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ART. VI.—1. *Dictionary of the Indian Islands.* By John Crawfurd, F.R.G.S. London, 1859.
2. *Java; or, How to manage a Colony.* By J. W. B. Money, Barrister-at-Law. London, 1861.
3. *The Indian Archipelago: its History and Present State.* By Horace St. John.
4. *Report of Her Majesty's Secretaries of Legation, No.* 4. Presented to both Houses of Parliament. 1861.
5. *A Visit to the Philippine Islands.* By Sir John Bowring, LL.D., F.R.S., late Governor of Hong Kong, H. B. M. Plenipotentiary in China, &c. London, 1859.
6. *The Singapore Free Press.*

A FEW years ago great interest was felt in the Indian Archipelago as the theatre of a very remarkable enterprise. A private individual had formed the strange, and, it was thought, the chimerical project of establishing an ascendency in a portion of the largest island of the Indian Seas, for the purpose of effecting a radical change in the pursuits of an aboriginal race, reclaiming it from piracy, and instructing it how to acquire property with less effort than was required to wrest it from others. Sir James Brooke, the Rajah of Sarawak, if he has not yet fully accomplished all that his philanthropic scheme embraced, has made considerable progress in the noble work to which he addressed himself. He has planted the germ of European civilization in the least known island in the world, accustomed a portion of its people to a steady dispensation of justice, and made the name of England respected among fierce and lawless races.

The Portuguese, the Dutch, the Spanish, and the English governments have all possessed at different times important trading establishments in this archipelago of freebooters. Several considerable islands have long been in their possession, and the seats of settled government. Java has attained a high but peculiar civilization. Sumatra has not yet felt the influence of European intercourse, except on a small portion of its coasts. Of the interior of Borneo, scarcely anything is known; but there have long been important settlements on its shores. The group of the Philippines, exhibiting many interesting features, has received the civilization of that great power of the sixteenth century which, planting a foot in either hemisphere, bestrode the world like a colossus. The Moluccas, the almost fabled land of spices, still own the sway of a remote nation of merchants; while Great Britain, hitherto diverted by her vast enterprises in continental India, and perhaps disdaining the comparatively

comparatively insignificant temptations presented by the islands of the intertropical seas, has, by her settlement at Singapore, by the generous encouragement which, on the first achievement of his great successes, she afforded to the Rajah of Sarawak, and recently by her occupation of Labuan, evinced a determination to extend her commercial and political relations into regions which have been hitherto considered the appanage of a small European power, to whose influence they have been almost exclusively left.

We propose to take a survey of the present condition of the principal islands of the Eastern Archipelago, their productions, commerce, and governments, believing that their importance will from year to year become more highly appreciated, and that they are rapidly acquiring a value in European estimation far greater than they have hitherto possessed.

The Eastern Archipelago extends over a space of more than 8000 miles, and consists of an immense labyrinth of islands, among which are at least twenty countries of considerable size, and one which nearly equals Europe in extent. This cluster of islands and islets, scattered in irregular profusion over the Southern Ocean, is supposed by some geologists to consist of the fragments of a vast continent which has been broken up by some mighty convulsion of nature in ages far beyond the historical era; but whether it is composed of the *débris* of a former continent, or whether a multitude of islands have arisen slowly from the deep, is a problem which no one has yet satisfactorily solved. Commencing at the further extremity of the Bay of Bengal, this wonderful archipelago stretches eastward far into the Pacific, through 50 degrees of longitude, while in breadth it extends through 31 degrees of latitude. It comprises islands, and groups of islands, inhabited by races differing widely in character. It is not exposed to the extremes of heat. The air is cooled by constant currents; and the monsoons, in their regular recurrence, purify the atmosphere, and disperse the pestilential miasma generated by a fierce sun in forests and swamps which remain in a state of primitive nature. Abundant rains fertilize the soils, and produce a magnificence of vegetation which no country but Brazil can rival; and it has been, and still to some extent continues, the theatre of prodigious volcanic action, to which it owes much of its unrivalled beauty and fertility; for ashes and scoria, if they blast and destroy for a time the luxuriant tropical flora, afterwards constitute the basis, and become the cause, of a most exuberant vegetation. In Java there are forty-six volcanic peaks, twenty of which still occasionally emit vapour and flame.

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The whole archipelago, indeed, forms part of a great volcanic area extending into the very centre of Asia. These eruptive forces must have operated in remote ages with inconceivable violence, detaching masses of land from the continent, shattering islands into fragments, and throwing the whole into disorder. Of the fearful energy with which these subterranean forces have manifested themselves, even in modern times, the great eruption of Tomboro, in the island of Sumbawa, about 200 miles from the eastern extremity of Java, is a notable example. In 1815 this volcano, which had been for some time in a state of smouldering activity, burst forth with the most tremendous violence in the month of April, and did not cease to eject lava until July. The sound of the incessant explosions was heard in Sumatra, distant 970 geographical miles in a direct line; and at Ternate, in the opposite direction, at a distance of 720 miles. Out of a population of 12,000 in the province of Tomboro, only twenty-six individuals survived. On the side of Java, the ashes were carried to a distance of 300 miles, and 217 towards Celebes; and the floating cinders to the westward of Sumatra formed a mass two feet thick, and several miles in extent, through which ships with difficulty forced their way. The finest particles were transported to the islands of Amboyna and Banda, 800 miles east from the site of the volcano; and the area over which the volcanic effects extended was 1000 English miles in circumference, including the whole of the Molucca Islands, Java, and a considerable portion of Celebes, Sumatra, and Borneo.*

But what are the true boundaries of this great archipelago? Geographical science is somewhat arbitrary in its classification. Where is the line of demarcation to be drawn if there is none apparently traced by nature between the different groups ranging from Ceylon to New Guinea? For even Ceylon, it has been recently suggested, possesses far more affinity with the islands to the east than with the continent of which it would seem, from its position, to have once formed a part. Sir Emerson Tennent, in his admirable and exhaustive work on this beautiful island, considers it erroneous to regard it as a prolongation of the great Indian mountain-chain, although he admits that in its geological elements there is a similarity between the southern extremity of India and the elevated portions of Ceylon, while stating that there are many important particulars in which the specific differences are irreconcileable with the notion of any previous continuity. The flora and fauna of the island, it is said, suggest a distinction between it and the Indian continent. Without at present discussing this

* See Lyell's 'Principles of Geology,' ch. xv.

interesting

interesting subject, we may observe that the climatic conditions arising from the insular character of the country, and the consequent exposure to the influence of the sea, may go far to account for most of the specific differences between its flora and that of the continent of India; and that if it possesses some botanical affinities with islands of the further east, they may be accounted for by atmospherical influences. Thus the nutmeg and the mangostein, two plants peculiar to the Eastern Archipelago, have been introduced with singular success at Ceylon, while their cultivation has entirely failed in Bengal. The true cinnamon of Ceylon, again, is not a native plant of any island of the Asiatic archipelago; but most of the large islands produce a small species of little value, although Ceylon cinnamon has been cultivated with success in Java and in the British settlements in the Straits of Malacca. We must, therefore, reserve for future consideration Sir Emerson's theory that this island, separated from the Indian continent only by a narrow strait, ought to be regarded as the centre of a geographical circle, possessing within itself forms whose allied species radiate far into the temperate regions, as well as into Africa, Australia, and the isles of the Eastern Archipelago.

But, whatever may be its natural boundaries, the archipelago, if its islands were combined, would undoubtedly constitute a mass of land forming the Terra Australis which ancient geographers imagined to exist, and which they conceived necessary for the balance of the world. The Eastern Archipelago is, however, limited by modern geography to the boundaries before indicated; and if the disruptive forces in these regions have been formerly predominant, the creative and constructive power is now the most active. The zoophyte is adding silently and incessantly to the number of these island-groups; coral-reefs are constantly emerging from the waters; seeds, deposited by birds, or wafted by winds, quickly vegetate; verdure spreads over the waste; and palm-trees rise in tufted groves, as if by enchantment, from the ocean. The hidden but ever active energy of the coral-insect makes the navigation of the archipelago exceedingly difficult, for charts and soundings do not long form safe guides where an unseen power is always at work, reducing the depth of seas, and converting water into dry land.

The intercourse between continental Asia and the islands of the archipelago dates from a very remote period. Their rare products were in request in China and India long before they were heard of in Europe. Camphor and spices, two of the most esteemed productions of these islands, were used by the Chinese two thousand years ago; the one for diffusing an aromatic fragrance

grance through their temples, the other as indispensable condiments in their feasts. A Hindoo empire long flourished in Java, where many magnificent ruins still attest its duration and greatness. The Arabs subsequently gained a footing there, as well as in the other islands of the archipelago, and gradually supplanted the religion and governments of India. The Malays are now the dominant race, and they have reduced, where it was possible, the aboriginal population to slavery. The Malay kingdoms have generally perished; but the Malay people remain, and constitute the most energetic portion of the inhabitants, possessing virtues which, developed by a firm and beneficent government, might raise them high in the scale of civilization.

