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ART. I.—*The Eastern Seas, or Voyages and Adventures in the Indian Archipelago, in 1832-33-34, comprising a Tour of the Island of Java—Visits to Borneo, the Malay Peninsula, Siam, &c.; also an Account of the Present State of Singapore, with Observations on the Commercial Resources of the Archipelago.* By GEORGE WINDSOR EARL, M. R. A. S. London: Allen and Co. 1837.

MR. EARL'S volume merits, and will obtain no ordinary share of attention, both because it furnishes a great deal of interesting and novel information to the general reader merely as a book of voyages and travels, throughout one of the largest and richest compartments into which, for the sake of distinctness, geographers are in the habit of dividing the globe; but, because the facts detailed and the suggestions offered in its pages, are calculated to arrest the views and awaken the efforts of merchants, legislators, and philanthropists, in such a way as promises to guide to the most beneficent results. It is not only true that several of the countries and islands here described or alluded to have been previously almost unknown, and that many things have in respect of them been communicated by the author, which closely concern the deepest interests of numberless tribes of half-civilized mankind, as well as the welfare of British mercantile and political relations, but it also happens that the transparent, judicious, and manly style that characterizes the whole narrative which is made the vehicle of this intelligence, has been rarely attained, excepting when head, heart, and literary habits have combined to produce this excellence. One might almost say, after reading the choicest or most stirring parts of the book, that there is nothing very striking in it as regards incident or adventure. There is certainly not one solitary paragraph, by reading which alone, either the writer's pretensions, or the single matter described, could lead to the belief that whoever begins at the beginning, will eagerly and profitably proceed to the end, without allowing himself to skip over the smallest portion of the contents; yet such is the case. There must be something drawn then from this fact that ought to

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go to Mr. Earl's credit merely as a writer ; but instead of endeavouring to give at length a philosophic theory for the fact, we shall do much better by presenting so much of that which he has done, as may enable any one to judge of the entire work for himself. Perhaps, however, we may not very far miss the mark, in the way of a general index to his attractive powers, when we say in a single sentence that he has done his observations and feelings great justice by distinctly bringing out much of the manners, character, and capabilities of the numberless tribes which inhabit the eastern islands—many of them, almost like amphibious creatures, being at home upon the sea, as well as when upon the land—and by happily contrasting the mild, peaceful, and industrious natives of the interior of several of the places visited, with the restless and unscrupulous population that swarms on the shores and along the rivers of the Indian Archipelago—thus affording, we believe, a fuller and clearer view of the physical and moral features, as well as capabilities of the vast regions referred to, than has ever been before made public.

In the autumn of 1832, Mr. Earl sailed from Freemantle, Western Australia, in a small schooner for Batavia, whose shores and river, sending forth the noxious smells of decaying vegetation and putrid animals, may have tempted mariners to speak of the "Spicy gales of India," or "of Araby the blest,"—creating, however, a chilly, damp sensation, and being pregnant with malaria. The crew of the schooner consisted of Chinese and Malays, so called, though none of them were genuine ; and, on account of the cold which prevailed during their stay at Swan River, though the poor fellows seemed at first to be morose and sulky, no sooner had they entered the tropics, than their increasing liveliness and gaiety proved how much influence climate has upon the animal spirits.

We are not going to tarry long with our author at Batavia, which is well-known ground. One scene, however, deserves to be extracted, both on account of the picturesque character of the reality, and of the author's description of it.

"The sea near Batavia is covered with innumerable little islets, all of which are clothed with luxuriant vegetation. Native prahus, with their yellow mat sails, are occasionally seen to shoot from behind one of them, to be shielded from view immediately afterwards by the green foliage of another ; and over the tops of the trees may often be descried the white sails of some stately ship, threading the mazes of this little archipelago. One group, appropriately named the Thousand Islands, has never yet been explored, and its intricacies afford concealment to petty pirates, who prey upon the small prahus and fishing-boats. We rounded Ontang Java point on the 2d of September, and bore up for Batavia roads, occasionally having a view of the shipping between the islands. A number of large fishing-boats were coming in from sea, and standing with us into the roads ; and although we were running at the rate of seven knots an hour, they passed us with great rapidity. They had a most graceful

appearance: many of them were fourteen or fifteen tons burthen, and each boat carried one immense square sail. As the breeze was strong, a thick plank was thrust out to windward for an out-rigger, on which several of the numerous crew sat, or stood, to prevent the press of sail they were carrying from capsizing the boat. They were occasionally hidden from our view by their passing behind some of the small islets; but in a few seconds they would appear on the other side, having shot past so rapidly, that we could scarcely fancy that we had lost sight of them at all."

On the way up the river to the town, the objects that met the author's view were not so exhilarating. Among these was a boat carrying some sick Europeans to an hospital, a large lighter in which a number of native convicts were busily employed, clearing the mud from the bottom of the stream, many of them heavily ironed, and a large alligator of a light-brown colour. Although this ravenous monster was so close at hand and unscared, several children were bathing on the banks, without fear. The truth is, these animals are protected, because they devour the refuse of the slaughter-houses, and the other animal matter consigned to the river, which might otherwise prove most injurious to the health of the inhabitants—the abundance of this sort of garbage keeping them so well fed, that it is not worth while subjecting themselves to the trouble and the danger that would be attendant on preying upon living bipeds.

