A SYSTEM

OF

GEOGRAPHY,

POPULAR AND SCIENTIFIC,

OR

A PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

WORLD AND ITS VARIOUS DIVISIONS.

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such is the felicity of its soil and climate, that vegetable productions, very different in their nature, and generally found in regions very distant from each other, grow here side by side. Not only the orange and the lime, but the Indian banyan, and Norwegian fir, the tea-plant and sugar-cane, all flourish together. It abounds in rice, wheat, peas, melons, pine-apples, ginger, pepper, camphor, dye-woods, wood for fuel, silk, wax, and salt; it also yields coral and pearls. The animals are oxen, sheep, horses, deer, and winged game. Almost the whole animal creation here is of diminutive size, but all excellent in their kind; the bullocks seldom weigh more than 350 lbs., but are plump and well-conditioned, and the beef very fine; their goats and pigs are reduced in the same proportion, their poultry forming the only exception.

Inhabitants.] The inhabitants are of diminutive stature, the average height of the males not exceeding five feet two inches, and the women being of corresponding stature. They have a good deal of the Corean physiognomy, with more mildness, and exhibit nothing of the drowsy and elongated eye of the Chinese; still, however, as the Loo-choos, for the last thousand years or more, have been more or less under the influence of the Chinese religion, government, laws, and customs, they now present many points of agreement, and, in fact, differ very little from them. Not many years ago, a Loo-choo junk, on her voyage to Fokien, being driven to Macao, the Chinese of that place eagerly crowded on board, and hailed the crew as the descendants of the ancient Chinese, their dress and mode of pinning up the hair on the top of the head being the old costume of their countrymen before they were conquered and shorn by the Tartars. The narratives of captain Hall and Mr M'Leod are certainly well calculated to make an impression on the mind of the European public, highly favourable to the character and happy condition of the Loo-choos; and the Chinese and Japanese agree in speaking of them as a cheerful and happy people. Yet with all this, it seems evident that in their jealousy of strangers they are perfect Chinese. They have a priesthood of bonzes, who are generally educated in Japan. Their books on religion, morality, and science, are in the Chinese character; but for common purposes the Japanese letters are employed.

CHAP. III.—THE PHILIPPINES.

To the N. of Borneo we find the great archipelago of the Philippine islands, sometimes called the *Manillas*. They are said to be nearly 1,200 in number, and 400 of them are of considerable size; but our knowledge regarding this groupe is very circumscribed. They were discovered, in 1521, by Magellan, who lost his life here on the small island of Mactan, while engaged in that voyage in which man first completed the circumnavigation of the globe. Malte Brun, however, is of opinion that the Spaniards were acquainted with Luzon, or Manilla, the principal of the groupe, in 1511. The Spaniards, on establishing themselves here in 1560, gave the name of their king, *Philip*, only to the northern portion of the archipelago; the central part often receives the distinct appellation of the *Bissay* islands. All these islands are traversed by lofty chains of mountains in which volcanoes occur; earthquakes are often felt, and violent hurricanes frequently devastate the face of nature. There is nearly the same variety of seasons here as on the coast of Coromandel and Malabar. A humid climate preserves the appearance of perpetual spring throughout these islands; the

trees are always in leaf,—the fields almost constantly enamelled with flowers,—and the blossom and the fruit are often exhibited together on the same tree. The principal alimentary grain is rice; wheat was introduced by the Spaniards; and the cocoa was brought hither in 1670, and thrives admirably; but European fruit trees cease to bear fruit when transported thither. The orange-tree grows in the open fields to its full height. Among the indigenous plants is the wild banana tree, from the fibrous filaments of which a kind of cloth and ropes are manufactured. Cattle are numerous; and the numbers and varieties of fish amazingly great. The rivers are infested with crocodiles; and the damonpaly serpent is of the most poisonous kind. According to native traditions, all these islands, and especially Manilla, were once entirely possessed by negroes, who, when other races arrived on the coasts, fled to the mountains, which are still inhabited by their descendants. The practice of tattooing is followed here, and was at one time so frequent that the Spaniards, from this circumstance, gave some islands of the groupe the name of *Pintados*. M. Perouse supposed that the total population of the Philippines might be 3,000,000. In the Singapore Chronicle of 30th September, 1824, it was stated to be as follows:

Native Indians . .	2,396,331
Mestiges . .	118,030
Chinese . .	7,000
Whites . .	4,000
	2,525,361

Many of them, by their frequent intercourse with Europeans, have acquired a degree of energy and intelligence greatly superior to all the inhabitants of the more westerly islands. In intrepidity they greatly excel the Hindoos, and are hence generally employed as gunners and steersmen in the intercolonial navigation. The trade between the Philippines and Acapulco, in Mexico, was for ages conducted by one galleon of 1,200 or 1,500 tons. The well known narrative of Anson's capture of the Manilla galleon may convince us, not only of the great size, but also of the great value of these vessels. She used to sail, in July or August, with a cargo consisting of the manufactures of China and Hindostan, and the produce of the Spice and Sunda islands, and arrived at Acapulco in three or four months. The voyage back was performed in about half the time, with a cargo of cochineal, cocoa, Spanish wines, oil, wool, and bar-iron, but chiefly in ballast. It is a circumstance remarked by Mr Crawford, that the Philippines are the only islands of N.W. Oceanica which have improved in civilization, wealth, and population, in consequence of their intercourse with Europe. When first visited, they were inhabited by a race of savages inferior in every respect to any of the adjacent pagan nations; but now they are as decidedly superior. To understand the reason of this, it is sufficient to remark, that the Spanish government finding here no spices, no rich manufactures, no mines of precious metal, did not think of monopolizing commerce, but satisfied itself with drawing a fixed capitation tax from its native subjects, and freely distributed the unappropriated lands amongst the colonists. The consequence of this state of things was a free intermixture of the local society, and a communication of the arts and manners of Europe to the native races.

Manilla.] The largest of the Philippine groupe is called *Lucon Luzon, Suzan, New Castile,* or Manilla. The centre of this island is in 14° 38′ N. lat. and 120° 50′ E. long. It is reckoned by the Spaniards to be 160

Spanish leagues in length, or from N.W. to S.E. and 35 or 40 in breadth. Its situation is extremely favourable in a commercial point of view, being placed between the eastern and western continents; having China on the N., the islands of Japan on the N.E.; the ocean on the E.; the other islands of the Philippine groupe on the S.; and to the W. Malacca, Siam, and Cochin China. Point Calaan, at its southern extremity, is separated from the isle of Samar by a strait of about three leagues broad; and point Cabicunga, at its northern extremity, is distant 80 leagues from the island of Formosa. Manilla is formed by two peninsular masses of land, united by an isthmus three leagues in breadth; the northern of these peninsulas is called *Lucon Proper*, the southern receives the name of *Camarines*. An elevated chain of mountains intersects the whole length of this island, and sends out a number of branches in different directions. The most remarkable points in the chain are: *Arayat*, *Tayabas*, *St Cristoval*, *Labot*, and the volcanic *Abbay* in the S.E. quarter. The general character of this island is volcanic; and very violent earthquakes were experienced here in 1650, 1754, and 1824. The principal rivers are the *Tajo*, on the N., and the *Rio Grande*, the *Chiquito*, and the *Manilla*, on the W. In the centre of the island there is an extensive lake, called *Bay*, in which we find the island of *Talin*. The climate of Manilla is moist; but not so warm as might be expected from its latitude. Hurricanes often commit great devastation; the wet season lasts from June to September, during which period the S. wind blows constantly, and the level country is wholly inundated. The climate is esteemed unhealthy to Europeans, particularly if they visit the island when young; but the natives often live to a great age. The soil of Manilla is exceedingly fertile, and produces cotton, indigo, sugar, rice, tobacco, and coffee, with little labour. Cinnamon, nutmegs, and cloves, are amongst the indigenous productions; and, with a little care, the spices of this island might be made a source of great wealth. Of palm-trees there are said to be no less than 40 species; cocoas are plentiful; and the forests produce ebony and sandal-wood. A great part of the interior of the country is still covered with dense rich forests. Cattle of different kinds are numerous, and in some places run wild; the forests abound in deer. Native iron is found in masses, and there are also several quarries of marble. In short, were this island in the possession of an industrious race of people, and well-governed, it would be one of the most valuable possessions in these quarters. Foreign vessels were formerly burdened with such heavy duties that they amounted almost to a prohibition of commerce, and the only exports were dollars; latterly it has received greater encouragement, and the colonists export indigo, ebony, coffee, pepper, rice, sugar, pearls, cordage, pitch, tar, and rattans. In 1827, the value of importations amounted to 1,048,680 piastres; and of exportations to 1,094,690 piastres; viz.:

	Importations.	*Exportations.*
34 Spanish vessels,	250,500 pia.	384,991
19 American,	213,030	196,651
7 French,	50,055	132,850
7 English,	106,020	90,944
3 Portuguese,	9,050	21,594
2 Dutch,	5,130	27,711
1 Brazilian,	26,645	5,050
1 Hamburg,	33,765	8,150
9 Chinese junks,	354,485	196,443
1 Danish,		30,306
	1,048,680	1,094,690

The population was recently estimated at 1,376,000 persons, and consists of Spaniards, aboriginal Negroes, Malays, erroneously called Indians by the Spaniards, Chinese, Japanese, Creoles, and Metis. The Spaniards are numerous; Legentil gives a very unfavourable picture of their manners and morals. Both sexes sn oke cheroots, a practice which often distorts the mouth, and renders the fairer sex repulsive. The Negroes, of whom the *Aetas* are a principal tribe, reside chiefly in the mountains and impenetrable forests, whither they have been driven by the Malays, and the rapacity of the Spaniards. The Malays are naturally a brave, active, and industrious people; but have lost much of their national character under European domination. One of their principal tribes is the *Tagals* or *Tugalas*, who seem to live in comparative plenty and indolence. The Chinese have been at different times attracted to Manilla in great numbers by its profitable trade. In 1603, the Spaniards, jealous of their commercial wealth and enterprise, massacred 25,000 of them. In 1639, having again increased to the number of 30,000, they dared to take up arms in their own defence, and a contest ensued in which their numbers were reduced to 7000. The same feeling of jealousy prompted the expulsion of these industrious people in 1662, 1709, and 1751 successively; but when the public began to suffer from the want of supplies and trade, the measure was bitterly complained of, and no governor has since renewed the experiment.—The viceroy of Manilla is captain-general of the Philippines; but the military strength did not exceed 1500 men, mostly Mexicans, in 1820; and little discipline exists either in the military or the marine force.—The portion of this island which is occupied by the Spaniards is divided into 15 provinces: viz. *Albay, Batangas, Bulacan, Cagayan, Camarines, Cavite, Laguna, Nueva-Eeija, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Tayabas, Tondo, Valangas, Ylocos*, and *Zambales.—Manilla* is the metropolis not only of this island, but of all the Spanish East Indian possessions. It is situated upon a large bay, on the S.E. side of the island, at the mouth of a river to which it gives its name. The environs have a pleasing appearance, though there is little cultivation. The population was estimated in 1820 at between 36,000 and 38,000 souls, of whom not more than 1200 are European Spaniards. Their habits are indolent and luxurious. Murders frequently occur here; one anonymous writer in the Calcutta Journal declares that when he visited Manilla in 1820, there were 3,000 prisoners in the jails, and a considerable number of them charged with homicide.

The Bissay Islands.] All the islands situated between Manilla and Mindanao go under the general appellation of the Bissay islands. Of these *Zebu* is the most fertile and populous.

The Calamianes.] S.W. from Mindoro, between that island and Palawan, is the groupe called the Calamianes, or the Cane Islands. The chain by which these islands are formed goes off from Manilla in a S.W. direction. It seems to be very high and very narrow. The two principal islands are *Busvagon* and *Calamian*. The population of the groupe is about 16,000 souls. The Spaniards have occupied a few positions on the coasts; but the inhabitants of the interior maintain their independence. The chief [illegible] these islands are: rice, ebony, canes, wax, gums,

Mindanao, the most southerly of the ding islets, ranks the second in size d 9° 40′ N. lat.; and 121° 40′ and

126° E. long. Its length from N. to S. is 250 miles, and its circumference about 830. Like Manilla it is formed of two peninsular masses, of which the eastern is the larger. The coast line is extremely irregular; pools and rivulets occur at every step in the interior; and there are above 20 navigable rivers, the principal of which are the *Pelandji*, the *Batican*, and the *Sibaguey*. There are also several large lakes; the most extensive is the *Mindanao* or *Mandango*, in the S.E.—This island produces rice, potatoes, sago, cinnamon, and all kinds of tropical fruits; but the cinnamon is inferior to that of Ceylon. It is not certain whether or not this island contains mines; but gold and sulphur have been found, and great quantities of talc exist in it; millstones are also exported from it. Cattle are very numerous; their numbers not being kept down either by man or wild beasts. Scorpions, vipers, and centipedes, are numerous.—A great part of this island is governed by native chiefs, who are styled *rajahs;* the nobles are called *latoo.* The inhabitants of the interior have been represented as a race of fierce black savages, called *Haraforas*, or *Papooas;* those of the coast have a great resemblance to the Borneans, and Macassars, and are evidently a Malay race. They are divided into *Mindanaos*, and *Illanos;* the former of whom are governed by one sultan, who is the most powerful prince in the island; the latter have about 17 rajahs, who form a kind of confederacy among themselves. They are all Mahommedans, and have imans who teach their children to read and write. Many of them are addicted to piracy; their vessels carry small guns, and from 70 to 80 men. They also carry on a trade with Hindostan, and chiefly with Surat. Their intercourse with Europeans has given them a knowledge of several arts. They are a fierce and vindictive race, fond of show and cruel sports, but lively and intelligent.—The Spaniards have formed settlements on the coast, which are divided into the three alcaids of *Samboango* on the S.W., *Mesamis* on the N., and *Caraga* on the E. The population of these colonies is estimated at 51,000 persons; but the total population of the island exceeds 1,000,000.—The Dutch visited this island in 1607, 1616, and 1627, and sent an embassy to the sultan in 1689, requesting permission to build a fort, which was refused.

Sooloo.] The island of *Sooloo* or *Suluk* lies to the S.W. of Mindanao. Great quantities of ambergrease are cast upon its shores towards the end of the western monsoons; yet it is curious that this substance is seldom or never found on the coast of Mindanao. Sooloo derives its chief wealth, however, from the pearl fishery which takes place during the calm which succeeds the western monsoons, while the sea is so smooth and clear that the eye can discern objects under water to the depth of 40 or 50 feet. The sultan of Sooloo has a small fleet, and holds several neighbouring islands. *Bowan*, his capital, is situated on the N.W. part of the island, and has a population of 6000 souls.

Authorities.] Comyn's State of the Philippine Islands. Lond. 1821, 8vo.—F. R. St Croix, Voyage Commercial. Paris, 1810, 3 vols. 8vo.—Historia de la provincia de Filippinas por al Padre, R. M. Villarde. Manilla, 1749, fol.—Maver's Historical View of the Philippine Islands, etc. Lond. 1815, 8vo.—The Works and Travels of Zuniga, Sonnerat, Leyden, Marsden, Peyrouse, Forest, etc.—Carte reduite des isles Philippines par Bettin. Paris.—Dalrymple's Chart. Lond. 1790.—Mapa de las islas Filippinas. By Alman. Lond. 1821.

CHAP. IV.—BORNEO.

To the N. of Java, and the S.W. of the Philippine islands, is the island of Borneo, which, if we except New Holland, and New Guinea, is the largest island in the world. It is situated between 6° N. lat. and 4° 20′ S. lat., and 109° 5′ and 119° 20′ E. long. Its superficial extent is estimated by Stein at 9,893 German or 212,699 English square miles, and by French geographers at 40,000 square leagues of 25 to a degree. The name of *Borneo* is correctly pronounced by the natives *Brunai*, and is, to all appearance, a primitive and indigenous word: for there is no reason to think that Leyden's conjecture, that Borneo is a corruption of *Varani*, that is 'sea-born,' a Sanscrit epithet—as if the people or natives Borneo spoke a corrupt dialect of Sanscrit—is at all correct. The name of Brunai, or, as pronounced by Europeans, Borneo, strictly belongs to the Malay state of Borneo in the western part of the island; and, as is frequently done in similar cases, has been applied by us to the whole island. A complete proof that Dr Leyden's conjectural etymon of Borneo, from Varani, is false, is the fact that none of the natives are of the Hindoo stock; but are apparently an original race, except those of the Malay stock.

History.] The natives call the island *Dayaka Varuni*, and affirm that it anciently formed a part of the Chinese empire. The companions of Magellan saw it in 1521, and called it *Bunne*. The Portuguese bestowed upon it the name by which it is now known in European geography, in 1530. Several European nations have attempted to form settlements on the coast of Borneo, but hitherto with little success. The Dutch, however, erected a factory at Pontiana, in 1643; and, in 1748, they compelled the prince of Tatas to grant them the exclusive privilege of the pepper trade in his dominions. In consequence of the treaty then negotiated, the Dutch company still carry on a commercial intercourse with this country, but, it is believed, with very little profit. In 1706, the English were allowed to build a factory at Banjermassin; but their imprudent conduct procured their speedy expulsion. In 1773, they formed an establishment on the island of Balambangan off the northern coast of Borneo, which has proved equally unsuccessful. The Dutch government of Java are at present in possession of the most of the western coast of Borneo, and have united their posts there under the name of the residency of the W. coast of Borneo. These acquisitions have been made by treaties made with the native princes since 1818. The general principle of these treaties is, that in consideration of the posts being placed under the immediate control of the Netherlands company, and of the sultans of Sambas, Monepawa, Pontianak, and Matan, not negotiating with other European governments or Americans, and using their endeavours to repress piracy, these princes shall be paid a monthly salary by the Dutch. The nature of those which have been conducted with the Daya chieftains of the interior of the island is, that their territories shall be administered by the Dutch, and the revenues equally divided. A rough map of the extent of the Dutch residency has been constructed principally from the observations of Mr Muller, assisted by those of other gentlemen who have travelled in various directions. By this map it appears that the residency extends over nearly one-third of the whole island.

Physical Features, &c.] Borneo exhibits the usual insular structure—a mass of lofty mountains in the centre, sloping gradually down to level and alluvial tracts along the shore. The principal chain of mountains must ex-nd N. and S. not far from the E. coast. It is watered by many fine rivers,

of which those best known to Europeans are the *Borneo*, the *Banjari* or *Bander*, and the *Sukadana* and *Pontiana*, which are all navigable, by boats, for more than 50 miles above their junction with the sea. It is probable they arise from a marshy table-land of great elevation in the mountainous district. The interior is covered with immense forests filled with wild animals, particularly orang-outangs; but no European has yet explored this region. A great part of the coast, for a breadth of 15 or 20 miles, is marshy, exhibiting in scattered patches the exuberance of tropical fertility. Inland is the lake of *Danao Malayu* in 1° 5′ N. lat. and 114° 20′ E. long. It was first visited by Europeans in 1823. It is 8 leagues by 4 broad, in some places 18 feet deep, and its dimensions are considerably increased in the rainy season. Two islands rise above the surface of its waters, and it is stored with numerous fish. The larger island is called *Vander Capellen*, and the lesser *Tobias*. This island has been often devastated by volcanoes and earthquakes. At Sukadana the thermometer is very seldom under 82° or above 94°. The sea and mountain breezes, and the rains, which are constant from November till May on the western coast, considerably freshen the atmosphere.

