

and to render them so, they apply a leaden plate to the foreheads of their children as soon as born.

The inhabitants of PEGU are of an olive, or rather tawny complexion, and may be ranked among the most superstitious of the human race. They worship crocodiles; and will drink no water but such as is procured from the ditches where those animals harbor, and by whom they are frequently devoured. They are a spirited and warlike people; open, generous, and hospitable: but are said to be slovenly in their houses, and filthy in their diet.

## SIAM.

THIS kingdom, once the most flourishing of those of Ultra India, is situated to the south of the Birman empire. The government is despotic, and the laws are sanguinary and cruel. The religion is similar to that of the Birmans; and the monks, called *talapoins*, differ little from the rhahans of that nation. The Siamese manifest much ingenuity in several arts to which they apply; and gold trinkets and miniature painting are often neatly executed by them. Most of the lower orders are engaged in fishing; the rest are occupied in petty traffic.

The Siamese are small, but well made: their faces have more of the lozenge shape than of the oval, being broad and raised at the top of the cheeks, with the forehead contracted

and almost as pointed as the chin: their eyes, rising somewhat towards the temples, are small and dull, and what should be white is yellow. Their cheeks appear hollow: their mouths are large, their lips thick and pale; the teeth are blackened by art; and their complexions are brown and coarse. The warmth of the climate renders clothing almost unnecessary; and a muslin shirt, with loose drawers, a mantle in winter, and a high conical cap, constitute the dress of the higher classes of males. Instead of the shirt, females wear a scarf, and their drapery is generally of colored or painted calico. Both sexes of the lower orders go bare-headed; their hair is cut within two inches of the skin, and appears like hogs' bristles. The talapoins are distinguished by cinnamon-colored cloaks, and by having their heads, beards, and eyebrows, close shaved.

The two principal articles of food among the Siamese are rice and fish; but they also eat lizards, rats, and various sorts of insects. The milk of buffaloes, which is very rich, added to a vegetable diet, constitutes the principal subsistence of the lower orders.

These people are ingenious, but indolent: insolent towards inferiors, and obsequious to those above them. The common form of salutation is the lifting of one or both hands to the head, with an inclination of the body; but servants must appear before their masters on their knees;

and the mandarins prostrate themselves in the presence of the king.

These people mostly dwell on the banks of rivers, which they prefer, because the low lands, which are overflowed six months in the year, produce abundant harvests of rice, almost without cultivation. The houses are merely bamboo huts, raised on posts; and during the season of inundation, the communication between different families is carried on by boats.

#### MALACCA, OR MALAYA.

This country consists of a narrow peninsula, running out from the south of Siam; and is supposed to have been the Golden Chersonese of the ancients. The political constitution is a kind of feudal system; the supreme power being vested in a sultan, who presides over the *dattoes*, or nobles; and they have other vassals in subjection to them. The religion is Mohammedanism. The Dutch are in possession of Malacca, the capital of the country; and there the Rev. Dr. Morrison, a native of Great Britain, has established an Anglo-Chinese College, for the reciprocal cultivation of European and Chinese literature. The Malay language is the softest and most harmonious of any dialect in the east; hence it has been called the *Italian of Asia*; and it is the most general medium of commercial intercourse in that part

of the world. These people are so deficient in everything like science, that even the division of time by years and months, appears to be unknown to them.

The Malays are rather below the middle size, well proportioned, of a dark, or rather black complexion, and very active. Their character has been variously represented, according to the interests and feelings of those who have undertaken to pourtray it. The early European settlers, who, in their eagerness to acquire wealth, scrupled not to resort to force and fraud, and thereby produced a re-action on the part of those who were their victims, represented the Malays as the most ferocious and treacherous race upon the earth. Other travellers, who have had opportunities of observing them under different circumstances, have represented them as the best informed, the most liberal, and the most exemplary of all the Mohammedans in the Indian Archipelago; more faithful to their word, and possessing a more estimable character than the natives of India. Intrepid enterprise, and inflexible perseverance in piratical as well as commercial purposes, constitute the very essence of their character. What Europeans deem piracy, they consider as chivalrous adventure; and if they attack a foreign vessel by surprise, and massacre the crew, they call it an heroic achievement against an enemy. They always go armed, and would think themselves disgraced to be without their

poniard; a weapon, in the manufacture of which, as well as in the use, they excel.

