

NOTICES

OF THE

INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO,

AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES;

BEING A COLLECTION OF PAPERS RELATING TO BORNEO,
CELEBES, BALI, JAVA, SUMATRA, NIAS, THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, SULUS,
SIAM, COCHIN CHINA, MALAYAN PENINSULA, &c.

ACCOMPANIED BY AN INDEX AND SIX MAPS, VIZ.

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Part First.

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the Malays as very beneficial in cutaneous diseases. I have rarely passed without seeing some diseased native bathing his contaminated person in the steaming liquid. There is also a hot spring in the jungle near Taboo: the natives say that the temperature of this is much greater than that of the Sabang spring. I have not been able to discover that a volcano has ever existed in Naning, nor are there any volcanic remains visible.

A small portion of gold is, I understand, to be found in Naning, and tin in considerable quantities; but it wants a more industrious and energetic population to turn these advantages to account. Mr. WESTERHOUT, superintendent of Naning, has established a tin mine at Londe, about two and a quarter miles from Taboo; of the produce of which and the ore I possess very favorable specimens. The charcoal used by the Malays for roasting and smelting the ore is that of the compas and kamuning wood. The following is a translation of the simple Malay mining process, given me by a Malay miner:—"excavate the ground to the depth of a man; if there be ore, you will find it like small dark stone; then make a channel to drain off the water; this done construct a furnace, like the one used in burning lime, with a funnel beneath, to allow the fused metal to escape: heap it with the ore and compas or kamuning charcoal; set fire to and blow it, and the metal is produced." Straits tin is now selling at $13\frac{1}{2}$ dollars to $14\frac{1}{2}$ and Banca, from 15 to $15\frac{1}{2}$, per picul. The native mines are very superficial, seldom more than from six to twelve feet deep, and as many in length and width. The process will be more fully described hereafter.

PRODUCE AND TRADE. The chief produce of Naning is rice, timber, and fruits; of the former, the produce averages 70 gantams to one sown. There is one crop a year. The inhabitants carry on a trade with Malacca, in timber for house-building, and in fruits, the rice is generally used in home consumption.

Gambier, ratans, 21 varieties of kalady, jaggery, damar, together with a small quantity of pepper, pan and betel, marabow, compas, ebony, and kamuning wood, with wood oil, and a little inferior coffee, are likewise found; pepper and gambier were much more cultivated than at present; the diminution is to be described to the present low prices these two articles bear in the market.

Pepper, to pay well, ought to fetch seven dollars per picul; the price now varies between five and six. Gambier sells at 3 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ dollars; it has been stated that Naning produces annually three hundred piculs of tin, sixteen thousand gantams of paddy, and a quantity of coir rope.

Sago, nibong, ranjow, areca, and jack trees are plentiful.

I possess a list of ten different varieties of cocoanut trees, of which the "Klapa logie," a sweet cocoanut, is most esteemed.

Also thirty-nine varieties of plantain, of which the "pisang berangan" and "pisang raja" are the best; the odoriferous dorian is accounted by Malays the first fruit in the world. There are two or three varieties of it in Naning, of which the "dorian tambaga," and the "Kapalah gajah," or the "elephant's head," are held the greatest delicacies. The mangis or mangoostin grows in Naning, an excellent fruit, of which I do not hear that there is more than one variety; pine-apple, rambotan, (two varieties,) the duku, and tampoy, the langseh, (three varieties,) the dalimah and about fifty others, of which I have lists, as well as most of the jungle trees, with the native mode of cultivation, which, for the sake of brevity, are omitted.

There are forty-five species of trees in the jungle, of which the fruit is edible, and of which the Naningites availed themselves during the late disturbances. There are fourteen varieties of oranges and lemons, and sixteen varieties of yams, and twenty three of culinary vegetables.

Naning produces most of the animals to be met with on the Malay peninsula; amongst the principal of which are the elephant, rhinoceros, and tapir, (rare) a variety of tigers, tiger cats, leopards, monkeys, bears, alligators, guanas, & an endless variety of birds: the argus pheasant, the peacock, pheasant rhinoceros, hornbill, humming bird, and a large vampyre bat called the kaluwang;—snipes are common, but the hare and common partridge are not to be met with. There are a great variety of snakes, and one or two of deer; two varieties exceedingly minute, termed by the Malays the "plandok" and "napu" the flesh of which is dried and eaten.

