does not live in such a good one. When we arrived they were not quite completed. We were told it took a year to erect them, the whole having been done by means of forced labour. The Governor of Campoot having been compelled to furnish a body of men, these poor fellows got no remuneration, and had even to provide their own food. The King sent a Minister from Oodong to reside at Campoot to superintend the work and to see it properly done. This man rejoices in the euphonious title of *Andrön Sennaär*, he lives in a small hut close to the house, and seems to have great authority. Much respect is paid to him by the people of the town, being always addressed as *Lök*, or *My Lord*.

As soon as we had arranged our things in our new abode, we crossed the river and paid a ceremonial visit to *Sinky*, the Lieutenant-Governor, who is styled *Bandar Thoam*. This personage is of Chinese descent, and has all the features and characteristics of the Mongolian race, wearing his hair in a tail wound round his head, differing in this respect from the majority of his nation who are born and brought up in Cambodia, and who, like the true Cambodians, shave their heads, only leaving a short tuft

on the top of the skull, the hair being jet-black, stiff and coarse, almost bristly. Sinky does not keep up much state, he lives in a very poor house, built you may say on the river, and elevated on piles a foot or two above it. We found him squatting, half naked, on a large wooden platform, with several men sitting below him on the floor, which is composed of split nibongs. His house appeared to be divided into two parts, that in front being appropriated to business and receiving people, and that behind for his women, of whom he has about a dozen. He received us very graciously and immediately recognized my brother, who, of course, was well known to him; he offered us tea and after a short conversation carried on between him and our interpreter, we took leave of him, and then proceeded to Bombai, a village about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles up the river, and the place where the Governor resides. Bombai is a much smaller town than Campoot; though I have been informed, that since the last few years, in consequence of the great increase of trade at Campoot, many Chinese have settled at Bombai, which is now rapidly rising into importance, having two or three rows of streets and a bazar, &c. It, like Campoot, is situated immediately on the river. On landing we went to the Governor's house, but were disappointed to hear he was out. We took a cursory glimpse of the inside of this functionary's abode. It could not boast of much, but was apparently better constructed and more commodious than that of his subordinate Sinky, having lamps hung up to the ceilings, and various articles of Japan and Chinese manufacture scattered about; the part appropriated to business, &c., had a large platform raised about two feet from the ground, and extending the whole length of the back of the room. This platform was evidently the seat of honour, being covered with mats, &c. Having left word with the Governor's people, to inform him when he arrived of our visit, we proceeded to the residence of a Chinese merchant called Chinchoo Choow, with whom C. had some business. In passing through the bazar we were informed the Governor was in a house close by and wished to see us, to our great astonishment we found him in a barber's shop, undergoing that very necessary tonsorial operation in Cambodia of shaving the head. He did not seem to care much for our

having caught him in such an undignified position, but conversed with us, with the aid of our interpreter for a few minutes; asked who Mr V. and myself were, the object of our visit to the country, &c., and finally invited us to his house the next evening. We told him we wanted to go up to Oodong to see the King, to whom we wished first to write to inform him of our arrival, and to request he would send down elephants for us. The Governor replied, very well, he would send over to our house one of his clerks to write what we would dictate; and that he would forward it without delay to the King. Having made our salams to his excellency, who by the by is styled according to Cambodian etiquette "Chuwei Srök" literally "head of the country," we proceeded on our way to Chinchoo Choow whom I have mentioned before. This individual is one of the principal Chinese merchants of the place and is son-in-law to the Governor, and of course a person of importance; he received us very civilly, offered sweetmeats and tea and promised to come and see us the next morning. It being now late in the evening we wished him good bye, got into our boat and returned to our house. The next morning according to his promise Chinchoo Choow accompanied by Sinky, the Lieutenant-Governor, paid us a visit, but it seemed the astute followers of Confucius came to make a double job of it and had an eye to business as well as to politeness, as after a little preliminary chit chat, they commenced by asking what C's merchandize consisted of and by proposing to purchase between them his whole stock. Chinese bargains are never completed without a great deal of jabbering and finesse; however, the celestials found C. inflexible in his prices, and after three or four hours incessant talking, they finally agreed to his terms and carried off the goods; first signing and affixing their chops with all due formality to a paper promising to deliver the produce of the country in barter for the goods within 45 days, under penalty of defraying the demurrage of the chartered vessel, should the above time be exceeded. As soon as these worthies went away, the Governor's clerk came to write the letter to the King. Letter writing in Cambodia is a work that requires much consideration, even forming the characters of one page takes up as much time amongst

them as would suffice with us to write six. Our Cambodian scribe first produced his common place book, which seemed to be made of a very coarse thick kind of paper smeared over with some substance like black paint, which when dry, was written on with a pencil formed of a kind of white earth not unlike French chalk; the marks made by this pencil, could be easily rubbed out with the finger, so that this prepared paper with care would last any length of time, and answers all the purposes of a slate. In his common place book, the clerk first entered down word for word what our interpreter told him. When our dictation was over he began to embellish the style &c, according to the most approved forms of Cambodian correspondence. This done he read over his composition, and asked the interpreter if what he had written included the substance of what we wished to say; our approval having been obtained, he then asked for a large sheet of Europe paper which we gave him, this he folded lengthways so that the whole two pages were divided into equal folds or creases of about an inch from each other, these folds served as lines for him to write on; his pen was made of a piece of tin plate doubled up, its shape was exactly that of a small table knife, cut off to an angle at the point. The Cambodians always use Indian ink which is rubbed down with water on a stone; when the tin pen I have described above is worked about in the semi-fluid composition till a sufficient quantity is collected, they then begin writing with the point of the angle, the part corresponding with the edge of the knife being uppermost. Our scribe having finished his fair copy it only remained to affix C's signature and chop which the King had previously presented him with. The letter was then inserted into an envelope directed in Cambodian to the King's Prime Minister who is called Lök Chunda and sent to the Governor, to be forwarded without delay; we were told it would take about 12 days before the elephants we had asked for in the letter to the King could arrive from Oodong. This business over and C's merchandize disposed of, we had plenty of leisure time on our hands. Flocks of wild duck having been observed continually flying about and swimming on the river, we determined to go out and have a day's sport. We found lots of birds and soon returned with several brace of widgeon and teal. On exploring



the country at the back of our house, we found the two mountains I have mentioned before as being called the "Paps" to be about three miles from the house and close to the river. We found a small lake at the foot of these hills swarming with large grey duck but could not succeed in getting a shot at them as they were very wild and always kept at the opposite side. Returning we met a Cambodian going to a small village near the foot of the Paps, from him we asked our way back, as we were afraid we should miss the same track we had come by; this man very civilly volunteered to be our guide. I was surprised at his good nature as he stipulated for no reward, and he had at least  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to go back with us and then return the same distance to the spot where we first met him. I could not help contrasting the politeness of this untutored child of nature with the incivility and sordid disposition generally met with amongst the natives of the Malayan Peninsula, where the first question is always "what will you give"? Half way back we met another Cambodian with three or four bamboos of palm toddy; being very thirsty after our long walk, we asked for some telling him if he would call at our house any day he would get paid, as we had nothing with us at the time, he very readily proffered his toddy and said he wanted no payment. We returned to our house about midday, very tired but much pleased with our day's sport; we of course did not allow our guide to return to his village without duly recompensing him for his trouble, he was profuse in his acknowledgements and did not seem as if he expected anything.

The next day we received a visit from a very intelligent Malay called Tuanku Tay, he was well known to C. and a great favorite of his. This man trades largely in raw silk, ivory, gambouge and sticklac; he is much respected in Cambodia for his probity, and is always employed by the king as his supercargo, when his Majesty's junks are sent down to Singapore to sell the produce of the country which the king yearly receives as tribute. This Malay informed C. that the king had stored up a quantity of rice in his godowns at Campoot, which was intended to be very soon sent to Singapore, and that he was only waiting for final instructions from the king to be off. He recommended C. to go up to Oodong as soon as possible and make an offer to purchase the

whole, saying he thought it very likely the king would be glad to sell it at once, as several reports had reached Campoot that many pirates had been seen hovering about Pulo Obi and its vicinity and that three or four trading junks had been taken by them, that these reports would be sure to reach the king, who would naturally be afraid to send his junks this year. This intelligence made C. determine not to wait for the elephants we had written for to the king, but start at once in carts for Oodong, so as to lose no time, thinking it probable we should meet the elephants on the road. Mr V. and myself agreed to C's proposition that we should accompany him, we all therefore the same evening went to Bombai to see the governor, and to request him to furnish us with carts and men. We reached Bombai at dusk and were lucky enough to find his excellency at home, he received us with much politeness and offered us tea &c. We then informed him of the purport of our visit; he seemed to be much surprised at our anxiety to be off so soon, but after starting many objections we at last made him promise to have the requisite number of carts and men ready at Bombai on the morning of the 2nd day. Having taken leave of the governor we prepared to return to Campoot, but found this was a task of no small difficulty as it was pitch dark, so that nothing could be perceived on the river, added to which the current being against us our progress was very slow, indeed we were obliged to row the boat ourselves, as we could not get men at Bombai to take us back. After many laughable mishaps, such as running foul of other boats and occasionally sticking on the banks at each side of us, we got home much fatigued; however a good night's rest soon put us all to rights and the following day was spent in packing up and preparing for our journey. The next morning, Monday the 24th, at 10 A. M., we left our house at Campoot for Bombai. Unfortunately our boat was too small for ourselves and luggage, but as no other was to be got, we were obliged to take great care in loading it and perching ourselves on the top of our boxes, &c. The least motion of the body invariably threw our cranky bark on her beam ends, so that it was no easy task to use the oars. I shall never forget the terror of our Interpreter, Baba Kee, who fully expected we should go to the bottom. The heat too was

