OUR TROPICAL POSSESSIONS

IN

MALAYAN INDIA:

BEING A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF SINGAPORE, PENANG,
PROVINCE WELLESLEY, AND MALACCA; THEIR
PEOPLES, PRODUCTS, COMMERCE,
AND GOVERNMENT.

BY

JOHN CAMERON, Esq., F.R.G.S.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON:

SMITH, ELDER AND CO., 65, CORNHILL.

1865.

[The right of Translation is reserved.]
CONTENTS.

Preface xi

CHAPTER I.
THE STRAITS SETTLEMENT: HISTORY, ANCIENT AND MODERN.
Introduction—The three Stations, Singapore, Penang, and Malacca—Geographical Positions—Singapore—Its very early History—Colonized by the Malays in 1190—Lost through Treachery to the Javanees—Story of its Loss—Re-occupation by the Malays in 1512—Settlement by the British—Sir Stamford Raffles—Bencoolen—Bickerings with the Dutch—Colonel Farquhar first Resident—Town laid out—Mr. Crawfur— Incorporation with Penang and Malacca—Mr. Fullerton—His unpopularity—Quarrel with Sir John Claridge—Arrival of Lord William Bentinck—Mr. Ibbetson Governor—Mr. Murchison—Mr. Bonham—First China Expedition—Colonel Butterworth—First Chinese Riot—Mr. Blundell—Lord Elgin's famous Decision—Second Chinese Riot—Colonel Cavanagh now Governor 1

CHAPTER II.
SCENERY: SINGAPORE FROM SEAWARD.
CONTENTS.

CHAPTER III.

SINGAPORE: THE TOWN.


CHAPTER IV.

INLAND SCENERY: JUNGLE TIGERS.


CHAPTER V.

POPULATION: ABORIGINES—MALAYS—CHINESE.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER VI.
CULTIVATION: CLIMATE—FRUIT—PRODUCTS.


CHAPTER VII.
COMMERCE: SINGAPORE—PENANG—MALACCA.

Nature of the Trade of Singapore—Its rapid Progress—Comparative Progress of the three Stations—Imports at Singapore from different Countries—Their Character—Singapore Exports—Of what they consist—Number and Nationalities of Vessels arrived during the Year at the Port of Singapore—Future Commercial Policy—Imports at Penang—Sumatra Produce—Exports from Penang—They exceed the Imports—Number and Nationality of Ships arrived at Penang during the Year—Imports and Exports of Malacca—Tin, the chief Export—Royalty reserved by Government—Concluding Remarks on the Commerce of the Straits of Malacca ........................................... 174

CHAPTER VIII.
GOVERNMENT: REVENUE—EXPENDITURE—MILITARY DEFENCE.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER III.
SINGAPORE: THE TOWN.

CHAPTER IV.
INLAND SCENERY: JUNGLE TIGERS.

CHAPTER V.
POPULATION: ABORIGINAL—MALAYS—CHINESE.
CONTENTS.

CHAPTER VI.

CULTIVATION: CLIMATE—FRUIT—PRODUCTS.


CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE: SINGAPORE—PENANG—MALACCA.

Nature of the Trade of Singapore—Its rapid Progress—Comparative Progress of the three Stations—Exports at Singapore from different Countries—Their Character—Singapore Exports—Of what they consist—Number and Nationalities of Vessels arrived during the Year at the Port of Singapore—Future Commercial Policy—Imports at Penang—Sumatra Produce—Exports from Penang—they exceed the Imports—Number and Nationality of Ships arrived at Penang during the Year—Imports and Exports of Malacca—Tin, the chief Export—Royalty reserved by Government—Concluding Remarks on the Commerce of the Straits of Malacca ........................................................................ 174

CHAPTER VIII.

GOVERNMENT: REVENUE—EXPENDITURE—MILITARY DEFENCE.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER IX.

Excitements: Amoks—Gang Robberies—Riots—The "Alabama."

Security of English Residents—Amok running—First instance in Singapore—Remarkable Case—Cause or Motive—Severe Measures to repress them—Gang Robberies—Two serious Cases—How they were suppressed—First Chinese Riot in 1854—Its Origin—Its Incidents—The Military and Special Constables—Second Chinese Riot in 1857—Its Cause—Its Incidents—The Volunteers—Its Pacification—The Alabama—Her Arrival—Native Excitement—Her Appearance—Her Officers and Crew—Captain Semmes—Her Departure—She burns the Markaban, Sonora, and Highlander, in the Straits—The Effect of her Appearance in the East on American Shipping........................................ 256

CHAPTER X.

Society: Its Divisions—Style of Life.


CHAPTER XI.

Penang: Settlement—Progress—Scenery.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XII.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY—TOPOGRAPHY—AGRICULTURE.

CHAPTER XIII.

MALACCA: ITS ANTIQUITY—TRACES OF ITS EARLIER DAYS.

CHAPTER XIV.

MALACCA: INHABITANTS—AGRICULTURE—MINING.

APPENDICES ........................................................................ 395
OUR TROPICAL POSSESSIONS

IN

MALAYAN INDIA.

CHAPTER I.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENT: HISTORY, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

Introduction—The three Stations, Singapore, Penang, and Malacca—Geographical Positions—Singapore—Its very early History—Colonized by the Malays in 1160—Lost through Treachery to the Javanese—Story of its Loss—Re-occupation by the Malays in 1512—Settlement by the British—Sir Stamford Raffles—Bencoolen—Bickerings with the Dutch—Colonel Farquhar first Resident—Town laid out—Mr. Crawford—Incorporation with Penang and Malacca—Mr. Fullerton—His unpopularity—Quarrel with Sir John Claridge—Arrival of Lord William Bentinck—Mr. Ibbetson Governor—Mr. Murchison—Mr. Bonham—First China Expedition—Colonel Butterworth—First Chinese Riot—Mr. Blundell—Lord Elgin’s famous Decision—Second Chinese Riot—Colonel Cavanagh now Governor.

The tropical colony of the Straits Settlement, which is probably about to pass from under the government of India to be added to the list of direct dependencies of the Crown, is one which in many ways will merit the solicitude of the Imperial Government. Its