Their clothes are very light, exactly adapted to their shape, and loaded with a multitude of buttons, which fasten them close to their bodies.

Besides the Malays, who inhabit the coast, and are supposed to have first settled there from Sumatra, there is, among the mountains of the interior, a people called *Samangs*, who are thought to be descendants of the aborigines, and seem to be a variety of the Papuas, or Oriental Negroes, who are spread over most of the Indian islands. Their skin is black, and they have thick lips, flat noses, and woolly hair, like the African Negroes. Those who inhabit the lower tracts of the country, near the Malay districts, have imbibed the first rudiments of civilization, as they cultivate a little rice, and barter the resin, wax, and honey, yielded by their forests, for clothes and food, which the Malays supply. Those in the more remote districts are without any fixed abode, and wander about the forests in quest of fruits and game.

There is also a savage race, called *Monacaboes*, in the inland parts, who are whiter than the Malays, but so untractable, that every attempt to civilize them has failed. They are prone to mischief, and delight in setting fire to the ripe crops of their more industrious neighbors.

## SUMATRA.

FIVE different races occupy the districts of this island. Those on the coast are the same as the Malays, and profess the Mohammedan religion; and Acheen, at the north-west extremity of the island, is the most celebrated native kingdom. On the south-west coast, the British have a settlement at Bencoolen, or Fort Marlborough. The tribes in the interior are subject to their particular chiefs, and are either Pagans, or destitute of all religious profession.

The Sumatrans, generally, are rather below the middle stature; their limbs are slight, but well shaped, and their wrists and ankles are particularly small. Their complexion is yellow, but their eyes are dark and clear. The greater part of the females are ugly; yet some among them are strikingly beautiful. They have a custom of flattening the noses of infants, compressing the head, and pulling out the ears, so as to make them stand out erect. Many of the women have their teeth filed down to the gums; others have them formed into points and blackened. Some of the great men have their lower teeth plated with gold.

The houses are constructed with great simplicity; the frequency of earthquakes interdicting the erection of solid or elegant buildings. The furniture consists of only a few articles: the mat which serves for a bed is usually of fine

texture, manufactured for the purpose; on it are laid a number of pillows, worked at the ends, and adorned with a shining substance resembling foil: over head is a kind of canopy, of various colored cloths.

The original Sumatran is mild, peaceable, and forbearing, until roused by great provocation, and then his resentment is implacable. He is abstemious both in eating and drinking; but his hospitality is bounded only by his ability. On the other hand, he is litigious, indolent, addicted to gaming (though all gaming is prohibited by law, except cock-fighting, at stated periods), dishonest in his dealings with strangers, regardless of truth, servile to his superiors, and dirty in his apparel, which is never washed. The women are remarkably affable, modest, and so grave in their deportment, as to be rarely excited to laughter.

In the interior of this island is the Cassia country, inhabited by a people called *Battas*, who differ from all the other inhabitants of Sumatra in language, manners, and customs. They have no king, but live in detached villages, and are generally at variance with each other. Preferring human flesh to all other kinds of food, they eat their prisoners of war, and hang up their skulls as trophies in the houses where the unmarried men and boys sleep. In this country the greater part of the cassia sent to Europe is produced; and camphor trees also abound in it, constituting the timber in common use.