most intense, and not a breath of air stirring; however at about a quarter past 11 A. M. we reached Bombai and proceeded at once to a group of houses, enclosed with a high bamboo fence. These had been built about a year previously for the King and his Court, orders having been received from Oodong to erect them, the King's intention being to pay Campoot a visit; he however altered his mind, being afraid if he left the capital the Cochin-Chinese would come up the river and attack it; in fact, as soon as the King's intention of going to Campoot was publicly known, a large body of Cochin-Chinese, well armed, were observed near Oodong, and on being asked what their intentions were in congregating in such numbers within the boundaries of the kingdom of Cambodia, they gave a very unsatisfactory account of themselves, saying they wanted to go up the river to attack Laos, an independant state above Cambodia. Their true intention was doubtless to take advantage of the King's absence, and ravage Oodong as they had done some fifteen years previously.

The houses built for the King at Bombai were now used only to store rice in, and as a depôt for carts and bullocks belonging to his Majesty. The Governor had told us the preceding evening to stay here till he had collected a sufficient number of coolies to carry our goods. On our arrival we found 7 carts ready for us, and half the number of men we required, and were obliged to wait till 3 o'clock P. M. for the rest. At that hour the Governor came with the coolies and a paper written in Cambodian, with a peculiar chop affixed to it. This paper was called a "Sumböt Say-haw," being addressed to the Prime Minister at Oodong, mentioning who we were, the object of our visit, and the number of boxes and packages we were taking with us. This document was to be shewn to the Mykoë or head of each station we stopped at; who on reading it, would be obliged to furnish us with relays of the same number of carts and men, we had brought from Bombai. The carts for ourselves were most curious vehicles, all of wood and bamboo, not a particle of iron about them, even the axle tree being made of some hard heavy wood, working loosely in the socket or nave of the wheel, which had no tire, and was fastened in a peculiar manner to a frame work, all round the body of the cart; the axle tree, instead of being one solid piece

passing under the body of the machine, was in two parts, one end of each fixed to the sides of the frame-work, then passed through the socket of the wheel, and finally inserted in a round hole in a block of wood, composing the lower part of the cart, which was in shape like a cradle, the sides being about nine inches high, curving outwards and made of split bamboos very neatly plaited together, the corners of the frame-work being firmly tied with strips of rattan, so that the whole affair was in reality much stronger than it appeared to be, and well adapted for use in rough ground. These queer conveyances were very low and covered over with an arched top of bamboo work and attap; when lying down inside, it appeared to me as if I was immured in a coffin, only not quite so comfortable as that last resting place generally is. At half past 3 o'clock P. M. each of our party having ensconced himself as snugly as he could in one of these vehicles, with the aid of pillows, mattress, &c, we started for Tricoal, the first stage from Bombai, and distant 250 sens, or about 6 English miles. The sen is a Cambodian measure = 40 yards. There are 20 peums in a sen, each peum equal to 2 cubits, or 6 feet exactly of our measurement. The whole distance between Bombai and Oodong, is divided into equal portions of 100 sens each. A thick post on each side of the road, cut into a peculiar shape at the top, marks these divisions and at every 50 sens or exactly half way between these posts, smaller poles with rounded tops are erected. Every 100 sens or the distance between the large posts is, as near as possible, two statute miles and two furlongs, so that it is easy to calculate the distance traversed on a journey by simply reckoning the number of large posts. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 P. M. we arrived at Tricoal, and informed the Mykoë or head of the station of our intention to sleep here for the night and proceed very early the next morning. We showed him our "Sumböt Say Haw" or paper we had received from the Governor, on seeing which he promised to have fresh carts and men ready whenever we should require them. The station itself was a very good one and the people civil. The next morning at 5 o'clock A. M. we started for the 2nd stage, Tripong Lobok, distant 500 sens or about 11 miles and 3 furlongs. We found this to be a very long and fatiguing march, what with the jolting, dust and heat,

and we were glad enough to arrive at our destination which we did at 11 o'clock A. M. This station we found to be much smaller than the last and filled with people; however they vacated one side of the house for us, and the Mykoë, who was an old man and what was singular for a Cambodian wearing a mustache, did all he could to make us comfortable, sending for mats &c, to lay over the split nibong floors and making his men fetch water for us from the tank which was at some distance. On enquiring the reason of so many men, women and children being collected together at this place, we were told that there was some religious ceremony to be held there and that sacrifices were to be offered to the guardian spirits of the place, after which they were to have a feast, that the people had collected together from all directions and that most came from villages many miles off. We noticed several Bonzes or priests among the crowd, they were easy to be distinguished by their heads being closely shaved and by their being clothed all in yellow, the sacred color in Siam and Cambodia. This festival was to last 2 days and the Mykoë informed us, much to our disgust, we should be obliged to stop at the station till it was over, as he could get no men. We however frightened him, by saying we were determined to start in the evening and that he must furnish carts and men at once, agreeably to the king's positive orders, whenever travellers were provided with a Sumbotsay-haw from the governor of Campoot; we threatened that if we were delayed here we would report him at Oodong. The poor fellow thus badgered tried to persuade the men from the neighbouring villages to go with us, so as to spare his own people as much as possible, but the strangers stoutly refused and said they belonged to other districts and were not under his orders. The Mykoë then threatened to put them all in the stocks if they refused to go on the king's service. We did not interfere in the quarrel but let them settle it amongst themselves; after a great deal of noisy discussion we were informed they had done so and that the Mykoë was to furnish as many men as he could possibly spare and that the villagers would make up the deficiency amongst them. Their arrangements being amicably effected, we started at 4 P. M. for the 3rd station Tripong Tripah, distant 550 sars or 12½ English miles, this was the longest march we

had yet had,—luckily the greatest part of it was gone over in the cool of the evening, but the confinement for so many hours in a very cramped and constrained position was exceedingly irksome. We arrived at the station at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 o'clock P. M. and as we had not dined before we left Trīpong Lobök, our servants, poor fellows, had to cook at this late hour, so it was past midnight before all forgot their fatigues in refreshing sleep. The next morning at daybreak we found fresh relays of both carts and men ready for us, we therefore lost no time in pushing on, knowing another march of 550 sens was before us. We left Trīpong Trīpah at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 A. M. and arrived at Tros, the fourth or middle station at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 o'clock P. M., parched with thirst and half choked with dust. This station is situated in the very heart of the jungle and being surrounded with large trees on every side we found it delightfully cool and pleasant. We exchanged here three or four empty beer bottles, called in the Cambodian language “Sluk perduks,” for the same number of fowls. It was most remarkable to see the eagerness displayed by all the Cambodians to possess themselves of an empty bottle;—I am sure we could have got any number of fowls or ducks for a bottle, or at most 2 bottles each. We only remained here for a few hours, and left at 4 P. M. for the 5th stage Bungsuran, distant 550 sens. We arrived there at 11 o'clock P. M., and started again the next morning at half 5 A. M. for the 6th stage, Sting, also distant 550 sens; here we arrived at noon, and found much difficulty in procuring carts and men; all but two or three of the men in charge of the station having left it for a few days and gone to the nearest village, fully eight miles off. The Mykoë said he did not think they could arrive till the next morning, but promised to send a man off at once to bring carts &c.; this delay was very annoying, however we had no help for it. Close to the station was a river, with a rapid current running down, but being the dry season there was not more than four feet of water in it. In the cool of the evening we had a delicious bathe, a luxury we had had no opportunity of indulging in since leaving Campoot. The next morning we found that neither carts or men had arrived and that the Mykoë proposed going himself to the villages to hasten his men. We were very sulky at this long stoppage en route, but in the

