

THE  
**LITERARY PANORAMA.**

A

REVIEW } REGISTER } MAGAZINE  
OF } OF } OF  
BOOKS, } EVENTS, } VARIETIES.

COMPRISING

INTERESTING INTELLIGENCE

FROM

THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM;

THE BRITISH CONNECTIONS

IN

THE EAST INDIES, AMERICA, WESTERN  
THE WEST INDIES, AFRICA, ASIA, &c.

AND FROM

THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE,

AUSTRIA,	HOLLAND,	PRUSSIA,
DENMARK,	HUNGARY,	RUSSIA,
FRANCE,	ITALY,	SPAIN,
GERMANY,	POLAND,	SWEDEN,
GREECE,	PORTUGAL,	TURKEY, &c.

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VOL. II.

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Turning with easy eye thou may'st behold—  
From India and the golden Chersonese  
And utmost Indian isle Tabropane,  
From Gallia, Gades, and the British west,  
Germans and Scythians, and Sarmatians north,  
Beyond Danubius to the Tauric pool:  
All nations—  
MILTON. *Paradise Regained.*

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*Correspondence from Prince of Wales's  
Island in India.*

No. I.

CHARACTERS AND LOCALITIES OF LAN-  
GUAGES SPOKEN IN INDIA.

The following extract is from a letter addressed to a person in London from a gentleman in Pinang, and we have reason to expect further communications on the same subject, which will be regularly laid before the public through the medium of the Literary Panorama. We doubt not, but that the writer, by treating of those subjects of which he is an eye-witness, and which he has the opportunity of personally investigating, will throw light on many different articles at present involved in much obscurity. It will no doubt surprise some of our readers, to find the Malays described as trustworthy, polite, courteous, and humane; but the contrariety ceases, when it is known, that the sea-faring tribes may deserve the character of violent animosity usually attributed to them, while others differ totally in manners and disposition. We may add, that such imperfect knowledge of a people as we have hitherto possessed of the Malays, can hardly fail of leading to a proportionably worse opinion of them, and of the human race, than they deserve.

20th April 1806.

The *Malaya* is a very easy language for an Eastern one; but there appears a something about them all that does not speedily become familiar to an European. The beauty of the *Malaya* consists in its simplicity and softness. Truly may it be called the Italian of the East: it is, without exception, the softest language I could have a conception of. We are very much in want of a dictionary. Howison's is not to be depended on: he has not spelt a single word throughout, right.

A friend, who was here a short time for his health, united his endeavours with mine, in tracing the origin of this language. He was very well qualified for the subject, being master of the *Sanscrit* and *Arabic*, with most of the languages properly Indian. Marsden, in his excellent account of Sumatra, seems to think this language indigenous in the peninsula of Malaya, and thence to have extended itself among the Eastern Islands, till it became the *lingua Franca* of that part of the globe. You will find in the 6th vol. of Modern Universal History a very curious way of accounting for this language. Having the book by me, I will give you the

words, as a literary curiosity. Describing Malacca, the author observes ; " the Malay-  
 " an tongue is formed out of the languages  
 " of the different nations which resort thi-  
 " ther, by selecting the choicest words in  
 " each. Hence it is reckoned the most agree-  
 " able and elegant in all the Indies ; which  
 " quality joined to its use in trade, causes it  
 " to be learned by the remotest Eastern peo-  
 " ple." A language formed according to  
 this ingenious selection might, undoubtedly,  
 be very agreeable and elegant, but it would  
 still be more remarkable in the history of  
 nations. My friend, in a note on this ac-  
 count of the origin of the Malaya, could  
 not help remarking, that it would be a most  
 uncommon occurrence to discover a nation so  
 choice in matters of abstract sound, and so  
 delicately refined in their organs of hearing,  
 as to take the trouble of learning a copious  
 language, for the mere pleasure of gratifying  
 their sense, or appetite, for sweet vocalic  
 sounds. My friend has now left me for Ben-  
 gal, and I am not to expect his return here ;  
 but as the origin and progress of the Malaya  
 language can only be capable of satisfactory  
 elucidation from the history of the Malaya  
 nation, and of the different tribes from which  
 they originated, and with which they have  
 been connected, I am now collecting all  
 their traditions and writings that can tend to  
 explain their laws, manners, and customs,  
 from a perfect knowledge of which I shall  
 be better able to judge than from any writ-  
 ten history. I however apply as much to  
 these books as to their conversation, and hope  
 to send you full remarks on the subject.

