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AN INTRODUCTION

TO THE

Geography and History of India,

AND

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THE COUNTRIES ADJACENT.

EDITED BY

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Symonds
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General
Account.

Inland the country is mountainous, but towards the coast low, well supplied with water, and fruitful. The hills are covered with large and useful timber, and the land produces every variety of rice. Tin of the best quality is found in great abundance, and forms a valuable article of commerce. The mines are worked entirely by Chinese settlers. The island is thinly inhabited, having been nearly depopulated in the course of the Burmese invasions; and from 14 or 15,000 persons, it is now reduced to not more than 2,000, including Chinese. The Natives are Booddhists as in Siam, but there are also some Mahomedans.

CHAP. XXIII.

Malaya.

Bound-
aries.

This country occupies the southern extremity of the continent of Asia. It forms a peninsula extending from about lat. $8^{\circ} 30'$ to $1^{\circ} 30'$ N., bounded on the north by the Siamese territories; east and south by the sea; west by the straits separating it from Sumatra, called the Straits of Malacca, and by the Bay of Bengal. In length it may

**Bound-
aries.**

be estimated at 800 miles from north to south, by an average breadth of 125 from east to west.

Divisions.

It consists of the following principal divisions:—Queda, Province Wellesley, Perak, Salengore, Malacca, and Johore; with the islands of Penang, Singapoor, and Bintang, which will be separately noticed.

Queda occupies the northern part of the western coast, between lat. 8° and 5° N. This was formerly an independent principality, until 1821, when it was invaded by the Siamese, who drove out the king, and annexed his country to their dominions. Province Wellesley, which belongs to the British, was formerly a part of Queda, being a tract of the Queda coast about 35 miles long from north to south, and about four in breadth.

Perak and Salengore follow southward from Queda, and are both independent principalities.

Malacca occupies the coast towards the southern extremity, between Salengore and Jahore, and is about 40 miles in length by about 30 in breadth inland. It belongs to the British.

Johore occupies the south-eastern quarter of the peninsula, and forms an independent state.

**General
Description.**

This peninsula is composed of a central range of mountains traversing its whole length from north to south, leaving a tract of undulating low country on both sides to the sea, watered in every direction by small rivers, of which there

General
Description.

are about ninety altogether, and covered with forests and vegetation.

Productions.

Its principal articles of produce are rice, rattans, canes, betel, ivory, and various kinds of useful wood. The forests do not, however, yield the teak. The animals, both wild and domestic, are the same as are found in India, with the exception of sheep and horses, which are not natural to the country. Tin is plentiful, and there is some gold.

Towns.

The only towns upon the peninsula, worthy of notice, are Malacca and Johore.

Malacca, so named from a fruit called the Malka, produced in great abundance in its neighbourhood, was one of the first settlements of the Malays. It was founded by them in 1252, and in 1511 was captured by the Portuguese, remaining with them until 1640, when it fell into the hands of the Dutch. In 1795 it was taken from the latter by the English, but restored at the peace in 1801. It was again taken in 1807, and again restored in 1815; and in 1825 it was finally made over by the Dutch to the British, in exchange for some British possessions in Sumatra. It contains, including the adjacent district, about 25,000 inhabitants, composed of Malays, Hindoos, descendants of Dutch and Portuguese, and Chinese, almost all the cultivators and artisans being of the last nation. Lat. 2° 14' N. long. 102° 12' E.

Name.

By the Natives this peninsula is called "Tana Malaya," or the land of the Ma-

Name. lays. By the Siamese the Malays are usually termed "Khek," and by the Burmese "Masoo."

Inhabitants.

The inhabitants of this peninsula consist of two classes, the original Natives, and the Malays. The original Natives, (or *aborigines*) are of the class usually denominated oriental Negroes, and inhabit the mountains of the interior. They are of a diminutive stature, but in other respects resemble the Negroes of Africa, having woolly hair, black skins, thick lips, and flat noses. They are in a perfectly savage state, going quite naked, and subsisting upon roots and game. They form numerous little tribes, many of which acknowledge no chief and lead a wild wandering life. By the Malays they are called Samang. The Malays were originally from Sumatra, from which island their tribe emigrated about 1160 to the southern part of the peninsula, and soon establishing themselves throughout, gave their name to their new country.

