

A
GRAMMAR
OF
MODERN GEOGRAPHY,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY
AND THE USE OF THE GLOBES,

COMPILED FOR THE USE OF

KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL,

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or *Batting*, which is the residence of the viceroy appointed by the king of Cochin-China, and is said to contain 40,000 inhabitants.

22. **MALAYA** or Malacca. This peninsula touches to the N. upon the Birman Empire and the newly-acquired British territory in this quarter, being separated from them by the Isthmus of Kraw, which is only 80 miles in breadth: on all other sides it is washed by the sea, viz. on the W. by the Indian Ocean and the Strait of Malacca, and on the S. and E. by the China Sea and the Gulf of Siam. The Malays are Mahometans. The government is a tumultuary despotism.

23. The Malays are of the Sonnite Mahometan sect, but do not possess much of the bigotry so common among the Western followers of the prophet. Little is known concerning the religion they professed prior to their conversion to Islamism, but it appears to have been some modification of the Hindoo systems, much corrupted, and blended with other idolatries. They are named Khek by the Siamese, and Masu by the Birman; they are an intelligent, active, and industrious body of men, noted throughout the East for their commercial enterprises, and much dreaded for their piratical habits. They are said to have originally inhabited Palembang and the banks of the R. Malayu, in the I. of Sumatra, and to have migrated thence about the middle of the 12th century to the South Eastern extremity of the opposite peninsula, where they first built the town of Sincapore and afterwards that of Malacca: but there appears good reason to believe that the name of Malaya was applied to the peninsula many ages before.

24. When the Siamese monarchy was at the height of its power, its supremacy was acknowledged by the whole peninsula, but since the Birman gained the ascendancy over them, all the southern states of Malaya have shaken off the yoke, whilst only a moderate tribute is exacted from those in the North. The whole peninsula, therefore may be said to be divided into a number of independent governments of the rudest construction, founded on principles nearly feudal; the head of the state is a *rajah*, who usually assumes the title of sultan, and under him is a certain number of *datties* or nobles, who have a train of subordinate vassals. In general, however, the king is but little obeyed by the chiefs, or the latter by the people; violent acts of immediate power are committed both by the chiefs and their superior, but there is no regular system of obedience. These remarks do not apply to those parts of the Malay territories which are under British influence, such as Sincapore, Malacca, Pulo-Penang, with the districts and islands adjoining the Birman Empire: in these, owing to the mild discipline and equitable government which have been introduced, much of the ferocity attributed to the Malay character, has entirely disappeared.

25. The strait between the peninsula of Malaya and the I. of Sumatra is known by the name of the St. of Malacca. In it, about midway down the coast of the peninsula, and at a distance of two miles from it, is Pulo-Penang, or Prince of Wales' I. as it is also called. This island belongs to the British, having been given by the king of Queda, as a marriage-portion with his daughter, to the captain of a British merchant ship, in 1786; it was accordingly taken possession of during the following year, in the name of his Majesty, and for the use of the East India Company, who, finding it

a convenient situation for the purposes of commerce, and a place of rising importance, have constituted it into a separate government, subordinate only to the governor-general of India. At the commencement of the present century, the king of Queda ceded to the British a tract of country, on the opposite coast of the peninsula, 18 miles in length, and three in breadth, in consideration of an annual tribute, which still continues to be paid to him. Pulo-Penang is a flourishing little settlement, and continues to increase both in population and utility, though it has been latterly eclipsed by Singapore.

26. Lower down the strait lies the town of Malacca itself, the capital of the whole peninsula, situated upon the coast, about 100 miles from its southernmost point. It first fell into the hands of the Portuguese, from whom it was taken by the Dutch, and from the latter again by the British: it was formerly a place of some strength and consequence, but as the formation of our settlement at Pulo-Penang rendered it of little or no use as a place of trade, the garrison and stores were mostly withdrawn, the fortifications nearly razed, and the whole place dismantled. Since that time its importance has gradually been diminishing, though it is still a useful post as a guard against the piracies of the Malays, and the jealous intrusions of the Dutch.

