

THE
JOURNAL
OF
THE ASIATIC SOCIETY
OF
BENGAL.

—◆—
EDITED BY

JAMES PRINSEP, F. R. S.

SECRETARY OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL; HON. MEM. OF THE AS. SOC.
OF PARIS; COR. MEM. OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOC. OF LONDON, AND OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETIES OF MARSEILLES AND CAEN; OF THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA; OF THE
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF GENEVA; OF
THE ALBANY INSTITUTE, &c.

—
VOL. VII.—PART II.

—
JULY TO DECEMBER,
1838.
—

" It will flourish, if naturalists, chemists, antiquaries, philologers, and men of science, in different parts of *Asia* will commit their observations to writing, and send them to the Asiatic Society at Calcutta; it will languish, if such communications shall be long intermitted; and will die away, if they shall entirely cease."

SIR WM. JONES.

—
Calcutta:

PRINTED AT THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, CIRCULAR ROAD.

SOLD BY THE EDITOR, AT THE SOCIETY'S OFFICE.

1838.





JOURNAL

OR

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY.

No. 79.—July, 1838.

I.—Excursions to the Eastward. No. 1.

Extracts from the Journal of a Political Mission to the Rája of Ligor in Siam. By Capt. JAMES LOW, M. N. I. and M. A. T. C.

When the Burmese war broke out in 1824 I had the honor of being deputed by the honorable Mr. PHILLIPS, then at the head of the government of *Prince of Wales' Island* as envoy to the rája of *Ligor* with the view of obtaining some co-operation of the Siamese with the *Rangoon* expedition, and especially by means of a fleet of boats. It is unnecessary here to enter into political details; but it may be briefly remarked that the Mission returned after a tedious negotiation of three months without being able to effect all the objects contemplated. This was owing to the suspicious temper of the Siamese court, which could not for a long while credit that the British arms would finally prevail. At a subsequent period when aware of the mistake, this haughty and ambitious, yet politic court discovered that the dictatoriness of its councils had shut it out from any share in the conquered territories.

The schooner *Commerce* of 60 tons burden, Capt. CHEVERS, an American commander, was taken up for the conveyance of the Mission. A native officer with a party of sepoys formed the escort, and camp equipage was provided in case it might be wanted for a march overland.

We sailed on the 7th May, 1824, and proceeded up the *Keddah* coast. On the right, *Gunong Jerrei* the *Keddah* peak forms a very prominent feature of the coast. Its height is about 4000 feet*. It is

* By the Trigonometrical Survey made by Mr. WOORE of the navy its height is 3894 feet.

very steep where it faces the sea ; and here the streams of water which flow over the smooth dark granite rock, when struck by the sun's rays, appear like fleecy clouds wreathing the mountain.

The formation of this mountain is primary. The secondary and tertiary formations are not easily discoverable until we reach the small islands called the *Buntings*, which lie nearly opposite to it. At its base strata of laterite, and other conglomerates and accumulations of debris prevail. In the deep narrow valleys lying betwixt the shoulders of the mountain I observed tin ore of an excellent quality in the form of grains. The Chinese were making what they called a mine, which was merely a square excavation about thirty feet wide and from two to three feet deep. The ore was loosely deposited below quartz and schistose gravel.

Suspended from the ceiling of the smelting house were wooden models of all sorts of native arms and implements intended to charm away evil spirits.

Jerrei and *Cherrei*, by both of which appellatives this mountain is known to the Malays, are corruptions of the term *Srai* which was the ancient name of the *Keddah* country when entirely peopled by the Siamese race, about A. D. 1340. A commercial colony from the westward under a chief named MARRONG MAHAWANGSA which settled near the base of the mountain *Srai* was the cause of the country becoming a place of greater resort than before that event for traders from India. The above named chief changed the name of the country to *Keddah*, but the Siamese continue to call it *Srai* or *Chrai*. I shall have occasion in a subsequent paper to state some further particulars respecting the condition of this country in former times.

8th. Anchored off the mouth of the *Keddah* river. The anchorage is good in the north-east monsoon ; but in the south-west monsoon it is a disagreeable if not an unsafe one, the shore being a lee one and the swell heavy.

The Yokkabat, one of the Siamese government officers, came off to say that the governor would give me an audience next day. I accordingly waited on him at his *sala* or *thamonecup* or hall of audience. PHRA PHAK DEE BAREERAP is a young man of about twenty years of age. He is an illegitimate son of the rāja of *Ligor* ; he entered the hall immediately on my arrival. He was preceded by two men carrying *dap deng* or swords of state. These are about five feet long and have red velvet scabbards. On the right and left were soldiers bearing *dap he* which are also swords of state having golden hilts. Princes in *Siam* have generally twenty sword-bearers on each side of them

when sitting in *darbar*. I bowed in the English fashion to the young chief and then sat down on a chair which had been placed for me six paces in front of the raised platform, on which he had seated himself with his legs crossed and supported by cushions. Behind me the native officer and *havildar* with their swords on, stood along with several other attendants. The Siamese interpreter to the Mission placed himself on the carpet at my feet. Close on the left squatted both the minister of the chief and also his interpreter. The object of this interview was to explain to the Siamese the nature and objects of the Burmese war, and to obtain permission to cross the Peninsula to *Ligor*. The chief positively refused to comply with the latter request until he had the sanction of his father.

The Mission therefore would proceed, I told him, up the coast in order to open a more speedy communication with the *Ligoreans*. The young governor smoked segars during the whole audience. The minister alluded to is a very fat man, and the uneasy, unnatural posture which etiquette compelled him to keep, gave him the appearance of a huge baboon, the resemblance being heightened by the manner in which, according to the Siamese fashion, his hair was brushed up in front.

The interpreter passed and repassed betwixt the chief and myself on his knees and elbows, a tedious and disgusting operation, but characteristic of the procrastinating nature of Siamese diplomacy.

The governor was naked from the waist upwards. His hair was short and his head uncovered.

The lower half of his person was clothed in a dress of silk and gold. This is the common dress in lower *Siam*, and the *rāja* of *Ligor* and his sons affect simplicity, partly it may be supposed through policy, and the fear of exciting the cupidity of the minions about the court of *Bankok*.

Many however of the inferior officers wear silk vests or tunics embroidered with gold or silver, and also long crape scarfs which they either use like cloaks, or wind round them as sashes. The favorite color for these last is black.

The town of *Keddah* stands on the south bank of the river, and consists of a single street of mean *artap* houses*. It is protected by a brick defence, comprising an area of about eighty yards by fifty. Within are the houses of the governor and his officers and soldiers. The wall of this work varies in height from eight to ten feet. Several large iron guns are mounted on the wall facing the river. There is no

* This term is given to the eastward to houses constructed of light materials and thatched with *artap* or *nipah* leaves.

ditch on this side and the space betwixt the foot of the wall and the river's bank is a gentle slope of a dozen yards. This fort, as the natives term it, could not withstand for a quarter of an hour an attack by a regular force.

