

T H E
HISTORY OF SUMATRA,

Containing

An Account of the GOVERNMENT, LAWS,
CUSTOMS, and MANNERS

Of the

NATIVE INHABITANTS,

With

A DESCRIPTION of the NATURAL PRODUCTIONS,

And

A RELATION of the ANCIENT POLITICAL STATE

Of that

I S L A N D.

By

WILLIAM MARSDEN, F.R.S.

Late SECRETARY to the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL
OF FORT MARLBOROUGH.

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that there is no remarkable hill there bearing the appellation he mentions; nor does the derivation either carry the appearance of probability, or any corroborating testimony in its favor. He mentions likewise, and in this he is supported by the Dutch writers, that the people of the neighbouring islands, call it *Indalas* (*Andeelees*), which holds good of the Javans, but it has no extensive acceptance, and the natives themselves, as before remarked, are ignorant of such a name, as well as of every other. This is a point which I took pains to investigate, and which I can pronounce upon with certainty; and to this circumstance principally the ambiguity respecting its ancient title is owing: as navigators of different nations had no common and permanent standard to refer to, each who visited it bestowed an arbitrary appellation, which subsequent travellers confounded and misapplied.* What seems pretty evident is, that the name, however derived, was learned by the Portuguese on the coast of Malabar, where they made their first establishments, and acquired a knowledge of the more eastern countries; very rude indeed at the earlier period, as appears by the *Itinerarium Portugalsum*, published in the year that their first expedition to Sumatra was fitted out; in which Cataia, or China, is described as an island.†

Sumatra

* Much inconvenience is experienced by navigators in modern times, from the arbitrary mode of bestowing names on lands newly discovered or explored. That name which the inhabitants, or those of the neighbouring countries, distinguish a place by, should ever be scrupulously preserved; if such can be ascertained. This seems to have been first attended to by Mr. Dalrymple, and since by Captain Cook.

† For the gratification of the curious reader, I shall subjoin the following extracts, relative to the ancient name of Sumatra, from those authorities which I had occasion to consult in the course of my investigation of that subject.

Voyage of Arabs to India and China, 1273. "An eastern island called *Ramsi*: governed by many kings: eight or nine hundred leagues in length: gold mines: camphire: many islands near it; one of the largest called *El nias* (qu: *Nias*): use coconut oil: have many elephants; sappan wood: eat human flesh."—Herbelot. *Bibliothèque orientale*, 1697. "*Sobarmab* or *Sobarmab*, an island in the Chinese Sea, about which are many small ones uninhabited. Sea very tempestuous. Soundings generally forty fathoms. Scheriff Al Edreffî writes, in the tenth part of his first climate, that the best camphire of the east is collected here. This isle is most probably Sumatra; the Arabians calling all that sea and land which is to the eastward of Cape Comorin, the sea and land of China. Some geographers remark that the greatest quantity of wood aloes comes from the isle of *Somander*, which may be what we call Sumatra. *Rami*, a rich country, bearing the tree called *Bacam* by the Arabs, and by us *Sagil* wood (*Jappan*), and where you find

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Sumatra is one of the largest islands in the world, but its breadth is determined with so little accuracy, that any attempt to calculate its superficies,

