farthest shore, which I tried by throwing shot across when working out. And though the Island is small, there is a great deal dry at the lowest tides.—I should apprehend, full sufficient for batteries."

He further recommended the removal of the colony from Chatham Island, in the Southern Harbour, to this Harbour, and offered to assist in the operations. The squalls from off Saddle Peak are fairly violent in the Northern Harbour, and the latter part of the letter is not understood. The "Island" he refers to must be the one called "Ross" at the mouth of the Harbour.

In September, 1791, Lieutenant Blair was informed that it was the intention of Government to move the Settlement to the North-East Harbour, and although this move did not actually take place for more than a year afterwards, all progress was at once stopped.

On the 16th October, 1792, final orders were given for the removal of the Settlement, and on the 5th November, 1792, the Governor-General recorded a Minute on the subject, detailing the method of the transfer, and the object of the new Settlement. The original intention was to establish a naval arsenal, in accordance with the recommendation of the Commodore. Captain Alexander Kyd of the Engineers was nominated Superintendent, to be assisted by a Subaltern of the same Corps, and the garrison were to be one or two companies of sepoys. The necessary buildings and fortifications were to be erected; four vessels were to be fitted out for the conveyance of artificers' stores, etc.; and the whole was to be under the orders of Lieutenant Blair until he was relieved by Captain Kyd. The Governor-General and his Council at the same time expressed satisfaction at Lieutenant Blair's conduct, and said that "his attention and abilities in the management of our first Settlement at the Andamans claim our warm approbation."

He was granted, on the 5th November, 1792, an allowance of R150 per month, in addition to his surveyor's allowance, for the time he was in charge of the Settlement. Captain Kyd had R1,000 a month in addition to the pay and allowances of his rank.

Lieutenant Blair, who was in Calcutta, where he had taken two of the Andamanese, had the four vessels placed under his orders, and

on the 12th November received his sailing orders. It was then directed that the new Settlement should also be called Port Cornwallis, and Lieutenant Blair was to found it in exactly the same manner as the old one. He was to clear Chatham Island, erect temporary buildings for the protection of provisions, lay out a garden, dig a well, etc. The Commodore would shortly arrive with some King's ships to assist. On the arrival of Captain Kyd the Settlement was to be transferred to him, and Lieutenant Blair was to finish the survey of the Andamans, "if time would admit," and ascertain the relative positions of the Southern Nicobar Island with Atcheen. The Andamanese taken by Lieutenant Blair to Calcutta were probably Jàrawas, and this incident gives another proof of the friendly relations established with them by him. It is most unfortunate that we have no detailed account of these people by Lieutenant Blair.

The following papers throw some light on the reasons of the Government for moving the Settlement from the South to the North Harbour, and on the subsequent operations in the latter place.

Extract from the *Madras Courier* of the 22nd December, 1790 :—

Yesterday evening His Majesty's Sloop-of-war, *Atalanta*, Captain Halsted, arrived in the roads from the Andamans.

The Hon'ble Commodore Cornwallis was at the Andamans on board the *Crown* when the *Atalanta* came away ; and it appears by the accounts she has brought, that a new harbour had been discovered in one of the small islands to the North-East, extremely capacious and commodious, much more so than even the former one, which has been hitherto occupied and known by the name of Port Cornwallis.

The name, therefore, will probably be now transferred where it is best deserved, and the new harbour established.

(Selections from the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 13th January, 1791, by Seton Karr. Vol. II, page 283.)

The excellence of the harbour and climate, with the docility of the inhabitants and fertility of the soil, has induced Commodore Cornwallis to recommend that fortifications be erected and a garrison appointed at our new Settlement on the Andaman Islands; should

this be put in execution, it will no doubt hereafter be the Company's principal maritime rendezvous in the Bay of Bengal.

The *Viper* Cruiser, Captain Roper, is, we understand, to sail in a few days with despatches for the Commodore at that place.

(Selections from the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 18th of October, 1792, by Seton Karr. Vol. II, page 354.)

The above is the only intimation we have that the Aborigines in the North Andaman had proved to be less hostile than those in the South.

The 29th May, 1794.

Military Intelligence, *May 19th, 1794.*

Lieutenant Sandys, Fort Adjutant, is appointed to superintend and execute in Bengal the duties connected with the Andaman Islands, in supplying the artificers and workmen required from time to time, taking charge of the workmen and Sepoys returning from thence on leave of absence, or for the benefit of their health, providing passage, and superintending their embarkation on their return thither, and paying the families of settlers residing in Bengal the portion of allowance allotted to them for subsistence; also superintending the embarkation of the convicts sentenced to be transported to those Islands, the provisions and articles of supply for the Settlement to be furnished as heretofore on indent on the Garrison Store-keeper.

The Governor-General in Council, in consideration of these additional duties, and for other reasons, has been pleased to increase the allowance of the Fort Adjutant, 150 Sonat Rupees per month, to commence from the 1st of May.

(Selections from the *Calcutta Gazette*, by Seton Karr. Vol. III, page 117.)

Lieutenant Blair left Calcutta in the *Union*, with the *Juno*, *Cornwallis*, and *Seahorse*, on the 4th December, 1792. He had artificers' stores, six months' provisions, and 360 settlers.

Off Cape Negrais there was violent storm, in which the ships parted company. The *Union* arrived at the new Settlement on the 30th December and found Lieutenant Wales there in the

Ranger. He had already commenced to clear sites and make a watering place. Commodore Cornwallis put in in the *Minerva* to take shelter from a gale, in which the *Ranger* in 4½ fathoms at the head of the harbour had the sea breaking over her, and after losing an anchor, was driven on to a mud bank with only seven feet of water, though she drew 14 feet. The *Union* lost two anchors and was driven on to the same bank, and the *Minerva* lost an anchor. It appears to have been a cyclone, the centre of which passed a little to the south of Port Cornwallis, as, at Port Blair, Lieutenant Roper in the *Viper*, who was making the last arrangements for the removal of the old colony, only experienced a strong south-west wind, while the *Seahorse* and *Cornwallis*, only 160 miles from the Settlement, had fine weather.

The *Juno* is supposed to have been exposed to the full force of the cyclone, as some vessel fired a gun off the mouth of the harbour at night, which was answered, and the vessel stood out again to sea.

The *Juno* was never heard of again, and is supposed to have foundered. Besides her crew, there were 90 settlers, and a large quantity of provisions on board.

The work of the new colony progressed rapidly. On the 31st December, Lieutenant Blair reported that a space 600 by 100 yards had been cleared on Chatham Island. A double line of huts had been built, wells and tanks made, three bungalows erected, a smithy and pottery kiln were in course of erection, also a temporary store-house. Two acres had been cleared and stocked (on Pitt Island) as a kitchen-garden and nursery. The Settlement fishermen procured sufficient fish, turtle were brought from Diamond Island, and cocoa-nuts from the Cocos. The natives were occasionally seen on the reefs, but were neither hostile nor inclined for closer intimacy.

When the present Settlement experienced the cyclone of November 2nd, 1891, great surprise was exhibited, as it was supposed that the Andamans only *formed* the cyclones, and were out of the reach of their violence. A glance at the records would have shown that these Islands are visited at intervals by most destructive storms.