Piles had been driven into the river below the town leaving only a narrow passage. In descending, the tide carried our boat against these, and it narrowly escaped being wedged in betwixt two of them.

11th. Set sail in the direction of *Sittool*, a small town on the bank of a river of the same name. Finding that it would delay us did we ascend this river we returned to the vessel. The bason into which it empties itself and which is formed by islands is very shallow. Proceeding along the coast the general aspect is monotonous. Here and there an open spot covered with long grass and interspersed with fine trees seems to give an earnest of cultivation. But a nearer approach dissolves the spell. In fact the cultivation on the *Keddah* coast, with a very few exceptions, does not begin until a distance of a mile or two from the sea.

I have in a former paper* described the *Lancavy Islands* and others adjacent to them, and shall therefore here omit that part of the journal which relates to them.

16th. Having encountered nothing but contrary winds we ran in for *Trang* harbour, but were forced to come to an anchor before reaching it, after having with great difficulty and hazard weathered two high limestone rocks which lie off the south end of *Pulo Tilibong*. There being no endurable cabin, the tents were got up and spread out so as to shelter us from the torrents of rain which fell during the night.

17th. Finding that no progress could be made, the boat was got out and I proceeded to the island to examine it. There was a very heavy swell and a double surf at the shore of the small bay on the south side of the island where we landed, and we narrowly escaped being swamped. The island is uninhabited, and had been deserted since the Burmese descent on *Junkceylon* in 1808; several droves of wild buffaloes were seen on a plain in the middle of the island. At these a few shots were fired without much effect. On returning to the Bay no boat could be found. At length the Arab who had been left in charge of it was discovered seated in moody silence below a tree. He significantly pointed to the surf, adding "*she lies there.*" As this was our only boat, and the *Commerce* was hull down, our case appeared somewhat desperate. Fortunately the rope attached to the anchor on shore held fast, and by help of this and the exertions of all hands after two hours hard work

* *As. Res. Trans. Phys. class, part I. paper VI.*

the boat was got on shore. It was full of sand and two of the planks were stove in. The jackets of the men were employed to close these apertures, and then by dint of constant baling our party reached the vessel in safety.

19th. Anchored in *Trang* harbour within bowshot of a small creek. The channel is narrow, and it deepens towards the anchorage at this creek which runs up into the east side of the island. This spot is about three miles distant from the guard house at the mouth of the *Trang* river, and about twelve from *Khoan Tani* the chief village of the district which also lies on the banks of the river.

Pulo Tilibong was formerly inhabited, but the wars of *Salang* which exposed it to Burman ravage scared the people away. On the sandy beach on the eastern side we found the remains of a stockade which had been constructed with shinbeans or roughly planed planks, about two or three inches in thickness, of the wood called by the Siamese *mai kheum*, and *khayà geam* by the Malays. These planks were about ten feet above the ground in height. This is a very hard and durable wood, and of a dark color. Although it had been exposed to the weather in this stockade for upwards of twelve years, it seemed to have only increased in hardness by age.

In a cave in a high rock which guards the northern entrance to the harbour, I discovered twelve human skulls placed in a row; they probably belonged to some of those men who had fallen in the wars just alluded to. This cave contains many fine stalactitical masses.

There is a channel betwixt the island of *Tilibong*, and the main shore which is generally used by the Chinese junks which go up from *Penang*. There is no safe channel for vessels from *Tilibong* harbour to the river's mouth. The harbour ends in a deep excavation of 9 feet, being merely the channel which is formed by that portion of the waters of the river which flow in this direction.

Trang is a thinly peopled district. About three thousand persons of both sexes may be taken as the utmost extent of the population.

The river and its adjacent shores are chiefly valuable to the Siamese on account of the facilities which both afford for boat building, and of some tin mines at the skirts of the hills. *Trang* river bears properly: only one embouchure although the maps represent it otherwise. Junks go up it for ten or twelve miles (by the course of the river). About six hours' rowing up it divides into two branches.

Khoan Tani is the chief village. Poultry and some other refreshments can be obtained. The finest kinds of fish swam at the mouth of the river and in the harbour.

The Chinese of *Penang* export from *Trang* tin, a little ivory (which is contraband,) bird's nest, hogs, poultry, and rice. A Chuliah or *jaur Pakan** manages the rāja's mercantile transactions. The river is quite undefended. From *Khoan Tani Ligor* can be reached in seven stages†. Tigers abound on the route. Expresses are generally conveyed by parties of seven men, who make the best of their way without always keeping together, the strongest carrying the express last and leaving the weaker behind.

21st. About midday the *Than Palat* or superintendent of the district with his two colleagues came on board. They appeared under considerable alarm.

Letters were despatched by their assistance to their master at *Ligor*, for it was found that these men had less authority vested in them than the Governor of *Keddah* possessed. The apprehensions of an attack by the Burmese had not yet subsided here, and the news of the British having gone to war with that people gave evident satisfaction to these officers. The *Than Palat* observed, that although the Siamese and the Burmese had a common origin, and have now one religion in common, yet their minds never in any manner allied. The English, they observed, could easily accommodate themselves to Chinese and Siamese customs, because they eat the same kind of food. These men were well dressed in white silk crape vests, with short sleeves. The under dress was composed of checquered silk. They partook freely of wine and biscuit, and became soon so loquacious that some state secrets escaped them, or which they doubtless considered such, although in reality as regarded us amounting to nothing.

We left *Trang* on the 26th, and after encountering rainy and boisterous weather, rendered more annoying from the want of any decent accommodation on board, we reached *Junkceylon* on the 29th.

The harbour of this island is too well known to require a description here. There is neither village or hut on the beach, and at first sight a stranger might suppose that the island had been deserted. After searching about for some time in the boat for the *Therua* stream or creek, we observed a boat with natives in it close to the beach. On seeing us they took to flight although armed with muskets and other wea-

* The descendant of a Chuliah or *Coromandel* man and a Malay woman.

† 1 Tha cheen.	} No population.
2 Don thamma praang.	
3 Kroong mo-an.	
4 Kassang.	
5 Chong khat.	
6 Chong, } Small villages.	
7 Ligor, }	

pons. They were overtaken, and proved to be a party of Siamese. A shaven priest of BUDDHA kept the helm. Recovering from their alarm they shewed us the creek we were looking for. The opening into it through the mangrove trees is very narrow, and might be mistaken for a mere inequality in the general line of jangal. Although we had left the ship at sunrise, we did not reach *Tha Rua* town until about sunset. This was owing to the narrowness of the stream which prevented cars being of any use. The heavy ship's boat was towed up by fixing a rope to trees ahead and hauling on it, and by the boatmen dragging it against the current; they being at the same time up to the neck in water.

