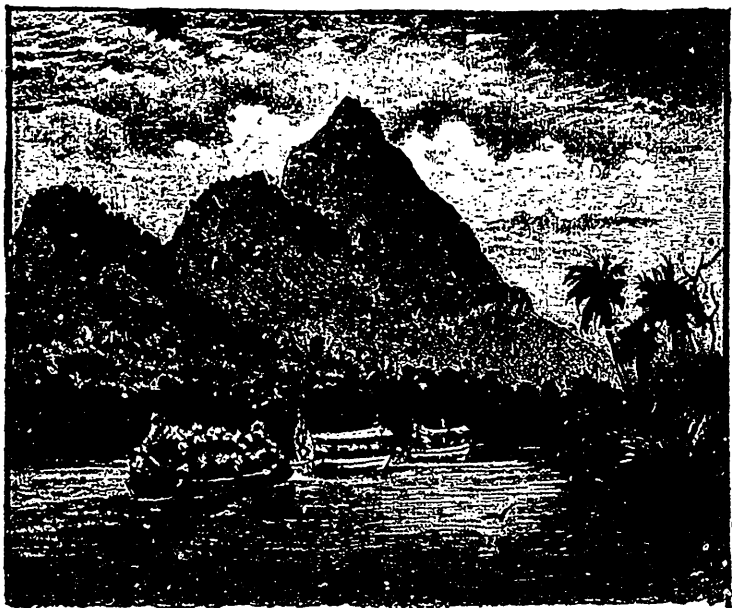


tested, for in addition to our own party we had Messrs. Teacher, Crocker, and Callaghan as passengers, besides some thirty Sikhs, policemen, coolies, and others, whose services would be required for the expedition to the Madai Caves.

*Wednesday, April 13th.*—Oppressively hot. Darvel Bay, which we reached at 6 p.m., is a most lovely spot, and in the sunset light I thought that I had never seen anything more beautiful in the world. We went ashore as soon as possible, having, however, first to climb with extended though uncertain strides up one of the dreadful wide-rung ladders which confront us at every



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pier. It was too dark to see much of the town, which appeared to be clean and tidy, with several well-furnished shops in the principal streets.

*Thursday, April 14th.*—At 3.30 a.m. I was called, and tried to dispel my drowsiness by the pleasing consciousness that an expedition to which I had long looked forward with such deep interest was about to be undertaken. An hour later we started in a long native canoe, with a crew and escort of thirty coolies, Sulus, Dyaks, and policemen. Our destination was the famous caves of edible birds' nests at Madai. The steam-launch led the way, having in tow the gig, filled with provisions of all sorts, and