the animal which the Arabs and Persians name *Kerkedan*, (rhinoceros) is an island seven hundred leagues in length, and distant about three days sail from Serendib, which we believe to be Zeilan. *Dib* or *div*, in the Indian language, signifies an island. Edressi says that the Chinese used to carry on a great traffic to Serindib"—There is reason to doubt their having ever passed Acheen.—In the geographia Nubienfis of that writer (as quoted by Herbelot), the island called *Alrami* seems to answer best to Sumatra, except in its proximity to Serendib, being ten days sail instead of three. *Sabormab* has the next claim; and lastly *Samandar*, which through the nearest in name, scarcely agrees at all in situation, being said to lie near the *Ganges*—Jones, Description of Asia, 1773. "Farther eastward are the islands of *Samandar*; *Rami* or *Lameri*, which may, perhaps, be Java, though, by the accounts of it, one would take it for the same with Samandar, and then *Abinoman* will be *Java*, and *Mebrags* or *Sobormab*, *Borneo*"—Marco Paulo, 1269. "Beyond Petan, steering towards the south, at the distance of thirty three leagues, is *Java Minor*"—the description of which answers to Sumatra.—Odoricus, as mentioned in Hackluit t. 2. p. 45. "In the year 1331, Odoricus, a friar, was in Java: the first European that pierced into India and returned". (Marco Paulo an exception)—Mandeville, 1400. "Beside the yfle of *Lemery* is another that is clept *Sumobor*; and fast beside, a great yfle clept *Java*"—Nicoli de Conti, 1449. (Ramusio) gives a good account of Sumatra under the name of *Taprobane*, and particularly mentions some extraordinary customs, now well ascertained, of the *Batta* people.—Itinerarium Portugalsium in Indiam, printed 1508, but written, apparently, some years sooner. "Lacham mittit oppidum dictum *Samoterra*, ultra Calechut leucis ccccc". "Præterea in hoc mari Indico complures insulæ videntur, et inter alias duæ sunt quæ cæteras omni rerum celebritate præstant.—Altera Sayla dicitur, quæ abest ab dicto capite Comas M prope cc—Post hanc, ad orientem, altera videtur quæ dicitur *Samotra*, nos Taprobanum appellamus, quæ abest ab urbe Calechut itinere trium mensium. Ultra eam est Cataium feracissima, ut dictum est insula"—Ludovico Bartheima, or Vartomanus. He travelled in 1503 and 4, and an edition of his work was published at Venice in 1517. "He passed over from *Melacha* to *Sumatra*, which appears to be *Taprobana*, and arrived at *Pider*, reckoned the best port in the island."—Here the name is spelt in the modern manner, contrary to the mode adopted by the Portuguese—Old map and description of Sumatra or *Taprobana*, by a French Captain; without date; but appears to have been written not many years after the first Portuguese voyages. Preserved in Ramusio, vol. 3.—In a letter from Emanuel king of Portugal to Pope Leo the tenth, dated 1513 (preserved in the *Novus Orbis Historicus*) he mentions the discovery of *Zamatra* by his subjects—Epistola di Massimiliano Transylvano, 1519. "Hanno navigato all'isola detta di gli antichi *Taprobana*, la qual adesso si chiama (*Zamara*) *Sumatra*; perche dove Tolomeo et Plinio et altri cosmographi han messo la *Taprobana*, non è isola alcuna, chi si possa credere esser quello"—Sebastianus Munsterus: Printed 1537. "Circa littora *Taphrophane*, quam hodie *Sumatram* vocant."—Cosmographie Univ. de A Thevet, 1541. "Near the point of *Malacca* is *Taprobane* or *Sumathre*, which the barbarians formerly called *Salique*; (mistake for *Ceylon*): the Arabs named it *Axbain*, and the Africans, *Achamba*. Famous for cinnamon. Kings of *Pazar* (*Pasay*), *Dargui* (perhaps *Andergery*), *Pedir*, *Ham* and *Biranc*, tributary to the grand *Cam*. Many spices here, but the pepper comes from *Calecut* and *Zeilan*. Governed by many petty kings. In 1543 it was plundered and ravaged by some adventurers from *Cephal*. Dress of the people

*Distinction of Inhabitants.—Rejangs chosen for General Description.
—Persons and Complexion.—Clothing and Ornaments.*

General account of the inhabitants.

HAVING exhibited a general view of the island, as it is in the hands of nature, I shall now proceed to a description of the people who inhabit and cultivate it, and shall endeavor to distinguish the several species or classes of them, in such a manner as may best tend to perspicuity, and to furnish clear ideas of the matter.

Various modes of division.

