

POLITICAL AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
BRITISH SETTLEMENTS
IN THE
STRAITS OF MALACCA,
VIZ.,
Pinang, Malacca, and Singapore;
WITH A HISTORY OF
THE MALAYAN STATES
ON THE PENINSULA OF MALACCA.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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Pachydermata.—Of the thick-skinned family, *Pachydermata*, is the elephant, *Elephas maximus*, in great abundance; the Badak or Sumatran *Rhinoceros*; the Malayan *Tapir*, the *Maiba* of F. Cuvier, rare; and the wild hog. Specimens of the Malayan *Tapir* have been sent to Europe by Duvauzel and Sir S. Raffles: a female upwards of four feet in height has lately been presented by Lieut. Mackenzie to the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The remark of our secretary Mr. Cole, on a drawing of the animal just mentioned, (Journal M. A. S. No. 16. p. 146.) viz. that the figure in the English edition of Cuvier represents a comparatively light and agile animal, quite devoid of the heavy look, cumbrous figure and rugous skin delineated in the drawing, perfectly coincides with my observations of living specimens of the Malayan *Tapir*. Drawings of the animal should always specify the age or approximate age; as both the colour and texture of its coat, I have seen to vary as the animal grows older. The *Seladang* is supposed by some zoologists to be identical with the *Tapir*. The Malays, however, make a difference, distinguishing the true *Tapir* by the name of *Tennok*. This is a point desirable to ascertain. The *Seladang* may probably be a variety.

Ruminantia.—In the genus *Moschus*, we have those elegant deer in miniature, the Plandok (*Moschus pygmeus*) the Chevrotin of Buffon, or moose-deer; the Nápu or *Moschus Javanicus*, of Pallas; and the Kanchil or *Moschus Kanchil* of Raffles. The Malays dry and preserve the flesh of these animals, which tastes a little like that of the hare. They pine away in confinement. I attempted in vain to send a living specimen of each to England. The Plandok is a favourite animal among the Malays, and frequently alluded to both in their prose compositions and poems. Of the genus *Cervus*, are the Kijang or *Cervus Muntjac*, the Rúsa or *Cervus Hippelaphus*, and the Cambing Utan, goat of the woods, or Antelope *Sumatreensis*. The *Cervus Axis*, or spotted deer, has been imported to Pinang from Bengal. It is indigenous in Sumatra. The *Bos arni*, or buffalo, exists in a domestic state on that part of the peninsula occupied by Malays. It occurs, I believe, wild in Birmah, and at the southern base of the Himalayas. There are two kinds of *Bison* found in the forests,* though rare. Neither the horse, ass, camel, cow, hare, rabbit nor fox, are, I believe, indigenous in the peninsula; nor the Singh or lion, although *Singhapúra* or Singa-

* The horns of a *Bison* found in the Naning district, are now in possession of Brigadier General Wilson, C. B.

pore, is stated in the Malay annals, to have been so called from the appearance there of an animal of that species. Among the *Hystricidæ* family is the Landok, or *Hystrix longicauda*, the Malay porcupine. Those that have fallen under my observation, appear to be larger than the Indian porcupine.

Cetacea.—The last order of *Mammalia* is that of *Cetacea*, connecting as it were the inhabitants of the land with those of the watery deep. Of the genus *Halicore*, stands first the supposed Mermaid of the eastern seas, the Duyong, improperly termed Dugong. Skeletons of this singular production of nature have been sent to Europe by Mr. Crawfurd, Sir S. Raffles, and Messrs. Diard and Duvauzel. In 1830, a Duyong, preserved in spirits, was forwarded by Mr. G. Swinton, to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and delivered over to Dr. Knox for dissection.*

* The following description of the Duyong is from the Ed. Cab. Library, No. viii, p. 76. "The *Halicore*, or daughter of the sea, is called *Douyong* by the Malays, and has hence acquired the name of *Dugong* in our books of natural history. There is only a single species as yet ascertained. It inhabits the Indian seas, especially the Sumatran coast, and has been confounded by several voyagers with the *lamanthus*, which belong to the African and American shores. It measures seven or eight feet long, and is covered by a thick hide, of a pale-blue colour, with whitish marks on the abdomen. The head somewhat resembles that of a young elephant deprived of its

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frontier, for plundering these *pauvres diables* of their pittance of rice and salt fish, and a few grains of gold dust. It is rare even that they escape from being, like the bees, "murdered for their pains." Shortly after my visit, two of these Chinese going up to the mines, were found killed in the heart of the Rheim forest, on the road ; one with his head nearly severed from the body ; the corpse of the other lay about 300 paces from that of his comrade ; he appears to have sought safety in a vain flight ; his left arm was cut through at the elbow, and the body horribly mangled.

We had a fine view of Ophir, from Gummi, as the clouds which had hitherto wrapped its triple peak in grey obscurity, now rolled off in majestic wreaths, revealing to us the picturesque proportions of the mountain.

We started from the village at nine A.M. on foot ; the Malays went on in advance, clearing the path for us through the thicket, to the banks of the Jerram river. Along these we rather waded than walked, some distance, when we crossed the track of a rhinoceros. About a mile and a quarter from the river, stood the deserted house of a Malay, the last vestige of human habitation, called by the Malays "Rullowe," signifying, I believe, either a place where metal is melted, or

blazing dammer torch, takes his station at the stern of the canoe. They thus glide slowly and noiselessly over the still surface of the clear water till the rays of the flambeau either attract the prey to the surface, or discover it lying seemingly asleep at a little depth below. The sudden splash of the swiftly descending spear is heard, and the fish either transfixed by the spikes or caught in the interstices is the next moment seen glittering in the air as the weapon is withdrawn. Fish of the skate kind and the porpoise are often harpooned.