LOANY BAM PRONG the Siamese officer in charge of the island received me with much politeness and hospitality in his own house*. His wife, a stout good-humoured dame, of about thirty, immediately set to work in the kitchen to prepare me a supper or rather dinner. The kitchen was on the same floor with the apartment allotted to me, and I could perceive the whole process of cookery, which was certainly by no means of that description which could injure the appetite of any traveller of moderate expectations. The dinner, consisting of poultry, eggs and vegetables, was served up in clean China plates and cups, with spoons of china-ware; custards, confections and fruits formed the second course. My host declined partaking of the viands. This was done out of respect, not prejudice; for after I had dined, the dishes were removed to the next room, where he and his lady, who had cooked an additional dinner, dined. By this time the lower part of the house was full of people. But they behaved with much decorum. They all smoked cigars. The conversation was kept up betwixt the chief and me, accompanied by the flare of dammer torches until past midnight, and during it I could perceive that fealty to the emperor was a thing which lay very lightly on the heart of my companion. On our arrival the women were but scantily clothed, their busts being for the most part exposed. Next day, however, they all appeared, with the addition of the *phré*, which is a long piece of cloth, plain or variegated; one end of it is put partly wound about the waist, and the remainder is brought over the left shoulder and then carried across the breast: they wore their hair short. The women bring water from the river in bamboos of ten or twelve feet long closed at one end. They carry them slightly inclined on their shoulders and place them upright against the walls of the houses. This plan is very

* Built in the usual light style of the country and only distinguishable from the cottages around it by being larger.

inconvenient, since the bamboo which is heavy must be lowered when water is required by any of the household. Joints of the bamboo are in general use for carrying water on a journey, and rice can be sufficiently boiled for food in a green one, without the latter splitting. We returned to the ship on the 31st, after presenting some trifling presents to the chief and his lady, amongst which was some wine and brandy for eye-water, as she was pleased to term it.

Salang is the Siamese name for this island. It seems to have been originally peopled by the *Thai* or Siamese race, who have not paid that attention to it which policy should have dictated, seeing that it possesses valuable tin mines and forms one of the keys to their coast. Its importance as regards British influence has been much exaggerated, and since the fall of *Tenasserim* and its occupation by British troops the island has become of hardly any political importance to us. It could easily be taken at any time if rendered necessary by war.

Salang or Junkceylon.

The most correct account perhaps extant of this island is that contained in "FORREST'S Voyage to the *Mergui Archipelago*." But since his time (about 1784) many changes have taken place, not by any means contributing to its prosperity.

Salang is 27* miles long by 10 at most in breadth, lying about E. S. E. and N. N. W. It is diversified by hill and dale. The hills are of moderate elevation, slope gradually, and are clothed with wood to their tops; while the levels are covered with grass and forest, excepting where cultivation has been carried on. Both the east and west coasts may be closely approached by large vessels, but the west being a lee shore the chief harbour has been chosen on the east side. A dangerous narrow passage only navigable by small prows separates the north point of the island from the main land, while the most southerly point is bold and rocky and difficult to clear unless the wind be quite favorable†.

The island abounds in streams, the principal of which is that which leads to *Thárooa* the residence of the governor.

The harbour is excellent, and it is covered by two islands in front, while a hill sufficiently high to give it the command of a great part of the harbour, juts boldly out from the main island.

* 25 miles according to HORSBURGH.

† When returning from *Mergui* in the latter part of 1825, the vessel I was in was forced by the wind and currents so close on this point, that had the last tack she made not weathered it she must have been wrecked: we were within a cable's length of the rocks.

Junkceylon was long the field on which the Siamese and Burmans decided their claims to supremacy. This circumstance is alone sufficient to account for the desolate condition it has been reduced to. But that the Siamese have yet possession of it up to the period of the war betwixt the British and Burmese is more than might have been expected from the relative power of the contending parties, for the Burmans had long before driven the Siamese out of *Mergui* and *Tavoy**.

The last invasion happened about 1808 headed by a Burman general.

The troops were collected in *Martaban*, *Tavoy* and *Mergui* and amounted about 12,000 men. They were successful at first, but when they endeavoured to retreat with their booty and prisoners they were pursued by the Siamese and the *Keddah* Malays who were auxiliaries; numbers were slain, others were shipwrecked, and only about one half are supposed to have returned to *Tenasserim*.

The population of *Salang* is only now about 5,000 souls, which is not half of that rated by FORREST. *Tharooa* contained in this time eighty houses; there were only 18 in it when visited by me in 1824.

The Siamese are anxious to encourage the settlement of their own race here. But the genius of their government is better suited to retard than to facilitate the increase of the species. The Siamese court is too bigoted to that stumbling-block to nations,—custom, to perceive that artificial means which bear no reference to the first natural and simple maxims of political science can never be effectually employed to increase the population of a country.

The kings of *Siam* have been taught to look on their subjects as property which may be managed as they like, and they have made them slaves, because they can then best administer to their own luxury, avarice, and ambition. The minds of the Siamese are therefore depressed; no rank is perfectly hereditary, no private property however arduously acquired is safe, every man in the empire is liable to be forced from his family to serve in the army for years without pay, and life itself is often taken away for actions which even under many despotisms, and certainly under no reasonably free condition of society, would be termed faults.

* The Siamese affirm that they conquered the island from the Burmese in 1916 of BUDDHA, A. D. 1373. The expedition was commanded by Prince CHAU NAI TEA of *Ligor* in person.

They had to retake it from the Burmese in 1786, when four thousand of the latter nation were killed and made prisoners. The Siamese were compelled to cede *Tavoy* and *Mergui* to the Burmese in 1793.

To fill up the vacant spaces in their population the Siamese were constantly in the habits of kidnapping their neighbours the Peguers and Burmans; frequently translating the population of whole villages at once. Then having planted them like exotics on a new soil they vainly supposed that strength was added to the state.

They did not leave off this practice on the *Tenasserim* frontier until long subsequent to the occupation of *Tavoy* and *Mergui* by the British. They have derived one advantage, yet a dubious one, from this system. It is the organization of a body of mercenary Peguan troops. Were not the families of these men strictly retained as hostages they could not for a moment be depended upon.

The population of *Salang* is almost exclusively Siamese; the exceptions being Chinese.

The men are stout, and well enough proportioned; and the women although not handsome, have fair complexions.

There are a few priests on the island and a pagoda. These priests or *chankoo* do not seem to be fed so well as those of their sect generally are in *Siam*; for several were observed returning from fishing with nets, an occupation at variance with the rules of the order.

On the east side of the island at *Lèm phra chaù* point, there are rocks which the Siamese affirm have been hewn into the figures of a dog and a crow. Some pieces of rocks perhaps do bear distant resemblances to such figures*. However it was not in my power to go to the place.