hope that the night would be spent at the next station, we were fain to put up with our disappointment. I wandered about in the jungle close to the station and noticed some beautiful specimens of "*Tectona Grandis*" or the teak tree, also "*Dammara Orientalis*" furnishing the resin called dammar, "*Hebradendron Gambogioides*", and "*Garcinia Cambogia*", from which the gambouge of commerce is extracted; I also noticed some enormous trees of "*Clusia Flava*" or the wild mango and a few varieties of "*Erythrina Monosperma*", or the trees on which the gumlac insects generally abound; "*Quercus Tinctoria*", the bark of which is called "*Quercitron*", yielding a yellow dye, seemed also to be abundant, as well as several species of *Coniferæ*.—I looked in all directions for "*Isonandra Gutta*", or the tree from which gutta percha is extracted, but did not perceive a single specimen, it is however my belief that in the jungles and dense forests of Cambodia gutta percha is to be found, as several species of the same natural order, *Sapotaceæ*, came under my observation during my stay in the country. At about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 P. M. the Mykoë returned with some carts and men; he could not however get sufficient coolies to carry the things and four cart drivers were obliged to be employed for that purpose, our servants and Baba Kee acting pro tem. as drivers. The carts that were supplied for us at this station were most ricketty affairs and all so short that the person inside, when lying down, was obliged to have his knees nearly touching his chin; such as they were however we were glad enough to get them, and we started at 6 o'clock P. M. for the 7th stage, Oontong Kurweong, distant 500 sens or about  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles. We had not left the station an hour and a half when the whole line of carts was brought to a stand still by the hindmost one, which happened to be Baba Kee's, breaking down, the axle-tree having snapped in two. The night was dark as Erebus and not a glimpse of a star could be seen, our perplexity can be easily imagined stuck as we were in the heart of the jungle, the few Cambodian drivers we had with us, having all, with the exception of one old man, left and gone back a couple of miles to a hut we had passed on the road, there to cut a new axle-tree for the broken cart. We waited in vain fully an hour for them to come up, and then not liking the idea of passing the night where

we were, determined to push on and leave Baba Kee to shift for himself as well as he could. The old Cambodian that was left with us being driver of my cart, we were made to head the line and act as pioneer for the others. My old Jehu had only one eye and that one was rather dimmed through age. The poor fellow was every now and then driving into the ditch and sometimes got off the road altogether and was working his way in the jungle; on these occasions it was really laughable to hear the objurgations he bestowed on his buffaloes, putting all the blame on them. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 A. M. we arrived at Oontong Kurweōng, this station was a small one with very poor accommodation. The Mykoë and his wife were a venerable couple, each had hair as white as snow, the man said his age was 70 and his wife 65. About 7 o'clock the next morning, Baba Kee came up with his cart mended, but as the coolies carrying our things had not yet made their appearance, we were obliged to wait for them, but sent back some of the Mykoë's people to hurry them on. At about noon they arrived and we prepared to start, when five elephants came to the station with two French priests, who said they had just come from Oodong and were en route to Campoot, that the elephants they had were intended for us, but that they had received permission from the king to have the use of them till they arrived at Campoot when they were to be given over to us. These poor clergymen looked the very picture of death, they said they had come from Laos and Champa, a narrow mountainous tract between Cambodia and Cochin China, inhabited by an independent half savage race; here they had lost their health and were obliged to go to Singapore for a change and also for medical treatment. One poor fellow looked as if he was past all medical aid, I really would not have insured his life to Singapore, so haggard and cadaverous was his appearance. They described with painful pathos the recent loss of one of their number by jungle fever, high up in the interior of Champa, and the hardships and privations they had endured. It is impossible not to admire the spirit of self denial which those faithful followers of the cross, the French Missionaries in the East, display in denying themselves, as they constantly do, all the comforts and enjoyments of the civilised world, in order to spend their whole lives in privation and distress



amongst half savage tribes, in places full of miasmatic influences, and where the foot of a European had never trod, and all this for the purpose of imparting the light of Christianity to the poor benighted heathen and the benefits of civilisation to the savage. Though a protestant myself and dissenting in many points from the general spirit of Roman Catholicism, I yet admire sincerity whenever I meet with it, and am always disposed to respect and reverence the motives which impel the French Missionaries attached to the "Propaganda" to forsake all for the dissemination of the tenets of their religion, and humbly follow in the footsteps of those holy men of old, who had received our Saviour's divine command to preach the gospel to the gentiles, and spread the glad tidings of salvation in the world. But to return to my narrative; as the priests and ourselves were going in opposite directions it was agreed upon between us that they should take two elephants and complete their journey to Campoot and the other three we were to have to take with us. To this arrangement however the elephant drivers unfortunately did not agree, they said they had received orders from the king to proceed to Campoot for us and that if they met our party on the road they were then to return to Oodong with us; also that the French priests had permission to have the use of the elephants till we were met with and no longer. Such being the case and all the drivers refusing to go on to Bombai without fresh orders from the king, the priests were obliged to remain at the station; we however promised directly we arrived at Oodong to represent their case to the king and ask for a couple of fresh elephants to be sent to them without delay.

This would only involve a stoppage of two days for the priests, as our next stage was Oodong, distant only 450 sens or 10 miles. We started from Oodong Kurweong at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 P. M.;—all of our party but C. and Baba Kee who were well accustomed to it, had much difficulty in clambering up into the seats on the backs of the elephants. It really appeared to a novice to be a very formidable undertaking, for the brutes are not taught as they are in India to kneel down and you have no assistance from a ladder or other easy way of climbing up; a loose rope is passed round the animal's neck, by grasping this and then its ear, at the same time stepping on the elephant's forefoot,

which he raises a little on the word "Choon" being repeated you gradually hoist yourself into your place in the Howdah or seat on the elephant's back. This is all made of bamboo work, the body being shaped like a child's cradle, about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length by 2 in breadth, covered over with a framework of fine split bamboos, interlaced and plaited together. This machine is hollowed out at the bottom so as to sit well on the bony ridge of the elephant's spine. Several layers of soft bark are first arranged on the animal's back, on this is laid a piece of buffalo hide denuded of hair and the Howdah over all, well secured in its position by a stout twisted rattan cable passing round the body of the elephant, and through holes in the bottom of the Howdah where the ends are secured inside. If there is sufficient bark, and it is well and equally arranged, the Howdah sits very firm in its place and is in reality much more secure than it appears to be, though it sways from side to side at every step the beast takes, thus causing a very unpleasant motion, something similar to the rolling motion of a ship in a chopping sea. After leaving Oontong Kurweong about 5 or 6 miles, the country appeared to be much more clear and open, with here and there patches of cultivation, shewing unmistakably that a large town was not far off. Where the soil was turned up for the purpose of cultivation in the small patches mentioned above, its quality appeared to be excellent, being a rich friable loam; indeed both the climate and soil of the whole of Cambodia appear to be most favorable for the growth of vegetation, the fruits indigenous to the country being of very large sizes and of the finest flavour. The following list comprises a few which I particularly noticed as being of excellent quality, *Anona Squamosa* or the custard apple, and *A. Reticulata*, the soursop, *Ananassa Satira* or the pine-apple, *Artocarpus Integrifolia*, the jack fruit, *Musa Paradisiaca*, the plaintain and banana, *Mangifera Indica*, or the mango;—this last fruit grows to a large size and is most delicious; there are three or four varieties, the best of which are equal in flavour to the famed Mazagong or Goa mango, they are exceedingly cheap too, a hundred being procurable for about a dollar.

The tobacco grown in Cambodia is also of good quality. The plant is rather of a dwarf size, averaging about 3 feet in height, the

variety appears to be peculiar to the country, the corolla being shorter and less expanded at the apex than in the ordinary varieties of "*Nicotiana Tabacum*". Various species of *Amomum Cardamomum*, or the cardamums of commerce, including *A. Repens*, *A. Angustifolium* and *Elettaria Major* are cultivated in Cambodia, and form one of the chief articles of revenue to the king. *Piper Nigrum*, or the pepper vine, is also cultivated extensively; a great proportion of this finds its way to the Singapore market where it fetches a good price.

We soon arrived at a new road the king has ordered to be made near Oodong, it begins about 4 miles from the town, and crosses a very swampy patch which extends for some way near it. The road itself is raised about six feet, and is perfectly straight and level from end to end, edged with young trees on both sides and really a much better affair than one could expect to see in an uncivilised country. The construction of this road shews great skill and ingenuity on the part of the Cambodians, it is so well macadamized, the edges being faced with blocks of stone and the sides sloped off to just the proper angle requisite to prevent them from being washed away by heavy rains. If the king would construct a road of this description from his capital to Campoot, he would confer a great benefit on his people and the trade of his country; the present one, though far superior to the track in existence some 4 years ago, which made the distance from Oodong to Campoot just double what it is now, is yet a very poor affair, being in fact no road at all, merely an open space cleared through the jungle, in as direct a line as it is possible to be; thus the ground is of course very rugged and uneven, with every here and there a swamp &c. and following all the undulations of the country. The environs of Oodong are much scattered, in fact they begin about 2 miles from the town, which is surrounded with two walls, the outer one being distant from the inner about a mile. The inner wall is the highest and strongest, being nearly 12 feet in height by 2 in thickness, well supported on the inside with a row of palisades reaching to within 4 feet of the height of the wall and distant from it a fathom, the intervening space being filled up with clay and rubble well rammed down, the level surface at top thus forming a low banquette running

all round. There are two gates to the inner wall, both made very substantially of double planks, each three inches thick, fastened and rivetted together with massive flat headed iron bolts. The gates have on each side, on the top of the wall, small watch towers for the accommodation of a few men. These gates are always shut at 9 o'clock P. M. only a small wicket being kept open till midnight for the accommodation of travellers and the towns-people. The King's palace, which includes a large space, is likewise surrounded with a third wall of brick about 10 feet high, this has also two gates which are regularly closed at sunset and not opened on any pretence till sunrise the next morning; guards are placed inside each of these gates who remain on duty the whole night.

