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MEMOIR
OF THE
CONQUEST OF JAVA;
WITH THE SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONS
OF
THE BRITISH FORCES,
IN
The Oriental Archipelago.

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED,
A STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL SKETCH OF
J A V A ;

BEING THE RESULT OF OBSERVATIONS MADE IN A TOUR THROUGH THE COUNTRY;
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF ITS DEPENDENCIES.

BY MAJOR WILLIAM THORN,
Late Deputy Quarter-Master-General to the Forces serving in Java.

ILLUSTRATED BY PLANS, CHARTS, VIEWS, &c.

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cruing to the Revenue, they were much extended by the late Government; and in the different Regencies there was a regulation that a certain number of trees should be planted every year; but of late, from the interruption of the trade with America, and the Continent, the regulation has not only been abolished, but the plantations to the Eastward were ordered to be entirely destroyed, and converted to other uses. Pepper is chiefly cultivated in the country of Bantam, whence a certain quantity was obliged to be furnished by the stipulations of the former Government. Great quantities of Sugar are made; chiefly in Jacatra, as well for the consumption of the Island, as for exportation. Wheat and Barley are only grown in small quantities, in the hilly tracts, chiefly in the middle parts of the Island, but enough might no doubt be raised for the consumption of Java and its dependencies, by extending the cultivation. Oats and Bengal Grain thrive likewise in those parts of the Island, and would prove very abundant, were the culture extended.

The natural fertility of the soil renders much labour and tillage unnecessary. In the ordinary cultivation of the Rice and Paddy Fields, the husbandman makes use of Buffaloes. These powerful and often furiously enraged animals, are securely conducted by little children; they seem indeed to forget their own strength in the weakness of the child, and are most willingly obedient to it. Cattle of every description are plentiful all over Java, but the Cows in general are of an inferior kind, and give very little milk. Sheep, Goats, and Pigs are very numerous. Game, however, does not abound here so much as in other countries; though Hares and Rabbits are pretty

Animals.

common ; and Deer and Antelopes are also plentiful. The Malay method of hunting the last is singularly curious. In the Mountain Regencies, Horses are trained for that particular purpose. When the Antelope is started, a Hunter immediately pursues it at full speed : the rider lies forward close to the horse's neck, and without minding the bridle, for the animal having been trained, seldom loses sight of the object, which he follows over every thing like a greyhound. On coming up with the game, the hunter is enabled to throw a noose over its horns, or round the neck and head, by which it is secured till the remainder of the party arrive. Should the rider happen to be thrown, the horse seldom gives up the chase. Instances are even mentioned of his continuing the pursuit alone, and on coming up with the Antelope, of his pawing it down to the ground, and by mouthing and kneeling on the prey, holding it there till the arrival of the hunting party. The Horses, which are very numerous throughout the Island, are small but active, and show a good deal of the blood and make of the Arabian. The Bima breed is esteemed by much the best, and great numbers of them are annually imported. The general size of the Horses in the Island, is about thirteen hands. Wild Hogs and Monkeys are found in all the Jungles. The Forests, especially to the Eastward of the Island, are inhabited by various kinds of Wild Beasts. The Royal Tiger is here as powerful and as large as in Bengal. A species of Black Tiger, which is often found, is very ferocious, but of a smaller kind, and in size and shape rather resembles the Leopard. The Rhinoceros is sometimes met with, but principally in the Western parts of the Island, lying in the high grass jungle, remote from observation. Snakes are found here, as in all other hot countries, in great numbers, and of

various kinds. Some of these are from twenty-five to thirty feet in length. The Petola Snake, which is one of the largest, has been known to swallow whole sheep, hogs, and other animals ; but it is not venomous, and when gorged, it twists its body round a tree, where it hangs quite motionless, till the food is digested ; in which state it is sometimes killed. The numerous marshes on the sea coast, where the principal towns are situated, are infested with Reptiles and Insects. Lizards of all kind, from the variable Cameleon to the Guana tribe, frequent the bushes, trees, and roofs of the houses. Of these, the Gek-ko is held by the Javanese in the greatest abhorrence, from an idea of its being venomous ; it makes a loud barking at times, resembling the sound whence its name is derived. Scorpions abound in these marshes, and the Mosquitoes are particularly tormenting.

Of the great diversity among the feathered tribes found in Java, we may remark the Cassowary, by the Indians called Emeu, which is a very large and powerful bird. White Eagles have been seen here, and every kind of Bird of prey are continually on the wing. Of the Parrot species the Lowrys are very beautiful, and often sold at a high price. Birds of Paradise, from Gillolo, Papua, and New Guinea, sometimes visit this Island. The Java Sparrow is of a peculiar kind, and very handsome. Pigeons, domestic and wild, with the most beautiful plumage, abound here ; Pheasants ; Jungle, and Pea-fowl, are also numerous, together with Quail, Snipes, &c. Wild Ducks and Geese, however, are not common, though Poultry is extremely plentiful.

