

G E O G R A P H Y :

OR, A DESCRIPTION OF

T H E W O R L D .

IN THREE PARTS.

PART I.—GEOGRAPHICAL ORTHOGRAPHY,

DIVIDED AND ACCENTED.

PART II.—A GRAMMAR OF GEOGRAPHY,

TO BE COMMITTED TO MEMORY.

PART III.—A DESCRIPTION OF THE EARTH,

**Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants, Manufactures,
Commerce, Government, Natural and Artificial
Curiosities, &c.—To be read in Classes.**

ACCOMPANIED WITH AN ATLAS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

AN EASY METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING MAPS.

ILLUSTRATED BY PLATES.

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES.

BY DANIEL ADAMS, A. M.

AUTHOR OF THE SCHOLAR'S ARITHMETIC, &c.

FIFTEENTH EDITION.

BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY LINCOLN, EDMANDS, & Co.

Sold also, by N. & J. White, Collins & Co. and D. Felt, & Co., New-York; Grigg & Elliot, and Hogan & Thompson, Philadelphia; Cushing & Sons, Joseph Jewett, and Plaskett & Co., Baltimore; Wilcox, Dickerson & Co., Louisville, Ky; Turner & Hewes, Raleigh, N. C.; Odierne & Smith, Mobile; Hubbard & Edwards, Cincinnati, and Booksellers generally.

1834.

CCHIN CHINA is a rich and fertile district. The chief productions are rice and sugar. Edible birds' nests, formed by a species of swallows from some unknown viscid substance, are found in this country, and considered a luxury by the Chinese.

The inhabitants are large, muscular and well made, and are of Chinese origin. They have made considerable progress in civilization. The superior ranks are clothed in silk. The houses are generally constructed of bamboo thatched with rice straw, and stand in groves of lime, orange and cocoa trees.

LAOS is but imperfectly known. It abounds in rice, benaoin, musk, gum-lac, gold and ivory. The inhabitants resemble the Chinese; but their religion and customs are similar to those of Siam.

CAMBODIA is also fertile in rice, and abundant in animal food. It affords ivory in plenty, and several valuable kinds of wood. Its peculiar product is the substance called gamboge, or more properly called gamboge gum, which yields a fine yellow tint, and is also a powerful medicine. The country is thinly peopled.

MALACCA, OR MALAYA.

This large peninsula is about 150 miles in breadth. The inland parts are overgrown with forests, which are infested with elephants, tigers and wild boars.

Agriculture is chiefly employed in the growth of rice; pepper and other spices, valuable gums and wood, are also among its products. Malaya is noted through the East for its tin mines; gold is said to be found in the sand of the streams.

The inhabitants are called Malays. They are below the middle size, of a tawny complexion, with long, black hair; of a restless disposition, greatly addicted to navigation, war, plunder, emigration and desperate enterprises; insomuch, that they are universally considered, by those with whom they have intercourse, as the most treacherous and ferocious people on the globe. Malay barks, not carrying above thirty men, have been known to attack by surprise European vessels of thirty or forty guns; and to obtain possession of them, by suddenly boarding and massacring the greater part of the crew with their pinnards. When engaged as sailors in foreign ships, they are never to be trusted; and when employed as domestics, the least affront is capable of exciting them to the most desperate revenge.

Their religion is Mahometanism. The Malayan language, which in contrast to the character of the people, is the softest and most melodious dialect of the East, is widely diffused through that part of the world, and serves the purpose of general communication.

Malacca, its capital, containing about 12,000 inhabitants, was taken from the Dutch by the English, in 1795. The London Missionary Society have established here a successful missionary station.

Islands. Opposite to the coast of Malaya, though at some distance from it, are the islands Andaman and Nicobar. The

greater Andaman is about 140 miles in length. The soil is a black rich mould. The forests produce ebony and other valuable woods. The only quadrupeds are wild hogs, monkeys and rats. The natives, who are about 2000 in number, are woolly headed negroes, resembling those of Africa. A British settlement has lately been formed on this island, and some convicts sent thither from Bengal. The Nicobar islands are three in number. The most remarkable production is a kind of bread fruit, said to weigh from 20 to 30 pounds.

SIAM.

Siam consists of an extensive vale pervaded by a large river, and enclosed on each side by a ridge of lofty mountains. The soil is extremely rich, and the climate, being hot, greatly promotes fertility. The chief agricultural product is rice, which is here of an excellent quality.