As a people, the Malays are noted for their ferocity, cunning, and treachery; never forgiving an affront, but always taking a cruel revenge. They are addicted to gambling of all kinds, especially to cock-fighting, to an extraordinary degree, and they are universally in the practice of intoxicating themselves with opium. Their vessels, which are called prows, are many of them very well built, and skilfully navigated; but it is only as pirates that they have ever shown activity or enterprise.

History.

Nothing is known of this country prior to the time of the Malays, who colonised it in 1160. Since that time it appears to have been under the rule of various independent chiefs, continually at feud amongst themselves, and occasionally at war with the Siamese; and except on account of its situation for the purposes of commerce, never obtaining any importance.

Religion.

The religion of the Malays is Mahomedanism of the Soonnee sect, which appears to have been introduced among them in 1260, and from them to have spread over the adjacent islands.

Language.

Their language is termed the Malay. It is a compound of various others, including Sanscrit and Arabic, and is considered very soft and simple. It is written from right to left in the Arabic character, with a few slight alterations, and is general to all the adjacent islands. The purest Malay is said to be spoken in the Queda district.

Islands connected with Malaya.**PENANG.****General Account.**

Penang is situated opposite the coast of Queda, from which it is separated by a strait two miles broad.

It is of an irregular four-sided figure, containing about 160 square miles. It is

General
Account.

mountainous and woody, well supplied with water, and well cultivated.

Its principal article of produce is pepper. It also yields betel, coffee, spices, sugar, rice, cayapooti oil, and caoutchouc, commonly named Indian rubber. In the forests there is also abundance of excellent timber.

The town of Penang, called by the English George Town, with a fort named Fort Cornwallis, is situated on the north-eastern corner in lat. $5^{\circ} 25' N.$ long. $100^{\circ} 19' E.$ The hill overlooking the town on which the flag-staff is placed, is the highest point in the island, its elevation being 2,248 feet above the sea.

This island, called by the English Prince of Wales' Island, and by the Natives Pulo Penang, was granted in 1785 by the king of Queda, as a marriage portion with his daughter to Captain Light, of an English country ship, and by him transferred to the British Government. In 1800 the king of Queda further sold to the British a tract on the main land opposite, now called Province Wellesley. Penang is believed to have been peopled by the Malays or others in early times; but when taken possession of by the British, it was one large forest, with no inhabitants excepting a few fishermen on the coasts. Its population is now about 50,000, comprising a mixed assemblage of almost all the nations of the east, about one half being Malays.

SINGAPOOR.

Singapoor, or Sinkapore, is a small island at the southern extremity of Ma-
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General
Account.

laya. It belongs to the British, who obtained it by purchase from its Native chief in 1819, and on account of its situation commanding the navigation of the straits and its good harbour, it is considered a place of great commercial importance. It has a mixed population of about 15,000, of whom one-third or more are Chinese, and it is rapidly increasing. When taken possession of by the British, there were not more than 150 persons on the island.

The town of Singapor stands in lat. $1^{\circ} 15' N.$ long. $104^{\circ} E.$

BINTANG.

Bintang is a small island lying off the south-eastern end of Malaya, in lat. $1^{\circ} N.$ about 35 miles in length by 18 in breadth. It belongs to the Dutch, who have a town there named Rhio.

CHAP. XXIV.

Eastern Islands.

§ 1.

Situation. The Eastern Archipelago, as it is some times termed, comprises the largest assemblage of islands on the globe. It extends from long. 95° to $138^{\circ} E.$ and from lat. 11° south to 19° north, and includes the following principal islands.

Situation. Northward, the Philippines; central; the Sooloo Isles, Borneo, Celebes, the Moluccas, and the Isles of Banda; east, Papua; south and west, the Sunda Islands; all which after a few general remarks, we shall separately notice.

Productions. The productions of the several islands will be separately noticed. Gold is general throughout, the total annual produce of the Archipelago being estimated at 150,000 ounces, or about 7,050,000 rupees. The diamond is also found in Borneo.

