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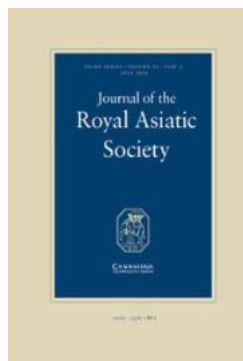
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ART. XI.—*Sketch of the Island of Borneo*, by G. WINDSOR EARL, Esq., M. R. A. S. *Communicated in a Letter to the Right Hon. Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON.*

Read 4th February, 1837.

“ALTHOUGH Borneo is so large an island, and although some parts of the coast have been known for many years, very little information has been yet received respecting the interior of the country, and the different people who inhabit it. The Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, conceiving that a knowledge of this island has become more than ever an object of importance to the British public, in consequence of the trade with China, and with the islands in the Eastern Sea, having been laid open to all British subjects, has taken measures for procuring translations into English of the different works upon the subject written in Dutch; and for collecting all the information relative to Borneo, which can be obtained from those persons who have visited the coasts of that island. Mr. Earl, who has acquired much knowledge relative to different parts of it, sent a paper to the Society, which was published in the third volume of this Journal; and we have now the pleasure to publish the following paper sent to Sir Alexander Johnston by the same gentleman, who, we hope, will soon have an opportunity of obtaining still further information upon the subject, by joining the expedition which is about to sail for the purpose of making a survey of the Eastern Seas; and which will afford him the means of completing those inquiries which he has already carried on, as appear by the papers we have published, with so much zeal and intelligence.”

MR. EARL'S PAPER.

I HASTEN to draw up a statement of the information I have been enabled to collect concerning the great island of Borneo, and I regret being unable to give more than a very meagre account of a country, which, besides possessing a soil which vies in richness with that of any other island in the Indian Archipelago, contains extensive veins of precious metals close under the surface of the earth,

alone sufficient to render it of the utmost importance. The notices contained in the following pages are partly the results of observations made during a personal visit to the western part of the island; partly from the notes of a gentleman who visited the interior from the east coast; and partly from information collected from the commanders of vessels, and others, Europeans and natives, who have visited the parts in question.

Commencing with the western part of Borneo, which is the point nearest to the British settlements in the Straits of Malacca, we find that the rich mineral productions have attracted the cupidity of foreigners; the Malays and Chinese having established themselves on the coast and on the shores of the larger rivers, the Dyaks, the aboriginal inhabitants, having retired before them into the interior. The period of their arrival on the Island cannot be ascertained, but the Malays must have been firmly established when the Chinese first immigrated, for the latter acknowledge that the country in which they are settled by right belongs to the former. The Malays, being a maritime people, did not occupy themselves in working the mines; but, having fixed themselves near the mouths of the three great rivers of Pontianak, Sambas, and Succadana, were contented with the gold and diamonds they procured by barter from the aborigines, chiefly employing their time in piratical cruizes against the natives of other parts of the archipelago. The Chinese, on the contrary, being extremely partial to mining speculations, established themselves in the parts where gold and diamonds could most readily be procured. They are now principally congregated in the district of Montradok, which lies between the rivers of Sambas and Pontianak. This district is about forty miles wide, and extends from the sea-coast between sixty and seventy miles into the interior.

The rivers of Sambas and Pontianak are of considerable depth, and afford great facility for communication with the interior. They are both supposed to take their rise in the very centre of the island. Sambas river is the largest on the west coast of the island. The entrance is about a mile and a half wide, the depth being nearly twenty feet at high-water spring-tides, but immediately inside the heads, the width of the river increases to two miles and a half. It has been ascended by the Dutch a considerable distance, probably eighty or ninety miles, and nothing was found that would obstruct its navigation by vessels of moderate burden. It is said by the Malays that canoes can ascend it to within two days' journey of Borneo Proper.

