

A
DICTIONARY OF GEOGRAPHY,
Ancient and Modern :

COMPRISING
A SUCCINCT DESCRIPTION

OF ALL THE
COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBE,

THEIR PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY, THE SEVERAL RACES OF THEIR
INHABITANTS, AND THEIR ANCIENT AS WELL AS MODERN DEMONINATIONS ;

TOGETHER WITH
A BRIEF NOTICE OF ALL THE CAPITALS AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS ;

ALSO OF
SEAS, RIVERS, AND MOUNTAINS ;

AND
A GLOSSARY OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS.

BY JOSIAH CONDER,
AUTHOR OF "THE MODERN TRAVELLER," "ITALY," ETC.



CYBELE TRACING THE DOMINION OF HER SONS.

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province has been, from the remotest times, the resort and refuge of adventurers, traders, and exiles from all the coasts of the Indian seas. Calicut was the New York of India, the course of emigration naturally flowing in the most ancient maritime line of communication between the E. and W. Nolisuram (*Neloynda*) was the chief emporium of this part of India in the time of the Romans; and the Portuguese who made their first settlement in the dominions of the Zamorin rajah, as the sovereign of Calicut was then styled, succeeded to a trade that had been carried on, ages before, by Egyptian Greeks, and probably by the Phenicians at a still earlier period.

MALACCA. The capital of the Malayan peninsula, situated on the western coast, upon the straits to which it gives name. In 1511, the celebrated Albuquerque, after a desperate contest with the natives, gained possession of the place; and the settlement founded here by the Portuguese, was considered as the key of their trade in the seas beyond India. In 1642, it was taken by the Dutch, who retained possession of it till 1796, when it was conquered by the British. Its importance as an emporium has been greatly diminished since the formation of the settlement on Pulo Penang or Prince of Wales's Island, to which its traffic has been in a great measure transferred. The town contains about 35,000 inhabitants, Chinese, Malays, Portuguese, and a few Dutch and English. It is a large but poor place, extending along the shore. The old church tower, a ruin, and the light-house, built on a dilapidated Portuguese chapel, are the most conspicuous objects; and the Mission college, belonging to the London Missionary Society's establishment, is the best building. The town was formerly defended by a formidable fort, which was blown up by the English when they took possession of Malacca. There are also ruins of a convent founded by the celebrated St. Francis Xavier. A considerable stream discharges itself here into the sea. Over it is a drawbridge. In the schools belonging to the Mission are between 200 and 300 children, all of them half-castes, the fathers being Chinese, and the mothers Malays. The teachers are Chinese. Numerous tracts and religious works in Chinese and Malay have been issued from the college press. See MALAY.

MALAGA. A maritime city of Spain, in the kingdom of Granada, ranking third in commercial importance, Cadiz and Barcelona only being before it. It stands at the head of a deep bay of the Mediterranean; and its port, since the construction of an additional mole, forms one of the best artificial harbours in the world: it is well sheltered, accessible with every wind, and a ship of the line can lie close to the pier. Wine, fruits, and oil are the chief exports. The climate is, during eight months of the year, insufferably hot, owing to its situation, overhung with naked, craggy mountains. The population in 1804, after a fatal epidemic had carried off more than 20,000 persons, was still rated at upwards of 52,000.

MALAY. A race very widely diffused over the coasts and islands of the Indian seas, to which the tribes of the Polynesian Archipelago are stated to bear a close affinity, in their physical characteristics, language, and institutions. The aborigines of Madagascar also, the Aleutians, and the Araucanians of South America, exhibit so many points of resemblance, in the sameness of radical words, their nume-

