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ASIATIC JOURNAL

AND
MONTHLY REGISTER

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VOL. XX.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1825.



LONDON :

PRINTED FOR KINGSBURY, PARBURY, & ALLEN,
BOOKSELLERS TO THE HONOURABLE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,
LEADENHALL STREET.

1825.

tude, abound in metals, such as gold, antimony, and zinc. In the country of the Kayan, tin and iron exist—the latter rich enough to be wrought to a considerable extent, even by the barbarian inhabitants of the country.

The remarkable or useful productions of the principality of Borneo may be enumerated as follow : in the mineral kingdom, besides the productions already mentioned, there exist diamonds. Of land animals, there exist the elephant, the rhinoceros, a species of leopard (but not the royal tiger), the bear, the horse, the buffalo, the ox, the hog, the goat, the dog, the cat, the duck, and the common fowl. The three first animals, it is singular enough, are found only in a single corner of this vast island, its northern peninsular extremity, in the districts of Uingsang and Paitna ; nor are they afterwards to be found in any country of the Archipelago to the eastward of this longitude. The horse, the goat, and the dog, are naturalized and domesticated strangers ; the first being still confined to the districts of Pandasan and Tampasok, between the fifth and sixth degrees of latitude. The ox, under the name of *tambadao*, is a native of the forests of Borneo, and so is the hog. It may be almost superfluous to advert to the well-known fact, that Borneo, of all countries, affords the greatest variety of the ape and monkey tribe, and that in particular it produces that species, which, in external form, approaches the nearest of all the animal creation to the human figure. To render the approximation, as it were, the nearer, man himself, on this island, seems complaisantly disposed, on various occasions, to countenance the pretensions of his imitator. The seas afford the tortoise, the pearl-oyster, the mother-o'-pearl-oyster, and the esculent sea-slug. The productions of a vegetable nature valued for their utility or singularity, are rice, sago, black pepper, camphor, cinnamon, bees' wax, and useful or ornamental woods.

Like all countries in a rude and unimproved state, the territory of Borneo Proper is inhabited, or perhaps rather infested, by numerous races of barbarians or savages, differing from each other in language, and ever in a state of hostility. A small district, or even a village there, constitutes a nation. The principal tribes inhabiting the country, however, may be enumerated as follow : the Malay, the Suluk, the Bajao, the Dasun, the Illanun, the Kadayan, Bisaya, the Murut, the Kalamut, the Tutung, the Kyajao, the Kayan, the Dayuk, the Tatao, the Kanawit, and the Melando. The Malays, the most powerful and civilized race, will be afterwards referred to. The unconverted tribes, in manners and customs, bear a close resemblance to each other ; and the following may be considered a brief picture of their condition : they wear one piece of cotton or bark cloth round the loins, and generally no other clothes. The Kayan warriors occasionally wear bear and leopard skins as coats and caps. Their arms consist of a blow-pipe for shooting poisoned arrows, swords, spears, and long shields. At the capital of the Kayan are to be found some cannon, and some muskets ; but these are a powerful people in the scale of Bornean greatness, and the use of arms is rare amongst these barbarians. Some of the tribes are extremely mischievous and ferocious ; others less so, and a few altogether inoffensive, or even disposed to industrious habits. In one custom a great number of the tribes agree—the passion for cutting off human heads, and hoarding skulls. The ostensible motive for this proceeding is not explained ; but the custom is, at all events, as unequivocal an illustration of the systematic operation of Mr. Malthus's population as any which can well be produced. Some of the tribes dwell in miserable log houses covered with leaves ; but the greater number in houses of immense size, raised on posts, capable of affording accommodation to from 50 to 200 persons.

persons. Security from the attacks of their enemies is the object of these structures. The savages of Borneo are far from being in the lowest scale of social existence; there are no more hunters amongst them, no wretches living on grubs or wild roots, or raw oysters; almost all of them have some knowledge of agriculture; some cultivating rice, and others farinaceous roots and pulse. Several understand the smelting of iron, and its manufacture into implements both of use and mischief.

In religious feelings, the savages of Borneo are eminently deficient; they have no decent system of religious belief; no gods, no idols, no priests, no temples, or other places of worship. They have, notwithstanding, very many superstitions, paying great attention to good and bad omens, and especially to the cry of birds—in all rude and early stages of society a frequent means of consulting futurity.

None of the native tribes of Borneo have any knowledge of an alphabet, or any other means, by visible signs, of permanently recording their ideas. This must be considered as a singular fact, since all the other great islands have each one or more alphabets; and it points at once to some natural inferiority in the country itself, thus operating so remarkably in retarding civilization. This inferiority will probably be found chiefly to consist in the comparative sterility of a primitive country abounding in minerals, and in that discouragement of foreign and internal civilization which are the necessary consequences even of the physical configuration of a country, which, like the equally barbarous continent of Africa, is of compact and unbroken aspect, indented by neither bays nor great arms of the ocean, such as will be found to characterize the physical geography of every country in which man has made early progress.

