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‘The Malay Archipelago.’

The Malay Archipelago.—The Land of the Orang-Outang and the Bird of Paradise. A Narrative of Travel, with Studies of Man and Nature. By Alfred Russel Wallace, author of “Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro,” “Palm Trees of the Amazon,” etc. Small octavo, cloth, 638 pages. Profusely illustrated by Plates, Maps, and Diagrams. Price \$3.50. New York: Harper & Brothers.

A most valuable contribution to our scientific literature. The author writes, not from hearsay, nor from books of travel or encyclopedias, but from personal observation. He gives the reader exact knowledge—not imagination or romance, save where he indorses the Darwin theory. He describes the country, climate, soil, productions, animals, birds, insects, and man. The manners and customs of the Malay race are described in vivid pictures. Impelled by his love of natural history, he spent eight years in the Eastern Archipelago, that lies between the southeastern extremity of continental Asia and Australia, comprising several groups of large and small islands, among which are Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Celebes, the Moluccas, New Guinea, Sumbawa, etc. The first chapter of the work is devoted to a description of the physical geography of these groups, and the last to a general sketch of the races of man in the Archipelago and the surrounding countries. The intervening chapters relate more particularly to the objects which led the author to make the journey. In the collection of specimens of natural history he was very successful, and he sent home of such, including reptiles, birds, shells, and insects, about 125,000. Mr. Wallace claims to be the first Englishman who has seen the famous bird of paradise in its native forest, and he was so fortunate as to obtain some specimens of them, which he brought with him to Europe. It is hardly necessary to say that the book is one that will be read with intense interest. It contains a vast amount of information respecting regions of the earth of which comparatively little is known, and which are thickly populated by peoples as diverse in their customs, religions, and modes of living as is possible to conceive.

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The Alfred Russel Wallace Page, Charles H. Smith, 2015.