(The above-mentioned one, occurring at the very commencement of the Settlement in the Northern Port Cornwallis, would seem ominous of the disastrous effect of the change from the Southern Harbour.)

It seems curious to us now that turtle should have been brought to the Andamans from Diamond Island, but the turtle are caught there on shore, by "turning," and in the Andamans, except on the South Sentinel Island, where landing is impossible ten months out of the year, this can seldom be done, as the turtle appear to have learnt to avoid the aborigines who molested them. Turtle could, however, have been obtained at the Coco Islands.

The healthy dry season was chosen for the opening of the new Settlement, and therefore the sick-rate at first was not noticeable.

Captain Kyd arrived in the Settlement on the 5th March, and up to that time the settlers, with the exception of jungle sores, aggravated by scurvy, were healthy. He wrote in a most sanguine manner about the future of the Settlement, and more artificers and labourers were applied for, also 200 convicts. The vessels attached to the Settlement were employed in bringing turtle from Diamond Island, rice and live-stock from Achin and the coast of Pedi, and cocoa-nuts from Car Nicobar.

Fruit trees were imported from the neighbouring continent and Sumatra. Building and clearing went on apace, a cocoa-nut plantation was formed, a granary erected, and cover for the whole Settlement provided before the commencement of the rains. 113 sepoys and settlers were sent from Calcutta to reinforce the Settlement early in May, 1793, and 72 labourers were sent at the end of the same month.

About this time Lieutenant Blair returned to Bombay, with a highly recommendatory letter from the Governor-General in Council to the Governor of Bombay. He had previously submitted a general chart of the Andamans and a full report on the subject, with a tabular statement of astronomical observations, which are to be found in the proceedings of the Council of the 31st May, 1793. He does not consider the chart complete on account of the abrupt inequalities in

the depths, which may have led him to overlook certain hidden dangers. He comments on the edible birds' nest caves, noting the one at the south end of Strait Island, which seems to have then contained more nests than it does now. (The birds are certainly not building as freely in the Islands as they used to, or we have not discovered their new nests, they having deserted the old places.) He thought the nests were made of a mineral substance which exuded from the rock.

On the 13th June, 1793, news arrived at the Settlement of the war with France, and Major Kyd had at once to place it in a state of defence. Fresh labourers from Bengal arrived. A hill on Chatham Island was chosen as the site of a fort, as the back was protected by the jungle and the front commanded the Settlement. The North front was to have two demi-bastions with a gun in each, and on the North and East fronts good ditches, and a parapet 14 feet high. The approach was to be protected by abattis and felled timber. The vessels were to be placed under the protection of the fort, and a refuge made for the women and children. Major Kyd made these arrangements and then went to Calcutta to procure armament, reinforcements, and supplies, leaving the other officers to carry out the work. He applied for six 12-pounder guns, on garrison carriages, and two brass 6-pounders, and wished to have the sepoy detachment increased to two full companies, a detachment of European Artillery to be ordered in readiness, and more labourers. He advised the arming of the vessels attached to the Settlement, and wished to give them a proportion of European seamen. The commanders of these vessels were granted commissions by the Governor-General, corresponding to those issued to the commanders of country ships, since the beginning of the war.

Major Kyd's recommendations met with the entire approval of the Government, but the reinforcements were not despatched till the end of the year.

He, at this time, took an Andamanese servant with him to Calcutta, who was presumably a man of the North Andaman Group of Tribes, nd, as we know from the records that friendly relations were not

then established with the people round Port Cornwallis, the savage must have been in a state of semi-captivity.

During Major Kyd's absence Major Michael Symes touched at Port Cornwallis *en route* to Ava, where he had been sent on an embassy. His account of the Andamans is given below.

On the 14th May, 1794, the Council of the Governor-General reported that "the situation of Port Cornwallis has of late proved very unfavourable to the health of the settlers, but we entertain hopes that the place will become more salubrious in proportion as it is cleared."

In April, 1794, the Government sent five European convicts to Port Cornwallis, but the Superintendent declined to receive them, and they were returned to Bombay. The Governor-General approved of this, and directed that no Europeans should be transported.

On the 22nd November, 1794, 50 more native convicts arrived from Bengal. Fifty deaths occurred during the rains of 1795.

The following is the Minute of the Board, dated the 8th February, 1796, abolishing the Settlement at Port Cornwallis :—

"Considering the great sickness and mortality of the Settlement formed at the Andamans, which, it is feared, is likely to continue, and the great expense and embarrassment to Government in maintaining it, and in conveying to it supplies at the present period, it appears to the Governor-General in Council, both with a view to humanity and economy, prudent to withdraw it. He observes that if, at the termination of the present war, it should be thought expedient to carry on the plan with vigour, it could be renewed with very little disadvantage, no permanent or valuable buildings having yet been erected, and there being few stores of value to remove. The expediency of withdrawing the Settlement admitted, no time should be lost, so that it may be done before the change of the monsoon. The Board further observes that if it could be conceived that this temporary removal from the Andamans could invalidate our claim to those Islands, were any foreign nation in the meantime to settle there (a circumstance, however, which is highly improbable), the objection may be obviated by keeping a small vessel at Port Cornwallis, to be relieved every

six months. Resolved, therefore, that the Marine Board be instructed to take immediate measures for the removal of the convicts to Prince of Wales's Island, and for bringing back the stores and settlers to Bengal; that they be further instructed to make provision for keeping a small vessel at Port Cornwallis, to be relieved every six months."

This Minute was recorded in consequence of reports received from the Andamans; the death of Mr. Surgeon Reddich; of Lieutenant Ramsay having left for Penang on account of extreme ill-health; that the Settlement continued so unhealthy, there being no fewer than fifty deaths during the last rains; and that every one was anxious to leave, being depressed by sickness and the climate, in spite of all that could be done for them.

The Settlement at this time contained 270 convicts and 550 free men, women, and children, including the European artillery and the sepoy guard. The convicts, with the provisions and stores, were sent to Penang, the colonists with their property were brought back to Bengal, and the Settlement was finally abandoned in May, 1796.

It does not appear that any small vessel was kept at Port Cornwallis, as proposed.

Major Kyd's remarks on the climate show that it was the same then as it is now.

No surprise can be felt at this disastrous end to our first Settlement on the Andamans. Lieutenant Blair's success in the Southern Harbour had naturally led the Government to conclude that the other harbours would be equally healthy and well suited for settling in. It was unfortunate that Commodore Cornwallis, who was the brother of the Governor-General, should have been so much taken with the present Port Cornwallis (though he, of course, regarded it from a strategical point of view only), as his word carried great weight, and caused the moving of the Settlement to the Northern Harbour on the 12th November, 1792. Port Cornwallis is, perhaps, the most unhealthy spot in the whole of the Andaman Islands, and was wisely avoided by Dr. Mouat and his party when they had to decide on the best spot for establishing the present Settlement.

