

**LETTERS FROM SARAWAK; ADDRESSED TO A
CHILD, EMBRACING AN ACCOUNT OF THE
MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND RELIGION OF THE
INHABITANTS OF BORNEO, THE PROGRESS OF
THE CHURCH MISSION, AND INCIDENTS OF
MISSIONARY LIFE AMONG THE NATIVES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649208401

Letters from Sarawak; addressed to a child, embracing an account of the manners, customs, and religion of the inhabitants of Borneo, the progress of the church mission, and incidents of missionary life among the natives by Mrs. McDougall

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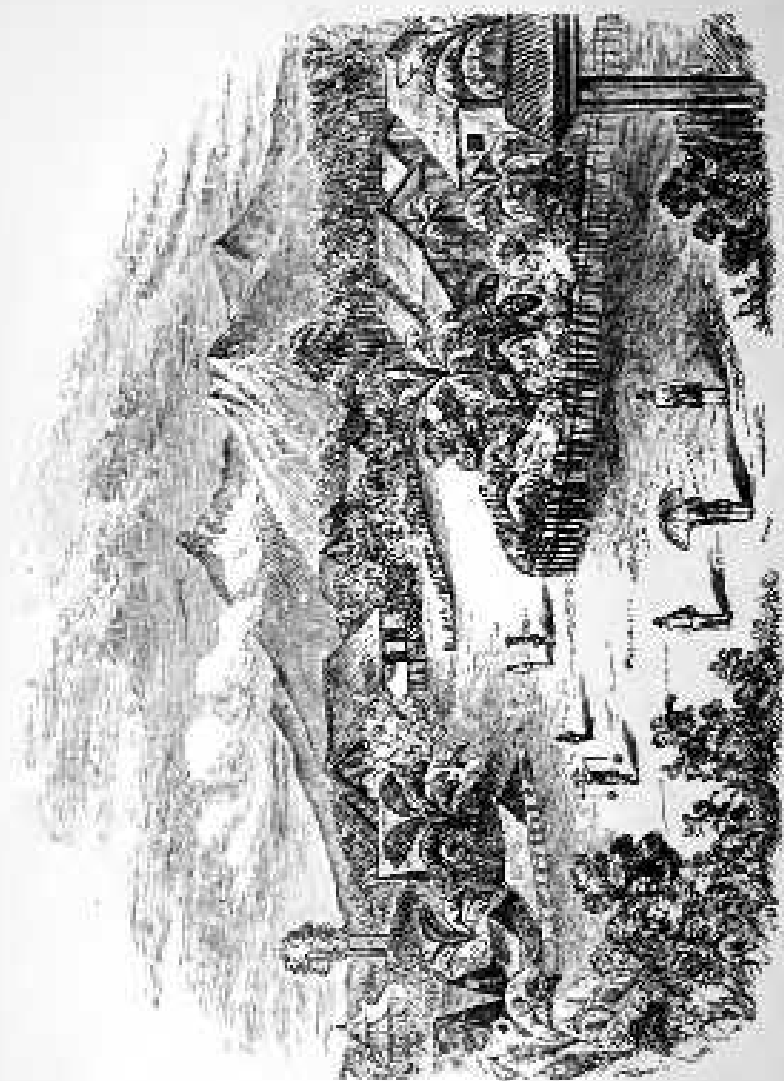
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MRS. MCDOUGALL

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OLD FORT ST. JAMES, from the Great House.

OLD FORT ST. JAMES

St. James

OXFORD
C. K. OGDEN

LETTERS FROM SARAWAK;

Addressed to a Child.

ENTERING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND RELIGION OF
THE INHABITANTS OF BORNEO; THE PROGRESS OF THE
CHURCH MISSION, AND INCIDENTS OF MISSIONARY
LIFE AMONG THE NATIVES.

BY

MRS. M^CDOUGALL.

FOURTH THOUSAND,

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR.

LONDON:

GRANT AND GRIFFITH,

(SUCCESSORS TO SEYMOUR AND HARRIS.)

CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

M.DCCCXLV.

TORONTO:
J. McLEOD & CO., PRINTERS,
KING'S PLACE, TORONTO.

PREFACE.

ALL Parents whose fate separates them from their little ones, during their early years, must feel anxious to lessen the distance which parts them, by such familiar accounts of their life and habits as shall give their children a vivid interest in their parents' home. With this view the following letters were sent to my little boy, during the last two years we were parted from him, when he was old enough to understand their contents; but I am induced to publish them at the instance of my friends, in order that the Mission, in which we are engaged, may become better known and more appreciated.

Sarawak has, for the last seven years, furnished a romance to the English Public, which, for a time, made its Rajah a favourite hero; such a feeling, and the demonstrations it called forth, were as creditable to them as just to him; for it is well that the people of England should sympathize with their countryman in his really great work of civilising and humanising a nation, which has already proved itself worthy of the effort. While, therefore, peace and a good government ensure to the Malays and Dyaks all the fruits of their industry—while they learn arts and manufactures, and imbibe a taste for luxury and refinement, let their kind friends in England join with their Rajah at Sarawak in giving them also the gospel of Christ's kingdom, through which alone all these acquirements can be made effectual to their happiness.

The Mission at Sarawak was invited there by Sir James Brooke, to assist him in his schemes of philanthropy for Borneo. The funds at first furnished for its support, in answer to his appeal, were raised by the exertions of a few private individuals, with the assistance of grants from the Christian Knowledge Society, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. After five years this money was entirely expended; and the Mission must have fallen to the ground had not the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel come forward to its support from the 1st Jan. 1853. But although the venerable Society has undertaken this new work on its own responsibility, its income is fully pledged to existing Missions, and there being no surplus fund, it must look entirely to the enlarged bounty of Churchmen, to enable it so to increase the force, and complete the organisation, of the Mission to Sarawak, that the Church may be planted in the purity of Gospel truth and the perfectness of Apostolic order in a land where the glad news was never before made known. Shall not England have the honour of building up this young and vigorous nation of Sarawak in the faith, which it is willing to embrace, and thus be the means of enlightening and gathering the millions of Borneo, and the adjacent islands, into Christ's Church?

H. M'D.

London, December, 1853.

* * * *Subscriptions to a special fund for erecting a Bishopric, founding a College, and sending more Missionaries to Borneo, are received at the Society's Office, 79, Pall Mall.*

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LETTERS FROM SARAWAK.

LETTER I.

THE VOYAGE OUT.

January, 1851.

MY DEAREST CHARLEY,

I purpose, now that we are settled in our Sarawak home, writing you a letter once a month, which you must consider as coming from both Papa and Mamma, for we shall take an equal interest in them, as going to our boy in England. You are now no longer a baby, but are beginning to enjoy life, to observe what you see and hear, and to feel interested in the world in which you live. You also know something of time and space; and can understand, that, if it takes nearly a whole day to travel from W—— to London, although nearly all the way by steam carriage, it must take six weeks' constant travelling by steamboat, by the overland route, to