The Pontianak river, the mouth of which is about ninety miles

to the southward of Sambas, is inferior in point of size to the latter, but the town situated near its mouth is of more importance than Sambas, as it is the chief residency of the Dutch on the west coast. In addition to the two settlements already mentioned, the Dutch have a third at Landak, a town on the banks of one of the lesser branches of the Pontianak river, about seventy miles from the sea, near which are the most productive diamond-mines.

In 1823, the southern branch of this river was ascended 230 miles, by an exploring party from Pontianak, but no account of the expedition has been made public, and the only information I could procure concerning it, was from one of the gentlemen at Sambas, who was intimately acquainted with the person who conducted it. At the point to which they ascended, the river was found to open out into an extensive lake, twenty-five miles in length, possessing a depth exceeding three fathoms. Two islands were situated near the centre, one of which was named Van Der Capellen, after the governor of Dutch India.

Several Dyak tribes were settled on its shores, but I could not ascertain whether they possessed vessels of a superior description to those used by the tribes who inhabit the banks of the rivers. I suspect that the Dutch avoided having any intercourse with them.

The Danau Malayu, as the lake is called, was estimated at only 100 feet above the level of the sea; but as a much greater elevation would be necessary to give the stream of the river the force that it possesses, I think they must have calculated only the height of the falls which they passed in the ascent, one of which was thirty feet high.

The latitude of the lake was estimated at $1^{\circ} 5' N.$, and its distance from the sea, in a direct line, at 140 miles.

The west coast of Borneo was ceded to the Dutch about the year 1780, by the king of Bantam, in Java, who either had, or professed to have, a right to it, and an expedition was fitted out the same year by the Batavian government to take possession of the territory. Succadana, then the most important town on the west coast of Borneo, was the spot fixed on for the settlement, but the native chief disallowed the right of the king of Bantam, and refused to admit the Dutch, who immediately attacked the town, and destroyed it. They then established factories at Pontianak, and at Mompava, a town on the coast of the district inhabited by the Chinese; but both the latter and the Malays were so opposed to them, that the establishments were abandoned as unproductive, after a trial of thirteen years, during which time numbers of lives were lost; and, what was considered of more importance, large sums of money were expended.

In 1823, the Dutch again established themselves at Pontianak, and purchased the monopoly of the diamond-mines from the Panambahan, for 50,000 dollars. The stones below four carats were to be the property of the miners, and those above that were to be sold to the Dutch, at twenty per cent. below the market price. In 1823 and 1824, diamonds, amounting to 2290 carats, were received by the government, which cost 33,000 guilders, and were sold for 52,000, giving a profit of 19,000 guilders (1,583*l.*), rather more than fifteen per cent. on the money paid to the Panambahan. Even this small profit decreased, either from the miners not working with zeal, or from their being enabled to embezzle the larger stones.

The Dutch, finding that the speculation was a losing one, turned their attention towards the Chinese, in the hope of wringing from them some of the produce of their labours. The territory occupied by the latter had not richer mines than were contained in other parts of the country, but Chinese industry rendered them more productive. However, the Dutch sent a body of troops against the Chinese: the latter could not cope with the Europeans in the field, but they harassed them by cutting off the supplies, and poisoning the wells, until at last the Dutch troops retreated.

Another plan was now pursued by the Hollanders. A sum of money was paid to the Sultan of Sambas, for permission to form a settlement there, and the intermediate coast has ever since been blockaded by gun-boats, so that the Chinese can neither leave the country, nor have any communication with foreign parts, except through Pontianak or Sambas. Enormous duties are levied on exports and imports, and a tax of sixty guilders is imposed on every man that leaves the country.

The Dutch also acquire a revenue by farming to individuals the exclusive privilege of retailing opium, betel, arrack, pork, indeed almost every necessary of life. The sale of salt is entirely in the hands of government. It is brought from Java, and deposited in large store-houses, and sold to the natives at a price amounting to 700 per cent. on its intrinsic value.