Productions.] Borneo produces rice, sago, black pepper, camphor, honey, cotton, cloves, dye-woods, sandal-wood, ebony, gold, iron, tin, copper, diamonds, and antimony. The diamond-mines are confined to the W. and S. coasts, being principally situated in the territories of Pontiana and Bangermassin. The resident Bugis are the great dealers in diamonds. The rajah of Mastan is in possession of one of the largest diamonds known to exist. It was obtained about 100 years ago from the mine at Landak, and weighs 367 carats gross. Its estimated value is £269,377. Previous to 1818, when the Dutch seized this coast, upwards of 32,000 Chinese were employed in the gold mines at Mantradu, and the western parts of Borneo. Valuing the yearly produce extracted at 72 dollars each man, the sum total would amount to 2,224,000 dollars annually, or £556,000. But taking the medium quantity at 117 dollars per man, the sum total would be 3,744,000 dollars, or £936,000. In 1812, it was estimated that the annual amount of these mines amounted to 4,744,000 dollars, or £1,186,000, valuing the dollars at 5s. each. The sum annually remitted by these industrious emigrants to China was £500,000, and about one-half of that was remitted to Bengal and the western part of India, and the surplus went to Java. But as a just punishment of Dutch avarice, the government of Java now suffers a monthly loss of 34,000 gulders in supporting the residency of the W. coast of Borneo. The camphor of Borneo is excellent; it is obtained from the *Daobalanops camphora* of Colebrooke —a different tree from the *Laurus* camphora, and found only in Sumatra and Borneo. The Borneo camphor, however, sells for £500 per quintal; while that of Sumatra is usually valued at £330. Benzoin, the resin of a species of styrax, is largely exported. Antimony has been found in masses, or rather mountains, and the exportation of this article has prodigiously increased of late years. It is in Borneo that the largest of the monkey-tribe, the *pongo*, is found. Wild buffaloes, boars, tigers, and elephants abound; and the species of birds are innumerable.

Population.] The population of Borneo has been estimated—we suppose above the truth—at 3,000,000. The interior is entirely occupied by a native race, bearing the general name of *Dayaks*, but variously named according to the parts of the island which they inhabit, and nearly similar in character to those who occupy the interior of Sumatra. Some cultivate

the ground,—others display considerable industry in fishing,—and a few employ themselves in collecting gold,—but their institutions in general indicate the rudest state of human society. In personal appearance they are decidedly superior to the Malays, and their women are rather good-looking. Polygamy is not practised. It has been reported that they devour the flesh of their enemies—an assertion probably in this, as in many instances, without foundation. All accounts agree, however, as to another truly savage custom, by which every man is debarred from the privilege of matrimony until he has with his own hand cut off the head of an enemy. Those who are desirous of entering into this state, form themselves into what Dr Leyden calls 'head-hunting expeditions,' and make an inroad into the territories of a neighbouring tribe; if their strength appears sufficient, they endeavour to effect their objects by force; if otherwise, they conceal themselves behind thickets till an unfortunate individual passes, whom they can make their prey. When a married woman dies, her husband is not allowed to take a second wife until he has slain an enemy in battle, and offered his head in sacrifice to the manes of his deceased wife. Some are also said to immolate human victims on the altars of their divinities. The inhabitants of the towns along the coast consist chiefly of Malays and Chinese. The number of the latter has been estimated, by a recent writer in the Singapore Chronicle, at 125,000 souls. There is another race called *Papons*, or *Negrillos*, who reside in the most inaccessible parts of the island, and have no intercourse with the surrounding population.

STATES.] Borneo is divided into a great number of independent states, whose chiefs, being musselmen, assume the title of rajah or sultan. Of these the states of *Banjarmassin*, *Succadana*, *Sambas*, and *Borneo*, are the principal.

Borneo Proper.] This state has a sea-coast of more than 700 miles in extent, by a depth of from 100 to 150 miles. It has the Dutch residency on the W., the boundary in this direction being Tanjong Data, in 3° N. lat. and 110° 36′ E. long.; on the E. it has the Bornean territories of the state of Suluk; the mouth of the Sandakan river, in 5° 50′ N. lat. and 118° 15′ E. long., being the frontier. On the S. it has various savage tribes, as the Dayan, Dusum, Mureet, and Tataos, men who take a pleasure in decapitating strangers, and glory in hoarding their skulls, which are handed down to posterity as heir-looms of the family, and trophies of hereditary renown. To the state of Borneo belong the islands of Malaweli, Banggi, Balambang, twice a British settlement, Balabak, and Babullan, containing several fine harbours, favourably situated for the trade of China, the Philippines, and their own vicinity. Borneo contains a number of fine rivers, the most important of which are those of Rayung and Batavia, which lead to Sibita, the capital of the Kayan, the most powerful, idolatrous, and uncivilized tribe of the whole island. Mahari, like the two last on the N. coast, that of Borneo, properly so called, navigable for 20 miles for vessels of 300 tons; and Sandakan, or China Batangan, on the N.E. coast of the island. The interior of the Bornean territory is filled by extensive chains of high mountains, the most elevated of which is Keeneebalu, in 6° N. lat., and visible from both sides of the island, which here runs out into a sort of peninsula. The western districts, as Sarawak and Kasinlaka, between 2° and 3° N. lat., abound in metals, as gold, zinc, and antimony. Though land animals abound, yet it is curious that the elephant, the rhinoceros, and a species of leopard, (but not the royal tiger,) exist only in a corner of this vast island, its northern peninsular extremity, in

the districts of Ungsang and Paitna, they are nowhere to be found in any part of the archipelago, to the eastward of this. Like all countries in a rude and unimproved state, the Bornean territory is inhabited, or rather infested, by numerous barbarous tribes, differing from each other in language, and ever in a state of hostility. The principal tribes inhabiting the country are 16 in number, of which the Malays are the chief, the most powerful, and the most civilized. The Pagan tribes closely resemble each other in manners and customs, and in one thing the most of them agree—in cutting off human heads and hoarding skulls. Savage, however, as they are, they are not, in some respects, in the lowest scale of social life, as they have almost all some knowledge of agriculture, cultivating rice and farinaceous roots and pulse. None of them are huntsmen, nor wretches living on wild roots or raw oysters. In religious feelings the Bornean savages are eminently deficient, as they have no apparent system of religious belief, have neither gods nor idols, nor temples nor priests. Yet they are very superstitious, very attentive to good or bad omens, and especially to the cry of birds. None of them have any knowledge of an alphabet, or any other way, by visible signs, of permanently recording their ideas. This is somewhat singular, as all the great islands have each one or more alphabets. This may be owing to the primitive sterility of a country rich in minerals, but without foreign intercourse with people more civilized than themselves, and the difficulty of communication with a coast which has no large openings into the interior by means of bays, indentations, or large æstuaries, but is throughout a compact and unbroken shore. The sultan of Borneo is a Malay prince whose Malay subjects do not constitute one-tenth of the population, even including the tribes converted to the faith of the Koran. Like the other Malayan races, they seem to have come from the interior of Sumatra, to the W. coast of Borneo, and thence to the N. coast; and this is an event of no great antiquity; for it took place 29 Bornean reigns since, or 580 years ago, estimating each reign at 20 years on an average, and the Borneans had not even adopted the Mohammedan creed at their first migration. The government is like that of other Malay states, hereditary and despotic. The radah or sultaun has a council of four ministers, the treasurer, the general, the chief justice, and the minister properly so called, and are denominated the pillars of the state. Under these are two subordinate great officers, the second minister, and a deputy-general. The affairs of trade are managed by four inferior chiefs, of whom the principal are the intendant of the port and the warehouse-keeper, which latter was sent as an envoy to Sincapore in 1825, from the king, to open up a commercial correspondence with the British government. There are in Borneo 30 or 40 pangeraus, or hereditary governors, rendering the government a sort of aristocracy. Borneo city is seated 15 miles up the river, in 5° N. lat., and is built on the banks within high-water mark, in a good measure resembling Venice, each house being raised on posts from one to two fathoms in height, and connected with the neighbouring house by a single plank. The fortification alone is built on dry land. It had a considerable commerce with China till about 15 years since, and the annual emigration of Chinese to it was great, but it is now, or very lately, reduced to 500 emigrants, from the anarchy which then prevailed. The most considerable trade the Borneans have at present is with the port of Sincapore, which was, in 1826, visited by 40 vessels from the ports of Borneo Proper. The present monarch of Borneo is said to be a liberal and enlightened prince, the best that ever filled a Bornean throne, one who loves justice

and hates oppression, speaks Chinese fluently, and settles all disputes in person between his Malay and Chinese subjects, which has had the best effect, and terminated those feuds formerly so frequent. Pepper, antimony, bees-wax, and seed-pearl, are principally exported to Sincapore. The pepper is all the produce of Chinese industry, these people being the sole cultivators. By means of Borneo an intermediate commerce may be carried on with those provinces of China with which no European nation has ever had direct communication, and may eventually be of great advantage to the British commercial interest.

State of Sambas.] The town of Sambas is situated about 30 miles up the river of the same name. Like most other towns in Borneo, it is built of timber and bamboos, and raised by stakes above the swampy foundation. Sambas has been always a powerful state, devoting itself so entirely to piracy as to render its existence scarcely compatible with that of its civilized neighbours. On this account the British, in 1813, undertook an expedition against it; carried the fort by storm, and obliged the rajah to retire into the interior of his dominions. A number of small villages are scattered over the face of the country betwixt Borneo and Sambas.

State of Passir.] The chief state on the eastern coast is Passir, situated on a river of the same name. This district is low and flat, marshy, woody, and extremely unhealthy. The inhabitants have a very bad character.

States of Banjarmassin, &c.] Banjarmassin is the principal state on the southern coast; it too owes its prosperity to a large river, on the banks of which it is situated. Ships may anchor near the mouth of the river, in the port of *Tombangou*, or *Tombornio*, where they are well-supplied with water and provisions. The population of Banjermassin is chiefly Javanese, with a considerable proportion of Bugis, Macassars, and Malays. The Chinese are also pretty numerous. The sultan resides at *Mortapara*, about three days' journey up the river. The district of Banjar produces gold and diamonds; pepper is abundant, and may be considered the staple commodity. The iron is very excellent, and peculiarly fit for making steel; but the inhabitants themselves do not understand the art of manufacturing it. On the eastern coast, *Mangedava* and *Pappul* are populous, fertile, and well-watered districts.—*Malloodoo* possesses these advantages in a still higher degree.—Tiroon produces sago in abundance, and edible birds' nests more copiously than any other part of the Eastern archipelago.

States of Succadana, &c.] Succadana was anciently the most powerful state on the western coast. The Dutch began to trade here in 1604; but it is now entirely in the hands of the Malays, and seldom visited by Europeans.—Pontiana is a state of recent origin, though it now exceeds in wealth and power—or at least did so until the recent Dutch expedition—all others on the western coast. This distinction it owes to the wisdom of the Arab prince by whom it was founded. He renounced the pernicious policy—almost universal in these petty states—of embarking in trade, and monopolizing its principal articles, but confined himself to his proper functions, of dispensing justice and securing protection to all who resorted to his dominions. Under this salutary policy, the town of Pontiana soon rose to be the greatest emporium in these seas. It is situated on a large river, formerly called *Lana*.—*Mompariva*, situated a little to the N. of Pontiana, is the best market for opium upon the coast. The city lies 19 miles up the river.

Authorities.] Beckmann's Voyage, 8vo., Lond., 1788.—Valentyn Beschryving van Borneo.—Raffles' Account.—Sonnerat's Notices.—A Mr

Muller was lately employed by the Dutch government to survey this island, but he was murdered by the natives, and his journals have not yet been published.

CHAP. V.—CELEBES AND THE MOLUCCAS.

The islands situated to the east of Borneo and Java, and to the south of the Philippines, and extending to the immediate neighbourhood of New Guinea, are called by the French geographers the *Moluccas*, or Spice Islands. More divided and irregular than the Sunda Islands, they also contain a greater number of volcanoes. Trees, bearing more or less exquisite spices, seem to be diffused over the whole of them. The king of Ternate possesses the whole N. coast of Celebes; and the governments of Macassar and Banda share with each other the Timoorian chain. The Dutch of Batavia comprehend all these countries under the general name of *De Groote Oost*, or 'the Great East.'

The largest of these islands is *Celebes*, separated from Borneo on the W. by the strait of Macassar, and from the Moluccas, properly so called, on the E., by the Molucca passage. That portion of the sea on the N. which lies betwixt this island and Mindanao, is sometimes called the sea of Celebes, sometimes the Mindanao sea. The figure of Celebes is extremely irregular. Its superficies, according to Crawford, amounts to nearly 55,000 British square miles. The bays of *Boni*, of *Tolo*, and, most of all, that of *Tomini* or *Gunong-Tellu*, divide it into a number of peninsulas. The more our maps have been improved in correctness, the more ragged and skeleton-like does this island appear. It may be compared, says Malte Brun, to a star-fish from which the radiating limbs on that side which lies to the W. have been removed: and it is remarkable that the smaller island of *Gilolo*, adjoining to it on the E., has the very same singular form. The numerous gulfs confer on this island the advantage of a temperature mild for its equatorial situation, the heat being moderated by the copious rains and the cooling winds. The eastern monsoon lasts from May to November; the opposite one prevails through the rest of the year. The tides here are extremely irregular. Celebes contains several volcanoes in a state of activity. The bold, broken, and verdant coasts, present some charming landscapes. Numerous rivers fall in broken cascades at the feet of immense rocks, in the midst of majestic groups of picturesque trees. The most poisonous of known vegetables grow in this island. The famous *upas*, the existence of which in Java has given occasion to so many fables, grows also here; and the Macassars dip their arrows in its juice. Here also grow the clove and nutmeg-trees, which the Dutch so avariciously engross, the ebony, the sandal, the calambac, the valuable woods of which are articles of export, the sago tree, the pith of which is used as an aliment by so many nations, the bread-fruit, and other fruit-bearing species. Rice and cotton are abundant. No elephants or tigers are seen in the forests, but many deer, boars, and, according to some accounts, elks or antelopes. There is an infinity of monkeys of a very strong and very mischievous kind; and there is a large species of serpent, by which many of them are devoured. The cattle of Celebes are small, and have a hump on the back. The island also produces buffaloes, goats, and sheep, which are remarkably lively and sure-footed, being well accustomed to the mountain roads. Besides the fishes common to the seas of Celebes, with others in the same regions, we may remark that large quantities of turtle are taken

on the eastern coast, for the sake of the tortoise shell, which is here a valuable article of commerce. The northern peninsula, from the isthmus to the district of Boolan and beyond it, is full of gold mines. Those of the district of Ankahooloo, near the Dutch settlement of Gorontala, yield gold of 21 carats; that found in the others is of 18. The best known place in the island is Macassar, a fortified town in possession of the Dutch. It is situated in the S.W., on a point of land watered by two rivers. One of these rivers is broad, and allows a vessel to sail up within half-cannon-shot of the town walls. *Bonthain* is also in the south, on the bay to which it gives its name. It has a Dutch fortress immediately adjoining it. The bay of Bonthain is large, and affords safe anchorage during both monsoons. The city of Boni is at a short distance from a lake which goes by the classical name of *Tempé*, and gives rise to a fine river. The northern provinces, the capital of which is *Maros*, supply the whole island with rice. They contain 370 large villages, occupying the plains on the W. coast. Beyond the gulf of Kaieli the territory of the king of *Ternate* begins, comprehending the whole northern and eastern shores, as far as the gulf of Tomini, and extending a considerable way along the shores of this gulf. This territory, which is able to furnish 17,000 soldiers, is divided among a number of vassal princes. The district which the Dutch call *Paloo*, a flat and fertile territory, is the *Parlow* of captain Woodward. *Tolatola*, a large town, according to an English traveller, is the *Tontoly* of the Dutch. *Magondo* and *Boolan* are the largest states. Near Manado is *Fort Amsterdam*. On the gulf of Tomini the Dutch have the settlement of *Gorontalu*, in a country which abounds in buffaloes, in iron-wood, and in rattans, and where the nights are rendered very chill by the air of the mountains. The *Tomitans* occupy the central part of the island where the gulfs terminate. *Tambooko*, and a part of the eastern coast, are possessed by the *Badshoos*, a savage race, who spend a greater proportion of their time in their fishing-boats than on land. The inhabitants of Celebes, who are distinguished into *Booghiese*, or *Bugis*, and *Macassars*, are a vigorous and high-minded people. Their law allows any individual to revenge a blow by the death of the person who inflicts it, provided he takes this revenge within three days. Among the more scrupulous, even a haughty manner will not be tolerated. The practice of running a muck, which is common in all the surrounding islands, is particularly frequent in this island. A person who has suffered a severe affront, especially if his life or honour is in danger, and he is laid under restraint or captivity, if any weapon is within his reach, lays hold of it without the slightest warning; sometimes with a hideous shout, immediately stabs those nearest to him, and, running about with an infuriated look, deals death among friends and foes indiscriminately, till he is himself put to death by some person, who thus performs an important service to society. The officers of police are furnished with three-pronged forks, for the purpose of overpowering persons in this unfortunate and desperate condition.

Religion.] The ancient natives of this island worshipped the sun and moon, and some local deities. They built no temples, deeming the canopy of heaven the only temple corresponding in magnificence to the leading objects of their sacrifices and devotions. The influence of Hindooism existed but in a very limited degree. The Mahommedan faith has now been established in the island for two centuries, and its priesthood possesses an extensive influence.

Sanghir, &c.] On the N.E. a chain of islands extends between Celebes

and the S.E. point of Mindanao. The principal one is called *Sanghir*, which is said to be fertile and populous. It is occupied by a Dutch post. —The island *Siao*, and the *Talautzi* group, form a chain along with Sanghir. These islands are rich in sago and oil of cocoa, and were said a century ago to contain 28,768 inhabitants. They contain two or three tremendous volcanoes. On the S. coast of Celebes we find the islands of *Salayer*, and *Butung*. The latter forms a separate kingdom or sultanate. The capital of Butung is a fortified city. The inhabitants manufacture cotton stuffs, and make cloth of the fibre of *agave*. Its extensive forests swarm with parroquets and cuckatoos. A species of nutmeg tree grows here, called by naturalists *Myristica microcarpa*, or *uviformis*, from the fruit being of small size and in clusters like the grape. Much of the ground is overrun with rattans, which climb trees, then trail along the ground, and climb other trees in a long succession. The fruit of the *Bombax cliba*, or silky cotton, supplies the monkeys with abundance of food.

