

belonging to the chief, or, (as the natives styled him) the Captain. At each extremity of this house was a room, separated by a partition of reeds from the middle space, which was unenclosed on either side, and was furnished with partition screens like the others. There was also a pent-house, which projected to the distance of four or five feet from the roof, and ran the whole length on each side. Some Chinese paintings, representing persons of both sexes in ludicrous attitudes, were hung at each end of the middle room. In this apartment our people were requested to seat themselves on mats, and *betel* was presented to them.

Captain King, by producing money, and pointing at different objects that were in sight, met with no difficulty in making one of the company, who seemed to be the principal person among them, comprehend the chief design of his visit, and as readily understood from him, that the Chief, or Captain, was at this time absent, but would quickly return; and that no purchase of any kind could be made without his concurrence and approbation.

Pulo Condore is elevated and mountainous, and is encompassed by several islands of inferior extent, some of which are about two miles distant, and others less than one mile. Its name signifies the island of calabashes, being derived from two Malay words, *Pulo* implying an island, and *Condore* a calabash. Great quantities of rich fruit are here produced. It is of a semicircular form, and extends seven or eight miles from the most southerly point, in the direction of north-east. Its breadth, in many parts, does not exceed two miles.

The anchorage in this harbour is very good, the depth of water being from five to eleven fathoms; but the bottom is so soft and clayey, that we met with considerable difficulty in weighing our anchors. There is shallow water towards the bottom of the harbour, for the extent of about half a mile, beyond which the two islands make so near an approach to each other, that they leave only a passage