The following remarks by Major Kyd, on the Andamanese, have been extracted from his Reports to the Government, now only to be found in the India Office, and are here published :—

"Lieutenant Blair having brought here two natives of the Andaman Islands, I thought an attempt to convey a sketch of their persons and manners, as far as known, might not prove unacceptable, at the period of their falling to be ranged among the new acquired subjects of the East Indian Company.

"On a first view of the configuration of the elder of the two, whom Lieutenant Blair conceives to have attained the state of manhood, and may be considered not much differing from the mean standard, they probably fall to be ranged next to the Laplanders, amongst the lowest in stature of the human race, the elder being only 4 feet, 7 inches in height, the other 4 feet, 2 inches. The head, body, and limbs, appear bulky, fleshy, and unmuscular, the legs excepted, which appear thin, gummy, and disproportioned to the superstructure, exhibiting while walking, less bone, or muscular action than generally seen.

"In their features and complexion they approach the dark, oily-coloured Coffree. The pupil of the eye is remarkably round and prominent, the nose and lips not quite so depressed—Hair of the eyebrows faintly defined—The head covered with short, woolly hair. In this subject the chin is beardless, with short, depressed neck, dark black complexion, and the offensive effluvia characteristic of the Guinea Negro. (The Andamanese have not the Negro smell. —*M. V. P.*)

"But I understand there is a great diversity in their features, the European lip and aquiline nose being seen, but in all the head is covered with woolly hair, and dark complexion, indicating the possibility of their originating from different tribes of the Coffree nation; if not the probability of different dialects, a supposition in some degree accounting for the enmity observed amongst the inhabitant of different parts of the coast. From what has been collected respecting their manners, they fall to be ranked amongst the lowest yet discovered on the scale of civilisation—in a word—Man in the rudest state of nature (?).

Living in the mildest climate under the canopy of heaven they appear strangers to the wants entailed by the ruder seasons or social compacts, and to experience no other than that of food in its most primitive and crude state, and the instruments for providing it, Bow and Arrow, and Fishing-nets. Ignorant in the arts of husbandry and cultivation, they derive their subsistence from the spontaneous productions of the earth; the fishy race frequenting their shores; and the land animals of which the hog, guana, rat, lizard, and monkey, (No.—*M. V. P.*) have yet only been discovered; and from the prints of footsteps on the shores, the further probability of the existence of the porcupine only suspected. (None.—*M. V. P.*)

"The use of clothing is totally rejected by the men, something approaching the description of the fig-leaf having only been seen among a few of the women.

"On unaccustomed food being presented them they recur chiefly to the organ of smelling for decision on the adoption or rejection, generally showing an aversion to all acid fruits and aliment, such as butter-milk or seasoned food.

"It is astonishing to see the strength and exertions performed with their teeth, standing in the stead of many of the artificial instruments of mechanism recurred to by man in a civilised state. They extract nourishment from the root of a species of the Nicobar bread-fruit tree, by expression with their teeth, converting the fibrous part into a substitute for fat. (This is not known to the Andamanese with whom we are now on friendly terms, and must be a peculiarity of the Jàrawa tribe only.—*M. V. P.*)

"The taste of this root, on trial, was found to resemble the filbert, but its application to either purpose overlooked by the Bengalese. (*sic*).

"In drinking they apply their mouths to the surface of the liquid and sip at intervals.

"Fire is used in a slight preparation of their food on a kind of grid of bamboo (this grid is for keeping the cooked food on, not for cooking it.—*M. V. P.*) and in striking fish during the night.

"Their habitations are composed of rudely compacted branches of trees, scarcely coming under the description of huts.

"In the morning they rub their skins with mud, or wallow in it, like the buffalo (Never.—*M. V. P.*), to prevent the annoyance of insects, daubing their hair either with red ochre or cinnabar. (With red ochre among the Öngé Group of Tribes only. Cinnabar is not found.—*M. V. P.*)

"Those in the vicinage of Port Cornwallis (the Settlement in the South Andaman, now known as Port Blair, is here referred to —*M. V. P.*), since they have dropped their apprehensions of hostility or invasion of their shores by the settlers, have only apparently been impelled to any intercourse from the occasional pressure of hunger.

"Of our aliments, the cocoa-nut, and oily or greasy animal food, proved the most acceptable, they rejecting sugar, salt, spirits, wine, or clothes, and everything else which we conceive conducive to health or security against the inclemency of the weather—iron nails and instruments alone being coveted.

"Under all this degrading situation, if judgment may be formed from an observance of the behaviour of the present subjects (making even due allowance for the influence of the change of situation and novelty of the surrounding objects), they appear remarkably cheerful; displaying much colloquial vivacity in their discourse; widely different from the frigidity of disposition attributed to the American Indians, apparently implying a greater share of intellectual sprightliness than might be expected from a subject endowed with the obtuse and untutored organs, falling to the share of man in so rude a state.

(The Andamanese are anything but "obtuse."—*M. V. P.*)

"As far as judgment can be formed, under the apparent rapidity of their pronunciation, their dialect appears rather smooth, not guttural, although some of their words are not easily articulated.

"Dancing and singing are the only convivial amusements yet perceived amongst them, and in which the women equally participate, but bear the greatest part of the drudgery in collecting food, repairing to the reefs at the recess of the tide, collecting shell-fish, while the men are employed in striking fish with the bow and arrow.

"That they are jealous of the women has been inferred from the only loss sustained in a boat's crew after having been in habits of communication, originating, it has been suspected, in our people having attempted to debauch, if not offer violence, to some of them.

"In singing, their melodies are in the nature of recitative and chorus, not unpleasing; the last note ending in the octave above the key. (This is incorrect.—*M. V. P.*)

"In dancing, they may be said to have improved on the strange republican dance asserted by Voltaire to have been exhibited in England.

"Ou dançant à la ronde, chacun donne des coups de pieds à son voisin, et en reçoit de même."

"The Andamanese likewise dance in a round, each alternately kicking and slapping *his own breech* only, *ad libitum*.

"(This is a rather incorrect description of a species of dance in vogue among the Öngé Group of Tribes only.—*M. V. P.*)

"Further, they express contempt by exhibiting their posteriors, (this is principally among the North Andaman Group of Tribes.—*M. V. P.*), and brandishing a certain member. (Never.—*M. V. P.*)

"How far these may deserve being ushered to notice in the Western world, as more congenial to the manners of man in a state of indisputable independence, during the present ferment of liberty than the processes now in use, *à la lanterne*, amongst the over zealous votaries of the Goddess, the Governor-General in Council may determine."

"The food recurred to by them chiefly consists of shellfish, of which the oyster (No.—*M. V. P.*), mussel, clam, limpet, and periwinkle constitute the principal. Of the fishing utensils the bow and arrow is principally recurred to, with which they strike fish with great address. They also use large and small nets for catching turtle and small fish.

"Their embarkations are of the rudest kind, consisting of the trunk of a tree, partly hollowed out by fire (Never—*M. V. P.*), and instruments of stone (No.—*M. V. P.*), or rafts of bamboo.

"In the social compact, it appears that they have made no advance; a few families uniting and occupying particular parts of the

shores, amongst whom, it has been observed, hostilities and discord prevail.