With respect to the supply of salt, the interior of Borneo is similarly situated to the inland parts of Africa. It is obtained from the sea-coast, and the further it is taken into the country, the more it increases in price. At a place 200 miles from the mouth of the Sambas river, a measure of salt is exchanged for twenty times the quantity of rice. On the northern coast, where the Dyaks are rather more civilized than the people near Sambas, cakes of salt are used in lieu of coin, as a medium of exchange.

The illiberal system pursued by the Dutch has not effected an improvement in the revenue department, an annual loss being sustained of from 40,000 to 50,000 guilders. The commerce is in a great measure destroyed. About fifteen Junks from China came annually to the coast before these restrictions were imposed, but the number is now reduced to four or five.

The gold and diamond mines are easily wrought, and with European enterprise and machinery, their produce would be immense. The veins of ore are not in the hills, but in the low country, and are seldom more, and often much less, than thirteen feet below the surface. The miners use simple spades and mattocks for digging out the ore, and clear the gold and diamonds from the earth by means of a strong stream of water turned through a large wooden trough. The particles of gold are generally very small, but large pieces are occasionally found. The Sultan of Sambas has in his possession a piece which is said to weigh more than twelve and a half bunkals, about eighteen ounces. A diamond is seldom found of more than thirty carats. The famous Matan diamond, which is almost the only property left to the Sultan of Succadana, is 367 carats. I have never seen it, but have heard from those who have examined it, that it is not a true stone: it is uncut.

Pontianak, the chief settlement of the Dutch on the west coast is distant from Batavia 420, from Singapore 340, and from Canton 1400 geographical miles. The distance between Pontianak and Batavia is not actually more than eighty miles greater than that between Pontianak and Singapore; but as the monsoons in the China Sea blow from north-east and south-west, a ship can always make the voyage from Singapore and back with a fair wind; so that *five* voyages can be made in the same time that would be required to make *one* to and from Batavia; for in the latter case a ship would always have the monsoon against her one part of the passage.

The exports of the west coast of Borneo are gold, diamonds, bezoar-stones, and small quantities of wax and rattans. Although part of the territory occupied by the Chinese is in a high state of cultivation, nothing is grown for exportation. Pepper was formerly produced, but since the restrictions on commerce, the Chinese will grow nothing except for their own consumption. Iron is obtained in small quantities from the interior: it is sometimes exported to Java, and other countries in the Archipelago, where it is much valued for the manufacture of krisses (daggers). The iron is brought from the interior in bundles, each containing ten small pieces. Five of the bundles are worth three dollars.

Calicoes, teas, and all articles of Chinese produce and manufacture, are brought from Canton and Amoy; rice and salt from Java; and opium and piece-goods from Singapore.

Proceeding northwards from Sambas, the first place of sufficient importance to attract attention, is Serawak. Here the country is mountainous, and the Dyaks, instead of being driven into the interior, occupy the sea-coast. The town is situated in a bay, on the east side of Point Api, about sixty miles to the southward of the Sambas River.

This part, indeed the whole N. W. coast, is claimed by the Rájá of Borneo Proper. There is but a handful of Malays at Serawak (perhaps forty), but the Dyaks are so easily governed, that a small number of foreigners is sufficient to keep a large native tribe in the most complete subjection. The mountains in the vicinity contain inexhaustible mines of antimony. The ore is brought down by the Dyaks, who receive in return small presents of red calico, beads, brass-wire, and tobacco, and is taken by the Malays in Bornean and Sambas prahus, to Singapore, where it is eagerly purchased and transmitted in its crude state to Europe. The price paid for the ore at Singapore, is from one to two dollars a picul (133lb.), while the trifles given to the Dyaks for fifty piculs, are not valued at more than five dollars. I cannot discover that any European has yet visited Serawak.

Two days' sail to the N.W. is Serassan, where the Dyaks are supposed to be in greater force than in any other part of the coast.