Inhabitants. These islands have two original but distinct races of inhabitants, a fair or brown complexioned people with lank hair; and a people of black complexion, with woolly frizzled hair.

Of the first class there are numerous different tribes, some tolerably civilized, others in a state of great barbarism. Some amongst them are addicted to cannibalism, that is the eating of human flesh, as the Battas in Sumatra; and in Borneo it is an invariable rule that no man may marry until he can show the skull of some man whom he has slaughtered; a man's wealth being estimated by the number of heads he has obtained.

The latter class, commonly designated as oriental Negroes, may be traced from one extremity of the Archipelago to the other. They are, however, few in number to the westward, from which the brown and more civilized tribes appear gradually to have expelled them; but are numerous to the eastward, the island of Papua being still almost entirely inhabit-

Inhabitants.

ed by them. Of their origin nothing is now known. They are in a still more savage state than any of the brown race, and seem very little raised above the brutes.

Religion.

They may also be divided into two principal classes in respect to religion. Idolaters of various degrees of ignorance, and Mahomedans.

Of the pagan tribes, many are altogether without any system of religion, having neither idols nor temples, nor any intelligible belief of the existence of a Supreme Being, though full of superstitious fears of evil spirits.

Mahomedanism of the Soonnee sect appears to have been introduced from Arabia about the year 1300. Hindooism also was formerly established by colonists from India; but is now hardly known except in the island of Bally, and amongst a few of the mountain tribes of Java.

History.

These islands were first visited by European navigators in 1501, when settlements were made by the Portuguese. These were followed by the Spaniards and Dutch; in 1602 by the English, and in 1621 by the French.

Language.

The languages, or rather dialects, of the Archipelago are numerous, but apparently derived from the same source. Of these, many are written in distinct characters, and others are merely colloquial. The Malay may be considered as the most general, and after it the Javanese, Buggess, and Macassar.

§ 2.

Philippines.

Situation. The Philippines, or Manillas, comprise a number of islands lying between the 5th and 19th degrees of north latitude, due eastward from Cochin China. The principal are Luzon, Mindoro, Samar, Salawan, and Mindanao.

General Description. These islands are mountainous, and there are in them several volcanoes, particularly in Luzon, the largest of their number, which has suffered some severe earthquakes. The latest great eruption took place in 1814, and occasioned great devastation.

Productions. They are exceedingly fertile, and yield all the ordinary productions of India; in addition to which they possess the bread-fruit tree, as also the edible birds' nests or sea-slug, so much esteemed by the Chinese. Their domestic animals are also the same as in India, but they are believed to be free from tigers and other large wild beasts. There are mines of gold and iron, and abundance of excellent timber much used for ship-building.

Towns. The principal town is *Manilla*, in Luzon, situated in lat. 14° 38' N. long. 120° 50' E. This is the capital of the Spanish possessions, and contains about 175,000 inhabitants of all classes. In 1650 it was nearly destroyed by a severe earthquake.

Name. These islands received the general name of Philippines in honor of King Philip the 2nd of Spain. By the English they are more commonly styled the Manillas from the name of the capital.

Inhabitants. Besides Europeans and Chinese, the inhabitants consist of a number of distinct tribes, the most considerable of which are the Natives of Luzon, comprising both races, the brown and the Negro. The Natives of Manilla of European descent, are considered much superior to the others in intelligence, and are much employed in the country ships of India, being very active and clever sailors. The total population of the islands in 1820 amounted to 225,000, of which number 2,800 were Europeans, 6,000 Mestizos (mixed descendants of Europeans,) and 6,000 Chinese.

History. These islands were first visited by the celebrated navigator Magellan in 1561, and were taken possession of by the Spaniards in 1565, at which time they were found under the government of numerous petty chiefs of the Malay race. The Spanish settlements have been attacked at different times by the Chinese and by the Sooloos, and in 1762 Manilla was captured by the English, but was restored to the Spaniards shortly after, and the islands have since remained under the Spanish government, though in continual conflict with various Native tribes, several of which have never yet been completely subdued. Mindanao in fact does not acknowledge the authority

History. of the Spaniards at all. They have a fort there, but the island may be considered to form a distinct Malay state under its own sooltan, and constantly engaged in piracy.

