
Ethnology, Entomology, and Geography, are illustrated in the voyages recorded in these pages. They extend over a period of about six years, from July, 1854, when the author reached the Straits of Malacca, to November, 1860, when he returned to England. The results of these six years of labour were a goodly collection of specimens of birds, insects, shells, and a moral lesson, to which we attach less value than is claimed for it by Mr. Wallace. It is hardly worth while spending six years in the Malay Archipelago in order to discover that we do not sufficiently "train and develop the sympathetic feelings and moral faculties of our nature, nor allow them a sufficient share of influence on our commerce, our commerce and our whole social organization." Our author sometimes met with dealings on the part of the savages with whom he was obliged to fraternize which were remarkable for the sense of honesty, to which they bore evidence. But we can hardly believe that, because a hatchet was returned to him on one or two occasions, when it might easily have been made away with, that the wild people of the Aru Islands have risen to a height of moral elevation to which the majority of Christians have not attained. We shall not, therefore, dilate upon the moral discoveries of our author, but refer rather to his exploits as an explorer in natural history. Altogether, the specimens of natural history brought home by him amounted to 125,660, in which were comprised 3,000 birds' skins of about 1,000 species, and at least 20,000 beetles, and butterflies of 7,000 species. Amongst these were many specimens altogether new and undescribed. Thus, amongst the Longicorn beetles, there were no less than 900 which had never before been seen by European collectors. Amongst Hymenoptera figured 230 different kinds of ants, of which 200 are new. But it is among butterflies and birds of paradise that Mr. Wallace has made the most brilliant and valuable additions to the collections of Europe; and we cannot but sympathize with his delight in securing these novelties, and acknowledge that the terms he uses to express his gratification are admissible from the pen of so true a lover of Nature. The following is an account of his obtaining a specimen of the king bird of paradise:

"The first two or three days of our stay here were very wet, and I obtained but few insects or birds; but at length, when I was beginning to despair, my boy Baderoon returned one day with a specimen which repaid me for a month of delay and expectation. It was a small bird, a little less than a thumb. The greater part of its plumage was of an intense cinnamon red, with a gloss as of spun glass. On the head the feathers became short and velvety, and shaded into rich orange. Beneath, from the breast downwards, was pure white, with the softness and gloss of silk; and across the breast a band of deep metallic green separated this colour from the red of the throat. Above each eye was a round spot of the same metallic green. The bill was yellow, and the feet and legs were of a fine cobalt blue, strikingly contrasting with all the other parts of the body. Merely in arrangement of colours and texture of plumage, this little bird was a gem of the first water; yet these comprised only half its strange beauty. Springing from each side of the breast, and ordinarily being concealed under the wings, were little fans of grayish feathers, about two inches long, and each terminated by a broad band of intense emerald green. These plumes can be raised at will of this bird, and spread out into a pair of elegant fans when the wings are elevated. But this is not the only ornament. The two middle feathers of the tail are in the form of slender wires, about five inches long, and which diverge in a beautiful double curve.

About half-an-inch of the end of this wire is webbed on the outside only, and coloured of a fine metallic green, and, being curved spirally inwards, forms a pair of elegant glittering buttons, hanging five inches below the body, and of the same distance apart. These two ornaments, the breast fans and the spirally-tipped tail wires, are altogether unique, not occurring on any other species of the eight thousand different birds that are known to exist upon the earth, and, combined with the most exquisite beauty of plumage, render this one of the most perfectly lovely of the many lovely productions of Nature. My transports of admiration and delight quite amused my Aru hosts, who saw nothing more in the Barong say than we do in the robin or the goldfinch. Thus one of my objects in coming to the far East was accomplished. I had obtained a specimen of the King Bird of Paradise (Paradisaea regia), which had been described by Linnaeus from skins preserved in a mutilated state by the natives. I knew how few Europeans had ever beheld the perfect little organism I now gazed upon, and how very imperfectly it was still known in Europe. The emotions excited in the mind of anaturalist, who has long desired to see the actual things which he has hitherto known only by description, drawing, or badly-preserved external covering, especially when that thing is of surpassing rarity and beauty, require the poetic faculty fully to express them. The remote island in which I found myself situated, in an almost unvisited sea, far from the tracks of merchant fleets and navies; the wild, luxuriant tropical forest, which stretched far away on every side; the rude uncultured savages who gathered round me,—all had their influence in determining the emotions with which I gazed upon this 'thing of beauty.' I thought of the long ages of the past, during which the successive generations of this little creature had run their course,—year by year being born, and living and dying, amidst those dark and gloomy woods, with no intelligent eye to gaze upon their loveliness; to all appearances such a wanton waste of beauty. Such ideas excite a feeling of melancholy. It seems sad that, on the one hand, such exquisite creatures should lead such a short and obscure life; and exhibit their charms only to wild, inhospitable regions, doomed for ages yet to come to hopeless barbarism; while, on the other hand, should civilized man ever reach these distant lands, and bring moral, intellectual and physical light into the recesses of these virgin forests, we may be sure that he will so disturb the nicely-balanced relations of organic and inorganic nature as to cause the disappearance, and finally the extermination of these very beings whose wonderful structure and beauty he alone is fitted to appreciate and enjoy. This consideration must surely tell us..."
In the same way, he tells us that he "trembled with excitement," and was ill for hours after securing some of the most uncommon kinds of butterflies; and we quite understand his feelings. At the same time, we most heartily wish that Mr. Wallace had been a little more descriptive of the curious people with whom he lived, and of the scenery through which he passed. As it is, the impression made by his book is that of a man departing into a far country, and shutting himself out from our observations so completely that all we know is, that he was incessantly pursuing birds and insects with as much activity as the most restless creature in his collection. The plan of his book, too, or rather its want of proper arrangement, adds to the obscurity. His journeys are not described in the order in which they occurred, but according to certain theories he has formed as to the distribution of animal life in the islands he visited. These theories are indicated in a preliminary chapter, which certainly puts before us very vividly the importance of these islands of the Malay Archipelago—an importance which has, perhaps, not hitherto been sufficiently admitted. When we consider that this region of the globe extends more than 4,000 miles in length, from east to west, and is 1,900 in breadth, from north to south, that it includes the three largest islands in the world—three more the size of Ireland, eighteen as large as Jamaica, one hundred and twenty-five of which were sent to the late Mr. Crawfurd, and mislaid; "being merely enlarged edition of the work can be expected; and nothing remains but to regret the want of care which has occasioned such losses.

The north side of the harbour a good broad path passes through the swamp, clearing and forest, over hill and valley, to the farther side of the island; the coraline rock constantly protruding through the deep red earth which fills all the hollows, and is more or less spread over the plains and hill-sides. The forest vegetation is here of the most luxuriant character: ferns and palms abound, and the climbing rattans were more abundant than I had ever seen them, forming tangled festoons over almost every large forest-tree."

But since it is quite evident that, in our author's journal, there must be an immense mass of information which has not yet been given to the public, we may hope that a second edition will appear, more extended and more carefully arranged; unless, indeed, the pages of his journal have shared the fate of his vocabularies, twenty-five of which were sent to the late Mr. Crawfurd, and mislaid; "being merely old and much-battered copy-books, they probably found their way to the dust-heap along with other waste-paper." In that case, no enlarged edition of the work can be expected; and nothing remains but to regret the want of care which has occasioned such losses.