The ruling tribe in Borneo Proper is the Malayan; and, however rude this people, they are greatly beyond the rest of the inhabitants in civilization. They are said to constitute no more than a tenth part of the population, although including with them the tribes which they have converted to Mahomedanism. Their history is shortly told, or at least all of it that can be known, or all that is worth telling, of the transactions of so rude a people. The parent country of the Malayan race is unquestionably the table-land of the interior of Sumatra, from whence, having spread themselves along the whole north coast of that island, from Palembang, in the second degree of south latitude, to Dilli, between the third and fourth degrees of north latitude, they afterwards, at different times, and from different places, emigrated to various islands in the straits of Malacca, to the west and east coasts of the Peninsula, to the west coast of Borneo, to the small islands in the China seas, to Kamboja, and finally as far as Borneo Proper, their extreme progress to the east. All this is an affair of no remote antiquity in European history. The Bornean emigration took place twenty-nine reigns ago; reckoning each of which at twenty years, we have a period of 580 years, which would place that event in the middle of the thirteenth century. This date agrees sufficiently well with other historical facts connected with the subject. The people of Borneo, by their own account, had not adopted the Mahomedan religion when they first emigrated.

The government resembles, in most respects, that of other Malayan states. The king is called by the Hindu name *Radah*, with the epithet of *iangdi per tuan*, which may be familiarly and literally translated, "he who lords it:" yes, and sometimes with a vengeance too! He is a petty despot, whose dignity is hereditary in his family, leaving him the privilege of nominating a successor.

His council consists of four officers of state—the minister, the treasurer, the commander-in-chief, and the chief justice, called, as in other eastern countries, the pillars of the kingdom. Under these are two other great officers, one of which is a second minister, and the other a second or deputy commander-in-chief. The affairs of trade are managed by four inferior chiefs, the principal of whom are the intendant of the port and the warehouse-keeper. The latter, or Orang Kaya Gadong, was the individual who was lately there as an envoy. In Borneo there are from thirty to forty pangerans, or princes, having hereditary rank; a matter which, among Malay states, materially modifies the character of the government, rendering it, in a good measure, a sort of aristocracy. The revenue of the king appears to be precarious and uncertain, and consists rather of a voluntary tribute, paid by each district in its staple produce, than in a fixed impost, either in money or kind. The officers of government and the princes maintain themselves from their own states, by petty traffic, a little extortion, and the labour of their slaves, who are numerous.

Its trade is the most important consideration respecting Borneo, and deserves to be considered at more length than the topics which we have just glanced at. The town of Borneo is situated about the fifth degree of north latitude, and fifteen miles up a river navigable thus far for vessels of 300 tons burthen, and a great way above it for smaller craft. It is built on the banks within high-water mark, each house being raised on posts from one to two fathoms in height, and connected with the neighbouring one by a single plank. The fortified place alone is built on dry land.

From this description of the town, it appears locally well adapted for the conveniencies of trade, and the navigation of the roads and river is safe and easy. The latter, indeed, may be considered, for all useful purposes, the most capacious and serviceable river within the precincts of the Archipelago. Borneo, either now, or within the last few years, has conducted trade with the following countries, *viz.* China, the Sooloo islands, Philippines, the straits of Malacca, the west coast of the island of Borneo itself, and the Malayan states on the eastern shore of the Peninsula. The trade with China has been interrupted, in the last ten years, owing to the anarchy which has prevailed during that time. When it was in activity, the following is a statement of it: two junks came annually from Shanghai, in the province of Nankoo (Kiangnan), two from Limpo in Chang-si, two from Amoy, one from Canton, and two Portuguese ships from Macao. Four of these vessels, it will be observed, came from places in China, with which we hold no intercourse, in the western parts of the Archipelago. They chiefly imported Nankoo and wrought silks. Trade brought to Borneo, as it does to every other part of these islands, where there is tolerable security, a large influx of Chinese settlers. These, from oppression, are now reduced to 500.

No friendly intercourse at present exists between Borneo and Sooloo, on account of an old feud; although both countries, alike productive, are well suited to be mutually useful to each other. It may here be remarked, that the number of Chinese junks in the habit of yearly visiting the Sooloos, was seldom less than six, and often exceeded eight, coming from the same ports as those which frequented Borneo. Within the last three years, this branch of trade also has been interrupted on account of a quarrel between the Spaniards and the people of Sooloo.

The intercourse between Borneo and Manilla was at one period very brisk; but in late years has also, in a great measure, been interrupted. The Bornean boats