

THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHY;

OR
A VIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE
OF ALL THE
KINGDOMS, STATES, AND COLONIES
IN THE KNOWN WORLD.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

THE FIRST VOLUME

Contains a copious Introduction, adapted to the present improved state of Astronomical Science—a brief Geography of the Earth—a general Description of America—an Account of North-America, and its various Divisions, particularly of the United States—a general Account of the West-Indies, and of the four groupes of Islands into which they are naturally divided, and a minute Account of the several Islands—a general Description of South-America, and a particular Account of its various States and Provinces—and a brief De-

scription of the remaining American Islands.

THE SECOND VOLUME

Contains a Geography of the Eastern Continent—a general Description of Europe, and a minute Account of its various Kingdoms and States—a general Description of Asia, its Kingdoms, Provinces, and Islands—an Account of the numerous Islands arranged by modern Geographers under the names of Austral Asia and Polynesia—a general Description of Africa, and a particular Account of its various States and Islands.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

AN ABRIDGEMENT OF THE LAST CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES—
A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF REMARKABLE EVENTS FROM THE
CREATION TO THIS TIME—AN IMPROVED LIST OF AN-
CIENT AND MODERN LEARNED AND EMINENT MEN—
AND A COPIOUS INDEX TO THE WHOLE WORK.

THE WHOLE COMPREHENDING A COMPLETE
SYSTEM OF MODERN GEOGRAPHY.

ACCOMPANIED BY A NEW AND ELEGANT

General Atlas of the World,

CONTAINING (IN A SEPARATE QUARTO VOLUME,)
SIXTY THREE MAPS,

Comprising, as far as they could be obtained, all the latest Discoveries to the present time.

BY JEDIDIAH MORSE, D. D. F. A. A. S. H. S.
Minister of the Congregational Church in Charlestown.

SIXTH EDITION.

Arranged on a new plan, and improved in every part by a laborious examination of most of the late respectable Voyages and Travels, in Europe and Asia, by a free use of the information in the Abridgement of Pinkerton's excellent Geography, and by the late admirable Statistical Tables of Hassel.

VOLUME II.

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There is also abundance of inferior minerals, as tin, iron, lead, antimony, arsenic, and sulphur; and amber, a rare and singular product, is not only dug up in large quantities near the river Irrawady, but is uncommonly pure and pellucid.

The most singular product of Pegu is the ruby, a stone next to the diamond in value, and which is found in a mountain between Sirian and Pegu, this substance being almost as peculiar as the diamond is to Hindostan. Rubies and sapphires are also found in the north western part of the empire; but the most valuable mines are in the vicinity of the capital, or rather about 30 miles to the north.

MALAYA, OR MALACCA.

PROGRESSIVE GEOGRAPHY, NAME AND EXTENT, LANGUAGE, PRODUCTS, CITY OF MALACCA, GENERAL REMARKS ON THE MALAYS, ISLES OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR.

THE peninsula appended to the Birman territories on the south is styled Malaya or Malacca.

Progressive Geography.] This Chersonese was certainly unknown to the ancients, and seems to have escaped the knowledge of Marco Polo, if this be not his Maletur, where he says there was abundance of spices, and the natives had a proper and peculiar speech.

However this be, the Portuguese are regarded as the first discoverers of Malacca in 1509, to which they were led by the vain idea of finding the golden Chersonese of the ancients. In 1511 the Portuguese conquered the peninsula.

Name.] The name is derived from the Malaya, who are mostly Mahometans, and in some degree civilized; but the inland parts seem to be possessed by a more rude native race, little known amidst the imperfection of materials concerning this country. The northern limits are not strictly defined; but Malacca is about 8°, or near 560 miles in length, by about 150 miles of medial breadth, a territory sufficiently ample for a powerful monarchy, had its native productions corresponded with its extent.

Language.] The Malayan language has been called the Italian of the east, from the melody of frequent vowels and liquids.

The Arabic character is made use of; and an influx of words of that language has followed the adoption of the Mahometan religion. They write on paper, using ink of their own composition, and pens made of the twigs of a tree. The purest Malay is still supposed to be spoken in the peninsula, and has no inflexion of nouns or verbs.

Divisions.] Malacca is represented as divided into the king-

dom of Patani in the north, and that of Yohor or Jor occupying the southern extremity of the peninsula, the chief towns being Batusaber the capital, Linga, Bintam, and Carimon.

Products.] The inland parts of the Malayan peninsula seems to remain full of extensive aboriginal forests; nor do the ancient or modern maps indicate any towns or villages in these parts. The indolence of the inhabitants has prevented the country from being explored; but it produces pepper, and other spices, with some precious gums and woods. The wild elephants supply abundance of ivory; but the tin, the only mineral mentioned, may perhaps be the produce of Banka.

The city of Malacca, which seems to have been founded by Mahometans in the thirteenth century, was held by the Portuguese till 1641, when it was seized by the Dutch. It was considered as situated in the southern kingdom of Yohor; and in the last century was supposed to contain 12,000 inhabitants, of which however only 3000 dwelt within the walls. Not above 300 were native Portuguese, the others being a mixed race of Mahometan Malays, accounted among the chief merchants of the east. The Portuguese settlement did not extend above five leagues around; yet became highly important from its advantageous position for Indian and Chinese commerce.*

The disgraceful jealousy of the Dutch concerning their oriental possessions renders the recent accounts of this city imperfect.

In general the Malays are a well made people, though rather below the middle stature, their limbs well shaped, but small, and particularly slender, at the wrists and ancles. Their complexion is tawney, their eyes large, their noses seem rather flattened by art than nature; and their hair is very long, black, and shining.

Besides the tiger and elephant, Malacca produces the civet cat described by Sonnerat, who also mentions that wild men are found in this peninsula, perhaps the noted Orang Outang.

They are restless, fond of navigation, war, plunder, emigrations, colonies, desperate enterprizes, adventures, and gallantry. They talk incessantly of their honor and their bravery, whilst they are universally considered by those with whom they have intercourse, as the most treacherous, ferocious people on the globe; and yet, they speak the softest language of Asia.

This ferocity is so well known to the European companies, who have settlements in the Indies, that they have universally agreed in prohibiting the captains of their ships, who may put into the Malay islands, from taking on board any seamen of that nation, except in the greatest distress, and then on no account to exceed two or three.

It is nothing uncommon for a handful of these savages suddenly to embark, attack a vessel by surprize, poniard in hand, massacre the people, and make themselves masters of her. Malay barks, with 25 or 30 men, have been known to board European ships of 30 or 40 guns, in order to take possession of them, and murder

* Mandelst, i. Col. 537.

with their poniards great part of the crew. The Malay history is full of such enterprizes, which mark the desperate ferocity of these barbarians.

