

At present a great part of the labour is imported from Java, by contract between the labourer and the owner of an estate; the man agrees to work for a term of years, the wages being, after £15 passage money has been paid, from £10 to £20 per annum. As many women are encouraged to follow the men as possible; but it is difficult to induce the better class of men to emigrate. Here as elsewhere the native does not appreciate hard manual labour, whilst the European sits in his verandah, smoking, with plenty of cooling drinks at hand. The management of these imported labourers is a matter of no small difficulty; the only punishment allowed by the Government is imprisonment, and consequent loss of the man's services; and a blow given by a European is also punished with imprisonment, a fine for such an offence being disallowed. This naturally most effectually prevents ill treatment, but does not commend itself to the planter's notion of justice.

Almost the whole of the low ground and many of the slopes of the Banda group are planted with nutmegs grown under the shade of lofty Canary trees (*Canarium commune*). The light volcanic soil, the shade, and the excessive moisture of these islands, where it rains more or less every month in the year, seem exactly to suit the nutmeg tree, which requires no manure and but little attention.

A party from the ship ascended the east side of Gunung Api. It appears to be but seldom climbed either by Dutch residents or natives. The mountain is a steep simple cone covered with bushes up to within about 700 or 800 feet of the summit, and with the help of these, climbing is easy enough. Above the limit of the bushes there are steep slopes of loose stones, wearisome to climb and constantly falling. Above these, again, the surface of the cone is hard, the fine ashes and lava fragments, of which it is composed, being cemented together so as to form a hard crust. This is roughened by the projection of fragments, but still smooth enough to require some care in the placing of the feet to men wearing boots. The Malay guides with naked feet stood with ease upon it anywhere.

The inclination of the slope is about  $33^{\circ}$ ; and to a man who easily becomes giddy no doubt would be rather formidable in descent. An American traveller, Mr. Bickmore, has written a most appalling account of the danger which he encountered in descending, but to a man with an ordinarily good head there are no difficulties either in the ascent or descent.

At the summit the fragments of rock were undergoing slow decomposition under the action of heated vapours issuing in all directions from amongst them, and were softened and turned white, like chalk. Any of these fragments when broken showed part of their mass still black and unaltered, and the remainder white; the decomposition not having reached as yet through the whole. The rocks collected at Gunung Api are augite-andesite, the augite is generally pleochroic, the plagioclase very much decomposed. Along with these rocks are some specimens of more scoriaceous character, but having the same mineralogical composition as the first ones.

Jets of hot steam issued in many places from fissures. Around the mouths of these