THE MOLUCCAS.] The Moluccas according to the original and proper application of the term, consist of five small islands to the W. of Gilolo, viz. *Ternati*, *Tidore*, *Motir*, *Makian*, and *Bakian*, or *Bachian*. But the sovereigns of the Moluccas had possessions in *Gilolo*, *Ceram*, and other islands in the neighbourhood, and these are called the *Great Moluccas*. The name seems to be of Arabic derivation, signifying 'Royal Islands,' because they were the places of residence of the sovereigns of the adjoining islands.

Volcanoes.] The archipelago of the Moluccas bears the most evident marks of a country overturned by one of those physical revolutions which naturalists call *debacles;* containing islands broken and indented in a singular manner; enormous peaks, projecting abruptly from the surface of the deep rocks, piled up to immense elevations, and a great number of volcanoes, some of which are in a state of activity and others extinguished. The earthquakes, which in these regions are frequent and dreadful, render the navigation dangerous; for not a year passes without the formation of new sand-banks, and the disappearance of old ones.

Climate and plants.] The heat attended with excessive moisture, followed by long droughts, and the nature of the soil, which is a spongy rock, prevent the cultivation of the *cerealia*. The pith of the sago-tree serves for bread to the natives. The bread-fruit tree, the cocoa, and all the fruit-trees of India, succeed in the islands. The *Pterocarpus draco*, or lingoa, is a native of these islands, and is used as a substitute for the teak. It is also cultivated for its fragrant blossoms, which are much esteemed. The wood of some of its varieties is highly perfumed. Though less hard and durable than teak, it is handsomer, and therefore fitter for cabinet work. The enormous excrescences which grow on it are wrought into beautiful articles, equalling in lustre the finest variegated marble. The spice trees, however, are the objects by which the avarice of Europeans has been principally attracted to this part of the world.

The Clove.] The clove tree, (now called by botanists *Eugenia caryophyllatta*,) is about forty or fifty feet high, with long pointed leaves like those of the laurel. Some compare its appearance to that of the beech. At the beginning of the wet season in May it throws out a profusion of leaves. Soon after the germs of the fruit are to be seen at the extremities of the shoots, and in four months the cloves are fully formed. The fruit, at first of a green colour, assumes in time a pale yellow, and then a blood red. At this period it is fit to be used as a spice, consequently this

is the clove harvest. But to ripen sufficiently for the purposes of propagation, it requires three weeks longer; in which period it swells to an extraordinary size, loses much of its spicy quality, and contains a hard nucleus like the seed of the bay. It is now called 'the Mother Clove.' There are five varieties of this fruit. It has a more limited geographical distribution than any other useful plant. It was originally confined to the five Molucca islands, and chiefly to Makian. It had been conveyed to Amboyna a very short time before the arrival of the Portuguese. Not partial to large islands, it does not grow well in Gilolo, Ceram, Booro, or Celebes. It has been cultivated, and has produced fruit, in the western part of Oceanica. It has also borne fruit, though of inferior quality, for these fifty years in the Mauritius. Even at Amboyna the tree is not productive before the tenth or twelfth year of its growth, and requires great attention; whereas in the parent islands it bears in its seventh or eighth year, and requires very little care or culture. It neither thrives near the sea nor on the high hills. The gathering, the drying, and the packing of it, are all as simple operations as possible; and very little care is required for its preservation as an article of commerce.

The Nutmeg.] The other valuable species is the *Myristica Moschata*, or nutmeg tree; which, in its general appearance, resembles the clove tree, only it is less pointed at the top, and its branches are more spreading. Its leaves are similar to those of the pear tree, but larger, and, like all those of the nut tribe, dark green on the upper surface and grey beneath. After small white flowers, it produces a fruit very similar, in form and colour, to a nectarine. When ripe it resembles a ripe peach, and, bursting at the furrow, discovers the nutmeg with its reticulated coat, the mace, of a fine crimson colour. The external pulpy covering has an austere astringent taste. Within the mace is the nutmeg, inclosed in a thin shell of a glossy black, and easily broken. It has eight varieties, which appear to be permanent. The limits of its geographical distribution are much wider than those of the clove. It grows in New Holland, in the south of India, and in Cochin-China; but in these countries it is void of flavour; and for all useful purposes its geographical limits are nearly as narrow as those of the clove, and indeed almost exactly the same. The cultivation of the nutmeg is nice and difficult. The best trees are those produced by the seeds voided by a blue pigeon, called the nutmeg bird, by the excrement of which its growth is much facilitated.

In this part of the world there are several minor spicy productions which are found in no other country; viz. Massoy bark, used for culinary purposes by the Malays and Javanese, and of late in request in China and Japan. The *Laurus Culitlawan* also yields an aromatic bark. The leaf of the *Melaleuca leucodendron*, or cajeput tree, is well known to yield a fragrant essential oil.

Historical Notices, &c.] The natives of the Moluccas, before they were visited by foreign nations, attached no value to the vegetable riches which are peculiar to their islands, and which have rendered them at once so celebrated and so unfortunate. The Chinese first accidentally landed in the middle age, and discovered the clove and the nutmeg, in consequence of which a taste for these commodities was diffused over India, and thence extended to Persia and to Europe. The active Arabians, who then engrossed almost all the commerce of the world, turned their attention to the native country of these precious commodities, and repaired to it in numbers; when the Portuguese, who always followed close behind, wrest-

ed the treasures from that nation. In 1521, Antonio de Brito first appeared in force in the Moluccas, for the express purpose of taking possession of them in the name of the king of Portugal. The unsuspecting sovereigns received their treacherous guests with caresses, but soon found cause to entertain very different sentiments towards them. One of the first acts of the commander was to imprison some of the followers of Magellan, who had been left in this part of the world, because they belonged to the hostile nation of Spain. A system of violence, intrigue, and perfidy towards the natives was immediately begun and continued for sixty years, with the single exception of the two years of the government of the virtuous Galvan. At the end of that period the Dutch, with the assistance of the natives, drove out the Portuguese; but they soon discovered a rapacious policy equally oppressive. In 1606 the king of Ternati attempted to league the different princes for their expulsion, but the jealousies of his neighbours defeated his intentions. In 1613 the intrigues of the Dutch procured for them, from the native princes, an exclusive right of buying cloves. Every infraction of these iniquitous compacts was resented; and from this cause the country was now desolated for seventy years with wars and invasions. The natives displayed much bravery, but were finally subdued. The Portuguese and English sometimes interfered, and their policy wavered according to the prospects which events at different times held out to their base avarice. The English were allowed at one time to have a mercantile establishment at Amboyna, when held by the Dutch. But the latter, in the year 1623, after forcing some Chinese and Javanese soldiers, by the torture, to make confession of a plot on the part of the English, seized on the whole of the English residents, and put them to death with circumstances of indignity and cruelty sufficient to disgrace any barbarians. In this unfortunate island Governor Vlaming, one of the most detestable monsters that even colonial depravity can boast of, carried on a scene of bloody executions, putting to death people, nobles, and priests, by dozens, in all the different forms of cruel death; strangling, breaking on the wheel, drowning in the sea, and beating to death with bludgeons. Those who were taken prisoners, and those who surrendered under promise of pardon, shared the same fate. It was not till 1680 that the Dutch, by completely crushing the natives, carried the principles of their commercial policy into rigid practice.

Spice Trade.] While the culture of cinnamon was confined to Ceylon, that of the clove was confined to Amboyna, and that of the nutmeg to the Banda islands. It was not till 1778, when the plantations at Banda were greatly damaged by an earthquake, that the Company allowed the nutmeg, as well as the clove, to be cultivated in Amboyna. In consequence of this monopoly of cloves and nutmegs, the quantity produced is greatly diminished, and the price enhanced. The particulars of this department of mercantile history are given in detail in the enlightened work of Mr Crawfurd, and the inferences are luminously drawn, pointing out the ruinous tendency of all those cruel and unjust measures. The price given for cloves to the cultivator is 3½d. per lb. avoirdupois, nearly eight dollars per picul of 133⅓ lbs. When the trade was conducted by the natives, it even sold in Java at an average of 14 dollars per picul. When the article arrived by a difficult and hazardous land-carriage to the Caspian Sea, it cost 91 dollars; at Aleppo 141; and in England 237. Since the close monopoly of the Dutch, *i. e.* since 1623, the price paid for cloves to the Dutch on the spot has been eight times the price paid by them to the cultivator.

When brought directly to England, they are sold at an advance of 1258 per cent. on the natural export price. Concerning the quantities produced, our information is not exact. During the Portuguese and Spanish supremacy, the five Moluccas produced annually 2,376,000 lbs. When the trade was free, the quantity was one half more. The whole produce at present does not exceed 700,000 lbs. Before the last time that the islands fell into the hands of the English, Europe consumed annually 553,000 lbs; since that time about 365,000. The duty imposed in England was then more than twenty-fold the price of the commodity where it grows. The price indeed fell, but not in proportion to that of pepper, and other analogous articles. The quantity now consumed in England exceeds that consumed in 1615 by 56 per cent.; but, if the trade had been free, it ought in the present state of wealth and luxury to have increased in the proportion of 147 per cent. that being the case with pepper. The Dutch monopoly has occasioned a cultivation of cloves in Bourbon and Cayenne, which would immediately cease if the Molucca trade were laid open, the produce being so much inferior. The same principles operate on the trade in nutmegs. In the ancient commerce, down to the establishment of the monopoly, nutmegs were always sold and transported in the shell, and the natives, when left to themselves, are still disposed to continue that practice. The Dutch, to secure their monopoly more effectually, subject them to processes which destroy the powers of germination, consisting in slow kiln-drying and smoking for three months, and immersion in quick-lime and salt water, with drying, which require two months longer. This process is attended, not only with loss of time and labour, but with great waste, and other inconveniences. The kernel is exposed by it to the depredations of the nutmeg fly. It is estimated that a tenth part of the produce perishes in consequence of the separation of the shell. The English, when they conquered the Spice Islands in 1810, found in store more than 37,000 lbs. of bad, broken, and rotten nutmegs. The natural price of the article ought not to exceed four dollars per picul, or 2½d. per pound, and in Europe the pound should not exceed 6d. but it is in general twelve times that price; and in England, duties included, seventeen times as much. Mr Crawfurd, while he details these, among other important circumstances, observes, that "the consumer pays this price for no other purpose than that a political juggle may be played, by which the party who plays it imposes on itself, without gaining any advantage whatever, while the grower is cheated out of his property and out of his liberty." The consumption of nutmegs, as well as cloves, in Europe, is smaller at the present day than in the middle ages. Black pepper and ginger have in a great measure taken their place, and, above all, the pimento and Chili commodities, unknown to Europe before the discovery of America, and of the route by the Cape of Good Hope. The following is the state of the nutmeg trade at different periods.

	lbs.
Consumption of nutmegs in all Europe in 1615,	400,000
Do. of mace in do.	150,000
Consumption of nutmegs in England in 1615,	100,000
Do. of mace	15,000
When the monopoly first fell into the hands of the English in 1796, the consumption of nutmegs in Europe was	85,960
And of mace,	24,234
Consumption of nutmegs in England,	39,071
Of mace	5,400

	lbs.
When the monopoly was last in the hands of the English, in 1811, the consumption of nutmegs in Europe was -	214,720
Of mace, - - - - - - - -	250,040
Consumption of nutmegs in England, - - - -	56,960
Of mace, - - - - - - -	3,620

BANDA ISLANDS AND RESIDENCY.] To the S.E. of the island of Amboyna, between 3° 50′ and 4° 40′ S. lat., is a small and distinct volcanic groupe of 10 isles, taking the name of *Banda* from the principal island, *Banda-Lantor*. These are all subject to frequent earthquakes. Their climate is considered unhealthy by strangers. The island of Banda is mountainous, and an impenetrable bamboo forest occupies the whole interior. A Portuguese, Antonio Abreus, discovered this groupe in 1512, at which time they were inhabited by Malays. The Portuguese established a settlement here in 1524; but the Dutch drove them from it in 1599, and nearly extirpated the aborigines also. In 1810, the British captured these islands; but, in 1814, they were restored to the Dutch. They form a particular government, or residency, under the governor-general of Batavia. This residency now includes besides the eastern part of Great Ceram, with the islands of *Koffing Ceram*, *Laut*, *Gisser*, *Goram Key*, and *Arow*, and in general all the other little islands to the E. and S. of Banda. The population of the six inhabited Banda islands, in 1796, was 5,763, of whom only 119 were Europeans.

Authorities.] Radennacher's Beschreibung der Insel Celebes.—Woodard's Narrative, Lond., 1804, 8vo.—Crawfurd.

CHAP. VI.—JAVA AND MADURA.

Situation and Extent.] The island of Java, the centre of the power of a commercial company which once ruled all the eastern sea, is inferior in size to Borneo and Sumatra: being only 666 miles long, and from 50 to 135 miles in breadth. Its superficial area is estimated by Stein at 52,335 square miles. It lies between 5° 52′ and 8° 46′ N. lat. and 105° 11′ and 114° 3′ E. long. On the N. it has the sea of Java, on the E. the straits of Bali which separate it from the island of that name, on the S. the Indian ocean, and on the W. the straits of Sonda which separate it from Sumatra.

Name and History.] The name *Jawa*, corrupted by Europeans into *Java*, in the Malay, signifies, according to some, 'the great island,'—according to others a particular grain which grows upon it,—but, according to Sir Stamford Raffles, is properly the name of the principal nation of the island, bestowed, as is common in such cases, upon the whole territory. The Arabs and Persians call it *Djezeeret ool Maha-radje*, or 'the island of the great king.' Some have supposed it to be the Ιαβὰ διαὶ of Ptolemy. It was discovered in 1510 by the Portuguese, who founded various settlements on its coasts, from which they were driven towards the end of the 16th century by the Dutch. The fall of the United States of Holland, brought about the transfer of Java and its dependencies to Great Britain; an expedition having been despatched from India, against this island in 1811, which took possession of the Dutch settlements after considerable resistance. It was restored to its former proprietors in 1816; yet, short as the period was during which we held possession of this island, much was accomplished for its amelioration and advancement within that brief space. By the abolition of forced services and arbitrary and vexatious imposts,

and by the establishment of a moderate and equitable land-tax, the commerce and the agriculture of the island so rapidly improved, that the amount of the revenue received in three years, from 1212 to 1815, was 18,810,149 Java rupees; while the amount of the preceding three years, under the extortions practised by marshal Daendals, who placed himself above the usual formalities, and disregarded all law, was no more than 8,425,765 rupees. M. Depping corroborates our assertion respecting the improvement effected on this island by the British in these terms: "The old monopoly vanished, ancient secrets were divulged, day succeeded night, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles was placed at the head of the Batavian Society, naturalists, such as Horsfield, laboured in its service, a fresh impulse was infused into its proceedings. English research prevailed, and with this, loftier views, a more intimate acquaintance with the state of science in Europe, and a tenor of conduct far more befitting the character of a learned institution. Raffles and Horsfield have alone done more than one-half the members of that society before them." It would appear, however, that the Dutch have not profited by the lesson of humanity and economy taught them by the British. Having renewed their [illegible] and forced service, the moment the island was restored to them, the chiefs rose against their oppressors, and have kept up a [illegible] with the Dutch forces ever since, although latterly the principal leader, it is said, has recently surrendered himself to the Dutch authorities.

Coasts.] The most remarkable circumstance in the [illegible] of Java is its irregularity, narrowness, and great length, which necessarily give an extraordinary extent of coast. The northern coast presents a considerable number of bays. Setting out from Cape Sandaro, the N.E. extremity of the island, and going W., we encounter a vast bay protected on the N. by the island of Madura. The next object is Cape Mandalia, at the extremity of a remarkable peninsula, which is succeeded by Cape Indramayo, Batavia and Bantam bays, and Cape St Nicholas. At the extreme N.W. point, the coast turns suddenly S.W. forming Pepper bay, and Delkom bay. The southern coast commences with Cape Java, and presents one of the deepest bays in the whole island, the bay of Winkoopers, to the S.E. of which we encounter Cape Vinezen. Eastern Cape forms the S.E. extremity of the island, and between this point and Cape Sandava, the only remarkable inlet is the bay of Balemboang. The principal harbour next to Sussabaya, is that of Batavia, which is a kind of roadstead sheltered by several islands. Indeed, the whole of the northern coast, from the smoothness of the sea, and the numerous islands with which it is studded, may be considered a harbour, at least when we regard the mildness of the season, and the tranquillity of the seas in these parts.

"The general aspect of Java, on the northern coast," says Sir Thomas Raffles, "is low; in many places swampy, and overgrown with mangrove trees and bushes, particularly towards the west. The southern coast, on the contrary, consists almost entirely of a series of rocks and cliffs, which rise perpendicularly to a considerable height. In the interior, stupendous mountains stretch longitudinally throughout the island; while others of an inferior elevation, and innumerable ranges of hills running in various directions, serve to form and confine plains and valleys of various elevation and extent. On the northern side, the ascent is in general very gradual from the seacoast to the immediate base of the mountains, particularly in the western part of the island, where it has the greatest breadth, and where the mountains are situated far inland.

"Although the northern coast is in many parts flat and uninteresting, the interior and southern provinces, from the mountainous character of the country, may be reckoned amongst the most romantic, and highly diversified in the world; uniting all the rich and magnificent scenery which waving forests, never-failing streams, and constant verdure, can present; heightened by a pure atmosphere, and the glowing tints of a tropical sun.

"Quitting the low coast of the north, in many parts unhealthy, the traveller can hardly advance five miles inland, without feeling a sensible improvement in the atmosphere and climate. As he proceeds, at every step he breathes a purer air, and surveys a brighter scene. At length he reaches the high lands. There the boldest forms of nature are tempered by the rural arts of man; stupendous mountains clothed with abundant harvests; impetuous cataracts tamed to the peasant's will. Here is perpetual verdure; here are tints of the brightest hue. In the hottest season the air retains its freshness; in the driest, the innumerable rills and rivulets preserve much of their water. These the mountain-farmer diverts in endless conduits and canals, to irrigate the land, which he has laid in terraces for its reception; it then descends to the plains, and spreads fertility wherever it flows; till at last, by numerous outlets, it discharges itself into the sea."

Physical Features.] Java is almost wholly volcanic; and a series of mountains betraying this origin, and varying in their elevation from 800 to 12,000 feet above the level of the sea, extends from E. to W. through the whole length of the island. The several large mountains in this series, though different from each other in external figure, agree in the general attribute of volcanic features, having a broad base, gradually verging towards the summit in the form of a cone; but they also exhibit indications less equivocal of their origin, such as craters completely extinct, others with small apertures, which continually discharge sulphureous vapours, and some which have emitted flame within a recent period. The following is a list of the principal elevations, as measured by M. Reinwardt.[4]

	English Feet.
Tjikaracha in the district of Manahaija	4017
Source of the Tjitarum	4645
The N. peak of Tiloe in the district of Banjarau	5425
Goenong Goentner in the district of Timangamen	6085
Salak	7172
Gede	9075

They all rise from a plain, but little elevated above the level of the sea, and each must be considered as a separate mountain raised by a cause independent of that which produced the others. Besides the larger series, there are extensive ranges of inferior elevation, sometimes connected with the larger series, and sometimes independent of them. The geological constitution of the island is unfavourable to the existence of metals. No diamonds are found, or any other precious stones; but schist, quartz, felspar, potstone, and trap, are abundant; porphyry is also said to be found in Java.

