

arms, and the calves of their legs, seemed to be dried up; their shoulder-blades are prominent, and their ribs conspicuous. This habit of body is, undoubtedly, owing to their diet, which consists almost entirely of rice; they abstain altogether from the use of meat, and indulge but sparingly in that of fish. They are very scrupulous about the preparation of their food, bringing with them their own vessel to cook their rice, and refusing to use those which our people had cooked in. They are easily to be known by a small blue line of tattooing down the forehead, or a spot made with earth. What idea is connected with this custom I did not exactly learn, but I understood that it was always their custom thus to protect themselves when working for persons of an opposite faith. They were found to be steady and good workmen, and received fifty cents a day for their labour.

The Malays seem to bear the palm for idleness among the common people, and are rarely found engaged in any steady employment, preferring those that are either light or of a roving character. They engross the occupation of the drivers of palanquins, are strong and active, and will run a great length of time and distance, in a hot and oppressive day, seemingly without inconvenience. Those of the latter sort who are more wealthy, indulge in many luxuries, particularly in dress. They usually wear mustaches, which are always neatly kept, and occupy no small portion of their attention and time; and, contrasted with the white turban, with its band of scarlet and gold, has a particularly pleasing effect, with their swarthy skins. On holidays they are to be met with in their snow-white raiment, thrown over a richly-embroidered coloured vest, fitting tight to the body, with loose trousers, tied just to meet their embroidered slippers at the ankle.

The Malay population dwell chiefly in the suburbs, or what are termed the Malay villages. Their houses are built somewhat after the fashion heretofore described, on posts, as practised by this race in other places; but there are many who conform to the European mode. Nearly all of them are cultivators, and almost every house has a small shelf appended to its window, on which unhulled rice (known here as paddy) is exposed for sale. Besides this, many have dried fish, vegetables, and, in these days of rejoicing, Chinese fire-crackers. The villages through which we drove had a joyous look, and the population was apparently occupied in amusing themselves during the holidays. Some were engaged at foot-ball, and many of the boys and men were playing "hobscob."

The most distinguished men as to looks are the Armenians, who are among the principal merchants of the place. Although few in number, yet they have much influence from their wealth; they are an exceed-