Although the piratical system has received a severe check, and may be considered as destroyed in some of its former haunts, it is still in full operation elsewhere. On the north-west coast of Borneo, the Dayaks have been reduced to order, but the Malays in other parts of the archipelago still carry on their depredations: much, therefore, remains to be done before the seas are completely cleared of these lawless freebooters. The Malay pirates have had their apologists in England;* and an outrageous system of robbery on the high seas was assumed to be only a war of tribes, originating in an imperfect civilization. Although their power has been broken, and their numbers have been considerably diminished, their deeds fill so large a space in the modern history of the archipelago that we shall concisely describe them and their system.

Piracy seems to be the normal condition of a people in a certain state of civilization, inhabiting islands or the indented coasts of maritime countries. The Archipelago of Greece swarmed with pirates when Rome was in the zenith of her power; and it required all the energy and ability of Pompey to exterminate the hordes which had become the nuisance of the civilized world. The career of some of those remote ancestors on whose blood we pride ourselves in England, would not, we fear, bear a very rigorous scrutiny. The Mediterranean in modern days has exhibited a piratical power, with which regular governments held a quasi-diplomatic intercourse, and to which they even paid a species of black-mail. The Malay pirates exist under somewhat similar circumstances, and are exposed to the same temptations as the vikings of Europe when they issued from creeks and bays to prey upon defenceless traders, sack peaceful villages, and even considerable towns. The Malays

* Our readers will remember the persevering parliamentary attacks upon Sir James Brooke in reference to this subject, and the denunciations of Exeter Hall.

do

do in their generation, in the nineteenth century, what these heroes of history did in the fifth.

To a needy and energetic people, with no higher law than force, and no recognised standard of morals, the temptation to piracy must be irresistible. The wealth of the world daily passes along their shores. Ships freighted with the commodities and luxuries of Europe and Asia are often becalmed in lagoons, or entangled in a labyrinth of shoals and islands, from which they can discover no escape. The natural character of the Malay adds force to other strong inducements to rob. Piracy is not merely a habit; it is a passion. The organisation of a community for this purpose is as formidable as it is complete. High up the stream of some beautiful river, presenting the most enchanting scenery, the banks exhibiting pictures of Arcadian simplicity and primitive innocence, are moored fleets of boats, waiting for the well-known signal to put to sea. The vessels are built to subserve the exact purpose for which they are intended: the largest are 100 feet in length, with a proportionate beam, carry a gun in the bow, swivels on each broadside, and are propelled by sixty or eighty slaves; others, drawing only a few inches of water, are designed to approach as swiftly as the swoop of a hawk, and to board some unsuspecting ship before her crew can make any preparation. The platforms of the larger prahus are crowded with men who, at the prospect of a fight, generally deck themselves in scarlet; and the spectacle is said then to be eminently military and imposing: the brass guns glitter on the bows, spears and double-handed swords gleam in the sun; the fighting men often appear resplendent in steel armour, and their courage is animated by the beating of drums and gongs. A defenceless trader has little hope of escape from such formidable enemies.

It is not the mere hope of plunder that inspires the Dayak of Borneo in his expeditions, but a singular passion has long prevailed for the possession of human heads. A Dayak is not considered an eligible suitor until he has presented his mistress with one; and the possessor of several is said to be readily distinguishable by his proud and lofty bearing. Heads are displayed in the most conspicuous parts of the houses, and might at first be supposed to be those of a long line of ancestors. One house, belonging to a Dayak chief, was found to be a perfect Golgotha, containing 500 human skulls, which had descended as heirlooms for generations. The origin of this singular passion is a belief that the persons whose heads are thus obtained will be the slaves of their possessor in a future state; they have become even

even articles of commerce, prized in proportion to the dignity of their former owners; but the heads of women and children are as eagerly sought as those of men. Whole families are slaughtered for the human spoil; and such is the ferocious character that this horrible passion has impressed on some of the tribes, that a chief has been heard to declare that if any one of his people met his own father in a head-hunting expedition he would undoubtedly kill him.

That portion of the archipelago which has been the most vigilantly watched by the cruisers of civilised governments has been nearly cleared of piratical prahus; but among the multitude of small islands, and in several rivers, they still swarm, and inflict serious injury on commerce. As the crews are generally massacred, nothing is ever heard of these vessels, and their loss is probably often attributed to shipwreck when they have been pillaged and burned by the pirates of the Eastern Seas. The gradual introduction of trade will prove the most effectual measure of suppression, and its influence in Sarawak in changing the character of the people is most encouraging and satisfactory. The piratical system of the archipelago might now be easily crushed. Officers of Sarawak, well acquainted with the habits, language, and haunts of these people, could point out the proper localities for operations and direct the appropriate punishment. The vigilance of the Rajah of Sarawak is necessarily confined to his own coasts. A fleet of ten formidable piratical prahus still pays an annual visit to these waters, but prudently avoids an encounter with the forces of the English Rajah, and passes on to prey upon the commerce of the neighbouring seas and the Dutch settlements in their vicinity; but it is said that Sir James Brooke's representative is about to look out for their next annual visit, and that he fully expects to give a good account of them.

The Governments of Holland, Spain, and Great Britain, all of whom have important interests at stake, have of late directed much of their attention to these countries. The interest of England is confined to the development of her trade; since, with the exception of the small island of Labuan, and of Singapore, she possesses no territory in the Indian Archipelago. In commercial importance, although not in size, the island of JAVA ranks first in the Oriental Archipelago. The country to which it bears the nearest resemblance in beauty of aspect is perhaps Italy, and it must always possess an interest for England, as she ruled it for six years. It received from her an improved revenue system; and an impulse was communicated to industry, which was beginning to produce great results, when, by the arrangements of the peace of 1815, the island was restored to

Holland. The name of Sir Stamford Raffles, its Governor, is still pronounced with reverence in Java by many who knew him in their youth. The area of Java is rather less than that of England and Wales, and its length is somewhat greater than that of England and Scotland. Its breadth varies from 56 to 136 miles: therefore no part of its interior is very distant from the sea. The population is rapidly increasing, and has doubled itself in twenty years. It is irregularly distributed, and more than half of the cultivable surface is uninhabited. The faith of the entire people is now Mahomedan.

Java is traversed from east to west by a chain of mountains, which are nearest to its southern shore. The island is probably of volcanic origin, the great Asiatic chain which extends down the Malay Peninsula terminating there. It possesses, like other volcanic countries, neither iron nor gold.* The fertility of its soil is extraordinary: the island is therefore eminently an agricultural one. The heat of the coasts is great, but frost is not uncommon on the mountains. The capital is unfavourably situated in the midst of a pestilential swamp; but the mortality, which is inevitable from its position, is probably compensated, in the opinion of the Dutch Government, by the difficulty of the approach and by its security. The flora of Java is varied and magnificent; but as few of the plants are deciduous, the country presents always nearly the same appearance, being clothed with a brilliant and unchanging verdure. The vegetation struck Sir Stamford Raffles when he first visited the island as 'fearful.' Mountains 10,000 feet high are cultivated half way to their summits. On the coasts palms and bananas conceal the marshes and jungles from which they spring. Rising gradually, the country then assumes a more varied surface, and at the height of 1000 feet, ferns preponderate with a thick growth of bamboo. To these succeed forests of tall and spreading fig-trees; ferns then increase in size; orchideous plants of rare beauty are intermingled with the exuberant vegetation, and fig-trees are succeeded by the oak and the laurel. In the region above, the trees are dwarfed, their tropical character disappears, and heaths and coniferæ, with cryptogamous plants, abound. The ferns then become diminutive, and mosses and lichens denote an almost alpine temperature. With a range of climate between the tropical and the temperate zones, Java produces all the fruits and cereals of Europe and Asia. The vegetable wealth of the island is therefore immense. Six zones exist, each of which yields in rich abundance its peculiar productions. Rice, maize, cotton, coffee, sugar, tobacco, indigo,

* A little iron has been discovered, but so diffused in the soil that it is useless.

pepper,

pepper, the cocoa-nut, bread-fruit, sago, wheat, the potato, and almost every other European vegetable thrive luxuriantly. Fruits of exquisite flavour abound, and flowers of unimaginable beauty load the atmosphere with perfume.

> 'Whatever fruits in different climes are found,
> That proudly rise or humbly court the ground;
> Whatever blooms in torrid zones appear,
> Whose bright succession decks the varied year;
> Whatever sweets salute the northern sky,
> With vernal lives that blossom but to die:
> These, here disporting, own the kindred soil,
> Nor ask luxuriance from the planter's toil;
> While sea-borne gales their gentle wings expand,
> To scatter fragrance round the smiling land.'

The Dutch first formed a settlement in Java in 1611. The progress of their ascendency has resembled that of other nations placed under similar circumstances. European influence was at first opposed, then gradually and firmly established, and native kingdoms were ultimately converted into subordinate and dependent states. The native government was an hereditary despotism, and the sovereign was addressed in the highest style of Oriental flattery. He became, under the rule of the old Netherlands East India Company, as mere a shadow of royalty as the Great Mogul. The court of the nominal prince was permitted to retain its national customs; and the royal palace, although lying immediately under the guns of a small Dutch fort, was denominated the habitation of the Sun.

