

One day was devoted to an excursion to the mainland of the Arrou Islands, to Wanumbai, Mr. Wallace's old hunting ground, in the channel between Maykor and Wokan Islands called by the Malays "Sungei Wateiai." For this purpose the steam pinnace was used; and as the right position of the channel was unknown to the navigating officers a guide was taken from the shore.

The guide having been procured, the pinnace proceeded for the Wateiai Channel, passing a large sea-snake on the surface of the water on the way, and at 1.30 P.M. arrived at the entrance and steamed up it about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the small village of Wanumbai, where a stream of fresh water fell into the channel from a height of about 15 feet. The channel runs east and west through the island, dividing the island of Wokan from that of Maykor; it is about a quarter of a mile wide, and the depth in the centre was found to vary from 4 to 5 fathoms.

The scene on the beach as the pinnace steamed into the village was most picturesque; none of the inhabitants having ever seen so small a craft propelled by steam, the whole population turned out to inspect the boat, Malays, Chinamen, and Arrou Islanders, all mixed together in a high state of curiosity and excitement. The people of Wanumbai were very much scared at the appearance of the pinnace, full of men with guns, but the Malay guide from Dobbo introduced the party; he jumped on shore and addressed the people of Wanumbai (Orang Wanumbai) and soon made matters right, telling them that the strangers had only come to shoot "dead birds" (Burong mate), the trade term by which the Birds of Paradise are known.

On the margin of the narrow sea channel was a compound house, a number of families living, as in Papua and elsewhere, under a single roof. It was an oblong building raised on numerous posts above the ground; inside was a central passage, leading from the door to the back wall, and on either side of this it was divided into small pens by low irregularly made partitions. Each of these pens held a family, and the women huddled together to hide themselves in the corners of them, just as did those in Wokan Island.

Bows and arrows were purchased from the natives. The arrows are very like New Guinea arrows in the various forms of their points, but, unlike them, are all provided with a notch and feathers, the latter often bright parrots' feathers. Some have a blade-like point of bamboo, and a man who was watching a native plantation, to keep wild animals off, said he used these for shooting pigs. Some are tipped with Cassowary bone, some are many-pronged; these latter are used for shooting birds, and are not exclusively fish arrows, as is often supposed. Besides these, there are the arrows with a large blunt knob at the end, used for stunning the large Birds of Paradise, without spoiling their skins, as described by Mr. Wallace.<sup>1</sup> Pointed arrows are, however, used more frequently for this purpose, as Wallace relates, because the birds are so strong as to escape being stunned, and the points are more certain weapons. It is curious that closely

<sup>1</sup> Wallace, Malay Archipelago, vol. ii. p. 220, London, 1860.