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GEOGRAPHY
OF THE
EASTERN PENINSULA.

COMPRISING

A DESCRIPTIVE OUTLINE
OF THE WHOLE TERRITORY, AND
A GEOGRAPHICAL, COMMERCIAL, SOCIAL, AND
POLITICAL ACCOUNT OF EACH
OF ITS DIVISIONS,

WITH

A FULL AND CONNECTIVE
HISTORY OF BURMAH, SIAM, ANAM,
CAMBODIA, FRENCH COCHIN-CHINA,
YUNAN, AND MALAYA.

BY

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(*Detenus in Burma*).

OOTACAMUND:

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Primarily peculiar to the Malayan Peninsula is the *kyloay*, a creature like the *tupaia*, except that it has a short snake-like tail. The *musk shrew* and the *mole* are common.

(4.) *Carnivora*, or flesh-eating animals. This order is divided into three classes:—*Pennigrada*, or aquatic animals; those in which the whole or greater part of the foot rests on the ground, or *Plantigrada*; and *Digitigrada*, or those in which the ends of the toes only touch the ground.

The first class comprises only the *seal* and the *walrus*, and is confined to the Arctic and Antarctic oceans. The *bear* is the only representative of the *Plantigrada*, and it is common throughout the peninsula. Of the *Digitigrada* we find the *tiger*, *lion*, *leopard*, *panther*, *hyena*, *civet*, *otter*, *ferret*, *weasel*, &c. The *jackal* and the *fox* are not known in Anam, and are not common to the peninsula. *Tigers* abound in the Laos country. The *dog* is an article of food among the Annamese.

(5.) *Rodentia*. These take their name from their gnawing habits. Altogether there are about twenty species in the peninsula, including a dozen species of squirrels.

The *golden-backed*, *Phayre's*, the *plant*, and the large *flying* squirrel are amongst the most beautiful.

The *rats* are a plentiful and most destructive race. In 1857-58 the Karens lost the whole of their crops from this pest. *Mice* are domesticated and form a portion of the family of every house in Burmah. The *porcupine*, *hare* and *rabbit* are common.

(6.) *Edentata*, or toothless animals. Of this class there are three representatives:—

The *pangolin*, or *scaly ant-eater*, is common to the whole peninsula. The others are species of the same, and are termed *pangolin-rambut* and *pangolin-sisik*. They are called "pangolin" from the faculty they possess of rolling themselves up into a ball when alarmed.

(7.) *Ungulata*, or hoofed animals. This order includes three classes:—

(a.) *Pachydermata*, or thick-skinned animals. The *wild hog* and *rhinoceros* are common to the whole peninsula. The hog, instead of the horse, is the favourite animal of the Cochin Chinese. They reduce the skin of the rhinoceros

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to a gelatine and use it for medicinal purposes. Peculiar to the Malay Peninsula and that portion of British Burmah south of the Tavoy river, is the *Malay tapir*. It is a very inoffensive animal, and has a white blanket-like appearance on the back. It is light and agile. The *Japanese rhinoceros*, with its hatred of fire, is to be found in the Karen country.

(b.) *Solidungala*, or solid-hoofed animals, i.e., animals with undivided hoofs. There are two species—the *horse* and the *ass*. The horses of Burmah and the Shan country are small animals, famous for their speed and powers of endurance. The *ass* is unknown in the Annamese Empire.

(c.) *Ruminantia*, ruminating animals, or those that chew the cud. Of these we have the *deer*, *goat*, *antelope*, *sheep*, *goat*, *ox*, and *buffalo*. The buffalo is used throughout the peninsula as a beast of burden. The *sheep* is unknown in Anam.

(8.) *Cetacea*. This class consists of the whale family, and there are five species—the *porpoise*, *rorqual*, *whale*, and *sea-cow*.

The *rorqual* is the largest of the whale tribe, and is distinguished from the Greenland whale by the fin on its back. The *dugong*, or *sea-cow*, is found in the waters of the Mergui Archipelago. It has the face of a quadruped, and the tail of a fish; and sheds tears and utters a plaintive human cry when captured. Its flesh is curative in acrofulous diseases. In its fresh state, its flesh is like beef, and when salted, resembles bacon. It yields an oil which possesses the virtue of cod-liver oil.

(9.) *Proboscidea*. Of this group the elephant is the only living genus. It is used in war by the Siamese, and is most useful in travelling through the primeval forests of the peninsula.

ORNITHOLOGY.—*Aves*, or birds, are oviparous vertebrates, i.e., the young are hatched and nurtured by the parent, their body is covered with feathers instead of hair or wool, and as a rule the fore-limbs are in the form of wings adapted for flight. Their lungs are fixed in the chest, and their bones are singularly light, from the fact that the

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glassware, &c., with commodities for the China market, such as pepper, tin, dragons-blood, rattana, Bech-demer, esculent swallow's nest, and camphor. While strictly speaking a coasting trade, this (next to the foreign trade with China) forms the most important intercourse Siam has with other countries.