Mr. Earl will not allow that the Javanese are to be judged of according to the character and the appearance of the inhabitants of Batavia; and, indeed, he had an opportunity of correcting the reports of many on this subject, which is seldom enjoyed by voyagers. He attributes great blame to the Dutch government as respects the wretchedness, the demoralization, and the discontent which reign among the Batavians. Throughout the volume he is severe—we believe, not unjust, towards that liberal European power, with regard to its colonial policy. The determination with which it upholds slavery in its foreign possessions, the burdens it imposes upon its free subjects in the East, and the monopolizing spirit with which it seeks upon system to engross all the benefits arising from these possessions, with regard to the rights of the natives or of other independent governments, are flagrant violations of justice and humanity, which, it is wonderful that England, for instance, should so long have overlooked. When we accompany our author to Borneo, we shall have an opportunity of marking some extremely gross wrongs of the kind alluded to, and have reason to congratulate the government and people of Great Britain, that with all their sins of omission and commission, in as far as regards their colonial policy, they are hailed by the nations in the Indian Archipelago as the friends of mankind, and the patrons of commerce. We may

add, that it is not without satisfaction we learn, that the Dutch system of colonial policy is not more unjust and narrow in its views, than that it is certain, in relation to Batavia, for example, to be ere long, ruinous to its promoters and to its very existence.

"Batavia is the seat of the supreme government of Dutch India, and forms the depôt for the produce of all its possessions in the Eastern Archipelago. It was formerly visited by numbers of large junks from China and Siam, and by prahus from all parts of the Archipelago; but since the establishment of the British settlement at Singapore, the perfect freedom of commerce enjoined at that place has attracted the greater part of the native trade, while that formerly carried on by junks between Batavia and China has totally ceased: the government is obliged, therefore, to look for its revenue from the produce of its own possessions.

"Of the three articles most in demand for European consumption, coffee, pepper, and sugar, the two former are entirely monopolized by the government, and heavy penalties are inflicted on those cultivators who dispose of their produce to private individuals. The price paid by the government for these articles is extremely low, and they are afterwards sold at greatly advanced prices to the merchants. This system has been found so oppressive, that frequently the natives, driven to desperation, destroy their own plantations, preferring beggary to such severe taxation for the support of a government which only seeks to enrich itself, and proves utterly regardless of the welfare and prosperity of those who are subjected to its rule. These acts are always visited with severe punishment, but they are nevertheless of constant occurrence."

Contrast such conduct and its consequences with the following account:—

"The conduct of the British towards its Indian subjects has not always been of the most meritorious description, but during our occupation of Java, the colonial government was administered by one who well understood and appreciated the character and disposition of the natives. The measures pursued by the late Sir Stamford Raffles, the governor, are indeed beyond all praise, and both as a statesman and a philanthropist, he stands unrivalled. He is remembered by the natives with feelings little short of adoration, and the illiberality of the government to which they are now subjected, only tends to make them the more regret the misfortune which deprived them of a father and a friend. The name of Sir Stamford Raffles is, perhaps, almost unknown to nine-tenths of the people of England, but scarcely a native of Java is to be found who does not remember some anecdote relative to the kindness and consideration with which the people were treated by him during his most popular administration, of a country very unadvisedly relinquished to a selfish and barbarous tyranny."

The truth is, that the Dutch are living in continual doubt and fear in reference to their possessions in Java, Borneo, &c., the just and natural consequences of their oppressive mercantile system.

Opportunities occurred for Mr. Earl making a much more extensive tour round Java, and to a number of its ports, than he had

anticipated ; and hence he was enabled to detail a great deal more concerning the country and the peculiar character and manners of the natives, as well as of the European residents, Chinese emigrants, &c., than could have been expected by him. As in the other maritime parts of the Archipelago, the Mahomedan religion has been very generally introduced into those of Java. Yet, our author asserts that the Javanese are opposed to everything approaching to the fanaticism which forms such a distinguishing feature in the religion of the followers of the prophet. There are, besides, many native Christians in the island, who have been converted by the Dutch missionaries.

These philanthropists our author speaks of with high approbation. With very little encouragement from the colonial government, they have effected much real good, he declares, not merely in the large towns of Java, but over the wilder islands to the eastward—some of these remote places having been wholly converted ; and, he predicts, that when the system of commercial monopoly, that is fast working its own ruin shall have been destroyed, a degree of civilization will be attained in these regions hitherto unequalled in Eastern India, and far beyond what persons unacquainted with them can suppose.

But as the present volume is chiefly engaged with matters that directly regard mercantile intercourse and prosperity, we quote, before leaving Java, some account of the natives as seamen, which may be taken as an index of their other activities and talents.

