

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.

1. THE TOWN AND SUBURBS OF SINGAPORE. 2. THE INDIAN
ARCHIPELAGO, INCLUDING SIAM AND COCHIN-CHINA. 3. RIVER COTI IN BORNEO. 4. MALACCA AND
BANING. 5. CHART OF SINGAPORE STRAIT &c. 6. PENANG AND PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

BY J. H. MOOR,

For some time Editor of the Malacca Observer, Singapore Chronicle,
and Singapore Free Press.

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 odiferous 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, rambutan, (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 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.