

A
S Y S T E M
OF
UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHY,
FOR
COMMON SCHOOLS :
IN WHICH EUROPE IS DIVIDED ACCORDING TO
THE LATE ACT OF THE
CONGRESS OF VIENNA.

“Geography and Chronology are the two Eyes of History.”
LORD CHESTERFIELD.

“Geography informs you where events happened, and Chronology at what time. Without these helps your reading would be a confused mass, without order, light or perspicuity.”—BENNETT.

BY THE REV. NATHANIEL DWIGHT, A. M.

ALBANY :

PRINTED BY WEBSTERS AND SKINNERS,
At their Bookstore, corner of State and Pearl-streets.

1817.

 OF MALAYA.

Q. What are the situation and extent of Malaya ?

A. It is a long narrow peninsula, the most southern country of Asia, reaching from 2° to 12° north ; and is about 700 miles long, by 150 of medial breadth. It has Birma north ; the Gulf of Siam and the China Sea east ; and the Bay of Bengal west. Its northern limit is not accurately defined. It is said to be divided into two kingdoms : Patani in the north ; and Yohor in the south.

Q. Describe the country ?

A. The centre of the peninsula is said to be mountainous. The tiger, elephant and civet-cat, are among the animals. Pepper and other spices, gums and woods, are among the productions.

Q. Describe the inhabitants ?

A. They are small, have tawny complexions, and flatten their noses. They are fond of war and plunder ; and are universally ferocious and treacherous. Many of them are pirates. Their language is melodious, and is spoken every where in these seas.

Q. What are the towns ?

A. Malacca, in the south, is the largest. In the last century it was thought to contain 12,000 inhabitants. Patani is a town on the eastern coast.

Q. What islands are on the western coast ?

A. The Andaman Isles and the Nicobans.

Q. Describe the Andaman Isles ?

A. They are the Great and Little Andaman, and a number of islets, about 350 miles west of Malaya. Great Andaman is 140 miles long by 20, has excellent harbours and extensive forests. The inhabitants are negroes and cannibals, and in number about 2000. A British settlement is formed on the larger isle.

Q. Describe the Nicobans ?

A. They are S. S. E. of the Andamans, about 300 miles from the coast, and are three in number : the largest being five leagues in circumference. They produce cocoa and areca trees, yams and sweet potatoes. The people are of a copper colour. Swine and dogs are the only quadrupeds.

—*—

OF THE ASIATIC ISLANDS.

Q. What are the Asiatic Islands ?

A. The Isles of Sunda, Borneo, the Manillas, the Celebes, and the Spice Islands.

—*—

OF THE SUNDA ISLES.

Q. What is the situation of the Sunda Isles ?

A. They are in the Indian Ocean S. of Malaya, Borneo, and the Celebes, and N. W. of New-Holland ; between 6° N. and 10° S. ; and between 95° and 129° east longitude.

Q. What islands compose this chain ?

A. Sumatra, Java, Bally, Lombok, Sumbawa, Floris, Timor, Madura, Banka, and many smaller Isles.

—*—

OF SUMATRA.

Q. What is the situation of Sumatra ?

A. It forms the N. W. part of the Sunda Chain, lies between 6° N. and 6° S. and is 1000 miles long and 200 broad. The straits of Malacca separate it from Malaya.

Q. Describe the country ?

A. A chain of mountains runs through the island about 20 miles from the W. coast. Mount Ophir, under the equator, is 13,842 feet high. The rainy monsoon lasts from May to September ; the dry, from November to March. Most of the island is forested. There are many mines of gold, iron and tin.

Q. Describe the inhabitants ?

A. They are estimated to amount to 2,250,000. The coast is occupied by Malays. The interior by numerous tribes of natives who are pagans. Menang-Cabou, on the Straits of Malacca is the chief native sovereignty. The complexion of the natives is yellow. Acheen is a considerable kingdom at the north end.

Q. What are the products ?

A. Pepper, camphor, cassia, rattans, silk and cotton.

Q. What settlement have the British in Sumatra ?

A. Bencoolen in the southwest. It is important as the emporium of the Sumatran commerce.

Q. What isles are contiguous to the coast ?

A. Banka in the S. E. celebrated for its inexhaustible mines of tin ; Billeton, E. of Banka ; the Pitti Isles in the Straits of

Malacca; and the Pogy Isles, 20 leagues off, on the west coast.

—*—

OF JAVA.

Q. What is the situation of Java?

A. It is S. E. of Sumatra, and S. S. W. of Borneo; between 105° and 115° E. and in 8° S. It is 650 miles long and 100 broad. It abounds with forests, and presents an enchanting verdure.

Q. What is the chief town?

A. Batavia, on the middle of the N. coast. It is large and populous; but very unhealthy. Its commerce is highly important.

Q. To whom does Java belong?

A. The British took Batavia in 1811. It is now to be restored to the Dutch. There are three or four petty native sovereigns.