The elephants of Siam are remarkable for their sagacity and beauty, as well as for their size.

The Siamese are of a dark complexion, with features of the Tartarian or Chinese cast. The men are extremely indolent, and leave the most laborious occupations to the women.

Literature is considerably cultivated. The youth are commonly educated in the convents of monks, where they are taught to read, and write, and cast accounts. Their religion resembles that of the Hindoos, one of its leading doctrines being that of the transmigration of souls. The government is despotic, and the sovereign is revered with honours almost divine. The laws are extremely severe, the most trifling offences being punished by death or mutilation, such as the cutting off a foot or a hand. Siam, or Juthia, situated on an island in the Meinam, is the capital.

CHINESE EMPIRE.

This empire, comprehending CHINA PROPER, CHINESE TARTARY, and TIBET, unites under one sceptre, a greater number of human beings, than any other single dominion on the globe. It also stands more apart than any other from the rest of the civilized world in situation, language and laws.

CHINA PROPER presents many low tracts, watered by numerous rivers, and cut through by canals; yet ranges of mountains are frequent, and large spaces are occupied by dry and barren deserts.

Climate, Soil and Productions. The climate is various. The southern parts about Canton are hot; but the cold in the northern parts is severe during the winter months. The air, however, in general, is serene, and appears to be salubrious.

The soil is either by nature or art fruitful of every thing that can minister to the necessities, conveniences, or luxuries of life. The culture of the cotton and rice fields, from which the bulk of the inhabitants are clothed and fed, is ingenious almost beyond description. The tallow-tree produces a fruit having all

oblong, and deep sunken eyes. The men shave the head from the forehead to the nape, but the hair on the sides being turned up, and fastened at the crown, forms a conical covering. Their food, consisting of fish, fowl, vegetables and fruits, is dressed in a variety of ways. Rice supplies the place of bread; and sacki, a kind of beer made of rice, is the common drink. Wine and spirituous liquors are unknown; but the use of tea is universal, and that of tobacco very common. Their houses are of wood, painted white in resemblance of stone. They have neither tables, chairs or beds, but sit and lie on carpets or mats, in the manner of the Turks.

Religion, &c. The religion is Polytheism. Their language is so peculiar as to be understood by no other nation. The sciences are highly esteemed among them; and they have several schools for rhetoric, arithmetic, poetry, history, and astronomy. Some of their schools at Meaco are said to contain 3 or 4,000 scholars. The government is an absolute monarchy.

Jesse. To the north of Nippon lies the large island called Jesse. It is inhabited by an uncivilized, harmless people, tributary to the Japanese, some of whom reside on the island. Although pleasant and fertile, it is little cultivated. Matamai, the capital, contains 50,000 inhabitants.

EAST INDIA ISLANDS.

The East India Islands, sometimes called the Indian Archipelago, are the Isles of Sunda, Borneo, the Manillas, or Philippine Islands; the Celebes; and the Molaccas, or Spice Islands.

ISLES OF SUNDA.

The Isles of Sunda, or the Sumatran Chain, as they are sometimes called, comprise Sumatra, Java, Timor, and the several intermediate islands.

Sumatra is 950 miles in length. A chain of mountains runs through the whole island. Mount Ophir, exactly under the equator, rises to the height of 13,842 feet above the level of the sea, being only 1,500 feet lower than Mount Blanc. The most valuable and abundant production is pepper. It grows on a climbing plant resembling a vine. Other articles are camphor, gum-benzoin, cassia, cotton, and coffee. The gold mines found here, being of an inferior quality, are much neglected; but tin forms an abundant article of exportation.

The inhabitants on the coasts are Malays; in the interior are different tribes of natives. The English have formed a settlement in Bencoolen. Their chief object is the pepper trade. Among the small islands that encompass Sumatra, that of Banca is famous for its tin. The Dutch have long exported vast quantities; and the mines are thought to be inexhaustible.

Java derives its chief importance from its capital city,

Batavia, which is the principal settlement of the Dutch, in the East Indies, and the centre of their commerce. The city is large and elegant, and the houses splendid and richly furnished; but the situation is extremely unhealthy. Three fourths of those who arrive here from Europe, usually die within the first year. The streets are spacious, and most of them have canals of stagnant water pervading their whole length. Population 175,000.

