

THE
QUARTERLY
ORIENTAL MAGAZINE

Review, and Register.

Vol. IV.

Nos. VII. and VIII.

JULY ——— DECEMBER,

1825.



CALCUTTA:

Published by MESSRS. THACKER AND Co. ST. ANDREW'S LIBRARY.

1825.

" Resolved,—That as there is reason to believe that many gentlemen residing at the several Stations in the interior, would be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity of uniting with the British Inhabitants of Calcutta, in testifying their sentiments of regard and esteem for Mr. Adam—an opportunity be afforded to them of having their signatures affixed to the Address, by signifying their wish to that effect to the Chairman.

J. P. LARKINS,

TOWN HALL; *Chairman.*"

Calcutta, 2d May, 1825.

The thanks of the Meeting having been given to the Chairman, the meeting was dissolved.

Malay Peninsula.—This portion of India since the conclusion of the late convention with the Netherland Government may be said to be virtually under the protection of our nation and it therefore assumes in respect to us a degree of importance which belonged to it in no former period. Viewing it in this light, we proceed without hesitation to offer a brief statistic notice of it.

Geographically considered the Peninsula of Malacca ought to be described as including the whole of the narrow land lying south of a line drawn from the head of the Gulf of Siam to the Eastern shore of the bay of Bengal, or from between the 13th and 14th degrees of North Latitude to very near the 1st degree that is to Cape Romania the Southern extremity of the continent of Asia. Its civil and political extent, however, is much narrower, including only what is in the occupation of the Malayan nation and which goes no further north than the 7th degree of Latitude. Its extreme length may be reckoned about 453 geographical miles and its extreme breadth which is about the middle, about

150, but which at its northern extremity is little more than half that amount, and at its southern is as little as 40 miles. It contains an area, of about 48,000 square miles, being therefore somewhat less than Java which is estimated at 50,000. The Malayan Peninsula may generally be described as a mountainous and hilly region, destitute of extensive vallies or plains. A range of primitive mountains low towards the southern extremity, but towards the north rising in several situations to the height of 5 and 6000 feet may be said to run along its whole length. Down to the 3d degree of N. Latitude the geological formations is universally, as far as observation has extended, primitive, consisting in some situations of quartz but more generally of an old and highly crystalized granite. After this, the mineralogical features become more diversified, and independant of the primitive formation, we have the following partial ones resting upon it—at Malacca, clay shot iron ore—at Pulo Pisang, common jasper—at the Carimons, horn stone with the granite occasionally protruding—at Singapore, and all the small islands around it sand-stone. The granite again appears at Johore and Romania, and between them there is found porphyry. At Pahang we have quartz rock and the same again at Tringano. The only metals yet discovered with the exception of iron, of which no good ores have been found, are gold and tin, but the extent to which these two are disseminated compensates for the absence of the rest, for they are not only found from Johore to the further northern limits of the Peninsula but passing these, are to be found on the Eastern shore as far as the 13th degree of north latitude, and on the western at least as far as the 14th. This is the most extensive tin formation in the world,

those of England and Germany being mere spots in comparison.

Narrow mountains, destitute of Plains and great rivers, the Malayan Peninsula cannot be described either in point of soil or physical aspect as a favored region. It has accordingly undergone surprisingly little change through the industry of man, because it has afforded little excitement or assistance to his rude and party efforts and contains so few monuments of civilization that its history cannot by any species of evidence be carried back beyond a few centuries. Thus it exhibits in regard to man at least the same character of infancy and recent settlement which its first discoverers observed in regard to America. The greater part of the country is covered with primeval forests, among which the seats of the different states and principalities appear as scattered and inconsiderable patches of cultivation, usually at the mouths of rivers were the people draw a large share of their subsistence from their fisheries.

The Peninsula is occupied by three distinct native races, the Malayan colonists—a brown race of savages, and a negro race. The negroes are few in number—perfect savages and of little consideration, except as an object of curiosity to the Philologist and Philosophers. One of this race is now at the settlement under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Thompson, and in comparison to youths of the Malay and other races exhibits no marks of inferior capacity. The brown savages called the Jakong and the Benua are wild races of men living in the deep forests of the interior of the Peninsula, being spread over the territories of Malacca—Rambo, and Johore. They exist principally in the hunter state, some of the least uncivilized practising a little rude agriculture. Their persons are nearly naked, and their habitations extremely

rude. A death happening in a tribe is always the signal for abandoning the spot for a new dwelling. They appear to practice no cruel rites, and in their manners to be altogether extremely inoffensive. What renders this wild people most remarkable, is their differing totally in language and physical form from the negro races which inhabit the interior of the more northern parts of the Peninsula. They are in fact Malays in the savage state. Doctor Leyden who visited them in 1811 on our way to the conquest of Java could discover in their language but seven and twenty words which differed from common Malay, and on examination of the specimens he gives, we find, that at least six or seven are extremely doubtful, while two or three appear original Malay words for which sanscrit ones have been substituted in the modern dialect.

The Malayan race, the origin of which has been satisfactorily traced to Sumatra, and whose settlement is of about six centuries date, is greatly superior to these in point of civilization, probably in their way as superior as the French and English are to the Laplanders. They may be stated to form at present seven or even eight states, or principalities, of each of which the following is a brief notice.