"Shields (Dancing-boards, which resemble Crusaders' Shields.—*M. V. P.*) and weapons of annoyance having been also seen among them, with a mutual interdiction of communication between the respective districts; but there is no foundation yet discovered for considering them cannibals, notwithstanding they have been unequivocally handed down from the remotest antiquity under this character."

Extract.—Voyage de Gaul Schouten aux Indes Orientales, October, 1669.

"Les Isles de Nicobar dans la mer de Bengale, qui y gissent au Sud, et celles des Andamans qui y gissent au Nord, sont des lieux dont on n'a la vué qu'en passant, n'y aiant aucune espérance de profit à la visiter.

"Il est fort dangereux de s'en approcher et d'y terrir, parceque, pour peu qu'il fasse de brume ou de gros tems, on court risque de donner contre des bancs, ou d'aller se briser contre le rivage. D'ailleurs quand on a eu ce malheur, ceux qui croient s'être sauvez des gens sauvages et brutaux, qui, plus impitoiables que les ordres ne les epargnant pas.

Ils sont d'une fort grande taille, telle qu'on si figure celle des petits giants. Ce n'est pas pour les Chrétiens seuls qu'ils ont de l'inhumanite, c'est pour tous les autres hommes du monde. Tous ceux qui aiant fait naufrage sur leurs côtes se sauvant sur le rivage, y' sont aussitôt attaquez, environnez, massacrez, et mangez par ces barbares antropophages.

"L'année precedente, que les vaisseaux *Wasp* et *Brower-shaven* allerent à Bengale, ils s'approcherent trop de la plus méridionale des Isles des Andamans. Il faisoit du gros tems et de la brume, si bien que par une nuit fort obscure le *Wasp* echoüa et perit. La plus grande partie de l'equipage aiant nagé jusqu'à terre, se vit attaquée par ces grands hommes sauvages armez des fléches, d'arcs, de frondes et d'assuagies empoisonnees, qui faisent des cris éffraians. Une partie de ces malheureux Hollandois se sauva dans les bois; mis les autres furent tuez et mangez dans un festin.

"Jacques Heinse Moocker, Capitaine de Vaisseau avec qui j'avois navigué deux ans à Amboine, à Buco, à Ceram, à Galor, à Macassar, et à Aracan, fut à soixante ans un de ceux qui leur servirent de curée. Il etoit alors Capitaine du *Browershaven*, et comme il vit le naufrage de sa conserve, il s'en alla, non obstant le gros tems, jetter l'ancre de long de l'isle, et aiant fait armer sa chaloupe, il descendit à terre, et delivra courageusement le Capitaine et avec lui ceux qui vivoient encore de l'equipage du vaisseau péri, qui sortirent des broussailles, ou ils avoient cru devoir bientot expirer.

"Mais le généreux Moocker, on escarmonchant contre les sauvages, fut étendre mort d'un coup de flêche qui le parça et par un échange bien fatal pour lui, il leur demeura en proie, pendant l'autre Capitaine, qu'il avoit sauvé, aller rempli sa place."

Extract from Ritchie's Survey of the Andaman Islands, January, 1771.

"It is generally believed in this country that they are cannibals and eat one another, or at least eat those of their enemies whom they took or kill in battle. How far this is true I know not—certain it is that nothing in the human shape can have a more wild appearance either in person or manners."

(The records of this Surveyor, which would be of great interest, as he is said by Lieutenant Blair to have been on friendly terms with the Andamanese, cannot now be found.—*M. V. P.*)

"The Andaman Islands, being clearly designed in Ptolemy's map under the title of Fortunate, while the adjoining cluster of Nicobar Islands are termed in the same geographical tract "Anthropophagi" (a mistake, the Preparis Islands were "*Fortunatæ*," and the Andamans "*Anthropophagi*".—*M. V. P.*), the latter now inhabited by a class of natives, not less discriminated from the others in their external configuration, than by pacific civilised manners, living under the most patriarchal primitive contract, and as far as appears never held any intercourse with the Andamanese although often attacked by the piratical Achenese cruisers, a remark confirmed from the imperfect construction of the embarkations in use amongst both,

being unsuited to traverse the distance by which they are separated. (The Nicobar canoe is very different from, and much superior to, the Andamanese canoe.—*M. V. P.*)

"The uncommon form of the Bow used by the natives of the Andamans, from the unlikelihood of its occurring to such an uncivilised race, is the only utensil among them, together with some specimens of pottery ware, inferring that they might have obtained them from some accidental communication with the continent; and further, suggests the probability of these islands having been peopled by the shipwreck of a vessel conveying Coffree slaves from the shore of Africa, for some part of India, before the doubling of the Cape of Good Hope by the Portuguese, as handed down by general tradition here; than the supposition of their proving indigenous, however countenanced by some late relations of the coast of New Guinea being peopled by a similar race.

"Of their language so little has been collected, from the difficulty of communication, and the freedom from restraint observed towards such of them as visited the Settlement, that the imperfect vocabulary hereunto annexed (Lieutenant Colebrooke's, already given.—*M. V. P.*), if rendered to the present Crichton of the age (however accustomed to trace the affinity of any languages, and the migration of the antient races of mankind) might probably prove a most difficult task.

"If ever referred to Sir William Jones, it may not be improper to observe that this vocabulary has been compiled by a North Briton, and the Orthography corresponding with the Scotch pronunciation.

"The precipitous rocks and cavernous recesses composing part of the coast give shelter to the birds forming the edible birds' nests, an article of commerce in the China market. Mr. Blair is of opinion that the nest is formed from a kind of glutinous matter found exuding from the crevices of particular caverns where these birds during nidification are observed to resort. This gluten at a subsequent period undergoing a further decomposition by a petrifactive process.

"Whether this bird migrates has not been ascertained. The period of their incubation takes place in December and continues till May. Not more than two small, white, spotless eggs have been found in their nests; it has been further supposed that they breed monthly.

"Off these Islands, the shore in some places are strewed with coral rocks, and where not rocky are generally lined with the mangrove, prickly fern, a species of wild rattan, and other shrubs coming under the description of the *Mimosa Asperata*. The interior is covered with a thick but generally accessible forest, darkened by the intermixture of creeper and parasite plants, of which, further than the underwritten list, the different species have not been ascertained.

Nutmeg.—Two species, apparently both of the uncultivated kind described in Rumph's collections.

Plaas.—On which the Muggadooty silkworm feeds. Collected from the circumstance of the Bows of the Andamanese being made from the wood of this tree.

Cutch.—Affording the extract forming the *Terra Japonica*.

Boddam.

Mango.—(Painted.) Known here under the name of the Sunderbund, or wild Mango.

Coconut.—Very few.

Mangostien.

Rumboostien.

Ebony.

Dammar Tree.

Wood Oil Tree.

Cotton Tree.

Timber Trees.

Poon.—(Red.) Fit for masts of great size.

Soondry.

One resembling the Sattin wood.

Red Wood Tree.—Affording timber and planks of vast size.

Boddam.— Ditto. ditto.

A tree resembling the walnut in its quality.
Nicobar Bread Fruit, termed *Mellori*.
Alexandrian Laurel.
Bamboo, of a bad quality.
Poplar.

