

JAVA
THE PEARL OF THE EAST

BY

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WITH A MAP OF THE ISLAND



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make it easy and convenient for him to satisfy his appetite. The native that destroys a crocodile six feet in length receives from the government twenty-five florins, and less for a shorter one. Ten florins is also paid for a crocodile egg.

Like the tiger, the stag and the roebuck generally go alone. They frequent the wastes and plains covered with tall grass and rich herbage. The wild bull dwells on the elevated mountain sides, and frequently descends to the borders of the sea in search of salt. He is wary and ferocious, avoiding the approach of man. He is endowed with wonderfully keen olfactory nerves, and scents the approach of an enemy at an incredibly long distance. He is more alert and nimble-footed than the rhinoceros, and when wounded much more to be dreaded. The female is smaller and more active than the male, beside being aggressive and wicked. She is red in color, and not as large as the ordinary milk cow, while the male is generally brown or black. The wild bulls march in companies of from six to twenty, an old and experienced leader going before the herd, to warn away the wild dogs, panthers, and tigers that may threaten attack.

The rhinoceros roams through the forests and jungles on the highest mountains, often descending to the salt swamps and flats skirting the sea for salt water. He is generally unaccompanied, is unsocial and fierce, but flies from man; when

wounded or a female with a calf, the rhinoceros is dangerous and hard to kill. Sometimes seven or eight assemble and visit a coffee or cinchona plantation, where they commit serious depredations by eating the tender shoots and uprooting the young trees. The carcass of the rhinoceros is prized by the natives, especially by the Javan Chinese, who use even the skin in preparations of food. The hide resembles that of the hippopotamus. The rhinoceros of Java has but one horn, and this is highly valued by the natives, who believe it will extract the poison, if applied to the bite of a serpent or scorpion. They claim that it will adhere to the wound till it absorbs all the venom, and that one piece can be used several times. It is also very desirable for the handles of knives and kris. One fine horn sells for from forty to one hundred and fifty florins.

The panther is more addicted to the forest than the tiger, and, instead of concealing himself in a jungle thicket, prefers to lie hidden by the green leaves on the branches of the trees, whence he can suddenly drop down on his prey. The leopard is also an inhabitant of Java. It resembles the panther in its habits and haunts, and is easily distinguished from the latter by its velvety black spots on a light yellow ground.

The crocodile lives in the water, and infests the banks of rivers, the borders of swamps and low watery regions, and the sea-coasts near the mouths