

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper (London)

Sunday, April 10, 1853

THE INHABITANTS OF BORNEO may be divided into three classes, the Dyaks, a subject race inspired by hopes of vengeance upon its tyrants; the dominant Malays who spoil and oppress the aborigines, and the colonists of China, an active and industrious but turbulent and intractable part of the population..... The Dyaks are divided into those of the land and sea—the former more peaceable and tractable, the latter more barbarous and formidable. The tribes which do not give themselves up to piracy, pillage, and head-hunting are a gentle, tractable, peaceful race, living in harmony among themselves, with simple manners, and primitive modes of life. Unhappily, their numbers have been thinned and their spirits broken by the ravages of the Malays, who have hunted them into woods, where they dwell in small or large communities, subsisting on the produce of the soil. They are still ignorant of arts, sciences, and laws,—their rude inventions being the suggestions of necessity, and their slight social organisation the most vague and flimsy, except where a Malay government holds them in subjection. Then they quickly learn the weight of taxes, and feel the gall of that oppression which is a bitter thing to the barbarian as well as to the educated mind. The Malays are Mohammedans, living under the rule of the prophet's descendants, a mongrel race of tyrants, gamblers, opium smokers, pirates, and chiefs who divide their time between cock-fighting, smoking, concubines, and collecting taxes. The inferior classes are industrious boat-builders, weavers, miners, brass-founders, and traders; but the Chinese are the most enterprising and flourishing of the numerous settlers in this great island.—*St. John's Archipelago.*