Religion. The religion of the Native inhabitants is principally paganism. Some of the tribes, however, are Mahomedans, and the Romish religion has been introduced by the Spaniards.

Language. Several distinct dialects are current in the islands, the principal of which are the Tagala, and the Bisayan, the former a written language.

§ 3.

Sooloo Isles.

**General
Account.**

These are a chain of numerous small islands situated between the western extremity of Mindanao the southernmost of the Philippines, and the north-eastern extremity of Borneo, and lying between the 4th and 7th degrees of north latitude.

Sooloo, which is the principal, and gives its name to the group, is situated about lat. 6° N. and long. 121° E., and is about 40 miles in length by seven the average breadth.

This island is fertile and well cultivated. It produces rice and the usual tropical fruits, and possesses the common domestic animals. It is believed to be free from the large sorts of wild beasts. The shoals round and between the islands

General Account.

yield abundance of pearls and mother of pearl, which are disposed of chiefly to the Chinese.

The inhabitants who are termed Soolooos, are of the Malay race. They are an exceedingly savage and treacherous people, and have always been noted as pirates.

They are under the government of a Malay chief, who has the title of sooltan.

Their religion is Mahomedanism of the Soonnee sect, and their language a mixture of Malay, Javanese, and Tagala, written in the Malay character.

§ 4.

Borneo.**Situation.**

This island, which is the largest in the Archipelago, extends from lat. 7° N. to lat. 4° S. and from long. 109° to 118° E. In length it is estimated to be about 750 miles by an average breadth of 350.

Divisions.

It comprehends several distinct principalities, of which the principal and only one of note is Borneo, occupying the north-western coast along a line of about 700 miles. There are several rivers in the island, but none of them have as yet been explored by Europeans.

General Description.

Little is known of its interior, but as far as has been ascertained, the island is in general level towards the coast, and cultivated; and inland, mountainous and covered with forests.

Productions.

Its productions are abundant; rice, sago, pepper, camphor, cinnamon, wax, rattans, and many useful woods; and in the seas, pearls, mother of pearl, tortoise-shell, and sea-slug (*biche de mer.*) It has all the common domestic animals, and the forests swarm with wild beasts, including the elephant, rhinoceros, and leopard, but no tigers. It has numerous varieties of the ape and monkey tribes, amongst which is the ourang-outang, or "*man of the woods,*" so called by the Malays from its great resemblance in size and figure to the human form. Gold is abundant, and diamonds frequently of a large size.

As sago, which has been mentioned above, is throughout the Archipelago an article of nearly as general use for food as rice is in India, it may be useful to give a more detailed account of it. It is produced from a species of palm, the trunk of which is filled with a spongy pith, which being extracted is ground down in a mortar and then passed through a sieve, by which means it is formed into grains, as it is seen when brought to India. One tree yields upon an average about 300 pounds of sago, and the tree is generally considered ripe for cutting down in fifteen years.

Towns.

The principal town is *Borneo*, situated on the coast, in lat. 4° 56' N. long. 114° 44' E. There was formerly an English factory here, but it has been abandoned for some years in consequence of the unsettled state of the country.

Name. By its inhabitants, and throughout the Archipelago, this island is called Pulo Klemantan; but Europeans have given it the name of Borneo, from "Boornee," the principal state, and the first visited by them.

Inhabitants. The inhabitants are composed of Malays, Sooloos, Javanese and others, on the coast, noted as rapacious and cruel pirates; and a number of savage tribes in the interior, of which the principal are the Dayaks and Biajos. These are of the original brown race, and are much handsomer and fairer than the Malays, to whom they are also superior in strength and activity. There are also great numbers of Chinese, more than 200,000 of that nation being settled at the gold mines. None of the Negro race have been seen in Borneo. The total population of the island is supposed to be about 4,000,000.

History. The Malays appear to have settled themselves on this island about the middle of the 13th century, and they now possess the coasts, which are divided into a number of petty Mahomedan states; the interior being left to the original savage tribes. The chief of Borneo has the title of raja. The Dutch have small factories on the west coast, the chief at Pontiana, lat. 3° S. long. 109° E.