The Dutch East Indies were for two hundred years administered by a company of merchants, subject to the control of the States-General. There was therefore a considerable resemblance between the Dutch and English East India Companies in their constitution and privileges; but here the likeness ends—the one, degraded and impoverished, terminated a disreputable career in bankruptcy and ruin; the other, full of honours, succumbed only to the altered commercial policy of the age, after having extended its dominion to the farthest regions of India.

The injurious effect of the ancient Dutch commercial system was nowhere more marked than in Java. An island proverbial for its fertility became impoverished, the cities decayed, and the jungle, which in many places native rulers had cleared and cultivated, again spread itself over the plains. The short-sighted policy of looking to immediate profit instead of to ultimate wealth produced its natural result. When Holland succumbed to the yoke of revolutionary France, Java necessarily fell with it. Napoleon

probably attached little value to the acquisition, regarding it at first only as a dilapidated possession of an old spendthrift corporation. In one point of view, however, it appeared to him of great importance. It might be made a base of operations for his meditated conquest of the British possessions in the East. These intentions were anticipated by the capture of the island in 1811, and Java, for three hundred years the seat of Dutch empire in the Eastern Archipelago, became a British dependency. A reversal of the old policy ensued. The rights of British subjects were guaranteed to the population, freedom of trade was established, torture and mutilation, which had been occasionally resorted to by the Dutch Government or their agents, were abolished, and the penal law of England was introduced. The administration of Sir Stamford Raffles was worthy of the character of his country. The system of forced deliveries of produce was abolished as unjust. Oppressive burthens were taken off, and a moderate land-tax was substituted. A desire for improvement was immediately manifested by the natives, and a complete revolution was effected in their disposition. The revenue greatly increased, and at the same time prosperity and contentment were universal. The country was ruled in accordance with its ancient customs and institutions, and, except to defend it from foreign aggression, there could have been no necessity for retaining a single British regiment in the island.

The Dutch shook off the French yoke, and became again a nation. The Netherlands were reconstituted as a limited monarchy; and by the Treaty of London in 1814, all the transmarine possessions of Holland which had been captured by England were restored, except the Cape of Good Hope. As the British Governor had reversed the system of the Dutch, the Dutch now reversed the system of the English, and a country which had enjoyed the most perfect tranquillity became at once agitated over its whole extent by political and agrarian discontent, the prelude to that general insurrection which broke out with such disastrous violence in 1825.

The conduct of Holland to England after the restoration of her Eastern colonies was abominable. They were no sooner regained than it became a primary object of the Dutch Government to obliterate every trace of the British rule. It grasped at the undivided sovereignty of the archipelago, deposed the Sultan whom we had placed on the throne of Java, laid claim to territories to which it had no right, opposed the formation of a settlement for affording aid and refreshment to British ships, and was obviously bent upon re-establishing its old commercial monopoly. With that intention, it possessed itself of the only two channels

channels by which ships could pass into the archipelago and the China Seas—the Straits of Sunda and Malacca. These measures might have inflicted irreparable injury upon the trade of England if Sir Stamford Raffles had not fortunately established, almost on his own responsibility, the free port of Singapore.

Holland, as a state of any European consequence, now depends upon the maintenance of its empire in the Eastern Archipelago. The system on which it relies for augmenting its revenue has been very carefully described in the work of Mr. Money. It certainly presents a remarkable picture of successful administration, wherein the Dutch Government fills the several characters of a landowner, cultivator, trader, and ruler. By means of those offices combined it has made Java the chief source of the present financial prosperity of the Netherlands, and has derived from it the means for paying off a large portion of the national debt, providing compensation to the holders of slaves in the West Indies, and expending ten millions of florins annually upon railroads. On the restoration of Java to its old masters, trade had flowed into new channels, and the land-tax was the only existing substitute for the old Dutch monopolies. The government is considered the supreme lord and absolute proprietor of the soil. The ancient rent of land was one-fifth of the produce, and one-fifth of the labour of the occupier of the soil. A system denominated the culture-system was introduced in 1830. It may be briefly described as a return to the old plan of forced deliveries of agricultural produce, combined with compulsory labour. Under this arrangement a portion of the land-tax is remitted, and some of the best land, together with the labour of its peasantry, is appropriated to the cultivation of produce deemed peculiarly fitted for the European market. The profits are divided between the grower, the manufacturer, and the Government. Into the complicated details of this system it is impossible here to enter. It rests upon the supposed sovereign right of disposing of the labour of the natives, and upon their obligation to cede one-fifth of the produce of their occupied land to the government. The labour of the people, although compulsory, is not, however, entirely without remuneration. Sugar, indigo, cochineal, tea, tobacco, coffee, cinnamon, and pepper, are raised by native labour, with or without the intervention of a European contractor. The Government thus receives from the crown-lands from 60,000 to 70,000 tons of coffee, with large quantities of other valuable produce; the whole of which is consigned to Holland for sale.

The financial result of this system is highly satisfactory to the Government of the Netherlands. The gross revenue from Java has risen

risen from a former average of 24,000,000 of florins to 115,000,000. In 1859 it amounted to nearly 10,000,000*l.* sterling, and has been and is still steadily on the increase. The sum annually expended by the Government in works of reproductive industry averages about 2,000,000*l.*, and is analogous to the judicious outlay of a landlord upon his estates. Whether this mode of 'managing a colony' is consistent with the higher functions of government may be questioned, although the material interests of the people have been considerably benefited by it. The Government believes that Java presents a field of almost indefinite financial prosperity, and is destined to restore to an old and decayed state a portion of its former commercial and political greatness. But although it may have conferred present prosperity on Java, and so far benefited its people, the avowed policy of the Dutch Government is not to elevate the native race, but to keep them in a state of moral and intellectual bondage as a cheap and easy method of maintaining its supremacy.

Java is the entrepôt of the commerce of the Netherlands in India. Private trade between Holland and Java is now unrestricted. The Netherlands Trading Company is employed only as the agent of Government, and possesses the exclusive privilege of carrying the produce of the crown-lands to Europe. The merely mercantile aspect in which alone Holland regards her fine dependency is certainly not consistent with our notions of government; and it may be doubted whether, if the State were to give up to private industry the vast estate which it now manages with so much skill and success, and apply itself to its more legitimate functions, even the financial success would not ultimately be as great as any that has hitherto been realised by an opposite system.

England possesses a considerable interest in the trade with Java. The value of the goods imported into Java from the Netherlands, Great Britain, and France, in 1859, was as follows:—

From the Netherlands	13,936,298	florins.
„ Great Britain	9,494,258	„
„ France	459,079	„

There was exported direct from Java, in goods and specie:—

To the Netherlands	77,071,076	florins.
„ Great Britain	771,013	„
„ France	2,648,851	„

The returns from Java to England appear inconsiderable; but the portion of the produce of Java due to England is first conveyed to Europe in Dutch vessels and is afterwards exported from

from Holland. Much produce also finds its way to Singapore, and adds to the returns from that thriving settlement. Indeed, the larger portion of the trade of the archipelago is carried on by native craft, which make Singapore their principal port. Thus the number of ships belonging to the Netherlands engaged in the archipelago trade amounted, in 1859, to 138, with a total burthen of 42,875 tons. Of all other European countries, the ships numbered only 20, with a total burthen of 14,313 tons; Australia possessed 43 ships, with 28,453 tons; while the native ships of the archipelago numbered 1755, with 90,580 tons. The Dutch administration of Java has its favourable aspects; but to make a distant people a source of mercantile profit by a system of forced labour and a studied disregard of their moral interests, is but a modification of slavery and a persistence in the nineteenth century in that exploded system which valued colonies only as subservient to the commercial aggrandisement of nations. The government of Java is carried on by native chiefs, termed Regents; but European officers, denominated Residents, have a controlling authority, and constitute, in effect, so many local centres of administration. The native aristocracy has thus been transformed into the salaried officers of government. The system is said to give satisfaction; the allowances of the native rulers being higher than those of the European Residents.

