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## NOTES OF TRAVEL IN CHINA.

BY JAMES H. MORRIS, M.A.

*Read before the Canadian Institute, March 14th, 1857.*

A residence of little more than three months in China would not justify me in giving expression to opinions on the polity, government, resources, or commercial interests of a country, whose limits extend over an area of 5,300,000 square miles, and whose population is equal to one-third of the human family. Nevertheless the observations of a recent visitor may not be devoid of interest, now when the peculiar circumstances of our relations with China, naturally direct an unusual amount of attention to that country. I shall accordingly confine my paper to that part of the country which has recently been the scene of the warlike operations of the British fleet; and will endeavour to give some idea of the singular people with whom it has had to contend.

During the existence of the south west monsoon, vessels bound to China by way of the "Cape of Good Hope," generally shape their course for the China Sea through the straits of Sunda; and after one has for many weeks felt the ennui consequent on a long sea voyage, the imagination is apt to paint in supernatural beauty the long anticipated scene. But there are favorite spots where nature exhibits herself decked in such charms as to defy the overcolouring of fancy, and among such are the straits of Sunda.

At the entrance to the straits between the Islands of Java and Suma-