Opposite to the coast of Malacca, though at a considerable distance, are the islands of Andaman and of Nicobar. The great Andaman is about 140 miles in length, but not more than 20 in the greatest breadth, indented by deep bays affording excellent harbors, and intersected by vast inlets and creeks, one of which, navigable for small vessels, passes quite through the isle.* The soil is chiefly black mould, the cliffs of a white arenaceous stone. The extensive forests afford some precious trees, as ebony, and the Nicobar bread fruit. The only quadrupeds seem to be wild hogs, monkeys, and rats. The sea supplies numerous fish, and excellent oysters. The people of the Andamans are as little civilized as any in the world, and are probably cannibals. They have woolly heads, and perfectly resemble negroes. Their character is truly brutal, insidious, and ferocious, and their canoes of the rudest kind. On Barren isle, about 15 leagues east of the Andamans, is a violent volcano, which emits showers of red hot stones; and the whole island has a singular and volcanic appearance. A British settlement has been recently formed on the Greater Andaman, and some convicts sent thither from Bengal. The natives, about 2000, have already profited by the example of English industry.

The Nicobars are three; the largest being about five leagues in circumference.† They produce cocoa and areca trees, with yams and sweet potatoes; and the eatable bird's nests, so highly esteemed in China, abound here as well as in the Andamans. The people are of a copper colour, with small oblique eyes and other Tartar features. In their dress a small stripe of cloth hangs down behind; and hence the ignorant tales of seamen, which led even Linnæus to infer, that some kind of men had tails. The only quadrupeds are swine and dogs. The traffic is in cocoa nuts, of which one hundred are given for a yard of blue cloth.



SIAM.

CHAPTER I.

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY.

NAME, EXTENT, BOUNDARIES, ORIGINAL POPULATION, PROGRESSIVE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORICAL EPOCHS, RELIGION, GOVERNMENT, LAWS, POPULATION, ARMY, NAVY, REVENUES, POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, MANNERS, LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, CITIES, EDIFICES, MANUFACTURES, COMMERCE.

TILL the recent extension of the Birman empire, the rich and flourishing monarchy of Siam was to be regarded as the

* *As. Res.* iv. 385.

† *Ibid.* iii. 149.

and from the south, partly from Yemen ; and some said to be perennial streams, full of fish. The two chains of mountains, inclosing this vale, approach so near at the east end that the space might be walked over in five or six minutes ; or was about a quarter of a mile. This opening being shut by a thick wall, the water was retained, and imparted particular advantages to agriculture. But the wall, constructed of large masses of hewn stone to the height of forty or fifty feet, was neglected after the fall of the Sabean kingdom ; and burst in the middle, leaving only the ruins on both sides, so that the water is now lost in the desert on the N. of Hadramaut.

Isles.] Besides several isles of little consequence in the Arabian gulf, there are two islands which deserve particular notice. Socotra, about 240 miles from the southern coast of Arabia, appears in all ages to have belonged to that country, and to have been celebrated for the production of aloes, still esteemed superior to any other. The inhabitants are clearly of Arabian extract. There are two bays, and some secure harbors ; and the isle is also said to produce frankincense, while ambergris and coral are found in the neighboring seas. The isle of Bahrin is in the Persian gulf, near the Arabian coast, and remarkable for the great pearl fishery in its neighborhood. The name *Bahrin* is a modern appellation ; for Abulfeda, as well as the Arabs of Lahsa, call the large isle Aual. The inhabitants of Aual, and the smaller isles, are Arabs, of the Chia persuasion. In the large isle there is a fortified town ; and in the whole group there may be forty or fifty mean villages.

ASIATIC ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE ASIATIC ISLANDS, INCLUDING AUSTRALASIA AND POLYNESIA.

HAVING thus completed the description of the wide continent of Asia, so far as the limits assigned to this work would admit, a difficult field of investigation opens in the innumerable Asiatic islands, and those situated in the Pacific, or more properly Great Oriental Ocean.

These regions are, however, of so wide and distinct a nature, consisting of almost a new continent in the south of Asia, and scattered groups of isles in the Pacific, many of them nearer to South America than to Asia, that they cannot well be blended under one denomination, as was long since observed by the learned president Des Brosses, who, nearly half a century ago, proposed

that the countries to the south of Asia, namely New Holland, New Guinea, and New Zealand, &c. should be styled *Australasia*, and the numerous isles in the Pacific, *Polynesia*, from a Greek term implying many islands.* A description of the large island, or rather continent of New Holland, with its appendages, naturally follows that of Asia, and the Asiatic islands in the Indian ocean; and will be properly succeeded by that of Polynesia, or the islands in the Pacific; which are far remote from the American coast, but are connected by short passages with Australasia, the Sandwich islands alone excepted, which may however be followed by groups to be discovered to the S. W. so as to be connected with Polynesia. The reader needs scarcely be reminded, that in this quarter alone of the world this remarkable exception occurs; for the islands belonging to both Americas, to Africa and to Europe, are sufficiently distinct and appropriated, while the name of Asiatic islands, enormous as Asia itself, might be diffused to such an extent, as to embarrass the utmost powers of geographical description, and present only vague confusion, instead of scientific precision. Before, however, a correct arrangement can be followed, it will be proper to fix some limits between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

As the continent of America divides the Atlantic, or Great Western Ocean, from the Pacific, or Great Eastern Ocean, (both so termed in relation to the ancient and civilized world,) and as Africa divides the Atlantic from the Indian ocean, so, by parallel usage and deduction, what is called New Holland, may be considered as the fixed division between the Indian and Pacific, thus claiming with justice the authority of a continent, washed by the Indian ocean on the west, and the Pacific on the east; while a line drawn from the most prominent central capes, in the North and South, may be regarded as a boundary of these two oceans. The southern extension of this imaginary line is of little moment; but in the north it must be considered as a division of great importance to precise discussion, as the isles on the west must be considered as strictly Asiatic, and intimately connected with the description of Asia; while those on the right belong to Australasia and Polynesia. This division must naturally and unavoidably depend on the observation of the widest channel between the Molucca islands,† and Papua, or New Guinea: and the degree of longitude, 130° from Greenwich, seems nearly to amount to a boundary. Hence Amboyna belongs to the Asiatic isles, while Timor-laut belongs to Australasia. The meridian of boundary passes through Ceram; but the proximity of that isle to Amboyna, may properly connect it with the Asiatic isles, with which Mysol may also be classed. From the N. W. extremity of Papua, or rather some small islands lying at that extremity, a clear line may be drawn, following the same meridian, and leaving Gilolo among the Asiatic isles on the W. and those of Pelew

* Histoire des Navigations aux Terres Australes. Paris, 1756, 2 vols. 4to.

