

THE
GENERAL GAZETTEER;
OR, COMPENDIOUS
GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.

CONTAINING
A DESCRIPTION OF THE
EMPIRES, KINGDOMS, STATES, PROVINCES, CITIES, TOWNS, FORTS, SEAS,
HARBOURS, RIVERS, LAKES, MOUNTAINS, CAPES, &c.

IN THE
KNOWN WORLD

ORIGINALLY COMPILED

By R. BROOKES, M. D.

THE SEVENTEENTH EDITION,

WITH VERY CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS, FROM THE
BEST AND MOST RECENT AUTHORITIES.

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MAL

Malacca, or *Malaya*, a peninsula of Asia, 560 m long and 150 broad; bounded on the N by Siam, to which it is connected by the isthmus of Kraw, about 97 m broad, and on all other sides by the sea; that part on the sw side being called the Strait of Malacca, which separates it from Sumatra. The chief commodities for trade are tin and elephant teeth; but there are a great many excellent fruits and roots, pepper and other spices, with some precious gums and woods. The pineapples are the best in the world; and the coconuts have shells that will hold an English quart. There is but little corn, and sheep and oxen are scarce; but buffalos, hogs, and poultry, are plentiful. The peninsula is inhabited by various races of people. The seacoast is almost wholly possessed by the Malays, who are mixed in the N with the Siamese, and in some places with the Buggesses from Celebes. The Malays are rather below the middle stature, their limbs well shaped, but particularly slender at the wrists and ankles. Their complexion is tawny, their eyes large, their noses rather flat, and their hair long, black, and shining. They are fond of navigation, war, plunder, emigration, adventures, and gallantry. They talk incessantly of their honour and bravery, and speak the softest language of Asia; yet they are deemed the most treacherous ferocious people on the face of the globe. Their religion is a mixture of Mohamedanism, not possessing the bigotry so common among the western sects. The inland parts are possessed by a savage and barbarous people, who take delight in doing mischief to their neighbours.

MAL

Malacca, the capital of a kingdom of the same name, in the Malaya peninsula. The streets are broad and straight, and the houses tolerably well built; but that part inhabited by the natives is composed of bamboo and mat huts. The road here is safe, but the entrance of the river is rendered intricate by a bar; and near the fort is a harbour where, in the sw monsoon, vessels not drawing more than 16 feet may be secured. Many Chinese reside here, and are the chief cultivators, distillers, sugarmakers, and farmers of the customs. The Portuguese had a settlement here, which was taken by the Dutch in 1640; and it was taken from them by the British, in 1795. Malacca is seated on the strait of its name, 480 m SE Acheen. Lon. 102 15 E, lat. 2 12 N.