The most obvious division, and which has been usually made by the writers of voyages, is that of *Mahometan* inhabitants of the sea coast, and *Pagans* of the inland country. This division, though not without its degree of propriety, is vague and imperfect; not only because each description of people differ considerably among themselves, but that the inland inhabitants are, in some places, Mahometans, and those of the coast, in others, what they term Pagans. It is not unusual with persons who have not resided in this part of the east, to call the inhabitants of the islands indiscriminately by the name of *Ma'ays*. This is a more considerable error, and productive of greater confusion than the former. By attempting to reduce things to heads too general, we defeat the very end we propose to ourselves in defining them at all: we create obscurity where we wish to throw light. On the other hand, to attempt enumerating and distinguishing the variety, almost endless, of petty sovereignties and nations, into which this island is divided, many of which differ nothing in person or manners from their neighbours, would be a task both insurmountable and useless. I shall aim at steering a middle course, and accordingly shall treat of the inhabitants of Sumatra under the following summary distinctions, taking occasion as it may offer to mention the principal subdivisions. And first, it is proper to distinguish the empire of

of *Menangcabow* and the *Malays*; in the next place the *Acbonese*; then the *Battas*; the *Rejangs*; and next to them the *Lampoons*.*

Menangcabow being the principal sovereignty of the island, which formerly comprehended the whole, and still receives a shadow of homage from the most powerful of the other kingdoms, which have sprung up from its ruins, would seem to claim a right to precedence in description, but I have a sufficient reason for deferring it to a subsequent part of my work; which is, that the people of this empire, by their conversion to

* Attempts to ascertain from whence the island of Sumatra was originally peopled must rest upon mere conjecture. The adjacent peninsula presents the most obvious source of population, and it is accordingly said that Malayan emigrants supplied the Archipelago with inhabitants: but no argument, except that of vicinity, can be produced in support of this, not unplaussible, opinion. The Malays, now so called, are in comparison of the internal Sumatrans, but as a people of yesterday; and though they have spread their language and manners far and wide, since the foundation of Malacca in the thirteenth century, they are considered as intruders only, among the aboriginal people of the eastern islands. I have elsewhere remarked, that one general language prevailed (however mutilated and changed in the course of time) throughout all this portion of the world, from Madagascar to the most distant discoveries eastward, of which the Malay is a dialect, much corrupted, or refined, by a mixture of other tongues. This very extensive similarity of language indicates a common origin of the inhabitants, but the circumstances and progress of their separation are wrapped in the darkest veil of obscurity.

In the course of my inquiries amongst the natives, concerning the aborigines of the island, I have been informed of two different species of people dispersed in the woods, and avoiding all communication with the other inhabitants. These they call *Orang Cooboo*, and *Orang Googoo*. The former are said to be pretty numerous, especially in that part of the country which lies between *Palembang* and *Jambe*. Some have at times been caught and kept as slaves in *Laboon*, and a man of that place is now married to a tolerably handsome *Cooboo* girl, who was carried off by a party that discovered their huts. They have a language quite peculiar to themselves, and they eat promiscuously whatever the woods afford, as deer, elephant, rhinoceros, wild hog, snakes or monkeys. The *Googoo* are much scarcer than these, differing in little but the use of speech, from the *Orang Outan* of Borneo; their bodies being covered with long hair. There have not been above two or three instances of their being met with by the people of *Laboon* (from whom my information is derived), and one of these was entrapped many years ago, in much the same manner as the carpenter in Pilpay's Fables caught the monkey. He had children by a *Laboon* woman, which also were more hairy than the common race; but the third generation are not to be distinguished from others. The reader will bestow what measure of faith he thinks due, on this relation, the veracity of which I do not pretend to vouch for. It has probably some foundation in truth, but is exaggerated in the circumstances.

Animals—Beasts—Birds—Reptiles—Insects.

THE animal kingdom should claim attention, but the quadrupeds Animals. of the island being the same as are found elsewhere throughout the east, already well described, and not presenting any new species that I am acquainted with, I shall do little more than simply furnish a list of those which have occurred to my notice; adding a few observations, either here, or in the future course of the work, on such as may appear to require it. The *carbow*, or Malay buffalo, being an animal particularly belonging to these parts, and more serviceable to the country people than any other, I shall enter into some detail of its qualities and uses.

