

**KELANTAN; A STATE OF  
THE MALAY  
PENINSULA A HANDBOOK  
OF INFORMATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649621538

Kelantan; A State of the Malay Peninsula a Handbook of Information by W. A. Graham

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Cover @ 2017

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**W. A. GRAHAM**

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HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SIAM.

# KELANTAN

A STATE OF THE MALAY PENINSULA

*A HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION*

BY

W. A. GRAHAM



MAIL STEAMER "HOGGAT" OF KELANTAN.

GLASGOW

JAMES MACLEHOSE AND SONS

PUBLISHERS TO THE UNIVERSITY

1908

## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

IN the month of December, 1902, an agreement was signed between the Government of H.M. the King of Siam and H.H. the Raja of Kelantan (one of the States of the Malay Peninsula subordinate to Siam), considerably modifying the arrangements which had formerly existed for the government of that Dependency. The Suzerain Government promised to appoint an official to reside in the State as His Majesty's representative and to act as Adviser to H.H. the Raja, and undertook to leave the internal administration of the State thereafter in the hands of its own ruler, provided that the said administration should be conducted with justice, moderation, and humanity, for the benefit of the people, and provided also that peace should be maintained. H.H. the Raja of Kelantan under-

took for his part to follow the advice of the Adviser in all matters of administration other than those touching the Mohammedan religion.

In July of the year 1903 the first Resident Commissioner and Adviser under this new arrangement was appointed, H.M.'s Government selecting for this purpose an Englishman who had been for some years in the Siamese service, and who had had considerable former experience in administrative work as an official of the Government of India. An Assistant Commissioner and Adviser was also appointed by His Majesty's Government in the person of a young officer borrowed, at first, from the Government of the Federated Malay States, and who has since severed his connection with the latter Government in order to take permanent service in the Siamese Malay States. At that moment, owing to several causes, but chiefly to the fact that, unable to stem the tide of intrigue which his relatives had set flowing from the day (in 1899) on which he became ruler, the Raja had lost all but the outward semblance of power, the Government of the State was in a state of sheer chaos; law and order were scarcely existent, and the time-honoured customs of the country, and even the tenets of Mohammedan





HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA OF KELANTAN.



law, were fast becoming subverted. Four years of administration under the new agreement have effected considerable alteration in the aspect of affairs. The intrigues of the nobility have been checked, and the State revenues have been rescued from their clutches and restored to the Treasury, numerous laws have been passed, justice has been brought within the reach of the populace, many works of public utility have been undertaken, and different departments of Government have been organised with the assistance of English and Siamese officers specially engaged by the State.