The great island of SUMATRA is, with the exception of Borneo, less known than any island in the Eastern Archipelago. A chain of mountains, as in Java, divides it longitudinally, running nearest to the western coast. It contains five active volcanoes. Three-fourths of the island, especially towards the south and east, are covered with impenetrable woods. Fifteen nations, speaking as many different languages, inhabit it, and six have made considerable progress in civilization. The Malays are here also, as in Java, the dominant race. The island, although three times the size, contains only one-fifteenth of the population of Java. There are plains and mountains of volcanic origin that rival in fertility the richest portions of Java; but many of the raised valleys of the country present a very different aspect. A recent Dutch writer has given a description of two of the great elevated plains or table-lands, which present a uniform scene of sterility, a horizon without bound of rank grass destitute of animal life and varied only by a few stunted trees; a scorching wind blows over them without intermission for months, and spontaneous fires wrap the country in a dull canopy of smoke through which the rays of the sun can scarcely penetrate. An area of 42,000 square miles on the eastern side is covered with a stupendous forest, probably older than the race of men that inhabit

habit or wander through it. Little, in truth, is known of the interior. The inhabitants chiefly live on extensive plains. Sumatra possesses European commercial settlements on its coast, but its chief interest consists in its having been for some time the seat of government for the British settlements in the archipelago. Sir Stamford Raffles, when Java was given up, was directed to make Bencoolen, on the south-western coast, his official residence; and those who are acquainted with the record of his useful and honourable life will remember the picture of happiness which has been drawn of his brief rule in Sumatra. No European had ever ventured beyond the range of the guns of the fort; but Sir Stamford Raffles fixed on a lofty station, twelve miles from the fort, and termed it the Mountain of Mist. One of the richest districts in the world lay below, and at a short distance the waves of the Indian Ocean were heard perpetually beating upon the rugged coast. He built a country-house, established himself in it with his family, and was surrounded by wild beasts, and by natives almost equally wild. In three years he had obtained a complete ascendency over the people, and was able to penetrate further into the interior than any European had ever before attempted. An ardent lover of natural history, he revelled in the abundance of the new flora and fauna with which he was surrounded. Three hundred years of European intercourse with the coasts of Sumatra have yielded but little knowledge of its interior, or of the character of its native races. That it abounds in the elements of wealth is certain, and many of its native manufactures are considerably advanced. The British settlement of Bencoolen was one of the first establishments formed by the East India Company in the archipelago. It was selected solely for the purpose of growing pepper. The expenses of the establishment were enormous, and the returns only a few tons yearly, obtained by compulsory labour. The British establishment in Sumatra was withdrawn in 1824, and the place relinquished to the Dutch in exchange for Malacca and the Straits settlements. Nothing shows more clearly the advanced state of native civilization in portions of Sumatra than the development of manufacturing industry the products of which have long been known in commerce. The workmanship in iron and steel is unsurpassed, and the kris or dagger-blades are famous throughout the archipelago. China silk is worked up into excellent fabrics, and the manufacture of cotton cloth was once extensive, but has been destroyed by the introduction of British goods from Singapore. The aversion of the native chiefs to the re-establishment of the Dutch power is said to have been very decidedly displayed; and so strong was the feeling of one of the principal native rulers,

rulers, that he offered his territory to the British Government if one-half of its revenue was reserved to him. England, by yielding the whole of Sumatra, undoubtedly sacrificed important interests, and resigned a prospect of service to civilization in a country which might then have had a great career. The Dutch have entered on a course of systematic territorial conquest, and claim a sovereignty over the whole. The financial prospects are said to be the reverse of satisfactory.

There is something which strongly excites the imagination when the island of BORNEO, divided into two nearly equal parts by the Equator, is contemplated, with its vast area and almost unknown people dwelling in a land of fertility unsurpassed probably in any other region of the earth, supplied with most of the useful and valuable metals, and provided with a hundred navigable rivers to transport the varied produce of their magnificent country to the sea. The interior is still hidden in almost impenetrable mystery. The existence of lofty ranges of mountains in the centre is undoubted; and in the north-west, as far as the country was penetrated by Mr. Spencer St. John, its first and only European explorer, in 1858,* the whole was found to be mountainous, each range becoming more lofty as he approached the interior, but presenting one uniform aspect of jungle covering hill and valley. From the summit of the great mountain Kina Balu, in the north-east of Borneo, 13,000 feet high, and when looking towards the interior in a southerly direction, Mr. St. John obtained a distant view of a mountain peak which he supposes to be very considerably higher than the one on which he stood, and to be situated very nearly in the centre of the island. The land on all sides gradually slopes towards the coast. Borneo may be said to bear the same relation to Eastern India that the continent of America has borne to Europe, being a region in which tribes inhabiting the remoter East have occasionally found a refuge from religious persecution and from the pressure of a superabundant population. Brazen images, ruins of temples, and other remains of Hindoo civilization, are still to be seen on the southern coast. The shores are inhabited by nations totally unconnected with each other. The west is occupied by Malays and Chinese, the north-west by the half-caste descendants of the Moors of Western India, the north by the Cochin-Chinese, the north-east by the Sulus, and the east and south coasts by

* A work of great interest on Borneo, entitled 'Life in the Forests of the Far East,' which we have been favoured with an opportunity of perusing, by this gentleman, late H.M. Consul-General for Borneo, and now British Chargé d'Affaires in the Republic of Hayti, is in the press.

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the Bugis tribes of Celebes. There are besides numerous tribes who live in prahus among the islands near the coast. The Dutch claim a territory exceeding 200,000 square miles; but all beyond a mere fringe of the coast was, until the recent exploration of a portion of the interior, absolutely unknown.

Balambangen, at the north-east side of Borneo, was once a possession of England, and from the extreme richness of that portion of the island it might have proved a settlement of great value, but it was relinquished to Holland in 1827. The west coast possessed a considerable commerce before the arrival of the Dutch in the archipelago, and fifteen large junks arrived annually from China laden with cloth and porcelain, and returned freighted with gold, diamonds, camphor, beeswax, edible birds'-nests, ebony, and fragrant woods. The trade must have been highly remunerative, for the passion for European and Asiatic manufactures now continues general: thus two China jars of no remarkable workmanship have been known to be exchanged by an American trader for produce worth 200*l.* sterling; and six cakes of beeswax, each a foot thick and three feet in diameter, were commonly given for a musket, which, like the powder supplied to the pirates from the United States, may be presumed to have been of a very harmless character. The Borneo gold is very pure, and is worked with considerable profit by the Chinese. Antimony ore abounds, and is obtained with facility. This mineral forms one of the chief sources of the revenue of the English Rajah of Sarawak. The diamonds of Borneo are small, but of a brilliant water: they have been hitherto chiefly found in districts occupied by the Chinese, but will probably be discovered in other localities. The equatorial position of Borneo and the character of its alluvial detritus afford a strong presumption that it is a country rich in gems. There is a tradition that a great diamond is in the possession of a petty chief, and that it is worth by weight 270,000*l.* Mr. St. John heard something of this wonderful diamond during his recent explorations, and was gravely informed that the prince who owned it would gladly bestow it on him if he would kill for him a rival chief and assist in a projected war. Few courts in Europe, Sir Stamford Raffles states, could boast of more brilliant diamonds than were displayed by the ladies of Batavia in its prosperous days. They were obtained doubtless at a small cost from Borneo.

The prevailing warmth and moisture of Borneo, acting upon its rich soil, have covered it with forest; but it is nevertheless a country which, if brought under cultivation like Java, would even exceed it in the abundance and variety of its productions. The planters of Java are so well aware of this, that they

they have desired to form settlements for sugar plantations, for which the soil is known to be better adapted than in Java; but the want of labour has been an insuperable obstacle, no Chinese being permitted to enter the country. It is believed to be capable of supporting at least a hundred millions of people, and possessed of every requisite for the sustenance of civilized man. Nine-tenths of it are as yet an untrodden wilderness, and the remainder is subject to petty chiefs, under whose barbarous rule neither commerce nor agriculture can make any progress, and the exuberant riches of nature are as useless to themselves as to the world.

The Sultan of Brunei, who claims the sovereignty over the independent portion of Borneo, is a mere shadow of royalty. His government is weak and corrupt, and seemingly incapable of improvement. It can neither dispense justice nor compel obedience, and a general lawlessness prevails. There is a system in the interior called the serra or forced trade. Any noble who may think proper goes to a tribe with cloth or some other commodity, and calling upon the chief orders him to divide it among his people. He then demands as its price a sum enormously exceeding its value, and debts thus unavoidably incurred enable him to exercise a fearful oppression for years, and under the pretence of their liquidation to carry off children into slavery. This nominal sovereign draws from his kingdom a revenue of 2500*l.* a year. The city of Brunei, the capital, with its 25,000 inhabitants, presents an aspect of the most squalid poverty. The Sultan's palace is a rude barn. He and his nobles are said to deplore the condition of their country, but do not comprehend that it is the consequence of their own rapacity. There is no regular system of taxation, and the aborigines suffer so severely from exactions that in despair they cultivate less and less every year, and look to the jungle instead of to their fields for a subsistence. The late Sultan offered, in consideration of a pension, to resign the sovereignty of the whole of his country to Great Britain.