rahs, and many of their customs, as to favour the supposition of their common origin. A learned American antiquary has expressed his decided opinion, that the skeletons found in the caverns of Kentucky and Tennessee are those of a Malay tribe; and the wrappers of feathers in which some of the bodies were found enveloped, are precisely similar to what have been met with in the Sandwich and Feejee Islands, and in Nootka Sound. The original or central seat of the Malay race is supposed to have been the island of Sumatra, or the Sanda Islands generally. There can be no doubt, however, that they must have formed an original portion of the Indian population. Bishop Heber was struck with the features of strong resemblance which the plains of Bengal presented, both in the aspect of the country, and in that of the people, to Polynesia; and the natives of Ceylon struck him as still more closely resembling the South-Sea Islanders. Among the traditions of the Polynesian tribes, there are notions closely allied to the Hindoo cosmogony. Further, the Malayan language, which is distinguished for its smoothness and softness, appears to have the Sanscrit for its basis, mingled, it is said, with Coptic and Arabic. The admixture of the last language may perhaps date from the adoption of Mohammedism. The Malays have always been a maritime people, and seem in all ages to have traded with India and the African coasts; they would appear to be, in fact, the genuine descendants of the first mariners, and carriers, and pirates of the Indian seas. In the ninth century, the Malayan empire of Zabaja, or Zabaje, which took its name from the famous emporium of Zaba, now Batu Sabor, near the extremity of the Malayan peninsula, comprehended not only the adjacent island of Sumatra, called *Jaba-dru*, but some portion of the Coromandel coast. The town of Calabar belonged to the Maharajah of Zabaje, who was able to support a war against the King of Al Comr or Comorin. At a much earlier period, indeed, Malaya, as well as Ceylon, must have been the seat of a powerful state; and it may be safely concluded, that the combat between Rama with his monkeys, and the King of Lanca or Ceylon, recorded in the Hindoo legends, was not the only one in which the gods, and warriors, and sacred animals of Southern India had to engage with foreign invaders. The kings of Sumatra call themselves Maharajahs to the present day. The Javanese, however, are supposed to have been the earliest of the Malay nations in attaining to civilization. While the Malays, properly so called, were confined to Sumatra, and perhaps to the inland districts, an extensive commerce was carried on in the Indian Seas, of which the island of Java was the principal centre. The Javanese are stated to have been lords of the Indian Ocean, and to have extended their trade on one side to Madagascar, and on the other to Amboyna. But Java is supposed to have derived its civilization, rather than its population, from India; and the Sanscrit blended with the Malay is, upon this hypothesis, not the indication of an original affinity, but of early intercourse between the Hindoos and the barbarous aborigines of the islands. All those dialects spoken in the Indian Archipelago which possess any refinement, or indicate civilization, partake, it is said, in a similar proportion of the language of the Hindoos; the remainder being of such a kind as to imply extreme barbarism in the people whose vocabulary and mode of

expressions were so defective. It was subsequently to the dispersion of the Polynesian tribes over the Pacific Ocean, that their dwellings in the Indian Archipelago began to improve by the importation of foreign arts. The first shade of civilization might be derived from China or the Indo-Chinese nations. But the great step in this progress was made through the medium of the Javanese, who first became proselytes to the religion of the Buddhist Hindoos, and received from India the arts and social culture of the continent. The commerce and settlement of the Javanese extended these advantages, more or less, to the neighbouring islands. Lastly, the adoption of Islamism, and of a more modern style of manners by the Malays settled on the peninsula, and the subsequent extension of the power of this people, and of their colonies in the archipelago, changed the face of things, and gave origin to a third class of societies. The first settlement of the Malays of Sumatra on the peninsula in which they have given their name, was made about A. D. 1169; and their adoption of the Muhammedan religion took place about a century afterwards; since which time they have been the most zealous propagators of Islamism to the East. This hypothesis, though embracing much undoubted fact, is open to the objection, that it implies the wretched state to be the primal condition of society, rather than, as it really must have been, the result of degeneracy. The traditions preserved among the Polynesian tribes clearly point to a lost civilization; and nothing is more certain than the constant tendency of isolated or scattered tribes, destitute of the art of writing, to lose their knowledge, and, in the struggle for existence, to sink lower and lower into barbarism. The Malay tribes may therefore have shared in a primitive civilization, in comparison with which, that of the Javanese, which is referred to the period between the sixth and ninth centuries of our era, is modern. The islands of the Indian Archipelago, as well as Madagascar, are inhabited by aboriginal tribes of the Papuan or Australian family, with woolly hair and black skin, who nevertheless are said to speak dialects clearly related to those of the Polynesians. It is not improbable, that the Malayan has been produced by a mixture of the language of the yellow race with that of the Asiatic negroes. The distinguishing characteristics of the Malay, are, a complexion yellow rather than tawny, bush, black hair, a transverse breadth of face, approaching in this respect, as well as in the prominent cheek-bones, to the Mongolian character; forehead high; nose small and rather flat; eyes somewhat resembling the Chinese in the formation of the inner angle; mouth well formed, but with large lips; size below the middle stature, but well proportioned. A similar description is given of the Orma or Havas of Madagascar, who are short in stature, with olive complexion and look, smooth hair; strongly resembling, according to M. Pajon, the Malays, while M. le Genral thinks they resemble in their features the Chinese and the Egyptians. Nor is this resemblance, perhaps, imaginary or accidental. The mixture of Coptic to the Maler has already been mentioned; and as the old Egyptians included several different races, and the ascendant race were not maritime, it is highly probable, from the earliest times, the Malay, or, as it has been styled by recent geographers, the Oceanic race, formed the link of intercourse between the African, Arabian, and Indian coasts, that they were