The most important rivers are those of the *Crawang*, the *Indramayo*, and the *Solo*, which flow into the sea of Java, the *Kadiro*, the *Kalitendo*, and the *Brossat*. None of them are navigable for any considerable way into the interior, but there are probably 50, that in the wet season bear

[4] As the thermometer has been observed so low as 27° of Fahrenheit, or 5° below the freezing point, on the summit of Lindoro, it is clear that its altitude must be greater than the highest of those measured by M. Reinwardt.

down rafts charged with timber and other rough produce, and not less than 5 or 6 at all times navigable to the distance of 5 or 6 miles from the coast. Several other rivers fall into the sea along the northern coast; and countless rivulets, though not navigable, serve to irrigate the plains and valleys through which they flow. A few insignificant streams discharge their waters into the sea on the southern coast, which is very little known or frequented. Among the mountains of the interior, are scattered several small but beautiful lakes, most of them supposed to be the craters of extinct volcanoes.

Climate.] The seasons are here distinguished not by hot and cold, but by wet and dry. The westerly winds—which bring rain generally—set in during the month of October, become more steady in November and December, and gradually subside, till, in March or April, they are succeeded by the easterly winds and fair weather which continue for the remaining half of the year. The heaviest rains are in December and January; and the driest weather in July and August, when the nights are coldest and the days hottest. Thunder and lightning are very frequent. Occasional showers, even in the driest season, refresh the air; and the landscape is at all times of the year covered with the brightest verdure. The thermometer of Fahrenheit has been observed on the northern coast, and particularly in the large and low capitals of Batavia, Samarang, and Surabaya, to indicate above 90°; but, by a series of observations published under the authority of the Dutch government, it has been found usually to range between 70° and 74° in the evenings and mornings, and to stand about 83° at noon. In the interior, among the hills, it seldom rises higher than from 67° to 70°; and on the summit of Lindoro it has been observed as low as 27°. On the whole, the climate of this island—with the exception of Batavia and some other low swampy places on the northern coast—is considered on a level, in point of salubrity, with the healthiest parts of British India, or of any tropical country in the world. Governor Raffles gives a table discovered among the Dutch records, by which it would appear, that the amount of deaths in Batavia, from the year 1730 to 1752, exceeded 11,000,000 of souls, or nearly 50,000 a year! In 1722 upwards of 4000 souls were destroyed by an irruption of the Papandajang.

Productions.] This island is fertile and beautiful; and its soil yields almost every thing which the cultivator can desire. The soil is for the most part rich, and remarkable for its extraordinary depth and fertility. By the side of tropical plants are found most European vegetables, and various fruits of more temperate zones; these are sure to succeed where proper attention is paid to the relative qualities of soil and climate. The mountains and valleys, hills and dales, coast exposures and inland shades, offer an inexhaustible variety of vegetable productions. Rice is here,—as almost every where in the East,—the staff of life; maize, or Indian corn, is an important article in the agriculture of the island, as is the *rachang*. The sugar-cane, coffee-shrub, pepper, indigo, tobacco, several tuberous roots, nutmegs, aloes, cloves, cinnamon, most of the European plants, and a great number which afford oils, all contribute abundantly to the necessities and luxuries of the inhabitants of Java, and furnish valuable articles of commercial export. The choicest fruits of tropical climes abound in Java. Ornamental and medicinal plants, and those whose fibres are convertible into rope, thread, and cloth, abound in Java. Amongst the former are the *datura*, the cubeb-pepper, and the *upas*, the extreme poisonous qualities of which have given rise to some ridiculous exaggerations. A

tree, however, named *Anchar*, and a shrub called *chetik*, are possessed of a malignity almost as quickly destructive to life as the gum from the upas has been described to be. The teak grows in considerable forests; but it does not appear that many trees exist of a size sufficient for ship-building. The island produces a great variety of other trees for house-carpentry and furniture, and some which yield resins and gums. Notwithstanding the extent to which cultivation has been carried in many districts of Java, large portions are still covered with primæval forests.

Many districts of Java, Pfyffer affirms, are untenantable, on account of the number of tigers by which they are infested, and this in spite of a reward of about 27*s.* for the capture of a royal tiger, and 7*s.* for that of a spotted tiger. The rhinoceros inhabits this island, and is a powerful and dangerous animal when provoked. Even the Javanese, though in general good marksmen, are shy of hunting this animal. The *kalong*, which is also called 'the flying fox,' on account of its breast and tail, is an immense bat. It has hooks on its wings, by means of which it suspends itself to the branches of fruit-trees in the night-time, but when day-light appears it flies back to its sequestered haunts. When they roam about at dusk in quest of prey, they associate by thousands, and obscure the sky for several minutes. Peacocks are found in the solitary mountainous districts. The number of distinct species of birds is stated to be somewhat more than 200. The edible birds' nests, exported in large quantities to the Chinese market, have long been known as the production of a small swallow, *hirundo esculenta*. The mucilaginous substance of which the nests are formed, is not, as has been generally supposed, obtained from the ocean; but is an animal elaboration. On the dissection of one of these birds, by Sir E. Home, he discovered a set of secretory organs peculiar to itself, by which, there is little doubt, the mucilaginous matter of these nests is elaborated. This little bird, frequenting the rocks and caverns of Java, furnishes an article of commerce, the annual value of which exceeds 500,000 Spanish dollars. The crocodile of Egypt is found in the rivers, and that species of lizard called the *lacerta monitor*. Turtles, tortoises, frogs, snakes, and insects, are numerous. There are above 20 species of serpents reputed venomous. Of fish there is great variety in the rivers, lakes, and adjoining seas. Though sulphur is found more or less in the vicinity of every volcano, we believe the only instance known of sulphuric acid found in a state of nature is in the island of Java, near Batavia. A lake of sulphuric acid occupies the crater of an extinct volcano, from whence it flows in a rivulet down the sides of the mountain to a considerable distance. In the dry season this acid rivulet becomes absorbed by the sandy soil through which it runs; but in the rainy period it unites with another stream, called the White river. The water of the latter, though saturated with a whitish clay, is not unwholesome either to fish or other animals. But after the junction of the acid rivulet, the stream becomes transparent, the acid precipitating the earthy matter, and destroying not only the fish, but all the vegetation it passes over.

Population.] The Dutch East Indian government have always had much difficulty in obtaining correct censuses of the population of their possessions: "For," says Pfyffer, "the princes, or other great lords, strive as much as possible to increase the number of their households, and endeavour to avoid making any return of births, being apprehensive of the interference of the government, who allow them no greater number of servants than their rank or necessities require." The priests, too, are accustomed

to oppose the taking of censuses, upon the authority of the koran, which calls down the punishment inflicted on king David on the heads of such as number the people. Governor Raffles has given two tables of the population: the first taken by the Dutch, and not to be depended on; the second by the British government, and under far more favourable circumstances. From the latter it appears, that the population of Java and Madura, in 1815, amounted to 4,615,270 souls, the number of males and females being nearly equal. The population of the native capital, Surakerta, was estimated at 105,000; and that of Yugya-kerta at something short of this; that of Batavia had dwindled to 60,000, or about one-half of its former number. Pfyffer, in his 'Skizyen von der Insel Java,' published in 1829, says that the population is now thought to exceed 5,000,000 souls. Among the foreign settlers, the Chinese are the most numerous, as well as the most important. There are nearly 100,000 Chinese in this country, and they are said to be "the life and soul" of its commerce. The Bugis and the Malays are established in the maritime towns only; of the latter about 500,000 inhabit the western part of Java, and speak the Sunda language. Like the Chinese, they have their own officers, who are responsible to the government for the conduct of the people under their command. The majority of the Arabs on the island are priests; they are a mixed race, and prevail most on the eastern extremity of the island, where Mahommedanism was first planted. The Javanese possess no slaves; those which are found on the island are the property of Europeans and Chinese alone, and are generally procured from the islands of Bali and Celebes; they amount to about 30,000.

Javanese.] In common with the inhabitants of the whole Indian archipelago, the inhabitants of Java are pronounced by Sir S. Raffles to bear in their features marks of Tartar origin. The Javanese are in general taller than the Bugis, but inferior to the Malays. Their colour is that of "virgin gold;" their limbs are slender, their wrists and ankles particularly small, the forehead high, the eye of the Tartar cast, the nose small and somewhat flattened, the mouth well-formed, the cheeks prominent, the beard scanty, the hair lank and black. The countenance is mild, placid, and thoughtful; and easily expresses respect, gaiety, earnestness, indifference, bashfulness, or anxiety. The women are in general less good-looking than the men; and, when old, appear hideously ugly: those of the higher class, who are not exposed to hard labour and the weather, have a share of personal beauty. The manners of the Javanese are easy, courteous, and respectful, even to timidity; pliant and graceful, the people of condition carry with them an air of fashion and good breeding, and are not in the least disconcerted by the stare of the curious.

The condition of the peasant of Java would, under a mild and equitable government, be truly enviable. His cottage, or hut, costs him not more than from 2 to 4 rupees, or from 5 to 10 shillings; the pliant bamboo furnishes him with the materials for the walls, the partitions, and the roof; the dwellings of the petty chiefs are larger, but do not exceed in value 40 shillings each. Those of the chiefs and nobles are still larger; they have supports and beams of timber, and cost about £10 or £15. The Chinese have buildings of brick and mortar. The cottages of the Javanese are never insulated, but formed into villages, whose population extends from 50 to 200 or 300 inhabitants; each has its garden; and this spot of ground surrounding his simple habitation, the cottager considers as his peculiar patrimony, and cultivates it with peculiar care. "He labours,"

says governor Raffles, "to plant and to rear in it those vegetables that may be most useful to his family, and those shrubs and trees which may at once yield him their fruit and their shade; nor does he waste his efforts on a thankless soil. The assemblage of huts that compose the village become thus completely screened from the rays of a scorching sun, and are so buried amid the foliage of a luxuriant vegetation, that at a small distance no appearance of a human dwelling can be discovered; and the residence of a numerous society appears only a verdant grove, or a clump of evergreens." It is true, that the slavish submission of the inferior to his superior, amongst the Javanese, makes a melancholy impression upon the mind of a European. The Javanese does not receive the commands of his *radehn*, or 'noble master,' or *orang besar*, 'superior,' in an erect posture, but in the lowliest attitude he can devise; stooping down or sitting with his legs crossed and his body bent forwards. Whilst the order is giving, he frequently repeats the expressions, *Nja nun!* or *nun!* 'yes, my lord and master,' though he uses *tuan*, 'master,' when addressed by a European. Without rising from the ground, or even casting his eye upwards, he now and then brings his hands together by the tip of the fingers, and raises them to his head, in token of his entire submissiveness. We find, however, by degrees, that this condition, to which our principles of independence would attach the name of slavery, is any thing but galling. Their servility implies just as much and no more than touching the hat, or other every-day civilities, among most Europeans: and, on the whole, (such is the warmth of the climate and the natural fertility of the soil,) there is scarcely a happier mortal under heaven's canopy than the peasant of Java.

Every village forms a community within itself, each having its officers, its priests, and its temple appropriated to religious worship. What Christian but ardently prays, that these synagogues of idolatry may be supplanted by temples dedicated to the worship of the only living and true God! The furniture of the cottage is equally simple with the cottage that contains it, and consists but of a few articles; the bed is nothing more than a mat, with pillows; the inhabitants use neither tables nor chairs, but sit cross-legged; and, in common with other Mahommedans, make use of the right hand only at their meals. Rice is the chief article of their subsistence; but various pungent pickles and condiments are used almost with every species of food. Water is the principal and almost exclusive beverage; it is generally drank warm; sometimes a little cinnamon or other spice is thrown into it; and tea is commonly taken between meals. Of these there are two a day, one just before noon, and the other between seven and eight in the evening. The betel-leaf and areca nut are indispensable articles for all classes; and the use of that deleterious drug, opium, is far too extensive for the health and happiness of the inhabitants. Agriculture is the principal employment of the Javanese; indeed they are a nation of husbandmen. The wealth of a province or village is measured by the extent and fertility of its land,—its facilities for rice-irrigation,—and the number of its buffaloes.

Though the Chinese in a great measure monopolize the manufactures and handicraft trades, the Javanese are far from being deficient in natural sagacity or docility. Like most eastern nations, they are enthusiastic admirers of poetry; and are said to possess a delicate ear for music. They have a kind of improvisatricci amongst them in their *rongins*, or dancing-girls. Pfyffer says of a rongin: "Her songs are impromptu, and suited to her auditory. In the twinkling of an eye she selects the preferable

points of her admirer's exterior; an arch smile lights up her features; she extols his handsome figure, his noble bearing, his eyes, feet, and dress, and sums up her eulogy with a seductive, and apparently artless portraiture of his liberality and munificence. These girls also recite national ballads, of which the substance is derived from the legendary recollections of their ancient rulers. Many of these ballads are perfect fac-similes of Ovid's Metamorphoses, and constitute a portion of Javanese mythography." The Javanese are remarkable for an unsuspecting and almost infantine credulity, lending an easy credence to omens, prognostics, soothsayers, and quacks; they are the ready dupes of any religious fanatic, and give credit, without scruple or examination, to the claims of every pretender to supernatural powers. Listless and unenterprising as they generally are, no sooner is their religious enthusiasm excited, than they become at once adventurous and persevering, esteeming no labour arduous, no result impossible, and no privation painful. Here, as in many other of the Asiatic islands, the people, and especially the slaves, are frequently guilty of those dreadful acts of vengeance called 'running a muck;' in which the infuriated individual aims at indiscriminate slaughter, till he himself is killed like a wild beast. There are instances on record, wherein whole villages have devoted themselves to inevitable destruction, to avenge an injury or insult.

Zengger and Bedui.] To the eastward of Sorabaya, are the Zengger mountains, on which is found the remnant of a people, amounting to about 1200, who follow the Hindoo worship. They occupy about 40 villages, in the most beautifully rich and romantic spots in Java,—a region where the thermometer is frequently as low as 42°,—where the summits and slopes of the hills are covered with alpine firs,—and where plants common to an European climate flourish in luxuriance. At the opposite extremity of the island, in the interior of Bantan, is another tribe called the *Bedui*, the descendants of those who escaped into the woods after the fall of the western capital of Bajagaram, in the 15th century, because they would not change their religion; and who, when at length they submitted to the sultan of Bantan, did it on condition that they should not be compelled to adopt the faith of the Koran: they retain some singular customs, but their numbers are inconsiderable.

Government.] The government of the Javanese is a pure unmixed despotism; but there are customs of which the people are very tenacious, and which the sovereign seldom invades. His subjects have no right of liberty, of person or property: his breath can raise the humblest individual from the dust to the highest distinction—or wither the honours of the most exalted. There is no hereditary rank; nothing to oppose his will. Not only honours, posts, and distinctions, depend upon his pleasure, but all the landed property of his dominions remains at his disposal, and may, together with its cultivators, be parcelled out by his order among the officers of his household, the members of his family, the ministers of his pleasures, or the useful servants of the state. Every officer is paid by grants of land, or by a power to receive from the peasantry a certain proportion of the produce of certain villages or districts.

States of Susuhunan and Djocjokarta.] "The eastern portion of Java," says Pfyffer, "is the seat of two native governments; that of the *Susuhunan*, or emperor of *Surakarta*, and that of the sultan of *Djocjokarta, (Yugya-kerta.)* Though the power of both has been considerably curtailed, and they are mainly dependent upon the Dutch authorities, their influence is still of so formidable a nature, that the intervention of a single

warlike and able individual would speedily enable them to re-assert their independence; and, from their superior numbers, combined with the pernicious character of their climate, to extirpate their European masters. So long as these two kingdoms are permitted to exist, the possession of Java by the Dutch must be fraught with insecurity. Fanaticism, jealousy, and inextinguishable hatred, lurk in the dismal recesses of the island, and the native omits no opportunity which offers of sowing distrust and contempt of Europeans, who are called *Orang Kapir*, 'pagans,' or 'infidels.'" These provinces comprehend about one-fourth of the island, and include some of its richest districts.

Batavia.] The chief towns of Java are: *Batavia, Solo, Djaijaienta,* and *Samarang*. Batavia is termed the capital, although only the fourth in point of population. Of the magnificence which procured for this capital the title of 'Queen of the East,' little is now to be found. Streets have been pulled down,—canals half-filled up,—forts demolished,—and palaces levelled with the dust. The first appearance of Batavia, when you have fairly entered into the town (for before then, it is, in common with the native towns, hid in a forest of ever-verdant fruit and ornamental trees), is rather imposing. The houses in the European parts of the town are spacious, but inelegant, and built according to no known rules of art. The upper story is a receptacle for lumber, and the lower, or ground-floor, is filled with a quantity of clumsy furniture, such as cabinet work, the ill-finished manufacture of the country, after the Dutch models of the 16th century, lustres of painted glass, and defaced mirrors. The recent extended connection with Europe is gradually dispelling this kind of barbarism, and the modern settlers successfully imitate the taste and fashions of the British. The public edifices are neither numerous nor splendid. The few public institutions are: the orphan chamber, which administers to the estates of all persons dying intestate, or whose executors are absent,—the supreme college of justice, consisting of a president and two members,—and a literary society, instituted in 1777, and renewed during the temporary government of the British. This society has published seven Dutch volumes, and two English, which contain a few essays of some merit. The administration of the town, and the management of the police, are solely in the hands of government, who depute their authority to a bench of magistrates. Batavia is, from its westerly situation and easy access, the best and most convenient port in the island. In point of security, however, and conveniency for the landing and shipping of goods, it bears no comparison to the fine harbour of Surabaya. Batavia is even better known in Europe by its fatal climate, than by its great trade and central situation. The disease which chiefly proves mortal, is a fever of the remittent kind. Dysenteries are very rare; and inflammations of the liver, which terminate fatally by the formation of matter, are of a chronic nature, and almost always the consequence of long-continued spirituous intemperance. The merchants who transact business in the town during the day enjoy as large a share of health as the European residents of any tropical climate whatever; but a stranger who sleeps for six or eight days successively in the town, may certainly reckon on catching the fever, and it is more than an equal chance but he falls a victim to this terrible malady. Batavia owes its insalubrity to the recession of the sea for a space of many hundred yards, by which an extensive mud flat is left uncovered, and to the injudicious dissipation of the waters of the river into numerous stagnant canals, poisoning the purity of the air, and depriving the river of the natural impetus

which would have kept its channel clear of the impurities which now choke its mouth, or lie putrifying on it banks. At present, the salubrity of the site has enticed all respectable persons to take up their residence at *Weltevreden*, *Konigsplein*, or *Meister Cornelius*, about 6 miles beyond the city, where you may ride for several miles amidst elegant country-seats, built in the English or Italian style. Few Europeans reside in Batavia, excepting those who are directly concerned in shipping.

