

GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL

REPORT

OF THE

DISTRICT OF MALDAH.

BY

catalogued.
J. J. PEMBERTON, Esq.,

(REVENUE SURVEYOR.)

Calcutta;

THOS. JONES, "CALCUTTA GAZETTE" OFFICE.

1854.

a float, separating a sufficiency to cover the surface of the sieve, this forms a strong and durable sheet of paper. All fences where bamboo is plentiful are made of it, those surrounding the better kind of Bengali houses are made very neatly.

Shola or Solah.—Shola or Solah is found in large quantities, on the marshy plains, diameter from 1 inch to 2½ inches, used for making hats, toys, artificial flowers, floats for fishing nets, and various other purposes; I have seen the pannels of a palanquin made of it.

Lime.—Lime made from shells is very common, a few families gain a livelihood by collecting shells, they are generally of the species called Ampularis, Paludena, Unio and Cyrenæ, and are to be found in large quantities, as the waters dry up from the jheels, the finest stacco is made from this lime, and when carefully applied to pillars, &c. it has a very pretty and polished appearance.

Domestic Animals.—The elephant may be called so, Indian bull and cow, buffalo, goat, sheep, a mixture of the Patna and Bengali, pure Bengali, ass, tattoo, pig, dog and cat; the cattle are very wretched looking, there being very little pasture ground, except in the jungles.

Wild Animals.—The rhinoceros has been seen in Pergunnah Shikarpoor, tiger, leopard, tiger cat, inchneumon, otter, monkey, jackal, porcupine, hare, sambur, bara singha deer, spotted deer, antelope, hog deer, hogs innumerable, wild buffalo, fox, wolf (very scarce) pole cat, civet cat, wild cat, kutass, squirrel, &c. &c.

Domestic Birds.—Goose, duck, common cock and hen, guinea fowl, turkey, pigeon.

Wild Birds.—Wild goose, forty varieties of the wild duck tribe, florican, snipe, cormorant, heran, sparrow, peacock, golden oriel, common green parrot, pelican, partridge, (black and gray,) jungle cock and hen, tern of various kinds, ring-necked paroquets, kite, goshawk, falcon, adjutant, swallow, bulbul, cerleu, gray and black, peewit, koel, blue and green pigeon, rock pigeon, ring dove, king fisher, woodpecker, rook, jackdaw, minah, plover, ortalan, hoopoo, robin, sand martin, jay, quail, button quail, golden plover, widgean, horned owl, white owl, common owl, kyrah, main water crow, night crow, paddy bird (four kinds), brahminee duck, sirus, ground dove, common dove, hornbill, spoonbill, a variety of honey birds, tailor bird, starling, gull, water wagtail, sand lark, byer, and a variety of small birds.

Fish.—Ruhoo, hilsah, katal, kutlah, tingra, mhooa, cowee, mullet (the finest in India are found in the Mahanunda River,) papta, chulwa, crab (kekra, or kamkura) prawn or chingree, seolee, eel or bam, and a variety of others whose names are unknown.

Reptiles.—Boa constrictor, gohsaup sometimes five and half feet long, cobra de capella (brown and black), gorait, dhamna, water snakes of kinds, tree snake, bishkopra, blood-sucker, chameleon and lizards of various kinds, gheekorain (resembles a snake in its motion, but has two short legs in front,) alligator, crocodile.

Rainy Season.—The rainy season usually lasts from the middle of June to the 20th of October, but frequently, especially in the Northern part of the District, heavy showers fall during the month of May.

Winds.—The North wind prevails in winter, and the South during the rainy season; from the middle of March to the middle of June Westerly winds prevail, and from August to November Easterly.