Opposite to this point they also imagine that they can distinguish beneath the wave on a rock a *Rà-è teèn*, or impression of the divine foot of BUDDHA.

The worship^{er} of the dog may be traced to remote antiquity. In *Egypt* it was prevalent, and in BRUCE'S Travels we find that the *Kowas* or watch dog of the skies is venerated in *Abyssinia*, not only was he raised by the antients to a conspicuous station in the heavens, but he was placed as the deep mouthed guardian of the infernal regions. In Hindu and Siamese mythology a portion of hell is given over to his power.

This singular species of worship was once openly professed by many Indo-chinese tribes, but now slight remnants of it alone remain. Thus amongst the Siamese there are many persons who on undertaking a journey or upon any unusual occasion invoke the great dog to avert

* But on such vague reports I have frequently been induced to walk many miles in the hope of finding statues, inscriptions, &c. and have generally been quite disappointed.

all evil from them. The people of *Salang* had statues of this dog, the last of which was it is said carried off by some Malays. There is little doubt that the Malays also were once infected by this superstition, and it is worthy of notice that although so many centuries have elapsed since they were converted to Muhammadanism, yet it is curious to observe the large number of their former superstitious observances which they still retain and cling to, although denounced by MUHAMMAD.

The animals in *Junkceylon* are buffaloes, hogs, and deer. There are no wild elephants, but leopards are rather numerous in the wilder parts; common poultry was procured, but a large supply must not be expected here.

The situation of *Junkceylon* is sufficiently far to the northward of the line to give it all the advantages which the two regular monsoons afford, without subjecting it to the greatest violence of either.

Its climate is temperate, and the air is refreshed even in the dry season by copious showers. From June until November may be deemed the rainy season. The air is then cooled by the dry northeast monsoon. From February to June the weather is warmest. The soil of the island is various—clayey within the mangrove belt on the east side, sandy along the open beach on the west, and where hilly composed of the debris of the granite rock and vegetable matter. The extensive flats and gentle slopes are fitted for most tropical production, and the lower ranges of hills seem peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of indigo and coffee.

The island might not perhaps furnish grain for a crowded population, but its products would probably ensure a supply to it, under such a state from other quarters.

Many of the hills near the east shore seem to have been once cultivated to their tops. The harbour and creeks swarm with excellent fish and the shores with oysters.

Salang yields a very scanty revenue to its present possessors, but under good regulations it might be rendered more valuable. The revenue may perhaps be thus computed.

Yearly duties arising on sales of tin,	Drs. 3000
Customs and profits arising from the services } of the subject, }	„ 2000

Sps. Drs. 5000

Tin is the product which gives to this island its chief value, for however neglected the mines may now be from deficiency of miners, we find in Capt. FORREST'S account that they yielded in his time about 500

tons of tin yearly. It may however, be surmised that several of the best mines have been pretty well exhausted.

This quantity agreeably to a calculation made by me when visiting the smelting-house, and which will be noticed presently, must have afforded to the king and the contractor of *Siam* a clear annual profit of 76,224 Spanish dollars, prices being then from 60 to 65 dollars per bahar. It is however supposed that the above quantity did not form the maximum of productiveness, and that with the long island of *Pulo Panjang*, containing, (even now) unwrought tin veins and beds of ore, *Salang* could have been made and perhaps might still be made to yield a much larger supply. The tin of *Junkceylon* is now carried to *Phoonga* where it is either sold to *Penang* traders or despatched across the peninsula for the *Siam* market.

The following remarks will be found equally applicable to the tin mining and smelting operations of *Salang* and *Phoonga*.

The Chinese are the only people employed by the Siamese in the smelting of the ore at their various tin mines, and the former generally enter into a contract for a period of a year, at a stipulated rate.

The charges for mining, smelting, &c. stand thus for *one bahar**.

1. Price paid at the smelting house for ore,.....	19	20
2. Charges for furnace and 6 men at $\frac{1}{2}$ dr. per day,	1	50
		<hr/>
	Prime cost,..	20 70
3. The king takes at first,	24	0
4. Ditto ditto ditto on the sale,.....	2	0
		<hr/>
		26 0
		<hr/>
	Total cost to the smelter†, Drs.....	46 70

The operation of mining is quite speculative, but on this account it has greater charms for the natives who require excitation of mind to disturb their indolent habits.

They dig pits from the depth of 10 to 100 feet. The ore is found either in a gritty form, or imbedded in a quartzose gangue. They are contented with the produce which the single shaft yields them, and rarely venture to mine laterally. This ore is then broken and washed. Although there are few parts of the island which do not contain ore,

* A bahar contains about 466 lbs. avoirdupois, so that 5 tons are equal to 24 bahars and 16 lbs.

† Now, 1837, the average price of tin in the Straits is about 48 dollars per bahar. Consequently unless the duty should be greatly reduced the mines must be abandoned.

yet the mines at the places noted below* are most productive as I was informed.

The furnace used by the Chinese is about three feet high and one foot and a half in diameter at top, and nearly the same below.

Alternate layers of ore and charcoal are put into it, and pump bellows are kept incessantly at work during four days *less* one night; after ten or twelve hours blowing, the tin begins to run off. The coke is extracted at intervals and is afterwards again subjected to the action of the furnace.

The produce during the above period is from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 bahars.

They then take a day's respite.

It has been stated that the government charges, on tin, an export duty of about two dollars per bahar. This, however, is only the case when return is made in specie. If in goods and provided the quantity purchased exceeds 20 bahars, the duty is 125 dollars, which is not increased although the transaction should be carried to a much larger amount. The contractor, or more properly agent receives one per cent. on the sales when the king does not direct the governor to make a specific contract, and the inferior officers of government and the chief himself must be propitiated by presents.

Eight per cent. is charged on the bartering of goods.

The Siamese possess several small ports northward of *Junkceylon*, These are *now* only visited by petty trading native prows†.

Although *Junkceylon* is under the *Phoonga* government yet being a well known island and one where a considerable trade centered before the British got settlements to the eastward, I have preferred treating it separately.

Phoonga.

On the 1st June, 1824, our captain at my request weighed and stood out of *Junkceylon* harbour.

Many majestic rocks (laid down confusedly in some maps under the name *Tower*), were the marks by which we steered, as no one on board

* *Pittong Takre-an, Sappam, Ban ke rim, Ban dawn, Ban na nai, Ban Saphan, Ban nayang, Ban sako, Ban thoongyang, Kamra, Kiloong, Chalooing, Pakkia, Tillong near Papra, and Phoklar.* The tin ore smelted at *Phoonga* is brought from the following places lying on the coast of *Tenasserim* above *Papra, Takoa pa, Powung, and Kra.* The ores from these places are considered inferior to the *Salang* ore.

