

A  
GENERAL VIEW  
OF THE  
MANNERS, CUSTOMS,  
AND  
CURIOSITIES OF NATIONS;

INCLUDING

A GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE EARTH.

THE WHOLE ILLUSTRATED BY FIFTY-FOUR MAPS,  
AND OTHER ENGRAVINGS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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*See Sir Richard [unclear]*

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DESCRIPTION OF THE CHARACTER, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS OF THE INHABITANTS OF MALACCA, SUMATRA, NICOBAR, SOMBRERO, JAVA, BORNEO, TERNATE, CELEBES, BANDA, TIMOR, MANILLA, MINDANAO, OR FORMOSA, THE LADRONE ISLANDS, PAPOUS, NEW GUINEA, AND NEW HOLLAND.

**A**LL the nations which have been just described differ but little from the Chinese, and resemble the Tartars in the smallness of their stature, their flat visages, and their olive colour. But, in proceeding southwards, the features begin to be diversified in a more sensible manner. The inhabitants of Malacca and the island of Sumatra are black, small, active, and well proportioned. Though naked from the middle upwards, excepting a small scarf which they carry sometimes on one shoulder, and sometimes on the other, they are naturally brave, and become truly formidable after taking their opium, which affects them with a furious kind of intoxication. The inhabitants of Sumatra and Malacca appear to be of the same race; they speak the same language; have all a fierce haughty temper; they have a long visage, black eyes, thin lips, and teeth dyed black by the habitual use of betel root. In some of the islands west of Sumatra the natives are tall, and of a yellowish colour, like the Brazilians; they wear long hair, and go absolutely naked. Those of the Nicobar islands, to the north of Sumatra, have a yellow tawny complexion, and likewise go naked. The inhabitants of the Nicobar islands are tall and handsome, the women, to beautify themselves, tear out the hairs from their eye-brows. In Sombrero, to the north of Nicobar, they are very black, and they paint their faces with different colours, as green, yellow, &c. The people of Malacca, Sumatra, and the small adjacent islands, though they differ among themselves, differ still more from the Chinese

and Tartars, and seem to have originated from a different stock ; yet the natives of Java have no resemblance to them, but are similar to the Chinese, excepting in colour, which, like that of the Malays, is red mingled with black : they are robust and handsome, active and resolute, mild and courteous ; and the heat of their climate obliges them to go naked. The women, who are not so much exposed to the rays of the sun, are less tawny than the men ; their countenance is comely ; their complexion, though brown, is uniform and beautiful : they have a delicate hand, a soft air, brilliant eyes ; and many of them dance with spirit and elegance.

M. Buffon observes, that it is not difficult to account for the difference which is to be found among the inhabitants of these parts : since the peninsula of Malacca, the islands of Sumatra and Java, as well as all the islands in the Indian Archipelago, must have been peopled by the neighbouring nations on the continent, and even by the Europeans themselves, who have had possession of them nearly three centuries. This circumstance must have produced a great variety among the inhabitants, both in feature and colour, and in the form and proportions of their bodies. In the island of Java there are people called *Chacrelas*, who are totally different, not only from the natives of this island, but from all other Indians. These *Chacrelas* are white and fair, and their eyes are so weak, that they cannot support the rays of the sun. They go about in the day with their eyes half shut, and directed to the ground ; but they see best during the night.

All the inhabitants of the Molucca islands are similar to those of Sumatra and Java, in manners, mode of living, arms, customs, language, and colour : they are strong and expert in the use of weapons ; they live long, though their hair soon becomes hoary.

The inhabitants of BORNEO, and BALLY, north of the

straits of Java, are brown and tawny like other Indians. Those of Ternate are of the same colour with the Malays ; their countenances are comely ; the men are handsomer than the women, and both sexes bestow much attention to the beauty of their hair. The natives of the island of Banda are remarkable for longevity, notwithstanding they lead a very indolent life ; the men do nothing but saunter abroad, while the women perform all the laborious duties. The original natives of Timor, which is one of the islands adjacent to New Holland, are of a middle stature, with a black skin, and black bristly hair. They are dexterous and agile, but indolent to a shameful degree.

