

THE
ASIATIC JOURNAL
 AND
MONTHLY REGISTER

FOR
British India and its Dependencies :

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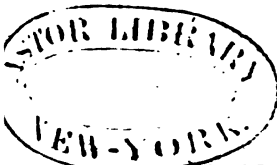
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VARIETIES.

MORAL SENTIMENTS.

(Translated from a Malay M.S.)

I. This world may be compared to a putrid carcass, and every one that immoderately seeks to possess its riches, to the dog feeding upon it.

II. This world is the heaven of infidels; a prison to the faithful; a garden to the contemplative; and a place of pleasure to unbelievers.

III. This world is like unto a fair but inconstant woman; you must not be enraptured with a sight of her beauty, it will make you unmindful of the Lord, for she will assuredly inflame your passions.

IV. This world is well compared to a field; but of this you may be certain, what you sow here, you will reap in eternity.

V. The pleasures of this world are like a man burning paper; whilst there is paper it affords light, but as soon as the paper is burnt it becomes dark. Seek, therefore, the pleasures of eternity, for they are unfading.—*Indo-Chinese Gleaner*, No. IV.

Among the Malays are both Mahomedans and Pagans. The class of writers who carry their contemplations to this sublime height are Moslem ascetics. The first two of these dogmas seem to be elevated above the practical line of social improvement or public utility. Exhortations to renounce the world, it is true, occur in the divine source of Christian ethics; but the motives to cultivate social virtue more abundantly scattered in other places, plainly shew that the operation of the precept is confined to those seasons of trial when the advantages offered by the world cannot be accepted consistently with rectitude. We find among the Malays some of the most revolting instances of perfidy, cruelty, piracy, and murder; and from principles too refined for daily use and common life the transition is easy to no principle at all.

NAUTICAL NOTICE.

Midway Reef.—The following is an extract of a letter from Capt. Carns, of the ship *Neptune*, to the secretary of the marine board, describing the reef discovered between New Holland and New Guinea.—*Mudras Courier* Feb. 16.

"Thinking it a duty I owe for the benefit of navigators, I beg leave to acquaint you of the discovery I made between New Holland and New Guinea. On the 20th day of June last I took a good departure from Sandy Cape, New Holland, and steered a course to keep in midway between the Great Barrier and Wreck Reefs. On the following day at noon saw sand-banks and small rocks ahead, stretching as far to the eastward as we could see from the masthead, and about five miles to the westward. I immediately wore and ran down to the western extremity, and passed it within two miles; longitude by good timekeepers 154. 20' East, latitude 21. 58' South; and as the western end of Wreck Reef is laid down in 155. 28' East, I concluded it must be a new discovery, and called it Midway Reef; as it renders the navigation between the Great Barrier and Wreck Reefs very critical. "R. CARNS"

GUM BASSORA.

This is a species of gum, or rather of cerasin, well known in France, and other parts of continental Europe, though unknown in Great Britain, at least by that name. It comes, as the name imports, from Persia, and is said to be produced in the sandy plains of Arabia from different species of *Mesembryanthemum*, plants which delight to vegetate in a thirsty soil. M. Damart informs us that the cactus tana, and other species of cactus which vegetate in a similar soil in South America, produces a gum of exactly the same properties with the gum of Bassora.—(*Jour. de Pharmacie*, April, 1819, p. 184.)

TEA.

When Tea was first imported into England, in the year 1666, it sold for sixty-shillings the pound. Green Tea was not in use until 1715. Pope, in his *Rape of the Lock*, makes Belinda wish, sooner than to have lost her favorite curl, that she had been

" ——— In some lone isle

" Where the gilt chariot never marks the way,

" Where none learn ombre, none c'er drink bohea."