



PERAK
AND
THE MALAYS

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these people being Buddhists, believe in the doctrine of the transmigration of souls.

It is related that one Siamese prince despatched three elephants as presents to the grandsons of the then king of France, a nation with whom the Siamese have long held intercourse. As the animals were going he whispered to them: "Go, depart cheerfully; you will be slaves, indeed; but you will be so to three of the greatest princes of the world, whose service is as moderate as it is glorious." After this address the elephants were hoisted into the ship, and because they bowed themselves to go under the deck, the Siamese cried out with admiration of their sagacity.

A curious trait of the elephant is worthy of notice. When not observed, the great animal will go to a cocoa-nut tree, and, to obtain the nuts and young blossoms, place his head against the trunk, and then commencing a swaying movement, throw the whole weight of the body against the tree over and over again, till it comes down with a crash, leaving the coveted treasures at his feet.

The rhinoceros is occasionally seen, and two varieties are believed to exist. They are very shy, and at the approach of man rush off through the jungle; being very different to their relatives in Africa, one kind of which charges directly he perceives man or horse, even a hut or a fire being an object upon which he will vent his fury. The natives tell of a beast that they call the *koodu-ayer*, or water-horse, by

some supposed to be a hippopotamus; but it is evidently either a rhinoceros or one of the larger tapirs, which are found in the marshy places, calmly browsing on the herbage by means of their prehensile upper lip, waiting, like the rhinoceros, for the time in the future when the gun of the sportsman shall disturb their rest.

There is plenty of game for the hunter who does penetrate the jungles, splendid deer of very large size being common. Some of these approach the elk in magnitude, and among them are the sambre, the spotted-deer, hog-deer, and the chevrotin or palandok. Wild-boars are not at all uncommon—not the progenitors of the pigs of the Settlements, for their presence is due to the Chinese—the Malay, from his religion, rejecting pork. The boars are both large and fierce, one poor fellow—a convict employed on the road—dying of the injuries he received from one of these beasts up in Province Wellesley. His dog was baying at something in the jungle, and, on entering the forest, he found that the animal was holding a wild-boar in check. The latter set upon him at once, ripping him terribly, the beast being afterwards shot by the European overseer of the works. These boars' tusks are very large and white; and taking advantage of their peculiar curve, a Chinese goldsmith in Penang joins the root and point with a chain, letters the ivory, and forms of them very handsome decanter labels. That these boars have other enemies

CHAPTER XXXVI.

An ascent of Mount Ophir from Malacca—The hot springs—On the track—Chabow—Night in the jungle—Camping-out—Gounong Padang Batoo—Tondoh—Cry of the argus-pheasant—Ledang—The view from the summit—The descent—A fine field for the naturalist.

BEFORE closing this work it may not be uninteresting, as so much prominence has been given to the question of Mount Ophir in Malacca being in all probability the Ophir of Solomon, to give a short account of an ascent of the mountain made by the writer some years since, in company with Captain Prothero, then *aide-de-camp* to the Governor, General Cavenagh, and now superintendent of the Andaman Islands. General Cavenagh was the last Governor of the Straits Settlements under the Indian Government, and was a member of the Commission appointed by Her Majesty to inquire into the revenue and expenditure of the Settlements prior to their transfer to the Crown.

The trip was proposed by way of variation to the monotony of a residence in Malacca. Besides which, a natural desire must be felt by every European to inspect a mountain whose name has so many historical associations connected with it, especially when so

the fire that had been lighted—a meal that was to consist of a tin of soup and a "sudden death," otherwise a spatchcock—a look round was taken, and a waterfall was found only a short distance away; while upon reaching its foot, where the glistening foam sparkled and played in rainbow tints in the afternoon light, the geological formation of the rocks over which the water sprang was examined. These proved to be of granite, with patches here and there of quartz and clay-slate. The granite largely predominated, as it did, in fact, as far down the bed of the stream as could be explored. Amongst the granite boulders were here and there deep pools, upon which the Malays made an onslaught, and soon succeeded in drawing therefrom a good supply of fish. Their next visit was to the wild durian trees, from whose fruit they concocted a curry, and thus from the nature-spread bounty their wants were very easily supplied.

In spite of the rocky nature of the ground, the jungle around us was very dense, forming a good harbour for any of the wild beasts of the peninsula, if any were near at hand; but no visit was anticipated, for during the day's journey nothing had crossed the path larger than squirrels or monkeys, though every now and then we came across the tracks of elephants, rhinoceros, bears, deer, and wild-pig. These, however, were old, and the creatures that had imprinted them were most probably far away. The