Turning northward we come to Manilla, and the other Philippine islands, the inhabitants of which, by their alliances formed with the Spaniards, Indians, Chinese, Malabars, and Negroes, are, perhaps, more mixed than in any other part of the universe. The negroes, who live in the rocks and woods of Manilla, are entirely different from the other inhabitants ; some of them have crisped hair, like the negroes of Angola, and others have long hair ; their colour consists of various shades of black.

The Mariana or Ladrone islands, which are most remote from the eastern coast, are inhabited by a rude and unpolished people. In colour they resemble the natives of the Philippines ; they are stronger and more robust than the Europeans ; though they feed wholly on roots, fruit, and fish, yet they are very fat ; but their corpulency does not prevent them from being nimble and active. They are said, in general, to live so long, that the age of an hundred years is not extraordinary among them, without ever experiencing disease or sickness. They are so strong, that they can, with ease, carry on their shoulders a weight of five hundred pounds. The inhabitants of Guan, one of these islands, are not only

very robust, but their stature extends to nearly seven feet in height.

To the south of the Ladrone islands, and eastward of the Moluccas, we find the land of Papous and New Guinea. The Papous are as black as Caffres, have crisped hair, and a meagre disagreeable visage: among these people, however, there are some who are as white and fair as the Germans, but their eyes are weak and delicate. The natives of this country are very black, savage, and brutal; they wear rings in their ears and noses, and sometimes in the partition of the nose. They have likewise bracelets of mother-of-pearl above their elbows and on their wrists, and they cover their heads with caps made of the bark of trees, painted with different colours. They are strong and well proportioned; swift in the chace; and as the use of iron is unknown to them, their weapons consist of clubs, lances, and spears made of hard wood. They likewise use their teeth as offensive weapons, and bite like dogs. They eat betel and pimenta mixed with chalk, which also serves them for powder to their beards and hair.

The natives of the coast of New Holland are perhaps the most miserable of the human species, and approach nearest to the brutes: they are tall and thin; their limbs are long and slender; they have large heads and thick eye-brows; their eye-lids are always half shut, a habit which they contract in infancy to protect their eyes from the gnats; they have no beards; their visage is long, without a single feature that is agreeable; their hair is short, black, and crisped; and their skin is as black as that of the Guinea negroes. They have no clothing, but a piece of the bark of a tree tied round the waist, with a handful of long herbs in the middle.

They have no houses, and they sleep on the ground without a covering. They associate, men, women, and children, promiscuously, to the number of twenty or

thirty. Their only nourishment is a small fish, which they catch in reservoirs made with stones in small arms of the sea ; and they are totally unacquainted with bread, and every speices of grain.

From the foregoing descriptions it is apparent that the islands and coasts of the Indian ocean are peopled with men of very different races. The natives of Malacca, Sumatra, and the Nicobar islands, seem to derive their origin from the inhabitants of the peninsula of Indus ; and those of Java from the Chinese, excepting the white Chacrelas, who must have sprung from a European stock. The natives of the Molucca islands have probably proceeded from the Indian peninsula. But the inhabitants of the island of Timor are very similar to the people of New Holland. Those of Formosa and the Ladrons islands, though separated by a great distance, resemble each other in stature, strength, and features, and appear to form a race distinct from every other people in their neighbourhood. The Papous and other nations adjacent to New Guinea are certainly real negroes, and resemble those of Africa, though they are at a distance of more than six thousand miles from that continent. The natives of New Holland bear a strong analogy to the Hottentots.

Having thus given a general view of a great number of different nations, we shall, before we proceed to the kingdoms on the continent of Asia, enter more minutely into some of the peculiar customs, and different manners of the more distinguished of these islands.

The peninsula of MALACCA was once considered as one of the greatest Asiatic powers. The sea was covered with their ships ; they carried on an extensive commerce, and it is thought, that from time to time they have sent out numerous colonies, and peopled a great many of those islands which are east of Asia. At pre-

sent but little is known of their manners ; they are governed by feudal laws : a chief, who has the title of sultan or king, issues his commands to his great vassals, who obey when they think proper. These have inferior vassals, who act in the same manner with regard to their masters. A small part of the nation live independent, and sell their services to those who pay them best ; whilst the body of the nation is composed of slaves, and live in perpetual servitude.