27. Singapore is situated at the Southern extremity of the Malay peninsula, on a small island of the same name, and has given name to the Straits of Singapore, which are formed by a cluster of innumerable little islands, varying much in their shapes, and indented on all sides by little bays and sandy coves. Here the China Sea, which connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans, commences, being bounded on the W. and N. by the mainland of Asia, and on the E. and S. by Formosa, the Philippine Is., Palawan, Borneo, Banka, &c. The town of Singapore is said to have been founded by adventurers, who originally emigrated from the I. of Sumatra, but it possessed little consequence till it fell into the hands of the British, to whom the Sultan ceded the whole island in 1824, as well as the neighbouring islets and districts for four leagues round it. It derives all its importance from its central situation between India and China; and touching upon the Southernmost point in the whole continent of Asia, it becomes, as it were, the last connecting link between the mainland and that extensive archipelago of large and productive islands, which lies off this extremity of the old world. It has no native productions of its own to export, and must therefore be looked upon merely as a depôt for the consignment and sale of merchandize. But the increase of its population, and its transit of goods, during the last five years, are without example in the annals of history; and are owing, no doubt, to the superior regulations of the British traders, and the advantages they hold out to the natives of the surrounding countries, when compared with the well-known habits and policy of the Dutch, as well as to the facility which it has afforded our own merchants, for the exercise of their ingenuity in escaping from the fetters of prejudice and monopoly. Its population amounts to nearly 60,000 souls, and is composed of British, Dutch, Portuguese, Americans, Malays, Hindoos, Arabs, Parsees, Birmese, Siamese, Chinese, Javanese, and colonists from many of the great islands in the neighbourhood.

AUSTRALASIA.

28. Australasia consists of an extensive chain of numerous islands, lying off the South Eastern extremity

of the continent of Asia, from China and Trans-Gangetic India to the limits of the Great Southern Ocean. The chief of these islands are, Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, the Philippines, the Moluccas, Papua or New Guinea, Java, Australia or New Holland, Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand, all of which are not unfrequently designated by the common appellation of the East India Islands.

29. Of these, SUMATRA is the nearest to the continent of Asia, being separated from it only by the Strait of Malacca: its general direction is N. W. and S. E., and it is divided by the equator into two nearly equal parts. The inhabitants are partly Mahometans, but by far the greater number of them are Pagans. The whole island is divided into a number of petty independent states, the power and extent of which are constantly varying with the means possessed by each of subjecting its neighbour, or of repelling the invasion of its own territory. The chief towns of Sumatra are Bencoolen, the capital, situated on the Western coast, towards the Southern extremity of the island; Palembang, near the Eastern coast, opposite the I. of Banka; and Acheen, at the North Western point, opposite the Nicobar Islands.

30. Sumatra is known to the natives of the neighbouring islands, as well as to most of the inhabitants themselves, by the names of Purichu and Indalas. Its principal political divisions are the empire of Menancabow and the Malays, the Acheenese, the Battas, the Rejangs, and the people of Lampong. But there are many other independent princes or sultans, such as those of Palembang, Jambi, Indragiri, Siak, &c. and these in their turn are kept in check by a number of petty chiefs, whose respective territories are shut in and defended by marshes and forests. Until about 120 years ago, the Southern part of Sumatra was dependant on the King of Bantam in Java, whose lieutenant visited it annually to collect the tribute and appoint governors. Bencoolen, and a few other places on the Western coast, belonged formerly to the English, but owing to our acquisition of more valuable territory in this quarter of the globe, they were found to have materially diminished in importance, and were therefore ceded by treaty to the Dutch in exchange for other possessions: the latter people now claim the dominion of the whole island, but are only able to establish their sovereignty over a few districts in the immediate neighbourhood of the sea-coast. Almost all the forms of government throughout Sumatra, are a mixture of the feudal and patriarchal; and their laws are properly a set of long established customs handed down to them from their ancestors, the authority for which is founded in usage and general consent. A few of the Sumatrans have embraced Islamism, but by far the greater number of them are pagans, who

appear to have no notion of a Supreme Being, or of a future state; they have no public or private form of worship of any kind, nor are there any idols or objects to be met with amongst them. They are not, however, without superstitious belief of many kinds; and have a confused notion, derived probably from their intercourse with other people, of certain superior beings, who have the power of rendering themselves visible and invisible at pleasure.