Religion. Mahomedanism and Paganism.

Language. Principally the Malay.

§ 5.

Celebes.

- Situation.** This is a large island, of very irregular shape, extending from lat. 2° N. to nearly 6° S. and from long. 119° to 125° E. and lying east of Borneo, from which it is separated by the Straits of Macassar.
- Divisions.** It is divided into a number of independent states, of which the principal are Boni and Macassar.
- Productions.** Its principal articles of export are gold, cotton cloths, sago, cassia, pearls, and sea-slug. The small island of Boootoon, at the south-eastern extremity of Celebes, also produces the bread-fruit.
- Towns.** The principal towns are Macassar and Boni.
- Name.** By the Natives and by the Malays this island is called Negree Ourang Buggess, or the "Buggessman's Country," and sometimes "Thana Macassar." It received its European name of Celebes from the Portuguese.
- Inhabitants.** It contains several distinct tribes of inhabitants, of which the principal are the Buggesses and the Macassees.
- History.** It is not known that there was ever any intercourse between either India or China and the Celebes, prior to the year 1600, yet the Natives assert that they are descended from the Hindoos, and

History. many of the names of their ancient idols indicate a connection with India at a former period. The island was first visited by the Portuguese in 1512, followed by the Dutch, who established themselves at Macassar in 1660, and subsequently extended their rule over the island generally. Macassar was taken from the Dutch by the English in 1811, but restored in 1816, and it has since remained with them. The Native governments under the Dutch compose several distinct states, each having its own chief.

Religion. The prevailing religion is Mahomedanism, which was introduced in 1603. The Buggesses have the Koran translated into their own language. The central tribes of the interior are still pagan.

Language. The principal languages are the Buggess and the Macassar, both written.

§ 6.

Moluccas.

Situation. This group of islands is situated a little to the eastward of Celebes, and occupies nearly the same latitudes. The principal are Gilolo, Ternate, Tidore, Ceram, and Amboyna.

Productions. Their most important articles of produce are cloves and nutmegs. They abound with sago, and Amboyna yields also indigo and cayapooti oil. They are

- Productions.** free from beasts of prey, but possess the common domestic animals.
- Towns.** The principal towns are Ossa in Gilolo, and Amboyna, or Fort Victoria, in Amboyna, the capital of the Dutch possessions.
- Name.** These islands are now generally termed the Molucca or Spice Islands, although originally this name belonged only to the smaller islands of Ternate and Tidore, and some others westward of Gilolo and Ceram.
- Inhabitants.** They are inhabited partly by Mahomedans and partly by Pagans of the brown race. Mahomedanism was introduced in the course of the 16th century.
They are distinguished as the most civilized and enterprising people of the whole Archipelago, particularly the Bugesses, who have always been actively employed in navigation and commerce, and are noted for honesty and fair dealing.
These islands are considered to form the eastern boundary of the brown race of men, and beyond this line there are no horses, horned cattle, nor sheep.
- History.** These islands were formerly under the government of different independent sooltans, chiefly those of Ternate and Tidore, but have latterly become generally subject to the Dutch, who expelled the Portuguese, the first European settlers, and established themselves in different parts about the beginning of the 17th century. The Dutch possessions were twice taken by the English in 1801 and 1811, and finally restored to them at the peace in 1814.

Language. The general language on the coasts is the Malay.

§ 7.

Isles of Banda.

General Account.

These form a small cluster situated about 120 miles south-easterly from Amboyna, the principal being the island of Banda.

They are almost exclusively appropriated to the cultivation of the nutmeg, which they produce in great abundance.

They belong to the Dutch, and in their history, inhabitants, religion, and language, resemble the Moluccas.

§ 8.

Papua, or New Guinea.

Situation.

This is a large island commencing a little to the eastward of Gilolo, and slanting in a south-easterly direction as far as lat. 10° S. having the Pacific Ocean along its northern and eastern coasts, and separated by Torres Straits on the south from the continent of Australia.

Description and Productions.

It appears to rise gradually from the coast to hills of considerable elevation, covered with palm trees and forests of large timber. It produces both the cocoa-nut and bread-fruit trees, but has no animals except dogs, wild cats, and hogs.