Horse: *coodo*. The breed is small, well made, and hardy, Beasts.
sappee. Small breed. Buffalo: *carbow*. A particular description will follow. Sheep: *beeree-beeree*. Small breed, introduced probably from Bengal*. Goat: *cambing*. Beside the domestic species, which is in general small, and of a light brown color, there is the *cambing ootan*, or goat of the woods. One which I saw was three feet in height, and four feet in the length of the body. It had something of the gazelle in its appearance, and, excepting the horns, which were about six inches long, and turned back with an arch, it did not much resemble the common goat. The hinder parts were shaped like those of a bear, the rump sloping round off from the back. The tail was very small, and ended in a point. The legs clumsy. The hair, along the ridge of the back, rising coarse and strong, almost like bristles. No beard. Over the shoulder was a large spreading tuft of greyish hair: The rest of the hair black throughout. The scrotum globular. Its disposition seemed wild and fierce, and it is said by the natives to be remarkably swift. Hog: *babce*. That breed which we call Chinese. Dog: *angin; cooyoo*. Curs with erect ears. Cat: *cocbin*. All their tails imperfect and knobbed at the end, as if cut or broken off. Rat: *teecoofe*. Elephant: *gaja*. Spoken of in another part. Rhinoceros: *buddab*. Hippopotamus: *coodo-ayer*. Tiger: *reemow; machang*. Spoken of in another part. Bear: *broorong*. Small and

* A sheep is called *baeres* in the Hindostanic language.

and black; devours the hearts of the coconut trees. Otter: *angin-ayer*. Sloth. Stinkard: *teleggo*. Porcupine: *landa*. Armadillo: *tangeeling*. It perfectly resembles the animal of America. Very rare, and made great account of by the natives; the scales being supposed medicinal. Deer: *roofs*; *keejang*. There is variety of the deer species; of which some are very large. Wild hog: *babe ostan*. Hog deer: *babe roofs*. Small and delicate animal; one of those which produce the bezoar. Monkey: *moonia*; *broo*; *fermang*. Prodigious variety of this genus. Pole cat: *moosang*. Tiger cat: *cobin remow*. Civet cat: The natives take the civet from the vagina of these, as they require it for use. Squirrel: *woopje*. Small, dark species. Bat: *boorong tecoofs*. Many of considerable size, which pass in large flocks from one country to another; hanging at times, by hundreds, on trees. Some perfectly resemble foxes, in shape and color; but these cannot fly far.

Buffalo.

The buffalo (*carbow*), which constitutes a principal part of the food of the Sumatrans, is the only animal employed in their domestic labors. The inland people, where the country is tolerably clear, avail themselves of their strength to draw timber felled in the woods: the Malays, and other people on the coast train them to the draft, and sometimes to the plough. Though apparently of a dull, obstinate, capricious nature, the carbow acquires by habit a surprising docility, and its taught to lift the shafts of the cart with its horns, and place the yoke, which is fixed to those, across its neck; needing no farther harness than a breast-band; and a string which is made to pass through the cartilage of the nostrils. They are also, for the service of the Europeans, trained to carry burthens suspended from each side of a pack saddle, in roads or paths where the use of carriages is impracticable. It is extremely slow, but steady in its work. The labor it performs falls short of what might be expected from its size, and apparent strength, the least extraordinary fatigue, particularly during the heat of the day, being sufficient to put a period to its life, which is at all times precarious. The owners frequently experience the loss of large herds, in a short space of time, by an epidemic distemper, called *bocndoong*, that seizes them suddenly, swells their bodies, and gives way to no remedy yet discovered. The most part of the
milk

milk and butter required by the Europeans (the natives using neither) is supplied by them; and the milk is richer than what is there produced by the cow; but not in the same quantity:

Though we have given to the *carbow* the name of *buffalo*, it is an animal very different from that known in the southern parts of Europe, by the same appellation, from the hide of which the buff leather is supposed to be manufactured. This from the description given in some of our books of natural history, resembles what we call in India, the Madagascar bull; especially in the fleshy protuberance rising from the neck, and extending over the shoulder*. The carbow is a beast of greater and more equal bulk, in the extent of the barrel. The legs are shorter than those of the ox; the hoofs larger; the horns, which usually turn backward, but sometimes point forward, are always in the plane of the forehead, differing in that respect from those of all other cattle. Excepting near to the extremities, the horns are rather square than round; contain much solid substance, and are valuable in manufacture. The tail hangs down to the middle joint of the leg only, is small, and terminates in a bunch of hair, which is very rare in all parts of the body; scarcely serving to cover the hide. The neck is thick and finewy, nearly round, but somewhat flattened at top; and has little or no dewlap dependent from it. The organ of generation in the male has an appearance, as if the extremity were cut off. It is not a falacious animal. The female goes nine months with calf, which it suckles during six, from four teats. When crossing a river, it exhibits the singular sight, of carrying the young one on its back. It has a weak cry, in a sharp tone, very unlike the lowing of oxen.

The luxury of the carbow consists in rolling itself in a muddy pool, which it forms in any spot, for its convenience, during the rainy weather. This it enjoys in a high degree, dexterously throwing with its horn,

* Since I wrote the above I have been informed, that the Italian buffalo does not much differ in appearance from the *carbow*, and has no protuberance from the neck. The best engraved representation I have seen of the Malay buffalo, is in a work entitled *Jonstonus de Quadrupedibus*, Plate XX. Fig. 1. The horns, however, are there too small, the tail too long, and the pizzle ends in a point.

horn, the water and slime, when not of a sufficient depth to cover it, over its back and sides. Their blood perhaps is of a hot temperature, owing to which, this indulgence, quite necessary to their health, may be rendered so desirable to them; and the mud encrusting on their body, preserves them from the attack of insects, which otherwise prove very troublesome. The natives light fires for them at night, in order that the smoke may have the same effect, and they have, of their own accord, the sagacity to lay themselves down to leeward, that they may enjoy the full benefit of it.

They are distinguished into two sorts; the white and black. Both are equally employed in work, but the former is seldom killed for food. Some of the people say, that this exemption is owing to its being esteemed sacred, but I was assured by a learned padre, that it was neither forbidden by the Koran, or any religious injunction, and that the Malays eat it, at times, without scruple; esteeming it however, very inferior to the black buffalo. The Rejangs also have no general exception to it. Some of them eat it; and some refuse, on the same account that induced the Rechabites to drink no wine, and to live in tents; a vow of their forefathers: whilst others are deterred by the accounts of the ill effects that have attended it; the body being observed to break out afterwards in blotches. Possibly the whiteness of the buffalo, may be owing to some species of disorder, as is the case with those people called white negros.

It is said not to be properly a wild animal of the country, though abounding in every part; which the name of *carbow gellan* (stray buffalos) given to those found in the woods, seems to confirm. Most probably they were at first wild, but were afterwards, from their use in labor and food, all caught, and domesticated by degrees, or killed in the attempts to take them. When they now collect in the woods, they are said to be stray cattle; as the people of a conquered province, attempting to recover their natural liberties, are styled rebels. They are gregarious, and commonly found in numbers together, being then less dangerous to passengers, than when met with singly. Like the turkey, they have an antipathy to a red color. When wild, they run extremely swift, keeping
pace

pace with the speed of a common horse. Upon an attack, or alarm, they fly for a short distance, and then suddenly face about, and draw up in battle array with surprizing quickness and regularity ; their horns being laid back, and their muzzles projecting. Upon the nearer approach of the danger that presses on them, they make a second flight, and a second time halt, and form : and this excellent mode of retreat, which but few nations of the human race have attained to such a degree of discipline as to adopt, they continue till they gain a neighbouring wood. Their principal foe, next to man, is the tiger ; but only the weaker sort, and the females, fall a certain prey to this ravager : the sturdy male buffalo can support the first vigorous stroke from the tiger's paw, on which the fate of the battle usually turns.