31. BORNEO, or Varuni as it is called by the inhabitants; is the largest island in the world after Australia and New Guinea: it lies to the Eastward of Sumatra and Malaya, and to the South Eastward of the Empire of Annam. Independent of those few of the inhabitants who profess Mahometanism, the natives are all pagans, concerning whose religion but little is known, except that they seem to worship some fanciful being of a gloomy and revengeful nature, supposed to delight in human blood. Borneo is divided into several districts, governed by independent sovereigns, who are constantly waging war with each other: many Chinese have settled on the island, as well as Malays and Javanese, and have become subject to the native chiefs.

32. Borneo is of a more solid and compact figure than the other islands of the Eastern Archipelago, and is not so much indented by arms of the sea as they are, although it possesses many excellent bays and harbours: its interior is wholly unexplored, and indeed the coast itself is but indifferently known. The inhabitants of the interior [or Aborigines] have usually received the name of Idaan and Horaforas, being probably the most ancient and original race of all the Eastern Islands, with the exception of the Papuas or oriental negroes. The inhabitants of the N. coast of Borneo have a tradition that their country was once subject to China; but when first visited by the Portuguese, in 1530, they found the Mahometan religion firmly established all along the sea-coast. The British had formerly settlements on different parts of Borneo, but they have latterly resigned them in favour of the Dutch, who affect the sovereignty of the whole island. The factories of the latter people are at Banjarmassin, Passir, Borneo, Sambas, Mampava, Pontiana, Landak, and Succadana, which are collectively the chief towns of the island: they obtained the two last-mentioned from the King of Bantam, to whose ancestors they had in remote times belonged, and sent a small force to take possession of them, and to erect a fort at Pontiana; but, like many other of their establishments, they have never realised profit from it equal to the expense incurred.

33. Borneo, the capital of the whole island, is situated at its North Western extremity, about 10 miles up a river of the same name, upon the banks of which the houses are built upon posts, and are ascended by stairs and ladders. It resembles Venice in having small water-channels in place of streets; all traffic is transacted on board of boats, which float up and down the river with the tides. Borneo is the capital of a kingdom of the same name, the sultan of which resides there, and from it the whole island is supposed by many to have obtained its appellation.

34. About midway between Borneo and Sumatra lies the I. of **BILLITON**, which formerly belonged to the British, but which has been of late years ceded to the Dutch. This has been also the case with **BANKA**, a much larger and more important island, separated from Sumatra by a narrow strait, known by the name of the Strait of Banks.

35. The I. of **CELEBES** lies to the E. of Borneo, being separated from it by a strait generally about 120 miles broad, known by the name of the Strait of Macassar; its Northern part lies immediately under the equator. The town of Macassar, or Mungkasar as it is called by the natives, is situated at the South Western extremity of Celebes, and has given name to the strait which separates it from Borneo; it is the capital of the island, and the chief factory belonging to the Dutch, who have named it Fort Rotterdam.

36. The natives and Malays call Celebes Neegree-Oran-Buggess, and sometimes Tana-Macassar, after the two principal tribes by whom it is inhabited. It is an island of a most irregular shape, being indented by three deep bays, which divide it into four peninsulas: the names of these bays are Tominie B., Tolo B., and the B. of Bony. Celebes is portioned out into several independent states, the principal of which are Bony or the Buggess-country, Macassar, Mandhar, Looeboe, &c.; these are governed by different rajahs or chiefs, some of whom enjoy their rank by inheritance, and some receive it by the suffrage of a national council. The Buggesses, Macassars, and Malays of the sea-coast, profess a corrupted form of Mahometanism; but there are many tribes in the interior not yet converted from their ancient religion, and others who do not seem to have any. The Portuguese first obtained settlements in Macassar, but were expelled by the Dutch in 1660, who have until lately entirely controlled the island, the Chinese alone being permitted to trade with it. In consequence of the increasing strength of the state of Bony during the latter half of the 18th century, the power of the Dutch rapidly declined in Celebes, and it was altogether annihilated in 1812 by the attack made upon it by the British forces: since the peace of Paris, however, their settlements have been restored to them.