“ A few words more respecting the Javanese seamen, will tend to show from what source our merchantmen, and even our men-of-war, on the Indian station, may be partly supplied with seamen, should the Archipelago ever again be frequented by British ships. The Javanese, when mixed with Europeans on board vessels of war, are found to be little inferior to any seamen in the world. Totally devoid of the disgusting prejudices of the Bengali seamen, who consider that anything touched by a Christian is polluted, they endeavour to imitate the Europeans in boldness and enterprise, and in a great measure adopt their manners and their mode of dress. This fact is proved by the efficiency of the crews of Dutch colonial war vessels, which are composed of equal proportions of Europeans and Javanese.

“ The Javanese seamen surpass Europeans in agility in climbing the rigging, and indeed, in this point are inferior only to monkeys. One of the principal causes of the superiority of the Javanese to Europeans in working aloft, consists in the use they make of their toes. In climbing a rope, instead of swarming up, the rope is grasped both by the hands and between the two first toes of the foot, and is ascended hand over hand like a ladder. On one occasion I saw a whole ship's company thus ascend the rigging to reef topsails. The ratlines (the small ropes which are fixed across the shrouds to form the steps of the ladders) had been taken down ; but this circumstance created no difficulty, and they all got up nearly as quickly as if the ratlines had been there. A seaman, when splicing

a rope, or sewing a piece of canvass, holds the article between his toes ; and a carpenter steadies, in like manner, a piece of wood that he is shaping, and therefore retains both hands at liberty to handle his tools."

Mr. Earl has a number of attractive and encouraging things to say of the Javanese. The inhabitants of the interior are distinguishable from the natives of the coast, being less active but more powerful, and greatly more simple in their manners. An amusing anecdote, which is illustrative enough of the latter quality, is told of a young man who had come down from an inland province, and who, on observing a rough sea, concluded from a mental comparison of this sight with that of the tranquil lakes he was accustomed to behold, that it was a battle-royal going on among the billows. He ventured to fill his bottle with a portion of the infuriated waves, in order that he might astonish his untravelled friends at home on his return ; for the Javanese seem to be remarkably fond of listening to wonderful and long legends. That we may exhibit our author in his lighter moments, we quote his version of the young man's story and reception on his going back to the hill-country.

" 'When I approached the great sea,' said he, 'I heard a noise like the roaring of bulls, and I saw that there was a great battle of the waters. They were not quiet and peaceable like those of our lake, but were tearing and fighting, aye! fighting like tigers and buffaloes.' The gaping audience was struck with astonishment. The Jaxa, who was the oldest, and therefore considered the wisest man in the village, at last found his speech. 'Beware, young man,' said he, 'how you endeavour to impose upon us. Waters fight!! Are we goats, or are we buffalo-calves, that you tell us this? What is there to make the water of the great sea fight, any more than those of our lake? I have seen the sea myself, when I went to eat the wind* on the top of the Taggal mountain, and it was as smooth as a paddy field.' The traveller looked around him with a triumphant glance, and requested one of the women to bring him a bottle she would find in his bag. 'Now,' said he, 'I expected that the extraordinary fact would be doubted, and I therefore procured a bottle of the water ; bring me a basin, and you may judge for yourselves.' The listeners crowded about him, and happy was he or she who could procure a near view of the proceedings. With a sneer at the ignorance of his countrymen, the man who had seen the world drew the stopper from the bottle, and after a moment's hesitation in order to acquire courage, poured the water into the basin. To his utter amazement and discomfiture, the water 'wouldn't fight.' but lay quite still, as if it had never been pugnacious. The Jaxa, who from the confidence displayed by the traveller, had begun to fear that he had been premature in his doubts, and that his consequence as the village oracle would therefore be lowered, now denounced the poor man as a vile impostor, and pushed his 'vantage

* * *Makkan angin*, literally eat the wind, but it is applied to taking the air."

ground so strongly, that the luckless experimentalist was glad to shut himself up in the house to avoid the reproaches of his townsmen: even here, however, he was not safe, for his wife, who had expected that his discovery of the fighting water would exalt her husband to a post of honour, and cause him to be regarded as the leading man of science in the village, (the president, in fact, of the Royal Society of the place,) vented her disappointment on him in the shape of a curtain lecture, and, thus badgered upon all sides, the luckless traveller wished that he had drowned himself in the fighting water before he had said anything about it."

On the Southern coast of Java, Mr. Earl had an opportunity of perceiving a small hut, perched upon the steep side of certain limestone caverns, which had been erected for the residence of the men whose duty it was to guard the edible birds' nests that there abound, and upon which the Dutch have laid a heavy tax—nothing escaping their crushing exactions, to the ruin and depression of the natives. The manufacturers of these nests are small swallows, says our author, which are supposed to collect this glutinous substance, so much esteemed in China, from the sea. The nests resemble small tea-saucers in shape, the best being collected before the eggs have been laid in them. When used in China for culinary purposes they are dissolved in water and made into a soup, which is tasteless and flavourless, at least if Mr. Earl's palate is to be the criterion.

