

LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE
JAN 18 1848

MODERN HISTORY,

FROM THE FALL OF ROME, A. D. 476, TO THE
PRESENT TIME.

By S. G. GOODRICH,
AUTHOR OF PARLEY'S TALES, ETC.

PUBLISHED BY
MORTON AND GRISWOLD,
LOUISVILLE, KY.

1848.

CHAPTER XL.

MALACCA. — *Description of the Peninsula. — Origin of the Malay Race, — Petty States of Malacca. — Government of the several States. — European Settlements. — Malay Piracy.*

1. THE peninsula of Malacca, or Malaya, lies on the west of the Gulf of Siam, and stretches south-easterly from the 12th degree of north latitude almost to the equator. It is supposed by some

of the Tonquinese? 3. What are the manners and amusements of the Siamese? 4. What is the state of manufactures and commerce in Tonquin? 5. What is said of the general character of the people of Chin-India?

CHAPTER XL. — 1. Describe the peninsula of Malacca. What was it called in ancient times?



geographers to be the Aurea Chersonesus of the ancients, and the Ophir of Solomon.

2. The coasts of this peninsula are for the most part flat, marshy, and insalubrious; the interior appears to be covered with vast forests. Many rich and beautiful plains are left in a great measure uncultivated; but the finest productions of nature are here brought to maturity without the aid of human culture. The chief agricultural product is rice.

3. Those parts known to Europeans produce gums, pepper, &c. The forests, arrayed in eternal verdure, contain aloes-wood, eagle-wood, sandal-wood, and a species of the cinnamon. The air is impregnated with the odor of innumerable flowers, which perpetually succeed one another without an interval.

4. The inhabitants of this peninsula are of the Malay race, and were formerly supposed to be the original stock of that people. But it has recently been ascertained that its present possessors were adventurers from Sumatra, who formed a settlement on the peninsula about the middle of the 12th century. The indigenous inhabitants, who were gradually driven into the interior woods and mountains, seem to be an entirely different race of people, nearly resembling the African negroes.

2. 3. What is said of its climate, productions, &c.? 4. What is said of the Malay natives? What of the ancient inhabitants?

5. The peninsula is divided into a number of petty states, which are always at war with one another, or engaged in pillaging the neighboring coasts and islands. These states are governed in a manner resembling that of the old feudal system of Europe. The head of a state is a rajah, who usually assumes the name of *sultan*. Under him are a certain number of *dattoos*, or nobles, who have each a train of subordinate vassals. The common people are slaves to their chiefs. In religion, they are mostly Mohammedans.

6. In the history of the European settlements in India, the reader will find an account of the colonization of different parts of this territory, the only portion of its history accurately known. The predominant influence of the European powers has prevented any of the native Malayan communities from growing into political importance. On the eastern coast are some small trading towns.

7. The city of Malacca was founded by a Malay prince about the middle of the 13th century. It fell into the hands of the Portuguese in 1511, and remained in their possession till about the middle of the 17th century, when it was wrested from them by the Dutch. After repeated vicissitudes of fortune, it was transferred, by treaty, from the Dutch to the British, in 1824, and still remains in the possession of the latter. The two small islands of Singapore and Pulo Penang, or Prince of Wales Island, on the coast of Malacca, are also in the possession of the British. This city, which once rivalled Goa and Ormuz, now possesses very little commercial importance.

8. Pera, a kingdom rich in tin mines, is governed by Mohammedan princes, who are withheld from working them by a superstitious fear of giving offence to the genii of the mountains. The Chinese, who are superior to the Malays in scientific knowledge, sometimes engage in mining operations in this country.

9. Many of the Malay tribes are pirates by profession, and carry on their depredations with great boldness and ferocity. These marauders have been checked, in a considerable degree, by the predominance of the European naval powers in the Eastern seas. But the authority of law and justice is yet very imperfectly established among them; and trading vessels in this quarter still require to be armed, and to use every precaution against surprise.

5. What is the political state of the country? What is said of the government of the chiefs? What of the condition of the people? 6. What effect has the influence of the European powers had upon the Malay states? 7. When was the city of Malacca founded? By whom has it been possessed at different times? What is its present state? 8. What is related of the kingdom of Pera? What of the Chinese in this country? 9. What is said of the piracies of the Malays?