

R. 62.279

O. I. L.
A

A
91
(2)
MAC

DICTIONARY,
GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, AND
HISTORICAL,
OF
THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES, PLACES,
AND PRINCIPAL NATURAL OBJECTS
IN
THE WORLD.

ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS.



BY J. R. McCULLOCH, Esq.

MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE.

"Nec omnia dicentur sed maxime insignia."
"Id certe ab omnibus prudentibus conceditur, quod cognitio Telluris sit non tantum homine dignissima, sed etiam tam in republica literaria, quam ad vitæ usum per-necessaria." — VARENIUS.

A NEW EDITION REVISED, WITH A SUPPLEMENT.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, AND ROBERTS.

MDCCCLIV.

MALACCA AND NANING, a British colony, on the W. coast of the Malay peninsula, between lat. 2° and 3° N., and long. 102° and 103° E.; having N.W. the territory of Sangalore, N.E. those of Rumbowe and Johole, S.E. that of Johore, and S.W. the straits of Malacca. Area estimated at 1,000 sq. m. Pop., in 1826, 37,706, of whom about 21,000 are Malays, 4,000 Chinese, and 2,400 Europeans, chiefly English, Dutch, and Portuguese. Surface mostly undulating; the hills are covered with jungle, and the valleys rendered swampy by the rains. The coast also is swampy S. of the town of Malacca, but to the N. it is generally bold and rocky. There are several rivers; but the largest is only navigable by small vessels for 10 or 12 m. from its mouth. Opposite the coast are many small granitic islands, which serve for burial places to the Malay inhab. of the colony. The country is geologically composed of a granitic formation, overlain by laterite, and this again by a layer of vegetable mould, which becomes thicker the nearer the coast. The soil near the sea-shore is very productive, but in the interior it is otherwise; and Naning is much more valuable for its tin mines than for the products of its agriculture. The climate is more salubrious perhaps than that of any other British coast settlement in the East. It has been found that during a period of seven years, the deaths among the troops stationed here amounted to less than 2 per cent.; and instances of longevity are frequent among both Europeans and natives. The mean annual temperature is about $77^{\circ}6'$ Fah.; and there is but little change throughout the year in the barometer, which stands at about 30° . Rain falls continually at intervals of a few days; but as rather more occurs between September and January than at any other time, that period is termed the wet season. Violent squalls and storms of lightning, &c. occur during the S.W. monsoon. The produce of Malacca consists chiefly of rice, jaggery, sago, pepper, rattans, timber, cocoa-nuts, a few nutmegs, cloves, dammer, gambier, gum lac, ivory, gold dust, tin, fruits, poultry, and cattle. A few years ago the rice raised in the colony was scarcely sufficient for four months' consumption, the additional supply being brought from Acheen, Java, and Bengal. A principal cause of this was the former policy of the Dutch, who, while Malacca belonged to them, prohibited the raising of any kind of grain, in the view of rendering the inhab. wholly dependent for their supplies on Java. The British government, however, has given every encouragement to native agriculture; and, in 1835, the crop of rice amounted to two-thirds the annual consumption. Cocoa-nuts form a considerable portion of the food of the lower classes of natives, who also subsist partly by fishing. For the trade of the colony, see *post*.

This settlement is included in the presidency of Bengal, and is governed by a resident, with an assistant resident at Malacca, and a superintendent at Naning. The Dutch drew from it a surplus revenue; but since it came into our possession, the expenditure has always exceeded the income by about 100,000 rupees a year. In 1837-38, the revenue only amounted to 53,543 rupees, or 5,354*l*.