Of Birds there is a much greater variety than of beasts. To enumerate Birds. the different species is quite beyond my power. The most obvious are as follows : but I do not offer this list, as containing a tenth part of what might be found on the island, by a person who should confine his researches to this subject.

The *coo-oo*, or famous Sumatran or Argos pheasant, of which no complete specimen has been hitherto seen in Europe, is a bird of uncommon beauty ; the plumage being perhaps the most rich, without any degree of gaudiness, of all the feathered race. It is found extremely difficult to be kept alive for any considerable time after catching it in the woods. I have never known it effected for above a month. It has an antipathy to the light. When kept in a darkened place, it appears at its ease, and sometimes makes use of the note or call from which it takes its name, and which is rather plaintive, than harsh like the peacock's. In the open day it is quite moped and inanimate. The head is not equal in beauty to the rest of the bird. The flesh, of which I have eaten, perfectly resembles that of common pheasants, but it is of much larger size. These also abound in the woods.

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There is a great variety of the stork kind; some of prodigious size, and otherwise curious; as the *boorong cambing*, and *boorong oolar*. Of doves there are two species, which have many varieties; the one brown, called *ballum*, and the other green, called *pooni*. The *pooni-jambo* is a very beautiful bird. It is smaller than the usual size of doves: the back, wings, and tail are green: the breast and crop are white, but the front of the latter has a light shade of pink: the forepart of the head is of a deep pink, resembling the blossom of the jamboo fruit, from whence its name: the white of the breast is continued in a narrow streak, having the green on one side and pink on the other, half round the eye, which is large, full, and yellow; of which color is also the beak. They will live upon boiled rice, and paddee, but their favorite food, when wild, is the berry of the *rum-pooni*; doubtless therefore so called.

Of the parrot kind are many species; as the *kaykay*, *cocatoa*; parrot-quet, and *kory*. There are also, the kite; crow (*gagba*); plover (*che-rooling*); snipe; quail (*cooyoo*); wildduck; teal (*beleebec*); water-hen; lark; sea-lark; curlew; domestic hen (*ayam*), some with black bones, and some of the sort we call Friezland or negro fowls; hen of the woods (*ayam baroogo*); the *jago* breed of fowls, which abound in the southern end of Sumatra, and western of Java, are remarkably large: I have seen a cock peck off of a common dining table: when fatigued, they sit down on the first joint of the leg, and are then taller than the common fowls. It is strange if the same country, Bantam, produces likewise the diminutive breed that goes by that name. Paddee birds (*boorong peepce*), something like our sparrows, are in great plenty, and destroy the grain. The dial (*mocri*) has a pretty, but short note; there being no bird on the island which sings. The minor (*tecong*) has the faculty of imitating human speech in greater perfection than any other of the feathered tribe: there are both black, and yellow of them. Owls, particularly the great horned one; starling; kingfisher; swallow (*hyang*); *engang*, or rhinoceros bird: this is chiefly remarkable for what is called the horn, which reaches half way down the bill, and then turns up: the length of the bill of one I measured, was ten inches and an half;

half; the breadth, including the horn, six and an half; length, from beak to tail, four feet; wings, four feet, six inches; height one foot; length of neck, one foot: the beak is whitish; the horn, yellow and red, the body black; tail white and ringed with black; rump, and feathers on the legs, down to the heel, white: claws, three before and one behind: the iris red. In a hen chick there was no appearance of a horn, and the iris was whitish. They eat either boiled rice, or tender flesh meat.

