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ASIATIC JOURNAL

AND

MONTHLY REGISTER

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VOL. VI.

FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 1818.

LONDON :

**PRINTED FOR BLACK, KINGSBURY, PARBURY, & ALLEN,
BOOKSELLERS TO THE HONOURABLE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,
LEADENHALL STREET.**

1818.

1809.—Windham, 800.

1813.—Portuguese, 503; Asia Felix, 350.

1814.—Bon Success, 450; Lovely Tish, 300.

1815.—Glorioso, 500; Two Portuguese, 1000. Prime, 300; Hamooyan, Shah, 670.

1816.—Two Portuguese, 1200.

1817.—Principio Regent, 700.

1818.—Two Portuguese, 1200; 1 Brig., 180.

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PALLEE, or SURRUSGHUR.

Previous to its reduction by the British on the 8th of February 1818, Pallee or Surrusghur, the *fort of excellence*, was deemed by all the natives of the southern Concan as impregnable. It never was taken before, and was built by Sewajee, the founder of the Mahratta empire. The fort is erected near the top of an insulated mountain about one thousand five hundred feet high, situated south east of the Nagootana river. The summit of the hill consists of an oblong and almost perpendicular mass of rock, of considerable height and extent, at the foot of which is a level but narrow space all round, and on the outer edge has been erected a strong wall, flanked by towers, which constitutes the fort. It is inaccessible on all sides but the north, in which face is a gateway, the road to which is rugged and precipitous. The fort contains abundance of water in excavations, and there are also casemates for the accommodation of the garrison, and to protect stores and provisions.

The field force under Col. Prother was at Pallee on the 6th Feb.; on the 7th every thing was arranged for its attack, the battery laid down, and stores in progress up a steep ascent of nearly a mile. At sunrise on the 8th, the fire opened against the fort from a ten inch, two eight inch mortars, and a five and half inch howitzer. The practice was so excellent that in two hours the hill and houses in the fort were in a blaze, when the enemy held out a flag and surrendered at discretion. On entering the fort, the natives said that the shells followed them all over the fort, wherever they meant to hide themselves the shot was certain to approach them.

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PEDIER, and ACHEEN.

Account of the Coast of Pedier and Acheen, from personal Observation.

The coast of Pedier extends about one hundred and twenty leagues, in an E. S. E. direction from Point Pedro, the N. W. extremity of Sumatra, to Diamond Point, the N. E. extreme. The whole of this coast affords safe anchorage during all times of the year; and appears to have received its name from Pedier village, which was the principal port of trade in the first voyages of the Portuguese and English, and was then dignified with the name of city.

At present it consists of a pretty large village, of neat and comfortable huts, built on the banks of the river, about half a mile from its mouth; the huts are all raised on stakes about three feet from the ground. The Rajah's house is surrounded with a stockade, of about an English acre, in which are likewise the houses of his women and ministers; a large open bungalow at the entrance, serves for the transaction of public business; the town consists of one long street, or bazar, with a few smaller ones. The mosques, of which there are three, are also thatched buildings. This description of the town will serve for all those on the coast, not excepting Acheen, the size of whose stockade makes the only difference.

The rivers of this coast are small, with very bad bars; they admit at high water vessels of thirty or forty tons, and are not navigable for boats more than five or six miles from their entrance; at low water a ship's jolly boat cannot get over the bar. Most of the rivers on the coast, about twenty in number, are fresh water ones; some few are salt water, amongst the salt water ones is that of Bouron; the branch that leads to Gingea runs parallel to the beach for a mile and a half. In all these rivers the flood tide is scarce perceived at a mile from the entrance, and during the rainy season they are very rapid.

There are about fourteen places of trade on this coast; the principal ones of resort are Pedier, Bouron, and Tulosamaway. The King of Acheen has taken up his residence here since 1808. A considerable trade is carried on with

Prince of Wales's Island, both by means of their press and of English coasting vessels. Many Chulias* from the Coromandel coast, chiefly from Nagore, make an annual voyage with cloths, salt, &c. There comes a small vessel from Surat or Bombay, with about two hundred bales of cotton. Those from Prince of Wales's Island bring them opium, iron, fire-arms, gunpowder, and many other necessary articles.

The chief articles of produce are beentnut and rice, and a small quantity of pepper. A few catties of gold are collected from the beds of the rivers, and brimstone and camphor are sometimes to be bought.

Fruits and refreshments of all kinds are in the greatest plenty; fish is abundant.

The appearance of this coast is extremely beautiful; the hills in some places being very near the sea, and in other places receding to the distance of twenty or more miles. The low land near the sea is planted with groves of cocoa-nut and other trees; amongst which are the ara, or wild pine; it grows high, and is in shape like a beautiful cypress. This coast being exposed to the N. E. monsoon has a surf, which sometimes runs very high on its sandy beach.