We are not going to follow the author closely in all his windings in the Eastern Seas, nor, according to his halts, to land with him at the various ports which he touched. It is sufficient for our purpose to trace him in outline from Java to Singapore, which was founded by Sir Stamford Raffles, when our government, without consulting the rights or interests of the Javanese, restored their island to the Dutch, after the peace of 1814—from Singapore to Bangkok, the principal port of Siam, where his stay was short, and reception uncivil—from Bangkok back to Singapore again—and thence to Borneo, having obtained the command of an adventure of a mercantile character to this last named extensive island.

In the voyage back from Siam, the vessel in which Mr. Earl sailed put in at Triganu, which is on the east coast of the Malay Peninsula, and where he witnessed the following curious method of bargaining, which, perhaps, might sometimes be advantageously practised in the neighbourhood of Cornhill.

"Their commercial transactions being generally conducted in places in which a number of individuals are collected together, as for instance, in the court of the Sultan, or at the residence of the Capitan China, if secrecy should be required, they adopt a mode of bargaining by means of the fingers, which precludes the bystanders from discovering what is going on. The parties grasp each other's hands, and the purchaser makes an offer by pressing one of the joints of the vender's fingers, there being to each joint a number attached, from one to ten; and touching a certain part of the hand, will show whether the offer is in tens, hundreds or

thousands. The hands of the dealers are covered with a handkerchief, so that none of the people present can see what is going forward. When the purchaser has made his offer, the vender, by another grip, lets him know what price he will take; and thus they continue, one increasing his offer, and the other lowering his demand, until the bargain is concluded, or broken off. This custom has, I think, been introduced by the Arabs, for they were always the greatest adepts at it, while the Javanese and other natives who have little communication with them, are unacquainted with the method."

We shall afterwards have occasion to refer to the enormous, and hitherto seldom checked system of piracy, which is practised on the Malay coast, and in the neighbouring seas, to the disgrace of our Colonial government, and the obstruction of the most obvious interests of the British merchant, as well as to the claims of humanity and civilization. Go we now, therefore, at once, to Borneo, an island, not only of vast extent, but of measureless fertility, and offering incalculable scope for enterprises of benevolence, and in search of wealth.

The author, on reaching the coast of Borneo with a valuable cargo, with the view of disposing of it advantageously, and of collecting as much information as possible concerning the island, discovered that the Dutch, who are all-powerful in the neighbouring seas, had interdicted all commercial intercourse between foreign countries, and the portion of the island which was inhabited by a Chinese colony, except through the medium of the Dutch settlements at Sambas and Pontiana. In these circumstances Mr. Earl resolved on visiting the petty Dutch resident at Sambas, and to endeavour to make some arrangement with him. But as our design with regard to Borneo is chiefly to communicate some few of those interesting accounts which resulted from the mercantile adventure in question, we shall confine ourselves to them now, in as far as this part of the author's voyages and travels are concerned, only mentioning that although he succeeded latterly in getting advantageously quit of his cargo to the Chinese, and although they were solicitous to open a trade with Singapore and other places, yet such is the vigilance of the Dutch, that any farther private speculations of the kind, he considers, would be hazardous and useless, in the present state of matters.

Connected with the Dutch residency at Sambas, which place was, before the establishment of this settlement, a nest of pirates, the author met with a few Europeans, among whom was a Frenchman, who is described as being a remarkably well-informed man. From these persons Mr. Earl derived not only valuable knowledge, but made some excursions with them, which enabled him to judge for himself. He declares, however, that the Dutch are so close respecting the geographical features and other important circumstances connected with Borneo, and the various countries of the Archipelago, where they have settled, that they will not even give

publicity to what concerns the advancement of science. This silence, he says, can only be accounted for, "either by the dread which they entertain of the arrival of strangers, who might be attracted to their Indian possessions, were the capabilities of the countries, so long misruled, to be generally known; or to their dislike to have the system upon which they have acted made a topic of conversation, since, in that event, inquiries might be instituted of a political nature, which would be far from agreeable."

We first quote a general sketch of the island of Borneo. He says it bears—

"The same relation to Eastern India, that the continent of America bears to Europe, being a country in which the various tribes inhabiting the further east may find a refuge from religious persecution, or escape the disadvantages of over-population in the mother country. Thus we find the coasts of the island to be inhabited by several nations, totally unconnected with each other, governed by their own laws, and adopting their own peculiar manners and customs. The west coast is occupied by Malays and Chinese; the north-west coast by the half-caste descendants of the Moors of Western India; the north part by the Cochin Chinese; the north-east coast by the Sulus; and the east and south coasts by the Bugis tribes of Celebes. In addition to these, there are no fewer than three distinct tribes, living in prahus, and wandering about the shores of the island: the Lanuns from Magindano; and the Orang-Badju and Orang-Tidong, source unknown. Except on a few spots on the north-west coast, where the Dyaks are to be met with near the sea, the aboriginal tribes have all retired into the interior.