† This name originally confined to five small islands, has been extended, by the French geographers, to a large group between Borneo and New Guinea.

among the Polynesian, in the Pacific. This line then bending N. W. would include the Phillipine islands and the Bashees, passing to the S. of Formosa; the other limits and appellations being sufficiently clear.

Such may therefore be the assumed boundary between the Indian ocean and Chinese sea on the W. and the Pacific on the E. and between the Asiatic isles, and Australasia and Polynesia. The boundary between the two latter great divisions may be traced by regarding what is called New Holland, as a continent, or great leading island, with which those most adjacent must be regarded as connected. Hence Papua belongs to Australasia: and a line drawn in the latitude of three or four degrees to the N. of the equator, and then passing S. in the meridian of 170 E. from Greenwich, so as to include the New Hebudes, thence in the parallel of 30 S. gradually stretching to 175 W. from Greenwich, including New Zealand, and the isle called Chatham, will present the natural and precise boundary of Australasia.

That division called Polynesia, by far the most extensive, adjoins the W. to the line above drawn around the Asiatic isles; thence it ascends about lat. 18, long. 128 E. in a N. E. direction, so as to include the isle called Rica de Plata, long. 161, and thence curving S. E. and encompassing the northern Sandwich islands, where our great navigator fell,† and the Marquesas, and extending to 120 W. from London. Any isles to the N. E. or E. of this line of demarkation may be regarded as belonging to North or South America.

The southern boundary of the Asiatic isles may be considered as sufficiently ascertained by the wide channel between them and New Holland; while the N. W. extremity of Sumatra may present a meridian of separation on the W. between the Asiatic isles, eminently so styled, and those in the Indian ocean. The same western boundary may be assigned to Australasia.

The southern limits of the last, and of Polynesia, alone remain; but as few or no islands have been discovered to the S. of New Zealand, the parallel of 50 S. lat. may be lastly assumed as the boundary of both.

Polynesia will thus extend from 50 S. lat. to about 35 N. lat. that is 85° or 5100 g. miles: while the breadth taken from long. 170 E. from Greenwich, to 130 W. upon the equator itself, will yield sixty degrees, or 3600 g. miles.

The length of Australasia may be computed from 95 of the same longitude to 185, that is 40° in lat. 30, or nearly 5000 g. miles; while the breadth lat. 3 N. to lat. 50 S. will be 3180 g. miles.

Even the smallest division, that of the Asiatic isles, which has been called the Oriental Archipelago, is of great extent from 13 S. lat. to 22 N. lat. that is 35°, or 2100 g. miles; while the length from 95 E. long. to 132, yields 37 degrees not far from the equator, nearly corresponding with the breadth.

† There are other Sandwich islands, lat. 59 S. or beneath the parallel of Cape Horn. Such is the perplexity of the received nomenclature.

ASIATIC ISLES.

ARRANGEMENT OF THOSE IN THE ORIENTAL ARCHIPELAGO.

1. ISLES OF SUNDA, OR SUMATRAN CHIAN. 2. BORNEO. 3. MANILLAS. 4. CELEBEZIAN ISLES. 5. SPICE ISLANDS.

AN inspection of the maps and charts of this part of the globe, will shew that a great chain of islands extends from Sumatra N. W. to Lackal or Lachal S. E. This chain includes Sumatra, Java, Balli, Sumbava, Florez, and Timor, as the chief isles ; with Sumba in the S. and in the N. Madura, Billiton, Banca, &c. This chain might either be termed the Sumatran islands, from the chief, or the received name of the isles of Sunda may be extended and restricted to this group ; which, besides the strait so called, presents many other sounds or passages, from the Indian ocean towards the Pacific and the Chinese sea.

Borneo, an island of vast extent, should not be considered as belonging to any group ; but the small isles around it may be termed the Bornean islands, as the Sooloos, Pulq Laut, Anumba, Natuna.

The Phillippine islands may already be regarded as the most regular and precise group in these seas, including the Bashees, and other little groups in the north, and Mindanao and Pulawan in the south.

There remains the large island of Celebez, which may be considered as grouped with Shulla, Boutan, Salayar, &c. and the whole may be termed the Celebezian isles.

The Molucca islands, an ancient and venerable name, are properly only five, of small size, on the west of Gilolo ; but it seems proper to extend this appellation to Gilolo, Mysol, Ceram, Amboyna and Banda. The remaining isles in the S. E. belong to Papua in Austrasia.

These five divisions are not only indicated by the hand of nature, but seem sufficient for a description of this vast archipelago.

1. THE ISLES OF SUNDA, OR THE SUMATRAN CHAIN.

This division, as already explained, comprises *Sumatra, Java, Balli, Lombok, Sumbava, Florez,* and *Timor* ; with several isles of less note in the vicinity of these.

Sumatra is an island of great extent, being not less than 950 miles in length, by about 200 in breadth, containing 177,000 square miles ;* on so vast a scale are the regions connected with Asia, that Great Britain, if situated in the oriental archipelago, would only in size rival Sumatra and Borneo. The English settlement of *Bencoolen*, in the S. E. part of this island, has occasioned par-

* Hassel.

