

COSMORAMA:
THE
MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND COSTUMES,
• OF ALL
NATIONS OF THE WORLD,
DESCRIBED.

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ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

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six months in the year, produce abundant harvests of rice, almost without cultivation. The houses are merely bamboo huts, raised on posts ; and during the season of inundation, the communication between different families is carried on by boats.

MALACCA, OR MALAYA.

THIS country consists of a narrow peninsula, running out from the south of Siam ; and is supposed to have been the Golden Chersonese of the ancients. The political constitution is a kind of feudal system ; the supreme power being vested in a sultan, who presides over the *dattoes*, or nobles ; and they have other vassals in subjection to them. The religion is Mohammedism. The Dutch are in possession of Malacca, the capital of the country ; and there the Rev. Dr. Morrison, a native of Great Britain, has established an Anglo-Chinese College, for the reciprocal cultivation of European and Chinese literature. The Malay language is the softest and most harmonious of any dialect in the east ; hence it has been called the *Italian of Asia* ; and it is the most general medium of commercial intercourse in that part of the world. These people are so deficient in everything like science, that even the division of time by years and months, appears to be unknown to them.

The Malays are rather below the middle size, well pro-

portioned, of a dark, or rather black complexion, and very active. Their character has been variously represented, according to the interests and feelings of those who have undertaken to pourtray it. The early European settlers, who, in their eagerness to acquire wealth, scrupled not to resort to force and fraud, and thereby produced a re-action on the part of those who were their victims, represented the Malays as the most ferocious and treacherous race upon the earth. Other travellers, who have had opportunities of observing them under different circumstances, have represented them as the best informed, the most liberal, and the most exemplary of all the Mohammedans in the Indian Archipelago ; more faithful to their word, and possessing a more estimable character than the natives of India. Intrepid enterprise, and inflexible perseverance in piratical as well as commercial purposes, constitute the very essence of their character. What Europeans deem piracy, they consider as chivalrous adventure ; and if they attack a foreign vessel by surprise, and massacre the crew, they call it an heroic achievement against an enemy. They always go armed, and would think themselves disgraced to be without their poniard ; a weapon, in the manufacture of which, as well as in the use, they excel.

Their clothes are very light, exactly adapted to their shape, and loaded with a multitude of buttons, which fasten them close to their bodies.

Besides the Malays, who inhabit the coast, and are supposed to have first settled there from Sumatra, there is, among the mountains of the interior, a people, called *Samangs*, who are thought to be descendants of the aborigines, and seem to be a variety of the Papuas, or Oriental Negroes, who are spread over most of the Indian islands. Their skin is black, and they have thick lips, flat noses, and woolly hair, like the African Negroes. Those who inhabit the lower tracts of the country, near the Malay districts, have imbibed the first rudiments of civilization, as they cultivate a little rice, and barter the resin, wax, and honey, yielded by their forests, for clothes and food, which the Malays supply. Those in the more remote districts are without any fixed abode, and wander about the forests in quest of fruits and game.

There is also a savage race, called *Monacaboes*, in the inland parts, who are whiter than the Malays, but so untractable, that every attempt to civilize them has failed. They are prone to mischief, and delight in setting fire to the ripe crops of their more industrious neighbours.

SUMATRA.

FIVE different races occupy the districts of this island. Those on the coast are the same as the Malays, and profess the Mohammedan religion; and Acheen, at the north-west

extremity of the island, is the most celebrated native kingdom. On the south-west coast, the British have a settlement at Bencoolen, or Fort Marlborough. The tribes in the interior are subject to their particular chiefs, and are either Pagans, or destitute of all religious profession.

The Sumatrans, generally, are rather below the middle stature; their limbs are slight, but well shaped, and their wrists and ankles are particularly small. Their complexion is yellow, but their eyes are dark and clear. The greater part of the females are ugly; yet some among them are strikingly beautiful. They have a custom of flattening the noses of infants, compressing the head, and pulling out the ears, so as to make them stand out erect. Many of the women have their teeth filed down to the gums; others have them formed into points and blackened. Some of the great men have their lower teeth plated with gold.

The houses are constructed with great simplicity; the frequency of earthquakes interdicting the erection of solid or elegant buildings. The furniture consists of only a few articles: the mat which serves for a bed is usually of fine texture, manufactured for the purpose; on it are laid a number of pillows, worked at the ends, and adorned with a shining substance resembling foil: over head is a kind of canopy, of various coloured cloths.