"If an opinion may be formed of the capabilities of the unknown parts of Borneo from those of the western portion of the island, it would appear that no country in the world can compete with it; since the districts occupied by the Dutch and the Chinese, in addition to the possession of a soil which vies in richness with that of any other island in the Archipelago, contain inexhaustible mines of gold and diamonds, which are so easily wrought, that the inhabitants are enabled to procure considerable quantities of both, with the most inefficient instruments."

We shall not enter upon our author's forcible and impressive, but plain and straightforward account of the circumventing and rapacious methods by which the Dutch have, since 1823, when they last settled in the island, shut the Chinese within a certain territory, and by blockading the coast prevented these industrious people either from leaving the country, or maintaining any intercourse with foreign nations, excepting through the medium of the Dutch ports. We rather confine ourselves to certain notices descriptive of some branches of the insular inhabitants, and of their condition and customs.

The Dyaks, who are the aboriginal inhabitants of Borneo, are, by far, the most interesting portion of the population. Many peculiarities attach to their history. They consist of small, and in

the interior, of perfectly distinct tribes. Those on the banks of the large rivers generally rank themselves under one more powerful than the rest, while a most extraordinary system obtains in the forests; for there no such thing as intercourse exists. That the various tribes should speak distinct dialects, in these circumstances, is natural enough. Their general appearance is thus given, according to Mr. Earl's opportunities of judging.

"The Dyak countenance is highly prepossessing, more so than that of any people I have yet encountered. On only one occasion did I ever perceive a decidedly sulky expression, and that was in the case of a lady who had been treated rather indecorously by some Malays. Those whom I saw for the first time (except in one instance on my return from the gold mines), always cast their eyes on the ground, and sometimes turned away their faces in a manner similar to that of a bashful child; but by pretending to take no notice of them, and conversing with some one who happened to be present, they would, after a time, venture to steal an occasional glance, and if they understood Malay, I generally managed eventually to draw them into conversation. Their bashful manner, however, rarely wore off entirely, even after frequent meetings.

"The countenances of the Dyak women, if not exactly beautiful, are generally extremely interesting, which is, perhaps, in a great measure owing to the soft expression given by their long eye-lashes, and by their habit of keeping the eyes half closed. In form they are unexceptionable, and the Dyak wife of a Chinese, whom I met with at Sinkawan, was, in point of personal attractions, superior to any eastern beauty who has yet come under my observation, with the single exception of one of the same race, from the north-west coast of Celebes."

Our readers will not be surprised to learn after this, that the Dyaks are much fairer in complexion than the Malays, and much superior to them in other respects; or that in their domestic relations they are mild. It is also pleasant to hear that their men marry only one woman each, that the old people among them are always respected, and that they believe in a Supreme Being, as also in a future state. But is it not most strange after all this, and almost incredible—although our author declares that what he relates, beyond what he had an opportunity of personally ascertaining, was on unquestionable authority—that these same tribes observe as a special portion of their most solemn and binding creed, and believe that the owner of every human head which they can procure, will serve them in the next world,—nay, that some of the tribes consider the heads of women and children to be more valuable than those of the men? Yet such is the account presented in the pages before us. Our readers will bear in mind some wonderful and revolting statements which have lately been published by persons minutely acquainted with Hindostan, concerning the monsters called *Thugs*, and that still more disgusting race of human beings denominated *Koukees*. But really when we read such

details as those we now quote about, the otherwise prepossessing Dyaks, the desire that the light of Christianity should reach and touch their hearts, becomes more intense than in almost any conceivable case.

After stating how much importance is attached to the procuring of a human head, the account proceeds thus—

“The system of human sacrifice is, upon this account, carried to so great an extent, that it totally surpasses that which is practised by the Battas of Sumatra, or, I believe, by any people yet known. A man cannot marry until he has procured a human head, and he who is in possession of several may be distinguished by his proud and lofty bearing: for the greater number of heads which a man has obtained, the greater will be his rank in the next world; and this opinion naturally induces his associates to consider him entitled to superior consideration upon earth. A man of consequence cannot be inhumed until a human head has been procured by his friends; and at the conclusion of peace between two tribes, the chief of each presents a prisoner to the other to be sacrificed on the spot.

“The loss of human life occasioned by these latter-named ceremonials, falls far short of that which is produced by the necessity of obtaining a human head to grace the marriage rites, a necessity which tends so strongly to check the increase of population, that had the lawgiver who introduced it apprehended that the island would speedily become too thickly inhabited, he could not have hit upon a more efficacious mode of prevention, since had the bachelors been permitted to cut off the heads of persons belonging to their own tribe, instead of being obliged to confine their aggressions to strangers, the entire population of the island must eventually have been extirpated.

“The possession of a human head cannot be considered as a proof of the bravery of the owner, for it is not necessary that he should have killed the victim with his own hand, his friends being permitted to assist him, or even to perform the act themselves.