37. To the N. of Borneo is the long narrow island of **PALAWAN**, which connects it with the group of the Philippines; the greater part of it was formerly under the dominion of the Sooloos, but it is little known to Europeans.—The **SOOLOO** Archipelago is a chain of islands stretching from the North Eastern point of Borneo to the Western extremity of Mindanao, which is the Southernmost of the Philippine Islands: they are about 60 in number, and have obtained their appellation from the chief island, which is called Sooloo; and is the residence of the Sultan by whom they are governed. The sovereignty of them is hereditary, and the government a mixture of the feudal and aristocratical, the power of the sultan being frequently counterpoised by that of the nobles. Many of the Sooloos belong to the Sonnite Mahometan sect; but their zeal for that faith, and attention to its ordinances, are feeble and capricious: by far the greater portion of them, however, are idolaters. From the time the Spanish colonies were planted in the Philippines, to the present day, an unceasing warfare has been carried on between

them and the Soolooa, in which the latter have generally had the advantage, although they occasionally sustained reverses.

38. The group of the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS lies to the N. E. of Borneo and Celebes, and to the S. E. of China Proper, forming in this quarter the Western limit of the North Pacific Ocean, which it separates from the China Sea. The largest of them is Luzon, to the S. of which the principal islands are Mindoro, Masbate, Panay, Negros, Zebu, Bohol, Samar, Leyte, and Mindanao. They are frequently collectively called the Bisayas after the inhabitants, or Yslas de Pintados from the natives having been accustomed to *paint* their bodies before the arrival of the Spaniards. All these islands are nominally subject to the Spanish government at Manilla, which is the capital town of the whole group, and is situated on the S. W. coast of the I. of Luzon.

39. After this town the Philippine Islands are sometimes vulgarly termed The Manillas: some of them are partially colonized, and pay tribute, collected by the governors of the eleven provinces into which they are divided, and which are unitedly placed under the charge of a viceroy; but others, such as Mindanao, are not only independent of the Spanish establishments in the Philippines, but carry on a perpetual warfare against them. Magellan, whose ship first circumnavigated the globe, on the day of St. Lazarus, A. D. 1521, discovered this extensive group of islands, which he named the Archipelago of St. Lazarus, or the Western Isles. Several voyages were subsequently undertaken by the Spaniards, for the purpose of taking possession of these islands; but nothing was effected until the year 1564, when, in consequence of orders from Philip 2d of Spain (in compliment to whom they were named the Philippine Islands), a fleet was despatched from Mexico, which stopped at Zebu, and soon wholly subdued it. After several engagements with the rajahs of the different islands, the Spaniards effected a settlement at Manilla, which they constituted the capital of their possessions in the Philippines. In the middle of the last century, Manilla surrendered to a British fleet, but was afterwards delivered up to the court of Madrid. Since that period the Spanish colonies in these fruitful islands have not been disturbed by any European enemies, although frequently threatened with invasion from the British settlements in India.

