

reaching the former. Batang, girt all round by dangerous reefs, is inaccessible except to small boats. So is Bintang, with the exception of its south-western side, where is now Riāu, and where, a little further towards the north, was the settlement at which the chief of the island resided in the fourteenth century. There was no reason for Marco Polo's junk to take that round-about way in order to call at such, doubtlessly insignificant place. And the channel (*i.e.* Rhio Strait) has far more than four paces' depth of water, whereas there are no more than two fathoms at the western entrance to the Old Singapore Strait."

Marco Polo says (II., p. 280): "Throughout this distance [from Pentam] there is but four paces' depth of water, so that great ships in passing this channel have to lift their rudders, for they draw nearly as much water as that." Gerini remarks that it is unmistakably the *Old Singapore Strait*, and that there is no channel so shallow throughout all those parts except among reefs. "The *Old Strait* or *Selat Tebrau*, says N. B. Dennys, *Descriptive Dict. of British Malaya*, separating Singapore from Johore. Before the settlement of the former, this was the only known route to China; it is generally about a mile broad, but in some parts little more than three furlongs. Crawford went through it in a ship of 400 tons, and found the passage tedious but safe." Most of Sinologists, Beal, Chavannes, Pelliot, *Bul. Ecole Ext. Orient.*, IV., 1904, pp. 321-2, 323-4, 332-3, 341, 347, place the Malaiur of Marco Polo at Palembang in Sumatra.

VIII., pp. 281, n. 283 n.

TANA-MALAYU.

"On a traduit *Tānah Malāyu* par 'Pays des Malais,' mais cette traduction n'est pas rigoureusement exacte. Pour prendre une expression parallèle, *Tānah Djāwa* signifie 'Pays de Java,' mais non 'Pays des Javanais.'

"En réalité, *tānah* 'terre, sol, pays, contrée' s'emploie seulement avec un toponyme qui doit être rendu par un toponyme équivalent. Le nom des habitants du pays s'exprime, en malais, en ajoutant *orañ* 'homme, personne, gens, numéral des êtres humains' au nom du pays: '*orañ Malāyu*' Malais, litt. 'gens de Malāyu'; *orañ Djāwa* Javanais, litt. 'gens de Java.' *Tānah Malāyu* a donc très nettement le sens de 'pays de Malāyu'; cf. l'expression kawi correspondante dans le *Nāgarakrētāgama*: *tanah ri Malayu* 'pays de Malāyu' où chaque mot français recouvre exactement le substantif, la préposition et le toponyme