the Chinese of ancient Egypt, as they are now the "sea gipsies" of the Indo-Chinese region. Almost every where, they preserve the character of a nautical and commercial, and generally a servile and subtle race, with striking varieties both in their physical and moral characteristics. In fact, it has been remarked, that almost every variety of feature and complexion discovered in the human species, may be found within the limits of this one race; that is, the Polynesian. But, in their general characteristics, they seem to form the link between the Mongolian, the Negro, the Arabian, and the Indo-European families, each accommodating themselves to various modes of life, and embracing with equal zeal the doctrines of Buddha and the creed of the Arabian.

The Malayan peninsula, which separates the Sea of Bengal from the Chinese Sea, is formed by the loftiest of the chain of mountains which, proceeding from Tibet, divide the whole of the Indo-Chinese region longitudinally into four immense valleys. This chain, after separating Ava and Pegu, or the valley of the Irrawaddy from that of the Metnam, is prolonged through the whole peninsula, from about lat. 13° N. almost to the equator, terminating in Cape Romania, the southernmost point of Asia. The upper part of this long peninsula, separating the Bay of Bengal from the Gulf of Siam, is known under the name of the Isthmus of Kraw. Malaya or Malacca extends from lat. 8° N. to the Singapore Strait, being about 500 miles in length and 125 in its medium breadth. On the S. W. the straits of Malacca separate it from the island of Sumatra. The interior is occupied by mountains covered with impenetrable forests, thinly inhabited by Papua tribes called Samangs. These mountains contain tin-mines, and give rise to numerous streams, most of which are navigable by small vessels for a short distance. The coast is divided into seven petty sovereignties; Queda, Perak, and Salangore on the western coast; Patani, Tringao, and Pakango on the eastern; and Johore at the eastern extremity. The supremacy of Siam formerly extended over the whole peninsula, but it may now be considered as wholly dependent on the British power. The trade of Malacca, the chief town, has been for the most part transferred to Palo Penang; and the island of Singapore near the southern extremity of the peninsula, opposite the mouth of the Johore river, has also been made the seat of a flourishing settlement. See MALACCA, PENANG, and SINGAPORE. The Malayan archipelago is generally understood to comprise the Sanda Islands, the Philippines, and the Moluccas, which see; also, BORNEO, INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO, JAVA, SUMATRA, &c.