particular attention to its nature and productions, especially since Mr. Marsden published an ample and intelligent account of this interesting island, from which this brief description shall be abstracted.* It was certainly unknown to the ancients, the information of Ptolemy terminating considerably to the north, and the mountain of Ophir, whence some have supposed this country known to Solomon, is a modern European denomination. The Arabs seem to have been acquainted with this island in the 9th century, but it became first known to the Europeans in the 16th. A chain of mountains runs through the whole isle, the ranges being in many parts double and treble, generally nearer to the western coast, where they approach within 20 miles of the sea; but the height is not so considerable as to retain snow. Mount Ophir, immediately under the equinoctial line, is 13,842 feet above the sea, only yielding about 2000 feet to mount Blanc. Between the ridges of mountains are elevated plains with lakes and water-falls, one of which is from the summit of a conic mountain. There are many rivers on the western coast, but commonly impeded by sand-banks, so as to present few means of navigation. In the midst of what is called the Torrid Zone, the thermometer seldom rises above 85°, while in Bengal it attains 101°; and the inland inhabitants of the mountains use fires to dispel the morning cold; yet frost, snow, and hail are unknown. Thunder and lightning are frequent, particularly during the N. W. monsoon. The year has two divisions, called the rainy and dry monsoons; the S. E. or dry, beginning about May, and ending with September; the N. W., or wet, beginning with November, and ending about March; the intermediate months, April and May, October and November, being variable: on the west coast the sea breeze begins about ten in the forenoon, and continues till six in the evening; being succeeded by the land breeze during the night. The soil is generally a stiff reddish clay, covered with a layer of black mould, the source of perpetual verdure; but three quarters of the isle, especially towards the south, present an impervious forest. On the west, between the mountains and the sea, there are large swamps; but even here the face of the country is remarkably broken and uneven. There seem to be many mines of gold, though mostly neglected; and the copper is mingled with that metal. There are excellent ores of iron and steel: and that rare mineral, tin, is one of the chief exports, being principally found near Palimbang on the eastern shore, a continuation probably of the rich beds of Banca. Gold is found near Bencoolen, and in other places, but of inferior quality. The little island of Poolo Pisang, close to the foot of mount Poogon, is mostly a bed of rocky crystal. There are several volcanic mountains in Sumatra, as in most of the other islands of the oriental archipelago, but eruptions are unfrequent. The number of inhabitants in this island is estimated by Hassel, at 4,500,000; by Bruns, only at 2,250,000. The sea coast is chiefly occupied by the Malays, who seem to be recent settlers, and their

* History of Sumatra, 1783, 4to 2d edit.

language a dialect of a speech most widely extended, from Malacca, and perhaps the south of Hindostan, nearly as far as the western coasts of America, through the innumerable islands of the Pacific. By the account of Mr. Marsden there are inland races, of whom the Googoo are covered with long hair, and little superior to the Ourang Outangs of Borneo. The chief native sovereignty is that of Menang Cabou, but the Rejangs seem to retain the purest race and manners. They are rather short and slender: the noses of infants are flattened, and their ears are extended; but the eyes are dark and clear. The complexion is properly yellow, being without the red tinge, which constitutes a tawney or copper color: but the superior class of women is fair, and commonly of not unpleasing countenances.

The chief distinction between the natives and the Malays of the coast seems to be, that the former are fairer and stronger. The original clothing is made of the inner bark of trees, as in Otaheite; but the dress of the Malays consists of a vest, a robe, and a kind of mantle, with a girdle, in which is the *cees* or dagger. The villages are commonly on hills, and surrounded with fruit trees; the balli, or common hall, being in the centre. The houses are of wood and bamboos, covered with leaves of palm, standing on pillars, and scaled by a rude ladder. The furniture is of course simple, and common food rice: sago, though common, being less used than in the islands farther to the east. The horses are small but well made, and hardy: the cows and sheep also diminutive, the latter probably from Bengal. Here are also found the elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, tiger, bear, otter, porcupine, deer, wild hog, civet cat, with many varieties of the monkey. The buffalo is employed in domestic labour. Among birds, the Sumatran or Argus pheasant is of distinguished beauty. The jungle fowl, or wild poultry, also appear; and there is a breed in the south of remarkable height likewise found in Bantam on the west of Java, which also gives name to the well known small breed. Insects of all kinds swarm, particularly the destructive termites. The most abundant article is pepper, the object of the British settlement; being produced by a climbing plant resembling a vine. The white pepper is procured by stripping the outer husk from the ripe grains. Camphor is another remarkable vegetable product, and cassia, a coarse kind of cinnamon, is found in the central parts of the country. Rattans are exported to Europe for walking canes. "The silk cotton (bombax ceiba) is also to be met with in every village. This is to appearance, one of the most beautiful raw materials the hand of nature has presented. Its fineness, gloss, and delicate softness, render it to the sight and touch much superior to the labor of the silk worm: but owing to the shortness and brittleness of the staple, it is esteemed unfit for the reel and loom, and is only applied to the unworthy purpose of stuffing pillows and mattresses. It grows in pods from four to six inches long, which burst open when ripe. The seeds entirely resemble the black pepper, but are without taste. The tree is remarkable, from the branches growing out perfectly

straight and horizontal, and being always three, forming equal angles at the same height : the diminutive shoots likewise grow flat; and the several gradations of branches observe the same regularity to the top. Some travellers have called it the Umbrella tree, but the piece of furniture called a dumb waiter exhibits a more striking picture of it.*

The commerce is chiefly with Hindostan and China. The Malays excel in gold and silver fillagree, and in weaving silk and cotton; but the manufactures are imperfect, and the sciences little cultivated. Besides the Malays, several languages are spoken, which seem however to have a manifest affinity amongst themselves, and with that widely diffused speech which may be called the Polynesian, as it is diffused through innumerable islands in the Pacific. Even the rudest tribes of Sumatra and the other Asiatic isles, as far as the utmost bounds of Polynesia, display a certain degree of civilization. The panjeran or prince presides over many magistrates; but his government is limited, his power being confined by his poverty. Laws are unknown, the chiefs rendering judgment according to customs. Most crimes are compensated by money, murder itself not excepted. The difficulties attending marriage form an exception to the general customs of uncivilized countries, and the general chastity seems remarkable. The celebration is commonly in the balli, or village hall, and is accompanied with dances and songs. Combats of cocks and quails are among the most favorite amusements, together with dances, dice, and other games. The use of opium is extensive, but rarely leads to other excesses. What is called a muck, by the natives *mongamo*, rather proceeds from revenge, or a sense of oppression, than from intoxication. The Christian religion is unknown in Sumatra, the missionaries having unaccountably neglected this large island. The natives of Sumatra and the other Malay islands, are of three casts; Pagans, Mahometans, and Christians. The Pagans generally inhabit the interior of the islands. The barbarism of these Pagans almost exceeds belief. Marsden, in his history of Sumatra, informs us that they kill and eat each other. And the researches of Dr. Leyden have led to the discovery, that they sometimes eat their own relations, and this not so much to gratify their appetite, as to perform a pious ceremony. When a man becomes aged and infirm, he invites his children and friends to come and eat him. He ascends a tree, round which his relations and friends assemble, and join in a funeral dirge, the import of which is, "The season is come, the fruit is ripe, and must descend." After which the victim descends, and is eaten by his children.† The kingdom of Acheen in the N. W. extremity of the island carries on a considerable trade with the coast of Coromandel. The natives are more stout and tall, and of a darker complexion than the other Sumatrans.

Several small isles encompass Sumatra. *Banca* is particularly

* Marsden, 127.

† Buchanan's Researches.

celebrated for its tin.* Of Billeton little is known; nor of the isles that lie between Sumatra and Malacca called Pitti, and other names, with the common addition of *Pulo*, which in these seas appears to imply an island, being a Malay term.

