

THE  
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AND  
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FOR  
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**1829.**

Their houses are generally lofty, airy, and comfortable; and that part of the town which they occupy, is always clean and neat. They are in general temperate, indulging in no excess, except smoking which is now however on the decrease. They seldom suffer from disease—at least not more frequently than people of the same class in Europe. Most of the children are affected with worms, probably generated by indulgence in half-ripe fruit. The Portuguese are much degenerated by intermixture with the natives, and with little of the enterprising or warlike spirit of their ancestors—the conquerors of Malacca are a lazy, proud, ignorant, and superstitious race. Most of them subsist principally upon the produce of their fisheries, in which they extensively engage. Their houses are constructed of wood, or *kulit kayoo* and *artap*; their rooms small and unventilated; and not over great attention is paid to cleanliness, either in them or in their persons. As far as I have been able to learn, they are not subject to any peculiar diseases. Many of them now living here have reached the age of ninety and upwards, and their children have a thriving healthy look. The better orders among them use nearly the same food as the European; the lower however live principally upon fish and fruit. The Malays of this station, from long intercourse with Europeans, seem to have lost their native ferocity of disposition, and are a harmless peaceable race. They are finely limbed, active when pleasure is their object, as in the pursuit of game or practice of gymnastic exercises; but, as far as profit or comfort are concerned, they are indolent in the extreme. Those who do engage in any occupation, if on the coast, apply themselves to a sea-life, either manning small merchant prahus, or fishing; if in the interior, they cultivate a small quantity of rice, for the supply of the *dusun* or village which they inhabit. Their houses are generally separate, constructed of wood, and concealed in groves of fruit trees, especially the jack, or *artocarpus integrifolia*. They are subject to fevers and bowel complaints, and soon acquire the look of old age. The state of medicine among them is exceedingly low, but more will be said on this subject hereafter. Their principal food is rice, fish, and fruits, of various kinds. On grand occasions, such as marriages, buffalo meat, or *kurban*, is devoured in quantities by all.—*Penang Gaz. Feb. 7.*

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## Malacca.

### TOPOGRAPHY OF THE SETTLEMENT.

The Europeans, both English and Dutch, and their descendants retain all the customs of their respective countries.