

**BETEL-NUT ISLAND;
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES
AND ADVENTURES IN
THE EASTERN TROPICS**

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Betel-nut island; personal experiences and adventures in the eastern tropics by John T. Beighton

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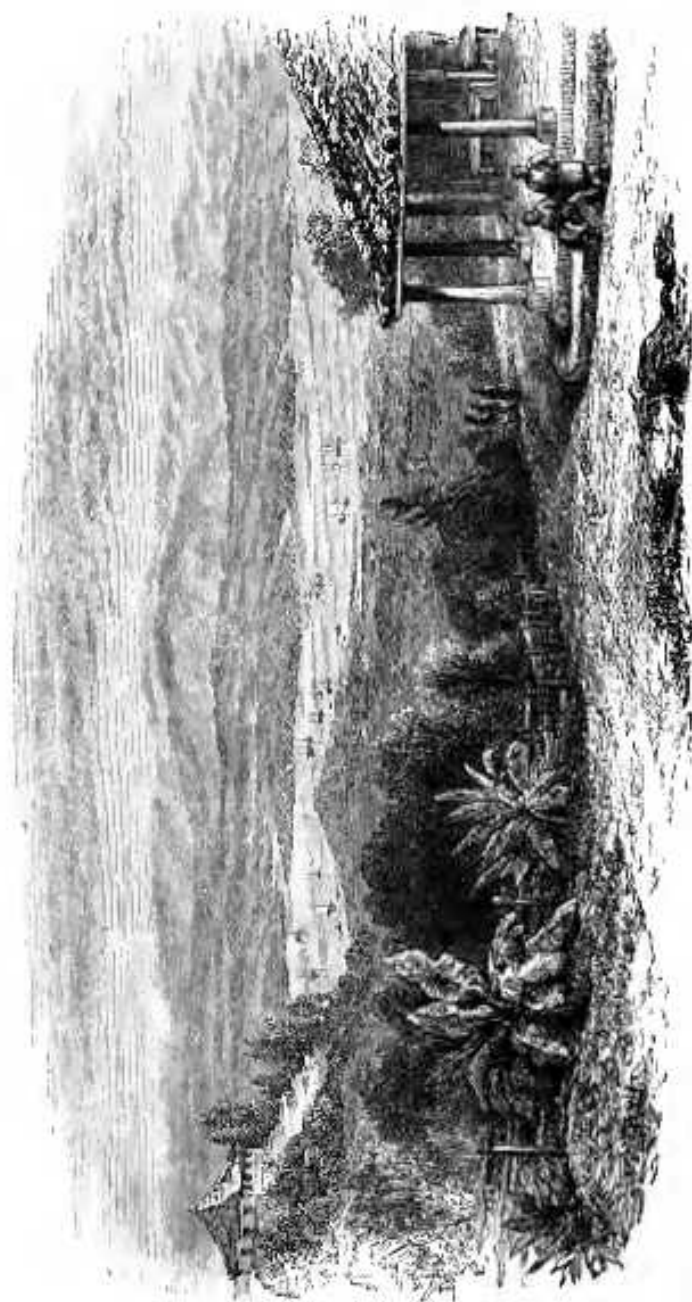
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JOHN T. BEIGHTON

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BETEL-NUT ISLAND

Personal Experiences and Adventures
in the Eastern Tropics

BY

JOHN T. BEIGHTON



'The arrowy betel-palm with its golden egg-like nuts.'
Crozier of the Maroons

LONDON

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY

56, PATERNOSTER ROW; 65, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD; AND
164, PICCADILLY.

1888

'Towards the close of his life, as he one day watched from his rustic seat his daughter's little ones scampering round the garden in the morning sunshine, wild with glee, his words were: "Attend to the happiness of children. Mankind are always happier for having been happy, and a happy childhood is the last remembrance which clings to us in old age. I have always regretted that I had no recollections."'

REID's Life of Sydney Smith.



'These hours were seed to all my after good ;
My infant gladness, through eye, ear, and touch,
Took easily as warmth a various food
To nourish the sweet skill of loving much.'

PREFATORY NOTE.

THESE records, consisting chiefly of recollections of my youthful experiences and adventures in the Eastern Tropics, originally appeared, for the most part, in the *Sunday at Home* and the *Leisure Hour*. In preparing them for their present publication I have had the great advantage of their revision by my patriarchal friend Alexander Rodyk, Esq., who for forty years held important office in H. M. Supreme Court of (what is now known as) the Straits Settlements ; who, like myself, was born at Penang, who has been my life-long friend, and who tenderly nursed me in the critical illness I have described in Chapter II. I have also to acknowledge my obligations to J. B. King, Esq. M.D., for twelve years civil surgeon on the island, who has favoured me with many interesting suggestions, by which my narrative has been made more complete and satisfactory ; also to Messrs.

Partridge & Co. for permission to incorporate an article (Chapter V.) which appeared in the *Welcome*.

I have also been much assisted in the preparation of the chapter entitled 'Courts of Justice in British India,' by T. D. Beighton, Esq., Civil and Sessions Judge at Dacca, Bengal.

Betel-nut Island is about fifteen miles long and nine broad. This is the English equivalent for the native name, Pulo Penang, of what is known in legal and official documents as 'Prince of Wales' Island,' in the Straits of Malacca, commercially and commonly called Penang. Geologically it consists of black granite, with tracts of rich alluvial soil. The population, including Province Wellesley, in 1881 was 190,597; the total value of imports and exports in 1885, £35,558,929.

JOHN T. BEIGHTON.

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