

THE  
CRUISE OF THE MARCHESA  
TO  
KAMSCHATKA & NEW GUINEA

WITH NOTICES OF FORMOSA, LIU-KIU, AND VARIOUS  
ISLANDS OF THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO

BY

F. H. H. GUILLEMARD

M.A., M.D. (CANTAB.)

FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY; FELLOW OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY  
FELLOW OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, ETC. ETC.

With Maps and numerous Woodcuts

DRAWN BY J. KEULEMANS, C. WHYMPEK, AND OTHERS  
AND ENGRAVED BY EDWARD WHYMPEK

'Ignotis errare locis, ignota videre  
Flumina gaudebat, studio minuente laborem'  
*Ovid. Metam. lv. 294*

SECOND EDITION

LONDON  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET

1889

G

sitting stages, are also employed to work from the ground. The caves can be worked equally as well by night as by day, without any fear of scaring the birds.

"The natives collect in a slovenly manner, and not always in the proper season. Great care should always be taken after detaching the nests to sweep the various lodgments so as to remove all mess and feathers, which would otherwise adhere to the next lot of nests, and deteriorate them in value. This is invariably done by the Sarawak Land Dyaks, and owing to superior knowledge on the part of the collectors, and more careful management, the nests from the caves on the Sarawak River are very valuable, though the caves, and consequently the amounts produced, are greatly inferior to those of Gomanton.

"For some years back there appear to have been only two seasons for collecting, viz. the *Papas* and *Kapala*; one about March, and the other about two months later. I am, however, informed, on the authority of experienced collectors and others, that the most remunerative way is to divide the year into four seasons, as formerly done. No fixed date can be given for these seasons, and the gathering depends on the laying of the eggs, and when this commences the nests must be taken. The natives say that the birds will lay four times a year if four collections are made, but if there are only two collections they lay twice only. The first three seasons always produce white nests, the last only *manas* and *itam* (the medium and black qualities), but it must be worked to insure a good harvest for the next coming *Papas* season.

"By these means a larger quantity and a far finer quality of nests are obtained than by dividing the year into two seasons only, when the birds are allowed to add and add on to their old nests,—as they will invariably do,—which rapidly deteriorate, becoming dirty and of low value. As the nests are taken only when the eggs are laid, a danger of over-collecting might be apprehended, but I am assured no such danger exists, as the birds carry on the breed in nooks and crannies inaccessible to the collectors."

The trade of Sandakan, as well as of the other ports of British North Borneo, appears to be almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese. The following figures represent the value of the exports and imports of Elopura from 1881 to 1884 inclusive:—

		Imports.		Exports.
1881	. .	£160,658	. .	£145,443
1882	. .	269,597	. .	133,665
1883	. .	428,919	. .	159,127
1884	. .	377,885	. .	184,173

The sport to be obtained in North Borneo is not such as would repay a visit. Elephant and rhinoceros are both to be found, as are also the tapir and the Malayan *Rusa*, but for many reasons the sportsman's bag is not likely to be a heavy one. The elephant, as

far as is known, is confined to this, the north-east promontory of the island, and is believed to have been introduced by man. It is now chiefly to be found in the Darvel Bay district. Caur are said to exist, and there are, no doubt, great quantities of pig. But it is worthy of note that two English officers, both of them well-known sportsmen, who devoted four months to big-game shooting in British North Borneo in 1883, returned to Hongkong entirely unsuccessful. Game, no doubt, there is, but it is quite another thing to shoot it. The climate is by no means a healthy one, and there is considerable difficulty in obtaining transport and provisions. There are no trained shikaris, for hunting does not seem to be taken up as a regular pursuit by any of the natives, as is the case in India and Africa. If big-game shooting in this part of the world be contemplated, there are no advantages in Borneo which Java, Sumatra, or the Malay Peninsula could not show, while for variety of game, easy accessibility, and comfort in travel, the latter countries are to be preferred.

During our visit to the new colony we made no attempt at any larger game than pig and deer, preferring the acquisition of some knowledge of the various settlements and their prospects to the shadowy possibilities of an elephant. Libarran Island, which lies some twenty miles or more to the north of Sandakan Bay, is believed to be, and no doubt really is, full of deer, but an excursion we made thither in search of them was unsuccessful, owing chiefly to inefficient beating, and we had to be content with the inspection of their numerous tracks. Ornithologically speaking, however, the visit was not unproductive, and we added several species to our collections. Among them was an exquisite little black Sun-bird (*Chalcostetha insignis*), its head and throat glittering with metallic emerald and ruby. It is a not uncommon species, but during the whole of our visit to North Borneo we never met with it elsewhere.

We left Elopura for the second time on the 22nd of May, in company with H.M.S. *Fly*, and proceeded to Kudat, which at the time of our visit was the seat of Government and the headquarters of the Company. The present capital is Elopura, in which place, ever since its foundation, trade has centred. Kudat is situated in a small harbour on the western shore of Marudu Bay, and is, roughly speaking, about one hundred and fifty miles from Sandakan by sea. Between the two settlements lies the difficult Mallawallé Channel, a network of reefs and shoals which is only navigable by day, and even then only with great care. Kudat has, therefore, the double advantage of greater proximity to Hongkong and Singapore, and absence of risks in navigation. The latter can certainly be avoided by taking a more northerly passage, but only at the expense of several hours. The visitor's first impression of the township is a favourable one. Its situation is far