The *Nassau* or *Poggy* isles, lie off the W. coast of Sumatra, distant 20 or 30 leagues. The northern extreme of the northern island is in lat. 2 18 S. and the southern extremity of the southern island is in lat. 8 16 S. These are separated by a narrow passage in lat. 2 40 S. lon. 100 43 E. The islands rise into rough hills and mountains, exhibiting strong marks of some powerful convulsion. Excellent timber is found to the summit of the mountains. The tree called *Bintangoor* or *Pphoon* is of sufficient size for the lower masts of the largest ships. The *Jago*, cocoa nut, and bamboo, are plenty. Pine apples, magnostans, and plantains, are common. The woods are impervious to man, inhabited by a few red deer, hogs, and monkeys. Pork and fish are a favorite food with the islanders. Their language, their manners, and character are very different from their neighbors on Sumatra. The two principal islands have about 1400 people, divided into small tribes, each occupying a stream of water. Their houses are of bamboos, raised on posts: the under part is inhabited by hogs and poultry. Their clothing is a piece of coarse cloth made of bark, worn round the waist. Beads and other ornaments are worn. They file, or grind their teeth to a point. Their color is brown; their stature seldom exceeds 5 feet and a half. They live together in great harmony, believe in God and a Providence. A fowl or hog is sometimes sacrificed to avert distress, but they have no stated religious worship. Omens of good or ill fortune are drawn from appearances in the entrails of their victims. Their government is democratic, the whole village assemblies to try a criminal. Estates descend to the males. When a thief cannot make restitution, he is punished with death. A murderer is delivered to the relations of the deceased, who may put him to death. Marriages are settled by the parents; when the bride is taken home, a hog is generally killed, and a feast made. Polygamy is not tolerated. In case of adultery, when the wife is the offender, the husband may seize all the effects of the paramour, and punish his wife by cutting off her hair. When the husband offends, the wife may quit him. The general custom of tatooing themselves, and the manner of their disposing of their dead, bear a striking resemblance to that of the *Otahi* ans.†

Java is not only an extensive island, about 650 miles in length, by about 100 of medial breadth, but is remarkable for the city of *Batavia*, the celebrated capital of the Dutch possessions. This island, like the former, abounds with forests, and presents an enchanting verdure. It is also intersected by a ridge of mountains,

* The industrious translator of *Stavorinus*, vol. i. p. 357, says that these mines were only discovered in 1710 or 1711, and though the Dutch receive about three millions of pounds weight, the vein seems inexhaustible.

† *Asiatic Researches*.

like a spine pervading its length.* Batavia is strongly fortified with walls, and a citadel towards the sea. There are many canals about four feet in depth, and the town is large, and well built of stone. This metropolis of the oriental archipelago presents many nations and languages; and the Chinese constitute the greater part of the inhabitants, being contented for the sake of gain to forget the tombs of their ancestors, and the laws of their country against emigration. The Malay language, the French of the east, is here universally understood. The streets are planted with large trees, which practice, with the Dutch canals, probably contributes to the unhealthiness of this spot. The heat is not so intense, considered in itself, being between 80 and 86°, as from the low situation of the town, and the murky exhalations from the bogs, canals, and a muddy sea, whence from nine o'clock till four it is impossible to walk out. The sun being nearly vertical, rises and sets about six throughout the year; but the nocturnal repose is infested by mosquitos. In the evening, from six to nine, parties are formed, and intemperance assists the poison of the climate. The water is also of a bad quality. The air is so unwholesome, from fetid fogs and other causes, that dysenteries and putrid fevers destroy prodigious numbers; and of three settlers it is rare that one outlives the year. The rainy season begins with December, and lasts till March. Crocodiles abound in the rivers, as in most of the oriental isles. Java is divided into three of four principalities, the chief being the emperor of Surikarta. The products resemble those of Sumatra; and the existence of the poisonous tree, which has supplied Dr. Darwin with a highly poetical description, appears to be completely confuted. This isle was captured by the British, August, 1811.

The small isle of MADURA, on the N. of Java, had its independent prince, whose sufferings under the tyranny of the Dutch have been related by Mr. Pennant.† The Dutch phlegm seems to have led them to greater cruelties than the fanaticism of the Portuguese or Spaniards; and it is to be regretted that the English had not retained for some years the possession of the Dutch settlements, to convince the Batavians, by example, that conquests may be better maintained by lenity than by sordid cruelty. The isle of BALLI seems only remarkable for furnishing slaves, cotton, yarn, and pickled pork.‡ It has 600,000 inhabitants, who are pagans, black and addicted to war.

Of LOMBOK, SUMBAVA, and FLOREZ, little is known. Timor was discovered in 1522 by the companions of Magalhaens, who found in it alone the white sandal wood.§ The Portuguese, after a long struggle, effected a settlement; but were expelled by the Dutch in 1613, who regard this isle as a kind of barrier of the spice trade. Timor is nearly 200 miles in length, by 60 in breadth;

* Thunberg, ii. 213. For a tolerable map of Java see the voyage of Stavorinus, 1798, v. i. p. 313, where there is also a long and minute description of the Island.

† Outlines, iv. 31. See, ib. 23. the massacre of 12,000 Chinese in 1740.

‡ See Forrest, 170.

§ Premier Voyage au tout du monde par Pigafetta. Paris, an 9, p. 213, 214.

and the inhabitants are esteemed the bravest in the Oriental Archipelago. It was captured by the British in 1811.

II. BORNEO.

THIS island is reputed the largest in the world ; and even after recent discoveries seems only to yield to New Holland, which, as it rivals Europe in size, may more properly be regarded as a continent. Borneo seems clearly to be the Greater Java of Marco Polo, which he says is 3000 miles in circuit, as it is about 900 miles in length, by 600 in its greatest breadth, containing about 313,500 square miles.*