MADURA.] Madura, an island lying close to Java, where it is narrowest, and seeming to form a part of it, is 91½ miles in length, and about 31 in breadth. The central region is a continued ridge of no great elevation. The soil produces rice in great abundance; buffaloes, sheep, and bay-salt are also exported. The population, according to a census taken in 1815, was 218,659 souls, of whom 6,344 were Chinese. The natives speak a peculiar language, and have less resemblance to the Malays than most of the eastern islanders. The principal towns are *Samanap*, *Parmacossan*, *Bancallan*, and *Kamal;* and the chief subordinate isles are *Gallion* and *Pondi*.

Authorities.] Journal der Reize na Java, etc. door S. C. Nederburgh, Amsterd., 1805, 8vo.—Raffle's History of Java, 2 vols. 4to. Lond., 1818. —Travels by Kienberg, Tombe, Dabellardiere, Stavorinus, and Roggeveen. —Professor Reinwardt's Notes in the Batavian Courant.—Asiatic Journal. —Kaart van Eiland Java, 1818.—Pfyffer's Sketches.

CHAP. VII.—THE TIMORIAN CHAIN.

TIMOR.] The large island of Timor is situated between the 8th and 11th degrees of southern latitude, and the 123d and 127th of eastern longitude. It is throughout a hilly country. Its limestone-mountains exhibit sea-shells at an elevation of 800 feet; they frequently present a conical shape; but it is not known whether any volcanoes exist among them. The whole island is subject to frequent earthquakes. The valleys are generally very narrow with steep sides, but in a few instances open into plains of considerable extent. The rivers are all small, and so steep that none of them are navigable beyond the influence of the tide, which seldom extends above 400 yards, and in the flattest not above two miles. *Delli* harbour, on the N.E. coast, is well-defended from the sea by a reef of rocks. *Coupang* harbour, on the S.W. coast, is a large bay, about 12 miles wide at the mouth, and upwards of 20 feet deep, formed by the island of *Semao* to the S.W. and a point of Timor to the N. It is entirely open to the N.W.

Productions.] The enthusiasm of navigators, who have visited this island immediately after leaving the tiresome shores of New Holland, has created some exaggeration in their descriptions of the fertility of this island; yet it is certainly a very pleasing spot. The cultivation chiefly consists of rice, maize, millet, *kachang*, yams, sweet potatoes, and cotton. Maize is the principal article of food, but the natives depend for a great part of their food on the sugar of the Lontar-palm, and the produce of the sago-palm. The use of the plough is unknown: a wooden hoe and sharp-pointed stick are the only implements used in the hill-cultivation. The average annual crop of paddy is 70 fold. Cocoas and areca palms are very scarce; but the lontar is abundant, and small quantities of sugar-cane are raised. Fish can scarcely be considered as an article of subsistence, there are scarcely any of the natives who will trust themselves in a

canoe. The bee is not domesticated here, nor indeed in any of the islands in this quarter; but the vegetation supports an infinity of wild bees. Gold is found in several of the rivers, both in lumps and grains. Two of the most productive rivers are situated within the Dutch government; but the natives are superstitiously afraid of taking gold from these rivers, and are said never to do so without sacrificing a human being to the river deity. Copper is said to abound in the *Phillaran* hills, which are situated near the centre of the N.W. side of the island. The specimens which have been procured are large masses of native copper imbedded in hard white shining stone.

Dutch and Portuguese Possessions.] The Dutch and Portuguese claim between them the entire sovereignty of this island: Fort Concordia being the seat of the government of the former, and Delli of the latter. But the power of both is so much decreased at the present day, that their authority is only acknowledged by such of the native chiefs as need their assistance against their more powerful neighbours. The nominal boundary of the two governments cannot be formed by a line drawn in any direction, as some of the petty states near Delli are under Dutch protection, while others, near Coupang, are under the Portuguese. It is, however, considered that the whole of the country to the E. of Delli belongs to the Portuguese; and the whole of the S. coast to the Dutch. Along the N.W. coast the two governments are completely mixed.

Population.] It is impossible to form any correct estimate of the population. The inhabitants are said to be numerous in the interior and along the S. coast; but very few villages are to be seen on the N. coast, and these consisting only of a few huts. It appears, however, the general custom of the island not to form themselves into large communities. The natives are generally of a very dark colour, with frizzled bushy hair, but less inclining in appearance to the Papuans than the natives of Eude. They are below the middle size, and rather slight in their figure. In countenance they more nearly resemble the South sea islanders than any of the Malay tribes. The peasants of both sexes wear a cloth only wrapped round their loins; the rajahs generally were *bajus* of silk or chintz, with five or six handkerchiefs of different colours wrapped loosely round their heads. Their ornaments chiefly consist of arm-rings of gold, silver, or ivory; the women wear arm and ankle-rings of earthenware. There does not appear to be any system of laws amongst them; the will of the sovereign being in all cases supreme. The religion of the island is pagan; most of the princes, indeed, prefer Christianity, but are entirely guided by their pagan priests and customs. Their deities are represented by particular stones or trees; they call them *nieto*, or 'evil spirits;' and pray to them to avoid the evils they suppose would otherwise be inflicted by them. Sacrifices are common, and generally consist of buffaloes, hogs, sheep, or fowls; but sometimes a human being is sacrificed, and, until Dutch interference put a stop to the practice, a virgin was annually sacrificed to the sharks and alligators close to the town of Coupang. The arms at present in use are muskets and spears of iron or bamboo; bows and arrows are only used by a few natives in the interior. Obtaining the head of an enemy in battle is considered the highest feat of arms. The feudal system seems to exist throughout the island; for every man capable of bearing arms is obliged to attend the call of his feudal lord. Some of the rajahs call themselves the descendants of caymans, or crocodiles, and seem to be every way worthy of such illustrious descent. It has been supposed that not less than 40 languages are spoken on the island.

Trade.] The trade of Timor is considerable, particularly at Delli The principal imports are coarse blue and white cloth, large pattern chintzes, red handkerchiefs, China silks of gaudy patterns, muskets, gunpowder, iron, coarse cutlery, and lead. The exports are principally wax, sandle-wood, and cattle. The method of trading is singular. When the prows arrive off the coast, they land the articles which they have for barter, in small quanties at a time, on the beach; whereupon the natives come down with the produce they have for sale, and place it opposite the goods from the prows, pointing to the articles they wish to obtain in exchange. When an offer is considered sufficient by the native, he snatches up the proffered goods, and darts off into the jungle, leaving his own; or should he be unable to obtain what he considers an adequate offer, he seizes his own property, and flies off with equal haste, never returning a second time. The annual trade of Coupang alone—which is not supposed to exceed one-fourth of the trade of the whole island—has of late averaged 1,200,000 Spanish dollars.

Rotti.] Rotti is the largest of the islands under the residency of Coupang, and is situated to the S.W. of Timor. It is about 38 miles broad, and 60 long; and is at present divided into 18 districts, under the government of as many rajahs, who can bring upwards of 10,000 armed men into the field. This island is a succession of low hills and narrow valleys; the soil is stony, but productive; the rivers are few and small. The productions are the same as those of Timor. The trade is almost entirely confined to the exchange of palm sugar, with the Bontan prows, for cotton; of horses and buffaloes, with whalers, for ammunition; and of bees' wax for European and Indian manufactures with Coupang. The natives are darker than the people of Celebes, but are remarkable for having long black hair, whilst nearly the whole of the inhabitants of the surrounding islands have frizzled hair. Their features bear a stronger resemblance to the natives of India than to those of the eastern islands. They are esteemed a mild-tempered people. Their religion, customs, and belief in auguries, are, in most respects, the same as those of the Timorese; but the natives of the two islands do not understand each other's dialects. The slave trade was formerly carried to a great length on this island: several hundred slaves being annually exported to Batavia, Amboyna, and other Dutch settlements.

Savu.] Savu is a small island, and, according to some, the name of two small islands, lying about 60 miles due W. of the N. part of Rotti. They are hilly throughout, but fertile. The natives bear a strong resemblance to the Timorese, but are of a fiercer disposition.

Sandal-wood Island.] The large island called, from its produce, by the Dutch, *Sandal-bosche* or 'Sandal-wood' Island, has, in the Malay language the name of *Poolo Tchinnana*, which has the same import, but, by the natives is called *Sumba*. It was formerly under the authority of the Dutch, but about 30 years ago the natives threw off their allegiance in consequence of the Dutch persisting to cut sandal-wood, and the natives having a belief that for every tree of it which is cut down some one of their number will be deprived of life; or, according to Hogendorp's account of the matter, supposing that these trees are the present abodes of the souls of their ancestors. The island is rather low in its appearance from the sea; there does not appear to be a single hill on it. The natives are said to be extremely savage, daring, and treacherous.

Solor, *&c.*] The chain of islands to the W. of Timor is double. We have followed the southern range, and are now to take a survey of the

northern, which are, in general, larger and closer together. Leaving the N. side of Timor, we count four islands extending in a westerly direction, called *Ombay*, *Pantar* or *Alao*, *Lombet*, and *Selrao*, all inhabited by very rude and fierce tribes, bearing a strong external resemblance to those of Timor. The island of *Solor* is divided from Selrao by a small strait. The inhabitants are divided into two classes: the mountaineers, who are, at the present day, perfectly savage,—and the inhabitants of the coast, who appear to be of the *Badja* tribe, and are frequently employed by the Dutch as seamen. They carry on some trade with Coupang, Macassar, and Sumbawa, and are expert fishermen. Their religion is Mahommedan; a few on the N. coast have been led to profess Christianity by the influence of the Portuguese.

Ende.] The island of Ende, or *Floris*, is nearly as large as Timor; but as the only European establishment upon it, that of *Larantuka*, belongs to the Portuguese, our knowledge of it is slender. It appears from the sea to be very hilly in all parts, and on the S. coast there are several volcanic mountains of great height. The natives live chiefly in the interior, except at the E. end; the sea-coast and ports to the westward are occupied by colonies from Sumbawa and Celebes. The natives more resemble the Papuans than the Timorese. They form a number of petty states, which are constantly at war with each other for the purpose of making slaves, for whom, till at least of late, they always find a ready sale on the coast. In this island, as in Timor, there is a great multiplicity of local languages.

CHAP. VIII.—SUMATRA AND ADJACENT ISLANDS.

SUMATRA is a very large, but imperfectly known, island, situated between 5° 3′ S. lat. and 5° 40′ N. lat.; the equator dividing it into almost equal parts. It is 1,050 miles in length, and from 150 to 200 in breadth; with a general direction from N.W. to S.E. It is separated from Malacca by the strait of that name; from Borneo by the strait of Koremata; and from Java by the strait of Sunda. Its northern point stretches into the bay of Bengal; its S.W. coast is exposed to the Great Indian ocean. Crawfurd estimated its superficial area at 130,000 B. square miles. Among the eastern people generally this island is known by the names of *Pulo Purichu*, and *Indalas;* the origin of the term *Sumatra* is quite uncertain. By Marco Polo it is called *Java Minor;* and, by the Javanese, 'the land of Palembang.' By a recent treaty, the British government ceded their possessions in this island to the king of the Netherlands, in exchange for the Dutch settlements on the continent of India.

Physical Features.] This island is surpassed by few in the beautiful indulgences of nature. A chain of mountains runs through its whole extent; the ranges, in many parts, being double and treble, yet their altitude is not sufficient to occasion their being covered with snow during any part of the year. The highest point in the central chain is *Mount Ophir*, which rises to the height of 13,424 feet above the level of the sea. A number of the mountains are volcanic. Between these ridges are extensive plains, considerably elevated above the surface of the maritime lands. In these the air is cool; and, from this advantage, they are esteemed the most eligible portion of the country, are the best inhabited, and the most cleared from woods, which elsewhere, in general, cover both hills and valleys with an eternal shade. The western coast of Sumatra is well supplied with rivers, but they are, in general, too shallow and rapid for the purpose

of navigation. On the N.E. coast, the mountains being at a greater distance from the sea, the rivers attain a greater magnitude of volume. The largest on the western coast are the *Kataun*, the *Indrapura*, the *Tabayong*, and *Sinkel*, which are all inferior to the *Palembang*, the *Jambee*, the *Judragiri*, and the *Siah* of the E. coast. Mr Anderson made an exact survey of part of the E. coast of Sumatra, which must be of use to those who navigate those seas; he ascended also several of the rivers; and obtained information of a large lake, mentioned by Marsden, in the interior. It is a day's sail across with a good breeze. The borders of it are in a high state of cultivation. Boats, some of them having 50 men on board, navigate the lake. They are mostly pirates, plundering each other, and carrying off children, whom they sell for slaves. There is an island in the centre of this lake where the edible birds' nests are found, that are in such request in the Chinese market.

Productions.] It may easily be imagined, that a country situated immediately under the equinoctial line, and covered with deep alluvial soil, must be luxuriantly fertile; but the enormous size to which many of its productions arrive is almost incredible. We should look in vain in extra-tropical climates for any single flower measuring three feet in diameter, like that of the parasitical *Rafflesia;* or for a tuberose edible root weighing 400lbs.; or for melons, pumkins, and other species of the cucurbitaceous family, equal to half that weight; or for a shell-fish, one of which might sup 24 men. The choicest trees, herbs, and fruits, are every where found, many of them demanding no labour of cultivation whatever. The villages are situated in the midst of the most luxuriant groves and plantations of the cocoa-nut, betel-nut, bananas, jacks, dorians, mangosteens, guavas, mangoes, pomegranates, pine-apples, cashen-apples, tamarinds, the bread-fruit, several varieties of the orange, the lemon, the lime, and the pescing or plantain; while the air is scented with the sweetest perfumes from innumerable flowers.—Among the productions of this island may be mentioned the camphor-tree, which naturally produces camphor in a concrete state, indigo, brazil-wood, pepper, benzoin, coffee, cassia, and cotton. The total annual produce of pepper has been roughly estimated at 45,000,000 of pounds. The-nutmeg and clove have been introduced with great success at Bencoolen. The silk-cotton is among the most remarkable of the Sumatran vegetables. "It grows," says Marsden, "in pods from four to six inches long, which burst open when ripe. The seeds entirely resemble the black pepper, but are without taste. The tree is remarkable, from the branches growing out perfectly straight and horizontal, and being always three, forming equal angles at the same height: the diminutive shoots likewise grow flat, and the several gradations of branches observe the same regularity to the top. Some travellers have called it the umbrella-tree, but the piece of furniture called a dumb waiter exhibits a more striking picture of it." This cotton has not hitherto been applied to any other purpose than the stuffing of pillows, since it is supposed to be too brittle for the purposes of manufacture; but Marsden is of opinion that it has not hitherto been properly tried. In the forests are found the cabbage-tree, ebony, pine, sandal, the aloe, the teak, the manchineel, iron wood, and the banyan-tree.

Animals.] Man alone seems here to degenerate, while other animals obtain their largest size. The elephants are equal in magnitude to those of Ceylon; and the tiger, the rhinoceros, and the buffalo, are superior to those of the continent. The tigers are of great size, and are very numerous;

but, from a superstitious idea that they are animated by the souls of departed heroes, the natives can scarcely be brought to kill them. The orang-outang is a native of Sumatra, and several other species of Simiæ. The rivers are infested with alligators, to which Marsden seems inclined to attribute the powers of fascination. These alligators are also protected by an idea of their sanctity. The hog-deer, an animal rather larger than a rabbit, yields the bezoar, a substance to which have been attributed many medicinal virtues. The buffaloes are fuller, says Mr Anderson, than any bullock I ever saw in Smithfield market; and—to descend in the scale of beings—the common domestic fowl grows so large, that, standing on the ground, it can pick crumbs from an eating-table. It is a disputed point whether the huge hippopotamus exists in the rivers of Sumatra. Red ants, leeches, and musquitoes, form disagreeable annoyances in this country.

Minerals.] Gold is procured in the central parts of the island. It is asserted, that from 10,000 to 12,000 ounces of this metal have been annually received at Padang alone. Silver is not known. Tin is a very considerable article of commerce. Iron ore is procured, but not in large quantities. Sulphur and yellow arsenic are articles of traffic.

Population.] The inhabitants of Sumatra are rather below the middle size; their limbs are generally slight, but well-shaped, and particularly small about the wrists and ancles. The women follow the preposterous custom of flattening the noses and compressing the skulls of children newly born, and also pull out the ears to make them stand at right angles with the head. The males destroy their beards, and keep their chins remarkably smooth. Their complexion is properly yellow, wanting the red tinge that constitutes a tawny or copper colour. The females of the upper classes, not exposed to the rays of the sun, approach to a degree of fairness. Persons of superior rank encourage the growth of their hand-nails to an extraordinary length; the hands of the natives in general, and even of the half-breed, are always cold. The inland natives are superior in strength and size to the Malays of the coast, and possess also fairer complexions. Among the hills the inhabitants are subject to monstrous wens or goitres on the throat. Both sexes have the extraordinary custom of filing and disfiguring their teeth, which are naturally white and beautiful from the simplicity of their food. Many, particularly the women of the Lampong country, have their teeth rubbed down even with their gums; others have them formed into points like equilateral triangles, while some file off no more than the outer extremity, and then blacken them with the empyreumatic oil of the cocoa-nut shell. The great men set their teeth in gold, by casing with a plate of that metal under the row; which ornament, contrasted with the black dye, has by candle-light a very splendid effect. Sometimes it is indented to the shape of their teeth, but more usually it is quite plain, and it is not removed either to sleep or eat. The original clothing of the Sumatrans is the same with that found by navigators among the South-sea islands, and in Europe generally called Otaheitean cloth. It is still used among the Rejangs as their working dress, but the country people now in a great measure conform to the costume of the Malays.

Manners and Customs.] The *dusuns*, or villages of the Sumatrans—for the inhabitants are so few that they are not entitled to the name of towns, are always situated on the banks of a river or lake, for the convenience of bathing and of transporting goods. The buildings are of wood and bamboos, covered with palm-leaves. The frames of the houses rest on stout wooden pillars about six or eight feet high, and are ascended to by a piece

of bamboo cut into notches. Detached buildings in the country are raised ten or twelve feet from the ground, to be secure against tigers. The furniture is extremely simple, and neither knives or forks are required, as in eating they take up the rice and other victuals between their fingers and thumb. The native Sumatran of the interior differs in some respects from the Malay of the coast, being mild, peaceable, and forbearing, unless roused by violent provocation. He is also temperate and sober; his diet being mostly vegetable, and his only beverage water. Their hospitality is great and their manners simple; and they are in general, except among the chiefs, devoid of the Malay cunning and chicane. On the other hand, they are litigious, indolent, addicted to gaming, dishonest in their dealings with strangers, which they do not consider as any moral defect, regardless of truth, mean, and servile; and, although cleanly in their persons, filthy in their apparel, which they never wash.