Our elephant drivers first stopped at a minister's house who is styled "Kuball Temerai" or head of the elephants, to report our having arrived, and the completion of the duty on which they were sent. We then went to the Prime Minister whose title is "Lok Chundah" to report ourselves and to ask for permission to occupy the rooms generally set apart in the King's palace for the accommodation of Europeans, but unfortunately it was past 7 o'clock when we arrived, and we were told by the Prime Minister that the gates of the palace had been already closed and that no one dared now to ask to go in and report our arrival to the King, without whose permission we could not occupy the said apartments; he said, however, he would point out a place where we might pass the night. On our accepting his offer, he was polite enough to shew us the way himself, and went on in front carrying a flambeau; he took us to a brick building not very far from his own house, which he said was used by day as a court of justice, the interior of this was very spacious and lofty, being all one room, the flooring planked, with a raised platform some three feet from the ground and about eight feet in breadth, extending lengthways from one side of the apartment to the other. This platform was railed in and at the further end of it close to the wall were some six or eight square raised seats or dais, all of the same size, except the centre one, which was larger and raised higher than the others; these were for the accommodation of the judges, the central seat being for the one highest in rank, who is styled "Lok Chuekrum". The complainants, defendants, witnesses &c, are arranged in front

of the platform, outside the railing, when cases are tried. This building has a tiled roof and every here and there small oval openings in the walls instead of windows. We arranged our mattresses on the platform and esteemed ourselves lucky in getting into such comfortable quarters. Soon after we had unloaded the elephants, and before our friend the Minister had gone away, one of the King's sons came to pay us a visit, he appeared to be a lad of about 10 years of age, he told us he was the King's 2nd son, his eldest brother, the heir to the crown, being now in Siam where he had been residing for many years. We were told the Crown Prince's age was 30, and that the young prince who came to see us, together with a younger brother, were to be sent very soon to Siam for their education, at least this was the ostensible motive for their going, but we learnt shortly afterwards that the policy of the Siamese Government compells the princes of Cambodia to reside at Bangkok as hostages for the good conduct of the reigning King, and to ensure the regular payment of the yearly tribute. The young lad who honored us with a visit, was a good looking boy and seemed to be very shrewd and not at all shy, he brought with him a whole retinue of attendants, some 30 in number, all youths of about his own age, these paid him great respect, all in fact including the Prime Minister himself, bending the knee when addressing him. As soon as this young scion of royalty and the Prime Minister had taken their departure, our interpreter Baba Kee who had been to the bazar to see his friends, returned with an invitation from a Siamese living in the town for us to go to his house and dine with him. As we had had nothing to eat since the morning, and it would have been very inconvenient for our servants to cook where we now were, we gladly accepted the offer of the Siamese to give us a dinner, and sent Baba Kee on in front to shew the way. Our host lived at the other end of the bazar which was a pretty long one, so we had a good opportunity of seeing Oodong by torch light. Its appearance is not at all calculated to produce a pleasing impression on a stranger viewing it for the first time. The houses in general are composed of fragile materials, consisting of cadjans and attaps erected on piles, others again are constructed of clay, having flat roofs likewise of tempered clay plastered over split bamboos laid like rafters very close together, the walls having

here and there small oval openings instead of windows,—these generally look into the court yard, round which a clay wall is always raised. The town appears to be very thickly populated but as no census is ever taken, it is impossible to tell with certainty what number of souls there may be. Of course the greatest part of the inhabitants of Oodong are true Cambodians, but there are many mixed races, such as Siamese, Cochinchinese and true Chinese living in the town, and about two thousand Malays occupy a large village called Campong Oodong, situated on the river “May Kuang” and about 6 miles from Oodong, which lies due north from Campoot, distant from it about 90 miles, and is in  $11^{\circ} 55'$  N. lat. and long.  $104^{\circ} 11' 30''$  E. On our arrival at the house of our friend the Siamese he received us with great civility and ushered us inside where we found dinner ready spread out on the floor, and low bamboo seats arranged for each guest. The dinner really was not bad and consisted of two sorts of stew made something like the Chinese chow chow, composed of fowls, ducks, pork and vegetables, roasted salt fish and preserved onions being in separate dishes, and of course an immense bowl of boiled rice forming the principal *piece de resistance*. After dinner small cups of scalding hot samshoo were handed round, to assist probably the digestion of the rich aliment we had been treated with. At any rate we verified the old adage of hunger making the best sauce, for though on ordinary occasions, I think none of us would have found his dinner very palatable yet in the present instance we did full justice to our host's specimen of Siamese cookery. Having thanked him for his kindness, we returned to our quarters and soon forgot our fatigues in nature's sweet refresher sleep. The next morning we were much incommoded by the curiosity of the people, who having heard of our arrival flocked in crowds to see the “Parangs” as Europeans are called in Cambodia. The lower orders contented themselves by staring at us outside the railing, I have spoken of before, but the priests and people of any consideration squatted themselves down immediately in front of us, making the place insufferably hot and redolent of the fumes of tobacco,—for in this country every one, man, woman, and child, all smoke, and that too from morning till night. Their curiosity seemed to be insatiable for there they stunk for at least a couple of hours, when gradually

the crowd dispersed and each individual betook himself to his daily avocations, much to our satisfaction and self-congratulation, for we found the fragrance emitted from the persons of the gazers not to be that of Araby the blest or of the most delicious or balmiest description.

At about 8 o'clock A. M. we sent Baba Kee into the King to inform him of our arrival, and to request that better accommodation might be given us. In an hour after Baba Kee returned, having had an audience of His Majesty, who had invited us to occupy rooms in a suite of apartments immediately contiguous to his palace, and we gladly took advantage of the King's offer and removed to the place assigned to us. This was part of a long oblong building constructed very like our house at Campoot, only not near so comfortable and substantial, being divided (native fashion) into a great many very small rooms having no communication with each other, except by the doors opening into the verandah common to all, and just reversing our ideas of comfort, as the godowns below used for storing goods &c, were very lofty and the rooms immediately above, where the people live in, are low and of course exceedingly hot. A long narrow verandah with ladders at the ends extended all along the front of the apartments upstairs. We had 4 rooms given us in this building and a godown downstairs as a kitchen. The remaining 8 apartments being occupied by a lot of women, who we were told were the mothers-in-law of the crown prince and their attendants, these fair ladies took good care to isolate themselves from us, as when we took possession of our side, we found workmen putting up a temporary partition in the verandah, thus separating their rooms entirely from ours. At about 10 A. M. we received a message from the King to come over and see him, we however excused ourselves for the present, as the boxes containing our wearing apparel had not yet arrived from the last stage, but we promised His Majesty that directly our things came up, we would lose no time in paying our respects to him. At noon we received our boxes and then prepared to dress for the audience. C. and V. put on plain civilian clothes, black coat &c, and I donned my full dress regimentals, which I had brought from Singapore purposely for the occasion, having heard from my brother, that the King

particularly wished to see a British officer's uniform. Having sent Baba Kee on a little before hand to inform His Majesty of our being in readiness for an interview, we were ushered into his hall of audience and sat down on chairs at the lower end of the room awaiting the King, who they told us was inside his Zenana or women's apartments. In the mean time we amused ourselves by looking at, and taking notes of the place and its furniture. The Durbar or Hall of Audience appeared to be a spacious and lofty apartment about 40 feet square, entirely open at one end, looking into a paved passage separating it from another small room, likewise open at the side facing the passage. This small room was used as an office for the King's "Simeons" or clerks of whom we saw some 6 or 7 busily engaged in writing letters and casting up accounts. Two sides of the hall communicated with suites of apartments, at the back and right of it, those at the back of the Durbar leading into a large paved courtyard half roofed over. This was the place where the King retired to of an evening, to enjoy the "dolce far niente" and to amuse himself by seeing his women dance and hearing other performances on various musical instruments. The rooms on the right are appropriated for the use of his women, of whom he has about 300, besides 4 married wives; at the furthest end of these rooms is the King's private sleeping apartment. Various articles of European, Japan and Chinese manufacture were ranged round the sides of the Durbar, daubs of pictures in gilt frames, by Chinese artists, were placed side by side with line engravings, and large mirrors and antique glass tumblers and decanters of various uncouth shapes, together with large glass jars with ground stoppers, such as preserved fruits are generally sent from Europe in, were considered worthy of a place close to some magnificent specimens of Japan-ware similar to those exposed for sale in the European shops at Singapore. A common Chinese bamboo couch, was placed near a beautiful marble table, with massive carved pedestal and feet. This we were told was a present to the King from Mr A.—ships signal lanterns hung from the ceiling in juxtaposition with handsome large globe lamps and huge Chinese lanterns with glass chandeliers. A more motley collection of things valuable and articles not worth the picking up was perhaps never



brought together. The King evidently thought everything equally precious, for a common glass phial and sand hour-glass were taken as much care of as a fine Japan cabinet, or a Dresden porcelain vase. On the marble table was laid a very handsome desk of Chinese Japaned work, a part of which was only appropriated to its legitimate purpose of holding papers &c. The various partitions for wafers, wax, ink, sand &c were deemed by the King as admirable places for tobacco, betel, cardamoms &c, and stuffed full accordingly of these delicious and necessary condiments. Five or six watches were hung up on the wall close to the King's seat at the marble table, the whole lot would perhaps have realized at a fashionable pawnbroker's, 5 or 6 dollars. These extraordinary horological specimens must have dated their existence from the good old times of our great grandfathers, being very heavy and almost as large and thick as warming-pans, with works inside of corresponding dimensions.

