

WANDERINGS AMONG
SOUTH SEA SAVAGES

AND IN BORNEO AND THE PHILIPPINES

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WITH FORTY-EIGHT PLATES FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY
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CHAPTER XII.

ON THE WAR-PATH IN BORNEO.

The "Orang-utan" and the "Man of the Jungle"—Voyage to Sarawak—The Borneo Company, Limited—Kuching, a Picturesque Capital—Independence of Sarawak—I meet the Rajah and the Chief Officials—Etiquette of the Sarawak Court—The "Club"—The "Rangers" of Sarawak and their Trophies—Degeneracy of the Land Dayaks—Ascent of the Rejang River—Mud Banks and Crocodiles—Dr. Hose at his Sarawak Home—The Fort at Sibü—Enormous length of Dayak Canoes—A Brush with Head-Hunters—Dayak Vengeance on Chinamen—First Impressions of the Sea Dayak, "picturesque and interesting"—A Head-Hunting raid, Dayaks attack the Punans—I accompany the Punitive Expedition—Voyage Up-stream—A Clever "Bird Scare"—Houses on the top of Tree-stumps—The Kelamantans—Kanawit Village—The Fort at Kapit—Capture of a notorious Head-Hunter—I inspect the "Heads" of the Victims—The Cause of Head-Hunting—Savage Revenge of a Dayak Lover and its Sequel—Hose's stern Ultimatum—Accepted by the Head-Hunters—I return to Sibü—A Fatal Misconception.

I HAD spent about seven months in the forests of British North Borneo, going many days' journey into the heart of the country, had made fine natural-history collections and had come across a great deal of game, including elephant, rhinoceros, bear, and "tembadu" or wild cattle, huge wild pig and deer of three species being especially plentiful. But above all I had come across a great many "orang-utan" (Malay for "jungle-man") and had been able to study their habits. One of these great apes has the strength of eight men and possesses an extraordinary amount of vitality. One that I shot lived for nearly three hours with five soft-nosed Mauser bullets in its body.