

tude was 1 deg. 20 min. north, and the longitude, deduced from a considerable number of lunar observations, was 105 deg. east. They stood to the south by east; and towards sun-set, the weather being clear and fine, had a view of Pulo Panjang; the body of the island bearing west-north-west, and the little islands, situated to the south-east of it, west-half-south, at the distance of seven leagues. The latitude at the same time was 53 min. north.

Nothing remarkable occurred during the voyage homeward until the 7th, when about four in the afternoon, they perceived two vessels in the Straits of Sunda; one of which lay at anchor near the Mid-channel Island, the other nearer the shore of Java; and as they did not know to what nation they might belong, they thought proper to prepare their ships for action. At six o'clock they dropped their anchors in twenty-five fathoms' water, about four miles east by south from North Island. Here they remained the whole night, during which they had very heavy thunder and lightning to the north-west: the wind blowing in light breezes from the same quarter, attended with violent rain.

On the 8th, about eight o'clock in the morning, they weighed and proceeded through the Straits of Sunda, the tide setting towards the south, as it had done all the preceding night. At ten, the wind failing, they anchored again in thirty-five fathoms; an elevated island, or rather rock, named the Grand Toque, bearing south by east. Being, at that time, not above two miles from the ships before-mentioned, which now hoisted Dutch colours, Captain Gore sent a boat on board to procure intelligence. The rain still continued, accompanied with thunder and lightning.

The boat returned easily in the afternoon, with information, that the larger of the two vessels was a Dutch East-Indiaman, bound for Europe; and the other a packet from Batavia, with instructions for the several ships lying in the Straits. It is customary for the Dutch ships, when their cargoes are almost completed, to quit Batavia, on account of its very unwholesome climate, and repair to some of the more healthy islands in the Straits, where they wait for their dispatches, and the remainder of their lading. The Indiaman, notwithstanding this precaution, had lost four men since she had left Batavia, and had as many more whose lives were despaired of. She had remained here a fortnight, and was now on the point of proceeding to Cracatoa to take in water, having just received final orders by the packet.

At seven o'clock the next morning, the ships weighed anchor, and steered to the south-westward through the straits, taking care to keep close in with the islands on the Sumatra shore, for the purpose of avoiding a rock near Mid-channel Island which was situated on our left.

Between ten and eleven, Captain King was ordered by Captain Gore to make sail towards a Dutch vessel that now came in sight to the southward, and which he imagined was from Europe;