The furthest to the North on the South Western coast is Queda. The principality of Queda is about 100 geographical mile in length from North to South. Its breadth is unequal and every where inconsiderable for the utmost width of this portion of the Peninsula itself is but 100 miles, and this it divides every where with Patany, a chain of high mountains running North and South dividing the breadth of the Peninsula between them. The boundary to the North between Queda and Siam is Langgu in latitude 6° 50, and the boundary between it and Perak, Kurao, about the latitude of 50°. Besides the

territory on the main, several large islands belong to this state. The principal of these is Lang-kawi, which is 25 miles long, and which has a considerable share of culture and population. Trutao the next in size is 15 miles in length, and has a small population. The character of this territory in general is that of being extremely woody, marshy, and mountainous. From Langgu to Kurao inclusive, for both these give names to rivers, there are counted not less than six and thirty streams. Six of these are of very considerable size, and of use both to commerce and agriculture. In the range of mountains in the interior there are many of great height, and Jarai, a detached mountain near the Western coast is supposed to be 6000 feet high. Although the country is little cultivated it does not seem to be destitute of fertility, and its capacity of production is satisfactorily shewn in its power of supplying the principal consumption of Penang now superior in amount to the whole of its own original population. The country before the late Siamese invasion was supposed to contain from 40 to 60,000 inhabitants, divided into 105 petty parishes originally of 44 families each, having a parish mosque. If we can rely upon the information of Commodore Beaulieu who visited this country in 1625, it must have contained seven years before his visit a population of 60,000 souls, for he tells us that an epidemic which raged about that time carried off 40,000 or two thirds of the whole number. Against this opinion however it ought to be observed that at whatever period it was divided into Mokins and families as now, it could not have contained more than one half its present population which is the number that 106 Mokins of 44 families each would give allowing 5 inhabitants to each family.

The indigenous inhabitants of the territory of Queda consists of four

classes, namely — Malays — Samsams — Siamese and Samangs, but chiefly of the two former. By Samsams are meant people of the Siamese race who have adopted the Mahomedan religion, and who speak a language which is a mixed jargon of the languages of the two people. The revenue of the petty chief of this country amounted before the Siamese occupation to about 42,000 dollars a year. The country from the earliest knowledge of Europeans has been a tributary or vassal state of Siam, and besides contributing in war to the assistance of the paramount state in men, arms, and provisions by immemorial usage the king of Queda sends to Siam in common with other Malayan Princes, a triennial token of submission in the form of a little tree of gold which hence comes to be applied by the Malays of those parts to any tribute whatever. About the beginning of the 17th century Queda was conquered by Achin, which held it for some years in a state of temporary vassalage. Three years ago it was overrun and subdued by the Siamese who still hold possession of it. It is hardly necessary to mention that P. W. Island with a narrow strip of territory on the opposite shore formed portions of this principality. Of these we shall say nothing at present as we may have another opportunity of describing them at large. The principal Town of this principality called also Queda or more correctly Kadah, is in the Lat. of $6^{\circ} 5'$ North on the right bank and near the mouth of an inconsiderable river. The place has a small brick fort. A few miles further up the stream is Aluster, a more populous place, and a favorite residence of the Princes.

Perak the next state to Queda to the South extends about 75 miles along the coast, and in breadth divides the widest part of the Peninsula with Tringanu. It contains

105 mokims or pretty parishes, and is said to contain as considerable a population as that of Queda, if not a greater one, Perak contains the most productive Tin mines of any part of the Western Peninsula yielding it is believed not less than 3000 piculs annually. Perak had been for at least a century and a half under the commercial control of the Dutch, who had a Factory at the Town, and at one time a small fort on the fine harbour formed between the Dinding Islands and the main. This last place of which the ruins still exist is well described by the great navigator Dampier in his usual naive and graphic manner. Perak like Queda is a tributary of Siam, and proving refractory about five years ago, was reduced to obedience through the instrumentality of the latter. The Town is situated a considerable way up one of the largest and most navigable rivers of the Peninsula.

The principality of Salengore, correctly Salangor, comes next to Perak, the boundary between them being in the Latitude of 3° 50'. It extends about 120 miles along the shore, and inland is separated by mountains from Tringano and Pahang. This is the least considerable of the Malayan states in resources and population, but has lately begun to attract some local interest in this quarter from the fertile tin mines which have been recently opened within it. These which are worked by Chinese are situated at two places called Lukut and Kalang not far to the north of Cape Rachado, and close upon the Dutch now the British frontier. Their annual produce is said to be 3000 piculs. The Government of Salangore for the last half century at least has been in the hands of a colony of Bugis from Celebes, but the mass of the population is Malayan. Of all the Malayan states on the Peninsula, it labours under the heaviest Mala Fama on the score

of Piracy — man-stealing, man-slaughter and similar Peccadillos of the code of Malayan morals.—*Singapore Chronicle, March 17.*

OFFICIAL.

Political Department, May 13, 1825.

The following Copy of a Despatch from Brigadier General Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, K. C. B. and K. C. T. S. is published for general information.

To GEORGE SWINTON, Esq.
*Secretary to the Government in the
Secret and Political Department,
&c. &c. &c.*

SIR,

I had the honor of addressing you on the 2d Instant from Donabew, announcing the occupation of that important place by the troops under my command.

It being of the utmost importance that I should again appear on my former line of march on the Eastern bank of the Irrawaddy; left Donabew on the night of the 3d, and arrived with an advanced guard, consisting of H. M.'s 38th and 47th Regiments, opposite to this place, on the 7th Instant, and by the exertions of the Boats of His Majesty's Navy under Lieutenant Smith of His Majesty's Ship Alligator, sent on by Captain Alexander to superintend the passage of the river, I had these two Corps crossed over to Sarawah. In the course of the day the rest of the force has since been arriving and crossing in succession, and I trust by the day after to-morrow the whole will be over.

The Enemy's late large force stationed at Donabew, continues dispersing in small bands all over the Country; the death of Maha Bundoola, as already stated, appears by the concurring testimony of the flying enemy, and local authorities most fully confirmed. Notwithstanding the severe duties the force has lately had to perform, its state of health, I am hap-