And two or three fruit trees of which two imperfect specimens or descriptions have been obtained to ascertain their nature.

"Memorandum by the Officer of Engineers who brought the *Mellori* from the Nicobar Islands, in the year 1787, to Bengal

"From the description of the Bread Fruit Tree, lately given in Lieutenant Blyth's Voyage to the South Sea Islands, it certainly differs little from the species found on the Island of Sumatra and the Malabar coast, which as an aliment is so far inferior to the *Mellori* of the Nicobars as not to bear comparison. Indeed, I know of no potato, parsnip, or any kind of farinaceous vegetable that is equal to it, and if it proves that the tree affords in abundance, and like the coconut and plantain at all times of the year, I know of no country where it would not be a present. On the Malabar Coast the Bread Fruit is propagated from the root, which I observe also is done in the Society Islands. Subsequent experience has also shown in the Company's Garden, that it may be propagated with superior facility by layers taken off by the Chinese process. The *Mellori* is easily propagated from radical suckers or slips and are now multiplying fast in the Company's Garden."

(The Bread Fruit Tree of the South Sea Islands is *Artocarpus incisa*, a very different tree from *Pandanus Mellori*, the Bread Fruit Tree of the Nicobars, which is a Screw Pine. The bread which is made from the pulp of the latter by the Nicobarese might be a surprise to the inhabitant of any civilised country, but scarcely a very welcome present.—*M. V. P.*)

"The soil of the Andamans, from the partial, if not solitary trial which has been made, is equal to raising the various productions of Bengal, conjointly with those of the more eastern parts of the Malay Peninsula.

"The interior part of the Island rises to a considerable height. The mountain termed "The Saddle" by Navigators being seen at the distance of 25 leagues at sea. (No. 20 leagues.—*M. V. P.*)

"Intersected by various ridges of mountains, but their direction or component strata unascertained, further than that some of the lower ranges bordering the coast exhibit blue schistous strata at their bases, with Breccia or Pudding-stone.

"Of the minerals little or no information has been obtained further than that some species of white clay with red ochre, if not cinnabar, are to be found.

"Of the feathered race a species of humming-bird, parrots, with one or two more have only been discriminated as differing from those common in Bengal which they equally possess.

"Of Insects.—The Honey-bee.

"Of the Reptiles.—The Green snake (held amongst the most dangerous by the native of Bengal), has been seen in the woods, the centipede of ten inches long, and the scorpion.

"Of the population of these Islands but an imperfect estimate can be formed, further than it is by no means corresponding with the extent of the soil, and from the natives falling to be ranged under the class *Ichthyophagi*. Conjecture has been strengthened, as far as the Island has been explored, that the population is principally confined to the shores, and proportionately greater or less as they afford the resources of sustenance. The whole is computed not to exceed 3,000 or 4,000.

(Most of Major Kyd's remarks are derived from Lieutenant Colebrooke, who only wrote of the Jàrawas in the South Andaman. Major Kyd applies these remarks to the Chàriár tribe of the North Andaman, and adds others from personal observation, though most of the above would appear to have been written before he established the Settlement in Port Cornwallis, North Andaman. After writing it he took two Andamanese with him to Calcutta, and appeared to have established slightly friendly relations with some of the Chàriárs, but no further record of his doings is to be found.—*M. V. P.*)

In the *Calcutta Monthly Register*, or *India Respository* for November, 1790, pp. 15—17, are, among others, the following remarks:—

The writer gives details about the appearance of the Andaman Islands which agree with the facts at present known, and also enlarges on their healthiness. He mentions the Andamanese as a strong, robust set of Coffrees, much resembling in appearance and mode of living what Cooke describes to us of the inhabitants of the South-West part of New Zealand. He notes that they never use hooks and lines for catching fish, and from this argues a want of intelligence in the people.

He considers fish their staple diet, and adds that when that fails them they roam in the woods in the quest of wild hogs and rats, which are by no means plenty, and only a *dernier ressort*, when the people are much pressed by hunger. They are supposed to be the descendants of slaves wrecked on the coast of the Andamans, from Portuguese ships, when the Portuguese had a Settlement at Pegu; and they are very shy and hostile.

I have not been able to ascertain the name of the writer of the above, but it is evidently a "reporter's account," gathered from some person who had visited the Southern Settlement at that time. I am not aware that Captain Cooke describes any of the inhabitants of New Zealand as Negritos, but the suggestion, probably made in all good faith and ignorance then, is of interest now, when we have reason to think that the race who inhabited New Zealand before the advent of the Maories were Negritos allied to the Tasmanians and Andamanese.

It will be seen that the fact of the Andamanese not using hooks and lines to catch fish had at last been noted, but the writer was wrong in supposing that the wild pigs were not a staple food of the Andamanese. The idea of the aborigines being descendants of ship-wrecked slaves seems to have been a favourite one in the last century.

The following account of the Andamans was written by Major Michael Symes, who was only in Port Cornwallis for a few days in 1794, when on his way to Burma, and who must have derived his

information from the resident officials of the Settlement. They had only been moved to Port Cornwallis a short time before and knew little of the aborigines there. The description of them is taken from their knowledge of the Jàrawa tribes, which was acquired in the Southern Harbour.

Major Michael Symes, "Embassy to Ava." Chapter I.

"At eleven o'clock on the 5th of March, we hauled our wind and stood into Port Cornwallis, on the East coast of the North Andaman Island, and at one, our ship came to an anchor, a quarter of a mile from the shore. On landing we were received by Captains Ramsay and Stokoe, (Colonel Kyd, the Governor, being absent), with the kindest hospitality, which was equally extended to the captain and officers of the ship, and continued to every individual belonging to the mission, during the time that we remained their guests.

"The Settlement in Port Cornwallis is not situated on the principal island, but on a smaller one within the harbour, named by the English, Chatham Island; the utmost length of which does not exceed two miles, and the breadth little more than half a mile: the southern extremity terminates in a narrow neck of land, fordable at low water to the main.

"The Andaman Islands are a continuation of the Archipelago that extends from Cape Negrais to Atchein Head, stretching from 10° 32′ to 13° 40′ north latitude, and from 90° 6′ to 92° 59′ east longitude. What has been considered as the Great Andaman, is the most northern, about one hundred and forty miles in length, and not exceeding twenty broad. A separation, or strait, however, has lately, owing to a fatal accident,* been discovered in this island, which, in fact

* In the month of February, 1792, a vessel was freighted from Madras to carry stores to His Majesty's fleet at Andaman; the master being unacquainted with the harbour, sent a small boat in the afternoon to explore an opening in the land, that appeared like the entrance; the boat stood in, it fell dark, and she was swept, by a rapid current, through a channel that divided the main island and opened into the Bay of Bengal. The north-east monsoon prevailed with great violence: unable to work against stream and wind, the boat was borne to leeward, and driven irresistibly into the Indian Ocean. Eighteen day afterwards she was picked up by a French ship near the equinoctial line. The crew consisted of two Europeans and six lascars; and, shocking to relate, when relieved by the French ship, three of the lascars had been killed and eaten by their companions.

divides it into two, and opens a clear passage into the Bay of Bengal. The first settlement of the English was made in the year 1791, near the southern extremity of the island, in a bay on the east side; but it was afterwards removed in 1793, by advice of Admiral Cornwallis, to the place where it is now established. The original object of the undertaking was to procure a commodious harbour on the east side of the Bay, to receive and shelter His Majesty's ships-of-war, during the continuance of the north-east monsoon; it was also used as a place of reception for convicts, sentenced for transportation from Bengal.

