

arts. They have never acquired of themselves the use of letters.

The *fourth* is, of all the divisions, the least distinctly characterized; it extends from the parallel of  $116^{\circ}$  east longitude to about  $128^{\circ}$ , and from  $4^{\circ}$  to  $10^{\circ}$  north latitude, and includes the north-east angle of Borneo, the whole of Mindanao, and the Sooloo archipelago. The clove and nutmeg are indigenous, but of imperfect and inferior quality. Sago is very often used, but rice is the principal article of food. In civilization the inhabitants are superior to those of the third division, and inferior to those of the first, or even the second. Their language, manners, and institutions are peculiar, agreeing among themselves, and differing from those of all their neighbors.

The *fifth* and last division is the well-known group of the Philippines, extending from the parallel of  $10^{\circ}$  to  $19^{\circ}$  north latitude. A geographical situation so different from that of all the other countries of the archipelago, produces much relative difference in climate and production. This division is the only portion of the archipelago within the boisterous region of hurricanes, and this circumstance alone gives a peculiar character to the country. The soil is of eminent fertility, and rice is the food of the more civilized races. The manners, the political institutions, and above all, the language of the inhabitants, differ in genius and form from those of all the other divisions.

"Such," says our author, are the particular characteristics of the different divisions of this great country. The more general features of the whole archipelago, and those distinctive marks which characterize it from other portions of the world, are easily enumerated. It has the common characters of other tropical countries,—heat, moisture, and luxuriant vegetation. It is throughout of a mountainous nature, and its principal mountains from one extremity to the other are volcanoes. It is very generally covered with deep forests of stupendous trees. The number

of grassy plains is very small, and there are no arid, sandy deserts. It is distinguished from every cluster of islands in the world, by the presence of periodical winds, and from all countries whatever by the peculiar character of these winds. The archipelago is the only country of Asia situated upon the equinoctial line, or very close to it. \* \* \* The insularity of the whole region, the contiguity of the different islands, and the facility and rapidity of the navigation, are also prominent and characteristic features. The animal and vegetable productions of the archipelago either differ wholly from those of other countries, or are important varieties of them. In one quarter, even the principal article of food is such as man nowhere else subsists upon. The productions of the ocean are not less remarkable for abundance and variety than those of the land."

Two aboriginal races of human beings inhabit the Indian islands; these are "as different from each other as both are from all the rest of their species." Setting aside the minor divisions of the inhabitants, as the Javanese, Malays, Bugis, Balinese, &c., we shall confine our remarks to these two; the one of which may be described as a *brown-complexioned* people, with lank hair; and the other as a *black*, or rather *sooty-colored* race, with woolly or frizzled hair. Mr. Crawford thinks that these two races of men present, in their physical and moral character, a complete parallel with the *white* and *negro* races of the western world; and the first, he adds, have always displayed as eminent a relative superiority over the second, as the race of white men have over the negroes of the west.

The persons of the brown-colored tribes are short, squat, and robust. "Their medium height may be reckoned, for the men, about five feet two inches, and for the women, four feet eleven inches, which gives about four inches less than the average stature of Europeans. Their lower limbs are rather large and heavy, but not ill-formed. Their arms are rather fleshy

than muscular." The face is of a round form; the mouth wide; the teeth, when not discolored by art, very fine; the chin is rather of a square form; the angles of the lower jaw remarkably prominent; the cheek-bones are high, and the cheek consequently rather hollow; the nose is short and small, never prominent nor flat; the eyes are small, and always black, as with other orientals. The complexion though usually brown, varies a little among the different tribes. The fairest races are generally towards the west, but some of them, as the Battaks of Sumatra, are upon the very equator. The Javanese, who live most comfortably, are among the darkest people of the archipelago; the wretched Dayaks of Borneo are among the fairest. Compared to Europeans, Arabs, Persians, Tartars, Burmese, or Siamese, the Indian islanders must be considered as an ill-looking race of people. In color, *virgin gold* is their standard of perfection; but their complexions are scarcely ever clear, and a blush is seldom seen upon their faces.