The interior parts of the great island of Borneo are little known, though a considerable river flows from the centre of the country almost due south, forming the harbor of Bender Massin ; and the names of several villages on the banks are laid down by D'Anville. " The far greater part of Borneo, next to the sea, especially the northern side, consists of swamps, covered with forests of trees of numberless species and great sizes, which penetrate for scores of miles, towards the centre of the island. The unstable muddy flats are divided by rivers, which branch into multitudes of canals, and are the only roads into the interior parts. Lofty mountains are said to rise in the middle of the island : many are volcanic, and often occasion tremendous earthquakes."† This island has five millions, some say six millions inhabitants.‡ The houses are often built on posts fixed in rafts, which are moored to the shore, and may be moved from place to place according to the convenience of the inhabitants. The coasts are held by Malays, Moors, Macassars from Celebez, and even Japanese. The natives in the interior are blacks, with long hair, of a middle stature, feeble and inactive ; but their features are superior to those of negroes. European settlements have been unsuccessful, the adventurers having been massacred. Pepper abounds in the interior country, with the gum called the dragon's blood, camphor, and sandal wood. Edible birds' nests are abundant. Gold is found in the interior country ; where there are also said to be diamonds, but inferior to those of Golconda. The Ourang Outang abounds. The natives are called Biajos, but their language has not been explained ; they are said to offer sacrifices of sweet scented wood to one supreme beneficent deity ; and the sentiments of piety, or in other words, of delightful gratitude, are accompanied by laudable morals. The Biajos come down the great river of Banjar to the port of Masseen in rude boats, with gold dust, and other articles, the Moors, called Banjareens, being the factors. These Biajos are tattooed blue, with a small wrapper about the loins. The chiefs extract one or two of the fore teeth, substituting others of gold ; and strings of the teeth of tigers, a real badge of knighthood, or courage, are worn round the neck. The town, called Borneo, on the N. W. consists of about three thousand houses, floating as above

* Hassel.

† Pennant's Outlines, iv. 52.

‡ Hassel and Bruns.

described ; it was greatly frequented by the Chinese, who probably continue to be the chief traders to Borneo.

This large island is surrounded with many small isles which, from their relation to this comparative continent, may be termed Bornean islands. Such is the group of *Sooloo* in the N. E. ; of which Mr. Dalrymple, who visited them, has given a good account. They are rich in pearls, for which they were noted in the time of Magalhaens. The chief isle is thirty miles by twelve : the natives rather polished, the government being vested in a sultan, for the Mahometan religion extends thus far.* The isle of *Tawee* lies between the Sooloos and Borneo. At the northern extremity is *Banguay*, not far from *Balabac*, the most S. W. of the Philippines ; and *Balambangan*, remarkable for a settlement attempted by the English in 1773, but evacuated either on account of the unhealthy climate, or of a Dutch invasion. To the W. of Borneo are the groups of *Natuna* and *Anamba* little visited or known ; an observation applicable also to several isles in the S. of Borneo ; but *Pulo Laut*, which by D'Anville is represented as an isle, is by later discoveries attached to the continent of Borneo.

III. THE MANILLAS, OR PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

This large group was discovered by Magalhaens in 1521, who called them the archipelago of St. Lazarus ; but they were afterwards styled the Philippines, in honor of that infamous tyrant Philip II. of Spain. They contain 3,800,000 inhabitants.†

Luzon is the largest and most important of these isles, being more than seven degrees, or near 500 miles in length, by about 100 of medial breadth. The jealousy of the Spaniards has prevented the acquisition of precise knowledge concerning this important island, which is pervaded in its length by a chain of high mountains towards the east. Gold, copper, and iron are among the certain products ; and the soil is reported to be uncommonly fruitful. The natives, who are of a mild character, are called Tagals, like all those of the Philippines, and seem of Malay origin.‡ They are tall and well made, wearing only a kind of shirts with loose drawers, but the dress of the women is chiefly a large mantle, and their black and beautiful hair sometimes reaches the ground, the complexion being a deep tawny. The houses are of bamboo covered with palm leaves, raised on pillars to the height of eight or ten feet. The chief food is rice, and salted fish. There are many lakes in the isle of Luzon, the most considerable being that which gives source to the river of Manilla. Several volcanoes occur, and earthquakes are not unknown. The cotton is of peculiar beauty ; and the sugar cane and cocoa trees are objects of particular culture. The city of Manilla is well built and fortified, but a third part is occupied by convents : the number of Christian inhabitants is computed at 12,000. Between this city and Aca-

* See also the Voyages of Sonnerat and Forrest. † Hassel. ‡ Sonnerat ii. 108.

pulco, nearly in the same parallel on the W. of Mexico, was conducted a celebrated commerce through a space of about 140 degrees, or about 8400 g. miles, more than one third of the circumference of the globe. The Manilla ships, or galleons, were formerly of great size, but latterly smaller vessels have been used. The city of Manilla was taken by the English in 1762. The Chinese were here numerous till the beginning of the 17th century, when the Spaniards committed a terrible massacre of that industrious people. In 1769 it is said that they were again expelled from all these isles, by the bigotry of the governor: since which time there has been a great decline in industry and produce.

Next in size is *Mindanao*, a beautiful and fertile island, the chief Spanish settlement being at *Sambuang* in the S. W.* This island is in general mountainous; but the vales consist of a rich black mould, watered with the purest rivulets. The *Lano* is a large inland lake, about 60 miles in circumference. Horses and buffaloes have here multiplied to a surprising degree. In the south there is a volcano of constant eruption, which serves as a sea mark.

The other chief Philippines are *Pulawain*, *Mindoro*, *Pani Buglas* or *isle of Negroes*, *Zebu*, *Leyt*, or *Leita*, and *Samar*. On the E. of *Zebu* is the small isle of *Mactan*, where the celebrated navigator *Magalhaens* was slain. The other little islands might be counted by hundreds. In general this grand and extensive group presents many volcanic appearances; such as lava, volcanic glass, sulphur, and hot springs. These isles present wild boars, deer, and useful animals of various kinds; and among vegetables the bread fruit must not be forgotten, which first appears on the eastern coasts of *Sumatra*, and thence extends its benefits through innumerable islands in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

IV. THE CELEBEZIAN ISLES.

Celebez is an isle of great and irregular length, more than 600 miles, but divided into various portions by great bays, so that the breadth is commonly not above 60 miles, containing about 92,000 square miles, and 3,000,000 inhabitants,† lon. from 116 to 124 E. lat. 1 30 to 5 30 N. This island is lofty and mountainous, especially towards the centre, and there are several active volcanoes. Though the Asiatic isles abound in sublime and beautiful scenery, this is depicted as exceeding them all.‡ Rivers abound, rising in the high mountains, and precipitating down vast rocks, amidst a sylvan scene of lofty and singular trees. The Portuguese obtained a settlement near *Macassar* in the S. W. being favored by the king of that region, but were expelled by the Dutch in 1660, who continue to control the island, the Chinese alone being permitted to trade. The natives, commonly called

* *Sonnerat*, ii. 116. For an ample and curious account of this island the reader may consult *Forest's Voyage to New Guinea*. The *Haraforas*, or black natives, are sold with the land.

† *Hassel*.

‡ *Pennant* iv. 86.

