

anything we had hitherto seen. These natives are apparently a very mixed race, and probably three-fourths are made up of Malay, Papuan, Arab, Portuguese, and Dutch. The first two form the larger portion of the inhabitants, but the dark skins and the more or less frizzly hair of the Papuans appear to predominate.

During our stay here the Governor (or Resident, as he is styled) made up a party to visit the nutmeg plantations on Great Banda. Our steam-pinnace was in requisition, and a most enjoyable trip it was, for, on reaching the landing, horses were provided to take the party the remaining eight miles to the gardens. And what a treat presented itself, for there are few cultivated plants more beautiful than nutmeg-trees. They are handsomely shaped, growing to a height of 20 or 30 feet, with bright glossy leaves, and bearing small yellowish flowers. The trees were now in full bloom, and in a few weeks the fruit would be ready for picking. It grows in size and colour somewhat like a peach, but rather oval; it is of a tough, fleshy consistence, and as it ripens splits open, showing the dark-brown nut within, surrounded with the crimson mace, forming a very beautiful object. The nutmeg trade was for a number of years a strict monopoly; recently the monopoly has been given up. The indignation at one time expressed against the Dutch for destroying all the nutmeg and clove trees on the many islands then covered with those valuable