After making us wait upwards of a quarter of an hour, His Majesty walked or rather waddled in, attended by a host of young women and seated himself on the arm-chair near the marble table, immediately opposite to us. A couple of ladies stationed themselves at each side of the King and commenced fanning him with great vigour, an operation he seemed to stand much in need of in hot weather, for he is enormously fat and his whole body appeared to glisten with an oily perspiration. His appearance is not at all King-like or imposing, being dull looking, with a heavy stolid air about him and his face and breast much pitted with small pox; his age is apparently 50, but he himself told us he was upwards of 60; he wears very little clothes, only a sarong round the lower part of his body, leaving the upper part down to the waist quite naked, in fact were it not for a gold band with a diamond and ruby clasp fastening the sarong round his middle, he could not be distinguished from a common cooly. His head according to the Cambodian fashion was closely shaved with the exception of a small tuft of very short bristly hair at the top of the skull. All his women except the two who were fanning him remained in a body, crouching on the ground, at the further end of the room; they all appeared to be very young and were doubtless the best looking girls we had seen in the country. Many of them had

soft and regular features and were it not for the disgusting habit of blackening the teeth and shaving the head, only leaving the short tuft of hair I have mentioned before, might really be called pretty, as all had most elegant figures with those gracefully curved flowing outlines and plump development sculptors love so well to delineate as forming the chief grace of feminine beauty. These Odalisques were very thinly clad, wearing salendangs and a long silk scarf thrown loosely over one shoulder and across the body, this piece of dress seemed to be used more as an ornament than as a necessary covering, for it was often allowed to slip off the shoulder, and had to be every now and then readjusted. We were told the greater proportion of the King's women, were the daughters of his ministers and other men of high rank, who all vie with one another for the honor of furnishing a fresh inmate for the royal Harem. They not only consider it an honor to the family but a possible source of future aggrandizement to the father and brothers of the girl, should she captivate the affections of the King, for petticoat influence is as powerful in Cambodia as elsewhere in more civilised places. It was amusing to see the constrained and uncomfortable crouching posture all the ministers and others allowed the entree to the Durbar threw themselves into, directly the King appeared in sight; even our interpreter Baba Kee was obliged to imitate their example of going down on their knees, supporting the weight of the upper part of the body on the elbows with the palms joined and raised above the head, which they dared not to lift up but kept constantly looking on the ground. If any one had to approach the royal person to give him anything or to obey a call, however far the distance, Cambodian etiquette prescribed a crawling progressive motion on knees and elbows. Our interview began by that indispensable custom in oriental countries of presenting Nuzzers or offerings to the King. Knowing this to be expected we had bought a few trifling articles in Singapore for this purpose. Our present consisted of two yards of very gaudily painted oil cloth, two skins of black patent leather and a couple of ditto of yellow morocco, a one-hour, and a half-hour glass, a couple of large toilette bottles of essence, with a dozen pairs of white cotton socks. His Cambodian Majesty appeared to be much pleased with the things, and after minutely

examining each article gave them in charge to one of his women. He then asked our names and who and what we, that is Mr G. V. and myself, were, and our object in coming to his country; he appeared to be much gratified when he was told that I had come purposely to see him, having heard he wished much to see a British officer. He admired my uniform vastly and actually condescended to get off his chair and walk up to where I was seated, for the purpose of more minutely inspecting each separate article of accoutrement; he was particularly pleased with the epaulettes which he thought were all of gold, and of course of great value. The texture of the red cloth in the coatee, next excited his admiration, and I do believe if I had weighed 18 stone instead of 8 stone 6 lbs, so that my habiliments would have fitted the portly figure of royalty, the king would not have been satisfied without purchasing or trying to get as a present my whole Military outfit. We told him we had brought with us various Philosophical instruments, such as galvanic batteries, electro-magnetic machines, a still for spirits of wine, oil and spirit lamps, blowpipe and a complete set of gilding and silvering apparatus on a large scale, with chemicals &c; these instruments we offered to shew him as well as to plate and gild something in his presence. He enquired particularly about the use of the electro-magnetic machine and galvanic battery, which he said he had heard of in Siam, and was most curious to try the shock—he named the next day for our exhibition and then began talking about his coining machine which he had lately received from Europe through Messrs A. & Co at Singapore. This he said he had put up with the assistance of a Siamese from Bangkok and that he had begun coining silver money, but that there was something the matter with the machine, it would not work so quick or stamp as many blanks in a day, as he had been informed the maker had said it could do, added to which he thought the machine was not complete, as the blanks had to be made by hand which was very tedious work. He therefore requested us to examine the machinery, and if we knew what was wanting to inform him, that he might commission it from Europe. We readily assented to his request and getting off his chair His Majesty waddled before us to shew the way to the strong room, in which he kept this valuable specimen of

European engineering skill. On examination we found the machine itself in good order and properly fitted up, but several auxiliary apparatus wanting to complete a regular coining press, such as a rolling and flatting mill and a punching machine to cut out the blanks; a hopper or feeder to be supplied with blanks was also not forthcoming. The King complained of these deficiencies, and said he had paid a great deal of money, thinking he was to have a perfect engine for coining purposes. He complained also of no diagram or plan being sent out by the maker to assist his people in putting the press up, and said had it not been for the Siamese from Bangkok who understood a little of engineering, it would have been impossible for him or any of his people to have done anything with it. As it was, the King said the press lay in pieces for nearly a year, no one, not even the French priests being able to assist him, or give him the least hint as to putting it up. The coining machine was of beautiful workmanship, J. Ingram & Co, Birmingham, being the makers. It was intended to be worked by bullocks, but when it was finally put up, the King preferred working it by manual power, which could be more readily regulated than animal power. Unfortunately one of the dies was cracked and of course useless. The King took a note of the deficient machinery and said he would write to Messrs A. & Co, to have them ordered from the same maker, together with a complete fresh set of dies. We had already now been talking to the King for 3 hours, and I think had we not intimated our wish to retire, he would have kept us another 3 hours, but it was no joke in such hot weather to sit buttoned up to the throat in ball room dress as we were. As soon as we had gone to our apartments, the King sent us presents, in return I suppose for ours. The royal gifts excited our mirth a good deal, they consisted of half a pig, a picul of white rice and 30 choo-choos. This last is the currency of the country and a very inconvenient one it is. The only coin current in Cambodia, besides the silver bar worth 15 Spanish dollars and the Siamese "Kop" worth about half a dollar, is the *petis*; this is made of an alloy of zinc and tin, very thin and so brittle as to be easily broken between the fingers. It has Chinese characters on one side and a square hole in the middle for the purpose of a number being strung on a cord like

the Chinese cash ; the coin itself is Cochin-Chinese, but is current over a great extent of country, including Cochin-china, Tonquin, Laos, Champa and Cambodia. Six hundred petis go to a choo-choo, seven of which are equivalent to a dollar, the choo-choo is again divided into ten *teans* of 60 petis each—so that the comparative values of the Straits and Cambodian currency are as follows:—

<i>Petis.</i>	<i>Teau.</i>	<i>Choochoo.</i>	<i>Spanish dollar &amp; Cents.</i>
60	1		= $1\frac{3}{4}$ Cents.
600	10	1	= $14\frac{3}{4}$ Ditto.
4200	70	7	= One Spanish Dollar.

Ten choochoos are generally tied together in a bundle for convenience of carriage &c.; the weight of these bundles are enormous 4 of them weighing a picul. We received from the king 3 bundles—their equivalent value in Straits money being equal to the magnificent sum of 4 dollars and 28 cents or thereabouts ; it certainly looked a great deal and was just about as much as a man could carry.