Cannibalism.] The Battas practise cannibalism in the punishment awarded to particular crimes. This fact is established by abundant and unquestionable evidence. The following account of this horrible custom is extracted from the 'Memoirs of Sir Stamford Raffles:' "A man had been found guilty of a very common crime, and was sentenced to be eaten, according to the law of the land: this took place close to Tappanooly. The resident was invited to attend: he declined, but his assistant and a native officer were present. As soon as they reached the spot, they found a large assemblage of people, and the criminal tied to a tree, with his hands extended. The minister of justice—who was himself a chief of some rank—then came forward with a large knife in his hand, which he brandished as he approached the victim. He was followed by a man carrying a dish, in which was a preparation or condiment, composed of limes, chillis, and salt, called by the Malays *sambul*. He then called aloud for the injured husband, and demanded what part he chose; he replied the right ear, which was immediately cut off with one stroke, and delivered to the party, who, turning round to the man behind, deliberately dipped it into the sambul and devoured it; the rest of the party then fell upon the body, each taking and eating the part most to his liking. After they had cut off a considerable part of the flesh, one man stabbed him to the heart; but this was rather out of compliment to the foreign visitors, as it is by no means the custom to give the *coup de grace*. It was with a knowledge of all these facts regarding the Battas that I paid a visit to Tappanooly, with a determination to satisfy my mind most fully in every thing concerning cannibalism. I had previously set on foot extensive inquiries, and so managed matters as to concentrate the information, and to bring the point within a narrow compass. You shall now hear the result; but before I proceed, I must beg of you to have a little more patience than you had with Mr Mariner. I recollect then, when you came to the story of eating the aunt, you threw the book down. Now I can assure your grace that I have ten times more to report, and you must believe me. I have said the Battas are not a bad people, and I still think so, notwithstanding they eat one another, and relish the flesh of a man better than that of an ox or a pig. You must merely consider that I am giving you an account of a novel state of society. The Battas are not savages, for they write and read, and think full as much, and more than those who are brought up at our Lancasterian and national schools. They have also codes of laws of great antiquity; and it is from a regard for these laws, and a veneration for the institutions of their ancestors, that they eat each

other; the law declares that for certain crimes, four in number, the criminals shall be eaten alive. The same law declares also, that in great wars, that is to say, one district with another, it shall be lawful to eat the prisoners, whether taken alive, dead, or in their graves. In the four great cases of crimes the criminal is also duly tried and condemned by a competent tribunal. When the evidence is heard, sentence is pronounced, and the chiefs drink a dram each, which last ceremony is equivalent to signing and sealing with us. Two or three days then elapse to give time for assembling the people, and in cases of adultery it is not allowed to carry the sentence into effect, unless the relations of the wife appear and partake of the feast. The prisoner is then brought forward on the day appointed, and fixed to a stake with his hands extended. The husband, or party injured, comes up and takes the first choice, generally the ears; the rest then, according to their rank, take the choice pieces, each helping himself according to his liking. After all have partaken, the chief person goes up and cuts off the head, which he carries home as a trophy. The head is hung up in front of the house, and the brains are carefully preserved in a bottle for the purposes of witchcraft, &c. In devouring the flesh, it is sometimes eaten raw, and sometimes grilled, but it must be eaten upon the spot. Limes, salt, and pepper, are always in readiness, and they sometimes eat rice with the flesh, but never drink toddy or spirits; many carry bamboos with them, and filling them with blood drink it off. The assembly consists of men alone, as the flesh of man is prohibited to the females: it is said, however, that they get a bit by stealth now and then. I am assured, and really do believe, that many of the people prefer human flesh to any other; but notwithstanding this *penchant* they never indulge the appetite except on lawful occasions. The palms of the hands, and the soles of the feet, are the delicacies of epicures! On expressing my surprise at the continuance of such extraordinary practices, I was told that formerly it was usual for the people to eat their parents when they were too old for work. The old people selected the horizontal branch of a tree, and quietly suspended themselves by their hands, while their children and neighbours, forming a circle, danced round them, crying out, 'When the fruit is ripe, then it will fall!' This practice took place during the season of limes, when salt and pepper were plentiful; and as soon as the victims became fatigued and could hold on no longer, they fell down, when all hands cut them up, and made a hearty meal of them. This practice, however, of eating the old people has been abandoned, and thus a step in civilization has been attained, and therefore there are hopes of future improvement. This state of society you will admit to be very peculiar. It is calculated that certainly not less than from 60 to 100 Battas are thus eaten in a year in times of peace."

Languages.] The Malays of Sumatra use the Arabic character, and have intermixed their language with the Batta, Arabic, and Portuguese. The other principal languages of Sumatra, are the *Batta*, the *Rejang*, and the *Lampong*; the difference between these languages, however, is chiefly marked by their being expressed in distinct written characters.

Religion.] The ancient religion of the Rejangs, the Sumatran race with which we are best acquainted, is now scarcely to be traced. At present they seem to have no object of worship whatever, unless it be a species of genii which they call *orang alus*. The superstition which has the strongest influence on their minds is that which leads them to venerate, almost to the point of worshipping, the tombs and remains of their deceased ancestors.

TOPOGRAPHY.] The natives divide Sumatra into three regions: 1st, *Balla*, in the N., which includes the kingdom of *Acheen*, with the vassal principalities of *Pedeer*, *Passay*, and *Delli*. It is bounded on the E. side of the island by the river Siac, and on the W. by the Sinkol. The interior of this division is inhabited by the Battas:—The 2d division is the ancient empire of *Benangkaboo*, comprehending the kingdoms of *Jambee* and *Andragiri*, on the E. coast,—in the interior the country of the Rejangs,—and on the W. coast the *Baroo* country, *Tappanooly*, *Natal*, and others, with the kingdom of *Indrapoora*. The 3d division is called *Ballumary*, or *Kampang*, and embraces the S.E. end of the island, including the state of *Bencoolen*.

Palembang.] The kingdom of Palembang—which amongst the native states of Sumatra holds the first rank—occupies that portion of the island to the southward of the equator which is included between the latitudes of 2° and 4° 30′. It is bounded on the N. and E. by the straits of Banca; on the S. by the Lampoong country; on the W. and S.W. by the ranges of mountains which separate the latter state from Bencoolen and its dependencies; and on the N.W. its limits adjoin the territories of the sultan of Jambee. The principal river, which is called the *Moosee*, and upon which the town of Pablemang is situated, runs through the whole extent of the country in a general direction from S.W. to N.E., having its source in the range of hills near to Bencoolen. With this river all the others belonging to the district have confluence, and the accumulated waters are disembogued into the straits of Banca by four different mouths. The *Soensang* branch affords the easiest communication with the town of Palembang, which, however, owing to the winding course of the river, is about 70 miles distant from the sea. The town is indeed accessible on the north and eastern sides only by means of these arms of the Moosee, for the whole coast of Sumatra, along the straits of Banca, presents nothing to the eye but a low flat of interminable swamps and jungles. The Soensang arm is navigable to Palembang by vessels of the largest burden. In some parts it is narrow; but in general it is of a noble breadth. The river throughout its whole extent is much infested with alligators; which are so daring and voracious as frequently to carry off the paddlers from the *pantjallangs* or canoes which navigate the stream. The town of Palembang is formed on both sides of the river, which is here 1200 feet in breadth. Some of the houses are erected upon large rafts of timber anchored near the banks, and which rise and fall with the tide; behind these are houses built upon piles of timber, and which at high water become insulated; at the back of these again a third row of houses built on the land presents itself. The palace of the sultan is a magnificent structure built of brick, and surrounded by a strong wall. The houses of the principal chiefs are commodious and comfortable. Not more than three or four houses have communication with one another except by boats; this arrangement proceeds more from the aquatic habits and inclinations of the people than from the force of circumstances. The town extends at least 3 miles along each bank, and contains a population of about 25,000 souls, including about 1000 Arabs and Chinese. The foreign trade from the town is carried on with Java, Malacca, Banca, Penang, Lingen, Rhio, and the eastern coast of Borneo. Two large Chinese junks arrive with the N.W. monsoon in January, and depart with the S.E. monsoon in August. The principal imports are woollen cloth, English chintzes, and coloured cottons, Bengal and Madras piece-goods, copper, cutlery, teas, drugs,

silks, nankeens, earthenware, and salt. The exports consist of about 15,000 peculs of pepper, of 133⅓ lbs. each, annually, valued at 45,000 dollars, of cotton, wax, dragon's-blood, benzoin, ivory, gold-dust, and edible-nests. The annual export of cotton is about 4000 peculs, which is sold raw, and imported at from 2 to 4 dollars per pecul. The sultan receives a certain sum from every vessel or prow entering the port of Palembang according to its measurement; a large Chinese junk paying about 1500 dollars,—a Siamese junk, which seldom exceeds 80 tons burden, about 75 dollars. The jurisdiction of the port is vested in a chief appointed by the sultan, called the *shabundara;* that of the town by a chief called, in virtue of his office, the *patch,* assisted by other chiefs in cases of difficulty and importance. Before execution every sentence must be submitted to the sultan. Murder is commutable by fine. The chiefs hold by grant from the sultan their seignorial property and authority in their *desas* or provinces; but the greater part of their time is spent in attendance on their lord-superior in the capital. The principal chiefs or *pangerangs,* are generally allied by blood to the royal family; the *mantries* or inferior chiefs are taken from any class of the people at the sultan's pleasure. Chinese, Arabs, and Malays, are found in this class. The *luras* or headmen of the villages are generally elected by the inhabitants themselves, but their choice must be ratified by the sultan. The revenue of the sultan cannot be precisely estimated; the island of Banca yielded him some years ago 150,000 dollars annually on the sale of tin.—From the record of the number of men registered for feudal services, a rough computation would suggest that there are 75,000 souls scattered over its provinces, and 25,000 in the town of Palembang, making a total population of 100,000 souls. There is a description of wild people in the interior of the Palembang dominions who refuse all intercourse with the surrounding population, and are called *Orang Kubri;* they are a harmless and timid race.—The districts and provinces which constitute the sultan of Palembang's dominions derive their names from the principal rivers which flow through them. The most valuable of these is that at the head of the river Moosee, called *Anak Moosee.* The other provinces are: *Mooste, Lamatang, Ogan, Rembang Ogan, Kelida,* and *Kamareeng.*—The island of *Banca,* off this coast, is 130 miles by 45 in breadth. It belongs to this state.

Bencoolen.] The ancient Dutch colony of Bencoolen is situated on the western coast of Sumatra, at the embochure of a small river which discharges itself into a bay inclosing the isle of *Rats.* Its geographical position is in 3° 49′ S. lat. and 102° 17′ E. long. The English established themselves at Bencoolen in 1685 after their expulsion from Batavia, and built Fort York in 1690, and Fort Marlborough in 1719. It then passed into the hands of the Dutch, from whom it was retaken in the early part of the late war, but to whom we have restored it in exchange for their possessions in Malacca. The situation of the town is agreeable; the Europeans occupy well-built houses; but the Chinese quarter—as it is called—is a wretched assemblage of huts, inhabited by 600 or 700 vagabonds. The climate is very bad; the heat varies from 76° to 82°; and the Sumd is considered peculiarly prejudicial to health. The most valuable production of this colony is spices. The spice-plantations were only formed here in 1804, yet they now yield from 50,000 to 60,000 pounds of nutmegs, 12,000 to 15,000 pounds of mace, and 15,000 to 18,000 pounds of cloves. The culture of pepper is declining, but that of coffee and sugar is on the increase. Indigo and cotton appear to thrive well, but

are not extensively cultivated; rice and salt are imported. The surrounding country is governed by three native chiefs, each of them presides over a *campong* or village; but in all cases of importance the Dutch authorities interfere with and control the native administration. The total population of Bencoolen, from Indrapoora on the N. to Croe on the S., is estimated by M. Naruis, in the 10th volume of the 'Batavian Memoirs,' at 80,000 souls, of whom about 12,000 reside in Marlborough and its environs. These latter consist of Europeans, Javanese, Bengalese, Chinese, and Malays.

Menangkaboo.] In the centre of the island is the kingdom of Menangkaboo, the capital of which is called *Pangarooyoong*. The inhabitants are all Mahommedans; and the sultan's power is chiefly founded on the superstitious veneration in which he is held as a sort of Mahommedan pontiff.

Campar.] Campar is an ancient Malayan state on the E. coast of Sumatra, between the rivers *Siak* and *Daneer*. The mouth of the *Campar* river is situated in about 0° 38′ N. lat. and 102° 51′ E. long.; and extends, in a southerly direction, a short distance inland, and then branches off to the right and left. The country on the left branch of the river is called *Campar Kiri*, and that on the right *Campar Kanan*. For 12 or 14 days' journey up each branch, the country is low and flat; the banks on both sides are studded with villages. The principal productions are rice, cocoa, betel nuts, gambier, sugar-cane, and rattans. A considerable trade is carried on betwixt the people of Campar and the interior, and with Singapore. The latter trade is entirely in the hands of the Malays, there being no Chinese settlers here. Coffee is the principal article of export. It appears to be brought a very considerable distance from the interior to Campar on men's heads: perhaps from Menangkaboo and the *Limapulah* country.

Natal.] Natal is situated on the S.W. side of Sumatra, in 0° 18′ N. lat. and 0° 99′ 5″ E. long. The natives of this district are reckoned amongst the boldest and bravest of the Sumatran tribes: they are colonists from Acheen and Menangkaboo. The English have had a settlement here since 1772. Gold dust, which is of very fine quality, is the principal article of export; camphor, opium, gums, china-ware, and cutlery, are the principal imports. Rice is imported from Nias.

Acheen.] The kingdom of Acheen forms the N.W. extremity of Sumatra. It formerly reached as far N. as Indrapoora on the W. coast, but now extends no farther than 40 or 50 miles along the eastern and western shore. The inhabitants of the interior form three tribes, called *Allas*, *Reeah*, and *Carrou*. The Acheenese are darker coloured and stouter than the other Sumatrans. They have also a greater portion of sagacity and industry. They profess Mahommedanism. The capital, *Acheen*, is situated upon a river, about two miles from its mouth. It carries on a considerable trade with the natives of the coast of Cor mandel.

The Batta Country.] The country of the Battas comprehends the mountainous districts of *Deirah* and *Papa*, to the S. of the plain of Acheen. It is bounded on the S. by Passamman and the independent district of Aru; the northern extremity reaches the Sinkel river, and the southern extends to Tabooyang.

ISLAND OF PULO NIAS.] The island of Pulo Nias is the largest of that chain of islands which skirt the western coast of Sumatra; and is at the same time the most populous and best cultivated. It is about 70 miles

in length, stretching from S.E. to N.W. Its surface is for the most part hilly but not mountainous; it possesses several rivers of considerable size, whose *qualloes* or mouths afford entrance to the vessels and boats used by the natives. There are several good harbours both at the northern and southern end of the island, and there is anchorage for ships almost all along the eastern coast. The general aspect of the country is highly pleasing; the dark sombre hue of undisturbed forest is nowhere to be discovered; the valleys and the sides of the hills are well-cultivated, and the high grounds generally present clumps of trees marking the sites of the villages. The soil is one of peculiar fertility, and even on the declivities of the hills produces luxuriant crops of rice and potatoes. The population is very considerable with reference to the extent of the island, being supposed to exceed 200,000 souls. The natives are an active athletic race, about the middle stature, fair as Asiatics, and with much finer features than the Malays. The nose is prominent, and has somewhat of the Grecian straightness; the eye is peculiarly fine and full. The women are considered the beauties of the Eastern Archipelago, ranking in this respect with the women of Sulo. Their houses are built of wood, and are in general of large size. The entrance is by a trap-door and a ladder in the centre, the houses themselves being raised upon large iron-wood timbers. Their villages are generally placed on defensible situations,—a practice which has no doubt originated in the state of warfare in which they are almost constantly involved; for the natives are divided into numerous independent tribes or clans, between many of which inveterate feuds exist. Their arms consist of a spear, a short sword, and an oblong wood n shield, besides which they generally wear a stiff leathern jacket and a helmet of the same material. The ordinary dress of the common people consists of a baju or jacket, and a cloth rolled round the waist and carried between the thighs; that of the chiefs is more elegant. Red is their favourite colour; and they wear a profusion of gold ornaments, one of which is of peculiar elegance, being a crown in the form of a high Persian cap, with a large peak in front. The women generally display a profusion of this barbaric wealth upon their persons; although their only dress is a piece of cloth rolled tightly round the loins, and extending down to the knees, secured by a broad belt of gold. There is a good deal of difference between the people of the northern half of the island and those of the southern. The former have intermixed more with the Malays and Achoenese, while the latter jealously exclude strangers from settling amongst them. Marriage by *jujus* is universal; and the juju is very high, varying according to the rank of the parties from 60 or 70 to 500 dollars. The laws of Nias, in regard to adultery, are very severe, the punishment being capital; the number of wives which a man may have is only limited by his means, but few except the chiefs have more than one. The mode of burial in the southern division of the island is peculiar: the body is not committed to the earth, but is enclosed in a wooden shell or coffin, which is elevated on four posts, and thus exposed to the free winds of heaven. Flowering shrubs and creepers are generally planted beneath, and soon climb up and cover the coffin with foliage. These cemeteries are at some little distance from the villages. Rice is the staple export of the country. It is exported to the extent of about 12,000 bags a-year. Hogs are an important part of the domestic establishment, and the most general food of the natives. Neither buffaloes, cattle, nor horses, are indigenous to the island.

ISLAND OF LINGGA.] Lingga, or *Lingen*, which must now be regard-

ed as the principal possession of the independent Malays, since Djohor and Pahang fell under English supremacy by the treaty of 17th March, 1824, is situated under the equator, betwixt Sumatra and Borneo, to the S.E. of the straits of Malacca, and N.W. from those of Banca, in 104° 40′ E. long. The coasts are in general low, marshy, and covered with thorny shrubs. A chain of mountains intersects the island from W. to E. In the southern part of this chain, one mountain shoots up two pyramidal summits to a great height; the natives believe that this mountain is the haunt of spirits. The climate is variable; showers occur every day, and greatly moderate the heat. There are two monsoons, or *moussins*, as the Malays call them: the Timer from the E. and the Barat from the W. The former blows from April to September, the latter during the remaining months of the year. The chief river is navigable for 3 or 4 leagues by boats; its entrance is defended by an old fortification mounting 20 or 24 pieces of cannon. The forests yield excellent timber, and fire wood, such as *lignum aloes* and *chalcas, paniculata*. The bamboo, however, though so abundant in Java and the Celebes, is rare here. The Chinese inhabitants collect and eat a kind of gummy exudation from the leaves of certain plants, called *gambien*. Rice is little cultivated, and salt is scarce. Gold and tin are said to exist here. The population of this island does not exceed 10,000 souls, two-thirds of whom, including 400 or 500 Chinese, inhabit *Kivala-dai*, the capital. The Malays are well made, and possess pleasant features, but are of small stature. The men wear a robe called *selouar*, which does not descend below the knees, a *sabok* or girdle, and a *badjin*, or short upper coat or vest. Their manners are polite, but dissembling like those of their nation in general. They possess two musical instruments: the *bangsie*, a kind of flute, and the *rabab*, a species of violin with two strings. Their airs are plaintive and monotonous, but not destitute of melody. They manufacture bullets and gunpowder, and fabricate poignards and sabres, equal in beauty and temper to those of Palembang. They trade with Java, China, Poulo Penang, and Malacca; and commit frequent piracies upon the inhabitants of *Sekanah*, *Baro*, *Penagan*, and *Tamacug*. They punish theft among themselves with the loss of the hand, and murder with death; but the parent of the murdered may accept of blood-money in compensation.