## JAVA.

THE Javans are rather below the middle size, erect in figure and well shaped, with slender limbs, and remarkably small wrists and ankles. Deformity is very rare among them. Their complexion is red mingled with black. They have high foreheads, and eyebrows well defined and distant from the eyes, which last have a Tatar aspect from the formation of the inner angle. The color of the eye is dark; the nose is small, and somewhat flat; the mouth is well formed, but the lips are large. The women, who are less exposed to the rays of the sun, are not so dark as the men; and their complexion, though brown, is uniform and beautiful.

These people are active and resolute, yet mild and courteous. They are an agricultural race, attached to their soil; of quiet habits and contented dispositions, almost entirely unacquainted with navigation and foreign trade, and little inclined to engage in either.

In this island is a race of people, called *Chacrelas*, who are white and fair; but with eyes so weak, that they cannot support the light of the sun, so that they go about in the day-time with their eyes half shut, and see best during the twilight.

## BORNEO.

THE coasts of this island are inhabited by Malay Moors; but the interior is occupied by various tribes, governed by independent sovereigns. The kingdom and town of Borneo are on the north-west coast; and the sultan is said to live in great splendor, and to have a more absolute control over his subjects than most of the other princes. From this kingdom the whole island derives its name. The towns and villages are on the banks of rivers; but as these parts are often mere swamps, liable to be overflowed, the houses are either raised on posts or built on rafts. These dwellings have but one floor, with cane partitions; and the roofs are covered with palmetto leaves, the eaves of which reach within four or five feet of the bottom.

The descendants of the original inhabitants are called by the Malays *Beajas*, or *Wild Men*. They have no kings, but many petty chiefs; are generally superstitious, and much addicted to augury. They do not, however, worship idols; but their sacrifices of sweet wood and perfumes are offered to one God, who, they believe, rewards the just in heaven, and punishes the wicked in hell. They are honest and industrious, and bear a brotherly affection towards each other.

## MOLUCCAS, OR SPICE ISLANDS.

THE language, manners, and customs of the inhabitants of these islands are very similar to those of the Malays. The natives are in general cowardly, slothful, cruel, and ferocious; they profess the Mohammedan religion, but have mingled much of their ancient Pagan superstition with it. They mostly lead a solitary wandering life in the woods, and wear a large hat, painted of different colors; but in other respects the men go nearly naked. The women are covered with a long robe, without folds, and their hats are of an enormous size, as much as seven or eight feet in diameter. The priests have a long robe, like that of the women, from whom they would scarcely be known, but for a sharp-pointed bonnet, which is the characteristic mark of their dignity. Both sexes wear bracelets on their arms, made of shells, or a species of porcelain.

## MANILLAS, OR PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

THE greater part of the population here is derived from the Tatars or Chinese, intermixed with a number of Oriental Negroes, probably descendants of the original inhabitants. Besides these, there is a race called *Pintadoes*, from their custom of painting their bodies. The Roman Catholic re-

ligion has been introduced into these islands by the Spaniards, but the natives who profess it still retain many of the Pagan rites and superstitions of their forefathers. Those on the sea coast live chiefly on rice and fish: the mountaineers subsist on animals of the chase and fruits, the last of which grow spontaneously and in plenty in their woods. Their ordinary drink is warm water. They use the cold bath twice a day, either for cleanliness or recreation. Their diversions consist of rude plays, or of rustic dances, and sham combats, in which they exhibit striking proofs of agility; but their favorite amusement is cock-fighting.

## JAPAN.

THIS empire, which consists of several islands, situate near the eastern coast of Chinese Tatory, bears a pre-eminence among the eastern kingdoms, analogous to that of Great Britain among the nations of the west. The government, which is a kind of limited monarchy, is administered by two sovereign authorities, one civil, the other ecclesiastical. The religion is polytheism, in which the sun, moon, and stars, with the spirits of departed saints, have their full proportion of honour and worship. The language is most allied to that of the eastern Tatars; literature is honored and widely disseminated, and the arts and scien-

ces though not improved to so high a degree as in Europe, are better understood by the commonality.