Many of the creeks here are occasionally occupied by Lanun pirates, from Mindanao, who are sometimes at war with the Dyaks; but they frequently join forces, in which case the Dyaks claim the human heads and iron, leaving the rest of the plunder to the Lanuns.

The Badjús, a kind of sea-gypsies, who are supposed to have come originally from the vicinity of Singapore, are also to be met with here. They live entirely in their little boats, and sometimes employ themselves in making salt from sea-water, which is eagerly purchased by the Dyaks.

The N.W. coast is so little known, that even the points are not accurately laid down in the charts, except those in the vicinity of Borneo Proper. The latter was once a place of great importance, but the system of piracy connived at by the Muhammedan government has driven away the European, and a great part of the Chinese trade. After being neglected by the British for many years, two ships were sent here from Singapore in 1834, and they procured considerable quantities of gold-dust, pepper, and camphor. The pepper is entirely

cultivated by the Chinese, and the greater part of the produce is sent to Canton and Amoy, in the Chinese junks which annually visit the port. Borneo Proper also exports cloves, bark, rattans, dammer, black-wood (for furniture, &c.), and tortoise-shell. The town is of considerable extent, nearly all the houses being built upon floats on the river.

Proceeding from the town of Borneo Proper to the N. E., we come to the northern part of the Island, which was ceded to the English by the Súlús, and is still considered by many natives as the property of the British Government. The climate and soil are spoken of by the Bugis, who are well acquainted with this port, as superior to any in Borneo. Near here is the island of Balambangan, where the British settlement was unfortunately formed, in preference to the main land. It was established for the purpose of carrying on a contraband trade with the spice islands, and also with a view to induce the Dyaks to undertake the cultivation of pepper. The aborigines are here very numerous, and are further advanced in civilization than the Dyaks of the west and north-west coasts.

The mouths of the rivers are occupied by the Malays, or rather Moors, who look on the Dyaks as a property, and endeavour as much as possible to prevent their having communication with foreigners. In 1834, I met at Singapore three Bugis chiefs who had touched here on their voyage from Súlú. They informed me that a numerous body of Cochin-Chinese had settled there. Should this be the case (and I have no reason to doubt the veracity of my informants), the country will have an industrious population, which will be of the greatest value should the British ever again colonize the part in question. It will perhaps be remembered that some years ago, the Jesuits of the Propaganda Mission in Cochin-China, having been detected in treasonable practices against the state, were expelled the country. The native Christians then rebelled, but were put down by the king's forces, when many of the former emigrated.

I am the more inclined to believe the statement of my Bugis friends, from the fact that numbers of Cochin-Chinese are settled in the neighbouring island of Palawan, and from the position of the north point of Borneo, it being so situated, that the voyage to and from Cochin-China can be made with facility in all monsoons, also from the numbers of well-sheltered harbours and navigable rivers; from the fertility of the soil, and the absence of all likelihood of determined resistance from the aborigines, there is not a spot in the Archipelago better adapted to their purpose.

