

become so enraged at the sight of them, that this was not accomplished without some difficulty. The men, indeed, were unable to effect it; but, to the surprise of Captain King and his companions, they called some little boys to their assistance, who speedily drove the animals out of sight. It afterwards appeared that, in driving the buffaloes, and securing them, which is done by putting a rope through a hole made in their nostrils, it was customary to employ little boys, who, at times when the men would not venture to approach them, could stroke and handle them with impunity.

After the buffaloes had been driven off, the party were conducted to the town, which was about a mile distant; the road to it lying through a deep whitish sand. It stands near the sea-side, at the bottom of a retired bay, which affords good shelter during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon.

This town is composed of between twenty and thirty houses, which are built contiguous to each other. Besides these, there are six or seven others dispersed about the beach. The roof, at the two ends, and the side that fronts the country, are constructed of reeds in a neat manner. The opposite side, which faces the sea, is perfectly open; but the inhabitants, by means of a kind of screen made of bamboo, can exclude or admit as much of the air and sun as they think proper. There are likewise other large screens or partitions, which serve to divide, as occasion may require, the single room, of which the habitation, properly speaking, consists, into separate apartments.

Captain King and his party were conducted to the largest house in the town, belonging to their chief, or, as they called him, their captain, who was said to be absent. This house had a room at each end, separated by a partition of reeds from the middle space, which was open on both sides, and provided with partition screens like the others. It had besides, a penthouse, projecting four or five feet beyond the roof, and running the whole length on each side. At each end of the middle room were hung some Chinese paintings, representing men and women in ludicrous attitudes. In this apartment they were civilly desired to seat themselves on mats, and *betel* was presented to them. They walked about the town; and did not forget to search, though in vain, for the remains of a fort, which had been built by our countrymen near the spot in 1702.\*

On returning to the Captain's house, they were sorry to find that he was not yet arrived; particularly as the time was almost elapsed which Captain Gore had fixed for their return to

\* The English settled here in the year 1702, when the factory of Chussan, on the coast of China, was broke up, and brought with them some Macassar soldiers, who were hired to assist in building a fort; but the president not fulfilling his engagement with them, they watched an opportunity, and one night murdered all the English in the fort. Those without the fort, hearing a noise, took the alarm, and ran to their boats, very narrowly escaping with their lives, but not without much fatigue, hunger, and thirst, to the Johore dominions, where they were treated with great humanity. Some of these afterwards went to form a settlement at Benjar-Massean, on the island of Borneo.