The natives of Malacca, usually called *Malais*, are of a dark complexion, brisk, active, and much addicted to thieving. Some of them are idolaters, but the majority are Mahometans. The inland inhabitants, called *Monacaboes*, are a barbarous savage people, delighting in doing mischiefs to their neighbours ; on which account no grain is sown about Malacca, but what is inclosed in gardens with thick set hedges or deep ditches ; for when the grain is ripe in the open plains, the *Monacaboes* never fail to set fire to it. These people are whiter than the neighbouring *Malais*, but so untractable, that no method has been found to civilize them.

The *Malais*, who are not slaves, go always armed, and would think themselves disgraced, if they went abroad without their poniards, which they manufacture themselves. As their lives are a perpetual round of agitation and tumult, the long flowing habits of the Asiatics would ill accord with their manners. Their garments are exactly adapted to their shapes, and loaded with a multitude of buttons, which fasten them close to their bodies in every part.

SUMATRA is the most western of the Sunda islands, and constitutes, on that side, the boundary of the eastern Archipelago, and is nearly bisected by the equator. This being one of the largest islands in the world, we must, in our description of the manners and customs of

its inhabitants, enter into particulars, only observing, that much which relates to these people is characteristic also of the natives of Borneo, another of the Sunda islands.

*Of the Persons, Dress, Houses, and Laws of the Sumatrans.*

The natives of Sumatra are rather below the middle stature, they are well shaped, but particularly small at the wrists and ancles. The women have the custom of flattening the noses, compressing the heads, and pulling out the ears (so as to make them stand erect from the head) of infants as soon as they are born. Their eyes are uniformly dark and clear; their hair is strong and black, the appearance of which is disregarded by men, who wear it short; but the women take great pride in theirs, and wear it sometimes even to the ground. The men are careful to extirpate their beards and all superfluous hairs. The greater part of the females are ugly, and many of them even to disgust, yet there are among them some whose appearance is strikingly beautiful. The original clothing of these people is the same with that found by navigators amongst the inhabitants of the South-sea islands, and now known by the name of Otaheite cloth. Unmarried young women are distinguished by a fillet which goes across the front of the hair, and fastens behind; and their dancing girls wear head-dresses very artificially wrought, and as high as any that have ever been worn in this country.

Many of the women have their teeth filed down to the gums; others have them formed in points, and some have no more filed off than the outer coat and extremities, the better to receive a black colour, with which they ornament them. Some of their great men set theirs in gold, by casing with a plate of that metal the under row, and this, contrasted with the black dye, has, by lamp or candle light, a very splendid effect.

Their houses are constructed with great simplicity,



the frequency of the earthquakes preventing the natives from making buildings of solidity or of elegance. The furniture of their houses consists of but few articles. Their bed is a mat, usually of a fine texture, manufactured for the purpose, with a number of pillows worked at the ends, and adorned with a shining substance that resembles foil; a sort of canopy hangs over their head of various coloured cloths. They sit on the ground, and consequently have no occasion for chairs or stools. Instead of tables, they have what resembles large wooden salvers, with feet; round each of which three or four persons dispose themselves, and on these are laid their brass waiters, which hold cups containing their curry, and vessels of rice. Their mode of sitting is on their haunches, or on their left side supported by the left hand, with the leg tucked in on the right side, leaving that hand at liberty, with which, from motives of delicacy, they always eat, the left being reserved for less cleanly offices. Neither knives, spoons, nor any substitute for them, are employed; they take up the rice and other victuals between their thumb and fingers, and dexterously put it into the mouth by the action of the thumb, frequently dipping their hands in water as they eat. Their flesh meat they dress as soon as the beast is killed, or else dry it in the sun, till it is so hard as to resist putrefaction without the aid of salt.

There appears to be no written laws in Sumatra except those of the Alcoran, which are received by the Mahometan part of the inhabitants, the decision in other cases being governed by custom and precedents. For murder and adultery, the usual punishment is death, which is not inflicted by a professed executioner, but jointly by every person who happens to be within the reach of the criminal. Women, however, for capital offences, are strangled with the bow-string. Theft is for the most part punished with the amputation of fingers;

or toes, or limbs, according to the aggravation of the crime, but for the third transgression of this kind the delinquent is put to death.