"No writer of antiquity has transmitted a distinct account of the Andamans; they were included by Ptolemy, together with the Nicobars and lesser islands, in the general appellation of *Insulæ bonæ Fortunæ*, and supposed by him to be inhabited by a race of Anthropophagi.* The mild inoffensive Nicobarians have long since been acquitted of the horrid imputation; but the different form, disposition, and habits of the few wretched savages who wander on the shores of the Andamans, may have given ground for a supposition that human flesh has been eaten by them; if so, it probably arose more from the impulse of excessive hunger, than from voluntary choice; a conclusion that well authenticated instances of the distress they at times endure appear to authorize.

"In the evening we walked round the grounds that had been cleared, making a circuit of little more than a quarter of a mile, partly along the beach, and partly by a path leading through heaps of brushwood, and the trunks of huge trees that had been recently felled. A small garden, diligently tilled, produced but a scanty crop of Indian vegetables. A shallow soil, impregnated with leaves and decayed brushwood, washed down by the mountain streams, proved at first unfavourable to cultivation; the pains, however,

* Eusebius Renaudot, in his translation of the account given by two Mahomedan travellers, who journeyed eastward, in the ninth century, says: "beyond these two islands (probably the Nicobars) lies the sea of Andaman. The people on this coast eat human flesh quite raw; their complexion is black, their hair frizzled, their countenance and eyes frightful, their feet are very large, almost a cubit, and they go quite naked."

which had been bestowed, seemed likely in the end to overcome this discouragement. The situation of the Settlement on the side of a hill rising abruptly from the verge of the sea, although calculated to avoid the unwholesome effects of stagnant waters, was yet at times attended with great inconvenience, owing to the impetuosity of the torrents.

"Notwithstanding the colony had been established on its present site little more than sixteen months, the habitations of the commandant and officers, and the huts of the inferior classes, were rendered extremely comfortable. The first constructed of stone and planks, the latter of mats and clay, thatched with leaves of the rattan, or covered with boards. The surgeon had a separate dwelling assigned to him, and there was likewise a commodious mess-room. The number of inhabitants altogether was about 700, including a company of sepoys as a guard over the convicts, and a defence to the Settlement.

"A situation more picturesque, or a view more romantic, than that which Chatham Island and Cornwallis Harbour present, can scarcely be imagined: land-locked on all sides, nothing is to be seen but an extensive sheet of water, resembling a vast lake, interspersed with small islands, and environed by lofty mountains clothed with impenetrable forests. The scenery of nature, in this sequestered spot, is uncommonly striking and grand.

"All that voyagers have related of uncivilised life seems to fall short of the barbarism of the people of Andaman. The ferocious natives of New Zealand, or the shivering, half-animated savages of Terra del Fuego, are in a relative state of refinement compared to these islanders.*

"The population of the Great Andaman, and all its dependencies, does not, according to Captain Stokoe, exceed 2,000 or 2,500 souls;

* Mr. Marsden, in his excellent History of the island of Sumatra, is of opinion, that the inhabitants of the Batta country, in the northern part of that island, eat human flesh; and the authorities on which he grounds his belief seem to authenticate the fact; it does not, however, appear, that human flesh was substituted by them in place of ordinary food, but eaten rather as a barbarous ceremony, to indicate revenge on their enemies, or abhorrence of crimes, the only victims being prisoners taken in war, or capital convicts.

these are dispersed in small societies along the coasts, or on the lesser islands within the harbour, never penetrating deeper than the skirts of the forests, which hold out little inducement for them to enter, as they contain no animals to supply them with food. Their sole occupation seems to be that of climbing rocks, or roving along the margin of the sea in quest of a precarious meal of fish, which during the tempestuous season they often seek for in vain.

"The Andamaners are not more favoured in the conformation of their bodies than in the endowments of their mind. In stature they seldom exceed five feet; their limbs are disproportionately slender, their bellies protuberant, with high shoulders and large heads; and, strange to find in this part of the world, they are a degenerate race of Negroes with woolly hair,* flat noses, and thick lips; their eyes are small and red, their skin of deep sooty black, whilst their countenances exhibit the extreme of wretchedness: a horrid mixture of famine and ferocity. They go quite naked, and are insensible of any shame from exposure.

"Two young women, allured by temptation of fish, were secured and brought on board a ship at anchor in the harbour: the captain treated them with great humanity; they soon got rid of all fear of violence, except what might be offered to their chastity, which they guarded with unremitting vigilance: although they had a small apartment allotted to themselves, and had no real cause for apprehen-

* It is a matter of much curiosity to discover the origin of a race of people so widely differing not only from all the inhabitants of that vast continent in the bosom of which the Island of Andaman is embayed, but also from the natives of the Nicobar Islands, which are immediately contiguous to it. Hitherto the inquiries of travellers seem to have produced no satisfactory conclusion: some have supposed that a Portuguese ship, early in the 16th century, laden with slaves from Mosambique, had been cast on these shores, and that the present Andamaners are the descendants of such as escaped drowning. This conjecture is proved to be grossly erroneous, from the account given by the two Mahommedan travellers, long anterior to the navigation of those seas by Europeans. The Arabians, however, who sailed on the Indian Ocean so early as the 7th century, and who not only explored the continent of India as far as the Chinese sea, but likewise gained a knowledge of most of the eastern islands, might, by an accident similar to that which has been ascribed to the Portuguese vessel, have peopled Andaman with its present Negro race. It deserves remark, that on the continent of India *extra Gangem*, figures of Boodh, or Budhoo, the Gaudma of the Birmans and Siamese, are often seen with the characteristic hair and features of the Negro.

sion, one always watched while the other slept; they suffered clothes to be put on, but took them off again as soon as opportunity offered, and threw them away as useless incumbrances. When their fears were over they became cheerful, chattered with freedom, and were inexpressibly diverted at the sight of their own persons in a mirror; they were fond of singing, sometimes in a melancholy recitative, at others in a lively key; and often danced about the deck with great agility, slapping their posteriors with the back of their heel. Wine and spirituous liquors were disagreeable to them; no food seemed so palatable as fish, rice, and sugar. In a few weeks, having recovered strength and become fat, from the more than half-famished state in which they were brought on board, they began to think confinement irksome, and longed to regain their native freedom.

