

A JOURNEY TO JAVA

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With 34 Illustrations

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DJOKJAKARTA—THE WATER CASTLE

by a certain kind of manure or oil cake, before the canes are planted, and from ten to eighteen months' growth brings them to maturity. When the cane is ripe, sugar-making must be at once commenced and carried on to the finish, or much sap may be lost and the quality of the sugar suffer. Between the sugar and rice plantations we passed from time to time through groves of magnificent palm trees, the cocoanut palms laden with fruit; beside them grew graceful bamboos and innumerable banana trees, the latter weighed down by heavy clusters of green bananas. These groves usually indicated the proximity of a kampong, and sometimes we could see the bamboo arch forming the entrance to the village and could catch a glimpse of the little thatched houses nestling among the trees. We crossed bridges over rivers and skirted the banks of canals that intersected the land in all directions. Once the train passed through the outskirts of an immense forest, and one could easily imagine leopards and tigers and the fierce one-horned rhinoceros lurking in its gloomy depths; the vegetation was most exuberant; amid the tall trunks of the palms and teak trees great tree ferns spread themselves out, and the rattans and other creepers stretched from

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attempt it. In the first half of the nineteenth century Mount Goentoer was extremely active and there were many eruptions, but for the last fifty years or more it has been quiescent.

Leaving the mountains, we went on through a charming little village and a lovely bit of forest, in which we looked in vain for the tigers, panthers, rhinoceros, and wild boars that are said to abound in the neighbourhood of Garoet. Perhaps we were not altogether sorry we missed seeing them, as we might have been the game and they the hunters. After traversing the forest we gained the high road we had followed in the morning, through the familiar rice fields, and we were once more within the precincts of the delightful Van Horck Hotel.

There are a great many excursions to be made from Garoet, the most popular being a trip to the crater of the Papandajan volcano; but as we had seen the Bromo, and intended visiting the crater of the Tangkoeban Prahoe from Bandoeng, we could not spare the time for a third volcano. To visit Papandajan one must start as early as 4 a.m., as one did for the Bromo, or go the evening before to Tjiseroepan, which is 3,900 feet above the sea level, and eleven miles south of Garoet.