The products resemble those of Sumatra. This island was captured by the British, August, 1811, but was restored in 1816. The English Baptists established a missionary here in 1813.

The other islands of the Sumatran Chain are of but little importance, except Timor, which is regarded by the Dutch as a kind of barrier to the Spice Islands.

BORNEO.

Borneo is the largest island in the world, except New Holland. Of this great tract of land, however, little is known beyond the sea coasts. These, for the most part, consist of muddy flats, on which account the houses are commonly built on posts fixed in rafts which are moored to the shore, and rise and fall with the tide. Many of the villages are constructed in this manner, and move from place to place, as it suits the conveniency of the inhabitants.

The chief productions are pepper, camphor, the gum called dragon's blood, and sandal wood. Edible birds' nests are abundant. Gold is found in the interior; also diamonds of an inferior quality. Tigers are numerous and destructive. The Europeans (except the Dutch) have no settlement on this island. The chief trade is with the Chinese.

THE MANILLAS, OR PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Luzon is the most important of these islands, computed at about 500 miles in length. It has a fertile soil, and is rich in its products. The finest cotton known in trade grows here; rice, sugar-cane, and the cocoa tree, are also cultivated with success. Gold, copper, and iron, are among the discovered minerals. The natives, scalled Tagals, seem to be of Malayan origin. They are a personable race, of a mild disposition, dwelling in huts of bamboo elevated upon poles.

The Spaniards have established themselves in these islands. Their principal East Indian settlement is at Manilla, a populous, well built, and strongly fortified city; but, like other Spanish settlements, encumbered with a great number of religious houses. A commerce of great importance has long been carried on across the Pacific ocean between Manilla and Acapulco in Mexico, by large ships called galleons. The Chinese were numerous here to the beginning of the 17th century, when the Spaniards committed a horrible massacre of that industrious people.

Mindanao is the next in size among the Philippine islands, on which the Spanish have but few settlements. The true cinnamon tree is said to grow here; gold is also among its products. Horses and buffaloes are amazingly numerous.

Of the other Philippine islands, some are of considerable magnitude, and all afford a variety of useful vegetables and wild animals. Many display volcanic appearances, abounding in lavas and vitrifications, sulphur, and hot springs.

THE CELEBES.

The chief island of this group is Celebes, sometimes called Macassar, much celebrated for its sublime and beautiful scenery. It produces rice, maize, sago, sugar-cane and pepper, besides an abundance of poisonous plants. The natives are Malays. They are much addicted to piracy, and often attack vessels with the most amazing and desperate resolution.

Macassar, the principal city, is held by the Dutch, who have garrisons in several of the small circumjacent islands, and claim the sovereignty of the whole group.

THE MOLUCCAS, OR SPICE ISLANDS.

Gilolo, the largest of these islands, produces sago and the bread fruit in great abundance. It is also plentifully furnished with wild and domestic animals. The natives are industrious, and are much employed in weaving cotton. Ossa is a convenient port town.

Ceram is the next in size. It produces cloves and sago; the latter constitutes one of its principal articles of export.

Banda and Amboyna, now in the possession of the Dutch, are the most distinguished of the Spice Islands.

Banda is the chief of a group, which comprises six or seven other islands. All these are very small, being celebrated solely for the production of the nutmeg. This tree, unknown in other parts of the globe, grows to the size of a pear-tree, with leaves resembling laurel. The nutmeg when ripe is almost of the size and colour of an apricot, and in shape nearly resembles a pear; the mace is a rind which encloses the shell of the nutmeg. The Dutch are very jealous of its growth in other islands, and have frequently caused its destruction when produced there by nature.

Amboyna is celebrated for the production of cloves. Its situation is north from the Banda isles, near Ceram. The clove-tree grows to the height of 40 or 50 feet, with spreading branches and long pointed leaves. Some of the trees produce an annual crop of 30-pounds weight. The town of Amboyna, situated near the south western extremity of the island, is the second in rank of the Dutch East India settlements. It is neatly built, and contains a population of 45,000.

AUSTRALASIA.

Australasia comprehends the extensive central island, New Holland, with all the islands within 20 degrees to the west and within 25 or 30 degrees to the east of it.

NEW-HOLLAND is 2,730 miles in length from east to west, and about 1,960 miles in breadth. This immense region is but little