

GEOGRAPHY

FOR

THE USE OF

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH.

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Van Diemen's Land:

SOLD BY S. A. TEGG, HOBART TOWN; JAMES DOWLING,
LAUNCESTON; AND AT SYDNEY, BY W. A. COLMAN.

1845.

MALAYA.

This peninsula is about 600 miles long, and belongs to the English, being ceded to them by the Dutch in 1825, in exchange for the island of Sumatra.

The port of Malacca is a healthy place.

Prince of Wales Island and Penang Island, on the coast, are flourishing English settlements.

A settlement was formed in 1819, at the small Island of Singapore, by Sir Stamford Raffles.

The island, 100 miles in circumference, is situated almost upon the Equator, in long. 104° E., and is to the south of Malaya.

It is a very prosperous trading colony, consisting of English, Chinese and Malays to the number of 60,000.

The Malays are said to be very ferocious, but they are not more so than most other barbarians. They have greatly progressed in civilization lately, and are a very industrious and sensible people.

ASIATIC ISLANDS.

Journeying westward from New Guinea, we find a great number of islands belonging to the continent or main land of Asia, between Australasia and Asia.

The climate of these islands is very warm from their nearness to the equator.

We first come to the island of Timor, famous for its ponies. The Dutch have settlements there.

Beyond Timor westward is the volcanic island of Sumbawa. A few years ago an eruption there covered the sea with ashes for hundreds of miles, and made so much noise, that Sir Stamford Raffles heard it when 1000 miles off.

To the north of Timor, and close to the equator are the Molluccas and Banda Islands, famous for their spices, belonging to the Dutch, who annually destroy great numbers of the trees to raise the price of spices.

Amboyna is the chief settlement of the Dutch there.

Alongside of the Molluccas is the curiously shaped island of Celebes or Macassar. The inhabitants are a very intelligent and courageous people ; their houses are built upon posts for fear of the serpents.

Westward from Timor and Sumbawa is the valuable island of Java, which is 700 miles long, and 100 broad. The English have resigned the possession of this beautiful place to the Dutch, who with only a few thousands of European soldiers are able easily to govern the nine millions of gentle Japanese. 2~

The chief Dutch settlement in Java is Batavia.

v The Japanese are an ingenious people, and are partly Mahometans, and partly Pagans. The ancient v Japanese were highly civilized, and had splendid temples dedicated to their god Boodh.

The Strait of Sunda divides Java from the fertile island of Sumatra, which is 1000 miles long, containing plenty of gold. The inhabitants are intelligent.

Once the island belonged to the English, but was given up by them to the Dutch, in 1824. Bencoolen is the chief settlement.

The little island of Banca, close by, yields the Dutch great quantities of tin.

Between Celebes and Sumatra lies Borneo, on the equator, 800 miles long and 600 broad. Plenty of gold, diamonds, and ourang outangs are found in this island.

The Dutch, Javanese, and Chinese have settlements upon the coast. The English are already fixing their eye upon the place. The Aborigines have been driven into the interior by the larger brained Malays.

To the north of Borneo lie the Philippine Islands, belonging to Spain, which are grossly mismanaged.

The principal town is Manilla, in the island of Luzon, a large and important place. Sugar is much cultivated in these delightful islands by the gentle, intelligent natives.

Still advancing northward we pass the island of Formosa, and go through the Loo-choo Islands, belonging to the Chinese.

The Loo-choo islanders are highly civilized. Lord Amherst received much kindness from them when shipwrecked upon their coast.