The Sumatrans prohibit all gaming, except cock-fighting at stated periods, under severe penalties, to which they subject the owners of the house who permit it. The plaintiff and defendant plead their own cause; but if circumstances render them unequal to it, they are allowed (in the language of their country) *to borrow a mouth*. Their manner of administering an oath is solemn and awful. It is given on the burying place of their ancestors, the form of which is nearly this: "If what I now declare is truly and really so, may I be freed and cleared from my oath. If what I assert be wittingly false, may my oath be the cause of my destruction." The Inland people keep laid up in their houses certain old reliques, which they produce when an oath is to be taken, and it therefore often happens that it requires two or three days to get the swearing apparatus ready. These they generally dip in water, which the person who swears drinks off, after he has pronounced the form of words before mentioned. This parade tends to inspire the party with a high idea of the importance and solemnity of the business. They sometimes swear by the earth, wishing that it may never produce aught for their nourishment, if they speak falsely.

*Of the Dispositions, and domestic Habits of the Sumatrans.*

The original Sumatran is mild, peaceable, and forbearing, unless roused by violent provocations, when he is implacable in his resentments. He is temperate and sober, equally abstemious in meat and drink. The diet of the natives is mostly vegetable; water is their only beverage; and though they will kill a fowl or a goat for a stranger, whom, perhaps, they never saw before, they are rarely guilty of that extravagance for them-

selves. Their hospitality is extreme, and bounded by their ability alone. The women are remarkably affable; modest; guarded in their expressions; courteous in their behaviour; grave in their deportment; seldom excited to laughter; and patient to a great degree. On the other hand, they are litigious; indolent; addicted to gaming; dishonest in their dealings with strangers; regardless of the truth; servile; and, though cleanly in their persons, dirty in their apparel, which they never wash.

Chastity prevails more at Sumatra than almost at any other place. When a young woman is discovered as having offended against its rules, she, or more properly her father, is fined forty dollars; which, if they are not able to pay, the girl becomes a slave, and the partner of her crime is fined thirty dollars. A disease which prevails in almost all parts of the world, and which nearly depopulates some luxurious cities, is in the inland country of Sumatra, almost unknown. A man returning to his village with the infection is shunned by the inhabitants, as an unclean and interdicted person.

Mothers carry their infants by making them straddle on the hip, on which they are supported by a cloth suspended on the opposite shoulder. A practice this which is known in some parts of Wales; and where custom renders it habitual, it is thought much safer and less tiresome to the nurse than the mode used in England and other European countries.

*Of the Sumatran Conjurers, Physicians, and methods of treating the sick.*

The Sumatrans have their conjuring doctors, who pretend to a power of causing or retarding rain. One of these will, at certain seasons, receive a dollar or more from each family in their district, that he may procure favourable weather for their business. To accomplish

this purpose, he abstains or pretends to abstain from food for many days and nights, performing, during that time, a variety of trifling ceremonies, and continuing in the open air. If he sees a cloud gathering, he immediately begins smoking tobacco, walking about with quick pace, and throwing the puffs towards the clouds. All his skill appears to lie in choosing his time: but should he fail, he always has an effectual salvo. He promises to fulfil his agreement with a *Deo volente* clause, and consequently attributes his occasional disappointments to the particular interposition of the deity.

Every old man and woman are physicians; their rewards depend upon their success; but they generally procure a small sum in advance, under the pretext of purchasing charms. Their medicines are all made from herbs, which are taken inwardly, or applied on the skin in the form of poultices. The small-pox sometimes depopulates various parts of the country. They never think of trying to cure the disorder, or stopping its progress, but by converting that village, where the greatest number of sick are, into an hospital, which, when the infection has spent itself, or devoured all its victims, they burn to the ground.

When a man, by any calamity, is deprived of his reason, or is subject to convulsion fits, they imagine he is possessed by an evil spirit, and their ceremony of exorcism is by putting the unfortunate wretch into a hut, which they fire about his ears, suffering him to escape through the flames in the best manner he can. The fright, which would deprive a reasonable man of his senses, may sometimes restore intellect to the maniac.

