

the writer because of the sense of well-being created by the exercise in the boats and the fresh sea air. He contrasts this with a relative state of lethargy experienced when leading a shore life. The vessel, completely unseaworthy, was forced to put in at the island of Ternate in the Moluccas. Its "burning mountain" was just beginning to explode for the first time in 16 years as they entered the harbour. They stayed here for three months until their ship which could not be repaired was auctioned. Boulton found this a pleasant place, a centre of trade with a variety of peoples—"Malays, Arabs, Chinamen, Bengalis and some slaves from Papua or New Guinea". There were also 500 Dutch troops and 2000 Malay soldiers. Here he felt and described an earthquake and spent a period of confinement in the watchhouse "but it was my own random temper that caused it . . . During my exile I passed my time in committing to paper the Malay and English words commonly used which I wrote down according to pronunciation."

On 20 August 1833 Boulton took a passage to Manila on a Spanish brig. "We were greatly crowded and the chattering of the garrulous Chinamen and "Skretching" (*sic*) of 600 parrots was deafening." These birds were to be sold at Manila for a high profit. He records disastrous fires at Manado, Dutch Celebes, and having contracted "a sharp attack of fever and ague" there he was to lie gasping in the brig's hatches for a month or more. In spite of great weakness he enjoyed his brief stay in the Philippines where he was cared for by kind friends and treated as a person of importance in spite of his penury. He now proceeded to Singapore arriving on 17 March 1834. "A month's dissatisfactory life" was spent here as he tried to obtain a passage to Madras where he hoped to find his brother George. His adventures as a Rambler come to an end with an account of a voyage to Ceylon. The vessel was heavily rigged and under-manned with "2 weak and 1 sick man" who soon became exhausted. They anchored in the Colombo Roads on 14 May 1834 "after six weeks boisterous passage and attended with thunder, lightning and rain."

Boulton brings the *Journal of a Rambler* to a close in a characteristic fashion. "I left the vessel determined to quit a life with which I had grown quite disgusted. I resolved in future never to subject myself to the annoyance of upstarts, mates, skippers etc whose insolence of office entirely satisfied me that I should never be able to reconcile myself to a seafaring life, in a subordinate situation, and I had no friends to interest themselves for my advancement." He was befriended and cared for by a "native born Dutch descendant" and his family. Having abandoned his attempt to reach Madras on hearing of his brother's death there two years before, these friends introduced him to an English merchant who apparently employed him. In fact evidence within the manuscript points