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THE MALAYS.—The Malay Peninsula is not, as might be supposed, the original country of the Malay nation. This sailor people, who are to be found on all the coasts of the Archipelago, and sometimes with no other connection with the things of the land than the roving bark, which is the habitation of themselves and their families, are from the interior of Sumatra, where their ancestors, enclosed by mountain ranges, never heard of the ocean but in the marvellous reports of travellers. This emigration is not an event of ancient date. It took place, in all probability so late as the year 1160 ; but the Malays, although not actually destitute of historical compositions, have no record which relates the circumstances which compelled or induced them to so extraordinary a step. The lands in their own territory may have become overstocked by the increase of population, or political events may have converted a portion of the people into outlaws and refugees ; but however this may be, the fact is certain, that this inland race, instead of merely crossing the rivers which bounded their territory, and spreading themselves on either hand over the surface of their native country, descended one of the great streams to the sea, and threading their way through the innumerable isles and islets that there stud the ocean, crossed to the opposite side of the strait, and founded Singapore on its south-eastern extremity.—*Ritchie's British World in the East.*