MALDIVES. (THOUSAND ISLES.) A cluster of small islands in the Indian ocean, lying S. W. of Cape Comorin, and to the S. of the Laccadives; between the parallel of 7° 30' N. and the equator, and the meridians of 72° and 74° E. They are divided into 13 groupes called *atollons*, under as many distinct governors. Arabian settlers appear at a remote era to have made themselves masters of these islands, the sovereign of which assumes the title of king of thirteen provinces and twelve thousand isles. The native dialect of the Maldivians is said to be nearly akin to the Bisayan dialect of the Philippine Isles; and in some of their customs, the Maldivians resemble the maritime *Bijas* or "sea gipsies" of the shores of Borneo. They

whole range is now called *Djebel Mousa*, i. e. the mount of Moses. From the summit of Sinai, the law was proclaimed in the hearing of the encamped hosts of Israel.

SINGAPORE. A town and island in the Straits of Malacca, upon which a British settlement was formed in 1819, under the direction of Sir Stamford Raffles. The original population of the island was Malayan, and the island was purchased of two Malay rajahs. The town contained, in 1825, about 100 British residents, upwards of 8000 Chinese settlers, chiefly traders, and 7000 Malays and Bengalees.

SINDE. Or **SINDHU.** A province of India, comprising the lower part of the plain of the Indus, between the parallels of 24° and 27° N.; bounded northward by Moulton and Afghanistan, E. by Rajpootana and a barren waste which divides it from Cutch, S. by Cutch and the sea, and W. by the mountains which separate it from Beloochistan. A great part of this province, lying beyond the influence of the monsoon, is a barren, unproductive desert. Near the Indus, the land eastward of the meridian of 67° 40' is capable of being rendered fertile; but to the northward of Tatta, and a small distance to the W. of the river, the country is mountainous, rocky, and thinly inhabited. The chief port is Tatta, supposed to be the ancient Pattala, seated on the Indus; but the capital of Sind is Hyderabad, seated on a branch of the Indus, and the residence of the Ameers, or Mohammedan princes, who govern the country. The population is partly Mohammedan, partly Hindoo. The Mooltanee merchants settled in Sind, are the principal traders and the wealthiest part of the community, and the internal commerce is almost exclusively in the hands of the Hindoo inhabitants; while the Mohammedan tribes compose the military strength of the country, and hold lands by a military tenure. Latterly, the Ameers are understood to have been compelled to acknowledge the sovereignty of the Shah of Caubul. The total population is supposed to be not above 1,000,000, on a surface of 24,000 square miles; and the country has long been in a very disorderly state, partaking of the disadvantages of a border country. Sindhu is the name of the Indus in Sanscrit; and it is still called by the Persians *Amb Sind*. The name of Sind, as contradistinguished from Hind, occurs in Mohammedan writers, and appears to have designated the whole of Moulton.

SINOPE. An ancient maritime city of Pontus, which Mithridates the Great made his capital. It is now called Sinob, and is built on a promontory running out into the Euxine.

SION. Properly Tsion, or Zion. One of the hills on which Jerusalem was built. See **JERUSALEM**. There is a place called Sion in the Valais; but the word is corrupted from Sitten or Sedunum.

SIRR. See **SIHON**.

SIROCCO. The S. E. or Syrian wind which blows in Italy and Dalmatia, in summer, and is attended with great heat and a peculiar dryness of the atmosphere.

SITANG. Zeet-taung. A river of the Burman empire, which traverses the province or kingdom of Tonghoo or Taung-oo, and falls into the Gulf of Martaban.

SIVAS. See **SIWAS**.

part is divided between the kingdoms of Wirtemberg and the grand-duchy of Baden.

SUAKIN. A maritime town on the Ethiopic coast of the Red Sea, of which it was, in the fifteenth century, the chief possession. It is the port of Shoa and other places on the Upper Nile, where caravans from Dar Four and the Interior seek for Jidda. See Red Sea.

SUDETES. A chain of mountains separating the Austrian Empire from those of Saxony and Prussia. The Erzgebirge and Harzgebirge belong to the Sudetic chain.

SUEVI. The name, in ancient history and geography, of several Germanic tribes. The Proper Suevi are supposed to be the ancestors of the Alemanni, and to have given name to Suebia.

