

11. *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. Harper & Brothers.

The Malay Archipelago extends some 1300 miles from north to south, and 400 from east to west; and, hitherto almost unknown, is shown by Mr. Wallace to be one of the most interesting and attractive portions of our earth. Java, Sumatra, Celebes, Timor, Amboyna, are among the islands included in this space; three of them larger than great Britain, three nearly as large as Ireland, eighteen as large as Jamaica of the West Indies, more than a hundred as large as the Isle of Wight, and an immense number of smaller size. The geology, physical geography, natural history, fauna and flora, of these islands possess features unequalled in interest by those of any other part of the globe. The luxuriant forests swarm with life, and furnish haunts for the tiger, rhinoceros, orang-utan, leopard, kangaroo, &c., &c. Here are found hundreds of hitherto unknown species of birds and insects. Here volcanoes hold high revel; Java alone having, active and extinct, forty-five, many of them constantly at work. Java is the most wonderful island on the earth, for its vegetation and animal life, its geology, physical features, its history and religious antiquities — abounding in curious carved images and relics, ruined temples and cities, all indicative of an ancient advanced civilization.

The book is instructive alike for its information and its suggestions; and the facts the author has gathered regarding the geology and physical geography of the islands are as interesting as his collection of specimens in natural history are valuable to science. Mr. Wallace is a devout Darwinist, but the extent and accuracy of his observations have a value independent of the inferences and conclusions he draws from them. We have marked a most suggestive passage for the *Religious World*.