#### *Of their Religion and Knowledge.*

The ancient and genuine religion of the Sumatrans, if they ever had any, is scarcely now to be traced; and, of the present race of inhabitants, those, who have not

been initiated in the principles of Mahometanism, regard those who have as persons advanced a step in knowledge beyond themselves. If by religion, says Mr. Marsden, in his excellent history of this country, is meant a public or private worship of any kind; if prayers, processions, meetings or priests be necessary to constitute it, these people are totally without religion. They cannot even be termed Pagans, if by that term a mistaken kind of worship be conveyed. They neither worship God, devil, nor idol. They have, however, some confused notion, derived probably from other people, of some species of superior beings, who have the power of rendering themselves visible or invisible at pleasure, whose wrath they deprecate, upon the persuasion that they possess the faculty of doing them good or evil.

They have no word in their language to express the person of God, except the Allah of the Malais, yet, when questioned on the subject, they assert that their ancestors had a knowledge of a deity, though they have never employed their thoughts about him. They have no notion of a future state. Their estimation of virtue and vice extends no farther than to the immediate effect of actions, as beneficial or otherwise to society, and all such as have no tendency to these ends are to them perfectly indifferent.

The knowledge of the Sumatrans is very limited. Some of them can carry their arithmetical operation as far as division. The general method of counting any large number of articles is to put aside each tenth and afterwards each hundredth piece. They make use of knots tied in a string to assist their memory at any distance of time. They have no knowledge of geography. They do not know that their country is an island, nor have they a name for it. Habit makes them expert in travelling through the woods; and they estimate the distance of places from each other by the time the journey

takes in travelling it. They divide the year into three hundred and fifty-four days, but they correct the error which this mode of computation would occasion, by counting the number of their years from the number of their crops of grain.

Though these people are much attached to their own habits, yet they are sensible of their inferiority, and readily admit the preference which our attainments in science, and especially in mechanics, entitle us to. A Sumatran was heard to exclaim, after contemplating the uses and structure of a house clock, "Is it not right, that such as we should be slaves to people who have the ingenuity to invent, and the skill to construct so wonderful a machine as this?" "The sun," he added, "is a machine of this nature." "But who winds it up?" said his companion: "Who, but Allah," replied he.

The inhabitants of *Nicobar* and the *Andaman* islands are in their persons much like the Sumatrans; they have been accused of cannibalism, which is without foundation; so far from eating their own species, they scarcely eat any flesh at all. They live chiefly on fish and fruits. Their houses are built in clusters, each consisting of five or six, erected on bamboo pillars, eight or nine feet above the ground, and covered with palm branches. The inhabitants of these islands are said to worship the moon.

The people of *Sombbrero*, about ten or twelve leagues north of *Nicobar*, have only a covering round their waists. Their complexion is tawny, and they paint their faces of several colours.

In the island of *Java*, people of almost all nations reside; and it has been said by those who have lived in *Batavia*, the capital of the island, that nothing can be more entertaining than to behold such a multitude of people from different countries living at their own dwellings after their own way. Every moment new customs, strange manners, a variety of dresses, and faces of dif-

ferent colours, as white, black, brown, and olive coloured are to be seen, every one living as he pleases, and speaking his own language. Notwithstanding this variety, there is the greatest union, which is the effect of that spirit of commerce which prevails in the place.

The native Javanese wear a kind of skull-cap, but their bodies are naked from the middle upwards. A piece of silk or calico surrounds their loins, and reaches below the middle of their legs, which are bare. They apply themselves chiefly to agriculture, fishing and ship-building. They are much addicted to gaming, and will not scruple to lose all their property, but will likewise stake their wives and children. The country produces not only every thing necessary for the subsistence of man, but a large quantity of those valuable effects which forms its commerce with other nations.

The fruits and plants on the island are excellent and almost innumerable, the cocoa is the most esteemed. When a man has a child born, he causes one of their trees to be planted, that it may know its age: for the cocoa-tree has a circle which rises annually on its bark, so that its age may be known by inspection; therefore, if the age of the child be enquired, the father sends to the cocoa-tree for a solution of the question.