"In the middle of the night, when all but the watchman were asleep, they passed in silence through the captain's cabin, jumped out of the stern windows into the sea, and swam to an island half a mile distant, where it was vain to pursue them, had there been any such intention; but the object was to retain them by kindness, not by compulsion, an attempt that has failed on every trial. Hunger may (and these instances are rare) induce them to put themselves in the power of strangers, but the moment that want is satisfied, nothing short of coercion can prevent them from returning to a way of life more congenial to their savage nature. The few implements they use are of the rudest texture; a bow from four to five feet long, the string made of the fibre of a tree, or a slip of bamboo, with arrows of reed, headed with fish-bone, or wood hardened in the fire, is their principal weapon. Besides this, they carry a spear of heavy wood, sharply pointed, and a shield made of bark, to defend themselves from the assaults of their enemies; for even these poor wretches have rights to assert and dignities to maintain; necessity has taught them an expert management of their arms, on which they rely for subsistence: happily for them, their numerous bays and creeks abound with fish, which they shoot and spear with surprising dexterity. They are said also to use a small hand net, made of the filaments of bark; to fish when caught

is put into a wicker basket, which they carry on their backs. Having kindled a fire they throw the food on the coals, and devour it half broiled. A few diminutive swine are to be found in the skirts of the forests, and among the mangrove thickets in the low grounds; but these are very scarce, and are probably the progeny of a stock left by former navigators. When a native has the good fortune to slay one, he carefully preserves the skull and teeth to ornament his hut. They cross the bays, and go to fish either in canoes formed of a hollow tree, or on rafts of bamboo, which they direct by paddles. Their habitations display little more ingenuity than the dens of wild beasts; four sticks stuck in the ground, are bound together at the top, and fastened transversely by others, to which branches of trees are suspended; an opening is left on one side, just large enough to admit of entrance: leaves compose their bed. Being much incommoded by insects, their first occupation in a morning is to plaister their bodies all over with mud, which, hardening in the sun, forms an impenetrable armour; they paint their woolly heads with red ochre and water: when thus completely dressed, a more hideous appearance is not to be found in human form.

"Their religion is the simple, but genuine homage of nature, to the incomprehensible ruler of the universe, expressed in adoration to the sun, as the primary and most obvious source of good; to the moon as the secondary power; and to the genii of the woods, the waters, and the mountains, as inferior agents. In the spirit of the storms they confess the influence of a malignant being; and, during the south-west monsoon, when tempests prevail with unusual violence, they deprecate his wrath by wild choruses, which they chant in small congregations assembled on the beach, or on some rock that overhangs the ocean.

"Of a future state it is not known that they have any idea, which possibly arises from our imperfect means of discovering their opinions; it affords, however, satisfactory reflection to find, among the most ignorant and barbarous of mankind, a confirmation of the great and pleasing truth that all reasoning existenc[illegible] cknowledges a God. The half-humanized Andamaner invokes the luminaries that

lend him light; and in that simple and spontaneous praise, he offers up the purest devotion of an unenlightened mind.

"Although the principal food of the Andamaners consists of fish, yet they eagerly seize on whatever else presents itself; lizards, guanas, rats, and snakes supply a change of repast. Birds are not numerous, and seldom come within reach; doves, parroquets, and the Indian crow, are the most common: hawks are sometimes seen hovering over the tops of the trees; but they are only temporary visitors from the neighbouring continent: a few aquatic birds frequent the shores; amongst these are the kingfisher, a sort of curlew, and the small sea-gull. Within the caverns and recesses of the rocks is found the salangane, or *Hirundo Nidis Edulibus*, described by Monsieur Poivre: this bird, whose nest produces a high price in China, is perfectly black, and resembles a small martin; its nest is thickly glazed with a mucilaginous substance, which the bird collects from the sea blubber, and is said to swallow, and afterwards emit from the stomach; it is prized by the Chinese for its supposed medicinal and restorative qualities.

"The vegetable diet of the Andamaners consists of the natural produce of the woods, in which the researches of Europeans find little that is palatable or nutritious; the fruit of the mangrove is principally used, having often been found in their deserted habitations steeping in an embanked puddle of water. As they have no pot* or vessel that can bear the action of fire, they cannot derive much advantage from such esculent herbs as the forests may contain; indeed, their extenuated and diseased figures too plainly indicate the want of wholesome nourishment; unhappily for them, the cocoanut, which thrives in the utmost luxuriance in the neighbouring isles, is not to be found here; they are extremely fond of it; whenever a nut was left in their way by the settlers, it was immediately carried off with much apparent satisfaction. Captain Stokoe, who constantly resided on the island, disappointed in his attempts to establish a social inter-

* The fragment[illegible]earthern vessels, mentioned by Mr. Colebrooke, were probably brought from the Nicobars, or from the continent, by the boats that often visit the Andamans for the purpose of taking the nests before mentioned.

course, endeavoured to alleviate their wants by sending, as often as circumstances would admit, small supplies of victuals to their huts, which were always abandoned on the approach of his people, but resorted to again when they had withdrawn. A party of fishers belonging to the Settlement enticed a woman by the allurement of food, to come so close that she was made a prisoner; instead of relieving her hunger, they proceeded to offer violence; the cries of the poor creature brought a numerous troop of savage friends to her assistance, who rushing out of the thickets, attacked and killed two of the yet more savage aggressors. Their bodies were afterwards found disfigured in a shocking manner.

"A coasting party one day discovered a man and a boy stretched on the beach, apparently in the last stage of famine; they were conveyed to the Settlement: unfortunately, every effort of humanity failed to save the man, but the boy recovered, and is now in the service of Colonel Kyd, at Calcutta, where he is much noticed for the striking singularity of his appearance.

"The language of the Andamaners has not been discovered to possess the slightest affinity to any that is spoken in India, either continental or islandic. Captain Stokoe informed me, that what he heard was not at all harsh or disagreeable to the ear; their songs are wildly melodious, and their gesticulation, whilst singing, is extremely impassioned. This is one among the many evidences to prove that poetry is coeval with the language of man.

"The only quadrupeds seen on the island are hogs, rats, and the ichneumon; the guana also, of the lizard tribe, may be reckoned in this class; these prove very destructive to poultry: there are several species of snakes and scorpions. Labourers, whilst clearing away the underwood, were frequently bitten; but in no instance did the bite prove mortal, although the patients commonly fell into violent convulsions; eau-de-luce and opium were the remedies in most cases administered.

"During the prevalence of the North-East monsoon, fish is caught in great abundance, but in the tempestuous season it is difficult to be procured; grey mullet, rock cod, skate, and soles are among the best; oysters have been found, but in no great quantity. The shores

abound in a variety of beautiful shells, *gorgonias*, *madreporas*, *murex*, and *cowries*, with many other kinds, of which Captain Stokoe had made a curious and valuable collection.

"There are several sorts of trees on the island; the *Ficus Religiosa* or banyan tree, the almond tree, the oil tree, that grows to a great height, from which a very useful oil is thus produced. A horizontal incision being made in the trunk, six or eight inches deep, a chip fourteen or fifteen inches long, is cut at right angles, and the surface of the incision being hollowed and filled with live coals, the turpentine, or wood oil, exudes copiously from the top of the wound.

"The penaigre tree is also found, and is well adapted for the knees of ships; and the iron tree of stupendous size, whose timber almost bids defiance to the axe of the wood-cutter; the red-wood which makes beautiful furniture, little inferior to fine mahogany. Besides these, there are numberless creepers and rattans which surround the stems of the larger trees, and, interwoven with each other form so thick a hedge that it is impossible to penetrate far into the forests, unless by the slow and laborious process of cutting a road.