Authorities.] Marsden's History of Sumatra, Lond. 4to. 1783.—Heyne's Tracts on India, Lond. 4to. 1804.—Anderson's Mission, Lond. 1826.—Crawford's History.—Sumatrae et insularum circumjacentium tabula nova, Amstel.—Arrowsmith's Chart, Lond. 1808.

CHAP. IX.—ISLANDS IN THE BAY OF BENGAL.

THE only groups in the bay of Bengal, which deserve notice, are the Andaman islands, and Nicobar islands.

ANDAMAN ISLANDS.] The group of islands, called Andaman, is situated on the eastern side of the bay of Bengal, between 10° 30′ and 14° N. lat.; and run N. and S., nearly in the meridian of 93° E. long. They lie to the S.W. of the Burmese dominions, and have in all the intermediate space a chain of islets, reefs, and banks, upon which there are soundings, and which offer considerable resistance to the roll of water from the Indian ocean into the bay of Bengal. There are two principal islands. The largest, called the *Great Andaman*, is 140 miles in length,

but not more than 20 miles in breadth. Its coast is every where cut with deep bays, among which are found good harbours. The soil is fertile; and in the forests is found ebony. Wild hogs, monkeys, and rats, are said to be the only quadrupeds; but the sea on the coast abounds with different kinds of fish. The number of natives upon the Greater Andaman and all its dependencies does not exceed 2500 souls; these are dispersed in small societies along the coast, or in the lesser islands within the harbour, never penetrating deeper into the interior than the skirts of the forest. In stature they seldom exceed five feet; their limbs are slender, and bellies protuberant; they have high shoulders, and large heads, with woolly hair, flat noses, and thick lips; their eyes are small and red, their skin of a deep sooty black, and their countenances exhibit the extreme of wretchedness, a horrid mixture of famine and ferocity. They go quite naked, and are insensible to any shame from exposure; in this and some other respects resembling the natives of New South Wales. The climate is exceedingly unhealthy, and the British settlements once made upon these islands have been long since abandoned. —To the E. of the northernmost Andaman is *Barren Island*, which rises to the height of 1800 feet, and contains a volcano; the eruptions are sometimes very violent, and stones of the weight of three or four tons have been known to be discharged from it.

NICOBAR ISLANDS.] The Nicobar islands are situated in the S.E. quarter of the bay of Bengal, almost equally distant from the Andamans and from Sumatra. The largest of the group is named *Sambelong;* but the two most visited by Europeans are called *Carnicobar*, and *Nancoury*. There are nine other islands of moderate size, besides a multitude of very small ones, as yet without any distinct appellation. Most of these islands are hilly; and some of the mountains are of considerable elevation. The valleys and sides of the hills are so densely covered with cocoa and areca-palms, that the sunbeams cannot penetrate through their foliage; and in some places these are so thickly interwoven with rattans and bush-rope, that they appear spun together, which render the woods almost dark. The leaves and fruit falling down, rot below, which contributes to make the islands unhealthy, and absolutely pestilential to a European constitution. Buffaloes, and other cattle, swine, dogs, and monkeys, are found in most of the islands; snakes and alligators are numerous. The number and variety of shell-fish is so great, that here the most beautiful conchological collections might be made with very little trouble.—The inhabitants of the Nicobars are of a copper colour, with small eyes, flat noses, large mouths, thick lips, and black teeth; they are well-proportioned, rather short than tall, with large ears. They have strong black hair; the men have little or no beard, and shave their eyebrows, but never cut their nails. The hinder part of the head is compressed at birth. The occupation of the men consists chiefly in building and repairing their huts, and fishing and trading to the neighbouring islands. The women cook and cultivate the ground. Most of the country ships, from the different coasts of India, touch at the Nicobar islands in order to procure cocoa-nuts, which they purchase at the rate of four for a leaf of tobacco, and 100 for a yard of blue cloth. The hogs are fed on cocoa-nuts, and the pork is excellent. Tobacco is the current medium of all exchange and barter. The Danes formed an establishment on these islands in 1756, but have since abandoned it, owing to the unhealthiness of the climate. The inhabitants do not follow any of the systems of religion prevalent on the neighbouring

continent; but their notions of a Divine Being are extremely perplexed and unintelligible. Their *paters* act in the treble capacity of conjuror, physician, and priest. The Moravians, a body of Christians exemplary for zeal and perseverance, commenced a mission here; but missionary after missionary falling a victim to the climate, they, after enduring many privations, relinquished the undertaking.

Authorities.] Sonnerat, Voyage aux Indes Orientales; Paris, 1806, 8vo.—Asiatic Researches.—Haensel's Letters; Lond. 1813, 8vo.—De Nikobariscke Oers, af B. Prahl.; Kiob. 1804, 8vo.

CHAP. X. CEYLON.

The island of Ceylon is situated at the western entrance of the bay of Bengal, between 5° 56′ and 9° 46′ N. lat., and 79° 36′ and 81° 58′ E. long. On the N.W. it is separated from the Coromandel coast by the gulf of Manaar, and is distant about 160 miles from cape Comorin. On the S. and E. it is washed by the great Indian ocean. From Point Pedro at the northern extremity, to Dondra Head in the southern, the extreme length is about 270 miles. The breadth is unequal, extending from 40 to 50, and in some parts from 70 to 140 miles. The whole island has very much the shape of a pear, lying N. and S., with the larger end towards the S. Its superficial area is about 27,000 square miles. The name from which the modern one is formed is *Singhala*, that is, 'the country of lions,' which may have been intended as descriptive of the disposition of the people, as the lion has not been met with upon it at least in modern times.

Historical Notice.] Little is known of the history of this singular island before the arrival of the Portuguese under Almeida, in 1505. The natives, long harassed by the attacks of the Arabs, readily consented to pay a tribute in cinnamon to these Europeans, in consideration of being assisted against their Arab invaders. At this period some savages called *Veddahs*, or *Beddahs*, occupied the woody regions; the rest of the island was possessed by the Cingalese. Not content with a friendly alliance, the Portuguese endeavoured to form a settlement in the island, in which they succeeded, after a long and severe struggle. The sea-coast fell into their hands, and the interior remained to the original possessors. After the lapse of nearly a century, the Dutch found their way to the East and reached this island in 1603. They were favourably received by the oppressed natives, and being assisted by them, after a sanguinary struggle of nearly 50 years, at last overpowered the Portuguese, who yielded the dominion in 1656. The conduct of the successful allies, however, soon proved as offensive to the natives as that of their predecessors; and hostilities of a long duration took place, in which the Ceylonese were eventually driven to the mountains and jungles of the interior, where alone they could preserve their independence. A treaty was at last concluded between the two parties in 1766, which left to the native king of Candy at least the name and somewhat of the appearance of royalty. The progress of the American war brought the British to this island; but their arms, though victorious, were not rewarded with permanent success, till the contest with revolutionary France and her allies induced our government to despatch a new and powerful expedition against Ceylon, which took possession of it in

1796. Since that period, various transactions have occurred between our countrymen and the Candians. A treaty of alliance and commerce was projected in 1800, but failed. Our troops took possession of their country and capital in 1803; but, being unable to maintain their conquests, were forced to capitulate, on condition of liberty to return to Columbo. In place of the terms of surrender being observed, however, they were treacherously put to death with circumstances of the most savage cruelty. An expedition of 3000 men, fitted out in 1815, under the command of general Brownrigg, in concert with the population, who had become weary of their tyrannical and blood-thirsty monarch, entered Candy in triumph, and deprived the native monarch of all power. In 1817, a harassing rebellion broke out in the central provinces which lasted until the end of 1819, since which period uninterrupted peace has prevailed, and various improvements, fiscal, judicial, and commercial, have been executed. The whole island may now be regarded as a British colony, not under the East India company, but under the crown, and thus having its ports and commerce open to the whole British people.

Physical Features.] From the sea this island presents a fresher green, and more fertile appearance, than most parts of the Coromandel coast, the nearest point of which is about 65 miles distant. From the termination of this point, on the S. side of the river Vaygaroo, all the way to the coast of Ceylon, there is a succession of banks and shoals known by the name of *Adam's Bridge*, because the natives, who believe that this island was paradise, describe these as the footsteps of the first man, when, after the fall, he fled thence to the continent. The sea to the southward of this chain of shoals gets the name of the *Manaar Passage*, from an island of that name at the termination of the chain upon the coast of Ceylon. The eastern shore is bold and rocky, and the water deep. The N. and N.W. is flat, and indented with lagoons and inlets from the sea, several of which form small harbours; but the N.W. coast is so full of sand-banks and shallows, that it is impossible for vessels of a large size to approach it. The principal harbours for large ships are *Trincomalee*, on the N.E., and *Point de Galle*. The interior of the island abounds with steep and lofty mountains, covered with forests, and full of almost impenetrable jungles, which completely surrounded the dominions of the king of Candy. Hills rise over each other here in successive ridges and chains. The most lofty range of mountains,—having an elevation of from 4000 to 5000 feet,—divides the island nearly into two parts, and so completely separates them from each other, that both the climates and seasons differ on the respective sides. These mountains also terminate the effect of the monsoons, which set in periodically from opposite sides of them, and are connected with those on the Coromandel and Malabar coasts, and very nearly correspond with them. There are no lakes among the mountains of Ceylon; and the rivers, generally speaking, are small, and have their courses from the mountains to the nearest sea. To this, however, there is one exception,—the river *Mahavelly*, which rises on the N. side of Adam's Peak, has a course of about 35 miles direct N. to the city of Candy; thence bends to the E. for about 35 miles; after which it flows N. to the sea about 70 miles more, and empties itself by three principal mouths, two of which enter the bay of Trincomalee. This river is navigable, at least to Candy. Another small river, the *Calany*, rises on the W. side of Adam's Peak, and falls into the sea at Columbo, but is navigable only during the rains.

Climate.] On the W. side, where Colombo lies, the rains prevail in

May, June, and July,—the season in which they are felt on the Malabar coast. During their continuation, the northern parts of the island are little affected, and are generally dry. In the months of October and November, when the opposite monsoon sets in on the Coromandel coast, it is the N. of Ceylon which is affected, and scarcely any impression is made in the S. The climate is unhealthy in the interior; but every point of the sea-coast that is cleared of wood, and drained and cultivated, is salubrious; the mean annual temperature here may be stated at 80°. Colombo and its neighbourhood, being the best cultivated, are particularly so. It is now, indeed, well known, that healthiness of climate does not depend on the situation of places, as to their parallels of latitude; and that a healthy state of the human constitution is not incompatible with the most intense heat of the sun,—on the contrary, that it is more adapted to an equatorial than a polar climate, provided the atmosphere be not overcharged with humidity. There are no volcanoes on the island.

Productions.] A mere catalogue of the valuable and useful productions of this island would require more room than we have to spare. With some few exceptions, all the productions of which India and the Indian islands can boast are to be met with here; besides many others peculiar to itself. The tribe of the palms,—the most common, and at the same time the most magnificent and beautiful of eastern vegetation,—may be considered as the most generally useful to the Ceylonese. Among these the cocoa-nut tree unquestionably holds the first rank. It supplies the inhabitants with bread, milk, and oil; it affords them a strong spirit, vinegar, and yeast; its top is an excellent substitute for cabbage; it furnishes timber to build their huts, and thatch to cover them; the shell of its nut is no mean article in the scanty catalogue of their household utensils; and it supplies them with cloth and cordage. Of the other members of this vegetable tribe we can only barely enumerate the following: the palmyra, areca catechu, sago palm, talipot palm, and the bread-fruit tree. Pine-apples, oranges, lemons, mangos, plantains, almonds, pomegranates, and other fruits are plentiful and excellent. The bark of the *laurus cinnamomum* is the chief export. Its growth is confined from about the middle of the W. coast to a little beyond Dondra-head on the S. The seeds of all European plants degenerate rapidly.

Ceylon is less rich in the animal than in the vegetable part of the creation, if we except its ornithology, but it boasts of the largest and finest elephants in the world, great numbers of which are caught and exported. Among the woods and jungles the ferocious buffalo is found, and tamed with difficulty. The large striped tiger of India is not met with in Ceylon. The elk, stag, and deer abound. Birds of the most splendid and beautiful plumage enliven the woods and thickets; amongst these are the gaudy peacock, the untameable jungle fowl, a great variety of the pheasant family, also parrots, pigeons, wood-peckers, and paddy birds. It need scarcely be added, that all the noxious and disgusting classes of insects and reptiles are abundantly generated here amid the heat and moisture of the rich vegetable soil. Venomous toads, scorpions, cockroaches, musquitoes, red, black, and white ants—the most numerous of the whole insect tribe—infest every house. Snakes, too, are not wanting, and these of the most poisonous kind. Alligators of a prodigious size infest the rivers, and the marshes abound in leeches.

The minerals are numerous, and precious stones, especially amethyst, rubies, and cat's eye, are abundant, but not of a fine quality. The great

mass of the Ceylon rock is of primitive formation, granite, or gneiss. The rocks along the shores are in general sandstone.

Population.] The total population of the island is stated by Cordiner—on what authority we know not—at 1,500,000 souls; of whom, the Cingalese, the Candians, and the Malabars, each constitute 500,000. "The first," he says, "occupy the coasts of the southern half of the island, from Dondra Head to the confines of Batticoloe on the east, and to the river of Chelau on the west; the second are shut up in the heart of the country; and the Malabars occupy the northern parts of the coast." Mr Bernard, who resided for upwards of 25 years on the island, and had official opportunities of making himself acquainted with its statistics, expresses himself thus on the subject of its population: "The common opinion of those that I have conversed with is, that the population of Ceylon amounts to 2,000,000 of inhabitants; 1,000,000 in the territory that is now in possession of the British government, and another in that which belongs to the king of Candy. This estimate, however, is likely to be exaggerated. An enumeration, as correct as possible, was made in the year 1789, by the order of governor Vander Graaff, of all the inhabitants in the territory of the Dutch East India company, and that reckoning gave 817,000 inhabitants. With regard to the Candian provinces, the population is numerous in those that are cultivated, but it must be remarked that, with the exception of the country immediately surrounding the town of Candy, and the provinces of Ouva and Mattele, all the interior of Ceylon is, in the proportion of seven-eighths, covered with woods and forests; and, therefore, it may be concluded that this part of the territory of the king of Candy is, in proportion to its extent, even more thinly peopled than the country under the British government. The Wannyships of Soerlie and Nogerie, and the whole of the great forest occupied by the Weddas from Maagame on the S., to the Coblay river at the northern side of the island, does not contain 10,000 inhabitants. These reflections will lead to a conclusion that Ceylon does not contain more than 1,500,000 inhabitants."

We have the testimony of all writers on Ceylon, that the Cingalese, or Ceylonese, are a mild, timid race of men, exceedingly civil to strangers, studious to oblige, and delighting in acts of hospitality. Their stature is rather below the middle size; their limbs slender, but well-shaped, and in good proportion; their features more resemble Europeans than any other people of Asia; their colour is as various as the tints of bronze, but less deep on the whole than that of the Hindoos; their eyes are dark; and their hair long, smooth, and jet black; they turn it up and fix it with a tortoise-shell comb on the top of the head. A piece of calico or muslin wrapped round the waist is the only clothing worn by nine-tenths of the population. The addition of short jackets, waistcoats, ruffles, ear-rings, caps, swords, &c. is regulated by the oppressive system of castes which, with the exception of China and Japan, appears to have pervaded all those countries where the doctrines of Buddha and Brahma have found or forced their way. The *Moodelliars* and higher orders of Ceylonese profess Christianity, and have adopted many European customs, restricting themselves to one wife, and marrying according to the forms of the Dutch church. A considerable number of the lower orders continue votaries of Buddha; and many have embraced the Mahommedan faith. The Cingalese have a language and written character of their own.

Modern writers talk of the Cingalese and Candians as two distinct races of people: we are unable either to confirm or disprove this. Knox,

who knew the Candians well, thus describes them: "In carriage and behaviour they are grave and stately, like unto the Portuguese; in understanding quick and apprehensive, in design subtle and crafty, in discourse courteous, but full of flatteries; naturally inclined to temperance both in meat and drink, but not to chastity; neat and provident in their families, commending good husbandry. In their dispositions not passionate, neither hard to be reconciled again when angry. In their promises very unfaithful, approving lying in themselves, but disliking it in others; delighting in sloth, deferring labour until urgent necessity constrain them; neat in apparel, nice in eating, and not given to much sleep." They are all extremely poor, and appear to be content with very little; their dwellings are mud huts, and their furniture scanty; fruit and rice are the principal articles of their food, and water is almost their only beverage. Like the Spaniards of Valencia, they pour it from a spout at a considerable distance from their mouths, that the vessel may not be defiled by touching the lips. Their chief luxuries are the betel-leaf, areca-nut, and chunum. To present betel is throughout the East the symbol of friendship,—it is the calumet of peace. The men labour but little; the women rather more, but not much. Rice, millet, and pulse, are the principal articles that cost them any labour in raising, and even of these they do not cultivate much, for the rest they depend on the natural productions of the soil. "The possessor of a garden," says Cordiner, "which contains twelve cocoa-nut trees, and two jack-trees, finds no call for any exertion. He reclines all day in the open air, literally doing nothing; feels no wish for active employment, and never complains of the languor of existence."

There is a race known among the original Cingalese by the name of *Meddahs*, or *Veddahs*, who live in a free and independent state in the inaccessible mountains and forests of Bintan, behind Batticollo. They seek their food in the deep forests, abounding with elephants, buffaloes, wild hogs, elks, and antelopes. They cautiously abstain from all connection with the rest of the islanders, except in bartering with the borderers of their forests, ivory, deer skins, dried flesh, and honey, for salt, arrows, cloth, and a few other articles. They are a robust and hardy race, courageous and resolute, but very treacherous. Their language is a dialect of Cingalese; and the faint notion which they have of religion approaches nearer to Brahmanism than to Buddhism. Their only places of worship are under the shade of the banyan-tree.

The next class of inhabitants, who were reckoned to form one-half of the population of the British possessions before the addition of the Candian dominions, are the Malabars,—the same active, enterprising, crafty people, in their character of merchants, pedlars, jewellers, workers in metals, tailors, fishermen, jugglers, as we find them on the continent from which they came. About one-half of these people are indifferent Mahommedans; the other half are worse Hindoos. They chiefly inhabit the district and city of Jaffnapatam.