The Japanese are described as a nervous, vigorous people, whose bodily and mental powers have more of an European than an Asiatic character. Their features are masculine; and the small lengthened Tatar eye, which almost universally prevails, is the only feature of resemblance between them and the Chinese. In general, their complexion is yellowish. Females of the higher classes, who never leave their houses without a veil, are white; and the bloom of health is generally prevalent among them.

The dress of the Japanese is the same, except in quality, from the emperor to the peasant; fashions never changing among them. It resembles our morning gown, without a collar, and is of silk, or cotton, according to the circumstances of the wearer.

Temperance in living is characteristic of the Japanese, who can be satisfied for a whole day with a handful of rice, and a piece of fish, which may be put into the mouth at once. Among various kinds of beverage, one of their most common is *sacki*, a sort of beer made from rice, which they keep constantly warm, and drink after every morsel they eat. Tobacco is universally smoked by both sexes, almost unremittingly.

The Japanese are very ingenious in most handicraft trades, and excel the Chinese in their manufactures of silks,

cottons, and other stuffs, as well as in their japan and porcelain wares. In the tempering and fabrication of swords, cimeters, muskets, and other similar weapons, no eastern nation can equal them.

The extravagance of the Japanese character lies in a fondness for magnificence and show, when they appear abroad; and few nobles have less than fifty or sixty attendants, richly clad and armed, some on foot, but most of them on horseback.

Duelling in Japan is conducted upon a very singular principle: the challenger runs his sword through his own body, and his antagonist is bound in honor to follow his example.

The Japanese put great faith in amulets; of which they have an inconceivable variety. On the high roads, every mountain, hill, and cliff, is consecrated to some divinity; and at all these places travellers have to repeat prayers, frequently several times over. But, as the performance of this duty would detain pious travellers too long, certain *praying machines* are resorted to. These machines consist of a post, set upright in the ground, with a long vertical cut in it, about three feet and a half above the earth; and in this opening a flat round iron plate turns, like a sheave in a block. The prayer is engraved upon the plate, and to turn it round is deemed equivalent to repeating the prayer,

which is supposed to be repeated as many times as the plate turns.

Marriage is celebrated among the Japanese with many ridiculous ceremonies, and often with great pomp. On the wedding-day, the bride's teeth are blackened with a corrosive liquid, and they ever after remain so: in some parts of the empire, her eyebrows are also shaved off. After marriage, the wives of the rich are mostly confined to their own apartments; those of the other classes visit their relations, and appear in public, but are distinguished by great reserve and modesty.

Little difference exists between the funeral ceremonies of the Japanese and those of other orientals. When a prince, or great man dies, ten, twenty, or more youths of his household, and such as were his greatest favorites, put themselves to a voluntary death, at the place of interment, or burning. The middle and lower orders of the people bury their dead, with no other ceremony than that of burning some odoriferous wood and gums. Periodical visits are paid to the tombs, and festivals are held in honour of the dead.

#### LEEO-KEEO, OR LOOCHOO ISLANDS.

THE government of these islands is monarchical and absolute; the orders of the court are implicitly obeyed; and

the royal family is held in great veneration by all classes of the people. The grandees, or public officers, consist of nine ranks, distinguished by the colour of their caps: the first is pink, with bright yellow flowers; the next in dignity is purple; then plain yellow; and the lowest is red.

The inhabitants of Leeo-Keeo are small in stature, but well made and athletic, and appear to be of Corean or Japanese descent. They are remarkable for their urbanity, honesty, and adherence to truth; and possess the striking peculiarity of not knowing the use of arms. Rice, and a species of sweet potato, constitute a great part of their ordinary food; but they have also abundance of hogs, goats, and poultry. Their silks are brought from China; but the cotton cloths, which are worn by the greater part of the population, are of their own manufacture; besides which, they fabricate tobacco-pipes, fans, and sepulchral vases; and they extract salt in considerable quantities from sea water.