SUEZ. A maritime city of Egypt, at the head of the western arm of the Red Sea, called the Gulf of Suez. In the sixteenth century, it was a place of considerable trade and importance, but is now a deserted and insignificant place, in the midst of a desert, and considered very insalubrious by the adjacent marshes.

SUFFOLK. A maritime county of England, bordering on the German Ocean. The river Stour divides it from Essex on the S., the Little Ouse and Waveney from Norfolk on the N., and the Great Ouse and its branches from Cambridgeshire on the W. It extends about 47 miles E. and W., and 30 N. and S., comprising a surface of 1269 square miles or 800,000 acres. It is almost throughout level, except on the western side, where a chalk ridge extends from Haverhill, by Bury, to Thetford in Norfolk. The rivers, except those which form the boundaries, are inconsiderable. The principal one is the Orwell, which flows by Ipswich, where it becomes navigable, and joins the Stour at Harwich. It is almost exclusively an agricultural county. The chief towns are, Bury, Ipswich, Sudbury, Sawmarket, and Woodbridge. The population is 296,364.

SULL. A mountainous district of Albania, the inhabitants of which maintained their independence, till subdued by Ali Pasha of Ioannina in 1800.

SUMATRA. One of the principal islands of the East Indian Archipelago, and the most westerly of the group. Its northern point stretches into the Bay of Bengal, on the N. E. the Straits of Malacca separate it from the Malayan Peninsula; and the Straits of Sunda separate the southern extremity from the Island of Java. It extends in length upwards of 1600 miles, with an average breadth of 165. The equator divides it almost in the middle, the northern extremity being in lat. 5° 52' N., and the southern to 5° 20' S. Ranges of mountains, rising under the equator to the height of nearly 14,000 feet above the sea, stretch through its whole extent, enclosing spacious plains, some of considerable elevation, and consequently of temperate climate. Archen, the most celebrated native kingdom in the island, occupies the north-eastern extremity; indeed its name from the capital, situated near the banks of a river about a mile from the sea. To the south-east of this territory is the Battak or Batta country, comprising the whole of that part of Sumatra which lies between the line and lat. 2° 30' N., except a few Malay states.

ments at the mouths of the rivers on either coast. Nearly in the centre of this country is situated the great Lake of Toba, between 60 and 70 miles in length, and from 15 to 20 in breadth, and supposed to communicate with the sea by the river Rakkan, issuing from its south-eastern extremity. The most populous districts are on its borders. To the S. E. of the Batta territory are the Malay countries of Rawa and Manangkabaw. The southern coast, as far as the Urei river, was formerly dependent on the king of Bantam, in Java. The principal political divisions of the island are now, the Acheenese territory; the Batta country; the Mohammedan kingdom of Manangkabaw; the Rejang territory; and that of Lampong. Bencoolen, in the Rejang territory, on the S. W. coast, is the principal European settlement and emporium. The chief trade is in pepper, of which large quantities were formerly exported; but this has latterly declined. Besides pepper, this island yields large quantities of nutmeg, cloves, mace, camphor, benzoin, cassia, lign-aloes, dragons' blood, gambir, and other drugs and gums; besides gold, tin, iron, sulphur, arsenic, various valuable species of wood, ivory, and the edible birds' nests, and *biche de mer*, for the Chinese market. The inhabitants of Sumatra may be divided into two classes; the Malays, who have embraced Mohammedism, and whose language has received a large mixture of Arabic, and is written in the Arabic character; and the aboriginal Sumatrans, who are supposed to belong to the same stock as the Malay nation, their language bearing marks of a common origin, although their ignorance of navigation strikingly distinguishes them from that maritime people. The principal dialects, besides the Malayan, are, the Batta (or Batak), the Rejang, and the Lampong. The Batta is supposed to be the most ancient; and its apparent affinity to the Sanscrit favours the supposition. Their connexion with the great Hindoo family is attested by both physiological and philological marks of relationship. Their alphabetic character is of Sanscrit origin, and is written from left to right. In personal appearance, the Bataks bear a considerable resemblance to the Hindoos, as well as in the quietness and timidity of their disposition. Their laws and literature, and some of their religious notions and traditions, seem to be the vestiges of a more advanced state of civilization; and their superstitious veneration for their ancestors would favour the notion that they are the dregs of a nobler race. They have books on war, religion, and medicine; and their poetical compositions closely resemble those of the Malays. No idols are worshiped; but in every village is found a stone or wooden image, before which all oaths are taken, and which is appealed to on solemn occasions in the presence of the whole village. Of a future state of recompense or punishment, they appear to have no conception. Almost every village has its priest, who is sometimes the raja or chief; but his whole functions consist in divination and conjuring. They bury their dead, at least their chiefs, in coffins of wood and stone, celebrating the funeral by feasts. Their written laws are not in general very severe, the penalties, with few exceptions, being fines; but those exceptions are indeed most remarkable. Persons caught in the act of house-breaking or highway robbery are publicly executed, and are then immediately eaten. Men killed, or prisoners taken in a great war,

