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AN

ABRIDGEMENT

OF 7-492

UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHY,

MODERN AND ANCIENT:

CHIEFLY COMPILED FROM THE

ABRÉGÉ DE GÉOGRAPHIE

OF

ADRIAN BALBI.

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ACCOMPANIED BY AN ATLAS AND ILLUSTRATED BY ENGRAVINGS.

NEW YORK:

FREEMAN HUNT, & CO.

BOSTON: WILLIAM D. TICKNOR.

PHILADELPHIA: DESILVER, THOMAS, & CO.

1835.

CXXXIV. FARTHER INDIA, OR INDIA BEYOND THE GANGES.

1. *Boundaries.* Farther India comprises an extensive region lying to the east of Hindostan, and to the south of the Chinese empire. It has the Chinese Sea on the east and south; the Strait of Singapore on the south; and the Strait of Malacca and the Sea of Bengal on the west. It extends from Lat. 2° to 29° N., and from Lon. 90° to 109° E.

2. *Natural Features.* The interior of this country is little known. It appears to be traversed by some chains of the Himala Mountains, and it contains a number of large rivers, the sources and upper course of which have never been explored. The Irawaddy, one of the largest rivers in Asia, is supposed to rise in the Chinese empire; after traversing the Birman empire from north to south, it reaches the sea by fourteen mouths, forming a delta 150 miles in width. The Saluen, which also traverses the Birman empire, empties itself into the gulf of Martaban. These rivers overflow extensive tracts of level country in the lower part of their course. The Menam is a large river, supposed to rise in the Chinese province of Yunnan, and which, passing through Siam, intersects and fertilizes that country by numerous branches, and enters the Gulf of Siam. The Mecon rises in Thibet, and after traversing the Chinese province of Yunnan, and the kingdom of Cambodia, it flows into the sea under the name of the river of Cambodia. The climate and productions do not differ materially from those of Hindostan.

3. *Divisions.* Farther India comprises, beside several barbarous peoples who are independent, the empire of Annam, the kingdom of Siam, the Birman empire, the states of Malacca, the Andaman and Nicobar islands, and the English possessions.

4. *Birman Empire.* This state is bounded on the north by the English province of Assam, and the Chinese province of Yunnan; east by Yunnan and the Saluen; south by the Sea of Bengal, and west by that sea and the English province of Arracan. It has an area of about 205,000 square miles, and is estimated to contain nearly 3,700,000 inhabitants.

Ava, the capital, is a large, but not very populous city upon the Irawaddy; it is meanly built, consisting mainly of thatched cabins, with a few brick houses. Ava, like all the Birmese towns, contains numerous temples, with tall gilded spires, which make a show at a distance, but they are built of wood, as are also the monasteries and the palace. The population is estimated to amount to 50,000.

Umerapoora, which was once the capital, is also built chiefly of wood; here is a temple, which contains a colossal image of Godama, or Buddha, and a gallery with numerous ancient inscriptions on stone collected from different parts of the empire. Population 30,000. Saigaing, opposite to Ava, is also a large town, filled with an astonishing number of temples.

Pegu, upon the river of the same name in the kingdom of Pegu, was destroyed by the Birmese in 1757, and has but few inhabitants. It is chiefly remarkable for the temple of Shumadu, a large brick pyramid 330 feet high, and 1,206 feet in circuit at the base, without any aperture. The whole is crowned by a tee or gilt iron summit, upon which is a

gilt umbrella, 56 feet in circumference; to the tee are suspended numerous bells.

Rangoon, upon one of the branches of the Irawaddy, is the principal commercial place in the empire, and is the great mart for teak wood, which is exported to Hindostan. Here is a temple similar to that at Pegu. Population 20,000.

The Birmans are inferior to the Hindoos and Chinese in arts, manufactures, and industry, and in all the institutions of civil life. They are ignorant of literature and science, and unskilled in navigation. The government is a pure despotism, the king dispensing torture, imprisonment, and death, according to his sovereign pleasure. The criminal code is barbarous and severe, and the punishments inflicted are shocking to humanity; the ordeal and other superstitious modes of proceeding are resorted to, but the administration of justice is so inefficient, that the country is overrun with robbers and criminals.