The quality of their robes depends on that of the wearers. The superior classes use silk, of various hues, with a sash of contrasting colour, sometimes interwoven with gold. The lower orders wear a kind of cotton stuff, generally of a chestnut colour, and sometimes striped, or spotted blue and white. In rainy or cold weather, a kind of surtout, made of blue cloth, is worn by the chiefs over the robe. The sandals are fabricated of straw, smooth towards the

foot, rough beneath, and bound on the foot by means of straw cords.

The hair of these islanders is black, and kept glossy by the oleaginous juice of a plant. It is turned up all round with great care and neatness, and tied in a knot at the crown of the head, which is shaved. The knot is fastened by two pins; of which the heads of those worn by the chiefs are ornamented. At the age of ten years, and not before, boys are permitted to wear one of these pins, and at fifteen, they are entitled to add the other, which has a small star upon its head. In general, these people go bareheaded; but on particular occasions they wear a turban: and the lower orders sometimes tie a coloured kerchief about their heads.

## LADRONES.

THE character of the natives of these islands is strongly marked in the name given them by Magellan, *Las Islas de las Ladrones*, "the Islands of thieves," from the propensity of the inhabitants to appropriate to themselves whatever they could lay their hands on, especially if made of iron.

The Ladrones are a rude unpolished people, but naturally acute, lively, and ingenious; and in colour resembling the natives of the Manillas. They are stronger and more robust than Europeans; and it is said, that the age of a



hundred years, free from sickness, debility, or disease, is not extraordinary among them. They are so strong, that they can with ease carry on their shoulders a weight of five hundred pounds. The inhabitants of Guam, one of these islands, are not only very robust, but nearly seven feet in height.

The mēn wear very little clothing; frequently nothing more than a cap of palm-leaves: the women have a kind of petticoat, made of a mat. Both sexes paint their bodies red, and stain their teeth black. The females are cheerful in their dispositions, graceful in their deportment, and are treated with greater respect than is usual among uncivilized tribes.

The huts of the Ladrões are generally formed of the branches and leaves of the palm-tree, and divided into apartments by mats. Their utensils are few, but neatly made. Their weapons are lances, formed of tough wood, pointed with bone. Their amusements are mostly athletic exercises, which prepare them for warlike exploits. They are accustomed to the water from their infancy, and are expert swimmers.

## CAROLINAS.

A GREAT resemblance subsists between the natives of this cluster and those of the Manillas and Pelew islands; and in

some the traces of European features are visible, which are supposed to be derived from a number of mutinous Spaniards who were left upon them. Each island is subject to its own chief, whose orders are implicitly obeyed; but all acknowledge a common monarch, who resides at Lamurck. The chiefs, called *tamuls*, let their beards grow, to command respect, and are approached by the common people with much ceremony. Criminals are punished by banishment from one island to another; and death, as the penalty for crime, seems to be altogether unknown to them.

These people have no external forms of divine worship; but they entertain some notions of celestial beings, who, they think, descend to bathe in their sacred streams; and they have priests and priestesses, who pretend to hold communion with departed spirits.

The chief articles of subsistence used by the people are fish, roots, and fruits, particularly cocoa-nuts. The women are chiefly occupied with the cares of the house, while the men attend to the cultivation of the ground, fishing, and the construction of their vessels; which are of a superior kind, raised at both ends in the shape of a dolphin's tail, and navigated with a sail made of palm-leaves. Both sexes bathe frequently; and are very fond of dancing by moonlight.

## PELEW ISLANDS.

BETWEEN the Carolinas and the Manillas, lie the Palaos, or Pelew Islands, so called by the Spaniards, from the number of tall palm-trees growing on them. The government is monarchical, and the king, who is considered as the father of his people, has the right of creating *rupacks*, or nobles, as well as of conferring an honorable distinction upon persons of merit. The Pelewans believe in a supreme being, and a future state of rewards and punishments; but they have few religious rites.