As the sea-coast on the west side of the island is inhabited by

Malays, so is that of the east by the enterprising Bugis tribes of Celebes. Of the coast from Malludo Bay to Coti, which comprises nearly eight degrees of latitude, little further is known than that it contains many considerable rivers. The productions of the country are chiefly taken to Coti and Passier, the principal ports on the west coast, whence they are exported to Singapore. In the year 1827, Mr. Dalton, a mercantile gentleman from Singapore, went to Coti in a Bugis prahu, and penetrated far into the interior, to the country of the Dyaks, where he remained trading fifteen months. Unfortunately he died soon after his return to Singapore, and the notes he has left are sadly deficient in geographical information, but they contain voluminous accounts of the manners and customs of the Dyaks. It appears that he ascended the Coti river 600 miles, but in which direction is not mentioned. He was treated well, one of the chiefs having adopted him as a brother. Were not the habits of the Dyaks of the west coast well known, it would be almost impossible to believe that human beings could be so far degraded below the level of the brute creation as he describes them. The sole employment of the chiefs appears to be in undertaking expeditions into the interior, for the purpose of surprising and slaughtering the inhabitants of whole villages, solely that their heads may be procured to deck the habitations of the murderers. Hunting-parties are formed to destroy the people belonging to the wilder tribes that inhabit the woods. A man cannot marry until he has procured a human head, and he that has several, may be distinguished by his proud and lofty bearing, for it constitutes his patent of nobility. From this it may be thought that all attempts to improve them would be hopeless; but on the contrary, the horrible nature of their mode of life renders them more willing to adopt milder customs. The Moslems never found more ready converts. On the west coast I saw both the wild and the tame Dyaks, and thought it hardly possible that they could be the same race of people. Those in the vicinity of the Chinese settlement had totally abandoned their horrid customs, and were milder in conduct and disposition than any of the natives of the Archipelago I had hitherto seen. How the custom of wholesale murdering originated, it is impossible to say; but the Dyaks that exist at present have been brought up to consider the destroying of a fellow-creature as the most meritorious action that they can perform.

From the account of Mr. Dalton, the Dyak population in the vicinity of Coti must be considerable. There are three head chiefs, one of whom has fifty, another seventy, and a third 150 minor chiefs

under him, each of whom is supposed to have about 1,000 individuals under his rule. This population will appear immense, when the system of human sacrifice is considered, but it must be remembered, that these rarely attack each other, their murderous excursions being undertaken against the more distant tribes.

Single missionaries would be of little avail in weaning them from their evil practices, as it is apparently by example, and not by precept, that they can be permanently benefited. From the Dutch settlements on the west and south coasts, civilization might be disseminated far into the interior of the country, but unfortunately the governments there are solely occupied in enforcing their commercial monopolies.

A mission similar to those of the Jesuits among the natives of South America (to whom the Dyaks bear an extraordinary resemblance in appearance, habits, disposition, and even in weapons), would be likely in a few years to put an entire stop to the horrid practices which now obtain. It would not be those only in the immediate vicinity of the missions that would be benefited, but the more distant tribes would soon follow the good example. Instead of missions similar to those of the Jesuits, I should have said, on a similar system,—that is, by establishing the missionaries in threes and fours at the chief villages of the various tribes.

The town of Coti, or Semerinden, is situated sixty miles up a large river, at the mouth of which are numerous small islands, which afford a retreat for pirates. The town is chiefly inhabited by Bugis, many of whom annually proceed to Singapore to dispose of the produce of the country, gold-dust, wax, &c., and bring back articles for home consumption, or for exportation to the more eastern parts of the Archipelago. Above Coti are the Dyak towns of Tongarron, Mapao, and Woaho, the inhabitants of which, to the estimated amount of 270,000, are nominally under the control of the Bugis of Coti, who are enabled to keep them in awe by their knowledge of the use of fire-arms, of which the Dyaks have the greatest dread.

Mr. Dalton resided during his stay chiefly at Tongarron, the largest Dyak town on the banks of the river, which, from the estimated length of the reaches of the river, he considers to be situated 200 miles N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. from the mouth.

The following positions which he has assigned to the various towns on the banks of the river, would probably be more correct, were one-third of their distance from the mouth of the river deducted, as an over-estimation of the lengths of the reaches.

	Latitude.	Longitude.
Semerinden	1° 4' N.	116° 2' E.
Tongarron	1° 30' N.	115° 6' E.

From Tongarron, the river is stated to run north thirty miles, N.W. thirty miles, then west, and afterwards W.S.W. Mapao, a large town, is said to be between 300 and 400 miles further up the river, and that a fast canoe, aided by the current, can descend from Mapao to Tongarron in twenty hours. The river must be extremely tortuous in its course, for were a straight line carried out to the N.W. 300 miles from Tongarron, it would enter the China Sea.