The Aquatic tribe is equally diversified, and the extensive fisheries

along this great line of coast, are highly productive. At some places the fishing-stakes run out six or eight miles into the sea. Of the great abundance daily brought to market, we may notice the Kaacop, which grows to a large size, and is in great repute. The King Fish, which is the best flavoured of any, sometimes measures five feet, and is very wholesome. The Jacob Evertzen is a very fine fish, and often weighs four hundred pounds. Sole, Carp, and many other kinds of fish found in Europe, are very plentiful here. The Clip Fish and Springer are very good when boiled. The Eels are a favorite food with the Chinese. Oysters, and every kind of Shell Fish are in great abundance. At the mouths of the rivers, numbers of Aligators or Caymans, are continually lurking for their prey. The Water Guana, a smaller kind of the Crocodile species, infests rivers and ponds, where they prove very destructive. In the several Bays numerous Sharks swim about the ships; and many Animals unknown in Natural History, abound in these seas.

Manufactures,
Exports, and
Imports.

Java has but few Manufactures. The principal is that of Cotton, which is produced in sufficient quantity to furnish the coarse cloths, handkerchiefs, and other articles of dress worn by the natives. The greater part are fabricated in Java Proper, or the country east of Cheribon, whence they are brought in great quantities to Batavia, and there sold at very reasonable rates. At Solo is a considerable manufacture of Leather and Sadlery. Boots and shoes are made in the Samarang district, and of these great quantities are exported. All kinds of utensils of iron, brass, and tin, are also manufactured here, but these sell at high prices.

which may be owing to the surrounding jungle, and its stagnant ditch, as well as a small river, which deposits the filth thrown into it, on one of the sides of the fort. The removal of those causes would make it an eligible military, as well as naval depot, it being our Westernmost post on the island, and conveniently situated for watering as well as supplying refreshments to all ships sailing through the Straits of Sunda. A fine streamlet of excellent water, which flows from the mountains, might with little expense be conveyed by an aqueduct into boats lying at anchor. This place is now generally the rendezvous of the homeward and outward bound China fleet, as it is considered one of the healthiest parts of the coast, and affords very good anchorage. The village here is large and populous, and well stocked with poultry, &c.; buffaloes are also easily procured, and plenty of turtle. Fruits and vegetables would also abound were encouragement given for their cultivation. Towards the interior, the country rises gradually and is very beautiful. Nothing indeed seems wanting but an adequate population to make this extensive district one of the finest and most productive in Java.

From Anjier to Tjiringhin, a distance of 25 miles, the road runs near to the beach over a partly-woody country, across many small rivers and inlets from the sea, and passing through several large fishing villages. At intervals near the hills, which in many parts run close to the beach, much rice culture is seen. The shore, with the exception of a few fine bays, is rocky, chiefly coral, and much indented.

103 miles
west from
Batavia.

Tjiringhin, is a considerable fishing village, and was formerly a military post with a block-house, which was burnt by our ships of war. It

is situated at the mouth of a river, which is navigable a long way up, for small prows affording a ready conveyance for the rich products of a country South East of this, the finest and best cultivated district of any in Java. For about twenty miles farther west, the road continues along the sea-coast to Tjibonger, the favourite haunt of insurgents, who, from their numbers, frequently render detachments from the military necessary to disperse them, as happened not long since. A formidable stand was made here by the refractory Bantamese against Marshal Daendels, a few years ago in a small fort; the parapet of which being composed of tiers of cocoa nut trees, was from their elasticity impenetrable to balls; and when a storm was ordered, the besieged quietly walked off in the night, and found a secure refuge in the neighbouring woods and the Western extremity of the island, where no European had ever penetrated, and of which consequently nothing is known.

Leaving the sea-coast, the road takes a South East direction from Tjiringhin inland, and the country rises considerably towards the hills with occasional declivities. This is an extremely beautiful and well-cultivated tract, with a numerous population scattered in small villages at short intervals; and luxuriantly surrounded by topes of cocoa nut and other fruit trees.

Near Kuddo Helud, about ten miles, the road runs along the foot of the high mountain Poelassarie, which was once a volcano, and still emits smoke. Proceeding further, the country rises still higher, after which a fine and nearly champaign country, interspersed with numerous villages, with some irregular declivities between the hills of Poelassarie and Carang, which furnish a thousand rills for the

culture of the fertile ridges of the sloping grounds, presents a beautiful appearance. Here, on turning round, and looking back to view the extensive prospect which the height we had gained enabled us to contemplate, the eye was gratified by one of the noblest sights that can charm the admirer of picturesque beauty. The day was now declining, and before us lay stretched the verdant and romantic country over which we had just passed, sloping gradually towards the sea; while, as it were, in the back-ground of this delightful picture, the rays of the sun, just setting in the ocean, gilded the tops of the distant isles in the Straits of Sunda; and the gently-diminishing splendour, spreading a fiery veil over the distant horizon, terminated the prospect.