“The chiefs sometimes make excursions of considerable duration for the sole purpose of acquiring heads, in order that they may be assured of having a numerous body of attendants in the next world. If they are at peace with their neighbours they proceed in their canoes to the more distant parts of the country, to which the numerous ramifications of the rivers afford them easy access. Upon their arrival near a village, if the party be small, they take up their position in the bushes close to some pathway, and attack a passer-by unawares. If the party be large, they are bolder in their operations, and an attempt will be perhaps made to surprise a whole village. For this purpose they will remain concealed in the jungle on the banks of the river during the day, and at night will surround the village so completely as to prevent the escape of the intended victims; and an hour or two before daybreak, when the inhabitants are supposed to sleep the soundest, the attack will be commenced by setting fire to the houses, and their victims are destroyed as they endeavour to escape.”

It is farther stated that the heads thus obtained, are dried and stuck up about the most conspicuous places of their captor's houses,

the teeth being sometimes worn as beads. The entire population of a town is thus sometimes cut off during a single night. It is added that some of the tribes are cannibals, which can hardly be thought incredible when taken along with these details. It is also mentioned by the author as an acknowledged fact, even by the Dutch themselves, that the Dyaks have retrograded, in respect of civilization, since the former have established themselves on the coast of the island. What an argument, therefore, for an amelioration of government ! what a field for benevolent enterprise ! But is there any hope for Christian philanthropy to exercise itself among the Dyaks ? Let us listen to Mr. Earl.

“ From the horrid practice of human sacrifice which obtains among the Dyaks, it may be thought that all attempts to improve them would be hopeless, but before we arrive at such a conclusion, a glance should be taken at the ancient history of Great Britain. So far from being irreclaimable, the dreadful nature of their mode of life renders them the more willing to adopt milder customs ; and I feel confident in asserting that no people on earth, with the exception, perhaps, of their counterparts, the natives of South America, are so susceptible of civilization. This has been proved by the readiness with which the tribes occupying the country near the settlements of the Malays and Bugis have adopted the Mahomedan religion almost without an effort on the part of their converters ; for the Malays, farther advanced in knowledge, but infinitely inferior in natural disposition to the Dyaks, took no pains to induce them to discontinue their practice of wholesale murder, rather regarding their attacks upon each other as actions affording amusement.”

“ The Dyaks in the Chinese territory have totally abandoned their barbarous customs, and are milder in their conduct, and apparently in their disposition, than any of the natives of the Archipelago that I have met with. The horrid massacres perpetrated by the wilder Dyaks, would seem to sanction a contrary opinion, but it must be considered that the individuals who now engage in these frightful outrages, have been brought up from infancy to consider the slaying of a fellow creature in the light of a meritorious action, in fact, one of the most acceptable services which they could perform. Should the view which I have taken of the character of these people be correct, their shocking pursuit of human victims will only tend to show how strong an influence the force of habit, and the circulation of particular doctrines, can exercise over minds naturally indisposed to cruelty. Freedom of commerce, which has hitherto been found the best instrument of civilization, would rapidly improve the condition of these people, and were an European settlement, with a free port, established on one of the numerous large rivers, the Dyaks would soon be brought into communication with it, for they are greatly addicted to commerce, and spare no pains to procure articles of foreign manufacture for which they have acquired a taste.

“ Were two or three of the Dutch missionaries, who have worked so much real good in those places in which they have been untrammelled by their government, to establish themselves among the Dyaks, their labours would be of incalculable benefit, although the speedy conversion of these

people might be retarded, since the Malays would not fail to poison their ears against all religious adventurers professing a different creed, it unfortunately being in their power to prevent, in a great measure, their more ignorant neighbours from deriving any advantage from instruction."

The only other class of the inhabitants of Borneo, which we shall follow the author in noticing, is that of the Chinese. It is stated that before the Dutch took possession of the west of the island in 1823, about three thousand of this nation arrived as settlers annually, that now their emigration has almost totally ceased, but that the whole number of the colony may still be reckoned at 150,000. Mr. Earl was enabled to pay a visit to this interesting community, without the knowledge of the Dutch resident, and to dispose of his cargo to them. His account of their territory is cheering, inasmuch as it describes a people living under a well-concerted representative government of their own originating, who are far advanced in the arts of civilization, although severely oppressed by the Dutch. Who could have expected to behold such scenes as the following in Borneo?

"After crossing the swamp, we ascended a hill, and, on arriving at the top, a sudden turn of the path brought to view one of the finest prospects I had ever beheld. Immediately below us stretched an extensive valley, teeming with cultivation and covered with villages and cottages; the Sinkawan river, here about fifteen yards wide, winding through it. The south-east side of the valley was bounded by a range of mountains, about fifteen hundred feet in elevation; but to the north-west, the ground stretched in gentle undulations, as far as the eye could reach.

"Our path led through a series of gardens, which, in addition to many kinds of culinary vegetables, produced sugar cane, maize, plantains, and a variety of fruits. After a delightful walk through the valley for about three miles, crossing the river several times by means of wooden bridges, we arrived at the large village where we were to breakfast. The street was crowded with people, who left a small space in the centre for us to pass on to the court-house, where I found the Kung Se had prepared an excellent repast, having been informed of my intended visit by a messenger, who had been sent to Montradok from the coast the previous night.

