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Φιλοσοφίαν δὲ οὐ τὴν Στωικὴν λέγω, οὐδὲ τὴν Πλατωνικὴν, ἢ τὴν Ἐπικουρεῖον τε καὶ Ἀριστοτελικὴν· ἀλλ' ὅσα εἰρηται παρ' ἑκάστη τῶν ἀρίστων τούτων καλῶς, δίκαιον μὲτα εὐσεβούς ἐπιστήμης ἐκδιδασκόντα, τοῦτο συμπαντὸ Ἐκλεκτικὸν Φιλοσοφικὸν φημι.

CLEM. ALEX. *Strom. Lib. 1.*

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Art. X. *Malay Annals*: translated from the Malay Language. By the late Dr. John Leyden. With an Introduction, by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, F.R.S. &c. &c. 8vo. pp. xvi, 361. Price 10s. 6d. London. 1821.

UNTIL the researches of Sir Thomas Raffles and Mr. Crawford had placed the character of the Malays in a more favourable light, it was even proverbially considered as an odious compound of all that was faithless and ferocious. The hasty inferences of passing travellers, and the interested representations of the Dutch, aided by the excesses of the Malay pirates, and by certain peculiarities in their native customs, had given to this representation a strong hold on public opinion; and it is with difficulty we can bring ourselves to believe that they are in reality a brave and high-minded people, distinguished by many of the sentiments and habits connected with feudal institutions, commercial and enterprising, and exhibiting proofs of civilization and refinement. When Dr. Leyden, in 1805, visited the islands of the Indian Archipelago, he entered with his usual activity on the extensive field of inquiry presented by the language, manners, government, history, and literature, of this interesting race. The popular traditions connected with the Malayan annals, particularly attracted his attention; and he had formed an opinion, probably correct with the limitations with which he held it, that they might supply some information respecting the early history, or, at least, the customs and institutions of these widely scattered tribes.

Their authentic memorials commence only with the introduction of Mohammedanism. Antecedently to that event, little that is satisfactory can be traced amid the wild exaggerations of the fantastic legends, which take the place of credible narration. We have Rajahs descending to the bottom of the ocean; others who change rice into gold, leaves into silver, and stalks into brass; ants as big as cats, and other rare inventions equally ingenious, and equally interesting.

The most absurd of these tales of wonder occur at the beginning of the volume; as the work proceeds, it becomes more interesting and important. The details, which are, we should imagine, for the most part, sufficiently correct, are not only amusing as examples of Malay narrative, but valuable as illustrating the modes of social and political life among that people. It would be a waste of labour to attempt to extract a regular series of events from this strange jumble of preposterous fictions, but we have on the whole derived much amusement, and some information from the volume. It is more pleasant, assuredly, to read Herodotus or Livy; still, there is some gratification in making ourselves acquainted with the way in which they write history at Malacca.