The mouth of the Coti river is estimated by Mr. Dalton to be in latitude 1° 2' S.; longitude 117° E.

In the year 1825, an expedition was sent by the Dutch government to explore the Coti river, and to endeavour to traverse the island to its opposite coast, the unfortunate results of which tend to prove, that in countries like this, politics should be entirely unconnected with exploring expeditions.

Major Müller, a gentleman who had been employed in the same capacity on the opposite coast, was placed at the head of the expedition, the remainder of the party consisting of twenty-four Javanese soldiers. On arriving at Coti, he prevailed on the Sultan to permit the Dutch to settle there, and to monopolize the duties, for the annual payment of 80,000 guilders. When this compact came to the knowledge of the Pangerans, they remonstrated so strongly with the Sultan, that he regretted having made the agreement, and, to prevent its being acted upon, he determined to have Major Müller and his party destroyed, as then no evidence of the fact would remain. One of the Bugis Pangerans was, therefore, sent with a strong party as a guide, who, with the assistance of the Dyak boatmen, treacherously murdered the greater number, a few of the Javanese alone escaping.

The extraordinary temper of the Dyak swords was here put to the test, and it is said that some of the muskets of the Javanese soldiers, with which the latter endeavoured to defend themselves, were cut in two by a single blow. The iron which is found in the interior of the island must either be of an excellent quality, or the Dyaks have discovered a method of tempering it, which sets at defiance the competition of more civilized nations. This is probably one of the relics of a former state of civilization, which has been remembered from the intimate connexion it has with some of their present customs.

About 100 miles to the southward of Coti is a large river, on the

banks of which, about sixty miles from the mouth, is the town of Passier. This place had formerly considerable trade, being a depôt for the spices and other produce of the islands to the eastward; but since the settlement of Singapore, its commerce has decreased.

In 1772 the British were about establishing a factory here, but some violent disturbances which took place in the state about that time deterred them. The dissolute habits of the chiefs have caused this place to become a den of infamy, and murders are daily committed in the streets. Neither Passier nor Coti have been visited by an European ship for many years.

Proceeding to the southward there is no place of sufficient importance to attract attention, until we arrive at Pulo Laut, an island of considerable size, divided from Borneo by a narrow strait. Its shores are inhabited by the most ferocious pirates in the Archipelago, who are the terror of the navigators of these seas. During the south-east monsoon, they cruize with their prahus near the coasts of Java, and of the more civilized islands; were they not fortunately as idle and unenterprising as they are ferocious, the commerce of the adjacent islands would almost be put a stop to by them.

Passing round the southern point of Pulo Laut, the south coast of Borneo commences. A range of high mountains lines the shore from this to Point Selatan, or South Point, a distance of ninety miles. From Point Selatan the coast line trends to the northward, to the mouth of the river Banjar Massin, one of the largest yet known on the island. The town of the same name is situated about twenty miles from the mouth of the river, on the left bank. It was founded by the Javanese many years before the arrival of Europeans in the Archipelago, but since then there has been such an influx of Bugis and other foreign settlers, that the inhabitants have lost all resemblance to the people of Java, although a constant correspondence has been kept up with that island.

In 1747 a factory was established here by the Dutch, which was continued until 1809, when the Hollanders, finding that the settlement did not afford more revenue than was sufficient to pay the expenses, abandoned the place to the native chief, who paid 50,000 rix-dollars for the forts and government buildings.

When the British took possession of Java in 1811, Banjar Massin was much reduced in importance. The Rájá having invited the British to settle there, a factory was established, which was given over to the Dutch on the restoration of Java, and is continued by them until the present day.

The principal part of the commerce is with Java. The exports

are gold, diamonds, pepper, indeed, precisely the same as those of Borneo Proper.