Inhabit-
ants.

The western part of the island is inhabited by the Negro race, and the eastern by a people approaching more to the appearance of the South Sea Islanders, that is, having yellow complexions and long black hair. Such of these Negro tribes as are known to Europeans are in an entirely savage state, and some of them are said to be cannibals. They wear their hair bushed round the head to a circumference of two and three feet, combing it out straight, and occasionally sticking it full of feathers; and from this practice they have received from Europeans the name frequently applied to them of "the mop-headed Negroes." They understand the manufacture of common earthen-ware and mats, and are so far civilized as to comprehend the nature of traffic, which they carry on with the Buggesses and Chinese, from whom they purchase iron tools, crockery, and cloths, in exchange for slaves, missoy-bark, ambergris, sea-slug, birds of paradise, loorees, and other birds which they dry and preserve with great skill. The origin of this race is not known. They formerly were found in all the islands of the Archipelago, and are still to be met with in the mountain districts; and the aborigines of Malaya, as well as the Natives of the Andamans, seem to be of the same stock, though much inferior to the Papuans, who are robust and powerful men. Their arms are chiefly bows and arrows.

Name.

The word Papua is a corruption of Pua Pua, the term commonly used by

Name. the brown tribes to designate the Negro race. The name New Guinea was given to the island by the first European navigators, on account of the resemblance of its inhabitants to the Africans.

§ 9.

The Sunda Islands.

Situation. The Sunda Islands, or Sumatran chain, form the southern and western line of the Archipelago, comprehending Timor, Floris, Java, and Sumatra, with some smaller islands.

TIMOR

General Account. lies between about lat. 8° and 11° S. and long. 123° and 127° E.

Its chief productions are sandal-wood and earth oil. It also yields gold and copper. The principal article of food is maize. Rice is also cultivated, and a species of sago, and it has all the common domestic animals.

It is inhabited by a pagan race of dark complexion and frizzled bushy hair, but differing in other respects from the Papuans, and appearing to hold a middle place between them and the brown races.

This island belongs to the Dutch, who have a fort at Koopang at the southern extremity, in lat. $10^{\circ} 10'$ S. long. $124^{\circ} 10'$ E.

FLORIS

General Account. or Ende, is situated immediately to the westward of Timor.

General
Account.

Its productions are the same as those of Timor.

The town of Ende on the south coast possesses an excellent harbour.

It is inhabited by Buggesses and Malays on the coast, and by Negro aborigines in the interior. The Portuguese have a small settlement at Sarantooka, but the rest of the island is independent.

Java.

Situation.

This is a large island lying westward of Floris, between the 6th and 9th degrees of south lat. and the 115th and 105th of east long., being about 660 miles in length, and of a breadth varying from 50 to 130 miles. It includes the small islands of Madura and Bally.

General
Description.

The interior of this island throughout its whole length is marked by an uninterrupted range of mountains, varying in their elevation from 5,000 to 12,000 feet, and many of them occasionally subject to volcanic eruptions. The rivers are numerous, and the soil remarkably rich.

Productions.

Java abounds with all the productions, and swarms with all the animals, both wild and domestic, known in India. It also produces sago and the edible birds' nests.

Towns.

The principal towns are Batavia, Samarang, Sooryakarta, and Soorabaya.

Batavia, which is the capital of Java and of all the Dutch possessions in the

- Towns.** east, is situated on the northern coast in lat. $6^{\circ} 8' S.$ long. $106^{\circ} 54' E.$ Its population of all classes is estimated at about 50,000. It was founded by the Dutch in 1619.
- Name.** By the Malays and Natives this island is named *Thana Java*.
- Inhabitants.** The inhabitants are called Javanese, there are also many Chinese, Malays, Buggesses, Arabs, and Indians. The total population amounts to about 4,500,000.
- History.** The early history of this country is unknown, as there are no records which can be depended upon prior to about the year 1200. It appears to have been divided into a number of petty states, which about A. D. 1600 were consolidated under the general government of the Sooltan of Sooryakarta, and in a few years after the whole fell under the dominion of the Dutch. In 1811 the island was taken possession of by the British, but restored to the Dutch in 1816, with whom it now remains.
- Religion.** The predominant religion is Mahomedanism, which was introduced in 1406 by a sheikh from Arabia, prior to which time, the Javanese followed the Hindoo systems both of Brahma and Booddh, but without observing the distinctions of caste. The Hindoo system, however, is still prevalent in the island of Bally.
- Language.** The language is called Javanese, and is written in a character formed upon the Sanscrit alphabet.