MALACCA, a town on the W. coast of the Malay Peninsula, cap. of the above British colony, at the mouth of the river of the same name, lat. $2^{\circ} 14'$ N., long. $102^{\circ} 12'$ E., about 100 m. N.W. Singapore, and 220 m. S.S.E. Pinang. Pop., in 1832, 12,120, of whom about 4,000 were Chinese, 3,000 Malays, 2,000 Chuliahs, and 2,000 Europeans. The town of Malacca is divided by the river above mentioned into 2 parts, connected by a bridge. On the left bank rises the verdant hill of St. Paul, surrounded by vestiges of an old Portuguese fort. Around its base lie the barracks, lines, and most of the houses of the military; the stadthouse, court-house, gaol, church, civil and military hospitals, the site of the old inquisition, convent, the police-office, the school, post-office and master attendant's office. On its summit stand the ruins of the ancient church of our Lady *del Monte*, erected by Albuquerque, and the scene of the labours and miracles of that 'Apostle of the East,' St. Francis Xavier; also the light-house and flag-staff. A little to the S. rises the hill of St. John's, and in the rear rises that of St. Francis. On these eminences are the remains of batteries erected by the Portuguese and Dutch, commanding the E. and S. entrances to the town. Smaller knolls intervene, covered with the extensive cemeteries of the Chinese. The tombs are white, and constructed with much care, and surrounded by low walls of brick and chunan, in shape resembling a horse-shoe. The bazaars, and by far the greatest part of the town, are situated on the right bank of the river. The anchoring ground in the roads is secure; and though large vessels are obliged to lie at a distance of 2 m. from the shore, accidents have been rarely known to happen. Native craft anchor much

nearer, under the lee of one of the islets close in-shore." (*Newbold's Malacca*, i. 109-111.)

The principal public institution at Malacca is the Anglo-Chinese College, established in 1818. Its main objects are the cultivation of Chinese literature by Europeans, and of European literature by the Chinese, Malays, and surrounding nations, and the diffusion of Christianity. The college has a library, well stocked with European and Chinese books, Siamese MSS., &c.; and attached to it is an English, Chinese, and Malay press. This college was founded by Dr. Morrison, the Chinese scholar, from whom, also, it received a small endowment. But at present it depends almost wholly on the fees paid by the pupils; and its funds are by no means in a prosperous state. Such an institution would, however, appear to be deserving of public support. There are also in the town 5 Chinese schools, with about 100 scholars, besides several Hindoo and female schools, and schools established by the Malays, for their own instruction in English. A full account of the mode of education in the Chinese schools may be seen in Newbold's work on Malacca.

Malacca was formerly a place of considerable trade; but, owing to the superior advantages of Pinang and Singapore, its commerce has rapidly decreased within the last 10 years, and it is now very limited. It exports small quantities of gold dust, balachong, hides, hogs, fowls, jaggery, pepper, dammer, cordage, a little ebony and ivory; iron implements, fire-arms, nails, &c., manufactured by the Chinese smiths at Malacca, with rattans, lac, and aloe-wood. The gold and tin are not the produce of the British territory, but of the adjacent native states, whence they are brought to Malacca by native boats, or overland by coolies. The principal imports are earthenware, iron, rice, sago, opium, nankeens, European and Indian piece-goods, woollens, paper, provisions and liquors, for the European and Chinese inhab.; salt, sugar, tea, tobacco, &c., partly for home consumption and partly for re-shipment. The total value of the imports, in 1834-35, amounted to 467,459 doll.; total do. of exports 236,122 doll.

Malacca is said to have been founded in 1252, by Iskander Shah, a chief from Singapore, and it soon became a large and flourishing city, its influence extending over all the peninsula and the adjacent islands. It was first visited by the Portuguese in 1508, and captured by them in 1511. In 1641 it was taken by the Dutch, and in 1795 by the English. The latter held it till 1818, when it was restored to the Dutch; but in 1825 the latter finally exchanged it with us for the settlements of Bencoolen, &c., on the coast of Sumatra. But we much doubt whether its possession be of any material advantage, or, at least, whether the advantage be at all adequate to countervail the expense it occasions. (*Newbold's British Settlements in Malacca*; *Hamilton's E. I. Gaz.*, &c.)

MALACCA (STRAITS OF), a channel of the Eastern Seas, extending from lat. 1° and 6° N., and long. 98° and 104° E., between the Malay Peninsula on the N.E. and the island of Sumatra, on the S.W. Its length, N.W. to S.E., may be estimated at about 520 m.; its breadth varies from 25 m. opposite the Naning territory, to nearly 200 m. at its N. extremity. It is the best and most frequented passage from the Indian Ocean to the China Sea.