

Isle of Formosa. Orange Island.

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An. 1687

In going to them we sailed by the South West end of *Formosa*, leaving it on our larboard side. This is a large Island; the South end in lat. 21 d. 20 m. and the North end in 25 d. 10 m. North lat. the longitude of this Isle is laid down from 142 d. 5 m. to 143 d. 16 m. reckoning East from the pike of *Tenariffe*; so that 'tis but narrow; and the Tropick of *Cancer* crosses it. It is a high and woody Island, and was formerly well inhabited by the *Chinese*, and was then frequently visited by *English* Merchants, there being a very good Harbour to secure their Ships. But since the *Tartars* have conquered *China*, they have spoiled the Harbour, (as I have been informed) to hinder the *Chinese* that were then in Rebellion, from fortifying themselves there; and ordered the foreign Merchants to come and trade on the Main.

The 6th day of *August* we arrived at the five Islands that we were bound to, and anchored on the East side of the Northernmost Island, in 15 fathom, a Cables length from the shore. Here, contrary to our expectation, we found abundance of Inhabitants in sight; for there were 3 large Towns all within a league of the Sea; and another larger Town than any of the three; on the back side of a small hill close by also, as we found afterwards. These Islands lye in lat. 20 d. 20 m. North lat. by my observation, for I took it there, and I find their Longitude according to our Drafts; to be 141 d. 50 m. These Islands having no particular Names in the Drafts, some or other of us made use of the Seamens priviledge, to give them what names we pleased. Three of the Islands were pretty large; the Westernmost is the biggest. This the *Dutch* men who were among us called the Prince of *Orange's* Island, in honour of his present Majesty. It is about 7 or 8 leagues long, and about 2 leagues wide; and it lies almost N. and S.