The banks of the rivers abound in rattans of the best description, which are exported in large quantities to Java, where they are exchanged for rice and calicoes. A considerable trade is carried on between Banjar Massin and Singapore, but it is much discouraged by the Dutch authorities.

The coast between this place and Succadana is understood to possess no large rivers, but there are numerous small towns, inhabited chiefly by Bugis, which are fast rising in importance, as the establishment of Singapore, where the utmost freedom of commerce is enjoyed, has given a spur to the trade of this and every other port in the Archipelago. Cota Ringin, a town about 100 miles to the eastward of Tanjong Sambar, the S.W. point of Borneo, is second in importance to Banjar Massin.

The relics of a people who must have been much further advanced in civilization than the Dyaks, are to be met with in various parts of the island. Those near Banjar Massin are evidently Hindu remains, and their existence may be accounted for by the fact, that a colony of Hindus from Java was established there; but I cannot help thinking, that those found in the wilder parts of the island are even more ancient. From what I could learn, the latter consist of tumuli, in which are found curiously-shaped earthen jars, and as these are considered by the Dyaks as being connected with the ashes of their forefathers, the tumuli are probably graves.

In the maps of the Island of Borneo, a range of high mountains is represented as traversing the interior of the island from north-east to south-west, but I have never seen them, nor have I been able to discover any evidence that may tend to prove their existence; indeed, I have no doubt, that when the island is better known, these will be erased from the chart, and probably a chain of lakes will then occupy their place. There is nothing in the geological formation of the hills in Borneo that would lead to the supposition that the ranges of mountains would there take a different direction from those in the islands to the westward. With the exception of the mountains in Java, and in the islands to the eastward of it, which are of volcanic origin, all the ranges yet discovered in the western parts of the Indian Archipelago, and in the intertropical parts of Eastern Asia, extend from north-west to south-east; and as the hills on the west and north-west coasts, and perhaps also those in the interior of the island, are of the same formation (primi-

tive granite), it appears improbable that they should take another direction.

One of the Eastern Asiatic ranges, after extending along the S.W. coast of Sumatra, terminates at its S.E. point. Another runs along the Malay peninsula, is lost for a time, but appears again in the high peak of Lingin, and terminates in Banca and Billiton; and a branch from this separates at Pulo Timoan, on the east coast of the peninsula, and ends at Carimata, in the strait between Billiton and Borneo. Two ranges traverse Cambodia and Cochin-China in the same direction, and these will be found to extend to, and, perhaps, to traverse Borneo. Between the Cambodian range and the mountains at Serawak, on the north-west extremity of Borneo, the Natunas islands and Pulo Condor form the connecting link; and as the Serawak hills run to the south-east, the range is probably continued, either by a connected line, or by isolated mounts, until it terminates in the Gunung Ratos, near Cape Selatan.

All these ranges abound in metals, which is not the case in Java, where the mountains take another direction.

Mr. Dalton, in his papers, mentions no range of mountains in the interior of the island, and, had they existed, they would certainly not have been allowed to pass without some allusion to them. The streams of the rivers, however, are so swift, and their courses are so long, that the country in which they take their rise must be some thousand feet above the level of the sea.

As geographical research is extending to every part of the globe, Borneo, which certainly deserves the name of El Dorado better than any country hitherto known, may not be entirely neglected. The numerous large rivers afford easy communication with the innermost recesses of the country, and, unlike the Quorra and other large rivers in Africa, they rarely have sand-banks or rapids to arrest the progress of voyagers. Very little fear is to be entertained of the hostility of the Dyaks, for they are so terrified at fire-arms, that they have been known to run for miles on hearing the report of a gun.

Were a free trade at any future time to be opened with the Aborigines, it would afford an annually-increasing market for many articles of British produce and manufacture. Those now in demand are calicoes, beads, brass wire, and iron for agricultural instruments.

Regretting that the information I have been enabled to collect is so inadequate to the importance of the subject,

I have the honour, &c., &c.