

it, resort there in their passages to and from Bengal, and many of them are owned or under the agency of the merchants of this place. It is not a little remarkable that even those who are engaged in the trade, condemn its immoral and hurtful results, while others at a distance offer many reasons in its defence. I must say that it appears to me truly strange that with the scenes that daily offer themselves in Singapore, before the eyes and under the cognizance of the governor and officers of the place, some steps should not be taken to put a stop to the practice altogether, instead of making it a source of revenue.

This government seems to be actuated by totally opposite principles from all others that attempt colonization; for while it has been considered necessary in other places to introduce females in some proportion to males, for the purpose of softening the manners and the savage propensities of our sex, they have been here interdicted almost altogether. I made many inquiries respecting the reasons that had induced so extraordinary a course, but all appeared to be equally ignorant with myself.

The population, from the most authentic returns, is in all about sixty thousand souls: of these forty-five thousand are Chinese, eight thousand Malays, seven thousand natives of India, and about one hundred and fifty foreigners; and only *one-tenth* of the whole are females.

A short description of the Malayan peninsula will be a proper sequel to the account of the island of Singapore. What is usually included under this name extends as far as latitude 7° N. It is nearly five hundred miles in length, by about one hundred and fifty miles in width, and comprises about fifty thousand square miles. It is mountainous and hilly, and destitute both of extensive valleys and plains.

A range of mountains traverses its whole length, rising gradually towards the north, to the height of about six thousand feet. Its geological formation, from the best reports, is exclusively granite; which towards the south has been found to contain many minerals, and the ores of gold and tin in particular. In the latter metal, it is supposed to be the richest of any country in the world. In other respects it cannot be called a favoured region, and in comparison with the surrounding countries is barren. The greater portion of it is still occupied by the primeval forest, which is frequented only by beasts of prey.

The Malayan peninsula, and the surrounding islands, are now far less populous than they formerly were. Intestine wars among the