The next morning early we began to unpack and arrange our philosophical apparatus so as to be in readiness for his Majesty, thinking he would come about midday ; his curiosity however to see the things was so great he could not restrain himself and before we had finished unpacking, the king was announced, he came attended as usual by a number of women so that the little room in which we were was quite blocked up. His Majesty seated himself on the table on which all the apparatus was arranged and began to examine every thing, asking numberless questions regarding the construction, use, and cost price, &c. of each article. He evinced much delight at the electro-magnetic machine in connexion with Smee's batteries and made all his women try the shock, he himself holding them by the ears to prevent them from running away. We told him this machine was often used by our Doctors to cure rheumatism &c. and if properly used was a very valuable curative agent. The king then said he had stiff ankle joints and pain in his feet and legs with a swelling on the right heel near

the "tendon achilles," this had annoyed him for some time and baffled the skill of all the royal physicians. He said if we could cure him he would give us two hundred dollars, we refused the reward saying we were not medicos and therefore it would be presumption in us to undertake a cure, but at the same time advised him to try regularly every day for a fortnight galvanism and Holloway's ointment, a pot of which we had brought with us. The King said he would give it a trial and would come again in the evening for us to administer it; he then went away and according to his promise, favored us with another visit at 6 P. M., this time bringing less women but ten or twelve of his ministers, who were all anxious to see our wonderful machine, reports of which had by this time spread all over Oodong. His Majesty first allowed his ministers a trial, winking to me to give each a powerful shock. One stout old gentleman could not let go the conductors, but kept gripping them tight, looking the very picture of terror, and writhing like an eel, perspiration rolling off his brow in big drops, making powerful efforts to prevent himself from bellowing out in presence of the King, who seemed to enjoy the scene vastly laughing till his fat sides shook again. After all had experienced the shock his Majesty asked us to begin operating on him which we did for a quarter of an hour and then rubbed in the Holloway's ointment. This evening we showed the King the effects of the spirit lamp and blowpipe, and promised the next day if he would let us have a larger room to do it in, to distil some spirits of wine from samshoo, as well as to put the gilding and silvering apparatus into action. He said we should have accommodation in the large court yard, which I have mentioned before as being the place when the King retired to of an evening, to see his women dance &c, and ordered his people to have all the things taken over at once, he then went away, and next day early sent to tell us all was in readiness and to request we would come over as soon as possible. The greater part of the forenoon we were busily engaged in preparing the necessary gilding and silvering solutions of which an immense quantity was required, for the King insisted upon making our first trial in his presence on three very large beautifully chased silver salvers, which he wished to have gilt. This we did to his satisfaction and much to his delight; he

immediately sent for a favorite goldsmith of his to learn the way and write down the names and uses of each article. All the time the work was in progress, the King and his women were watching our proceedings with the greatest curiosity and attention. At about 10 A. M. His Majesty went to pray in an elevated place at the further end of the court yard, this pious task he was engaged in for nearly an hour, his back being turned to us and his whole mind absorbed in prayer. The mischievous young ladies present, who composed his personal attendants, took the opportunity and surrounded us on all sides, beseeching and coaxing me to gild a number of little articles of finery they had about them, such as silver and copper rings, earrings, betel and tobacco boxes &c. I did a few for them but found it a very troublesome and never ending work, for as fast as one batch was done another was produced and so on, we were therefore ungentle enough to turn a deaf ear to all their entreaties and placed a number of the proffered articles on a table close by with a few that had been already done. The young ladies were so intent upon coaxing and begging, that they neglected to take the things away or to watch for the return of the King who came upon them quite suddenly, making them fly in all directions like a herd of frightened antelopes. At first the King took no notice, but when he saw the ladies' jewellery on the table he got very angry, thinking all the gold he had given for the purpose of gilding his silver trays had been abstracted from the solution for the sole use and benefit of his *cara sposas*. He seized on one unfortunate damsel (who it seemed had been ordered previously by him to keep the others in check and prevent them from troubling us, and who had therefore neglected her duty) and administered with his own royal hands in our presence a wholesome castigation with a rattan. At about 4 P. M. dinner was announced and His Majesty invited us to partake of it. We of course could not refuse such an honor and found a table laid out quite in the European style with a chair for each person. The table had rather a dirty piece of blachu spread on it, which served as a table cloth, the plates and dishes were part of a very handsome set the King had received from Singapore as a present, the knives and forks looked as old as Methusaleh, but had evidently been once a capital lot, for the handles were of porcelain profusely

gilded &c ; the steel part about them was however in woeful condition, the blades of the knives looking more like pieces of old iron hoop than anything else, and encrusted with rust and had doubtless never been cleaned or polished since they left the maker. The spoons were of the common composition metal sold so cheap in Singapore and elsewhere. The tumblers were very antiquated articles and must I should think have been sold by weight, for they were tremendously heavy and their sides nearly a quarter of an inch thick. The edibles consisted of various sorts of stew, very similar in taste and appearance to the Siamese dishes, we had been favored with in the house in the bazar the first night of our arrival, every thing was however if possible still more greasy and abounding in pork fat &c. To do us honor, I suppose, a roast duck trussed and cooked in European style was also on the table, and what was better than all, plenty of first rate Basses' bottled beer was produced from the royal cellars. The 2nd course consisted of various sorts of sweetmeats and fruit, with a bottle of rather indifferent port wine. Three or four favorite Siamese attendants were serving at table on their knees, and during dinner seven or eight ladies treated us to a Cambodian concert, on various musical instruments. Before we left the royal presence, the King made us promise to come over early the next morning to shew him the method of silvering metals. By this time we were all quite tired of manipulating, but did not like to refuse obliging his Cambodian Majesty, so consented to spend another day with him, never dreaming of the trouble we should have in operating upon a huge brass vessel, standing nearly 3 feet high and upwards of 20 gallons capacity, which was used by the King as a bathing tub. This enormous vase, which put me in mind of Morgrana's oil jar, in the old story of Ali Baba or the 40 Thieves, to our great astonishment was produced the following morning as the article on which we were to try our skill in plating. We represented the difficulty of silvering such a Brobdignagian affair without proper troughs for immersing it in &c, but all to no purpose, as the King seemed to have set his heart upon having it done, and over-ruled all our objections by saying he was sure it was just as easy to work upon a large article as a small one, and that as for a trough he had an earthenware vessel quite big enough to contain it. Seeing



he would not listen to us but insisted upon our trying, we set to work and after a great deal of trouble, in preparing fresh solutions &c, succeeded in giving the brass bathing tub a thin coating of silver by means of the electro plating process, with which His Majesty was perfectly satisfied. Our work being finished, we were again honored with an invite to the royal dinner which was quite the same as that of the day before. The meal being over the King sent for his four married wives and three of his daughters to introduce them to us, and to allow them to get each a shock from the galvanic-machine, the effect of which, it seemed they wished much to experience. The lawful partners of the royal bed appeared to be all pretty well stricken in years, but paid as much respect to the person of the King as any of his subjects, bending the knee and grovelling in the dust when approaching or addressing him. The daughters were of very different ages, one quite a child, the second appeared about 14 or 15 years old, and the eldest we were told was about 25. This last was very plain and, like her father, much marked with small pox, the King told us she was to be given in marriage to a Prince of Siam. The four wives were dressed all in black much in the Chinese fashion, but the daughters were lightly clothed in salendangs and scarfs of different colors, exactly similar to the dress worn by the King's concubines. The Princess Royal seemed to be a great favorite of her father's and much respect was paid to her by the courtiers, being invariably addressed by the same title as the King himself, viz: "Poco-Napursers" or your Highness. This title we did not hear given to any of the other sons or daughters, so I conclude it is used exclusively in Cambodia to the eldest offspring of both sexes who are born in the purple.

C. having occasion to pay a visit to the large Malay village I have mentioned before, as being called Campong Oolong, in order to collect some outstanding debts of his, we asked the King this evening for carts and ponies, saying we wished to start the following day. He accordingly ordered 3 ponies and one travelling cart to be in readiness whenever we should require them. We then took leave of His Majesty and proceeded to our quarters rather fatigued with our day's work, but I am afraid not as

much impressed as we doubtless ought to have been with the great honor shewn us in having dined twice with such an exalted personage as the first cousin of the Lord of the white elephant. The next morning at six o'clock, C. and myself each mounted a pony and V. got into the cart, handling the ribbons of his bovine steeds in masterly style, and making them go faster than I think they ever did before. We had not gone far when I soon found riding in Cambodia was no joke, at least with a native saddle and bridle, for the former was so short and small, it was almost impossible to sit anywhere except on the cantle, which was sharp as a knife and of course no bed of roses to the unfortunate wight who for his sins was compelled to endure an infliction little less galling than that of Mazeppa on his Ukraine steed, the stirrups were composed of rope dependent only about eighteen inches from the saddle with no means of adjusting them to a greater or less length. The girths were likewise of rope and fastened round the body of the pony very loosely, so as to prevent I suppose galling the abdomen of the poor animal, but terribly annoying to the equestrian not accustomed to maintain a balance little less perfect than that required for a rope-dancer, in order to obviate the consequences that would ensue from saddle, rider and all slipping under the belly of the pony; lastly I must not forget the bridle, which was composed of thongs of hide twisted into a cable, the bit being made of wood. As I said before, I found my position so uncomfortable I was glad enough to resign my beast to its owner and took a seat in the cart with V. The road all the way was pretty good and the six miles or so separating Oodong from Campong Ooloung was gone over by our active little bullocks in about an hour, the cart being very light and much smaller and better adapted for rapid motion than any of those we had travelled in from Campoot to the capital. The Malay campong lies in a north-easterly direction from Oodong and extends along the right bank of a very broad deep river, the May-kuang, one of the finest in Asia, but till lately scarcely known to Europeans. It rises in Tibet and afterwards flows through Laos, Cambodia and Cochin-china into the China Sea by a number of channels which form an extensive delta. Beautiful little islands, clothed with the richest verdure and shewing most exquisite