The country of Sarawak is governed by Sir James Brooke, under a cession from the Sultan of Brunei. He has now ruled a territory containing a mixed population of a quarter of a million of souls, for ten years almost wholly by moral influence. Sarawak, including its dependencies, possesses a coast line of about 300 miles, and presents every variety of surface from the low fertile soil that skirts the river banks to the lofty mountains that rise in picturesque grandeur towards the interior. It is one of the best watered countries in the world, possessing rivers adapted for ships of considerable burthen. The exports consist at present chiefly of

of the produce of the forests and of metals. The capital now numbers 15,000 inhabitants, and the perfect order which prevails has given an extraordinary impetus to industry, and created an emulation under which in a very few years Sarawak will become one of the most important trading countries of the archipelago. A portion of the north-west of Borneo, which has been recently ceded by the Sultan of Brunei to Sir James Brooke, is a valuable addition to his state, and includes fine forest-covered plains, with navigable rivers, and districts rich in mineral productions, including gold, antimony, coal in abundance, iron, copper, and lead, and possesses a more industrious and energetic population than most other parts of Borneo. The Dayaks of Sarawak have become exceedingly expert in commercial transactions, and many who formerly did not know the value of money are now active traders. A Dayak calculates on being cheated by a Chinaman once, but never a second time. A steam communication has been established by Sir James Brooke between Sarawak and Singapore, by which Chinese emigrants are granted a free passage to his state, which they are steadily enriching by their industry; for in the present condition of the aborigines, although their progress is satisfactory, cultivation depends chiefly on Chinese labour. A Chinese population has its disadvantages, but in Sarawak it is gladly welcomed; the people soon amalgamate with the native race; and as that part of Borneo, like England, possesses a redundancy of females, the Dayak women, many of whom are pretty, are by no means unwilling to unite themselves with these sturdy immigrants. The Chinese, when prosperous, are found to be great consumers of English goods, and are excellent customers, as they live freely and are far from being parsimonious in their habits.

The principle of government which Sir James Brooke has applied with such remarkable success at Sarawak, is applicable to all countries in a similar state. That principle is to rule by and through the people, scrupulously abstaining from wounding their pride and hurting their self-respect. No people in the world are so sensitive to rudeness, arrogance, and self-assumption as the Malays. Sir James Brooke at once recognised the importance of this social feature, and his first and greatest difficulty was in exacting that habitual courtesy from his subordinates which was indispensable to the success of his scheme. The result has been that the innate gentleness of the natives has gradually softened and refined the rudest Europeans. The government is more popular than monarchical. Taxes are imposed and justice is administered by the assent and co-operation of the inhabitants. The ruler is strictly dependent on the country for support; and the

the population is consulted, and its consent required, before any new impost is created. The militia has recently given place to a small regular force, with the full concurrence of the people, who thus strongly display their confidence in the good intentions of their chief and the security of their freedom.

Of a population consisting of about 250,000 souls, the Malays number from 30,000 to 40,000, the Chinese 3000, miscellaneous tribes 15,000; and the remainder are Dayaks, or the aborigines of the country. Much remains to be accomplished before these people are trained to habits of regular industry; but the materials are promising, and a few more years of settled government and good example will probably effect a complete revolution in their character. Model gardens and farms will bring home to their understandings the practical results of well-applied labour. They present a marked difference to the Malay element of the population in one very important respect. As Mahomedans the Malays are impervious to any impressions from the Christian Missionary. The Dayaks, on the contrary, are extremely susceptible of religious instruction. They have no stubborn prejudices or fanatical priesthood. They hold a simple faith, although doubtless overlaid by many superstitious observances. They possess a clear idea of one Omnipotent Spirit who created and governs the world, and they believe in a future life; holding that the spiritual part of man lives for ever. They worship no graven images, nor do they practise any species of idolatry, but have a general sense of Providential government; and it is a common saying among them, 'With God's blessing, we shall have a good harvest this year.' The field is an inviting one for the Christian missionary, but hitherto the labourers have been few. The elements of European civilization are presented in Sarawak in connexion with a Christian government—a combination not often seen in the regions of missionary enterprise, and which can scarcely fail to subserve the high purposes to which it is zealously, but prudently and cautiously directed.

The first attempts to work a coal-field at Sarawak were not successful; but the coal-fields of Borneo are believed to be almost coextensive with the island—a circumstance which must necessarily increase its importance in the estimation of those powers whose possessions lie in or contiguous to the archipelago, and which indicates for it a great future in the progressive civilization of this region of the globe. The small island of Labuan, the latest addition to our colonial empire, is well situated for the suppression of piracy and the extension of commerce, and its coal is the best in the Eastern seas.

The success of the Dutch in colonising and turning to their profit

profit the islands of the Eastern Archipelago has varied according to the character of the native population. In Java they have found a gentle and tractable people, who have been on the whole successfully ruled by the instrumentality of a native nobility. But even in Java a spirit of nationality has been evoked, and in 1825 an insurrection broke out which extended over an area of 700 square miles. Two native armies, each 10,000 strong, were in the field, and placed Dutch supremacy for a time in considerable peril. In other islands a spirit of revolt has occasionally manifested itself, and is at the present time convulsing a portion of the empire. In CELEBES an incessant struggle has been maintained, for no intelligible purpose but to establish a barren supremacy. The island yields none of the productions which first tempted Europeans to the archipelago, and probably was at first only valued as a connecting link between Java and the Spice Islands. Celebes is a most remarkable island. In configuration it has been compared to a star-fish, from which the radiating limbs on one side have been removed; and this very singular form also distinguishes Gilolo, an island not far distant from it to the eastward. The bold and broken coasts possess several excellent harbours, but the principal interest which attaches to Celebes consists in the character of its population. Physical causes have doubtless operated to form a people essentially different from any other in the archipelago. Its surface possesses more of a European than an Eastern character, presenting on the coast broad plains gradually rising into regions of forest. The inhabitants of Celebes are the most enterprising of the Eastern Archipelago. Although they bear some personal resemblance to the Malays, arising probably from a common origin, in every quality but courage they are essentially different. Exposed to the same temptations, and most skilful and adventurous navigators, they have never adopted the occupation of piracy, but abhor and resist it, and defend themselves against the Malay prahus with the most heroic and desperate valour whenever they are attacked, proceeding, if overpowered, to blow up their vessels rather than submit. The poorest of these hardy islanders is as impatient of a blow as a European gentleman, and it is permitted to any one to avenge an affront by the death of the person who offers it. A more than Spartan training is bestowed on children. The males at the age of five or six are removed from their parents lest they should be made effeminate by indulgence, and they are not restored to their family until they are of an age to marry.* They are the

* Such, at least, is the statement of Malte-Brun.

Phœnicians

Phœnicians of the Indian Archipelago, and there is not a coast from the northern shores of the Australian continent to the Malay peninsula where their ships are not habitually seen. These adventurers leave their country in the beginning of the eastern monsoon on a trading voyage, and proceed westward until they reach Singapore. With vessels of peculiar build, of from forty to fifty tons burthen, they conduct almost the whole carrying trade of the archipelago. They own at least 1000 ships, the outward cargoes consisting of cotton cloths, gold dust, edible birds'-nests, tortoise-shell, trepang or sea slugs for Chinese epicures, scented woods, coffee, and rice; and, in spite of the jealous and restrictive policy of the Dutch, they have greatly contributed to diffuse British manufactures throughout the islands of the Eastern Seas. The political institutions of this energetic people bear some resemblance to a constitutional monarchy. Women also possess a status and an importance wholly unknown in savage communities; they take an active part in all the business of life, and are consulted in public affairs. The native governments in Celebes are not despotisms, such as were found in Java, but elective monarchies, somewhat resembling the old constitution of Poland. A woman or a minor may be raised to the throne, and in the latter case the constitution provides a regent. The honour in which women are held strongly contrasts with the Mahomedan faith, but political traditions have here proved too strong to be counteracted by religion.

Like Java, Celebes became a temporary possession of England, but was restored to the Dutch. An attack was made, under the British *régime*, upon the native king of Boni for the purpose of regaining the crown jewels belonging to the king of Macassar, of which he had wrongfully possessed himself. The expedition was successful. The regalia were found to consist of a book of the laws, a fragment of a gold chain, a pair of china dishes, an enchanted stone, a scimitar for executing state offenders, and a pop-gun. The Dutch have recently established a free port at Macassar, and another on the northern peninsula of the island, in the hope of diverting some of the trade of the archipelago from Singapore, but it has not hitherto met with any remarkable success. The population of Celebes is estimated by Mr. Crawfurd at 900,000: if it were as well peopled as Java, it would number 14,000,000 inhabitants.