The Javanese near the coast are in their religion Mahometans; but in the inland parts of the island paganism prevails: their knowledge respecting futurity is very limited; they believe that immortality is designed for the rich rather than for the virtuous.

Java is not only an extensive island, but is remarkable for the city of Batavia, the celebrated capital of the Dutch possessions. This island abounds with forests, and presents a most enchanting verdure. Batavia is strongly fortified with walls and a citadel towards the sea. There are many canals about four feet deep, the town is large, and well built of stone, and the streets are planted with large trees. The low situation of the town, and

the exhalations from bogs, canals, and a muddy sea, render it a most unhealthy place; from nine o'clock till four it is impossible to walk out, and it is usual to change linen twice a day. The sun being nearly vertical, rises and sets about six throughout the year, but nocturnal repose is infested by muskitoes. In the evening, from six to nine, parties are formed, and intemperance assists the poison of the climate.

This metropolis of the oriental archipelago presents many nations and languages; but the Chinese constitute the greater part of the inhabitants, being contented for the sake of gain to forget the tombs of their ancestors, and the laws of their country against emigration.

The air is so unwholesome, that dysenteries and putrid fevers destroy prodigious numbers; and of three settlers it is rare that one outlives the year. The rainy season begins with December, and lasts till March. Crocodiles abound in the rivers. Some of them are from twenty to thirty-three feet long, but their legs are extremely short; and if a person has presence of mind to take a winding direction when he flies from one of them, he will easily escape, as they are unable to turn about. Dr. Darwin's description of this island claims a place here:

Where seas of glass, with gay reflections, smile  
 Round the green coasts of *Java's* palmy isle;  
 A spacious plain extends its upland scene,  
 Rocks rise on rocks, and fountains gush between;  
 Soft zephyrs blow, eternal summers rain,  
 And showers prolific bless the soil,—in vain!  
 —No spicy nutmeg scents the vernal gales,  
 Nor tow'ring plantain shades the mid-day vales;  
 No grassy mantle hides the sable bills,  
 No flow'ry chaplet crowns the trickling rills;  
 Nor tufted moss, nor leathery licken creeps,  
 In russet tap'stry, o'er the crumbling steeps.  
 No step retreating, on the sand impress'd,  
 Invites the visit of a second guest!



No reflux fin the unpeopled stream divides,  
 No revolant pinion cleaves the airy tides;  
 Nor handed moles, nor beaked worms return,  
 That mining pass the irremeable bourn.

BOTANIC GARDEN.

The highly poetical description of the upas or poison tree, which follows, is omitted, as the existence of such a tree appears to be completely confuted.

It is not certain by what means the **MOLUCCA** islands were peopled; but they evidently derive their laws from the Malais. Their language, manners, and customs, are very similar to those of the Malais. The natives are in general cowardly, slothful, cruel, and ferocious. The savageness of their manners is evidently a consequence of that wandering and solitary life which they lead in the woods, for the purpose of escaping from the slavery of the Dutch. Their religion is a corrupted kind of Mahometanism.

The inhabitants of **TERNATE**, which is the principal of the Molucca islands, have a very simple method of worshipping the Deity. No one, not even the priests, are permitted to speak of religion. They have only one temple, the law prohibits more. There are neither altars, statues, nor images. A hundred priests serve in the temple, but they neither sing nor speak, but in a solemn silence point with the finger towards a pyramid, upon which are written these words: "Mortals, adore your God, love your brethren, and make yourselves useful to your country."

All the inhabitants of the Molucca islands, excepting the women and priests, go almost naked. They wear a hat painted of different colours. The women are covered with a long robe without folds, close before: their hats are of an enormous size, as much as seven or eight feet in diameter: they never go out, but live in a kind of a retreat at the bottom of their houses. The priests

have a long robe, like to that of the women, from whom they would scarcely be known but for a sharp-pointed bonnet, which is the characteristic mark of their dignity. Both sexes wear bracelets on their arms, made of shells, or a species of china.

The inhabitants of the CELEBES or Macassar island are an ingenious people, and seem to be actuated by more refined sentiments of honour and friendship, than are usually met with among those who have attained to a considerable degree of civilization. The men are courageous and warlike, the women remarkably chaste.