† These places beginning from *Junkceylon* and at *Papra* are *Naikeemo, Phok-lawe, Bandaun, Bangkhree* on a small river, (the *Bangir* or *Baniger* of the maps,) *Nashoese, Takoa Kong, Bandala, Bangklok, Pré Koosoom, Kraá, Pook-hak Takoepe, Rendong.*

had ever been in this bay. These rocks from their shapes are called by the Siamese the *Yot Phoonga*, or pyramids of *Phoonga*.

Just as we approached the rugged chain alluded to, we were much surprised to observe a handsome brig lying at anchor; this harbour being if not absolutely unknown to European traders is now but very rarely visited by any. She turned out to be an American merchantman, "the *Hope of Boston*," with a small crew of eight or ten men. The commander was ashore in his whale boat, and had left his crew under a mate; when we met him afterwards he told us that his crew had taken us for a *pirate* (although we had English colors up), and had nearly given us a *salute*, when passing within half pistol shot, with all their guns and fire-arms. To this speech our captain made a suitable reply. He too, although an American himself and one too in heart, coolly said, that it was most lucky for the *Hope of Boston* that she had kept quiet, since she must soon have become a legal prize to his brig, defended as she was by four six pounders and a party of twenty sepoy, besides lascars and officers. This American trader had many muskets for sale on board, but the Siamese did not seem pleased with their quality. Indeed, they were of a most ordinary description, being hooped round the barrels and stocks, and not resting at the half cock. It is not easy to impose any spurious article of trade on the Siamese, especially fire-arms; but they will exchange their tin for good ones, although luckily not so much to the advantage of the European or American trader as to render it an object of much importance to him to bring out large supplies.

Our brig having been anchored about a mile off *Phoonga* river, I decided to go up at once to the town, being aware that should the Siamese governor take alarm he might excuse himself from allowing me to visit the town.

I therefore immediately left the ship with an escort of ten sepoy and rowed up the river. It was found to flow through a level country covered with mangroves and other jungle from which we were saluted by the chatterings of tribes of monkeys.

The tide being partly against us we did not reach the opening to the cultivated plain until after six hours' rowing. Here some Chinese junks were observed at anchor*, and we were hailed from the custom house and told to stop. On pretence, however, of not understanding them we pushed up to the town. The people were apparently under considerable alarm, and we were afterwards informed that the governor's son, who was acting in his father's absence, had ordered the alarm

* From 50 to 60 tons burden.

drum to be beat on learning from the American commander, who had got up before us, that a boat manned by British sepoy was on its way to the town. Having reached an open place close to the governor's house, and supposing from the confusion observable in the crowd on shore, that our visit might be construed perhaps as a hostile one, I directed the boat to be moored, and that no one should presume to quit her without leave.

I then landed and went, accompanied by a native sepoy officer, and four privates with side-arms only, to pay my respects to the governor's son.

He received me with much politeness, but under manifest restraint and uneasiness in a hall, in the midst of which was a raised platform railed in. On this platform mats, carpets, and cushions were laid.

I accommodated myself there being no chairs as well as might be to the cross-legged position in which the chief reclined. This young man entrusted the first part of the conversation to his father's colleague, and interpreter, who were seated before him. On looking round I was at a loss to conjecture the cause of the apprehension shewn by him, for there were about an hundred armed men in the hall, their weapons chiefly spears and swords. To calm the young chief I explained to him that my visit was of a friendly kind, and to obtain some supplies of which we were in need; and I told him that next day when fewer persons would be present we might if he chose have a long interview. Confections were brought in upon brass trays; and I then returned to the bank of the river where a house had been prepared by the chief's people for my reception.

It was in the ordinary style of the country constructed of bamboos and leaves, and decorated inside with qhinz hangings and couches, mats and carpets.

I had scarcely occupied this apartment when an ample dinner arrived from the governor's kitchen. It was served up on high metal trays with three and four shelves each, and consisted of pork variously prepared, roasted and stewed ducks and fowls, fish, hard-boiled eggs, plain and seasoned rice and vegetables. The desert was composed of plain and preserved fruits, custards, and confections.

The seasonings to their dishes were pepper and spices, balachong or caviare-oil, salt, and limes. Every part, almost, of an animal is eaten. When a buffalo is killed the common Siamese will prepare the skin for food by scorching it, and then beating, washing and boiling it: after these operations it is cut into thin slices and dressed. Game of all kinds, both birds and beasts, abound in the country, and all of the

former, excepting vultures, hawks, and owls, and all of the latter, except beasts of prey, are used as food.

The Siamese, like the Chinese, are great gourmands when they can afford to be so, but while the latter prefer pork to every other sort of food, the Siamese prefer venison and ducks. Some *Lau* (*samchoo* of the Chinese), an ardent spirit, formed part of this entertainment.

Crowds came to gaze at us until it became dark, when the sound of the bugle helped to scare them away.

The governor's interpreter, a native of *Coromandel*, remained until late, no doubt to sift my real intention in entering the place. With the adroitness of his tribe* he proffered whatever his master's house could afford, not sparing the inmates of the seraglio! His people in the interim were busied in discovering what profit he could make out of the two stranger vessels.

PHRA PHAK DEE PHO THAU the young chief received me at his house next day.

I informed him that I was proceeding on a Siamese mission from *Penang*, and that I was happy of the opportunity chance had given me of informing him that the British had gone to war with the ancient enemies of *Siam*, the Burmans. His countenance instantly brightened, and with animation he proffered his elephants and attendants to convey me immediately across the peninsula†.

It was with real regret that the terms of my instructions did not authorize my proceeding to the capital, and had even a latitude in this instance been excusable, I was under obligations to enter into conferences with the rāja of *Ligor*, which might have prevented my availing myself of it. But the readiness, with which the route across the peninsula was opened to me contrasted well with the suspicious temper of the wary chiefs of the more wily *Ligorian*.

The day after this visit I went to take leave of my hospitable entertainer previous to embarking. Having before expressed a desire to see a Siamese theatrical exhibition, I was gratified on being told that the actors and musicians were ready to commence. We proceeded to a thatched house called the *Rong Lakhanor* theatre.

The piece under performance was the *Ramakean*, a free version of the Hindu heroic poem *Rámáyan*. This kind of dramatic exhibition is termed *Len khon*.

* Called *Chulias* to the eastward of the Bay.

† First, *Penang* where the *Ban Don* and *Chaiya* rivers join three stages on one elephant; thence down the *Chaiya* river in boats three stages to the sea.

From *Phoonya* to *Tä Thong* a dependency of *Ligor* on a river famous for the boats built on it, is a journey of four days.

Phra Ram (or *Sri Rama*) and his ape general *Houlaman* (or *Hannuman*) attended by his army of apes appear in their proper shapes on the stage. On the right was a throne for the king, and on the left an elevated space for *Thotsakan* or the "ten-headed," who was the *Hinda Ravan* or tyrant of *Ceylon*. The tyrant appears attended by his queen and encompassed by his attendants.