The sooty-colored race is a dwarf African negro; and by the brown-complexioned tribes is designated the *Pua-pua* (Papua, or woolly haired) race. A full grown male brought from the mountains of Queda was found to be no more than four feet nine inches high. Among those brought from New Guinea and the adjacent islands, our author thinks he never saw any one that exceeded five feet in height. Besides their want of stature, they are of a spare and puny frame. The following distinction has been drawn between the Papuan and the African negro, by sir Everard Home; speaking of the Papuan he says:—"His skin is of a lighter color, the woolly hair grows in small tufts, and each hair has a spiral twist. The forehead rises higher, and the hindhead is not so much cut off. The nose projects more from the face. The upper lip is longer and more prominent. The lower lip projects forward from the lower jaw, to such an extent that the chin forms no part of the face, the lower part of which is formed by the mouth." The

puny stature, and feeble frames of those who belong to this race, Mr. C. proceeds to remark, "cannot be ascribed to the poverty of their food or the hardships of their condition, for the lank-haired races living under circumstances equally precarious, have vigorous constitutions. Some islands they enjoy almost exclusively to themselves, yet they have in no instance risen above the most abject state of barbarism. Whenever they are encountered by the fairer races, they are hunted down like the wild animals of the forest, and driven to the mountains or fastnesses, incapable of resistance."

The question of the origin of these two different races, appears to our author to be one which is "far beyond the compass of human reason;" it is however, "one of such curious speculation and interest, that it cannot be passed over altogether in silence." The only connection in language, manners or customs, which exists between the inhabitants of the archipelago and any distant people, which cannot be satisfactorily ascertained, is that with the negro races of Madagascar. Mr. Crawford has "no hesitation in thinking, that the extraordinary coincidences in language and customs, which have been discovered between the people of the archipelago and those of Madagascar, originated with the former; every rational argument is in favor of this supposition, and none against it." He discusses this subject at some length, and then concludes, that these facts point at a connection of great antiquity, and lead him "distinctly to assert," that the connection which existed between the two countries, "originated in a state of society and manners different from what now exists, and took place long before the intercourse of the Hindoos, not to say the Arabs, with the Indian archipelago."

The limits of a single article forbid us to follow the historian of the archipelago, in his particular description of the intellectual endowments, social qualities, religious institutions, domestic ceremonies and familiar usages, games and amusements of the

natives. From the correspondence of gentlemen, some of whom have long resided in the islands and are well acquainted with them and their inhabitants, we hope to be able from time to time to lay before our readers interesting notices of the Indian islanders. We now proceed to notice very briefly the principal foreigners who have at various times come in and settled among them. These are Indians, Chinese, Arabs, Portuguese, Spaniards, Dutch, and English.

The *natives of Hindostan* are found chiefly in the western portion of the archipelago. By Europeans these are called Chulia; but by the natives Teling or *Kaling*, which is more correct. *Kalinga*, is the only country of India generally known to the islanders; and they give the name Kaling to those who come from that country. Between the Coromandel coast and the Indian islands, a commercial intercourse has existed from time immemorial. "A passion on the part of the Hindoos, in common with the rest of mankind, for the spices and other rare productions of the islands, gave rise to this commerce, which increased as the nations of the west improved in riches or civilization; for the trade of the people of Coromandel was the first link of that series of voyages, by which the productions of the archipelago were conducted even to the markets of Rome." Taking advantage of the westerly monsoon, these adventurers come annually to seek their fortunes in a country richer and far less occupied than their own. In their character, they are shrewd, supple, unwarlike, mendacious and avaricious; a large portion of them return to India, but a considerable one also colonizes and intermarries with the natives.

