

species of iron-wood, (*Casuarina*), which is a tree of upright growth, thirty feet high, with a dense green top; its cones are large and terminal. The country, for five or six miles inland, is a range of low barren hills, producing small shrubs, with masses of wild sugar-cane and fern.

Dr. Pickering and Mr. Brackenridge penetrated, in one of their excursions, to the mountains, in search of the sandalwood, to procure specimens.

They landed at Myandone, the town situated on the stream from which we obtained our water. This stream is small, and water was procured with difficulty, on account of the flow of the tide to a long distance up the creek. The natives, however, obviated this difficulty, in a great measure, by building a dam of mud, which rose above high-water mark, and formed a kind of pool. The water in this, if disturbed, would have been too muddy to take, they, therefore, inserted in the dam several bamboo stems, on closing which the water rose quietly to some height, and upon opening them again, was drawn off quite clear.

A house was built here, where any of the officers or naturalists who might be detained after sunset might sleep in safety.

The chief of Myandone furnished our gentlemen with guides for the mountains, and they set out on their excursion. For the first five miles they passed through barren hills, after which they proceeded up a valley, through which a small stream meandered, passing by plantations of bananas, yams, and taro. As they approached the base of the mountain, they met with groves of trees, among which were some species of *Ficus*, Bread-fruit, *Inocarpus*, *Erythrina*, and several new plants.

At the base of the mountain, they visited a town scattered over several hills on both sides of the stream. At an mbure house their guides entered into a discussion with an old man, seemingly to obtain permission to proceed. The old man received them with hospitality, and cooked some yams for them.

Crowds of natives, men, women, and children, gathered around to see the Papalangis, whom they had never laid eyes on before. The distribution of a few beads and a little tobacco, greatly delighted them.

After the yam breakfast, the old man accompanied them, and was of great service in leading them in the right path, for it appeared that neither of the men whom they had brought as guides was at all acquainted with the route. At the end of two hours, they reached the top of the mountain range, which has an elevation of about two thousand feet; but they were unfortunate in being overtaken with rain,