shades of green, diversify here and there the broad placid surface of this fine river, and forming, with the picturesque looking huts fringing its right bank and high mountain ranges far in the background, as pretty a landscape as any I ever recollect seeing. On our arrival at the campong, we went to the house of one of C's. principal debtors, a Malay merchant, who held some office under the king who had given him the title of Bopit Sennaär. This man received us with great civility and ordered his people to get breakfast ready for us which was soon produced and a capital one it was, much more savory and palatable than the Siamese or Cambodian dishes of which we had had lately quite a surfeit. After breakfast our host displayed for our inspection several specimens of rolls of silk all woven by the Malay women in the campong and of really beautiful workmanship, we purchased a few rolls of each kind as curiosities and then, while C. was transacting his business inside, V. and myself took a stroll along the bank of the river as far as the other end of the campong. On our return to the hut we found a number of Malays assembled in it, partly I suppose to gratify their curiosity in looking at the Europeans and partly to join in the discussion between C. and his debtor, as to the payment of the latter's long outstanding account. The Malays born and bred in Cambodia, though retaining Mahometanism and speaking the Malay tongue, intermixed with a number of Cambodian and Champa words, yet differ much in personal appearance from the inhabitants of the Indian Archipelego, wearing their hair very short and often clipped in Cambodian fashion, their bodies also are in general slighter made, wanting the bull-neck of the true Malay and evidently shewing a mixture of Chinese or Siamese blood. Now and then amongst the Malays residing in Cambodia you meet with a man from Menangcabow in Sumatra, and the difference between the latter and the mongrel race of the former is so striking as to be apparent at first sight. The extreme heat of mid-day being now over we prepared to return to Oodong, we therefore thanked our host for his hospitality, got into our chariot and about 4 P. M. arrived at our old quarters just in time for dinner, and though rather fatigued with the shaking and jolting, yet well pleased with our trip. We had barely finished dinner and were just solacing ourselves in the delights of the "Dolce far Niente," inhaling the fragrance of a prime cigar,

when our reveries were rudely interrupted by a bevy of the King's women bursting into the room, accompanied by two of His Majesty's younger sons, one of them being the lad who had honored us with a visit before in the court of justice on our first arrival. Though I am a devoted admirer of the fair sex in general, I yet must acknowledge on the present occasion I was ascetic enough to wish our tawny nymphs anywhere but near me, anathemas not loud but deep were freely bestowed on these restless curious daughters of Eve, who regardless of our oburgations turned every thing upside down they could lay their hands on. However, after satisfying their curiosity and minutely inspecting everything in the room, now and then trying on our hats or some other article of wearing apparel, we got them into something like a staid, sober, behaviour, and then enquired the reason of our being favored with a visit; the ladies replied, they were in want of pomatum, soap, essences and white bottles, of all of which they were confident we had a large stock. We assured them we had none to dispose of and regretted they were so badly off for soap &c, at the same time adding, if we had known it when we left Singapore, we would have brought them some. Our protestations of having nothing for them however they persisted in not believing and intimated their intention of staying where they were, till something was produced. We were now fairly at our wits end, till at last I luckily thought of a bottle of naphtha I had with me. This I told them was a valuable essence and that I would divide it amongst them, they all smelt it and though not much admiring its odour yet thought it must be good, as it was European and moreover a novelty. After giving each a little with as many small white bottles as we could muster between us, they to our great relief went away taking the young Princes with them, who each had fallen in love with a pair of worked slippers of mine and were wrangling in fine style for their possession. I pacified them by awarding the slippers to the eldest and V. gave a razor to the youngest with which he was perfectly satisfied and then both went away in high good humour. The next morning the king sent for us to see unpacked a large Terrestrial and Celestial Telescope on a stand which he had just received from Campoot; this the king had commissioned some time previously from Europe through

Messrs A. & Co. at Singapore. We had brought the instrument with us in the Polka, but being afraid to take charge of such a delicate thing all the way up to Oodong, fearful it might meet with injury on the road, we had handed it over on our departure from Campoot to the governor there, informing him it was the king's property and thus throwing all the responsibility on him. The telescope arrived at Oodong about ten days after us and when the case was opened it found to be in good order and nothing damaged. The glass was an excellent one and of great defining powers, Fen & Co., Poultry, London, being the makers. It was all of brass—4 feet, achromatic, with one sliding tube, two day eye draws and four astronomical powers, on a portable brass stand and clip, packed in a Mahogany case. There being no high ground in the immediate vicinity of the king's palace and lots of trees all round, shutting out what little view there might be, of course there was not sufficient scope to test the power of the glass, a quarter of a mile being about the limit of vision. This we could not make the king understand, as I believe he thought a telescope ought to penetrate through every obstacle and shew him what was going on a hundred miles off; he was therefore rather dissatisfied with this trial and next proposed looking at the sun, a very unfair test of the goodness of the glass, as the weather was rather hazy at the time and the sun nearly vertical, thus making it difficult to get a good sight. With this observation, his Majesty, as might be expected, was still more dissatisfied and protested he saw nothing, though he nearly broke his back crouching down to look up a tube pointed to an angle of about 90 degrees; he then said he would wait till night when he would send for us again to shew him the moon and stars.

Accordingly about 9 P. M. our services were once more in requisition to point the new telescope to the celestial bodies. We obtained a beautiful sight of the moon which was nearly at the full and also of a few of the fixed stars, but as for His Cambodian Highness he said he saw nothing to admire,—for his part he thought the moon looked much better through the naked eye, and the stars only appeared to be duplicates of the moon; he was therefore much disappointed and deemed the large spy-glass a regular humbug;—so much so that he said he would not have it, and ordered his people to pack it up again, to send back to Singapore.

We however remonstrated and represented the impropriety of his sending back any thing that he had once ordered. We told him the loss would fall on Messrs A. & Co, who would doubtless be much displeased at his playing them such a shabby trick and very likely would refuse in future to execute any other commissions. The King then said he would keep it, though it was of no earthly use to him, which was quite true, but then that was his fault for ordering it and of course the loss ought to fall on him and not on the agent at Singapore. The following morning we intimated to His Majesty our wish of returning to Campoot in a couple of days and requested that 5 elephants and 2 carts might be provided for us. The King gave the necessary orders to his people, and we began to make preparations for our departure. On the second day, finding that the elephants were not ready, we went again to the King, who told us in answer to our enquiries about them, that a report had just been made to him that one of his biggest war elephants had broken loose and in a fit of rage, had killed four people, that it was now at large in the jungles and had baffled all the endeavours of his keepers to catch him. The animal being a favorite one of the King's, he was determined it should be caught, so he had therefore given orders to surround the patch of jungle he was in, with a cordon of elephants, which were to be made to narrow the circle gradually till the truant beast was finally overpowered by numbers. For this service all the King's elephants had been employed, we could not therefore get our colossal steeds till the following evening, when the King promised all should be ready for us. We were very impatient at this delay, as we had already been in Oodong upwards of a fortnight, and we were much afraid that the chartered vessel would arrive at Campoot before we could get there, which would be very unpleasant for C. who might possibly have to pay demurrage. However there was no help for it and we were obliged to wait another day. The next morning we sent Baba Kee in to the King to ask for a final audience prior to our departure and receive what instructions and letters &c, His Majesty might have to give us. We were told to be at the durbar at 11 o'clock A. M., and accordingly at that hour we presented ourselves and found the King waiting for us. The old gentleman was very

gracious and expressed his sorrow at our leaving him so soon,— he gave C. two letters for Messrs A. & Co, to whom he told us he intended sending as a present, 4 coyans of rice and one picul of sugar. He again talked about his coining machine, and gave C. several small boxes containing fac-similes of the new dies he wished to have made in England. As we were about leaving, the King said he would send one of his Simeons or clerks with us to Campoot, to deliver the rice &c, C. had purchased from him, and to give orders to the Custom House authorities, not to take on this occasion the usual dues from us. C. then requested an order on the Governor at Campoot to supply him with whatever boats and men he might require to assist him in loading his vessel, of course paying for the same. The King consented to give the order in question and agreed that payment should be made at the rate of one dollar per coyan. What made C. ask for this order on the Governor was, the great trouble he had on previous occasions in procuring cargo boats. The people knowing he must have them, always demanded an extravagant price and often refused to give boats at all, thus placing him in a very awkward position and obliging the vessel to remain longer than it otherwise would; now the boats would be seized and the people compelled to furnish them at a moderate rate.

All preliminaries being now settled and the King having informed us that both elephants and carts were ready, we bade the worthy old sybarite farewell and after shaking him cordially by the hand, we bowed ourselves out and returned to our quarters to have the carts loaded and sent on in advance a stage or two. As C's. debtors in Oodong and Campong Oolong had not yet all settled their accounts with him, it was determined upon by us to leave Baba Kee behind, to collect what he could and come down to Campoot a week or ten days after us. Just before we scrambled up into our seats on the backs of the elephants, our old tormentors the ladies of the Harem with their attendants, came flocking round "as thick as leaves in Vallambrosa" to bid us adieu. The poor creatures seemed to be quite sorry to part with us and though the feeling was not very reciprocal on our side, we of course felt flattered by their good opinion of us; but I strongly suspect their chief cause of regret, consisted in their not

being able in future to forage about our rooms, picking up what they could in the shape of presents &c. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5. P. M. on the evening of the 15th May, we left Oodong for the first stage en route to Campoot, viz, Oodong Kurweong. We had not gone seven miles when we found we could not get on further that night, as the elephant drivers told us their beasts had before we started come in from the jungle, a distance of 25 miles, having been employed in catching the large war elephant that I mentioned before as having broken loose and done so much damage; of course the poor animals were very tired and in fact shewed unmistakable signs of fatigue, we were therefore obliged to pass the night where we were. Luckily there was a small shed near; here we adjourned and made ourselves as comfortable as it was possible to be. The situation was very romantic, and, as we bivouacked on the bare ground, listening to the rippings of a brook close by, and watching the shades of evening close in and gradually throwing the recesses of the forest into deep obscurity, only to be lighted up, soon after, with the chastened beams of a moon nearly at the full and the clear vault of heaven above, glittering with the liquid radiance of galaxies of stars, the fitful gleams of the fire-fly here and there flitting amongst the underwood in the low ground, like the coruscations seen by reflected light on the facets of the diamond, with those extraordinary sounds all round so well known to the traveller or sportsman who has ever spent a night in the depths of a Malayan jungle,—it was impossible not to admire the scene, so disposing the mind to look from nature up to nature's God, and feel the littleness and utter insignificance of the proudest works of art, in comparison with the handiwork of that great Architect of the Universe.