Of all foreigners, the *Chinese* are the most numerous in the archipelago. Their junks never fail to bring a large supply of emigrants, and the European trading ships frequently do the same—as many as 450 have been known to sail in a single ship. Many of these return to their own country, "and the first intention of every emigrant is probably to do so; but

circumstances detain a number of them in the islands who, intermarrying with the natives of the country, generate a race inferior in energy and spirit to the original settlers, but speaking the language, wearing the garb, professing the religion, and affecting the manners of the parent country. The Chinese settlers may be described as at once enterprising, keen, laborious, luxurious, sensual, debauched, and pusillanimous. They are most generally engaged in trade, in which they are equally speculative, expert, and judicious. Their superior intelligence and activity have placed in their hands the management of the public revenue, in almost every country of the archipelago, whether ruled by natives or Europeans; and of the traffic of the archipelago with the surrounding foreign states, almost the whole is conducted by them." The principal part of these settlers are in Java, Borneo, Singapore and Penang; but a few scattered families are to be found in every island where the people are in any manner civilized. Of these emigrants, sir Thomas Herbert has given, in the quaint language of his time, the following account:—"The Chyneses are no quarrellers, albeit voluptuous, venereous, costly in their sports, great gamesters, and in trading too subtle for young merchants; oftentimes so wedded to dicing, that, after they have lost their whole estate, wife and children are staked; yet in a little time, Jew-like, by gleaning here and there, they are able to redeem their loss; and if not at the day, wife and children are then sold in the market for most advantage."

The *Arabians* began at a very early period to trade to the archipelago; but these settlers are more considerable for their influence than for their numbers. In 1296, when Marco Polo visited Sumatra, he found many of the inhabitants of the coast converted to Mohammedanism. Arabian adventurers have settled in almost every part of the country; and of all who meet on this *common theatre*, the Arabs are the most ambitious and bigoted. They have a strength

of character which places them far above the natives; and when not devoted to the service of the prophet, are wholly occupied with mercantile affairs. The genuine Arabs are spirited, fair, and adventurous merchants; but they often intermarry with natives, and the mixed race is of a less favorable character.

Such are the *Asiatic strangers*, who at various times have visited the Indian archipelago. With regard to *Europeans*, three nations only, the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the Spaniards, have established a dominion of such extent and duration as to produce a material influence on the condition and character of the native inhabitants; the Dutch and Spaniards are the only people who have colonized in the archipelago, or at least who now exist there as *colonists*. The British, at the present time, and under the government of the honorable the E. I. company, have a governor and *residents* at Singapore, Malacca, and Penang. "It is instructive," says our author, "to contemplate the difference which has characterized the policy pursued by European nations in these countries and in America, which became known to Europeans nearly about the same time. Avarice was the main spring of the policy with respect to both countries, but it took a different direction, and was differently modified according to the circumstances in which they found the nations which occupied them. The gold of America was soon exhausted; the persecution of the natives which followed the search of it soon ceased; the Americans had no rich commerce to prosecute; their soil furnished no productions on which Europeans put an extraordinary estimate; colonization was consequently early resorted to, and the prosperity of America has been comparatively great and progressive. The Indian islands, on the contrary, were found to have an industrious and commercial population, and to abound in highly prized commodities peculiar to themselves. The attainment of these commodities by *violent means*, and not the search for gold, became naturally the object of

the European adventurers of all nations. The prosecution of the same object has continued down to the latest period to actuate their policy; a *systematic injustice* which has, in every period of the European connection, generated a train of evils and misfortunes to the native inhabitants, of which no other portion of mankind has been so long the victim."

Of European nations, the *Portuguese* were the first who reached the Indian islands by way of the cape of Good Hope. Diego Lopez de Sequeira led on the enterprise; and, "if we except the *accidental* visits of Marco Polo, Mandeville, and others," may be looked upon "as the proper discoverer of the Indian archipelago." Malacca was wrested from the natives in 1511, and its immense riches were given up to plunder. During the 130 years the city remained in the possession of the Portuguese, it was 18 times besieged or blockaded; *six* times by its legitimate possessors, *seven* times by the king of Acheen, *thrice* by the Javanese, and *twice* by the Dutch. In 1521 a squadron of nine ships appeared in the Spice islands for the purpose of *taking possession of them* in the name of the king of Portugal. The "simple sovereigns" of the Moluccas received their treacherous guests with caresses, and contended for the honor of entertaining them. De Britto established himself in Ternate; and was soon astonished by the arrival of the companions of Magellan, who had reached the Moluccas in the course of *the first voyage round the world*. These he seized and imprisoned; and the natives no sooner knew Europeans, than they were presented with the odious spectacle of their hatreds and animosities. The first governor of the islands, "stirred up civil war," and even distributed rewards for the massacre of the unfortunate natives. For sixty years during which their dominion continued, "the same scenes of rapine and cruelty were exhibited. Kings were made and dethroned, executed and extirpated at the caprice of those petty tyrants of the Moluccas."

