

An elaborate description of the kingdom of Atchin by a former resident has appeared in the Dutch press, and is translated in the German papers. The writer speaks of the Sultan's own place of residence as containing between 30,000 and 40,000 inhabitants, but being only moderately protected by slight entrenchments, on which a few old heavy guns are planted. It has no good buildings in it, and the manners are as barbarous as those of any of the Malayan people. The strength of the country, which it seems the best Dutch geographer estimates to contain about half a million people, consists in the very circumstances which form its internal weakness, especially in the small degree of recognition afforded the authority of the Sultan by the chiefs of the various districts, whose power, like his own, is hereditary, and who owe their nominal ruler very slight allegiance. The land, in fact, is in a state of chronic warfare from the quarrels of these barbarous governors, and as a consequence every "campong," or place of importance, is fortified in the Malay fashion, and is therefore capable of some separate defence. How independent these "Panglimas," or provincial chiefs, are of the Sultan appears plainly from the fact that the whole of the royal income is derived from the petty dues—a twentieth on all imports, and an export duty on pepper—paid at the capital, thus leaving their monarch without the pecuniary means of enforcing his rights of sovereignty. It is clear, however, from the Dutch despatches that the individual chiefs have combined to some purpose against their foreign foe, and that to the difficulties the latter finds from this sudden action against his forces from various fortified points, the retreat announced is due. All the "campongs," it should be added, are near the coast, and may, doubtless, be reduced hereafter in detail when the season is more favourable to maritime operations. But to do this work effectually, says the writer we have followed, which is essential to the subjugation of the very divided territory, involves much expenditure of time and pains; and the struggle, he prophesied, speaking before the recent news came, would be no light one, and would be calculated to awake the full interest of his countrymen—as it certainly has already done in a very painful manner.

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