As masks are worn in this department of the Siamese drama the actors do not speak, but merely adapt their gesticulation to what is read by the prompter, or speaker rather, placed behind screens. The dialogue is frequently lively, but being in verse has too often a monotonous effect on the ear. A band of music was ready to supply breaks in the action and to accompany certain battle, and other scenes.

This band consisted of drums, trumpets, flutes, the metallic sticcado, musical trough, and kettle drums, cymbals and gongs; when the actresses, or, as they then happened to be, boys in girl's clothes, danced, they kept excellent time to the music, and I was particularly struck with the greater ease and elegance which the Siamese dancers possess over those of any people in Hindustan. Here sprightly figures rather prevailed, while in India it requires a dancing girl to have a very great share of beauty to prevent the spectator from becoming speedily relieved by sleep from her display of studied gesture and cramped action.

The dresses of the dramatis personæ seemed appropriate, but perhaps rather gaudy.

PHRA RAM had a green mask, and *SOOKKREK* (*Soogriva*) his minister a golden one. The tail of the general *Houlaman* becomes during a skirmish the prize of the opposite party, to the infinite diversion of the audience. The policy of the Siamese government leads it to take advantage of the good nature of its subjects, and in gratuitously admitting them to such amusements, makes them willing to forget for awhile in mirth and song the miseries they endure from the unmitigated tension of its rule*.

We left the theatre much gratified at the novelty of the whole performance, and on my return home I found that a sumptuous dinner had been sent by the young chief for myself and party. But perhaps he had not considered that Mussulmans and Hindus would not dare to touch the viands he had sent. No doubt they were discussed by his own people afterwards.

The dinner consisted of the following dishes: a half grown pig roasted whole, several ducks and fowls stewed, hashed and baked, stews of various kinds, a large tray of preserved fruits, including dorian, &c. &c.

* Under the head poetry will be found some further notices on the subject.

tards and fresh fruits; neither coffee, tea, milk or butter seem to enter into the common fare of these people. Butter they never make; milk is seldom used in its plain state; and tea is a luxury confined to the chiefs principally. They dress their food with hogs' lard.

The chief positively refused to receive any present from me for his attentions, but I sent some suitable ones to his father on a subsequent occasion.

Phoonga river.

The east branch is said to be the largest, but the west branch is that most frequented. I was prevented from surveying the former by our accidentally missing our direction in returning, and pursuing the branch by which we had ascended. The windings and creeks of these rivers are so intricate that it requires a long acquaintance with them to render them familiar. The sketches of the valley and the pyramids will shew better than description can the nature of the country. *Phoonga* lies in an oblong plain or valley formed by two ranges of rocky hills which approach each other very closely at the north end, but less so on the south. The outlet to the north is therefore very narrow.

The river enters through this opening, and then winding prettily down the valley at length enters a tangled forest of mangroves and other trees, amongst which it finds its way to the sea.

The influence of the tide extends higher than to *Phoonga*, but at low water a ship's boat cannot well ascend beyond the place where we landed close on the town.

Its breadth, or rather the breadth of its bed opposite the town, varies considerably but may be stated on an average at thirty yards.

Its banks on the sides opposed to the force of the current, especially on that towards the town, are steep, and in some places ten feet high, but at and below the custom house they are low and covered at high tide.

The valley is about three miles in its extreme length, but the breadth is not more than two miles at the widest part, and the average may be given at three quarters of a mile.

The soil is chiefly a clay mixed with a reddish earth, and seems fertile. The greatest part of the valley is occupied by cottages with gardens attached, the rest by rice fields and pasture ground for buffaloes and a few oxen.

Fruits are very plentiful, especially the dorian. They were in season when we were there, and every house having a supply, the air was most strongly *perfumed*.

The scenery is peculiar and picturesque, and were the banks of the

river dressed and improved would be highly so. The towering rocks, somewhat fined down and softened in their rude features by the shrubs which cling to them even where overhanging their bases, produce an agreeable contrast to the mildness of the landscape below. In one place on the east side a chalky cliff obtrudes itself; I attribute the chalky appearance to the agarie mineral, which seems to be abundant in these rocks, and which oozing from their crevices produces this singular effect. The river itself washes the base of the limestone precipices lower down which are seen to great advantage while sailing up.

The dip of the strata of the most northerly of this range was to the south, but behind the town on the west side is a rock the strata of which are regular and horizontal.

The climate is rather warm during midday, but the mornings and nights are remarkably cool. The sea breeze reaches the town sometimes, when it blows strongly.

The town does not consist of more than 70 houses, as the population is found principally in detached cottages: about 30 of the above number belong to Chinese settlers. Their houses are large and convenient, and are regularly built so as to form a street. The house of the chief is a little larger than the rest, but has scarcely any exterior decoration and is formed of wood and other light materials. The hall is of wood, carved in some places. These are inclosed by a palisade of planks and stakes.

On the south of the chief's residence is the Chinese tin smelting-house where one furnace was employed.

From such information as was collected by me there, it would appear that the population, independent of Malays, of this place may be estimated at six or seven thousand souls. There are about six hundred active Chinese in this number. Two thirds of these are *Macao* men, who are considered by the natives both here and at *Penang* as the most troublesome class of Chinese emigrants. Several hundreds of Malays are interspersed in the creeks about the mouth of the river. The Siamese do not permit many of them to stay near the town.

A great portion of this population is employed during the dry season, which is half the year, at the tin mines. They return during the other months to cultivate rice.

The chief sends as many Siamese to the mines as he pleases, or can dispense with, and while there they receive provisions *only*. The ore which they dig is sold to the Chinese contractor, and the profit of it goes to the chief. The ore is brought down either on elephants or in canoes, which can find their way two or three days up beyond *Phoonga*.

The Chinese miners, however, are not taxed. Indeed the Chinese always enjoy privileges under the Siamese government, which are denied to the natural subject. They are exempted from the duty imposed on every Siamese of serving the state when called on, either in the capacity of soldiers, artisans, or day labourers, and they are left at more liberty to enjoy what their industry produces than the native is.

The reason is obvious :—the Chinese, independent of their belonging to the dominant nation to which the Siamese pay tribute, are a more intelligent, ingenious and laborious race than the Siamese, to whom also they have the art to render themselves absolutely necessary, and as the religious institutions of both people are free from the unsocial restrictions of caste, they assimilate easily together. We may likewise suppose that the Siamese would not like to irritate a class of men who are so numerous in all their towns, and who have come from a country the supremacy, as just observed, of which ever Indo-Chinese nations they acknowledge.

