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Autor: Morse, Jedidiah

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Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen
Germany
Email: gdz@sub.uni-goettingen.de

ASIATICK ISLES.

THE Japan Islands, forming an empire governed by a most despotick King, lie about 150 miles east of China. The soil and productions of these islands are much the same as those of China. The Japanese are the grossest idolators, and irreconcilable to Christianity. They are of a yellow complexion, narrow eyes, short noses, black hair. A sameness of dress prevails through the whole empire, from the Emperor to the peasant. The first compliment offered to a stranger in their houses, is a dish of tea, and a pipe of tobacco. Obedience to parents, and respect to superiors, characterize the nation. Their penal laws are very severe, but punishment is seldom inflicted. The inhabitants have made great progress in commerce and agriculture.

Formosa is a fine island east of China, abounding in all the necessaries of life.

The Philippines, 1100 in number, lying 200 miles south-east of China, belonging to Spain, are fruitful in all the necessaries of life, and beautiful to the eye. They are, however, subject to earthquakes, thunder and lightning, venomous beasts and noxious herbs, whose poison kills instantaneously. They are subject to the Spanish government. The Sultan of Mindanao is a Mahometan.

Borneo, 800 miles long, and 700 broad, is thought to be the largest island in the world. It lies on the equator, and is famous for being the native country of the Ouran Outang, which, of all irrational animals, resembles a man the most.

Sumatra, west of Borneo, produces so much gold, that it is thought to be the Ophir mentioned in the Scriptures.

Ceylon belongs to the Dutch, and is said to be by nature the richest and finest island in the world. The natives call it, with some shew of reason, the terrestrial paradise. They are a sober, inoffensive people; but idolators. This island is noted for the cinnamon tree.

AFRICA.