The Birmese are distinguished into seven classes, which have each peculiar privileges; these are the royal family, the public officers, the priests, the rich men, the laborers, the slaves, and outcasts. The laborers are considered as slaves of the king, who may at all times command their services. Women are not shut up as in many eastern countries, but in many respects they are exposed to the most degrading treatment, and may even be sold for a time to strangers. A Birman cannot leave the country without the permission of the king, which is only granted for a limited time, and women are never allowed to quit it at all.

5. *Kingdom of Siam.* This kingdom, comprising Siam Proper, and part of Laos, Cambodia, and Malacca, is bounded north by China; east by the empire of Annam; south by the Chinese Sea, and the Gulf of Siam, and west by the Strait of Malacca, and the Birman empire. It has an area of 200,000 square miles, and 3,600,000 inhabitants.

Bankok, on the Menam near its mouth, is a large city with an active commerce. It is entirely built of wood, with the exception of the palace and the temples, and has about 90,000 inhabitants, nearly three-quarters of whom are Chinese, who carry on all the foreign commerce of Siam. A great number of houses are built upon rafts moored in the river, and forming a floating city by itself.

Siam, formerly the capital, and once a large and populous city, is now in ruins.

6. *Empire of Annam.* Annam is bounded north by China; south and east by the Chinese Sea, and west by the Siamese state. It comprises the kingdoms of Cochin China, Tónquin, Tsiampa, Cambodia, part of Laos, &c. Area 280,000 square miles, population 12,000,000.

Hue is remarkable for its vast military works, its granaries, barracks, magazines, and arsenals; the ditch which surrounds the place is eight miles in circuit, and 160 feet broad, and the walls are 60 feet high. The palace of the emperor is also an edifice of great size and strength, and there are here a large cannon foundery and a dock-yard. Population 100,000.

Kesho, formerly capital of the kingdom of Tonquin, is now much reduced in importance. Population 40,000.

Saigon, capital of Cambodia, upon the Donnai, has 100,000 inhabitants. Its citadel is hardly inferior in strength and extent of its works to that of Hue, and there is here a dock-yard, on an extensive scale, at which an American navigator a few years since saw 190 galleys, and

two frigates built on the European model. The houses are mostly of wood, thatched with rice straw or palm leaves, and without glass.

The government of Annam, as well as that of Siam, is of the most despotic character, and in both these states, as in the Birman empire, every male subject above 20 years of age, excepting the priests and public officers, is obliged to give every third year to the service of government, either as a soldier or a laborer.

The inhabitants are short and squat, and have an expression of sprightliness, intelligence, and good humor. Morals are in a low state; the women are little better than mere slaves, being obliged to perform all the labor. Arts, manufactures, and agriculture are in a backward condition and make no progress. The people are generally poor, and live in miserable huts, with little furniture.

7. *English Territories.* The possessions of the East India company in Farther India consist of several detached territories; the countries between Bengal and the Birman empire comprise Assam, Cashan, the country of the Garrows, Arracan, &c.; on the east of the Saluen are several provinces between the Birman empire, Siam, and the Sea of Bengal; the isle of Pulo Penang or Prince of Wales' Island, and that of Singapore, with a part of Malacca, also belong to the company.

Arracan is a large town, built upon a spot overflowed by the river of the same name, and consisting chiefly of bamboo huts. Its population is about 30,000.

Amhersttown, founded in 1826, stands at the mouth of the Saluen, and has about 10,000 inhabitants.

Georgetown on the Prince of Wales' Island is also a flourishing town, with an increasing commerce. Population 15,000.

Singapore, founded by the British in 1819, is already become a place of great commercial importance, and the great mart of this part of the world. It has 20,000 inhabitants.

8. *Islands.* The Andaman and Nicobar islands form a long chain of rocks and islets in the Sea of Bengal, occupied by independent native tribes. The Andaman group consists of three principal islands, and a great number of smaller ones, inhabited by a fierce and savage race of blacks. The Nicobar group is composed of ten principal and numerous smaller isles, inhabited by a gentle and peaceable people resembling the Malays.