The whole extent is reckoned very healthy; the air pure, from the frequency of showers and thunder; an evening seldom passes without a slight squall from the land, especially in the S. W. monsoon. The soil is in general dry, and the vicinity of their towns well cleared from trees; the mornings are the most delightful that can be imagined, the atmosphere is so clear and serene. The sea breeze sets in, after a short interval of calm, about ten o'clock; it continues until the evening, when the land breeze comes off.

The whole is tributary to the King of Acheen: and formerly the chiefs used to repair annually to Acheen, and renew their oath of allegiance; but for these last thirty years the king has not been powerful enough to enforce the payment of a small tribute; the consequence of

* The Mahomedans of the coast of Coromandel, from Port Calamere as far as Pondicherry, retain the appellation of Chulias, which signifies southern people.

which has been a perpetual warfare of the desultory kind, the chiefs now promising the payment of the tribute, and in a few days or weeks again retracting. As it is divided from the territory of Acheen by high and inaccessible mountains, the war has been chiefly carried on by sea, and confined to the capture of all trading vessels, and a blockade of the coast; but whenever a descent was made, the Acheens have been always worsted.

To trace the causes of these discontents we must give a small account of the kingdom of Acheen. Mr. Marsden's history breaks off in 1704; from which time till Acheen was visited by Forrest, in 1764, it has been gradually dwindling away to its present insignificance.

About the year 1784, *Allankdeen*, the son of Mahomet Selim, returned to his country, from which he had been absent for ten years; he had embarked from Acheen in the year 1774, in a ship belonging to his father, with the intention of performing the pilgrimage to Mecca; but stopping at the Isle of France on his way, he was so much pleased with the novelty of what he saw, that he gave up his proposed pilgrimage, and resided *is-cog.* at the Mauritius for many years; it was even said that he served in their military as a private sepoy.

On his return he found his father dead, and the kingdom governed by a cabal of the Orang-Kayas; he however established himself by means of his father's guard of about three hundred sepoys, and a few renegado Europeans, English, Dutch, and Portuguese, some African slaves, and Chulias from Porto Novo and Nagore.

From 1784 to 1790, the coast of Pedier may be considered to have been in a state of blockade; and his establishment, both military and marine, consisted of foreigners.

The military were three hundred sepoys commanded by a soubahdar, who came originally from Tranquebar; they were kept up chiefly by desertions from ships; and some natives of Bengal were said to have been carried there as slaves.

The marine consisted of three ships of from three to five hundred tons, and twelve or fifteen brigs and snows; the commodore, whose name was Huet, was a Dutchman, and had his broad pendant on board a very fine grab; an Englishman

of the name of Lyall commanded one of the other ships.

This fleet used to sweep the coast of Pedier, capturing and sinking their proas, and murdering or mutilating their prisoners. The stories related of the cruelties committed by this fleet are horrid and scarcely credible.

In 1786, the king appeared to be about forty years of age, of a middle size, but emaciated. He was surrounded by foreigners. The Shahbunder, Nakodah Posalee, was an Orang Dangan,* the son of a Malabar, by a woman of the country; the interpreter a native of Tuuls, an old man of sixty or seventy; his son Abdullah performed the office for his father. The king was familiar rather than affable, talked Malay and a little French, spoke of king James, and said that Acheen was once a powerful kingdom, but what could he do....

If it was ever a powerful kingdom no trace remains of it, no remains of public buildings; every thing has given way to an assemblage of mat-houses and huts, chiefly inhabited by petty shopkeepers, hushandmen, and fishers.

The trade is carried on for the king's account by foreigners: his revenues are next to nothing, and the presence of his fleet is always requisite to collect them; his ships are so ill paid, that many of the captains have carried off his ships, and sold them to pay themselves and crew.

The rajahs of Pedier, from having connection with the family of Mahomet Selim, have always been friends with the king of Acheen; and this alliance has been farther cemented by a marriage in 1810 of the king with a sister of the Rajah of Pedier.

The present king is forced to collect his revenues in the same manner as his predecessor. He is surrounded with European and other renegadoes, with whom he is said to live a very dissipated life; bedresses in the Portuguese style; and frequently gets drunk, so that we may look

* The descendants of the Chalias are stiled Orang Dangan, and since the chicanery of the Chalias to the serocity of the Malaya, and have frequently instigated the cutting off of European ships. Hassan of Quedah was strongly suspected of having some hand in cutting off Capt. Cassan in 1788; and his namesake at Pedier, and Hakim of the Laboo, have been accused of the same thing.

in vain for reformation from him. He has within this four years removed from Acheen to Tolosamaway, a town near the N.E. end of the island, which has a good bay and convenient anchorage, where he now resides.

