

NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY
IN THE INTERIOR OF
CHINA,
AND OF
A VOYAGE TO AND FROM THAT COUNTRY,
IN THE YEARS 1816 AND 1817;
CONTAINING
AN ACCOUNT OF THE MOST INTERESTING TRANSACTIONS
OF
LORD AMHERST'S EMBASSY TO THE COURT OF PEKIN,
AND
OBSERVATIONS ON THE COUNTRIES WHICH IT VISITED.

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ILLUSTRATED BY MAPS AND OTHER ENGRAVINGS.

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Having reached Plassur Pittee about 5 o'clock in the evening, we set off for Pandigalang, a village five miles to the east of the mountain; and at this place, which was formerly famed for the manufactory of bracelets, we passed the night.

On the following morning several natives brought different kinds of arms and ornaments for sale, in consequence of its having been given out by the Ingabi, the preceding evening, that I wished to purchase some. There was, however, an evident reluctance to dispose of them, and it was stated that those only parted from their weapons who were embarrassed by gaming. I learned from general testimony that the Javanese have a kind of superstitious attachment to their arms, especially when they have descended to them from their ancestors, or have been illustrated by use in war. Of those brought to me, the kriss was the most remarkable. It is a dagger worn by all classes of the natives of Java, and by the Malay tribes in its neighbourhood, having sometimes a crooked or curved blade, and a handle very beautifully carved. Its sheath is generally of wood or metal; frequently of gold. The gold thus used is of various degrees of purity, from an equal mixture of copper to a fineness which permits the most delicate assay; but it is generally very thin, being a mere covering to a case of wood. A variegated wood is also in great estimation for the manufacture of sheaths: it has a light ground, marked either with dark spots or veins. A knife of rather elegant form, and neatly ornamented with silver, was also brought for sale. The natives wear these arms in different parts of their dress, and they derive from them in the eyes of a stranger a formidable aspect: they place them generally in their girdles, either before or behind, and sometimes on one side. The kriss seems formed for a back stroke, and is easily concealed by turning it under the fore-arm. I made a drawing of these instruments; and specimens of those which I thought interesting from their form or workmanship, are shown in the annexed engraving.