9. *Religion.* Buddhism is professed by the Birmans, the Arracanians, Peguans, Siamese, Laosians, Cambodians, and by the lower classes in Cochin China and Tonquin. Some of the educated classes in the latter countries adhere to the doctrines of Confucius. Bramanism has some followers in Assam, Cashan, &c., and the Malays, who have settled on the coasts are Mahometans. Many barbarous tribes in the interior have no religious rites, or are attached to the most absurd superstitions. Christianity has made some converts in the Birman empire and in Annam.

CXXXV. CHINESE EMPIRE.

1. *Boundaries.* The Chinese empire is bounded north by Asiatic Russia; east by the seas of Okotsk and Japan, and the Eastern Sea; south by the Chinese Sea, Farther India, and Hindostan; and west by

projecting lips, flattened nose, low and retreating forehead, and the form of the legs. Morally they are indolent, harmless, easy, and friendly in their disposition; but even in their more civilized states, many barbarous usages and savage customs prevail. For ages the blacks have been sought for as slaves in other parts of the world, and even at home the greater part of the population is the property of the rest. Many of the negro tribes live in the most degraded state, without government, without any religion but the most absurd superstitions, without the decencies and proprieties of life, naked, and without habitations. Others are wandering shepherds, and still others have organized regular governments, built towns, and cultivated the arts.

' CL. MALAYSIA OR INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO.

1. *Extent.* Malaysia, or the Country of the Malays, comprises a great number of islands, separated from Asia by the Straits of Malacca and the Chinese Sea, and extending from 12° S. to 21° N. Lat., and from 95° to 134° E. Lon. The principal islands and groups included within these limits are the Sunda Islands, comprising Sumatra, Java, Banca, Bali, Sumbava, Timor, and other neighboring isles; Borneo, and Celebes; the Moluccas; and the Philippines.

2. *Sumatra.* Sumatra, separated from Java by the Straits of Sunda, is a large island 800 miles in length by 170 in breadth, with an area of 136,000 square miles. It is traversed through its whole length by a lofty range of mountains, reaching to an elevation of 15,000 feet; Mount Ophir, directly under the equator, is 13,800 feet high. This chain contains five volcanoes in constant activity. Sumatra is in part occupied by independent native powers, and in part by the Dutch.

The kingdom of Acheen is in the northern part of the island; it is now much reduced, but in the 16th and 17th centuries it included a great part of the island, and of the peninsula of Malacca. At that time the commercial relations of the Acheenese extended from Japan to Arabia, and their marine consisted of 500 vessels; they are still among the best navigators and most commercial people of this quarter of the globe.

Acheen, the capital, is a large town, in a fertile and well cultivated district; the town itself stands in the midst of a thick forest of cocoa-trees, bamboos, and bananas, upon low ground, which is liable to be inundated, and most of the houses are constructed of bamboo, and raised upon piles several feet from the ground. Population, about 30,000.

The kingdom of Siak inhabited by piratical Malays, and the country of the Battas, occupied by a confederation of independent Batta chiefs, lie to the south of Acheen.

The rest of the island belongs to the Dutch. Padang, an important commercial town with 10,000 inhabitants, Bencoolen, 10,000, and Palembang, on the eastern coast, with 25,000 inhabitants, are the chief places within their jurisdiction.

Opposite to Palembang is the island of Banca, noted for its tin-mines.

3. *Java.* Java, one of the most populous and flourishing countries in this region, belongs entirely to the Dutch. It is 640 miles long by 60 wide, having an area of 50,000 square miles, and containing 4,000,000

inhabitants. A high chain of mountains, containing 38 active volcanoes, traverses the island.

Batavia, the capital of the Dutch possessions in the east, and the emporium of Dutch commerce with China, Japan, India, and Malaysia, has a spacious and safe harbor, but the town is extremely unhealthy. It contains a number of public buildings in the European style, and has a population of 60,000, more than one half of which are Javanese and Chinese, and about one quarter are slaves.