The *Dutch* intercourse with the people of the archipelago, did not commence until 1596; in which year, a fleet of four ships, after a voyage of ten long months, arrived at Bantam, then the principal trading port in the Indies, for those commodities which the habits of Europe demanded. The adventurers acted without judgment or moderation, in their intercourse with the natives. At Bantam they embroiled themselves with the inhabitants, and committed actual hostilities. At Sädayu, "they committed a horrible massacre, and at Madura a still more atrocious one, in which the prince of that country and his family, coming to visit a Dutch fleet in a friendly manner, lost their lives through the suspicious timidity of these strangers." The early period of the Dutch history, "consists in a compilation of their commercial transactions, their wars with the Spaniards and Portuguese, their broils with the English, and their aggressions upon the natives." We might follow our author through many pages of similar narrative, but we have no heart to do it, and we desist from the task. At the present time, the Dutch have possessions in Java, Amboyna, and Macassar; and their countrymen at home in concert with a few in the east, as in former times, are making laudable efforts for the improvement of the islanders; and we hope their success will be equal to the opportunities they enjoy.

Of the *Spanish* possessions, which are confined to the Philippines, we have already spoken in another article, and shall not here resume the subject further than to quote one short paragraph from the work before us. "It is remarkable," says Mr. Crawford, "that the Indian administration of one of the worst governments of Europe, and that in which the general principles of legislation and good government are least understood, one too which has never been skillfully executed, should, upon the whole, have proved the *least injurious* to the native inhabitants of the country. This, undoubtedly has been the char-

acter of the Spanish connection with the Philippines, with all its vices, follies, and illiberalities; and the present condition of these islands affords an unquestionable proof of this fact. Almost every other country of the archipelago is, at this day, in point of wealth, power, and civilization, in a worse state than when Europeans connected themselves with them, three centuries back. The Philippines alone, have improved in civilization, wealth, and populousness."

We have now brought into review all the topics which we proposed to notice in this article. We shall conclude it by adding, in the form of a chronological table, brief notices of the principal events in the history of the archipelago, whether native or European. Our limits will not allow us to give the table entire as it stands in the volumes of Mr. Crawford; we select only the most important and interesting particulars.

#### CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

##### *Of the principal events in the history of the Indian Archipelago.*

- 1160, A. D. A MALAYAN colony, first from the original country of that people, and latterly from Palembang in Sumatra, settles at the extremity of the Malayan peninsula, and founds the city of Singhapura, (Singapore).
1252. The king of Java invades Singhapura, and drives the Malays from thence, who, proceeding further westward, found the city of Malacca.
1276. Sultan Mohammed Shah ascends the throne of Malacca, and embraces Mohammedanism.
1304. The Javanese and Malays visit the island of Ternate for cloves, and many of them settle there, and are soon followed by Arabians.
1340. The king of Malacca engages in a war with Siam, whose sovereign is killed in a battle which ensues.
1350. An Arabian adventurer instructs the king of Ternate in Arabic, and in the art of ship-building.
1391. An unsuccessful attempt to convert the Javanese to Mohammedanism is made by a rajah.
1465. Javanese, Malays, and also Chinese, in great numbers, frequent Ternate in quest of cloves.
1478. The Mohammedan religion established in Java; and shortly after, the people of the western end of the same island, or the Sundas; converted to Mohammedanism.