Macassars,* often degrade their courage in the quality of freebooters, attacking vessels with surprising desperation, and often with lances, or arrows poisoned with the juice of the notorious tree called upas. Their houses are raised on pillars, as usual, on account of the rainy season, or W. monsoon, from November till March. The Celebezan group might aptly be termed the Isles of Poison, being full of poisonous trees and plants; though the noted upas be exaggerated and ascribed to Java, where it seems less known. Nature has thus contrasted the salutary productions of the spice islands with the most pernicious proofs of her power. This large island having been, like Borneo, little explored, there is a great deficiency in its natural history. The inhabitants are said to cultivate great quantities of rice.

Around Celebez are many small isles, as *Sanguy* in the N. the *Shullas* and *Peling* in the E. with *Boutan* and *Sala* in the S. and some of smaller note in the W. Even the smallest isles are mostly inhabited, and governed by chiefs. In *Sanguy* and some others there are small Dutch garrisons, as advanced guards to protect the Spice islands. Boutan is probably still ruled by a Mahometan sultan.

V. THE SPICE ISLANDS, INCLUDING THE MOLUCCAS.

THE Moluccas, originally and strictly so termed, are only five small islands on the W. of Gilolo, namely TERNAT, TIDORE, MOTIR, MAKIAN, and BAKIAN or BATCHIAN: † but as the kings of the Moluccas have possessed territory in Gilolo and other adjacent isles, and as the term *Moluccas* is considered as synonymous with that of *Spice Islands*, the appellation has been extended. The Moluccas of D'Anville include all the islands in the oriental Archipelago, except those of Sunda and the Philippines; but this extension is objectionable, as leading to vague ideas and confused description; and it seems preferable to include under the name of Spice Islands those from Mortay in the N. to Banda in the S. and from Mysol in the E. to Bouro and Oubi in the W. Thus the chief Spice Islands will be GILOLO, CERAM, and BOURO, with MORTAY, OUBI, MY SOL, BOURO, that of AMBOYNA, and the group of BANDA, with such small isles as approximate nearer to these than to the Celebezan group, or Sumatrian chain. In this description are specially included the five celebrated isles, originally and peculiarly termed the Moluccas.

GILLOLO is of considerable extent; but in irregularity of form similar to Celebez. The length is about 230 miles; the breadth of each limb seldom above 40. The shores are low: the interior rises to high peaks. Gilolo is said to have been once governed by one sovereign, a sheref from Mecca; but the sultans of Ternat and Tidore seem now to share this large isle between them; ‡ a

* The most powerful people are the *Bonians*, on the bay of Boni, called *Bug-gasses* by English scamen, and by other nations *Houginese*. Starovinus, ii. 181.

† Pigafetta, 167.

‡ Pennant, iv. 193.

circumstance which adds to the propriety of including Gilolo in the same description with the Moluccas. One of the chief towns is Tataru, situated on a point or small promontory of the eastern limb, faced with precipices, so as to be only accessible by ladders. This island abounds with oxen, buffaloes, goats, deer, and wild hogs; but the sheep are few. The bread fruit is frequent in Gilolo, with the sago tree. The natives are industrious, particularly in weaving, but their exertions are suppressed by Batavian jealousy.

CERAM is another island of considerable size, being about 190 miles in length by 40 in breadth; low towards the shore, but with inland mountains. Mr. Forrest specially mentions that Ceram produces clove trees; and there are large forests of the sago tree, which forms a considerable article of export: yet this large island has been little explored, and is almost unknown.

As in geographical description the size of an island is a leading feature, the next mentioned must be BORO, about 90 miles in length, by 50 in breadth. This isle was nominally subject to the king of Ternat; but in 1660 the Dutch built a fort, and, though they burned the exterior woods, seem to have improved the industry of the inhabitants.* The civet weasel is found here, and the curious hog called babiroussa. The isle of Boro rises suddenly from a deep sea, being encompassed as with a wall. The interior mountains are so lofty, that they may sometimes be descried at the distance of 28 leagues. Green ebony, and a kind of iron wood, are mentioned among the trees; and it is probable that the clove, and perhaps the nutmeg, defy, in the mountain recesses, the wild avarice of man.

Of the other large islands, BAKIAN or BACHIAN will be described with the Moluccas strictly so called. Of MORTAY, MYSOL, (Mixoal or Michoal,) and OUBI, little is known. Mortay is a beautiful isle, but thinly inhabited, though full of sago trees, which are cut by the people of Gilolo; and is subject to the king of Ternat. Mysol, the most eastern of this group, is of a triangular shape, with a bold shore. The villages are built in the water upon posts; and there are picturesque forests visited by the birds of paradise, which seem to migrate from Papua, and are caught in considerable numbers. These romantic and beautiful birds strictly belong to Papua, or New Guinea, but their flight extends over most of the Spice Islands, where they always descend as from heaven, and, as the natives believe, float in aromatic air. OUBI abounds in cloves, and the Dutch have a small fort on the west side: but the inhabitants are chiefly fugitive slaves from Ternat.

But the most celebrated and important islands of this group remain to be described. The MOLUCCAS, strictly so called, in the western extremity; and AMBOYNA and BANDA in the south. The little, or proper Moluccas, as already mentioned, are TERNAT, TIDORE, MOTIR, MAKIAN, and BATCHIAN. In 1510 they were visited by Portuguese navigators from the west; and the fame of the discovery was one of the chief inducements to the first cir-

* Pennant, iv. 174.

cumnavigation of the Spaniards, conducted by Magalhaens, a Portuguese commodore. These two great maritime nations afterwards contested this precious property ; but the Moluccas were finally resigned to the Portuguese, who were supplanted by the Dutch about the year 1607. The English also claiming this opulent commerce, a treaty was signed in 1619, declaring the Moluccas, Amboyna, and Banda, common to both : the English to have one third of the produce, and the Dutch two thirds ; each contributing a similar proportion to defend the islands from invaders.* But in the short course of three years the Dutch, actuated by their insatiable avarice, determined, by the most diabolical means, to free themselves from all competitors. They forged a plot of the English against their lives and liberties, and put them to death by the most exquisite tortures.