"Many of the farmers' cottages were built of unburnt bricks, and covered with thatch, and being invariably surrounded and shaded by fruit-trees, they bore a stronger resemblance to those which adorn an English landscape than any habitations I had seen since my departure from my own home.

"Houses for the entertainment of travellers were erected at intervals on the road-side, and at noon we entered one of them to rest ourselves, and to partake of some refreshment. The landlady, a Chinese, about forty years old, who had the sole direction of the household affairs, was the most obliging individual whom I met with on the journey, the selection of the house by the guides having probably been made on account of the known excellence of her disposition. Displaying no idle curiosity, our kind hostess immediately commenced the preparations for our entertainment, bustling about, and scolding her two handmaidens, who in a few minutes, perhaps

in consequence of this admonishment, placed a duck on the fire to grill; a dish containing a preparation of rice, much resembling macaroni, being put before me to employ my time until the duck should be ready for the table."

On reaching Montradok, the Chinese capital, the author was received and entertained by the governor with great hospitality. After an account of this kind treatment and of the working of the gold and diamond mines, he adds—

"I should rejoice to hear of the speedy improvement of the political condition of these industrious settlers, but fear that nothing of the kind will be accomplished, until their neighbours discover them to be so completely reduced as to be totally unable to afford them the revenue, now so inexorably wrung from their unwilling hands, in which event they will in all probability be left to themselves. This crisis seems fast approaching, unless the progress of impending ruin should be stayed by some active interference on the part of the British, whose duty it appears to be, to prevent the Dutch from depriving Sinkawan of the lucrative traffic which it might enjoy with Singapore, were not the former port closed by a blockade."

Mr. Earl has been at pains to collect from various quarters in the course of his voyages and travels, many particulars concerning the present state of Borneo, and the recent discoveries made in the interior, which he has thrown into a distinct chapter, after giving his readers all the information which his own personal observation gathered. This chapter we pass over, with the single remark, that Borneo, according to his description, is an island possessed of extraordinary, perhaps unrivalled richness, in point of its vegetable and mineral productions; and taking its rivers and other features into view, offers one of the widest fields in the world for mercantile enterprise.

The last three chapters of the volume are devoted to Singapore, to which place Mr. Earl returned from Borneo. With his return, however, the personal narrative drops, and the three chapters referred to, comprise an elaborate detail of all the considerable circumstances in the history of this recently established British settlement, from materials gathered in the course of his frequent residences at that place, as well as from various persons intimately acquainted with its progress. To our readers we recommend this able and satisfactory account of Singapore, which was established not many years ago, without the concurrence, and, indeed, with the decided disapprobation of the Home Government, but which now annually imports British manufactures to the amount of several hundred thousand pounds, besides being of prodigious benefit to the East India Company, and the Eastern trade in general. Even now, however, the settlement is in a great measure neglected by our Colonial Office, otherwise how could

such a statement as the following occur in such a candid and well-informed work as the one before us ?

“The Malay pirates absolutely swarm in the neighbourhood of Singapore, the numerous islands in the vicinity, the intersecting channels of which are known only to themselves, affording them a snug retreat, whence they can pounce upon the defenceless native traders, and drag them into their lairs to plunder them at their leisure. Square-rigged vessels are generally allowed to pass unmolested, for the pirates, who are as cowardly as they are cruel, rarely attack craft of this description, unless they have received authentic information from their spies at Singapore that they may be taken with facility.

“The system of piracy is perfect in its nature, more so even than that which formerly obtained among the buccaneers of America. A petty chief of one of the Malay states, who has either been ruined by gambling, or is desirous to improve his fortune, collects under his banner as many restless spirits as he can muster, and sails for one of the most retired islands in the neighbourhood of Singapore. Here he erects a village as a depôt for slaves and plunder, and then lies in wait with his armed prahus, near the frequented waters, for the native traders passing to and from the British settlement. Should the chief be eminently successful, he soon gains a large accession to his force, and his village increases to a small town, while his fleet of prahus becomes sufficiently numerous to be subdivided into several squadrons, which cruise in the various straits and channels.

“The pirates generally sail in fleets of from three to twenty prahus. These are armed with guns, large and small, and each prahu carries from fifteen to forty men. The vessels which they succeed in capturing are brought to the settlement, where they are plundered and afterwards burnt; and the goods are taken for sale to Singapore or New Harbour, in prahus of their own, which are fitted up to resemble traders. The unfortunate natives who compose the crews of the captured prahus, are carried to Lingin, or to the opposite coast of Sumatra, where they are sold to the Malays, to cultivate the pepper plantations in the interior.

