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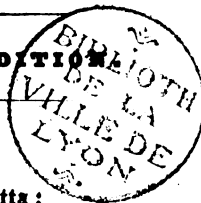


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that they were excluded from all towns at night; no such distinction exists at present.

The Merguiers are partly descended from Siamese and partly from Burmese, and very much resemble the Taliens in character and habits. There are also among them a good many Musselmans and Christians, the descendants of Portuguese and natives of India.

The Kareans are a most primitive race, without even a religion beyond the worship of spirits, good and evil, and until recently without a written language. This last deficiency has been supplied by the Reverend Mr. Wade, an American Baptist Missionary, who having made himself master of their language, orally adapted the characters of the Burmese language to it. He and his brother Missionaries are now earnestly and successfully labouring to bestow the still greater boon upon these poor people—a knowledge of their Maker.

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

The forests and jungles abound in elephants, rhinoceros, (some of these double horned), byson, tiger, chetah, elk, deer, wild hog, &c.

They produce superior timber of various descriptions. Sapan wood, dammer, oil, sessamum seed, honey, gamboge, caoutchouc, and a variety of balsams and resins, detailed at large in the elaborate reports of the late Doctor Helfer.

The sea and rivers supply beche de mer or sea slug, pomfret, mullet, mangoe-fish, (which continues in roe during 8 or 9 months of the year) besides the hilsa, bectie and numerous other fish.

Iron Ore of a very rich quality, abounds in the Tavoy and Mergui Provinces, though it has not yet been worked. Extensive Coal fields have recently been discovered in Mergui Province, which are now yielding their produce. Tin is also found in both Provinces, but would require to be worked on an extensive scale, and with a large capital to ensure a profitable out-turn.

TEAK FORESTS.

Many of the woods in these forests are admirably adapted for ship and house building, but from their never having been employed, there is a prejudice against them. Of this description is the Thenggan, which might be had in any quantity, especially in the Tavoy Province, and which is little, if at all, inferior to Teak itself: there are also the Pema, the Padouk and numerous others. The Teak however is the only timber which attracts speculators, or is at all exported.

This timber is found only in Amherst Province. The forests are chiefly situated on the banks of the Attaran, commencing about 50 miles from Maulmain and extending perhaps 100 miles along both banks of the river: never having been surveyed their actual extent is not known. By order of Government these forests were thrown