

2. The climate of Malaysia is that of the torrid zone. The soil is productive, and yields in abundance the most exquisite spices and fruits. The clove, nutmeg, mace, cinnamon, and pepper, abound; also sugar, coffee, cotton, rice, tobacco, and indigo.

3. The commerce is extensive, and is carried on mostly by Europeans and Chinese. The latter, in their uncouth vessels, called junks, trade in great numbers to the different islands. Tripang, sea-slug, and edible birds'-nests, luxuries not in use among Europeans, form important articles of the traffic with China, where they bear a high price.



Malays capturing a European Vessel.

4. The Malays, the prevalent race in this region, are, generally, of a yellowish brown complexion. They are chiefly Mahomedans, and have a strong passion for gambling. Many of the Malays are pirates; they often surprise and capture European and other merchant-vessels. A number of Chinese emigrants have settled in various parts of Malaysia, and are noted for their industrious and quiet habits.

5. SUMATRA, the most western of the Sunda Islands, is nearly equal in extent to our Middle and Eastern States united. It is divided into several petty native kingdoms; and is partly under the dominion of Holland. Some of the interior tribes are cannibals. Among the Batakas, the punishment of several crimes, by their laws, is to be eaten alive. They also eat the prisoners they take in war.

6. JAVA is a fine fertile island, about three-fourths of which belongs to the Dutch; the remainder of the island is governed by two native princes, the emperor and the sultan. The natives are well acquainted with many arts. They carry on a lucrative trade with the Chinese.

2. What is said of the climate? 3. Commerce? 4. The Malays? 5