"The first settlers in an uninhabited land have not only to contend against natural obstacles, and the want of several necessary comforts of life, but must likewise encounter the effects of an unwholesome atmosphere; no country thoroughly agrees with the human constitution until it is cleared and cultivated. The new colonists, notwithstanding every possible attention was paid to the preservation of their health, became sickly; they were afflicted, during the four dry months, December, January, February, and March, with scurvy. This complaint, however, was owing to a change of food and a want of vegetable diet: as soon as the rains commenced, it mitigated and quickly disappeared, but it gave way to a dreadful successor, the intermittent fever and ague, which baffled all power of medicine. An induration and enlargement of the spleen, a disease well known in India by the name of *Boss*, was generally its concomitant. The cause of these fevers being local, could not be remedied. Situated in the full sweep of the south-west monsoon, and the clouds being obstructed by high mountains, the island is, for eight months in the

year, washed by incessant torrents. According to a meteorological table kept by Captain Stokoe, there appears to have fallen in seven months, 98 inches of water, a quantity far exceeding what I had ever heard of in any other country."*

(The notes, as well as the text in the above account, are by Major Symes.)

Remarks.—Major Symes is wrong in his dates; the Settlement in the Southern Harbour was established in 1789, and removed to the Northern Harbour in 1792.

It would appear that the idea of making the Settlement a Penal Colony was first entertained when it was moved to the Northern Harbour.

As I have shown above, Ptolemy is not responsible for the *Insulæ Bonæ Fortunæ*.

I am unable to understand how the idea of the Andamanese being frequently in a state of distress from hunger arose. It is certainly unfounded.

The true character of the Nicobarese, who, however, claim to have been educated in evil by the Malays, was fully disclosed in the succeeding century, when they were found to be anything but "mild and inoffensive."

There are some remnants of buildings on the mainland on the south side of the harbour, south of Chatham Island, which appear to mark the spot where Major Symes landed, as he speaks of a Settlement on the side of a hill rising abruptly from the verge of the sea, which corresponds to this place, but not to the remains on the north end of Chatham Island.

It is evident that our settlers had no knowledge of the Éremtága tribes, and it is remarkable that people living for months in the islands should have the idea that the jungle contained no animals to supply the aborigines with food.

[An extract of Lieutenant Colebrooke's vocabulary is attached in the original as a specimen of the language of the islands, which, referring as it does to the Járawa tribe of the South Andaman principally, must have been very useful in the North Andaman.—M. V. Portman.]

Major Symes was much at fault in his description of these savages.

They are not a degenerate race of any kind, and are wanting in Negro characteristics. Their eyes are neither especially small, nor red, and the reason why they are supposed to have been in constant state of famine, I, as I have said, cannot understand.

The dance described resembles that of the Öngé Group of Tribes, but I have seen something a little like it in the North Andaman. Major Symes does not say in which harbour the young women were caught.

The "spear made of heavy wood," and "the shield made of bark," are absolutely unknown to the Andamanese. The mention of the rafts of bamboo shows that some of the information was about the Southern Harbour tribes, and the account of the mode of painting confirms this; probably little had been seen of the North Andamanese. The first settlers would appear to have been too busy for anthropological research. The paragraph on the religion of the Andamanese, is, as might be expected, almost entirely incorrect. To investigate this subject required a more intimate knowledge of the Andamanese language than any one at that time possessed, and the Andamanese do not readily discuss it with any stranger.

Snakes are not eaten, except by the Éremtága tribe of the North Andaman, of whom I have shown the settlers had no knowledge; possibly lampreys are meant. Hawks are permanent residents in the Andamans, not "temporary visitors from the neighbouring continent."

The edible-birds' nest building swift is black and white, and not "perfectly black;" and the marketable variety of nest is made entirely from, not merely "glazed with," mucilage.

Major Symes should not have attempted to correct Lieutenant Colebrooke, who was perfectly right in saying that the Andamanese had pottery of their own.

This narrative shows that the boy whom Major Kyd took to Calcutta was a North Andamanese; the state of famine in which he was found was probably merely a resultant from disease, and it is

possible that some epidemic had been introduced by the settlers among the aborigines. He would probably have been better described as weakened and exhausted by sickness, as the Andamanese, when seriously ill, waste away to mere skeletons.

As regards Captain Stokoe's opinion of the music of the Andamanese, I can only say that tastes differ.

By the "ichneumon" Major Symes may have meant the *Paradoxurus*.

One last word as regards the cannibalism. Andamanese murderers will drink the blood, and eat, with their pork, the breast flesh of their victims, but these people are regarded by the other Andamanese as more or less insane. All the tribes of the Great Andaman have the custom in a greater or less degree of burning the dead bodies of their enemies, and the neighbouring Ár-*yāūto* tribes accuse the hostile Éremtágas of the North Andaman of eating human flesh, though I have never found a person who was an eye-witness of their having done so. The Andamanese look on the practice with horror, but it is evident that they know of it from their accusing people they dislike of doing it. Such facts, however, do not justify a sweeping charge of cannibalism against the whole race.

CHAPTER V.

Andamanese taken to Penang in a Junk after a fight—Mr. J B. Rodyk's accounts Rendezvous of the British Fleet in Port Cornwallis in 1824—Mr. J. E. Alexander's visit to the Little Andaman—Mr. Piddington's visit to Landfall Island—Malcolm's account—Dr. Helfer's murder by the Andamanese—Account of the wrecks of the British ships *Briton* and *Runnymede* on the Archipelago Islands of the Andamans—Mr. Quigley's account—Settlement on the Coco Islands—Wreck of the *Emily*—Wreck of the *Flying Fish*.

After the closing of the Settlement in Port Cornwallis in 1796, the Andamans seem to have been left alone for some years. Doubtless wrecks occurred on the coasts, but we have no record of them, and the Malays seem to have resumed their slave-trading there, which they only abandoned after the present Settlement was opened.

About 1819 a Junk manned by a mixed crew of Chinese and Burmese went to the Andamans to collect trepang. While they were lying about two miles from the shore, engaged in the collection, eight or ten Andamanese swam off towards them. When close by, the savages fired several flights of arrows, wounding four of the Chinese who were not expecting an attack. The Burmese, however, pursued the Andamanese, who swam away, and with some difficulty, owing to the habit of the Andamanese of avoiding pursuit by swimming under the water for considerable distances, and coming to the surface in a different direction from the one where they might be expected to appear, caught two of them, who were taken to Penang.

These captives were an elderly man and a boy, and a curious detail noticed about the former was, that while on board ship the boy shaved his head with a piece of a broken plate. The man died of cholera while on his way to Calcutta, but the boy lived for some time in Penang in the service of Captain Anderson of the Bengal Army, and his son, Mr. Anderson, of the Penang Civil Service. He was tractable and docile, acquired a good colloquial knowledge of Malay and Urdu, and might have done well but that he took to drink and died of delirium tremens.