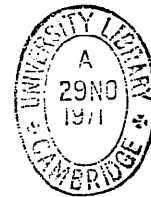


MISSION TO
THE EAST COAST
OF SUMATRA IN 1823

JOHN ANDERSON
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
NICHOLAS TARLING



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there was in it of *realpolitik*, how much of idealism. Of the latter there was certainly some, as in the case of this down-to-earth, hardworking, ambitious Scot, 'a man', as an obituary put it, 'of much information and general ability in the management of affairs, whether requiring a precise knowledge of the business in hand, or that practical experience which is the fruit of varied acquaintance with life, and fits the possessor for the successful undertaking of matters of higher character and wider range....'¹

University of Auckland
New Zealand
July 1970

NICHOLAS TARLING

MISSION

TO THE

EAST COAST OF SUMATRA,

IN M.DCCC.XXIII,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE

GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND:

INCLUDING HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE SKETCHES OF THE COUNTRY, AN ACCOUNT OF THE COMMERCE, POPULATION, AND THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE INHABITANTS, AND A VISIT TO THE BATTA CANNIBAI STATES IN THE INTERIOR.

BY JOHN ANDERSON, ESQUIRE.

LATE AGENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, AND MALAY TRANSLATOR.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH: AND
T. CADELL, STRAND, LONDON.

M.DCCC.XXVI.

¹*The Literary Gazette*, No. 1513, 17 January 1846, p. 61.

and small brinjaws, timon or cucumbers, bawang batta or small onions, are all cultivated by the inhabitants. All these require care, but the woods abound with a vast variety of herbs, roots, and leaves, which are used by the natives as vegetables. The following may be enumerated, viz. daun kintal, paku pegaga, sedapulam, titik umbangan, puchu puchu, byam, kangkong, puchu gadong, bun bitik, kumbakong, guli guli, katimahar nasi, nasi susun, bidong bidong, kundar, pitula, lio, daun ramagei, puriah, juraggi, kemangi, tingiling, daun tuppoos, kurniah, and karunda.

Animals.—The animals of Sumatra have already been fully described; and I am not aware that there are on the east side of the island any very remarkable species which is not well known to the naturalist. The elephants, gajah, are very numerous and large. Immense quantities of ivory might be obtained, if the natives were more expert and skilful in ensnaring and destroying them. The rhinoceros, badak; tigers, rimau; elk, rusa; gadang and palandok, small deer; hogs, babi; civet cat, musang; wild buffaloes, kurbau jalang; horses, kuda; bears, bruang; porcupine, landok; guana, biawa; squirrel, tupei; diminutive deer called kanchil and kichang; sloth, pukang; flying squirrel, tupei terbang; goats, kambing; and numerous other animals, occupy the woods. Of the monkey tribe there are many species. Lotong,

a large black monkey, long armed, long hair, with a greyish head; kara, a small reddish or olive brown coloured monkey; kara laut or sea monkey, brown, middle sized, long tail: these are found, as their name implies, near the mouths of the rivers, close to the sea. Bruk, a large reddish skinned short haired monkey, which the Malays say can be instructed to buy fish, fire guns, and cut cocoa-nuts. Mundi resembles the bruk, but of a smaller size. Tingiling, reddish colour, not very large, long nails, and long tail. These are very vicious, and bite and scratch.

Birds.—Few productions in animated nature have more forcibly excited the admiration, and attracted the observation of the naturalist, than the splendid variety of the feathered tribe in the tropical countries; and the extreme interest which has been taken in this branch of natural history, precludes the possibility of my adding any thing new relating to it. I shall content myself therefore with a brief enumeration of such as are found in the east coast of Sumatra. Of the dove species, there are some extremely beautiful, viz. punei punei tanah, gading, bakow, sioorlan and daun, principally greenish plumage; also ballum, a little grey dove, and pigeons perapati, which are of a very large size, and delicious eating. Those most esteemed for their notes, are the musei or dial-bird, purling, mirbow, and enow enow. There