are also publicly eaten; and an adulterer, taken in the fact, may be lawfully eaten piecemeal before he is deprived of life. The Bataks are so possessed with gross feelings, not scrupling to eat dogs, cats, snakes, bats, and monkeys; but they are, perhaps, the only tribe who unite anthropophagous practices with so respectable a degree of civilization, and even mildness of manners. The Sultan of Matang-kahaw is still regarded by the Bataks as the head of the nation and the sovereign of the country, although a *Sikandandan*; besides *rikuni*, there appears to be a sort of constitutional supremacy vested in a chief who resides on the north-western extremity of the great lake, but his authority is merely nominal. The total population of the island is estimated at about 4,000,000. See MALAY.

SUMBUAWA. A large island of the Indian Archipelago, lying between 8° and 9° S. lat.; separated by the Straits of Allaa, on the W., from the island of Lombok, and by the Straits of Sapy, on the E., from Floris. It is about 180 miles long, and 40 in average width. The island takes its name from the town of Sumbhawa, situated on the southern coast, in the western part, with a good harbor. Besma, a town with an excellent and well-fortified harbor, near the north-eastern end of the island, must be considered, however, as the capital, its sultan having authority over great part of the island, as well as the Straits of Sapy, Manjeray, and the small volcanic island of *Mooringapi*. The Besma dialect extends over the eastern part of Sumbhawa, and the western part of Floris.

SUNDA, STRAITS OF. An arm of the Indian Ocean, separating the islands of Java and Sumatra, which see.

SUPERIOR, LAKE. The largest and most western of the great lakes which separate the territory of the United States from British America. It is situated between lat. $46^{\circ} 40'$ and 49° N., and long. 64° and $92^{\circ} 10'$ W.; extending 310 miles E. and W., and 180 miles at its greatest breadth; its circumference being variously estimated at 1900 and 1400 miles. It thus forms the largest body of fresh water on the globe. It receives the waters of forty different streams, and discharges itself through the Straits of St. Mary into Lake Huron; but a very large proportion of its waters are supposed to be carried off by evaporation. Along the northern shore, there is great depth of water. The rocks rise from 300 to 1400 feet; and during a strong wind, the navigation is dangerous; it would be still more so, were it not for the harbours formed by numerous islands, near the entrance of bays and inlets, where vessels find shelter. The southern side of the lake is a sandy beach, without lac or inlet, interspersed with limestone rocks, rising 100 feet above the water, and rendering the navigation not less dangerous. The largest island, called Isle Royale, situated near the north-western point, is 100 miles in length by about 40 in breadth. The lake abounds in fish, which constitutes the principal food of the Algonquin Indians on its borders.

SURAT. One of the largest cities of India, situated on the southern bank of the Taptree, about 14 miles from the sea. The English factory at Surat, founded in 1615, was the first permanent establishment of the East India Company within the Mogul dominions; and it continued to be the chief station till, in 1687, Bombay