Of Reptiles there is some variety. The lizard species are in abundance; from the *cokay*, which is ten or twelve inches long, and makes a very singular noise, to the smallest house lizard, of which I have seen some scarce half an inch in length. They are produced from eggs, about the size of a wren's. A remarkable circumstance respecting them, which I do not find mentioned in the accounts of any writer, is, that on a slight stroke, and sometimes through fear alone, they lose their tails; which soon begin to grow again. The tail may be separated, with the smallest force, and without loss of blood, or evident pain to the animal, at any of the vertebræ. The grass lizard is a species between those two. There is, I believe, no class of living creatures, in which the gradations may be traced with such minuteness and regularity, as in this. From the small house lizard abovementioned, to the largest aligator or crocodile, a chain may be observed containing almost innumerable links, of which the remotest will have a striking resemblance to each other, and seem, at first view, to differ only in bulk. The house lizard is the largest animal that can walk in an inverted situation: one of these, of size sufficient to swallow a cockroach, runs on the ceiling of a room, and in that posture seizes its prey with the utmost facility. This they are enabled to do, from the rugose make of their feet, with which they adhere strongly to the smoothest surface: sometimes however, on springing too eagerly at a fly, they lose their hold, and fall to the ground. They are always cold to the touch, and yet the transparency of the bodies of some of them, shews us that their fluids have as brisk a circulation as in other animals: in none that I have seen, is the peristaltic motion

tion so obvious as in these. The female carries two eggs at a time, one in the lower, and one in the upper part of the abdomen, on opposite sides. They are called by the Malays "*cheebab*," from the noise they make.

The cameleon, and the flying lizard are also found on Sumatra. The former, including the tail, are about a foot and a half long; green, with brown spots, as I have them preserved. When seen alive in the woods, they are generally green; but not from the reflection of the trees, as some have supposed; and when caught, they usually turn brown; seemingly the effect of fear, as men become pale. Like others of the genus, they feed on flies, which the large size of their mouths is well adapted for catching. They have five long toes, armed with sharp claws, on the fore and hind feet. Along the spine, from the head to the middle of the back, little membranes stand up, like the teeth of a saw. The flying lizards are about eight inches long. The membrane which constitutes the wings, and which does not extend from, and connect with, the fore and hind leg, as in the bat species, is about two or three inches in length. They have flapped ears, and a kind of bag, or alphorges, under the jaws. In other respects they much resemble the cameleon in appearance. They do not take distant flights, but merely from tree to tree, or from one bough to another. The country people take them in springes fastened to the stems.

With frogs and toads the swamps every where abound. These fall a prey to the snakes, which are found here of all sizes; though the largest I ever happened to see, was no more than twelve feet long. This was killed in a hen-house, where it was devouring the poultry. It is very surprizing, but no less true, that they will swallow animals of three or or four times their own apparent bulk or circumference; having in their jaws or throat, a compressive force, that reduces the prey to a convenient dimension. I have seen a small snake, with the hind legs of a frog sticking out of its mouth, each of them nearly equal to the smaller parts of its own body, which in the thickest did not exceed a man's little

rics in India, differs from the former in relating the circumstances of the foundation of *Malacca*, whose first prince he calls *Raja Sabu*, and says that in the reign of his second son *Casemo*, an Arabian priest arrived, and first preached the doctrine of the Caliphs, converting this king thereto, and giving him the name of *Xa Mahamed*, in the year 1384. *Corneille le Brun* was informed by the king of *Bantam*, in 1706, that the people of *Java* were made converts to that sect, about three hundred years before. From these several sources of information, which are perfectly distinct from each other, we may justly draw this conclusion, that Mahometanism, which sprang up in Arabia in the seventh century, had made no progress on *Sumatra* before the year 1400, and that the period of its introduction, considering the vicinity to *Malacca*, could not be much later. *Marco Paulo*, the Venetian traveller, who, notwithstanding all the inaccuracies of his work, was doubtless in most of the countries which he describes, and certainly visited *Sumatra* or *Java*, or both, says, that those of the people who lived near the sea shore, when he was on *Java minor*, about 1268, were addicted to the Mahometan law, which they had learned from the Saracen merchants. This throws the period of conversion back, upwards of an hundred years; but I am scrupulous of insisting on his authority.* *Francis Xavier*, the celebrated