Sumatra.

Situation. This is a large island lying obliquely north-west and south-east between the 6th degree of north lat. and the 6th of south, and long. $95\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and 107° E. In length it may be estimated at 1,000 miles by 150 the average breadth.

Divisions. Its chief divisions are Acheen, the Batta Country, Menancaboo, Palembang, and the Rejangs.

Rivers. It has numerous rivers, some of them large and navigable, but not well known to Europeans.

General Description. Ranges of lofty mountains run through the whole extent of the island; many of them are volcanic, and lava is occasionally seen to flow from them. Earthquakes also are frequent, but generally slight. The highest mountain visible from the sea has been named by Europeans Mount Ophir, and is 13,842 feet in height.

Productions. In addition to all the productions of India which it possesses in remarkable abundance, this island produces camphor, cassia, nutmegs, cloves, benzoin, rattans, sago, the bread-fruit, and the edible birds' nests. The animals, wild and domestic, are the same as in India, the tiger growing to a very large size. There is also the ourang-outang. The horses are of a small and active breed generally known in India as the Acheen ponies. In the

Productions.

Batta Country they are used for food. Gold is abundant, and there are mines of copper, tin, and iron. Earth oil and sulphur are also plentiful.

Towns.

The principal towns are Acheen, Menancaboo, Palembang, Padang, and Bencoolen.

Acheen is situated at the north-western extremity of the island. This was formerly the principal trading port in this part of the world, and its sooltan was held in great respect throughout the east. It has since greatly declined, and is now a place of no consequence.

Menancaboo is the capital of the state so named, and was in former times considered the chief city in Sumatra, and the seat of all Malay learning and religious authority. The state of Menancaboo constitutes the original country of the Malays, and is entirely peopled with them at the present time. The Natives of this place are the expertest artists in the island, and are particularly noted for their gold and silver fillagree work.

Palembang on the eastern coast, an ancient Malay town, and *Padang* on the western, now form the two principal settlements of the Dutch.

Bencoolen, or *Fort Marlborough*, on the south-western coast, formerly belonged to the English, who made a settlement there in 1685, but in 1825 it was given over to the Dutch.

Name.

By the Natives this island is usually called Pulo Purichoo, and by the Java-

Name. nese Thana Palembang; the origin of its European name Sumatra is quite unknown.

Inhabitants. Its inhabitants consist of various tribes of the brown race, of which the principal are the Malays and Battas. The Battas are addicted to an extraordinary system of cannibalism. According to their laws, all persons put to death for capital offences are cut up and eaten; as are also enemies killed or taken prisoners during any general war. Notwithstanding this savage practice, the Battas are remarkable as a quiet and timid people. In appearance they resemble the Hindoos. It is a general custom throughout Sumatra for both sexes to file down their teeth, and to stain them jet black, many also casing the two front teeth in gold. All classes are inveterately given to gaming and cock-fighting, and all are great opium smokers.

History. Of the early history of this country nothing has been satisfactorily ascertained, though the Natives commence their own history with the landing of certain persons from Noah's ark after the flood. It does not appear ever to have formed a single kingdom, but to have been composed of a number of petty states, in which condition it still remains; the Dutch now possessing the principal authority over the whole.

Religion. Mahomedanism is the religion of the Malay tribe, but the Battas and others are still pagans, without any regular

Religion. form of religion as they have no kind of worship, possessing little more than a confused notion of some superior and invisible beings, with very little idea of a future state.

Language. The principal languages are the Malay and the Batta. The Batta differs not greatly from the Malay, but is written in characters derived from the Sanscrit, from left to right, upon the inner bark of a tree and on bamboos.