

it is comparable even with the primary divisions of the globe, and that some of its separate islands are larger than great European empires. This cluster of islands extends for more than four thousand miles in length from east to west, and is about thirteen hundred in breadth from north to south. It would stretch over an expanse equal to all Europe from the extreme west far into Central Asia. It includes three islands, each larger than Great Britain, and in one of them, Borneo, "the whole of the British isles might be set down, and would be surrounded by a sea of forests." New Guinea is still larger. Placed immediately upon the equator, and surrounded by extensive oceans, these islands are charmingly beautiful, clothed with a forest vegetation from the level of the sea to the summits of their loftiest mountains. Nature is profuse in her productions, both in the vegetable and animal kingdoms, and the natives are, therefore, in general, soft, easy, and contented, incapable of mental effort, never even disturbed by mental anxiety, having no conception even of coming want, nature having supplied them with an unsparing and unfailling hand. But some of the wild tribes of Borneo, Sumatra, and the Celebes supply plenty of the strange and terrible. It is a region, too, of terrific grandeur, parts of it being perpetually illuminated by discharging volcanoes, and all of it frequently shaken with earthquakes. Scores of villages have sometimes been overwhelmed in a single eruption, and whole mountains have been blown up by repeated explosions. The forests and the ever-verdant plains abound with noble beasts, gorgeous birds, and curious insects. "Only man is vile." In some of the islands he is perfectly despicable in his indolence, and in others terrible in his savagery. The volume is copiously illustrated, and several maps accompany the text. The first chapter is devoted to the physical geography of the whole region, and contains some novel and very interesting conjectures with regard to the origin of these islands. The last chapter is a general sketch of the races of man in the Archipelago and the surrounding countries.

THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO: *A Narrative of Travel, with Studies of Man and Nature.* By Alfred Russel Wallace, Author of "Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro," etc. 8vo. Pp. 638. \$3.50. New York: Harper & Brothers. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co.

This is a highly valuable and intensely interesting contribution to our knowledge of a part of the world but little known in Europe or America. But few of our tourists ever visit it, and scarcely any have ever gone to explore it. Mr. Wallace is not an amateur traveler, making a hasty visit, to return and write a hasty and almost useless book. He is an enthusiastic naturalist, a geographer, and geologist, a student of man and nature. His journeys occupied eight years, covering about fourteen thousand miles in the Archipelago, and several years have been occupied since his return in preparing his materials for publication. The result is a volume that will make large contributions to geography, natural history, and other branches of science, as well as awaken a still deeper interest in the agitated questions of the origin and distribution of the different races of men on the globe.

But few have any idea of the vast extent of habitable land embraced in these groups of islands; that