Although the chief of *Phoonga* takes advantage of the power given him and enriches himself at the expense of his subjects, yet his government is not so oppressive as that of the rāja of *Ligor*. His people also are more attached to him, than those of *Ligor* to the latter, or in other words do not hate him so violently as the Ligorians hate their prince. The difference shewed itself in one instance. In the rāja's country every article supplied for my table was extorted from his subjects, but at *Phoonga*, the chief bought out of the bazar all the provisions. &c, he sent to me.

The females at *Phoonga* secluded themselves more than those at *Sakang* did, which I attributed to their own modesty, for jealousy is not a characteristic of the men in *Siam*. Women in this country are allowed much freedom ; but it may be questioned whether they would not willingly part with a large portion of it to get rid of the drudgery it entails. The obligation which the men lie under to serve the state during a certain number of months in a year according to circumstances, throws the labor which they ought to perform on the shoulders of the women. These are therefore driven to the necessity of subsisting themselves during the absence of their husbands ; they prepare the rice-fields, plant vegetables, and attend to the loom, or to keeping of small bazars.

The governor of *Phoonga* has two associates. His revenue is derived from the available labor of his own private trade, and perquisites derivable from transactions of foreign traders at his port. He has three China junks which trade to *Penang* ; these carry to that island

tin, rice, and small articles of native exportation, and return with cloth, chintsee, glass ware and other manufactures.

He pays no regular sum to the emperor, but at the expiration of every three or four years he sends, or takes a valuable present to him. The emperor of course receives all the profits that accrue from the sale of tin, the governor making his on the *ore* sold to the smelter.

Phoonga swarms with priests. They have four monasteries, but no temple deserving of notice. I visited the principal *Wat* or monastery early one morning. The superior, a man of eighty years of age by his own account, received me very politely. He seemed to think it requisite to account for the mean appearance of their sacred edifices, by observing that the materials had been collected for the constructing of others, but that the constant dread they were in of Burman invasion prevented them from carrying their intentions into execution. He then complained of a disease to which he was subject and asked me for some medicines. His complaint however being the irremediable one of old age, consolation was the only relief which could be offered.

The Siamese are very fond of European medicines, and like several eastern nations fancy that every white man is a physician. This convent seemed to be a hospital for dogs, which from the smallest to the largest size overspread the court, scarcely leaving room to walk. The Siamese are forbidden to destroy life, which may account for this preposterous kindness. From what I observed it would appear that in *Phoonga* there is at least one priest for the cure of every hundred souls! But the poor people do not benefit much by their advice. If they assist in daily filling the brass jar or *Bâat* which the *Chaukoo* carries about to receive contributions, and make a few periodical offerings at the shrine of *Phra Phoet* or Buddha, which are afterwards transferred to the houses of the priests, they fancy they have amply fulfilled the duties of their religion; and leave the priest to repay themselves by prayers offered up either for success, or to avert some expected calamity. The priests here had some Bali books which few of them comprehended; most of them can read such with about as much advantage to themselves as the generality of Mussulmans in Hindustan do the Koran.

Refreshments can be had here on reasonable terms, such as poultry, hogs and fruits.

They have a few cattle (bovine) but they were unwilling to dispose of them.

They have many tame elephants. The chief gave me the use of his while there, and also of a small pony called a *horse* which he had got from *Penang*.

The exports* and imports at *Phoonga* may be thus stated.

Exports.—Deebook or tin, 600 bahars, and of which an indefinite number of bahars are sent to *Siam*.

2. Kra tau or tortoiseshell, which is brought from the *Lancavies* and other islands in small quantity.

3. Rang nok or edible birds' nests.

4. Nga cháang, ivory.

5. Khau san, rice.

Imports.—Fine English long cloth (white) about 80 cubits long and 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad.

2. Superfine scarlet broad cloth.

3. English chintzes, 7 cubits long, 2 cubits and 8 inches broad.

4. Bengal ditto.

5. Ditto white long cloth 40 cubits long, 2 cubits and 3 inches broad.

6. Baftas, 24 cubits long, 2 cubits and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad.

7. Madras moreis, 18 ditto long, 2 and 8 inches broad.

8. Nagore gaga moreis, 70 cubits long, 2 cubits $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad.

9. Handkerchiefs 8 to a piece.

10. Carpets.

11. Bengal velvets 24 cubits long, or 40 cubits long, 2 cubits broad with border.

12. Occasionally a box or two of opium can be sold here; the sale of this article may be increased by improper means since it is forbidden to Siamese.

13. Chrystal ware, cutlery, &c.

These exports and imports are applicable to other Siamese ports on this coast. The common duties on mercantile transactions are here eight per cent. besides the native agent's fees which are one per cent. (although he will try to charge two or more); besides if bales of goods are brought separately on shore the chief claims on their being opened one piece of the goods contained in each. If many bales are opened at once then the charge is the same as if only one had been opened. This regulation is perhaps to induce the merchant to bring his goods quickly on shore. If elephants are sold the agent receives $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

In small transactions not exceeding five or six hundred dollars, duties are not exacted. The chief since I was at *Phoonga* has shewn a disposition to diminish these duties to encourage trade with *Penang*.

The chief and his associates together with inferior officers exact

* Deeboak, is properly a generic term for metals, but here *tin* is hardly known by any other name. *Takoa* is the specific appellation.

presents after the transactions have closed. But it will be to the trader's advantage to make a handsome present in the first instance.

In all Siamese ports the foreign trader must lay his account with experiencing vexatious delays, and trouble arising perhaps more out of the complicated nature of the forms and charges than from their being actually burdensome.

Rice is sold here at the rate of twelve gantangs per Spanish dollar, but both at *Salang* and at this port it is of an inferior quality to that at *Keddah*. Their mode of preparing it for the market is also calculated to diminish its value. The grains are seldom whole and for the most part broken into crumbs. They cultivate all along the coast large quantities of the *Khau Neeau* of the Siamese, or Malayan *braspooloot* or *Oryza glutinosa* of ROXB. which is well adapted for the culinary purposes of the natives, particularly for confections.

We returned to *Trang* on the 7th June, and having fired a gun, the signal agreed on betwixt the Siamese chiefs and me, three envoys who had just arrived from *Ligor* came on board. The head envoy КНООН АКСОН, I had known at *Penang*. These men after a conversation which lasted for four hours set off for *Ligor*. They said they had travelled in coming day and night, on their elephants, and had accomplished the journey from *Ligor* in three days and one night. The Siamese compute journeys by nights. Runners can perform it in four days easily.