In their persons, the Pelewans are somewhat above the middle stature; stout made, and of a deep copper-colour, nearly approaching to black. They have long flowing hair, which they mostly form into one large loose curl round their heads: some of the women, who have remarkably long hair, suffer it to hang loose down their backs. The men go entirely naked, and the women wear only aprons, made of the husks of the cocoa-nut, died with different shades of yellow. Both sexes are tattooed at an early period of their lives. The men have the left ear bored, the women both; and they wear a particular leaf, or an ornament of shell, in the perforated ear. All have the cartilage of the nose pierced, in which they frequently wear a sprig, or a flower. At a certain age, both sexes have their teeth blackened with

vegetable juice, by a process, which is described as sickening and tedious. Both men and women are expert swimmers.

The Pelewans, though rude and uncivilized, pay the strictest regard to decorum; and are, in general, an active laborious race, resolute in cases of danger, patient under misfortunes, and resigned in death.

Fish is the chief food of these people. Their domestic implements are few and simple; their knives are made of marine shells, and their drinking cups of cocoa shells, polished with much art. Their canoes, which are extremely neat, are made out of the trunks of trees, ornamented with shells, and coloured red.

The method of singing in these islands is remarkable: when any number of people is assembled, a chief gives out a line, which is taken up and repeated, and others complete the verse: thus they continue singing for a considerable time. Their manner of dancing does not consist so much in capering and leaping, or other feats of agility, as in a certain method of reclining their bodies, and yet preserving their balance. During the dance, sweet drink is handed about; and a good supper concludes the entertainment.

The Pelewans have places set apart for sepulture, and bury their dead like the English, ridging up the graves in the same way. Sometimes, the grave is covered with a flat

stone, and surrounded with hurdles, to prevent its being trodden upon.

PAPUA, OR NEW GUINEA.

THE term *Papua* signifies *black*, and seems to have been applied to this country on account of the blackness of its inhabitants. The Spaniards gave it the name of New Guinea, from the resemblance of the natives to those of the Guinea coast, in Africa: a closer examination, however, has since shown them to be physically distinct.

The Papuas, who are scattered over all the eastern isles, are of low stature, never exceeding five feet in height, and generally of slender make. Their skin is not jet black, like that of the African negro, but of a sooty colour. Their woolly hair grows in small tufts; their noses rise more from the face than in native Africans; and their mouths project so much, that it has been said "the chin forms no part of the face." Most of these people are destitute of houses or clothing, and subsist on the precarious spoils of the chase, or the spontaneous productions of the forests. They are fond of glass and porcelain beads of the gayest colors, which both sexes wear about the wrists, and the females also suspend them from the left ear. As among all savages, the women lead a most laborious life; every species of toil which their subsistence requires falling upon them. The

tribes in the interior practise some kind of cultivation, as they generally supply those on the coast with vegetable products, in exchange for axes, knives, and other kinds of coarse cutlery, which the latter purchase of the Malays and Chinese, in exchange for slaves, ambergris, and other products of the country, including the beautiful bird of paradise. One of the native tribes, called *Horaforas*, who dwell in the interior, are said to live in the trees, which they ascend by means of notches cut in the bark. On the north-west coast, the natives erect huts on a sort of stage over the sea. The houses have no chimneys; and as the several families prepare their own food, the smoke issues through the chinks of the roof, making the whole building appear as if on fire. The canoes are always drawn up on the platform, ready to be launched, when occasion may require. A mat or two, with a few earthen pots, constitute nearly the whole of their domestic utensils.

NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, &c.

THESE islands are inhabited by a race of blacks, with woolly heads, who have always manifested a decided hostility to foreign navigators, and are armed with spears headed with flint. They have not the flat noses and thick lips of the African negroes; and they mark their faces with