The clove is said to have abounded particularly in Makian, but the growth was afterwards confined by the Dutch to Amboyna. The nutmeg specially flourished in the group of Banda ; and the Romans appear to have known the clove, but not the nutmeg, which was probably brought to Europe by the Mahometans. The largest of the little Moluccas is BATCHIAN, being governed by a sultan, who is likewise sovereign of Oubi and Ceram, with Goram, a little isle S. E. of Ceram, reputed the most eastern boundary of the Mahometan faith. This monarch has a pension from the Dutch, either for the destruction or supply of nutmegs, but is otherwise little subservient. Batchian rises into woody hills ; and on the shores, as in most isles of this archipelago, there are prodigious rocks of coral, of infinite variety and beauty. MAKIAN is a small isle at a greater interval, to the N. of Batchian, than appears between the other Moluccas, and rises like a high conic mountain from the sea. This was regarded as the chief Dutch settlement before Amboyna became the metropolis of the Moluccas. Next is MOTIR, formerly, said to be the seat of Venus and voluptuousness. The most distinguished of the proper Moluccas are TIDORE and TERNAT. While Portugal was united to Spain the Dutch were defeated near Tidore in 1610 by the Spanish admiral Sylva ; but by the assistance of the king of Ternat the Batavians seized the fort. In Tidore there are 25 mosques ; and the sultan, as already mentioned, possesses also the south of Gilolo, and claims tribute from Mysol.

TERNAT is the most northern and most important of the Moluccas, though it scarcely exceed 24 miles in circumference. The sultan controls Makian and Motir, with the north of Gilolo, Mortay, and even some Celebezan isles, and part of Papua, whence he receives a tribute of gold, amber, and birds of Paradise. In 1638 the Batavians formed an alliance with the king of Ternat and the lesser princes, which has been repeatedly renewed ; but garrisons are established to enforce the observance, and the sultans of Ternat and Tidore are watched with great attention. Ternat consists chiefly of high land, abounding with streams,

* Rymer's *Fœdera*, xvii. 170.

which burst from the cloudy peaks : and there is a volcano which displayed great force in 1693. The chief quadrupeds, are goats, deer, and hogs, and the birds are of distinguished beauty, particularly the kingfisher, clothed in scarlet and mazareen blue, called by the natives the Goddess. In Ternat the Boa-serpent is sometimes found, of the length of thirty feet ; and by its power of suction and constriction is reported sometimes to swallow even small deer.

Equally distinguished are the most southern spice islands of AMBOYNA and BANDA, cloves being now restricted, so far as Dutch avarice could effect, to Amboyna, and nutmegs to Banda. The governor of Amboyna makes an annual progress throughout the Spice Islands, to see that treaties are observed, and suppress any new object of jealousy. AMBOYNA was discovered by the Portuguese about 1515, but was not seized till 1564 ; and was conquered by the Dutch about 1607. This celebrated isle is about 60 miles in length from N. to S. and on the west side there is a large bay, which divides it into two limbs or peninsulas. On the eastern side is another bay, with a bad harbor, where the Portuguese erected their chief fortress Victoria. The town of Amboyna, the capital of the isle, stands near the S. W. extremity and is neatly built ; the houses, on account of the frequent earthquakes, seldom exceed one floor. The face of this island is beautiful, woody mountains and verdant vales being interspersed with hamlets, and enriched by cultivation.* The clove tree grows to the height of about 40 or 50 feet, with spreading branches and long pointed leaves. In deep sheltered vales some trees will produce 30 pounds weight annually, the chief crop being from November to February. The soil is mostly a reddish clay, but in the vales blackish and sandy. When Amboyna was recently seized by the English,† it was found, with its dependencies, to contain 45,252 souls, of which 17,813 were Protestants, the rest Mahometans, except a few Chinese and savages. The Dutch are tolerably polished, this being the next settlement to Batavia in wealth and consequence. The natives cannot be praised, they differ little from other Malays ; and when intoxicated with opium will commit any crime. The dress is a loose shirt, or frock, of cotton cloth ; and the chiefs are called rajahs. Cattle, grain, &c. are imported from Java. The Dutch discouraged the growth of indigo, lest the natives should become rich and rebellious ; but the sugar and coffee are excellent, and among many delicious fruits is the mangosteen of Hindostan. About eleven years ago nutmegs were permitted to be cultivated in Amboyna, Banda not furnishing a sufficient supply. The chief animals are deer and wild hogs, and among the birds is the cassowary. The most curious woods are brought from Ceram.

* An account of the Spice Islands, since they have been in the possession of Great Britain. *Asiatic Register*, 1800, p. 200. There was a most violent earthquake in 1755.

† The Islands of Amboyna and Banda were taken without resistance in February and March, 1796, by the English admiral Rainier.

BANDA, or LANTOR, is the chief isle of a group which comprises six or seven others; it does not exceed 8 miles in length, W. to E. and the greatest breadth at its eastern extremity may be 5 miles. The nutmeg tree is the principal object of cultivation in these isles; and flourishes not only in the rich black mould, but even amidst the lavas of Gonong, which is the highest isle, the summit being 1940 feet above the sea. When the English seized these isles in 1796, the annual produce was about 163,000 pounds of nutmegs and 46,000 pounds of mace.* The nutmeg tree grows to the size of a pear tree, the leaves resembling those of the laurel, and bears fruit from the age of ten to one hundred years. The nutmeg, when ripe on the tree, has both a very curious and beautiful appearance: it is about the size of an apricot, and nearly of a similar color, with the same kind of hollow mark all round it; in shape it is somewhat like a pear: when perfectly ripe the rind over the mark opens, and discovers the mace, of a deep red, growing over and covering in part the thin shell of the nutmeg, which is black.†

The ground being chiefly occupied with these precious plantations, cattle, grain, &c. are imported from Batavia; and the Chinese merchants carry European articles even to Papua or New Guinea. The inhabitants of the Banda isles were found to be 5763. The English were expelled from Lantor, and Rohn, or Pulo Rohn, prior to the massacre of Amboyna; but seized the whole Spice Islands in 1796, and restored them to their Batavian masters by the treaty with France, 1801. In 1810, they were again taken by the British, in whose possession they now remain.

AUSTRALASIA:

AUSTRALASIA, as already explained, contains the following countries:

1. The central and chief land of New Holland, with any isles which may be discovered in the adjacent Indian ocean, twenty degrees to the W. and between twenty and thirty degrees to the E. including particularly all the large islands that follow:
2. Papua, or New Guinea.
3. New Britain and New Ireland, with the Solomon Isles.
4. New Caledonia, and the New Hebudes.
5. New Zealand.

* The hurricane and earthquake, 1778, almost annihilated the nutmeg trees in Banda, so that the Dutch have become the dupes of their own avarice. From 1796 to 1798 the English East India Company imported 817,312 lb. cloves, 93,732 lb. nutmegs, 46,730 lb. mace, besides private trade, amounting to about a third part of the above. Stavorinus, ii. 418.

† Asiatic Register, 1800, p. 216.