

cast anchor before Manilla. We took leave of the governor, who came to see us on-board. Capt. Guerin, of the French ship *Eglantine*, wished to follow me to the strait Sunda, as he had no chronometer on-board, and on the 29th we left the isle of Luconia together.

On the 3d of Feb. at nine o'clock A.M. we were in sight of Pulo Spata, whose longitude by the chronometers was  $251^{\circ} 00' 6''$ .

On the 8th, we crossed the equator in  $253^{\circ} 9'$  longitude. We descried a ship, which, by her construction and sails, I recognized for a Malayan pirate. She sailed better than our ship, but kept at a distance, trying to get before the wind, to surprize us during the night. I prepared the ship for defence, and the whole crew stood prepared with lances and fire-arms, resolved to defend ourselves to the last. When it grew dark, two sailors took their stations on the bow-sprit, and at eight o'clock they called fire! It was seen a-head of us, but soon disappeared again. I ordered several of the sails to be taken in, and we advanced slowly, in perfect silence, which was suddenly interrupted by the cry of fire! fire! a sail is close at hand! I could clearly distinguish the vessel; and, if we had continued two minutes longer, we should have been boarded. The enemy only being twenty fathoms from us, we gave them a broad-side, and they instantly took another course. Thus we escaped imminent danger, and our precaution would have hardly saved us, if the pirates had not shown their light.

On the 9th, at noon, the isle Gaspar lay thirty-seven miles S.W.  $8^{\circ}$  of us. Our long. by the chronometers was  $252^{\circ} 52' 40''$ . We perceived a strong current setting to S.E. We anchored during the night at eight miles north of the island, in sixteen fathoms, upon a bottom of grey sand, the navigation between Pulo-lead and the isle Banco being dangerous at night. The current ran one mile and a half per hour S.E.

On the 10th we continued our course. I avoided the northern part of Pulo-lead, where, as I afterwards understood, the English frigate *Alceste* had been wrecked the year before, but we sailed close by the western point.

On the 13th, I anchored near the isle Zupsten, two miles off the Sumatra-coast. North Island lay seven miles N.E.  $14^{\circ}$  of us: one mile and a half north of our anchorage, lay three small low islands, thickly covered with wood, which are not indicated in any chart. Some people in a boat were angling at a short distance, without, apparently, taking any notice of us; but I perceived they observed us attentively, and, when they approached us, as it were by chance, I threw a knife to them, which they received with a friendly nod of the head. They