Young men of condition are taught to ride, handle the scymitar, and to blow little poisoned darts through a tube about six feet long. The natives formerly acknowledged no other gods but the sun and moon, to which they sacrifice in the public squares, having no materials which they thought valuable enough to be employed in raising temples. On hearing the opinions of the Christians and Mahometans these people were terrified, since both parties threatened them with eternal punishment if they did not yield to their doctrines. Concluding that one of these religions were true, the principal king of the country convened a general assembly, and intreated that the divine power might be manifested in support of the true apostles, making use of the following prayer: "The winds and the waves are the ministers of thy power, let them be the signal of thy will.—I shall acknowledge, as the depositaries of the oracles, the ministers of either religion, whom thou shalt cause the first to arrive in our harbours."

The missionaries of the Alkoran were the most active; and the sovereign and his people were circumcised: the other parts of the island followed their example.

The chiefs of the BANDA islands, though styled kings, possessed only a limited authority, totally dependent on the will of the people, who are temperate, independent,

and averse from labour. They live on the pulp and milk of the cocoa-nut, and the meal of sago: their only employment is hunting and fishing. They eat the sago diluted with water, and, from a principle of humanity, reserve the finest part for the aged and infirm.

The PHILIPPINE islands are said to be about eleven hundred in number, some of them of considerable magnitude; the principal are, Manilla or Luconia to the north, and Mindanao to the south; of these we shall give some account.

The greater part of the people of MANILLA are of Chinese extraction, intermixed with a number of blacks. The latter are probably the original inhabitants of the country. Besides these, there are the Pintados, so called, from the custom which prevails among them of painting their bodies. Such of the inhabitants as live on the sea-coast, feed chiefly on rice and fish, while the mountaineers subsist on the flesh they take in hunting, and the fruits which grow spontaneously in great variety and plenty: their drink is water, which they commonly use warm. They practise cold bathing twice a day, either for health or recreation; and their diversions consist of rude plays, or of rustic dances and mock fights, in which they exhibit striking proofs of agility; their chief delight is in cock-fighting.

They purchase their wives, and the marriage is performed by a priestess, who sacrifices some animal on the occasion; after which the bride is conducted home, and the ceremony concludes with an entertainment. They generally marry with their own tribe, and with near relations. Some of the tribes are restricted to one wife, while others admit a plurality of wives, and divorces for reasonable causes. Their funeral ceremonies are much like those used by the Chinese.

MINDANAO is inhabited by people of different nations and religions, but the Mahometans who occupy the sea-

coast are by much the most numerous, whose sovereign is styled the Sultan of Mindanao, and is despotic, but very poor, though he has the power of commanding every private subject's purse at his pleasure. When he goes abroad, it is on a litter carried upon four men's shoulders, attended by a guard of eight or ten men. Sometimes he takes his pleasure upon the water in a vessel divided into three apartments: in one he reposes himself on a carpet and pillows; his women attend in the second; and in the third servants wait with tobacco and betel. Every Friday the Sultan goes twice to the mosque, in which there is a great drum, with only one head, which is struck with a large stick, knobbed at the end with cotton, at twelve, three, six, and nine of the clock, by day and night, and this serves instead of a time-piece. The children are not circumcised till they are eleven or twelve years of age, when it is done with great solemnity by a Mahometan priest. In August they keep a festival, beginning at one new moon, and continuing till they see the next: during this period they fast every day, employ an hour in the evening at prayer, and then go to supper.

The majority of the inhabitants both in the Philippines and Ladrone islands worship one Supreme God, and their ancestors; paying their adorations likewise to the sun and moon, and almost every object, whether animate or inanimate. One kind of tree they reckon it sacrilege to cut down, believing that the souls of some of their friends may reside in it, to wound which would be the height of impiety. Instead of temples, they place their idols in caves, in which they offer their sacrifices. Some beautiful virgin first wounds the victim with a spear, afterwards the priests dispatch the animal, and having dressed the meat, all join in the festival. They are remarkably observant of lucky and unlucky days, and so extremely superstitious, that if certain animals cross the