Foreign Trade.

The most important branch is that with China. This is wholly carried on in vessels of Chinese form, navigated by Chinese, but the greater portion of them built in Siam. The whole of Chinese trade centres in Bangkok, with the exception of a few junks which trade to Sungora or Ligor. The ports of China which carry on trade with Siam are Canton, Kiang-mui, and Chang-lin in the province of Quanton, besides several ports of the great island of Hainan. The imports from China are very miscellaneous consisting of what are called in commercial language "assorted goods." The following is a list of the more important commodities:—Coarse earthenware and porcelain, spelter, quick-silver, tea, vermicelli, dried fruits, raw silk, crapes, satins and silk fabrics, nankeens, shoes, fans, umbrellas, writing and sacrificial paper, incense, rods, &c., &c. The exports from Siam are as various: black-pepper, sugar, tin and cardamoms; eagle-wood, sapan-wood, red-mangrove bark, rose-wood, and cotton; ivory, sticlac, rice and areca-nuts; otters, civet-cats, pangolina, snakes, and rays; horns of buffaloes, ox, deer, and rhinoceros; feathers of the pelican, stork, peacock, and king-fisher, and esculent birds' nests.

9. Ports. The principal, commencing from the eastern shore of the Gulf, are Tunjai, Chantaburi, Rayong, Bang-plasoi, Bangkok, Champon, Chaiya, Ligor, Thalung. Of the Malayan dependencies the chief are Tringau, Pahang, and Quedah.

10. Revenue. This is derived from the following sources:—Tributes from dependent princes; land, garden, and plantation taxes; farms and monopolies; custom-house duties; corvees or conscription fines, and confiscations. The total revenue in money or kind does not exceed £1,050,000 per annum,—a mean and inconsiderable

the Prye) descend from the hills into the sea. These hills do not attain a greater height than 2,574 feet above the level of the sea. The whole island is covered with forests of different woods. Notable in value as an article of commerce is the *pooy*, used largely for the masts of ships.

Of fruit trees there is an abundance. The mangosteen, lime, orange, doorian, jack, plantain, and pine apple, grow everywhere. The sugar-cane and the tea tree grow wild. Most of the hills are covered with plantations of nutmeg, betel-nut, pepper, and different spices. Tapioca is a considerable item in the exports.

The capital (the residence of Government and Europeans) is Georgetown, now called Penang. The largest native village is Jamestown. The population of the former is about 6,000; of the latter 60,000.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.—This territory stands opposite to the island of Penang. This portion of the mainland coast was, in the sixteenth century, the principal rendezvous of piratical marauders, who committed extensive damage to the native trade that began to pour into the new colony of the East India Company at Penang. The territory belonged to the Rajah of Quedah, and remained so till the year 1800, when the small sum of 2,000 dollars bought it. It measures 35 miles long by six or seven broad. It has an area of 236 square miles, and a population of 71,430.

It is under the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor of Penang. From an agricultural point of view, it is the most important of the Straits Settlements. The soil of the low-lying level lands, available for cereal products, is richer, more plentiful, and consequently cheaper than the other. The climate also is better suited for the purpose. At the commencement it had a tolerably large indigenous popu-

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lation, and this has been augmented by an easy immigration from the neighbouring States of the Peninsula.

It is irrigated by five rivers of considerable volume. The *Muda* forms the northern boundary of British territory. Between the *Muda* and the *Prye*, which disembogues nearly opposite to the town of Penang, there are several creeks or streams leading to the interior for native craft. The *Prye* is 200 yards wide at its mouth. About four miles south of the *Prye* is the mouth of the *Juru*, 100 yards in width. Four miles further south, behind the steep islet of Palo Kra, and skirting the northern slope of the small cape called Batu Kwan, is the *Jujung* river.

The province is bounded on the south by the *Krian* river, a stream possessing a volume of water more than equal to that of any of the other rivers, and navigable for a considerable distance beyond the British boundary, thus affording a valuable outlet to the products of the interior Native States.

The staple productions of the province are rice and sugar; coffee, indigo and tapioca are cultivated, but in a smaller way.

Wild animals are plentiful. Tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, wild ox or bison, wild hogs and deer, and alligators abound.

The province is bounded on the north and east by the Siamese province of *Quedah*, on the west by the Strait that divides it from Penang, and on the south by *Perak*.

MALACCA.—This territory lies on the coast of the mainland of the peninsula, 260 miles south of Province *Wellesley*. It has a sea-board to the Straits of 43 miles, its extent inland varying from 10 to 25 miles. It lies between 2° and $2^{\circ}30'$ N., and between 102° and $105^{\circ}45'$ E. Its area cannot be less than 700 square miles. The town of Malacca lies at the mouth of a small river in Lat. $2^{\circ}16'$