

THE
ASIATIC JOURNAL

AND
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FOR
British India and its Dependencies :

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which esteems Paganism as useful in the world as Christianity; or in irrational apprehension, lest science and Christianity should render the natives less loyal subjects than they are found to be under the influence of ignorance and superstition.

If these, or reasons such as these, have occasioned the extinction of so noble an establishment, I may say that I do not admire the capacity of those who have been influenced by them. I am, &c.

“ R. LANDAFF.”

CUSTOMS

OF THE

INHABITANTS OF CELEBES.

THEIR great feasts were their harvest feasts; they bring a large tree full of branches with the leaves stripped off into the middle of the town, and there stick it into the ground with the end of the branches cut off; they then procure limba from the cocoa-nut, or sago tree, and slitting them, tie one end of a limb on one bough, and the other end on another, so that the leaves of the cocoa-nut may hang down. In this manner they garnish the whole tree; they then boil rice, which they put into leaflets of the cocoa-nut tree, and tie one of these baskets to each leaf. In the afternoon, when the tree is thus decorated, every person in the town provides a good dish of rice and fish, or fowls, &c. for the feast. About sunset the Malays begin to assemble and dance round the tree. The old people form the first or outer circle, while the men of war and their wives are in an inner circle, and again inclosed by them all the young men and girls. In this manner they dance till about twelve o'clock, when they take their suppers on the ground where they had danced, the place being illuminated by a large fire, and if it is not windy, also by copper or brass lamps. After supper they return to dancing for a short time, and soon after all hands fall

to stripping the tree of the rice, and when the scramble is over, which is the principal part of the diversion, the feast is finished.

When the Rajah is ill, or going a journey, he sends to the priest for a bill of health. This is drawn on a paper about eight inches square, for which he (the conjuror!) receives a handsome present. It is not granted for a longer time than six months, and when presented to the Rajah is closed up, and not opened until the time is expired.

It is a general rule with these islanders, after a chief has been dead one month, and his widow is about to leave the house erected near the grave, to assessor a young woman or girl, that is to kill her in a most barbarous manner. Two young chiefs begin the business by plunging their spears into the victim; and their example is immediately followed up by a number of other chiefs, who, accompanying their vehemence with the war shout, cover the body with wounds. They at length cut off her head in honor of the Rajah, and present it to his successor. The victim meets her fate with firmness, it being accounted an honor to die on account of the Rajah.

LIBRARY OF THE MYSORE RAJAS.

(From Wilks' *South of India*.)

RAJA CHIK DEO RAJ (of Mysore) who died in 1704, had directed an extensive collection to be made of historical materials, including all inscriptions then extant within his dominions, which were added to a library already reported to be voluminous.

The Sultaun (Tippoo), in removing the Raja's family from the palace, had intended to destroy the building altogether, and gave orders for that purpose which were afterwards changed. It was reported to him that several large apartments were full of books, chiefly of palm leaf and