The original Sumatran is mild, peaceable, and forbearing, until roused by great provocation, and then his resentment

is implacable. He is abstemious both in eating and drinking; but his hospitality is bounded only by his ability. On the other hand, he is litigious, indolent, addicted to gaming (though all gaming is prohibited by law, except cock-fighting, at stated periods), dishonest in his dealings with strangers, regardless of truth, servile to his superiors, and dirty in his apparel, which is never washed. The women are remarkably affable, modest, and so grave in their deportment, as to be rarely excited to laughter.

In the interior of this island is the Cassia country, inhabited by a people called *Battas*, who differ from all the other inhabitants of Sumatra in language, manners, and customs. They have no king, but live in detached villages, and are generally at variance with each other. Preferring human flesh to all other kinds of food, they eat their prisoners of war, and hang up their skulls as trophies in the houses where the unmarried men and boys sleep. In this country the greater part of the cassia sent to Europe is produced; and camphor trees also abound in it, constituting the timber in common use.

JAVA.

THE Javans are rather below the middle size, erect in figure and well shaped, with slender limbs, and remarkably small wrists and ankles. Deformity is very rare among

them. Their complexion is red mingled with black. They have high foreheads, and eyebrows well defined and distant from the eyes, which last have a Tatar aspect from the formation of the inner angle. The colour of the eye is dark ; the nose is small, and somewhat flat ; the mouth is well formed, but the lips are large. The women, who are less exposed to the rays of the sun, are not so dark as the men ; and their complexion, though brown, is uniform and beautiful.

These people are active and resolute, yet mild and courteous. They are an agricultural race, attached to their soil ; of quiet habits and contented dispositions, almost entirely unacquainted with navigation and foreign trade, and little inclined to engage in either.

In this island is a race of people, called *Chacrelas*, who are white and fair ; but with eyes so weak, that they cannot support the light of the sun, so that they go about in the day-time with their eyes half shut, and see best during the twilight.

BORNEO.

THE coasts of this island are inhabited by Malay Moors ; but the interior is occupied by various tribes, governed by independent sovereigns. The kingdom and town of Borneo are on the north-west coast ; and the sultan is said to live

in great splendour, and to have a more absolute control over his subjects than most of the other princes. From this kingdom the whole island derives its name. The towns and villages are on the banks of rivers; but as these parts are often mere swamps, liable to be overflowed, the houses are either raised on posts or built on rafts. These dwellings have but one floor, with cane partitions; and the roofs are covered with palmetto leaves, the eaves of which reach within four or five feet of the bottom.

The descendants of the original inhabitants are called by the Malays *Beajas*; or *Wild Men*. They have no kings, but many petty chiefs; are generally superstitious, and much addicted to augury. They do not, however, worship idols; but their sacrifices of sweet wood and perfumes are offered to one God, who, they believe, rewards the just in heaven, and punishes the wicked in hell. They are honest and industrious, and bear a brotherly affection towards each other.

MOLUCCAS, OR SPICE ISLANDS.

THE language, manners, and customs of the inhabitants of these islands are very similar to those of the Malays. The natives are in general cowardly, slothful, cruel, and ferocious; they profess the Mohammedan religion, but have mingled much of their ancient Pagan superstition with it. They

mostly lead a solitary wandering life in the woods, and wear a large hat, painted of different colours; but in other respects the men go nearly naked. The women are covered with a long robe, without folds, and their hats are of an enormous size, as much as seven or eight feet in diameter. The priests have a long robe, like that of the women, from whom they would scarcely be known, but for a sharp-pointed bonnet, which is the characteristic mark of their dignity. Both sexes wear bracelets on their arms, made of shells, or a species of porcelain.

MANILLAS, OR PHILIPPINE ISLES.

THE greater part of the population here is derived from the Tatars or Chinese, intermixed with a number of Oriental Negroes, probably descendants of the original inhabitants. Besides these, there is a race called *Pintadoes*, from their custom of painting their bodies. The Roman Catholic religion has been introduced into these islands by the Spaniards, but the natives who profess it still retain many of the Pagan rites and superstitions of their forefathers. Those on the sea coast live chiefly on rice and fish: the mountaineers subsist on animals of the chase and fruits, the last of which grow spontaneously and in plenty in their woods. Their ordinary drink is warm water. They use



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Siamese Man & Woman



Siamese Children, Male & Female