

THE
NATIVE RACES
OF
THE INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO.

PAPUANS

BY GEORGE WINDSOR EARL M.R.A.S.

AUTHOR OF THE "EASTERN SEAS," &c.

WITH FIVE COLOURED PLATES AND TWO MAPS.

"Mirantur homines altitudines montium, ingentes fluctus maris, altissimos lapos
luminorum et oceani ambitum et gyros siderum—et relinquunt seipso, nec mirantur."—
ST. AUGUSTIN.

LONDON
HIPPOLYTE BAILLIERE 219 REGENT STREET,
AND 290 BROADWAY NEW YORK U.S.
PARIS J. B. BAILLIERE RUE HAUTEFEUILLE.
MADRID BAILLY BAILLIERE CALLE DEL PRINCIPE.

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CHAPTER IX.

THE SEMANGS OF THE MALAY PENINSULA.

WILD TRIBES OF THE MALAY PENINSULA—MR. ANDERSON'S ACCOUNT OF THE SEMANGS—DISTINCTION OF TRIBES—HABITS—FOOD—SKILL IN THE CHASE—ELEPHANT AND RHINOCEROS HUNTING—MODE OF BESTOWING NAMES ON CHILDREN—CHARACTERISTICS OF A SEMANG BROUGHT TO PINANG—THE PANGAN TRIBES OF TRINGANU—DOMESTICATION OF A SEMANG FAMILY IN PROVINCE WELLESLEY—SUPPOSED WOOLLY-HAIRED TRIBES IN ANAM OR COCHIN-CHINA—TRADITIONS OF THE CHINESE AND BUDHISTS OF HINDOOSTAN.

THE woolly-haired race of the Malayan Peninsula, is a mere remnant of tribes which, according to native tradition, occupied a considerable portion of the interior of the Peninsula at a comparatively recent period. At the present time the race is only *known* to exist on the mountain Jerei, in the Kedah territory, a little to the north of Pinaug; in the neighbourhood of the mountain range which lies immediately opposite to the latter settlement; and in the uplands of Tringanu, on the east coast of the peninsula; but it seems probable that scattered remnants are to be found in several other spots, which have not yet been visited by Europeans. The Sakai and

and touched with poison, into the sole of the elephant's foot with all his force, which effectually lames the animal, and most commonly causes him to fall, when the whole party rushes upon him with spears and sharp-pointed sticks, and soon despatch him.

"The rhinoceros they obtain with even less difficulty. This animal, which is of solitary habits, is found frequently in marshy places, with its whole body immersed in the mud, and part of the head only visible. The Malays call the animal 'Badak Tapa,' or the recluse rhinoceros. Towards the close of the rainy season, they are said to bury themselves in this manner in different places; and upon the dry weather setting in, and from the powerful effects of a vertical sun, the mud becomes hard and crusted, and the rhinoceros cannot effect its escape without considerable difficulty and exertion.* The Semangs prepare themselves with large quantities of combustible materials, with which they quietly approach the animal, who is aroused from his reverie by an immense fire over him, which being kept well supplied by the Semangs with fresh fuel, soon completes his destruction, and renders him in a fit state to make a meal of. The projecting horn on the snout is carefully preserved, being supposed to be possessed of medicinal properties, and highly prized by the Malays, to whom they barter it for their tobacco, &c.

"A more simple and natural mode of bestowing names cannot well be imagined, than that adopted by the Semangs.

* The wild buffaloes of North Australia are often found in a similar predicament, and are sometimes shot by the hunters before they can extricate themselves.—G. W. E.