This much I cannot omit saying, in justice  
 to the inhabitants of the Malaya countries,  
 or at least the peninsula, that they are not  
 what they are represented to be, a revengeful,  
 wicked, treacherous people. They are by far  
 the best class of people I have met with :  
 they may be trusted with any thing, and are  
 faithful even to death. They are mild in  
 their manners, polite and courteous in con-  
 versation, affectionate in their families, and  
 pay great attention to their religious duties.  
 Their feelings are shocked at cruelties, and  
 they would not tread on a worm to hurt it.  
 There are certainly tribes and families of them  
 that live by plunder and piracy to the east-  
 ward, but these are persons not under  
 the control of any regular chieftain : and you  
 might as well judge of the English nation  
 from the exhibitions in Newgate or Horse-  
 monger Lane, as of the Malaya nation by  
 these pirates.

As I shall be able to treat more fully on  
 the Malaya hereafter, I will now, in a few  
 words as the subject will admit, give you a  
 short account of some of the different langua-  
 ges on the continent of India. You will

find, I believe, that the people in England  
 have not a correct idea of the languages.  
 Take the map and follow me.

Instead of a dialect of Sanscrit, or mediate  
 jargon between Sanscrit, Arabic, and Persic,  
 which is generally, I believe, considered as be-  
 ing the language of the Coromandel coast,  
 the popular language of the coast, from Ma-  
 dras to Cape Comorin, is Tamul, an original  
 language, totally unlike any other, not even  
 excepting Sanscrit, and entering deeply into  
 the composition of several other dialects in  
 the peninsula. North from Madras to Chi-  
 cacole, the *Tilenga* or *Tilegu* or *Badiga* lan-  
 guage prevails. From Chicacole, through  
 Ganjam, Cuttack, and part of Orissa, the  
*Woodiar* prevails. On the Malabar coast,  
 through Travancore and the Nair countries,  
 as far as Coorg, the popular language is Ma-  
 layalam or Malabar.\*

Through the greater part of Mysore proper,  
 as well as in the Canara provinces, the *Canara*  
 is the popular language ; but, in ascending  
 along the coast of Malabar, the *Coorg* and  
*Canara* are succeeded by the *Concanar*,  
 which, as you ascend, graduates into Mah-  
 ratta and Guzeratty (properly denominated  
*Maharashtra* and *Gujarashtra* or *Gujara*.)  
 The dialect of Hindustani spoken in the pen-  
 insula, is reckoned very pure, and in a few  
 unessential particulars differs from that of  
 Hindustan proper : it is termed *Deekani*, *i. e.*  
 the dialect of the South. When this lan-  
 guage, however, in composition leans to-  
 wards an use of the proper Indian vocables,  
 in preference to those of Persic or Arabic ori-  
 gin, it is termed *Cubbut*, *i. e.* the language of  
 poetry ; and is nearly the same as the *Bakhu*,  
 or *Brij'h Bhasha*, the popular dialect of  
 Ajmere and Oude.

The Tamul nation retains an ancient learn-  
 ed, or poetical language, subject to very  
 complicated laws of versification, which is  
 termed *Elikana* ; and which has not any  
 connection with *Sanscrit*. From the *Elika-  
 na Tamul* springs the popular Tamul dialect  
 of Coromandel, and the Malayalam, both of  
 which are indiscriminately termed Malabar.  
 The *Telenga* is intimately connected with  
 both the *Canara*, and *Ma'abar*, but adopts  
 numerous Sanscrit and Hindustani flexions,  
 and thus, borrowing from all sources, is the  
 sweetest and most melodious of all the popu-  
 lar dialects. In both Canara and Tilenga,  
 the most ancient works are composed in a  
 learned or poetical style, which differs fully  
 as much from the modern popular dialects as  
 Saxon and Provençal differs from English and  
 French. The Mahratta language seems con-  
 nected, on opposite sides, with Sanscrit and

\* Of this language Captain Drummond,  
 of Bombay, wrote a grammar.

Hindustani, borrowing numerous vocables from both Hindustani and Persic. The purest dialect of it is termed *Concanar*. The Tamul alphabet does not coincide with the Sanscrit, properly called *Samscruta*, for which reason, books in the Sanscrit language are generally written in a character termed *Grundum*, which has great affinity with the popular character of *Purana Canara*, i. e. ancient Canara. Both the Canara and Tilinga nation write the Sanscrit language in their popular character. The Mahratta alphabet differs a little from the Sanscrit in the sound of the letters. Therefore, that nation employs a character termed *Balabund*, which is nearly connected with the *Deva Nagari*, or proper character of Casi and Benares.

The language of Coorg has no particular character.

The *Arab Tamul* is the name of that dialect of mixed Arabic and Tamul which is spoken by the Chooliaks of the Carnatic and Tanjore. They employ an alphabet of 44 letters, which are merely the Arabic and Hindustani accommodated to the sounds of both Tamul and Arabic.

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