

The ceremonies after death are not less curious: washing and shrouding of the corpse always takes place, and it is clad in the best clothing of the deceased. On the third, seventh, fourteenth, fortieth, and hundredth days, oblations of spices, aloe-wood, and flowers, are offered.

The Mussulmans of India, in digging graves, never exceed the depth of the navel for a man, while those for a female are always breast-deep. Near the bottom is dug a side niche, into which the body is put. The niche is then closed with boards placed on their edges, after which the grave is filled with earth. The first portion put in is thrown on loose branches, that are laid over the grave in order to sift it and allow it to fall more lightly. Their graves are marked with two small wooden pillars, with the earth heaped up between them; the largest of these denotes the position of the head.

On the Malayan peninsula they have various feasts and festivals, that partake more of the customs of the Arabs than of the islands of India. On these occasions sacrifices of buffaloes take place, a practice which is thought to be peculiar to this part of the East. The buffalo selected for this purpose must be without blemish or disease. The animal about to be sacrificed is taken to the mosque, where it is thrown down, its fore and hind legs tied, and the head secured; water is poured over it, and the offering made. The priest, after saying prayers, cuts the throat; the carcass is then flayed and divided into two equal parts. One-half is given to the inhabitants, and is generally cooked and eaten on the spot; the other is divided among the higher orders. The leg-bones are never suffered to be broken, even after death; neither is the spine, nor are the horns of animals sacrificed suffered to be used for common purposes, such as handles of knives, &c.

Among the animals that are found in the Malayan peninsula, are the elephant, rhinoceros, a variety of tigers, leopards, bears, monkeys, alligators, guanias, and sometimes the tapir: there are one or two species of deer, which are exceedingly small in size, and of delicate proportions. Of birds, there are a vast variety, including the argus-pheasant, horn-bill, peacock, large vampire-bat, humming-bird, and snipe. Snakes abound, many of which are venomous.

The neighbouring seas afford a great variety of shells and corals; among the latter I may mention the cup of Neptune (*Alcyonium*), which grows to a very large size, and is not found elsewhere. Our collections, by the industry of the naturalists and officers, were much increased here.

The small island of Singapore is destined in all probability to govern at some future period the whole of this country, and will, in course of time, be one of the points from which they are destined to receive the arts and civilization of Europe. It strikes me, therefore,