18th June. The mission debarked on a high neck of land lying on the west bank of the river. The tents were pitched close to the temporary house which had been erected for myself by the rāja's people. The schooner was now despatched with letters to *Penang*. Exercise was enjoined to the escort and people not only to keep them in health, but on the alert, as the temper of the Siamese had not been perfectly ascertained. Indeed the secretary to the government at *Penang* acquainted me by a secret despatch that people from *Ligor* had informed him that it had been debated at *Ligor* whether the mission should be cut off either by force or by poison. But I put little faith in this report as I discovered that the principal reason why the Ligorian had neither allowed the mission to proceed to *Ligor*, or had come down in person to receive it, was his having just before been placed in communication with two colleagues who had arrived from *Bankok* to watch his acts. The reported danger appeared to me a fabrication of the *Keddah* people; and small as our escort was, the party of one hundred armed men who had been sent to keep a look out on us, would have been easily disposed of in case of treachery appearing. These

men had a few muskets and swords. They practised singly occasionally at a mark, using a rest, and that very fairly. When they saw the sepoys also practising, but firing balls by sections, the novelty of the exhibition seemed to have a due effect and deterred them from any future display of *their drill*.

24th. Until this date we had boisterous weather, volumes of clouds rolling in from the sea and partly breaking in showers in their passage to the hills. About eleven o'clock of this day twenty boats were descried descending the river. These dropped anchor close to our camp but kept a perfect silence, and the people in them would not answer our questions. This proved to be the advance of a fleet escorting the young rāja of *Ligor* who had been sent to meet me. In about an hour afterwards the sound of kettle drums announced the young chief's approach. The boat of the latter occupied the centre along with eight others, and the stern was covered by a canopy like a carriage hood. About twenty more boats were divided on the right and left wings.

The large kettle drum in the centre one, the privileged instrument of a governor of the first rank, was now struck louder and louder, and at every pause the crews of all the boats shouted at the full extent of their voices. The right centre boats were each manned by twenty sailors or soldiers (for the Siamese make hardly any distinction betwixt these two classes) dressed in coarse red cloth jackets, and the boats on the flanks had similar complements of men, but these wore blue cloth jackets. In general red is the color used by the near attendants on, or guard of the king and his great officers; common soldiers, if they do wear any upper garments, which is not very often the case, have them of dark colored woollen or cotton cloth. The chief, being a mere child of about nine years of age, was accompanied by several nursery female attendants to take care of his person and cook his food. This boy was addressed by his followers by the titles of *Boot* [*putra* or king's son] and *chao nooe*, the little lord*. He was carried from the landing-place to the reception hall in a handsome litter, borne on men's shoulders by means of four poles like the *Tellicherry* tonjon of India. The whole of his men who had landed, being 300, then arranged themselves in three lines, one line within the open verandah of the building and two without, and in the peculiar attitude of their nation. About one hundred of these men had muskets without bayonets, the use of this last weapon being quite disregarded by the Siamese. The rest had long swords. About one-half of the whole number had triangular woollen cloth caps, the rest were uncovered. The whole were in fact

* He has since [1837] become a courtier at *Bangkok* the capital of *Siam*.

squatted with their legs tucked under them. The musketeers with their muskets held up in front the butt resting on the ground; the others with their swords sloped.

Shortly after the arrival of this youthful diplomatist I proceeded to visit him. The escort drew up in front of the hall with ordered arms, and after exchanging my bow with the *Bootha* I sat down in a chair which his people had purposely brought. The principal men who had come with him to negotiate for him occupied chairs on my right and left. *Bootha* was richly dressed in a fully embroidered satin or silk *phá yok*. This article of dress closely resembles the Malayan sarong and it is worn either with or without trousers underneath it. Upwards from the waist his body was naked with the exception of several massive gold chains, which with their pendent jewels, seemed almost to weigh him down; he wore handsome golden bracelets and anklets, and he had many valuable diamond and other kinds of rings on his fingers. The crown of his shaven head was surmounted by a skull cap of gold filagree of handsome workmanship. This covering is called *mongkoot* which is a Bali word signifying a crown, and which is applied in historical works to denote a diadem.

So impatient was the boy to see the sepoy's perform their exercise, that despite his council of grave men, and before other business could be begun his curiosity required to be satisfied. The crouching troops of the Ligorian had thus an opportunity of witnessing, and with manifest surprise, the precision which discipline bestows. It is doubtful if a Siamese soldier can hold himself erect. A slavish submission to their rulers has physically affected the whole of the male population, and a slinking, slouching gait is their most prominent outward characteristic.

After the conference I presented the youth with a few articles of British manufacture and two globes, (celestial and terrestrial) He was very desirous to learn the use of these last, but there was no time for this operation. The Siamese are pretty expert according to their own fashion at map-making, although their geographical ideas do not wander far to the south or west of *Siam*. Some of their plans may be reduced to some degree of consistency and precision by adapting a scale of time to them, as the Siamese carefully note the time occupied in travelling from place to place.

After the conference *Bootha* shook me warmly by the hand, and took his departure in the same order as he had arrived.

It is needless here to enter into a detail of the conferences which took place. It was proved that the Ligorian would not adventure on his own responsibility to side with the British against the Burmese, and as

I saw that the time would be gone by, wherein co-operation could be useful before the fiat of the government of *Siam* could be obtained; and not deeming it prudent to act any further lest that haughty court should consider a compliance with the proposition which had been made to it as conferring an obligation, I returned with the mission to *Penang*.

Penang, 1824. Revised, 1837.

II.—*Epitome of the Grammars of the Brahuiky, the Balochky and the Panjâbi languages, with Vocabularies of the Baraky, the Pashi, the Laghmani, the Cashgari, the Teerhai, and the Deer Dialects.* By Lieut. R. LERCH, *Bombay Engineers, Assistant on a Mission to Kâbul.*

2.—GRAMMAR OF THE BALOCHKY LANGUAGE.

This language is spoken throughout all those parts of the country called *Balochisthân*, that are either independent or owe such fealty only to the rulers of the plain, as does not bring them down from their hills for a long enough time to have their language corrupted into *Jathki*, by which name they designate the *Sindhî*.

Alphabet.

The peculiarity consists in the frequent recurrence of the Arabic *thâl* ج the English *th* in the word those, and the Arabic *thai* ت the English *th* in the word think. The scheme of alphabet adopted is the same as that employed for the Brahuiky in the last number.

Gender.

There is no gender in Balochky; for they say,
 Tharâ chiai bachhai astain? Have you a son?
 Tharâ jinkai chiai astain? Have you a daughter?
 A' mard àkhta. That man has come.
 Ai Barochâni àkhta. This Baroch woman has come.

Number.

Neither is there any number in the substantives even in those that end in a vowel, which are few in comparison with the whole, for they say, *yak kardya*, one hilt, *do kardya*, two hilts.

Case.

Declension of a compound noun.

	Singular.		Plural.
Nom.	Juwiñ mard	a good man	
Gen.	Juwiñ mardl	of a good man	The same.
Dat. & Acc.	Juwiñ mardâra	to a good man	
Abl.	Juwiñ mardâ thai	from a good man	

Comparison

is made in the following manner;
 Ai sharrind This is good
 Ai gu i sharrind This is better than that
 Ai aj durustâñ sharrind This is better than all