

at 4:30, after being ten hours at the paddles, we reached the edge of a swamp, which our guides informed us was the quay of Malbout.

I may here be allowed to express my great disappointment at such a termination to the maritime part of our expedition, and also to confess that I felt very great doubts as to the fidelity of our guides. The country, so far as the eye could trace, was one sheet of water, terminating in a jungle, the nearest angle of which might be a quarter of a mile distant. To this point I determined to direct our steps; and, accompanied by Mr. Brooke, with a guard of forty marines under Lieutenant Mansell, and by Lieutenant Vansittart, whom you kindly allowed to act as my aide-de-camp, we pushed on rapidly in the hope of discovering firm ground for the force to encamp on. The march as usual was knee deep, but on entering the jungle we discovered a tolerable path with a gentle rise, and half an hour's walk brought us to the promised village, which, with the exception of a few individuals, was entirely abandoned.

I despatched Lieutenant Vansittart to the boats to desire that the marines and the seamen of the marching party should be landed forthwith, and endeavour to get up before dark, leaving such of the gun-boats as had been able to penetrate the labyrinth of the creek to guard the provisions and spare ammunition. At this time the rain fell heavily, but the houses were fortunately waterproof; and being, moreover, built on piles, moderate shelter was afforded to the detachments as they arrived; and by seven P.M. all the force was collected, and I received a report from Lieutenant Patey that the gun-boat division was all right.

Having detained some of the natives with a promise that their property should be protected if they would guide us to the Sultan's retreat, we enlisted three into our service, who appeared desirous of accepting the terms. These men assured Mr. Brooke that the Sultan, with a large body-guard, had passed up the river Damuan a week ago, and that he had blocked up the passage after him. I observed, however, that as we advanced the number of the Sultan's fighting men, as given by the guides, was rapidly diminishing, and, instead of five hundred, they were now reduced to half.

From the time occupied, and rate of progress, I imagine that at this place (Malbout) we were about twenty miles in a south-westerly direction from the capital, and amidst a race called Kadyans; they seemed a quiet, inoffensive people, and far less savage in appearance than the Dyaks at Kanowitt.

The rain continued incessant till five A.M. on the next morning, the 14th, when it cleared up. My plans were arranged for commencing the march into the interior at daylight, but the waters had risen so much on the lower ground during the night as to render access to the landing place a difficult operation, and it was six A.M. before Lieutenant Dunbar arrived with his detachment of blue jackets, which I ordered to garrison the village during our absence.

In order to test the fidelity of our guides, Mr. Brooke requested that they might be perfectly free

during the night, and as they were still in the camp at daylight, we commenced our march with some confidence. On quitting the village, half an hour's march brought us to the termination of the jungle, and here we once more entered on a swampy flat of long grass, breast high, the beaten track through it being every where from two to three feet deep—water and mud, but the depth being uniform, and large forest trees in view on the opposite side, our whole force had passed over in three-quarters of an hour, and a mile's tramp in the jungle brought us to the village of Tanjong, where we found a white-flag suspended from the roof of the largest building, but the women and children, and the greater part of the inhabitants, had fled. Here we learnt that all these spots of higher and cultivated land were termed islands by the natives; they were covered with fruit and cocoa-nut trees, and many shrubs and creepers of great freshness and beauty, and the general character of the country, as we advanced, was decidedly improving.

Rigorous orders had been given to respect the property as we passed through the different villages, which was well observed, and we continued our march alternately, through swamp and jungle, blazing the paths in every direction to secure our distinguishing the road back, should the guides desert us.

At 10:30 we came suddenly upon a larger building than any we had hitherto seen, erected close to a running stream, at the foot of a high and well wooded bank. The house was evidently new, and on examination found to have been lately inhabited.

A strict search for arms and ammunition was instituted, and two shields were shortly discovered, the largest of which, five feet long, ornamented with gilt, and having an imperial crown on the top, supported by two lions (not badly executed), was immediately recognized by Mr. Brooke as belonging to the Sultan, the sword-bearer having carried it before him at the reception given to your Excellency last year at the capital.

The usual quantity of arms, &c. were found, and several mats of great beauty, about thirty feet in length and ten feet wide, with furniture to correspond, the whole arrangement of the interior giving evidence that the Sultan had lately been a tenant, with the Pangerans who accompanied him in his flight. Observing that no injury was done to private property several of the natives here joined us, offering their services as guides, and assuring Mr. Brooke that the Sultan had only moved across the river, about two miles distant to another house, more difficult of access.

We, accordingly, pushed on without loss of time, once more buoyed up with the hope that the Sultan had determined to make a stand.

On arriving at the river, which was there about thirty yards wide, we found the bridge three feet under water, and owing to the strength of the stream quite impassable, the pioneers commenced at once to cut down the largest trees, which were close to the water's edge, and three of them falling at the same time directly across to the opposite bank, a compact bridge was soon formed and well