The Malays are admirable snarers of birds and wild animals. The snares for birds are generally strings of fine nooses, bird-lime, and decoys. Deer are both hunted with dogs, speared, and driven into toils. The tiger, elephant, rhinoceros and other large animals are often caught by nooses and pit-falls. The tiger is sometimes destroyed by placing part of a buffalo near his haunt and poisoning the spring to which he retires for the purpose of slaking his thirst ; by shooting him as he devours the bait, or by spring guns. In Muar, I am told, the elephant is killed for the sake of the ivory by inserting large quantities of arsenic into the green canes and other plants on which he delights to browse.

The Malays, in their peregrinations after game through unknown parts of the forest, contrive a

and make huts of the branches, and clothes of the bark, of trees, shunning the haunts of more refined beings.

Mr. Anderson states that the Malays possess no tradition of the origin of the Semangs, but he does not appear to have made enquiries on this point from the Semangs themselves. They are numerous in Quedah, and reside generally on or near mountains, such as those of Jerrei and Juru; and are found in Tringanu, Perak, and Salangore. They live in rude huts, easily removed from place to place, constructed of leaves and branches. Their clothing is a scanty covering made of the bark of trees; sometimes a cloth obtained from the Malays. Birds and beasts of the forest, wild roots and yams, constitute their food: they worship the sun. The Malays have an idea, that when a Semang dies, the body is eaten, and nothing but the head interred; a custom, which if it exists, reminds us of one prevalent among the Issedones, a tribe of ancient Scythians, who, after feasting on the body of the deceased, preserved the head, carefully removing the hair. The Semang women like those of the ancient Massagetae, and the more modern Tartar Kie-Kia-sse tribes, are said to be in common like their other property. They have chiefs, or elders, who rule the different tribes. The Semangs are expert hunters. Mr. Marsden gives

the following account of the manner in which they catch the elephant and rhinoceros. " Small parties of two and three, when they have perceived any elephants ascending a hill, lie in wait, and, as the animals descend again, which they usually do at a slow pace, plucking the branches as they move along ; while the hind legs are lifted up, the Semang, cautiously approaching behind one of them, drives a sharp pointed bamboo, or piece of nibong, which has been previously well hardened in the fire, and touched with poison, into the sole of its foot, with all his force, which effectually lames, and most commonly causes him to fall, when the whole party rush upon him with spears and sharp pointed sticks, and soon despatch him. The tusks are extracted and bartered to the Malays, for tobacco, salt or cloth. The rhinoceros they obtain with much less difficulty. This animal, which is of solitary habits, is found frequently in divers marshy places, with its whole body immersed in the mud, and part of the head only projecting. The Malays call it Badak Tapa, or the recluse rhinoceros. Towards the close of the rainy season, it is said to bury itself in this manner, and upon the dry weather setting in, and from the powerful effects of a vertical sun, the mud becomes hard and crusted, so that the rhinoceros cannot effect its escape without considerable

COMPARATIVE LIST OF BENUA AND GREAT POLYNESIAN WORDS.

| ENGLISH. | BENUA. | GREAT POLYNESIAN. |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Above | Atas | Duwur |
| Air or Wind | Anggin | Angin |
| Blood | Za or Zais | Rai |
| Bone | Zuhang | Balung |
| Buffalo | Kurbou | Kabu |
| Child | Anak | Anak |
| Cow | Lembu | Lambu |
| Day | Chahar | Hari |
| Death | Kabus | Mati |
| Dog | Chooch or Chu | Asu |
| Eve | Mat | Mata |
| Fire | Hus, Api | Api |
| Fish | Ka, Kajib, Ikan | Iwak |
| Fowl | Banuk | Manuk |
| Fruit | Buh | Woh |
| Gold | Mas | Mas |
| Hair | Buluh, Luk | Wulu |
| Hand | Thi, Tung | Tangan |
| Head | Tamlanjik, Koi | Duwur |
| Heat | Radang | Panas |
| Hog | Jonkat, Russam | Bawi |
| I | Ku | Aku |
| Iron | Besi | Bassi |
| Island | Pulo, Chumok | Nusa |
| Kill | Bunoh | Bunoh |
| Land | Telasch, Teh | Tanah |
| Leaf | Doun | Ron |
| Maize | Jagong | Jagong |
| Month | Bulan | Bulan |
| Moon | Do. | Do. |
| Nose | Kalunjong, Mung | Idong |
| Peacock | Chim—Marrak | Marak |
| Rhinoceros | Ruski, Arak | Warak |
| Rice | Bras | Was |
| Rice (in the husk) | Paddi | Pari [lake?] |
| Sea | Laut, Sabgu | Tassek (a fresh water |
| Sky | Langgit | Langit |
| Stone | Battu | Watu |
| Sugar-cane | Buh | Tebbu |
| Thou | Kou | Kowe |
| Water | Wig-weh | Weh |
| Who | Siamma | Sapa |
| What | Napa | Apa |