Q. What are the products?

A. The same as those of Sumatra. The Buhon-Upas, or poisonous tree of Java, has been often described.

—*—

OF THE SMALLER ISLES.

Q. Describe the smaller isles?

A. Madura, N. E. of Java, has an independent prince. Bally, E. of Java, furnishes slaves, cotton yarn and pickled pork. The inhabitants are black and pagans and are very numerous. Lombok is E. of Bally; Sumbawa, of Lombok; and Florez, a larger island, of Sumbawa. Of these little is known. Timor, S. E. of Florez, is 200 miles by 60. It bears the white sandal wood. Numerous little isles lie N. E. and N. W. of Timor.

—*—

OF BORNEO.

Q. What is the situation and extent of Borneo?

A. It is at the bottom of the China Sea, E. of Malaya and Sumatra, and N. E. of Java; is 900 miles long by 600 in its greatest breadth.

Q. Describe the country?

A. Most of the coast consists of swamps covered with forests, and numerous rivers. Lofty mountains rise in the interior.

Q. What are the products?

A. Gold, diamonds, pepper, dragon's blood, camphor, sandal wood and edible bird's nests.

Q. Describe the inhabitants?

A. The natives called Biajos are black, with long hair, and occupy the interior. The coasts are held by Malays, Macas-

sars and Japanese. The whole population is estimated at five millions.

Q. What are the towns ?

A. Borneo on the northwest has 3000 houses, built on posts fixed in rafts. Bender-Massin in the south is at the mouth of a considerable river.

Q. What are the Bornean Islands ?

A. N. E. of Borneo are the Sooloos, rich in pearls, the largest of which is 30 miles by 12. Tawee lies between.—Balambanacan is near the north extremity. The group of Anamba and Natura are on the west.

OF THE MANILLAS OR PHILLIPPINE ISLANDS.

Q. Where are the Manillas ?

A. They are N. E. of Borneo and S. E. of Canton, between 5° and 19° N. latitude. Luzon the largest, in the N. is 450 miles long and 100 broad. Mindanao in the S. is the second in size. The other chief islands are Mindore, Pani, Buglas, Zebu, Leyte, and Samar, between the two larger and Palawa in the W. nearer Borneo. These islands belong to Spain.

Q. Describe the country ?

A. The soil is fruitful. Sugar, cocoa-nuts, rice, cotton, and the bread-fruit; gold, copper, iron, and sulphur; the wild-boar and the deer, horses and buffaloes, are among the productions. Several volcanoes are found.

Q. Describe the inhabitants ?

A. They are called Tagals, are of a mild character, and a tawny complexion, tall, well made, and live on rice and salted fish. Their dress is a shirt and loose drawers. A commerce, still valuable, is carried on between Manilla and Acapulco in Mexico. Manilla the capital in Luzon, contains 12,000 Christian inhabitants.

OF CELEBES.

Q. What is the situation of Celebes ?

A. The Straits of Macassar on the W. separate it from Borneo, and the Manillas are directly N. It is between $1^{\circ} 30'$ N. and $5^{\circ} 30'$ south. Is 500 miles long, but divided into four peninsulas by great bays, so that it is every where narrow.

Q. Describe the country ?

A. It is lofty and mountainous and contains several volcanoes. The soil is fertile. Rice grows most abundantly.—Many poisonous trees are found in the forests, and among others the Buhon-Upas.

Q. Describe the people ?

A. They are called Macassars; are bold and ferocious, and

in great numbers freebooters and tyrants. Their houses are raised on pillars. The population is great. Maccassar the chief port is in the southwest. Here the Dutch have a trading establishment.

Q. What are the Celebebian Isles?

A. Sanguy in the north; the Shullus and Peling in the east; and Boutan and Sala in the south:

OF THE MOLUCCAS; OR, SPICE ISLANDS.

Q. Where are the Moluccas?

A. They are between 5° S. and 3° N. lying E. of Celebes and W. of New-Guinea. They are Gilolo, Ceram, Bouro, Mortay, Oubi, Mysol, Bouro, Amboyna, the Banda Isles, and five islands west of Gilolo, viz. Ternat, Tidore, Motin, Makian, and Bakian.

Q. Describe Gilolo?

A. Like Celebes it is divided into four peninsulas by bays, and is 230 miles long and 40 broad. Ceram is 190 by 40; and Bouro is 90 by 50. Amboyna is 60 by 40.

Q. What is the chief produce of these islands?

A. Cloves and nutmegs, indigo, sugar and coffee.

Q. To whom do these islands belong?

A. The king of Ternat possesses Makian, Motin, Bouro, and the N. of Gilolo. The king of Tidore holds the S. of Gilolo. The king of Bakian has Ceram and Oubi. Amboyna and the Bandas, a numerous groupe of islets in the S. E. belong to the British. They are populous. Amboyna, in 1796, had 45,252 inhabitants, of whom 17,813 were protestants and the rest Mahometans.