It would be difficult to fix on any regions on the earth's surface which have been more conspicuous for the display of human passion than the famous group of islands extending from the eastern coast of Celebes to the western coast of Papua or New Guinea, and known

known as the MOLUCCAS, or Spice Islands. Before they were visited by Europeans, the Chinese had accidentally landed on them, and discovered the clove and the nutmeg; and a taste for these pungent spices was thus communicated to India, and soon extended to Persia and Europe. The Arabs, who then engrossed almost all the commerce of the world, speedily sought out the country of these valued productions. The Portuguese followed, engrossed the traffic, and took possession of the islands. The wildest dreams of avarice were, they thought, about to be realised as soon as they had obtained possession of the countries in which grew the nutmeg and the clove. The tales which were told by navigators of the wonderful things they had seen in this remote region were generally listened to with a smile of incredulity. Thus a distinguished geographer of the sixteenth century, with that learned incredulity which is sometimes as difficult to overcome as popular ignorance, warns his readers to give no credit to such 'a huge and monstrous lie' as that there were in that sea stones which grew and increased like fish. The description given of the Moluccas by De Barros, one of the first Portuguese visitors, was not inviting. 'The land of these famous islands,' he says, 'is ill-favoured and ungracious to look at, for the sun is always very near—now going to the northern and now to the southern solstice: this, with the humidity of the climate, causes the land to be covered all over with trees and herbs. The air is loaded with vapours which always hang over the tops of the hills, so that the trees are never without leaves. The soil for the most part is black, coarse, and soft, and so porous and thirsty, that, however much it rains, the water is drank up; and if a river comes from the mountains, its waters are absorbed before they reach the sea.' Four of the Moluccas are, in fact, mere volcanic cones; the more northerly and important of them is still an active volcano, which has been the scene of more eruptions than any other in the archipelago.* De Barros also gives an unfavourable character of the people,

* On the 30th of last December the island of Makian, one of the group of the Moluccas, was laid waste and almost wholly destroyed by a terrific volcanic explosion. In the afternoon of the 28th the horizon to the south of Ternate (in which island the description seems to have been written) presented the appearance of a vast conflagration. At midday on the 29th the sky was overcast, and showers of ashes began to fall. On the following morning the ground at Ternate was found covered, in some places to the depth of six inches, with ashes and fine sand. At 2 P.M. the darkness was so intense that it exceeded that of midnight. At Makian, the seat of the eruption, all the inhabitants who were unable to quit the island perished; and of those who fled, many were killed in the boats by the falling of red-hot stones. Not a living creature was found on the island when it was visited after the eruption; and it was covered with a layer of ashes eight feet deep. See the 'Homeward Mail,' March 21.

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and says that the islands are 'a warren of every evil, and contain nothing good but their clove-trees.' The Portuguese had just been engaged in a stubborn contest with the natives, which sufficiently accounts for the dislike with which they were regarded. They held the island during eighty years of almost uninterrupted disorder. The Dutch drove out the Portuguese; but their government was even more oppressive. The British and Dutch commercial interests then struggled for supremacy, and massacres that would have disgraced savage tribes characterised the intercourse between two civilised nations. To secure a monopoly of the commodities for which the most extravagant prices were readily paid in Europe, the merchants rooted up the clove and nutmeg-trees from other islands on which they naturally grew, and restricted their cultivation to Amboyna and Banda; and the fabled dragon could not have guarded with more sleepless vigilance the golden apples in the garden of the Hesperides than did these grasping Dutch traders their groves of spice from the intrusion of other nations.*

When it was known that the Portuguese navigator, Magellens, had discovered the Spice Islands, the excitement in Europe was almost as great as that which had been created by the discovery of America. Vessels returned from the Eastern Seas laden with aromatics which diffused a ravishing fragrance and perfumed the neighbourhood of the warehouses which received the precious freights. A passion for spices took possession of Europe, and is one of the most singular of the manias with which mankind seem to be periodically affected. It was the more remarkable since the inhabitants of the islands on which they grew never used them either as condiments or medicine. In Europe they became instantly and immoderately prized as both. They flavoured every dish, and were consumed in every form. The true elixir of life was believed to have been at length discovered; and the most wonderful properties were attributed to the oil which they were made to yield. The universal demand for these new products enhanced their price three thousand per cent. above their original cost; but there was doubtless quite as much of fashion as of taste in this craving for the new luxury.

The cultivation of spices is now permitted in all the possessions of the Dutch in the Eastern Seas; but from the extreme

* The horrible massacre of Amboyna in 1623, when so many unhappy Englishmen lost their lives, originated, as is well known, in Dutch commercial jealousy.

uncertainty of the crops,* it has been found more profitable to grow other descriptions of Oriental produce. The area adapted for the production of nutmegs and cloves has been found to be larger than was formerly supposed. Thus the nutmeg now grows freely in Java; and in 1819 it was introduced at Singapore, where for a time it was largely cultivated; but although it produced abundant crops, and of a quality even superior to those of Banda, the soil had an injurious effect upon the trees, which perished in a few years, exhausted by their profuse bearing. The profits of the spice cultivation in the archipelago are now so small that, if left solely to free labour and private enterprise, it is thought that it would almost entirely cease. It is curious to note the revolutions of taste for these Eastern productions. The passion for the clove has subsided, while the consumption of black pepper in the United Kingdom is now twenty-fold greater than that of cloves. The importation of pepper, which, in 1615, was estimated at 450,000 lbs., had increased, in 1853, to 3,200,000 lbs.; while that of nutmegs, which, in 1615, was estimated at 115,000 lbs., was not greater, in 1853, than 200,000 lbs.

The Dutch possessions in the Archipelago are bounded by the Timor chain of islands, extending westward and connecting the Banda group with Java. In its geological structure this chain of islands belongs to the secondary formation, being distinguished by the horizontal position of the strata; while in Borneo and other islands to the north the primitive rocks prevail, and the strata are more vertical, and contain gold and tin, which are not found in the Timorian chain. These islands do not seem to have yet acquired any commercial mportance. Timor is about the size of Jamaica, and remarkable for its picturesque and romantic scenery.

The Dutch colonial possessions in Asia, with their geographical areas, are as follows:—

	Square miles.		Square miles.
Java	50,000	Timor	13,500
Madura	2,700	Bali	3,000
Sumatra	160,000	Lombock	2,500
Billeton	2,250	Sumbawa	8,800
Borneo	200,000	Mangeray	500
Celebes	70,000	Junduna	3,500
Amboyna	1,320	Semao	200
Ternate	32	Billeta Island ..	2,250

* Thus the produce of cloves in Amboyna, which in 1846 was 869,727 lbs., fell off in 1854 to 89,923 lbs. In 1856 it was 617,250 lbs., and in 1859 only 160,000 lbs.

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In addition to these the Dutch Government has recently taken possession of New Guinea up to the meridian of 141° east of Greenwich; and along nearly the whole of the coasts included within the northern and southern extremities of this line an extensive trade is carried on in vessels sailing from various ports of the Moluccas and carrying the Dutch flag.*

The use which Holland has made of these great possessions is indicated in her past history. In none of the islands, Java excepted, is any native machinery interposed between the European Government and the native population. The difficulties of administration are proportionably great, and much vigilance is required to repress native insubordination, and to prevent outbreaks. Although the commercial system has been somewhat relaxed, jealousy and suspicion still characterise the colonial policy of Holland. Thus she has endeavoured to bind the native princes of the archipelago never to cede any portion of their territories to another nation, and not to enter into any negotiations without the consent of the Government. She was strongly opposed to the recognition of Sarawak, and even protested against the cession of Labuan.

The nation which, next to the Dutch, has the largest possessions in the Eastern Archipelago is Spain; and the principles of her colonial government, although in some points similar to those of the Dutch, differ from them in one important particular. Spain has in all her conquests kept prominently before her the propagation of Christianity in the form embodied in her Church. The Philippines, therefore, present a spectacle which contrasts strongly with the Dutch dependencies in the East. Spain appears in the archipelago in her religious earnestness, her ecclesiastical assumption, and her gorgeous establishments. The natives of the Philippines have generally been converted and received into the Catholic Church. It is observed by Malte Brun, in his sketch of the inhabitants of the Philippines, that they are the only people in the Eastern Archipelago who have improved in civilisation from an intercourse with Europe. A commercial monopoly formed no part of the Spanish policy in that quarter of the world. The islands of which she took possession produced neither spices nor gold; moderate taxation left industry free; no check was imposed on European colonisation; liberal grants were made of unappropriated land; and, while deriving a considerable revenue from the Philippines, Spain has neither degraded nor oppressed them, for slavery has not been introduced or sanc-

* 'Journal of the Royal Geographical Society,' 1860. Notes of a Voyage to New Guinea, by Alfred R. Wallace, F.R.G.S.

 tioned

tioned in that part of her colonial empire. The Philippine Archipelago extends for 300 leagues from north to south, and 160 leagues from east to west. A range of irregularly-shaped mountains runs through the whole, but the bounties which Nature has showered on these islands have often been neutralised by the terrible forces hidden under their beautiful exterior. They are often shaken by earthquakes, and volcanic explosions are so frequent as to be regarded almost as common occurrences. In no other part of the world are storms so terrific as there during the change of the monsoon. In his 'Geographical History of the Philippines,' M. Mallet remarks that, of all the colonies founded by Europeans, these regions are perhaps the least known and the most worthy of being known. The number of the islands which constitute the archipelago, their extent and variety, their teeming population, their climate and wonderful fertility, are all (he says) deserving of the highest admiration. M. Mallet, however, entertains a somewhat extravagant expectation of the future of the Philippines when he thinks that they may become the dominant power of the Eastern world. The Philippines will doubtless increase in value and importance, but they can scarcely aspire to so brilliant a position.