We started at 6 o'clock the following morning to complete the stage and soon reached it, as it was not very far from our halting place of the night before. The distance being so short, and our elephants now quite fresh, we passed Oodong Kurweong hoping to be able to reach the second station, but at noon the heat was so intense and our animals suffered so much from it that we were obliged to halt again at another half way shed and remain here till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 o'clock P. M., when we proceeded on to Bungsuran, where we intended to sleep. We arrived at 6 P. M. not a little



fatigued with the very unpleasant motion and cramped position we had remained in for so many hours. After this we made regularly two marches a day, morning and evening, till we reached Campoot or rather Bombai, which we did on the evening of the 4th day after leaving Oëdōng. On our arrival at Bombai we at once proceeded to the governor's house, to report our arrival and to ask for a boat to take us to Campoot, but unfortunately we found the governor out, so we next went to his son-in-law Chinchoo Choon, and procuring a boat from him, put all our things in and paddled ourselves down the river; we found every thing in our house at Campoot "in statu quo," and the seals on the doors not broken, a very fair proof of Cambodian honesty.

We were disappointed in our expectations of seeing the vessel that was to take us back to Singapore anchored in the roads on our arrival at Campoot, and we had to wait upwards of six weeks before it made its appearance. This delay was very vexatious as C. had his cargo ready and we were all pretty well tired of Cambodia and anxious to get back to a more civilized place. About a fortnight before the vessel arrived, the monsoon set in with heavy rain and constant squalls from the S. W. and W. rendering the loading of ships very difficult and often really attended with danger, cargo boats now and then being swamped at the ship's side. The S. W. monsoon generally sets in the middle of May and lasts till the middle of October, when the N.E. monsoon begins, but this year the S. W. winds set in late, and little rain fell till the end of June. The S. W. monsoon is the wet season in Cambodia and the N. E. the dry. The average temperature during the rainy months seems to be in the day time 78° of Fahrenheit, and 74° at night. In the latter part of the dry season, in the months of March and April, the heat is very intense, the thermometer averaging 85° but often rising up as high as 96° in the shade. The climate is I think healthy, as I met with many instances of longevity amongst the natives of the country during my stay in it. I left Campoot on Friday the 21st of July, having gladly availed myself of a passage very kindly offered me by the worthy commander of the "Polka," Captain Welch. At 3 P. M. we got under weigh with a fresh breeze from the W. S. W. and at 5 P. M. the Twins bore S. E.. These are two small islets lying to

the eastward of the large Island of Kuthrall, or Koh-dud, as it is called in the Charts; the Twins can be seen at 10 miles distance, being about 86 feet in height and are in lat.  $10^{\circ} 14' N.$  and long.  $104^{\circ} 18' E.$  At noon the next day the Brother and Sister bore S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. distant from the ship about 8 miles, these two islands are well wooded and can be seen at about 20 miles in clear weather. The larger Island, the Brother, is about 180 feet height and is in lat.  $9^{\circ} 48' N.$  and long.  $104^{\circ} 10' E.$ ; the Sister is nearly two miles distant from the Brother, in a S. W. by W.  $\frac{3}{4}$  W. direction; the Southernmost Omega, another group of small islands, bearing S. S. W. from Koh-dud lies W. N. W. true from the Brother, being about 8 miles distant from it. The variation of the compass in this part of the Gulf of Siam is  $1^{\circ} 40' E.$  At daylight on Sunday morning Pulo Panjang bore from the ship W. S. W. and Dammar Island N. E. by E.—this last is in lat.  $9^{\circ} 39' N.$  Pulo Panjang is a large flat island apparently in the shape of an Isocetes triangle, lying in an E. and W. direction, it is near 500 feet high and is covered with trees;—it can be seen at about 25 miles distance, the west end of it is in lat.  $9^{\circ} 16' N.$  and long.  $103^{\circ} 32' E.$  On Thursday at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 A. M. we sighted the great Redang which bore S. distant about 30 miles, Pulo Lantinga bearing S. W. The great Redang is in about lat.  $5^{\circ} 57' N.$  and long.  $102^{\circ} 54' E.$  it is very high land, and of considerable extent—it is thickly wooded and can be seen about 45 miles, being upwards of 1,200 feet in elevation. There are four islets lying to the S. S. E. of the great Redang, the southernmost of which is a barren rock with a very little stunted vegetation on the top; the islet in this group, lying as above, nearest the great Redang is also a barren rock with not a particle of verdure on it, it is of very singular formation, appearing at a distance as four isolated hummocks, but on nearing it they are found to be all one island, the hummocks being connected with each other by low ledges of rocks; when the great Redang bears W. this islet is in one with the S. end of the large island. Pulo Lantinga is about 9 miles to the N. W. of the great Redang, it is high land and can be seen a good way off. On Friday the 28th, at 6 A. M., Pulo Capas bore from the ship S. W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. and Pulo Brala S. S. E. The former island, Capas, is about 37 miles N. W. from Brala, it is rather low and of rocky formation with

a little vegetation on the top. This isle is in about latitude  $5^{\circ} 15'$  N. and longitude  $103^{\circ} 13'$  E. Pulo Brala is a large island and may be seen about 34 miles, it is nearly 700 feet high, it is in latitude  $4^{\circ} 47'$  N. and longitude  $103^{\circ} 37'$  E. A small islet covered with vegetation, with two or three rocks near it, lie about 4 miles N. N. W. from its northern extremity, there is also another black rock about a mile and a half distant from its southern extremity. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 A. M. on Saturday, we passed a junk steering North; from the evening of this day up to Tuesday, the 8th August, we had most baffling winds and made hardly any way, light airs (with occasional strong gusts) constantly setting in from S. to S. E. with no alternations of land and sea breezes, such as are usually experienced along the coast during this monsoon, a strong current also of a little more than 2 knots an hour setting to the N. W. added still more to the difficulty of working down to the Southward. From Tringanu downwards, the scenery is of a very interesting character, the coast having a beautiful appearance, with numerous bold rocky headlands and deep Bays, high mountain ranges in the interior, clothed with the richest verdure and finely wooded, forming a pretty background to the cocoanut groves and sandy beaches of the seashore, studded here and there with picturesque little villages embosomed in trees and mostly situated near the embouchures of small rivers, which empty themselves in these bays. Quite close to the shore the depth of water is great and it shoals very gradually; off the river Sidilli, in about lat.  $4^{\circ} 45'$  N. and long.  $103^{\circ} 20'$  E. we approached within a mile and a half of the sandy beach with a depth of eleven fathoms, (bottom hard sand). There is a small village on the left bank of the mouth of this river, close under the south side of a bold rocky point. The river Sidilli may be known by the bend of the coast, and the bold projecting rocky point which I have just mentioned as being off its entrance, which is barred with rocks. On Sunday the 6th, at 10 A. M. we exchanged signals with a small schooner (the "Young Queen") which was steering north and bound probably to Tringanu, and on Tuesday the 8th, at noon we fell in with a small schooner rigged schootchee of about 20 coyans burthen, belonging to the Tumongong of Singapore, and bound for that place, having loaded with rice at Tringanu, she reported that

two Siamese men of war were cruising about the coast in search of pirates. On Wednesday the 9th, at 7 p. m. South Cape bore N.  $\frac{3}{4}$  W., entrance of the river Camamam N. N. W. and Pahang point S. by W. On Friday morning at sun rise we were off the entrance of Pahang river and fell in with numerous little fishing boats coming out with the land wind, the entrance of the river is in lat.  $3^{\circ} 31' 30''$  N, about 25 miles N. W. of Pulo Varela and may be known by a ridge of trees north of it, and Pahang point bounding it on the south side. From Pahang to Blair's harbour the coast forms a large bay and then stretches nearly S. S. E. being mostly low and woody. At noon of this day Pulo Varela bore S. by W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. This island is a small barren rock about 170 feet in height with a few stunted bushes crowning its summit. From Varela down to Romania Islands we had a very tedious passage, only rounding the point on Friday, the 8th and anchoring in Singapore roads on Saturday at noon, 30 days having elapsed since our departure from Campoot.

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