The west coast, as far as Sinkell, is tributary to him, including the ports of Soosoo, Labouajee and Na Laboo; but he is forced to send or go with his fleet to collect the revenues, which consist of four per cent. on all exports, and a voluntary contribution of rice, in all amounting to about one million of dollars annually. The only part of his subjects that are able to pay any taxes are those on the coast, for it does not appear that there are any inland towns of note.

The oldest son of the old Rajah of Pedier was stiled Tuncoo Lout, lord of the sea.

It has been already stated that the coast receives its name from the town.

Next to Acheen the port of Pedier is the principal: it was avoided by English ships for many years on account of the ferocious character of its Rajah, the grandfather of the present one, who was said to be the principal actor in cutting off the ship Floyer, in 1784, at Telosamaway; after the old man's death, it became resorted to as usual. Besides Pedier, the trading towns on the coast, each of which has its own independent chief, are as follows; commencing from Point Pedro and proceeding eastward:

	Fishing Proas.	Trading Proas.	Canoes.
Batoa,	11	5	23
Bengala,	7	7	46
Pedier,	23	20	52
Chilaw,	12	10	30
Gingeea,	18	25	40
Ire Laboo,	9	10	50
Sawhon,	7	2	18
Durian Gadec,	7	2	20
Murdoo,	29	10	55
Sambelangan,	10	8	30
Jonga,	5	4	25
Passangan,	14	10	50
Telosamaway,	40	50	110
Passair,	6	10	35
	198	173	578

The towns are all situated on the banks of rivers. The inhabitants speak the

Acheen language, and are all orthodox Mahomedans, so strict that a dissenter cannot settle among them; a number of Seyds continue to reside, and combine the office of priest with that of merchant. Many people from Nagore also intermarry and reside, their progeny are known by the name of Orang Dangan; these people are in general employed by the different Rajahs as writers, accountants, &c.

The mountain and Pagan tribes sometimes make incursions. The coast only is inhabited by the Mahomedans, who have the character of being very treacherous and revengeful; it is certain that they have seized many ships, and killed all the Europeans belonging to them, yet whether sufficient cause was not given them to commit such acts has never been enquired into. They always go armed, are high spirited, and extremely tenacious of their honor; and as they have means at hand, an injury or insult is always resented on the spot.

For a nation who have had such constant intercourse with Europeans, it is surprising how little they are versed in the arts of civilized life.

Of the mechanic arts, that of boat-building is the one that gives most employment; every town has its little establishment of twenty or thirty boat-builders, a blacksmith, several goldsmiths, and a coffin-maker.

They manufacture cloth of silk and cotton, which is very durable, and used by themselves both as lunges and drawers; it is in general striped. Filagree-work and embroidering likewise employ a number of hands. Mats of all kinds are also made in great perfection, of rush, which are either plain or stained.

The laws, except some local ones, are the Mahomedan; petty disputes are settled by a Panchat, of whom the Rajah is always one; few crimes are committed or punished except that of rebellion, and then the criminal is beheaded. In case of murder, the families have liberty to settle the matter between them; the assassin in general flies; his family either pay a heavy

fine, or engage to deliver him up. They have no prisons or places of confinement. To punish rebellion, the whole family being considered criminal, suffers, and summary justice is inflicted on the spot.

To return to the present state of Acheen, the king has still a fleet; but it appears that he has been driven from Tulosamaw by the son of Seyed Hossien, of Prince of Wales's Island; and we understand he lives entirely on board his fleet, proceeding from place to place for the purpose of collecting his revenues. A year or two ago his chief adviser was an Englishman of the name of Fenwick, a man of desperate fortunes, and who is lately deceased.

If however the English establish a factory at Acheen, and assist the king to retrieve his character, and punish his rebellious subjects, we may still live to see this fine country flourish; it has many advantages for trade, a large extent of sea coast that can be safely approached at all seasons, numerous boats and a number of coasting vessels. Ten thousand tons of beetlenut, and as many of rice, are sometimes exported in one year from this coast, and as many tons of pepper from the west coast.

The present Rajah of Pedier is a stout active young man of about thirty years of age; transacts and attends to business himself, talks Portuguese and Moors pretty tolerably; but like his brother-in-law of Acheen, disgusts his subjects by the encouragement he gives to low Chaulas and other vagabonds. In 1812 he had a buffoon in his pay, who had formerly been a common Lascar in a country ship, with whom he was on the most familiar terms. He has hitherto adhered to his contracts, and is rather popular with the traders who visit the coast. He has a seal with some flourishing titles which he is fond of exhibiting on all occasions; he styles the king of Acheen* always "Sultan," and declares that he pays his quota of revenue faithfully.—(Bombay, April 8.)

* There is a report that the present king of Acheen has served as a Lascar on board the Fortune country ship, Capt. Bonthain, but I believe it to be unfounded.