Spain has retained possession of the Philippines for about three hundred years, and the policy of the Government appears to have been characterised by wisdom and moderation, and to have met with corresponding success. The comparatively small number of European settlers would not allow them to interfere unnecessarily with the native usages and forms of government, except so far as a conversion to Christianity required. The contrast between the two systems of government adopted by Spain in her colonial possessions is very marked. While by a cruel and illiberal policy she justly lost her dominions in the New World, her wise and prudent conduct in the administration of her Eastern possessions has produced a grateful and contented dependency. Spain in her extreme need has often appealed to the Philippines for pecuniary relief, and she has never appealed in vain.

The colonists who were attracted to the Philippines from Europe differed widely from the adventurers who rushed with frantic eagerness to America. They found in the islands of the Eastern Seas only a delicious climate, a bountiful soil, and a simple, hospitable people, very susceptible of religious impressions. Agriculture and conversion seem to have supplied the chief inducement to colonisation. The Spanish settlers knew not that these islands, covered with eternal and enchanting verdure, teemed with mineral wealth. They saw only mountains, valleys, and plains rivalling each other in the variety and utility of their productions.

ductions. The Philippines therefore became the abodes of steady industry instead of wild speculation, and that character they still retain. It is a principle of the Spanish colonial government that the native who cultivates the soil shall derive from it a comfortable subsistence. It does not recognise in him any territorial right, but land is held on condition that it is cultivated. The stipulations are minute, and regulate the different crops and their succession. Sir John Bowring is of opinion that the Philippines afford a good field for agricultural investment. There is a labour question not more easy of solution in the Philippines than in other tropical countries; but all nations, even the most opulent, have passed through their stages of indolence and inactivity. Sugar is the most profitable subject of cultivation. Wheat and maize were introduced by the Spaniards, and there is now a sufficient supply of wheaten flour for all classes. Rice returns, on the authority of De Mas, whom Sir John Bowring quotes, a minimum profit of 24 per cent. and a maximum of 76 per cent. per annum. Indigo will render, according to the same authority, 100 per cent. profit; coffee will double its capital in four years; and cocoa will return 90 per cent., notwithstanding the present deficiency of labour and capital.* Australia and California, Sir John Bowring thinks, will hereafter be largely if not wholly supplied with sugar from the Philippines. Manilla hemp has acquired a high character in Europe: 25,000 tons were shipped in 1858 from Manilla alone, of which Great Britain received one-fourth. Gold is found in the mountains and in alluvial deposits, and with proper machinery copper may be raised in abundance. A sample taken from a lode, seven feet in width and only four yards from the surface, gave on analysis 44 per cent. of pure metal.†

Spain is here even less advanced than Holland in her commercial policy. The heavy differential duties in favour of Spanish ships fetter trade in the Philippines and are injurious to the general interests. The increasing importance of Singapore will probably soon compel a change in Spanish colonial commercial legislation.‡

According

* These estimates are, however, considerably reduced by Sir John Bowring, who places the profits on sugar plantations at from 20 to 30 per cent., of rice from 12 to 20 per cent., and of general agricultural investments from 20 to 30 per cent.

† Sir John Bowring's 'Philippine Islands,' p. 280.

‡ Sir John Bowring mentions, among the curiosities of Spanish commercial legislation, a decree of the Governor of the Philippines issued only a few years ago, by which it was ordered that no vessel should be allowed to introduce a cargo from China or the East Indies unless an engagement was entered into by the captain to bring to Manilla five hundred living *shrikes*, a species of bird reputed to be most useful in destroying certain insects which were at that time seriously damaging the crops. The difficulty of catching, caging, and keeping these birds, does

According to an official Report delivered to the Spanish Minister of Finance in 1855, instead of producing a clear revenue to Spain of 9,500,000 dollars, the Philippines might easily be made to yield 48,000,000 dollars. There are immense tracts of fertile soil; minerals and marble in abundance, and forests with trees adapted for every possible use. Nearly four hundred specimens of different woods from the Philippines were displayed in the Great Exhibition of 1851. Gums, roots, and dyes of infinite variety are found; and the docility and intelligence of the natives make them incomparably superior as labourers to any Asiatic or African race hitherto subjected to European authority. By the Report of the British Consul for Manilla laid before Parliament in 1855, it appears that the British trade with the Philippines exceeded in value that of Great Britain with several of the States of Europe, with Mexico, Columbia, and Guatimala combined, and almost reached the second class in our trade with Asia—the total value of the exports and imports exceeding 3,000,000*l.*

The islands of the archipelago have from time immemorial been a favourite resort of the Chinese. The gold-fields of Australia and California have of late proved more attractive until the recent outbreak of popular jealousy in our great dependency. The immigration of Chinese has received repeated checks in several of the islands, but especially in the Philippines and in Borneo; they have again and again settled down in swarms, bringing with them their indefatigable industry, their mechanical ingenuity, and their attachment to agriculture. Their shrewdness and perseverance ought to render them a valuable acquisition to any underpeopled colony; but in competing successfully with Europeans for the prizes of life they have generally drawn upon themselves the hatred of the dominant class. Their morals have been objected to; but it is to their commercial success that they owe the persecution to which they have been exposed. Keen but cautious traders, they seldom failed, by watching the markets, to forestall competition and obtain nearly a monopoly of trade. All the vigilance of the Dutch squadrons in the China Seas was ineffectual to prevent the continual arrival of these hardy labourers; and with little property at first beyond their rugs and rice-kettles, they were often able to return in a few years to their native land to enjoy an independence, and to display, with no little self-importance, the fortunes they had acquired. They have been insulted, plundered, and massacred by thousands in the

does not seem to have embarrassed the Governor, however it may have puzzled the skippers. It may be unnecessary to add, that not one bird was ever brought to the Philippines; which is scarcely to be wondered at, since all were to be delivered *gratis*.

archipelago;

archipelago; but nothing has been able to arrest the irresistible stream of immigration. In Borneo they have been subjected by the Dutch to the most galling oppression. Their settlements have been isolated, their intercourse with the sea has been cut off, and attempts have been made to starve them. By a most preposterous and contradictory policy, they are not only prohibited from entering the country, but from leaving it.* In spite of all the restraints which governments can impose, these people will continue, by an ordination of Divine Providence which it would be in vain to oppose, to escape from the evils of a redundant population. They are the only people who can adequately develope the riches of the Eastern Archipelago, and they will ultimately occupy in large numbers these underpeopled regions of the earth.

It would be impracticable here to enter upon so wide a field as the ethnology of the Eastern Archipelago. The aboriginal races are various, and their study is replete with interest. There is, however, one race in the Philippines which presents such remarkable peculiarities that we venture briefly to describe it, as it has been represented to us, although it is likely enough that the description would require modification on further acquaintance. In the mountainous regions of Mindanao, we are told, there exist human beings in so low a state of barbarism that they seem to bear a near resemblance to the Bushmen of Southern Africa. They are well formed, nearly black, with woolly hair, rarely exceed four feet six inches in height, live chiefly on roots and fruit, and occasionally on game; they wear no clothes and build no houses, but sleep among the branches of trees. They are without any form of government or religion; their voices resemble the cries of animals, and their language the chattering of apes or the chirping of birds; their weapons are a bamboo lance, and bows and poisoned arrows. The discovery and concoction of poisons seem to exclusively employ the little intellect which these savages possess. The least prick from one of their arrows is mortal and produces an inextinguishable thirst, and the man or animal dies the moment he has gratified it. These Negritoes ascend trees like monkeys, seizing the trunk with both hands and applying the soles of the feet, and their flight is as swift as that of the deer.† Although these people seem scarcely human, they are not incapable of being civilised. One of the race, a boy who had been offered for sale as any wild animal might have been, was after-

* An exorbitant fee for a license to go away is demanded, which puts it beyond the power of the majority.

† The principal features of this description are given by M. de la Gironière, in Earl's 'Native Races of the Indian Archipelago.'

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wards seen waiting at the table of the Governor of Tamboanga, and appeared sprightly and intelligent, watching every sign and mandate of his master. The people are said to bear some resemblance to the wild tribes of Madagascar.

There is a small group of islands which, although not strictly within the defined limits of the Eastern Archipelago, are so intimately connected with it in commerce that they deserve a brief notice. The Arru Islands are a closely-packed group, distant about sixty miles from the south-west coast of New Guinea, extending over a space of 100 miles in length, and from 40 to 50 in breadth. These islands have become the emporium of the south-east corner of the archipelago, and form a connecting link between the rich islands of the Indian Seas and the Australian continent to which they are ethnologically related. They are probably destined to attain considerable importance when the northern shores of Australia are settled and civilised—an event which may now be considered as not very distant, since the recent important discoveries. Indeed the future intercourse of Australia with the islands of the Eastern Archipelago will doubtless be very great, and a highly profitable commerce cannot fail to spring up between them. The rich produce of New Guinea, of Ceram, and the islands to the north and north-east of Timor, is now collected in the Arru Islands, and vessels belonging to British and Chinese merchants annually resort to them to obtain the commodities which they require in exchange for the manufactures of Europe and continental India. The Arruans possess many characteristics in common with the people of New Guinea; but one of their most singular peculiarities consists in the value which they attach to elephants' tusks, brass gongs, and huge porcelain dishes. An odd custom, and one that is probably unique in the world, consists in the destruction of a man's goods on his death, instead of a distribution of them among his surviving relations. All the chattels which he has collected during his life, including tusks, gongs, and precious china dishes, are broken in pieces and thrown away; and in the villages may be seen heaps of these fragments of property which custom or some singular superstition has deterred the living from appropriating.