40. Besides Manilla and the larger establishments on Luzon, the Spaniards have many smaller settlements scattered over the islands to the South; but such is the weakness of their government, that they have never been able to protect them against the attacks of a few despicable pirate vessels. For two centuries past the piratical cruisers from Mindanao and Sooloo have been plundering the coast of the Philippines, capturing vessels, pillaging and burning towns, massacring some of the inhabitants, and carrying others into slavery; and although unable to defend them, such is the jealousy of the Spaniards, that they do not allow the natives to possess arms of any kind. Manilla, the capital of the Philippines, is situated on the South Western coast of the I. of Luzon, on the Bay of Manilla and near the mouth of the R. Pasig; it contains many magnificent churches and hand-

some private houses, as well as monasteries and convents, which occupy the largest and best part of the town. The houses of the native Indians are made of bamboo, covered with leaves, and extremely combustible; they are raised on wooden pillars, eight or ten feet from the ground, and are entered by a ladder which is pulled up at night. On account of the terrible earthquakes, with which Manilla has been so frequently visited, many of the Spanish houses are built in the same manner and with similar materials. The population of the town and its suburbs, in 1820, was estimated at 175,000 souls.

41. The name of **MOLUCCA ISLANDS** is understood, in its most extensive application, to signify all the islands between the Molucca Passage (which separates them from Celebes) and New Guinea: it thus includes Gilolo and all the surrounding islands, as Morty, Ternate, Tidore, Batchian, Oby, Mysol, Booro, Ceram, Amboina, the Banda Is., Timorlaut, and many others of much less importance.

42. In its more usual and confined sense, however, it is restricted to the range of small islands lying to the Westward of Gilolo, together with Ceram, Amboina, and the Banda Is., which are likewise distinguished as the **SPICE ISLANDS**. They were formerly subject to the Chinese and Javanese, but were in process of time subdued by the Malays, who converted many of the inhabitants to the Mahometan faith; several of the descendants of these converts style themselves *Shereefs*, and pretend to trace their origin to Mahomet himself, for which reason they are held in great respect, especially if they have performed the pilgrimage to Mecca: most of the natives, however, are pagans. The Portuguese, were the first Europeans who took possession of the Moluccas, but they were subsequently compelled to make way for the Dutch, in 1607; the latter people have had the control over most of them ever since, with the exception of a short interval of time during the last war, in which they were wrested from them by the British. A few of the chiefs still remain independent, and annoy the Dutch by committing depredations on their settlements, the capital of which is Ft. Victoria in the I. of Amboina.

43. **PAPUA, OR NEW GUINEA**, extends from the Moluccas for a distance of 1,300 miles into the Pacific Ocean; its exact dimensions have not yet been ascertained, nor is it certain whether it is not a cluster of large islands, rather than one of an immense size. It is only separated from Australia by a narrow, dangerous strait, called Torres' Strait, and is indented by such deep bays that it resembles a chain of peninsulas. The inhabitants, called Papuas or Papous, and in their own language Igoloteh, are sometimes termed the oriental negroes; they are black, and have long black hair, which they wear bushed out round their heads, to the

circumference of two and a half or three feet. A few of the Papuas, who dwell on the sea-shore, have been converted to the Mahometan faith, but by far the greater part of those who have any notion of religion are idolaters.

44. New Guinea was discovered in 1527 by a Spanish navigator, who gave it the name of New Guinea, from the great resemblance between its natives and those of Guinea in Africa. Its inhabitants appear to be a second race of aborigines in the Eastern Islands, in several of which they are still to be found, and in all of which they seem originally to have existed. Those of them who inhabit New Guinea, are divided into small communities or families, unconnected with each other, and little disposed to encourage the visits of Europeans. Several of their tribes have formed themselves into small savage states, and made some advances towards civilization; but the greater part of them, even with the example of more civilized races before their eyes, have betrayed no symptoms either of a taste or capacity for improvement, and continue in their primitive state of nakedness, sleeping on trees, devoid of houses and clothing, subsisting on the spontaneous productions of the forest, or the precarious success of their fishing and hunting excursions.

45. To the N. E. of New Guinea lie several large Islands, as New Britain, New Ireland, and the Solomon Is., which are inhabited by a race as uncivilized as the Papuas. To the N. of them, and of New Guinea, are the Peloo Isles, the Caroline Is., the Ladrone or Marianne Is., and several others, which form the Westernmost groups in the Pacific Ocean.

