

Daily News (London),  
Friday, October 9, 1874

---

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

---

Some curious glimpses of the Far East are contained in "Translations from the Hakayit Abdulla (Bin Abdulkadâr), Munshi," with comments by J. T. Thomson, F.R.G.S. (Henry S. King and Co.). The author of the original was a Mohammedan and a British subject, born in Malacca in 1797. He came of a mixed race, partly Indian, partly Arabian, and partly Malay, and was by descent a literary man, his father having been a good scholar before him. He himself understood several Oriental tongues, and in this way was very useful to Sir Stamford Raffles. He associated much with that eminent man, with Colonel Farquhar, and with many English and American missionaries; yet he remained a devout Mussulman to the last. His Autobiography was written when he was 46, and he died some years ago, at the age of 58 or 60. Though never renouncing his religion his intercourse with Christians gave breadth and liberality to his views, and corrected many of those bigoted and one-sided ideas to which Mohammedans, like other men, are liable. Much of the narrative has reference to the time when Malacca was finally united to the British possessions in the East; and it is therefore not without some value as a contribution to history. But the chief interest of the work consists in its singular revelations of the inner life of a native of Asia—of the way in which his mind was affected by contact with Europeans, and of the estimates which he formed as to English rule in India, and English ways generally. These estimates seem to have been very impartial, and they were sometimes favourable, sometimes the reverse. The book is written in the grave and sedate, yet amusing, style, peculiar to Orientals, and is enriched by the translator's additional matter.