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Having thus taken a view of the principal ruins now remaining, we hastened to rejoin the rest of the company, whom we found most comfortably seated around a table, spread, through the kindness of Mr. A. who had secretly ordered cooks there for the purpose, with all the vegetables in season and various kinds of flesh, among which we discerned the flesh of swine. Allured by the viands and the kindness of our host, we ourselves felt

unable to abstain. In a few minutes, however, as it grew late, we hurried the company away, ascended the elephant, and at five regained the house of our worthy friend Mr. E. after an excursion of seven hours, for the variety it afforded, and the reflections to which it gave rise, to be numbered among the most pleasant we had ever enjoyed in India.

MEMOIR

ON THE

TIN OF THE MALAY PENINSULA, AND OF THE MALAY ISLANDS.

TIN is found all over the Malay Peninsula, but not to the northward of 10 degrees of north latitude, or, we believe, to the southward of 6° south; it is raised in abundance on the island of Junk Ceylon, and exported in considerable quantities; in some years, it has been said to amount to 12,000 piculs, more than 800 tons. Quedah, Prio, and Pera, ports on the peninsula, also collect a considerable quantity from the interior, where it is sold at the rate of from 10 to 12 dollars (£3 sterling) per picul, of 133lb. and 1-third, or about £48 per ton, and sells in China for about £80 per ton. The tin on the islands of Banca and Liugin is still cheaper; and it has been said, that the Dutch have a contract on Banca for tin, at six dollars per picul, or little more than £25 per ton. Some years more than 3,000 tons of this metal have been collected at Banca and Lingin; most of which is carried to China, where it is preferred to the Cornish, which is carried there by the Company at a very great loss. In 1813, 150 tons of Banca tin was carried to England from China, where there was no sale for it, but which realized in that country a very handsome profit.

When we consider the difference of price between Cornish tin and the tin of the East Indies, we cannot help enquiring what causes it. This can be easily answered: the ore at Banca is much richer, no expensive machinery is used, and though the mines have been worked for many centuries, yet they are still of easy access; they are worked by a colony of Chinese on Banca; and, more or less, by these people or their descendants, in most places where it is raised. It is mentioned by some authors, that the mines of Banca were only discovered in the year 1710 or 12; but tin was found laden on the native ships in the first voyages of the Portuguese, and was carried to China by the Arabs in the ninth century.

In many of the Malay ports where
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ships resort to purchase tin, it is usual to run it over again, for it is sometimes offered for sale full of stones and dirt. The vehicle used for this purpose is a broad cast-iron pan of Chinese manufactory, known by the name of *tacht*, the fuel wood, and the fire-place as rude as can possibly be conceived. At Junk-Ceylon the ore is pounded in wooden mortars; the pestles shod with iron, and fixed to a lever of seven or eight feet in length, which is moved by a single man with his feet. The ore is first roasted in pits, with alternate layers of wood, before it is attempted to be reduced to powder, and a considerable quantity of pure tin is obtained by this first process. In most places the mines assume the form of caves, and this, no doubt, is the cause (combined with the richness of the ore) of its being vended at so cheap a rate. The usual wages of those employed about the smelting houses of Quedah is three dollars a month and their victuals, which might be stated at a dollar and a half more; but, at any rate, the wages altogether may be stated at something less than a shilling a day. The ore is all brought by water to Quedah, from the distance of several days' journey. They cast it into every kind of fanciful form; a great deal into little square lumps, of about three pounds weight; some into cocks and hens, water jars, and kettles of all sizes: and when the metal has become scarce for a time, you have to walk round the shops, and purchase a jar here, and a kettle there, at another, a few rocks and hens, at another a dog, and so on. The usual form is, however, in slabs of about 50, 60, or 80 lb., of an oblong form, with a little projection at the ends, for the convenience of lifting; they sometimes cast them of a round form of the same weight with a handle, but this is not so well, for the handle is easily broken off, when they become difficult to move.—*Bombay Gaz.* 7 July.