46. The I. of JAVA, or Yava as the name is sometimes pronounced, lies to the S. of Borneo, and to the S. E. of Sumatra, from which last it is separated by a narrow strait, called the St. of Sunda; and hence all the neighbouring islands are frequently called the Sunda Isles: the sea between it and Borneo is named the Java Sea. Java belongs to the Dutch; it is nearly 600 miles long, in an Easterly and Westerly direction, and generally about 80 broad. The Javanese appear to have once professed the Hindoo religion, but the predominant faith at present is that of Mahomet, adulterated by many superstitious notions and observances. Batavia, the capital of Java, and the metropolis of all the Dutch possessions in the East India Islands, is situated on the Northern coast of the island, not far from its Western extremity. It is now only the fourth city on the island in point of population, yielding to Solo, Djajaienta, and Samarang; the number of its inhabitants has decreased from 160,000 to about 48,000.

47. When the Dutch first established themselves in Java, it was divided into three great states, viz. Bantam, Jacatra, and the empire of the Soesos-

hoenan, which last was the most extensive, and comprehended two-thirds of the whole island. At present Java is divided into five principal states or governments, which are Bantam, Jacatra, Cheribon, the empire of the Soesoehoenan, and that of the Sultan, the two last being sometimes included under the common name of the Gold Coast. By the system of the Dutch government the country is divided into districts, over each of which is a chief or governor, whose duty it is to take care that the full share of the peasants' produce be delivered for the use of the Dutch, the sovereign, and himself. The princes of the different states into which Java is subdivided, are all more or less under the influence of the Dutch East India Company, which maintains forts and garrisons throughout their dominions. For more than a century the Dutch remained in unmolested possession of this large and fertile island, and might have continued so but for the French revolution, which brought them under subjection to that nation, and rendered an attack necessary on the part of the British. An expedition was in consequence despatched from India in 1811, which soon reduced the whole island, and put an end to the Dutch sovereignty over it. But prior to this, the Dutch kept possession of Java by rather a precarious tenure, adopting the sinister policy of fomenting a constant disunion among the more powerful princes of Java, who governed under the titles of allies and tributaries; and even these means were found insufficient to retain the people in due subordination, without large reinforcements being annually sent from Europe. Of late years, however, the Dutch have been reinstated by the British in possession of the island, and continue by their old system of government to keep the native princes in tolerable subordination.

48. The form of government among the Javanese is essentially despotic, and answers to the most abstract idea of unlimited and uncontrolled power. The will of a Javanese prince is literally law; and there are neither civil nor religious institutions to oppose a barrier to it. Amongst the people there are no hereditary ranks or distinctions: the monarch is heir to all under his dominion, by his authority may raise the humblest peasant to the first rank in the empire, or level the highest with the meanest of his subjects. The town of Batavia was founded by the Dutch in 1619, taken by the English in 1811, and restored to the former people five years afterwards. It stands in a low marshy plain, at the union of several small rivers, which are only navigable for boats; and in many of the streets are canals filled with water almost stagnant. The *miasma* generated in the putrid mud-banks and canals, renders the town exceedingly unhealthy. Batavia, on account of the beauty of its buildings and immense trade, has been styled The Dutch Queen of the East; but within a few years it has lost a great part of its splendour and importance.

49. There is an extensive chain of islands stretching from the Eastern extremity of Java to the South Western part of New Guinea, known by the names of Bally, Lombock, Sumbawa, Floris, Timor, Timorlaut, and Aroo. They are inhabited by a half-civilized race of people, governed by rude laws, some of whom profess the Mahometan religion, but by far the larger number follow the doctrines of Buddha. The principal island is Timor, at the South Western extremity of which is the settlement of Coepang, belonging to the Dutch, to whom also the greater part of the coast is subject. Dhelli lies on the North Western side of Timor, and is the miserable relic of the extensive possessions once belonging to the Portuguese in this quarter of the globe.

50. AUSTRALIA, OR NEW HOLLAND as it is also called, lies to the S. of New Guinea and of the range