* To trace the course of *Marco Paulo's* travels, is wandering in a very obscure path, but not altogether destitute of glimmering light. The following abstract will enable the reader to form a judgment of his much disputed authenticity. "From *Petan* you go to the kingdom of *Meletur*, where are many spices, and a peculiar language. Steering to the southward of *Petan*, thirty-three leagues, you arrive at the island of *Java minor*, (evidently *Sumatra*) in circuit about six hundred and fifty leagues. It is divided into eight kingdoms, and has a proper tongue. It stretches so far to the southward, that the north pole is invisible. I, *Marco Paulo*, was there, and visited six of the eight kingdoms; namely, *Forlech*, *Basman*, *Samara*, *Dragoiam*, *Lambri*, and *Fanfur*. Those of the people of *Forlech* who inhabit the mountains, are without law, and live brutally, eating the flesh of all sorts of beasts indiscriminately, and even human flesh: those who live near the borders of the sea, are Mahometans, converted by Saracen merchants. In *Basman* (qu. *Passaman*?) they have a peculiar language. Here we find elephants and unicorns (rhinoceros) with hides like buffalos, feet like elephants, heads like wild boars, and a single horn on the snout; many monkeys also, resembling the human figure, the skins of which are stuffed by the natives, deprived of the hair, and sold to strangers for a diminutive race of men. I was five months in *Samara*, waiting for the season. The inhabitants are savage, cruel, and addicted to eating human flesh. They

lebrated Jesuit Missionary, mentions, that when he was at *Amboina*, so late as 1546, the people were then beginning to learn to write from the Arabians: but that island lies very far to the eastward, and being of less considerable account in that age, than subsequent transactions have rendered it, the zeal and avarice of those religious adventurers did not happen to be earlier attracted thither.

The inhabitants of *Menangcabow* did not only change their religion, or rather adopt one where there was none before, but an entire alteration was likewise wrought in their language, laws, customs, and manners. This has indisputably been effected, by the settling among them of *Malays* from the peninsula, with whom the former correspond, at this day, in every point of resemblance; insomuch that throughout the island, a *Menangcabow* man, and a *Malay*, are nearly synonymous terms; including in the limits of that kingdom, the sea coast of *Atay-angin*,* whence they more immediately emigrate to the southern parts.

They have no wheat, but use rice for bread. They are apparently without vines, and extract their liquor from a certain tree, in which they make an incision; the juice as it distils, being received in a vessel. India nuts are likewise found here. In the kingdom of *Dragoia* (possibly that called *An-drageri*, and which in later times has been corrupted to *Draguin*), the people are savage idolaters, and speak a language of their own. When any of them are sick or infirm, and their magicians tell them they cannot recover, it is the practice for their friends to kill them by suffocation, and then to eat their bodies, (which they justify by a curious argument). They also kill, and eat such strangers caught amongst them, as cannot pay a ransom. In *Lambri* (a name mentioned by *Barros*, and other Portuguese historians) grows much spice, and certain plants by them called *Byrco*, which, after transplanting, they let grow for three years, and then pluck them up by the roots. The inhabitants of the mountainous parts have tails a palm long. Unicorns, and other wild beasts abound here. In *Fansur* (perhaps *Campar*) grows most rare and exquisite camphire, esteemed equal in value to gold. The inhabitants eat rice, and draw their liquor from trees. Here are seen trees with a soft bark, under which is found a white, mealy substance that is prepared into excellent food. I have eaten of it many times with much satisfaction. (sago). Fifty leagues from *Java minor*, lie the islands of *Necuran* and *Angania*, and from the latter to the great island of *Seylam*, (*Ceylon*) is three hundred and forty leagues. Italian Edit. of 1601, and French of 1556.

* *Atay-angin* signifies windward; but the part of Sumatra so called, extending from *Natal* to *Priaman*, does not, I should apprehend, take its name from its situation, but from the people, who probably settled there in considerable numbers from those eastern countries which lie to windward (with regard to the North east monsoon) of the peninsula of *Malayo*, and which are thence termed *Atay-angin*, as those on the western side of the peninsula, are termed *Diboua-angin*.

In fact