“In mercy, therefore, to the native traders who visit the settlement on the supposition that they will at least be free from violence when within sight of the British flag, some measures should be taken to put an end to the system. I regret the necessity which obliges me to repeat, that nothing but the most rigorous measures, even to the utter annihilation of those who may be caught in the fact, will tend to check the evil; for the pirates having long been permitted to commit their murders and robberies with impunity, now consider themselves to be almost invincible, and therefore require some very severe lessons to bring them to their senses. The frightful acts daily committed, however, will never be entirely suppressed until those Malay chiefs who encourage the pirates, by affording them assistance and protection, receive some substantial proof that such practices will not be permitted with impunity. To shew how very easily the banditti of these seas may be deterred from their aggressions, I will mention a single case in point. A few years ago an American merchant ship was attacked and taken by the Malay inhabitants of Qualla Battu on the west coast of Sumatra. When this circumstance became known in the United States, the President, with a promptitude worthy of the chief magistrate of a great

commercial nation, immediately despatched a frigate to chastise the offenders, and Qualla Battu was attacked and burnt. This act of retribution has produced a very beneficial effect, since, although many American ships annually resort to the coast, not a single instance has occurred of one of them being attacked or molested."

In an Appendix of considerable length, Mr. Earl treats of the "Commercial Resources of the Indian Archipelago," besides offering some "Observations on the Unexplored Parts of North and North-Western Australia." His views under these heads may be taken as deductions from his previous narrative, and also as speculations regarding the best methods which Britain can adopt in furtherance of her commercial interests in the Eastern Seas, and for establishing new colonies on the Northern Coast of Australia. He represents New Guinea, Borneo, Celebes, and other large islands in the same regions as remarkably well fitted for the consumption of British manufactures; because the natives are fond of novelty and display—are active and unprejudiced—while the soil of the countries which they occupy, and the surrounding seas are singularly productive. Singapore, he considers, as being too distant, and otherwise exposed to too many dangers, to afford the assistance of a naval, or the convenience of a mercantile depot, for these large islands. He therefore would have settlements established on the Northern Coasts of Australia to supply the defect. Certain difficulties, however, must first be overcome, and certain hoped-for discoveries made before all this can be realized. These the author has not overlooked, but has indicated, as far as conjecture, founded on minute investigation and patient study, can warrant. We are not, however, inclined to go into such subjects; neither have we space, after what has been extracted from the preceding narrative. Of itself that narrative is suggestive and descriptive in no common degree—the tone of its author is candid and firm—the facts it contains are important, valuable, and of pressing concern—and doubtless they will be felt by our government and the commercial community of the country as eminently entitled to regard and immediate consideration. As an example and an incentive, let the manner in which our brethren in the United States of America, manage their traffic even in regions where they have not a single settlement be quoted; and with the hints thus thrown out, we close Mr. Earl's excellent volume, a volume of greater value, merit, and mark, than any belonging to the same class of literature that has been published for a long time.

"The commercial rivalry of the Americans, however, is very different in its nature from that of the Dutch, and is carried on in a spirit worthy of an enterprising nation. As their commerce receives the greatest attention from their government, their rapid advances in the Archipelago may be easily accounted for. A political agent is constantly employed in

visiting the various countries in Asia, and in making arrangements by which their merchants can carry on a traffic both with credit and advantage. The most insignificant native ports which are resorted to by the American merchant ships are also frequently visited by their vessels of war, and any insult or aggression offered to American citizens is immediately resented. At the same time the British flag is absolutely unprotected, and the merchants of Singapore are therefore deterred from carrying on trading speculations with the native ports. The consequence is, that the trade of those independent countries in the Archipelago which are so distant from Singapore that the natives are unable to bring their goods to that port in their own vessels, is now chiefly in the hands of the Americans. The west coast of Sumatra, for example, was formerly much resorted to by the British traders, but now, although numbers of American vessels annually visit the coast, only a solitary English ship is now and then to be met with at the northern pepper ports.

“The Americans have laboured under great disadvantages in the Archipelago, from their possessing no settlements by which they could acquire a political influence, and from their having no manufactures of their own adapted to the market. The exertions of their government, however, have sufficed to counterbalance all these adverse circumstances, and it must therefore be evident that, were equal attention bestowed by the British government on matters concerning the promotion of the welfare of British merchants, the latter would be enabled to trade with security, while the possession of manufactures in great demand, and a convenient settlement of our own at Singapore, would of necessity cause our commerce with the Archipelago to increase in a much greater ratio than that of the Americans.

ART. II.—*Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Scott, Bart.* Vols. II. and III. London: Murray. Edinburgh: R. Cadell.

THE second volume of this charming biography was handed to us so late in April, that we had only time to notice it in the slightest possible way in our number for the ensuing month. We now, however, return to it, when the opportunity has arrived of uniting and reviewing it along with the third volume; for although the leading events of Scott's life may be said to have become as familiar to all as household goods, and principally to consist of his numerous publications, yet it will be found that in the two portions of the narrative now before us there are so many incidents, and so much correspondence to which the world has never before had access, as to confer on it the interest belonging to a new and remarkably engaging work. We had supposed that the first volume of all would have contained the greatest quantity of original matter; and that, as it had to deal with the great magician's early history, when the opening and progress of his mind were to be traced to maturity, it would have been the most attractive, in so far as novelty went, and in