The same fertility and beautiful scenery continues fifteen miles further, to Pondok Gelang, distant from Tjiringhin twenty-five miles to the south-east. This is a fine elevated post, and still exhibits a ruinous parapet and ditch, by which it is surrounded; and which would form an eligible military station for the troops serving in the Bantam country, being situated in the midst of a populous, rich, and healthy district, commanding a ready communication with Ceram, Tjiringhin, Bantam, Batavia, and Buitenzorg. Continuing from hence, we passed through an equally productive country, and over a range of small hills, for about ten miles, when a thick jungle, where the tiger and rhinoceros divide the command, commences, covering a low range of hills. Little cultivation and no villages are to be seen from the road, which the inhabitants seem purposely to avoid; but several of them are interspersed at different distances in the jungle, which appears nearly impenetrable. The villagers communicate with one another by means of very intricate path-ways, only known to them-

selves, which makes this tract a secure refuge for the turbulent and discontented, and a very difficult one for the passage of troops.

In the heart of this jungle, a refractory chieftain, inhabiting a village very near some thatched roofs, where darkness had obliged us to take up our abode for the night, menaced our destruction in the night, which, from our small number, being only three Europeans and some black servants, without any guard, he might have easily accomplished. But being perhaps fearful that such a step would lead to a premature discovery of the more sanguinary plot which he was then contriving, he left us undisturbed to continue our course through the wilderness early the next morning. This chief, with fifty of his gang, were afterwards seized and transported; it being discovered that he had at his command ten thousand men ready at a signal to rush on the neighbouring districts, with the view of plundering and murdering the inhabitants. After proceeding about thirty miles through this dreary jungle, the road becomes more and more difficult, passing over numerous ravines, and the two considerable rivers of Oondarandy and Tjicandee, which are navigable thus far for small prows. The road then generally declines, till within a few miles of Tjisingha, where it enters a more open and better cultivated country.

Tjisingha, which is about thirty-five miles from Pondok Gelang, is a very fine Dutch farm, belonging to Mr. Reintz. It is agreeably situated on the river Tjidorean, which, in the rains is very rapid, and scarcely passable. A road leads from hence through Tangerang to Batavia. After crossing the above river, and still continuing in a south-east direction, our road passed over a low chain of hills, covered mostly with jungle, and divided by a number of rivulets, with steep

banks; so that this tract is rendered impracticable to carriages, and difficult even to horses.

At a distance of about ten miles the road turns due East to Sading, another Dutch farm belonging to Mr. Moatman, which is situated on a fine river, and nearly surrounded by hills, some of which produce the edible bird-nests. Continuing on to Tjiampion, about seven miles further, we had to cross the rivers Tjikanakee and Tjiantan, and passed through a country high and more open with better cultivation. Here is another Dutch farm, the property of Mr. Rymsdyck, with a large bazar; and several hills belonging to it containing also the edible bird-nests. It is astonishing what an immense revenue is produced by a single rock, the caverns of which are frequented by the little grey swallows; for the nests in some of them clear from twenty to forty thousand Spanish dollars annually, on a moderate computation.

The Dutch farmers who possess rocks of this kind on their estates, are therefore very careful of them, and watch them closely to prevent the Chinese or others from privately stealing the nests; they are also very particular in preventing the discharge of fire arms near the spots, for fear of frightening away the birds. These little swallows abound chiefly among the hilly tracts, invited thither by the insects which hover over the stagnated pools. Their nests are constructed in regular rows, adhering to the sides of the cavern, and to each other. The whiter and more transparent the viscous matter is that cements the fine filaments of which the nests are composed, the more valuable are they reckoned, and they always fetch a very extraordinary price. A couple of eggs only are laid in each nest, which are hatched in about a fortnight, and the proper time for taking them is after the young ones are fledged. The business of taking these nests is generally repeated about three

times a year, and is attended with much danger ; many serious accidents having often happened. The superstition of the people usually employed in the work, leads them to make many vows and sacrifices with the view of propitiating the demons, who are supposed to dwell in the caverns and dark recesses of the mountains.

After passing the river Tjidanee, near Tjiampion, the road passes through a country high and well cultivated ; and joins at a few miles distance the great Western road, which runs from Tangerang to Buitenzorg. The distance from Tjiringhin, where we left the coast to Buitenzorg, by the route described, is one hundred and four miles.

FROM BATAVIA TO THE EASTWARD.

Proceeding from Batavia, on the new Eastern road towards Buitenzorg, every advantage is presented for quick and convenient travelling. This excellent road, which is kept in the best repair, with regular post stages at every five or six miles, greatly to the public convenience, extended till very lately as far as Kalatigus, a distance of nearly seven hundred miles East of Batavia. But the relays of post-horses, stationed between Buitenzorg and Samarang, have recently been done away with, and consequently the facility of passing through the Regencies does not now exist.

Route to
Samarang.

After passing through Weltevreeden and Cornelis, and by several elegant country-seats, farms, and villages, enveloped in topes of cocoa-nut and fruit-trees, the road breaks through the mass of tope which encircles Batavia, and enters on a more open and more elevated country. In this neighbourhood, between Campong, Macassar, and