On the banks of a small stream, in an island about one-third larger than the Isle of Wight, at the extremity of the Malay peninsula, and until 1819 the resort only of a few native trading prahus, now stands the rich and flourishing town of SINGAPORE. By no act of his life did Sir Stamford Raffles evince greater prescience and sagacity than by recommending the establishment of this settlement and its erection into a free port. 'Take my word

word for it,' he once prophetically said, 'this is by far the most important station in the East, and, as far as naval supremacy and commercial intercourse are concerned, of much higher value than a whole continent.' The correctness of his judgment was speedily proved. In two years the imports and exports rose to the sum of 2,000,000*l.* In 1824, five years after its foundation, the population had risen from 150 to 11,000. Singapore exhibits a remarkable proof how the sagacity of individuals often anticipates and outruns the slow action of governments. For three years Singapore was not recognised by Great Britain. The island was ultimately ceded for a pecuniary consideration by its native prince. The importance of this settlement to British trade follows from its position. Equidistant from Calcutta and Canton, voyages can be made to each with equal facility. It lies only a short distance from the Equator; but the temperature of the island is 9·90 lower than that of many other places in the same latitude; it possesses an ample roadstead and harbour; vessels having crossed the Pacific from the north coast of America meet others from the eastern side of the same continent, which have sailed round the Cape of Good Hope; and flags of all nations are intermingled with the streamers of Chinese junks and native prahus. An ordinary price-current often contains as many as forty different articles, the produce of the archipelago.

Batavia is the exclusive emporium of the Dutch trade; but Singapore is the port chosen by the independent traders of the archipelago. It appears by the 'Singapore Free Press' that there were in the roadstead and harbour, at the same time, in January last, sixty-three ships, of burthens varying from 2600 to 150 tons. The prosperity of this small settlement has been of so rapid a growth that it resembles that of some American Western city. Much of the trade even of the Dutch dependencies is carried on here in preference to the highly-taxed ports of Java. The port is open to all, and there is no impost whatever. Attracted by these advantages, native traders flock from the continental ports of the East to Singapore, to exchange the manufactures of India and China for the valuable productions of the archipelago. The resident population is composed of fifteen different nationalities, of which the Chinese is the most numerous. In addition to the immense commerce with China, India, and the archipelago, Singapore has extensive transactions with North and South America, Arabia, the Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, Australia, and Continental Europe. A few figures derived from the latest returns will show the extraordinary commercial progress of this small settlement. In 1852 the value of the British exports

exports to Singapore was 687,961*l.*; in 1860 it had risen to 1,671,092*l.* The imports from Singapore amounted in value, in 1854, to 794,105*l.*, and in 1860 to 1,054,042*l.* The most satisfactory feature in the returns is the marked increase in the demand for cotton goods, as it proves that the demand for British manufactures is rapidly increasing throughout the archipelago. In 1852 the exports of cotton goods to Singapore were of the value of 452,927*l.*; in 1860 they had risen to 1,079,098*l.*

The great archipelago, of which we have taken a necessarily imperfect survey, exhibits society in every phase of barbarism and civilisation, from the primitive tribes inhabiting the forests of Borneo to the polished splendour of Europe. The opulence and trading activity of Amsterdam and London are represented in Batavia and Singapore, and the commercial and religious exclusiveness of Spain in the Philippines. The future of the magnificent islands of the archipelago must be a subject of some anxiety to the power which has acquired the chief dominion over them. The native states are clearly incompetent to discharge the ordinary duties of government, and they will probably be gradually absorbed into European settlements to which they are contiguous. But can so small a state as Holland, with a very limited population from which her army can be recruited, permanently retain territories of such enormous extent and peopled by races bound to her by no ties of gratitude or interest? That Holland cannot rely upon mercenaries for the support of her colonial empire has been shown by the revolt of her Swiss troops. One of two results must follow the failure of Holland to retain the allegiance of her Eastern possessions: either these regions will be abandoned to native barbarism, or some great European power must step in to restore order, protect commerce, and carry on the work of civilisation. The Eastern Archipelago lies between Australia, India, and China; therefore any considerable naval power that should establish itself in so central a position might intercept our communications, threaten our Asiatic possessions, and cripple our trade. We earnestly hope that the Government of the Netherlands may never be involved in a struggle such as that from which we have recently emerged. We covet no territory in the archipelago; but should a reverse befall Holland in her colonial empire, there is but one nation that can safely occupy the position she will have lost. The moral power of England is already great. The character which she acquired during her short possession of Java has left a deep impression upon the native mind, and is understood and appreciated in every island where her name is pronounced. Her flag is not merely a symbol of freedom, but a pledge of commercial prosperity

prosperity and social progress. With the exception of the small island of Labuan she owns not a foot of territory in any portion of the archipelago, but her influence is as great as if her guns commanded every native capital and her cruisers were seen in every sea.

The future importance of Borneo can scarcely be exaggerated. One of its states now presents an example of a well-governed and progressive community. The Rajah of Sarawak has achieved one of the greatest of triumphs. He has constituted out of the most unpromising elements a native state which exhibits a model of the policy to be adopted for gradually reclaiming a people from barbarism, and giving them the blessings of order and law. He has caused them to work out their own improvement under guidance of a superintending intelligence. The enterprise was as full of genius as of humanity. The influence of Sarawak upon the future civilisation of Borneo may be important. Borneo Proper is still steeped in utter barbarism, and no healthy progress can be reasonably expected in those portions of the country which are subject to the dominion of the Dutch. The impulse which will convert this vast island into an orderly and progressive country may be communicated from Sarawak; and its future importance may even bear some proportion to its enormous dimensions. But the permanent independence of Sarawak is, we fear, not so fully assured as the friends of progress in the archipelago could desire. It is exposed to two dangers which loom not indistinctly in the distance. It may be the object of some violent outbreak of neighbouring Mahomedan fanaticism exasperated at the spectacle of a Christian Rajah governing a native state; or it may be endangered by the intrigues of a European power which has always regarded it with jealousy and makes no secret of desiring and looking forward to its subversion. Public opinion in England has been strongly expressed on the achievement of Sir James Brooke. He has publicly received the thanks of the commercial world, and one of the most esteemed honours that his Sovereign could bestow. It is impossible for England not to regard with favour and watch with interest so remarkable an application of her own principles of government in a territory which, a few years ago, was the seat of savage lawlessness and crime.* Public indignation would assuredly be strongly manifested if by any act of treachery or violence the integrity and independence of a country which had excited so strong and general an interest should be overthrown. Some interference could probably be demanded by opinion.

* The former practice of head-hunting has been completely abandoned.

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The flag of Sarawak has, we believe, been recognised by Great Britain. We are far from thinking that as a rule protectorates are desirable arrangements or conducive to the true interests of a small community; but in such a case as Sarawak, it might be plausibly contended that a protectorate could not entail any inconvenient obligations; and that it would constitute an effectual security against hostile designs, if any such exist, and put an end to all Mahomedan conspiracies and European machinations. It might also produce a salutary influence upon independent Borneo, and prepare the way for an extension of British influence in that direction, should the course of events ever justify or require it.

This great region may be hereafter one of the most important that is occupied by the dispersed and diversified human family, and no long period may elapse before islands upon which Providence has showered some of its choicest blessings will exhibit a far higher social and political development than they at present seem to promise; Europe and America may hereafter even find rivals in countries which now occupy scarcely a moment of their thoughts; bays shaded by groves of palms may display forests of masts; and marbles hidden in the recesses of virgin woods and unexplored mountains may be wrought for the erection and adornment of temples and cities surpassing as much in their splendour any that have hitherto been erected in the archipelago as they will excel them in the religion to which they may be dedicated, and in the civilisation which they will represent.

ART. VII.—*The Life of the Right Hon. William Pitt.* By Earl Stanhope. Vols. III. and IV. London, 1862.

A SHORT time ago we had occasion to review the two first volumes of this biography, and to commend their merits to our readers' notice. The two new volumes will not be found to fall behind their predecessors either in charm of style or in sterling value. Indeed their interest is greater, in that they have the advantage of dealing with a much more attractive period, and of dealing with it for the first time—since even the feeble and flickering light of Bishop Tomline's biography has not been thrown over the history of Pitt's later years. There is nothing, it is true, in our parliamentary history that can equal in interest the strange vicissitudes of the stormy contest in the midst of which Pitt rose to power. But after this opening, the first half of