

*The Malay Archipelago: The Land of the Orang-Utan and the Bird of Paradise. A Narrative of Travel, with Studies of Man and Nature.* By ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE. Two vols. Macmillan and Co., 1869.

As might be expected from its title, and from the well-earned reputation of its author, Mr. Wallace's book contains much that is of great value to the ethnologist, not only in the way of positive information, but of thoughtful and suggestive speculation.

Mr. Wallace recognises two types of mankind in the Malay Archipelago: the Malayan and the Papuan; and he believes "that these two have no traceable affinity to each other", and that the line which separates them nearly corresponds with, though it lies rather to the east of, that which separates the two distributional provinces of animals, which he has so well discriminated as Indo-Malayan and Austro-Malayan. The physical and psychical characters of the Malayan and Papuan races are detailed with great care, and the author's opportunities and power of accurate observation render this part of his work particularly valuable. Mr. Wallace gives us a far more distinct conception than we previously possessed of the people of Timor, of Celebes, and of the Maluccas, and adds much that is of interest respecting the Malays and the Papuans. The description of the latter people at p. 445 is very faithful:—

"The typical Papuan race is in many respects the very opposite of the Malay, and it has hitherto been very imperfectly described. The colour of the body is a deep, sooty-brown or black; sometimes approaching, but never quite equalling the jet-black of some negro races. It varies in tint, however, more than that of the Malay, and is sometimes a dusky-brown. The hair is very peculiar, being harsh, dry, and frizzly, growing in little tufts or curls, which in youth are very short and compact, but afterwards grow out to a considerable length, forming the compact frizzled mop which is the Papuans' pride and glory. The face is adorned with a beard of the same frizzly nature as the hair of the head. The arms, legs, and breast are also more or less clothed with hair of a similar nature.

In stature the Papuan decidedly surpasses the Malay, and is perhaps equal, or even superior, to the average of Europeans. The legs

are long and thin, and the hands and feet larger than in the Malays. The face is somewhat elongated; the forehead flattish; the brows very prominent; the nose is large, rather arched and high; the base thick; the nostrils broad, with the aperture hidden, owing to the tip of the nose being elongated; the mouth is large; the lips thick and protuberant."



This portrait would as well suit a Papuan of the south-east coast of New Guinea as any of those whom Mr. Wallace saw. But there would seem to be a greater variation of colour among the southern tribes, some of whom are of very light colour, though they exhibit the characteristic hair and features.

Mr. Wallace remarks that "the same Papuan race seems to extend over the islands east of New Guinea as far as the Fijis." Undoubtedly, a woolly-haired, dark, or negroid stock extends, or did extend, not only to the Fijis, but to Tasmania; but it would be a mistake to assume that all these people have the same characters as those which mark the typical Papuans. On the contrary, they vary greatly in stature and in the form of their features; so that it would not be difficult to form among the Pacific negritos a series whereby the interval between the typical Papuan and the Semang could be filled up. Hence we must demur to Mr. Wallace's conclusion that there is little or no affinity between the Papuan and the Semang; and consequently hence to his view that the geographical distribution of man corresponds with that of animals in the Malay Archipelago. The western limit of the eastern Negroid races lies in the Andaman islands, or altogether to the west of the Malay Archipelago. And even admitting that the

Ahetas, Semangs, and Andamanese are not affined to the Papuans, the attempt to draw a parallel between the distribution of man and that of animals in the region in question breaks down when we consider that the Australians and the Papuans are as different as Hindoo coolies and Negroes. Still less easy is it for us to assent to one or two other propositions which Mr. Wallace puts forth. He considers that the brown races of the Pacific—the Sandwich Islanders and New Zealanders—are modifications of the Papuan stock; and that the occurrence of a decided Malay element in the Polynesian languages has almost nothing to do with any ancient physical connection of the Malays with the Polynesians, but is “altogether a recent phenomenon originating in the roaming habits of the chief Malay tribes.” On the contrary, speaking from a personal knowledge of both races, we should be disposed to assert broadly that the Pacific negritos and the true Polynesians came of stocks between which there may have been intermixture, but which are primitively as distinct as Negroes and North American Indians; and that no conclusion from philological facts rests upon better evidence than that which Hale and others have drawn from the dialects of Polynesia, that the inhabitants of its multitudinous islands have migrated at no very recent period from some common seat in, or near, the Malay Archipelago. But these divergences of opinion, the grounds of which cannot even be indicated in a brief notice like the present, by no means interfere with our high estimation of Mr. Wallace’s contributions to ethnology, the merits of which will become the more apparent the more they are studied.

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