Samarang, also built in the European style, is a place of some commerce, and contains about 40,000 inhabitants.

Suracarta is a large Javanese town, composed of a cluster of small villages, with 100,000 inhabitants, and Jocjocarta is of about the same size.

Timor is the largest of the chain of small islands lying east of Java; it belongs chiefly to the Portuguese and Dutch.

4. *Borneo.* This island, the largest in the world after New-Holland, is but imperfectly known to us. It is 800 miles in length by 700 in breadth, with an area of 300,000 square miles, and is supposed to contain about 4,000,000 inhabitants. It is separated from Celebes by the Strait of Macassar, and from Java by the Java Sea. The Dutch have settlements, or ports upon the western, southern, and eastern coasts, but the greater part is in the possession of independent native powers.

Borneo is a town of some commerce, and is built chiefly upon piles in the midst of canals. It is the capital of the kingdom of Borneo, in the northwestern part of the island, and appears to contain about 10,000 inhabitants, many of whom live in boats.

5. *Celebes.* Celebes or Macassar is a large island of extremely irregular shape, being composed of four great peninsulas. It has an area of about 55,000 square miles, and its population is estimated at 3,000,000. Most of the island is occupied by native states, which are tributaries to the Dutch; the latter have some ports, but no considerable town on the island. The site of the once populous town of Macassar is now occupied by the petty village of Vlaardingén.

6. *Moluccas or Spice Islands.* This group comprises a great number of islands, belonging to the Dutch, or at least subject to them. The principal are Gilolo, Ceram, Banda, Amboyna, Ternate, and Tidore. Banda and the small islands around it are exclusively devoted to the culture of the nutmeg-tree of which mace and the nutmeg are the products. In order to secure the monopoly of these valuable articles, which are produced nowhere else in perfection, the Dutch bribed the chiefs of the other islands to root out all the trees in their dominions, and, having exterminated or expelled the natives of Banda, parcelled out the land to a few Europeans called *park-keepers*, who cultivated the plantations by slaves or convicts.

Amboyna and the neighboring islands are devoted to the cultivation of the clove-tree, in regard to which the same policy has been pursued; but this odious system appears now to be abandoned. The seas around these islands abound in whales.

7. *Philippines.* This archipelago comprises about 1,000 islands, many of which are large and populous, and contains above 3,000,000 inhabitants. The Spaniards claim these islands, but there are several powerful states, and numerous small tribes, which are entirely independent. The two largest islands are Luzon and Mindanao; the

former has an area of 53,000 square miles; the latter of about 30,000. There are numerous volcanoes in these and the other islands.

Manilla, the capital of all the Spanish colonies in the east, is a large, populous, and flourishing city on Luzon situated at the head of a fine bay, upon a noble river which divides it into two parts. It is handsomely built, and contains the residence of the governor general, a cathedral, several convents and numerous churches, some of which are richly decorated. Manilla is the centre of an active commerce, and its harbor is thronged with European, American, and Chinese vessels. Population 150,000.

The kingdom of Mindanao, with an area of 16,000 square miles, and 36,000 inhabitants, is entirely independent, as is also the piratical state of Sooloo, the sultan of which rules the group of isles of that name, and holds some territories on Borneo and the large island of Palawan, which is but imperfectly known.

8. *Climate, Productions, &c.* Situated in the middle of the torrid zone, Malaysia enjoys the advantages of a tropical climate, the intense heats of which are tempered by the vicinity of the sea. In those islands which lie north of the equator the monsoons blow southwest and northeast, in those to the south, southeast and northwest; the easterly winds bring the dry season, which in northern latitudes is from October to May, and in southern from May to October; the westerly monsoons prevail during the wet season. Some parts of the Malaysia are subject to violent hurricanes, and earthquakes are frequent and destructive in many of the islands.

The rich soil, watered by copious showers and warmed by a vertical sun, yields in profusion the most precious spices, useful nutritious plants, and valuable woods. Sandal wood, ebony, teak, numerous species of palms, furnishing dates, coconuts, and sago, various dye-woods, pepper, nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, camphor, gum benzoin, and many excellent fruits are among the vegetable productions. Some gold and silver, and tin, iron, copper, and lead are found. Borneo is the only region beside India, Brasil, and Russia which affords diamonds.