The garden stuffs met with are, onions, garlic, yams, pumpkins, brinjals, greens, beans, cucumbers; and turnips, cabbages and potatoes would succeed, were there Europeans to attend to them.

The elephant was said to be seen about cape Unsing, where several teeth are still found, but it is conceived this animal is extinct on the island. There are no dromedaries, nor camels; nor are horses, asses, or mules met with on Borneo, (the former are seen at Sulo). None of the larger breed of the feline species are found here, as the lion, tiger, leopard; nor the bear, the wolf, the fox, nor even a jackall or dog, that I ever saw. The orang-utan, or the man of the woods, is the most singular animal found in these regions. The rivers swarm with alligators, and the woods with every variety of the monkey tribe. The names of other animals on Borneo are the hodok or rhinoceros, pelando or rabbit, rusa or stag, kijang or doe, minjaron, babi utan or wild hog, tingileng, bintangan, &c. There are buffaloes, goats, bullocks, hogs, besides the rat and mouse species; a dog I never saw on Borneo.

There are few snakes on the sea coast, owing to the moisture; plenty however are found in the interior. The musquito, the fly, the frog, and the noisy beetle with other insects and vermin found in Malay countries, abound here.

The coasts and rivers abound with excellent and wholesome fish in the greatest variety, and of the most delicious flavors; but such is the miserable state of society, that few Malays have either the inclination or the inducement to venture beyond the mouths of their rivers in quest of them; and even there, they are more indebted to the industry of the Chinese with their fishing stakes, than to their own labor, for the supply of their markets. The names of their fish are the kakab, klabaw, jilawat, lai-is, pattain, udang or prawn, shrimp, talang, sinanging, bawan, rowan, taylaon, duri, bleada, tingairy, alu-alu, paKo, jumpul, pari or skait, boli ayam, tamban or shad, belut or eel, iyu or shark, lida or sole, batu batu, kabab batu, klaoi, krang or cockle, tiran or oyster, tipy and lapis pearl oysters, cupang or muscle, all the varieties of the turtle, with several other sorts.

The ornithology of Borneo is somewhat limited. There are the bayan, nuri, dara, pepit or sparrow, tukukur or turtle dove, berkey, kandang, kiridi, gogaw or crow, seyrindit, layang or swallow, kalilawan. The Chinese rear ducks; the tame fowl abounds, but the turkey, goose and peafowl are seldom met with.

The principal gold mines on Borneo are in the vicinity of Sambas. There is a mountain called *Guning Pandan*, about eighty miles inland; from this branch out three rivers, one leads to Mompava, one to Batu Balat near Tanjong Mora, and one to Landa; the whole intermediate area between the above rivers, is of a firm, yellow, argillaceous, schistus, or a ferruginous quartz, interspersed with horn and vitreous ores, or a remarkable dark reddish colour, abounding with the richest veins of gold, and equal if not superior to any mine extant. There are only fifty parts or mines now wrought in the whole kingdom of Suadana, thirty of which are in the Sambas district, each mine having at least three hundred men, Chinese, employed in them. Their pay, one with another, is four dollars per mensem.

The mines are rented from the raja at the rate of fifty bunkals of gold per mine per annum, besides a capitation tax of three dollars per head on every Chinaman. There are thirty thousand Chinese in the Sambas districts, and they feel themselves strong enough to oppose or evade this tax; it hence becomes a perpetual contest between greedy extortion on the one side and avaricious chicane on the other; there are besides about twelve thousand Malays and Dayers.

The Laurat gold mines are situated to the eastward of the town of Sambas, and are particularly rich and productive. The mines of Siminis are one day's journey from Sambas, up a small creek leading from Sambas river, below the town, and the mines are abundant.—Salako is up a river fifteen miles south of the Sambas river; it lies nearly forty miles up, but communicates with Sambas by another river: here the metal is found more abundant than any where else, and twenty thousand Chinese are found in this district.—Mantrado is three day's journey up the Mompava river; it is under an independent Malay prince. Some accounts make the population of this district great, near fifty thousand Dayers, Malays, and Chinese, but perhaps half the number may be nearer the truth; these are chiefly employed on the gold mines and in producing food for the miners: these mines however do not pro-