The Malays, who are found on almost every island in the Indian seas, are here pretty numerous; they are soldiers, sailors, fishermen, and artificers; many of them were introduced by the Dutch in a state of slavery. Among the various nations who inhabit Ceylon, the Malays are the only people out of which we have been able to make soldiers.

The number of Dutch in the island does not exceed 900; with the exception of a few families, they have been reduced to comparative indigence by our capture of the island.—Of the Portuguese who first opened the

way to India little now remains but the ruins of their former grandeur. Their name, language, religion, and religious establishments, still exist; but the Portuguese themselves have disappeared. Slavery is still permitted in Ceylon, in consequence of the existing slaves of the Dutch and natives at the period of the capitulation to Great Britain, being declared private property. The number of slaves may amount to 8,000.

Religion.] The language and religion of the Candians, or Ceylonese Proper, are the same as the Siamese, from whom, as we have noticed, they consider themselves descended. The religion of Brahma is said to have prevailed in Ceylon till the sixth century B.C., when that of Buddha obtained the ascendency. Many of the towns and villages yet retain the name of Hindhu deities, and the ruins of their temples are yet seen surrounding modern edifices of worship constructed to Buddha. In the year 1811, the number of temples dedicated to Buddha, and other inferior deities of Cingalese superstition, amounted to 1,200. In Ceylon, the distinction of castes is perhaps more minute than in any other country into which the religion of Brahma or Buddha has found or forced its way. Every profession forms a particular caste under its own headman,—gold and silver-smiths, fishermen, barbers, washermen, manufacturers of *jagery*, drawers of toddy, makers of lime, &c. are all enrolled in distinct and separate castes.

Christianity was introduced into Ceylon by the Portuguese. The Dutch were very zealous in their exertions to bring over their Ceylonese subjects to the Protestant faith, and with that view translated and printed the scriptures in the Cingalese and Malabar dialects. In 1811, the number of native protestant Christians was ascertained to be 146,000, and those of the Catholic denomination 37,649. Of these about 50,000 speak the Tamul language; the majority employ the Cingalese; and a few speak the corrupted Portuguese, so common over all the coast of India. The British and Foreign Bible Society, and the American, Baptist, London, Church of England, and Methodist Missionary Societies, have recently turned much of their attention to this populous island, and under the auspices of the first of these, various editions of the scriptures have been published in the native dialects; and it is remarkable that the priests of Buddha have shown great readiness in assisting the translators of the sacred volume.

Imports and Exports.] The grand article of importation to Ceylon is rice, the value of which frequently exceeds half the amount of the whole goods exported; and the next in consequence is cotton-cloth; yet the soil of the island is capable of producing a redundant quantity of the finest cotton. Hemp is raised abundantly, the sandy soil of the maritime provinces being well-adapted for its cultivation. The cultivation of the sugar-cane on a large scale has been twice attempted, and each time failed. From the toddy of the cocoa-nut tree arrack is distilled by the common still, in the same manner as brandy from wine. From 400 gallons of toddy, 50 gallons of arrack are drawn, equal in strength to brandy 25 London under proof, which when rectified produces half the quantity of strong spirit. Compared with Bengal rum, Ceylon arrack is admitted to be the most wholesome liquor, and it is 30 per cent. cheaper. In 1813, the total value of exports from Ceylon was 2,443,940 rix-dollars (eleven and a half to the pound sterling); of imports 6,378,739 rix-dollars; but of this last two-thirds was rice, it having been a year of scarcity. The total tonnage of all descriptions belonging to the island was estimated at 8,000 tons.

Revenue, &c.] The public revenue of Ceylon may be divided into two branches: viz. one derived from certain productions of the island reserved by government to the fiscal resources,—the other, such imposts as the land-tax, taxes on property, taxes on consumption, and capitation taxes. Of the reserved productions cinnamon is the most important, but of the net profits no official document has recently been published; the pearl-fishery in 1814 yielded £64,000; the fishery of chank shells (a species of large buccinum which are sawed into female ornaments for the wrists, &c.), and madder root, are also productive sources of revenue. The taking of elephants, formerly so lucrative to the Dutch, is no longer considered of any importance, the value of the animal having fallen so much in price. The government share of the crop differs so greatly as from one-tenth to one-half, and is received in kind. In 1812, it amounted to 513,174 rix-dollars. No grants of land are permitted to be made by government to British subjects, or to European settlers on the island. Salt is one of the most productive sources of revenue, and promises to yield a considerable augmentation. In 1812, the total amount of the public annual revenue of every description was 3,028,446 rix-dollars (£263,343); the total expenses to 3,339,726 rix-dollars; deficit 371,280 rix-dollars. The establishment of civil servants, forty in number, fill a gradation of offices to which salaries are attached of from £500 to £3,000 per annum, and after a residence of twelve years are entitled to retire on pensions of from £400 to £700 per annum.

Topography.] *Jaffnapatam*, built on a tongue of land, in 9° 36′ N. lat., and 79° 50′ E. long., is a great resort of the Dutch families: the province itself comprehends rather less than one-fourth of the whole island, and has several small islands attached to it. For a part of the distance between Jaffnapatam and Manaar, it is not very easy to say whether the country is sea or land. The surface is water; but it is in general so shallow, and the bottom under it so firm, that it can be walked over.—Still farther south, on the coast opposite to Coromandel, there is a singular peninsula, *Calpenteen*, which lies parallel to the shore, from which it is divided by a very narrow portion of water, which extends from the isthmus, at the S. end, between 60 and 70 miles. This peninsula, though sandy, is thickly covered with cocoa-nut trees and palmira palms; and the country on the other side of the bay, or, rather, natural ditch, is very rich and beautiful. This curious peninsula extends south as far as *Chilaw*, a distance of about 150 miles from Jaffnapatam; and along the whole of that line of coast, no mountains are visible from the sea—verdant woods forming everywhere the boundary of the horizon. After passing Chilaw southward, the mountains begin to make their appearance, while the coast retains its beauty, and indeed gets more luxuriant in appearance as Columbo is approached. At *Negombo*, about 40 miles to the N. of Colombo, the cinnamon country begins, and it extends to a considerable distance south of that city.—*Colombo* is a very beautiful place, with proper attention to avoiding the direct action of the sun, very healthy, and it contains a number of inhabitants. The city itself is nearly insulated by water, but the land immediately across the lake is the most rich and picturesque that can be imagined. Small vessels only can approach the shore at Colombo, and while the S.W. monsoon blows, ships cannot ride in the roadstead, but must either leave the island altogether, or pass round to Trincomalee. For every thing that can make the earth delightful and desirable, it is hardly possible to imagine a place superior to the neighbourhood of Colombo;

but on the peninsula the water is brackish. According to Cordiner, we may set down its population at 50,000 inhabitants. The part inhabited by the principal Europeans is surrounded with a regular fortification, on one side resting on the sea, the other on an inland lake; the streets are at right angles, shaded by rows of trees, chiefly the showy and elegant portia or tulip tree; the houses are low, but neat, fronted with verandas and Venetian blinds before the windows. Without the fort is the *Pettah*, or black town, and the bazar, or market. Here people of all nations, languages, manners, and religions, are blended together—Dutch, Portuguese, and English; Cingalese, Malabars, and Moors of every class; Hindoos, Gentoos, Parsees, Arabs, Malays, Chinese, Javanese, Buggees, Caffres, half castes, and mongrel breeds of every shade and tint of colour, from the sickly white of the European to the jet black of the African.—South from Colombo the cocoa-nut trees get still more plentiful, and the formation of cables of the fibres is one of the staple manufactures of some of the villages on the coast. This richness and beauty continue along the whole of the south-west and south; and there is then the advantage of at least a tolerable harbour at *Point de Galle*, a few miles W. of the southmost part. —The province of *Matura*, in the extreme south, is also celebrated for its scenery, the groves and thickets there alternating much more with open glades than in other parts of the island.—*Dondra Head*, the southmost part of the island, lies a few miles to the E. of the little town of Matura; and a few miles inland, there is a single block of stone (*Mulgurelenna*) 300 feet in height, with a flight of 545 steps, of great antiquity, winding to the summit, which is crowned with a tomb, or temple, of Buddha, in the shape of a bell. After passing the south point, the character of the coast changes much for the worse. It is unhealthy, covered with wood, broken by salt marshes, and infested with wild beasts. Even this country, were it properly cleared, would be very fertile, and probably much improved in point of healthiness; but in its present state, neither cultivated plants nor domestic animals are safe, the elephants attacking the former, and the beasts of prey the latter. This general character of the coast continues all the way to *Trincomalee;* and thence to Jaffnapatam it partakes of the character of the coast immediately to the south of that settlement. The town of *Mantotte*, now in ruins, is said to have been the capital of a kingdom founded by the Brahmins, who had possession of almost all the northern parts of Ceylon, including Jaffnapatam. Contiguous to Mantotte is an immense reservoir, called 'the Giant's Tank;' it is 16 or 18 miles in extent, and would hold, if in repair, a supply of water sufficient to irrigate all the rice-grounds around it. At the distance of about nine miles from this tank, an embankment, constructed of immense stones cemented with lime, has been laid across the Moesely or Aripo river, in order to collect the water, and lead it by means of canals into the Giant's tank. The length of this dam is 600 feet; its breadth in some parts 60, in none less than 40 feet; and its height from 8 to 12 feet.[6] The city of *Candy*, the

[6] These works indicate the ancient existence of some powerful and populous nation in the island, an opinion which is farther confirmed by the astonishing works around the lake of Candeley, distant about 16 miles from Trincomalé. This lake, which is nearly 15 miles in circumference, is embanked in several places with a wall of huge stones, each from 12 to 14 feet long, and broad and thick in proportion, laid regularly one over the other. At one point in this majestic work two hills are joined together in order to collect the water of the lake by an embankment nearly 150 feet in breadth at the base and 30 at the summit. In this part of the wall arches are to be seen; and over these, in the work which is under the level of the water, an opening is made exactly resembling the conduttori used by the Romans in some of the lakes of Italy,

capital of the native rajah, is situated in the province of Tallanour, surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains, whose sides are covered with thick jungle. It is about two miles in length, and consists of a number of mud-built houses, surrounded by a mud-wall. The only buildings of any consequence in Candy are the temples of Buddha and the royal palace which is a square-built edifice of immense dimensions.

Political Importance.] There is no doubt that the possession of Ceylon was turned to good account by the Portuguese and Dutch, although its expenditure exceeds its revenue at present, and a vote of supply is annually made by parliament for the support of our Ceylonese establishment. The resources of this valuable island have not yet been opened up. At present they want capital to call that labour into action; but if a liberal system of colonization is pursued towards it this want will be speedily supplied, and the deficit in its finances made up. But it is not in a commercial view alone that we are to estimate the value of this possession, which is one "that," says M. Bartolacci, "in the event of a great reverse of fortune on the continent of India, would still afford us a most commanding position, invulnerable by the Indian powers in the peninsula, and yet so situated as to give us the greatest facility of regaining the sovereignty of that country."—"The harbour of Trincomalé is open to the largest fleets in every season of the year, when the storms of the S.W. and N.E monsoons render impracticable, or very dangerous, the approach to other parts in India. This circumstance alone ought to fix our attention to that spot, as peculiarly adapted to be made a strong military depot, and a place of great mercantile resort, if a generally free trade becomes effectually established from India to other parts of the world. It ought farther to be observed, that the narrowness of the channel which separates the island of Ceylon from the continent of India, and the position of Adam's Bridge, which checks the violence of the monsoons, leaves on either side of it a calm sea and facilitates a passage to the opposite coast at all times of the year. A respectable European force stationed at Colombo, Jaffnapatam, or Trincomalé, can, in a very few days, or hours, be landed on the Malabar and Coromandel provinces." The possession of such a station as this, among the rich islands of the vast Indian archipelago, is of the utmost importance to a commercial nation.

The earliest account, in our language, of this interesting and important island, is an exceedingly amusing and instructive narrative, written by Robert Knox, who, in the year 1659, was kidnapped by the king of Candy, and detained 19 years in his dominions. The narratives of Mr Percival and Mr Cordiner, were both published since the commencement of the present century, and will be found to contain a great deal of correct and interesting information. A variety of valuable information respecting this island and the inhabitants has been furnished us, in the reports of our Bible and Missionary societies; but the most valuable work that has yet appeared on Ceylon is Mr Anthony Bartolacci's view of its agricultural,

letting out the water, perhaps for the purpose of irrigation. Nor can we omit to mention a singular monument, discovered by Mr Sowers, collector of Batticaloe, in the year 1810, in the centre of a very thick forest. It is supposed to have been a Boodha pagoda, reared, like the Egyptian pyramids, in honour of the dead. The size of the building is gigantic; the basis of its cone is about a quarter of a mile in circumference, and on the tops and sides large trees have fixed their roots among the ruins, and that up to the height of 50 or 60 feet. It is surrounded by a square inclosure, a mile in circumference, consisting of a broad wall, made of brick and mortar, and having within it a number of cells.

commercial, and financial interests, published in 1817, and accompanied by a very large and comprehensive map from the latest surveys.

ADJACENT ISLANDS.] *Ramiseram*, the holy island of Rama, is situate at the northern extremity of Ceylon, about 20 miles from the shore. It is a low flat island, about 20 miles in circumference, and may be considered as the most southerly pier of that series of shoals and coral-rocks which, under the name of Rama's or Adam's Bridge, serves to connect Ceylon with the coast of Coromandel. The whole island is dedicated to the purposes of religion; no plough is allowed to break the soil, and no animal, either wild or tame, to be killed within its precincts. It is inhabited chiefly by priests, who are supported in luxury by the produce of certain lands in Coromandel, and the donations of pious individuals; and by immense crowds of pilgrims, jugglers, and beggars, who resort to it from all parts of India, to implore absolution for their sins, or to take advantage of the momentary charity of the richer penitents. It is adorned with a multitude of beautiful temples, besides an immense pagoda, which forms the chief object of curiosity and veneration. The number of pillars within this temple amounts to 2,628, and some idea of its extent may be formed from the admeasurement of its surrounding walls, (between which and the building itself there is but a small vacant space,) which is 830 feet from E. to W., and 625 from N. to S. There are upwards of 200 Brahmins attached to this temple, which is for the most part of recent construction, the ancient fabric having been almost entirely demolished by the Mahommedan conquerors.

DELFT, one of the cluster of islands adjacent to Jaffnapatam, has been almost entirely set apart under government for the growing of *hane* or hemp, and manufacturing it into cordage. A valuable breed of horses is also reared upon it.

Authorities.] Campbell's Account, Lond. 1798, 8vo.—Perceval's Account of Ceylon, Lond. 1803, 4to.—Cordiner's Description of Ceylon, Lond. 1807, 2 vols. 4to.—Asiatic Researches.—Lotgevallen door J. Haafner, Haarlem, 1806, 8vo.—Valentia's Travels, Lond. 1809.—Reise nach Ceylon etc von J. C. Wolf, Berl. 1782-4, 2 vols. 8vo.—Bertolacci's Statistical Account, Lond. 1817, 8vo.—Davy's Account of Ceylon, Lond. 1821, 4to.

CHAP. XI.—THE MALDIVES AND LACCADIVES.

THE *Laccadives* are a group of islands in the Indian ocean, 75 miles to the W. of Malabar. They are divided into 15 smaller clusters, each of which contains two or more islands, and several rocks and dry uninhabited spots; but the largest of them does not contain above six square miles of land, and they are surrounded by dangerous coral reefs. The soil is rocky, and yields no grain; their only produce is poultry, eggs, cocoa-nuts, betel-nuts, and plantains. The inhabitants are inoffensive, and not so shy as their Maldivian neighbours. They subsist on cocoa-nuts and fish, and manufacture a kind of sugar from cocoa milk. Their numbers are about 10,000, scattered over 19 islands. They are of Arabian origin, and profess Islamism. They are called *Moplays* by the inhabitants of the Deccan. These islands were discovered by Vasco de Gama in 1499, but are politically dependent on Canara, and under the dominion of England. They are seldom visited by European ships, on account of the intricate naviga-

tion. Ships may, however, safely take in refreshments at *Kan Rattea*, in 10° 34′ N. lat. and 72° 56′ E. long. There is also a good harbour in the isle of *Kalpeny*. The Laccadives extend between the 10th and 12th parallels.

To the S. of the Laccadives, and extending between the 8th degree of N. latitude and the equator, are the *Maldives*, or *Male-Dives*, consisting of numerous *attollons* or circular clusters, inclosing interior smooth shallow seas, and surrounded by chains of coral rocks, in general level with the water, and running from half a mile to within 50 yards of the land. In some parts of these reefs there are openings sufficient to admit boats; and where bays are formed by projecting parts of the clusters, there is anchorage over a sandy bottom mixed with shells and coral. Many of the islands furnish fresh water a few feet from the surface of the soil. The whole are covered with cocoa-trees and a thick growth of underwood. The most northern islands of the groupe are the most fertile and salubrious; ambergrease and coral are collected in great abundance on the shores; an important fishery of cowrie-shells is also carried on. At one time a vessel or two from the British settlements used to visit the Maldives to load cowries, but owing to the unhealthiness of the climate, and the long detention, these visits were discontinued, and the trade is now carried on with Balasore, in Orissa, by native vessels. Ships from Eastern India sometimes resort to the Maldives to procure sharks' fins for the Chinese, who esteem them an excellent seasoning for soup.—The Maldivians appear to be of Malay origin. Some consider them as a melange of Hindoos and Arabs. According to their own traditions, their ancestors arrived from the Malabar coast some centuries ago. Their language appears peculiar to themselves; but many of them can speak Hindostanee. They are well-made, and of an olive complexion, with bushy beards. They profess Islamism, and the more learned among them speak Arabic, and expound the koran. It is said that national animosities long stirred up violent wars between the inhabitants of the Maldives and Laccadives; but that since the sovereign of the Laccadives came under British control, these disputes have ceased. A plurality of wives, but no concubines, is allowed, yet adultery and fornication are hardly ever known. The women are extremely industrious, and generally employed in spinning or dyeing cloth, twisting cois or cocoa fibres, picking cowries, or managing their domestic affairs. They dress very modestly in garments of cotton, and sometimes of silk, brought close round the neck, with long sleeves, and flowing to the ancles.—*Mall*, in 4° 20′ N. lat., is the seat of government. It is nearly circular, and not above three miles in circumference. The island is fortified all round with works mounting 100 pieces of artillery. The town extends over the whole island, and is remarkably neat and clean. The houses are built generally of wood and mats; some of the richer traders have stone houses, and the sultan's house is a low stone building regularly fortified. The government appears to be despotic, and hereditary in the family of the sultan; but he has a ministry composed of eight chiefs or viziers, who have islands assigned them for their support while in office. The chief priest is called *pandiar*. No European settlement has yet been effected on these islands.