The air, the earth, and the waters swarm with animals; the tiger, elephant, rhinoceros, and tapir inhabit the same marshes and forests, as the orang-utangs and the huge python. The babyroussa, kangaroo, &c., and among the birds, the cassowary or emeu, and the brilliant birds of paradise, are characteristic of this region.

9. *Inhabitants.* Two distinct races are found in these islands; one of these is black, and is found in the interior of Borneo and the Philippine Isles, but comprises a small part of the population.

The great mass of the inhabitants are tribes or nations of Malay origin. They are in general of a dark yellow complexion, but with a great variety of shades, with black or dark hair, and well formed. In their social condition they present great diversities, but have mostly made more or less progress in the arts and in civilization, having regularly organized governments, and written characters. They exhibit a singular combination of vigor and impetuosity in action, with mildness and apathy when urged by no powerful motive. As enemies they are bold, remorseless, and vindictive; as friends too often capricious and treacherous. With these dispositions they are naturally inclined to predatory warfare, and piracy has ever been a favorite pursuit. In their usages we often find a similar mixture of mildness and ferocity,

gentle manners covering the horrible practices of cannibalism, infanticide, and human sacrifices.

The principal nations of Malaysia are the Javanese; the Malays Proper, who inhabit the coast of Sumatra, Borneo, the Moluccas, Timor, &c.; the Acheenese, and Battas of Sumatra; the, Macassars of Celebes; the Tagals, Bissayos, and Sooloos of the Philippines, and some others. Most of these nations are Mahometans; but the Battas, the Haraforas of the interior of Borneo, and many others are heathens.

The Malays Proper and the Javanese are the most numerous and the most civilized; they have at different times founded extensive empires, and have valuable literatures. These with many of the other nations have, from time immemorial, practised agriculture; worked mines, and possessed the art of weaving; domesticated the buffalo, the ox, the hog, and other animals; formed calendars, and had systems of arithmetic. They have practised navigation with great skill and boldness, and carried on a distant commerce from a remote period.

The Battas, however, who possess these arts of civilization, have established a sort of legal or judicial cannibalism; the punishment of several crimes by their laws is to be eaten alive. On the day fixed for the execution of the sentence, the person injured has the privilege of cutting off the first morsel, and he is followed in succession by the rest of the district. Beside this it is usual for the Battas and some other nations to eat their prisoners of war.

CLI. AUSTRALIA.

1. *Extent.* Australia comprises the islands lying round New Holland, and situated between 1° N. and 45° S. Lat., and between 110° and 180° E. Lon., with the exception of those already described as belonging to Malaysia on the northwest, and the group of New Zealand on the southwest. These limits include New Holland with Van Diemen's Land; Papua or New Guinea with the Louisiade; New Britain, New Ireland, and the neighboring islands; Solomon's Islands; New Hebrides; New Caledonia; and the Feejee Islands.

2. *New Holland.* This large island, or more properly continent, is but imperfectly known. It extends from 11° to 39° S. Lat., and from 113° to 153° E. Lon., being about 1,500 miles in breadth from north to south, and 2,600 in length from east to west, and having an area of about 3,000,000 square miles. Of this vast extent we are acquainted only with the coasts, excepting that some exploring parties have penetrated several hundred miles inland from the eastern shore, and to a still less distance on the western. A range of high mountains extends parallel to the eastern coast about fifty or sixty miles from the sea. From their western declivities several large rivers descend, but they appear to be branches of one great stream which enters the sea on the southern coast under the name of the river Murray.

The English claim the whole continent, and have formed two colonies, New South Wales on the east, and Swan River on the west.

New South Wales comprises an indefinite extent of country, the actual settlements stretching about 200 miles inland, and about 600 miles along the coast from Moreton Bay in 27° to 36° S. Lat. The colony is divided into 17 counties, which are subdivided into parishes