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Cachar. Area about 7,000 sq. m. Cassay consists of a central fertile valley, of comparatively small extent, surrounded on every side by a wild and mountainous country. The Naga mountains bound it N., averaging in height 5,000 or 6,000 ft. above the sea; although in some parts they are as much as 8,000 or 9,000 ft. high. Two branches, passing S. from the Naga mountains, inclose the Cassay valley E. and W., and the S. boundary, from the confluence of the Chikoo nullah, or rivulet, with the Barak, is formed by the same ranges, which run E. and W., bounding Cachar S., and Tipperah NE. The W. mountain range is more elevated and extensive than any other, and runs from the banks of the Barak SSW. for 80 m., steep and precipitous, towards Cachar; but in some parts almost cleared of forest, and annually cultivated with rice and cotton. This range has nine principal peaks, varying in height from 5,790 to 8,200 ft. above the sea, which, from superstitious motives, are left covered with wood by the inhabitants of the hills, and are often capped with a dense stratum of clouds. The E. hills vary from 4,900 to 6,730 ft. above the sea. The valley thus inclosed is about 36 m. long and 18 m. broad, having an area of 650 sq. m. of rich alluvial soil, 2,500 feet above the level of the sea.

The chief rivers are the Khongta, or Munneepoor river, Eeril, and Thobal. The first rises in the Naga mountains, in lat. 26° 12' N., long. 94° E.; it completely traverses the central valley N. to S. and falls into the Ningthee or Kyen-dwem river. It is the only outlet for the waters of the Cassay valley; and, as the latter is 2,000 feet above the Ningthee, it is probable there are several considerable falls in its course through the mountains. Almost all the centre of the Cassay valley is a series of jeels and marshes; there is a small lake (Logta) at its SW. corner; compact sandstone, slate, and limestone are the prevailing geological features of this region.

Iron is the only metal found in Cassay; it is met with under the form of titaniferous oxide, and is detected by thrusting spears into the ground, and, where iron is present, small particles soon adhere to them. (Pemberton.) The Cassay valley is rich in salt springs, especially on its E. side; and more than enough salt for home consumption is made. The climate of the valley is lower by many degrees than in Calcutta, but not so low as might have been expected from the elevation. There are more rainy days in the year, but less rain falls than at Calcutta: from March the showers become continual: the permanent rise of the streams begins in May, and continues till the middle of October, from which time they rapidly decrease. From Nov. to Jan. fogs settle during the whole night in the valley, and hoar frosts prevail on the hills; yet the climate of the former region is decidedly salubrious, and peculiarly healthy to European constitutions. The surrounding mountains are, in most instances, covered with the noblest varieties of forest trees, common both to tropical and colder climates; and, according to Capt. Pemberton, there is no part of India where the forests are more varied and magnificent; but, from the small number of streams, and the want of good roads, their utility is entirely local; there being at present no means of conveying the timber to any distance. The valley is perfectly free from forest, though every village is surrounded by a grove of fruit-trees: the soil of the detached hills, and their S. faces especially, are highly adapted to the culture of fruit. Herds of wild elephants are constantly seen in the glens and defiles of the N.: wild hogs and deer of the largest size abound everywhere; and the chase is a fa-

vourite sport with the Cassayers. Tigers are not common, and have retired to the mountain fastnesses; there are no jackals; but wild dogs, greatly resembling that animal, abound on the hills, where they hunt in packs. With the exception of woollen cloth, this country furnishes every article essential to the comfort and prosperity of its inhabitants. All the tribes N., W., and E. of the central valley partake strongly of the Tartar countenance, and are probably the descendants of a Tartar colony who passed hither from the NW. borders of China, during the sanguinary struggles for supremacy between the Chinese and Tartar dynasties, in the 13th and 14th centuries. They have much more affinity, both in person and manners, with the Hindoos, than with the Burmese, to which latter race they bear little similarity. They differ from the Kookies of the S. hills in their superior height, finer complexions, higher foreheads, inharmonious voices, and harsh language. They are highly ingenious, and are good horsemen, on which account they were formerly exclusively employed in the Burmese cavalry service. The upper classes are worshippers of Vishnu, and this country may be regarded as the extreme E. limit of Brahminism: the Cassay tongue is, however, widely different from Sanscrit. There are many other distinct tribes in different parts of Cassay and its neighbourhood. All cultivate tobacco, cotton, ginger, and pepper, and manufacture cloths; which articles they barter for others with the inhabitants of the neighbouring plains of Bengal, Assam, and Birmah. In the central valley rice is the chief object of agriculture, and the land there is well irrigated, and highly suited to it: but scarcely $\frac{1}{2}$ part of the land available for it is under culture, owing to a paucity of inhabitants. The whole pop. of the valley in 1835 was barely 20,000. Tobacco, sugar-cane, indigo, mustard, dhál, and opium are also grown, and each house is surrounded by a little garden, in which culinary vegetables are raised in large quantity. Almost all the garden produce of Europe is found here, having been introduced by the British since the Burmese war; and the pea and potato are found so acceptable, that their culture is nearly universal, and they are constantly exposed for sale in the bazaars. The pine apple attains an excellence in Cassay not surpassed in any part of the world. Buffaloes are used for ploughing; there are about 3,000 in the central valley, and perhaps an equal number of bullocks, which are superior, both in size and symmetry, to those of Bengal.

The ponies of Munneepoor are much and deservedly esteemed, by both the Cassayers and Burmese, who use them for the *élite* of their cavalry. They average from 12 to 12½ hands, and are rarely more than 13 hands in height; they are hardy and vigorous, and have a peculiar blood appearance, but are now nearly extinct; and scarcely more than 200 could be found fit for active service. Formerly, every inhab. had two or three; and the Cassayers affirm that, in a military sense, they have lost one of their arms by the decrease of the breed. Sheep were unknown till introduced by the British; they thrive on the slopes of the central valley: goats are bred by the Naga tribes on the hills, but invariably deteriorate if brought into the lowlands: poultry are plentiful in the latter districts, and the mountaineers purchase fowls thence at a very high price. The chief manufactures are coarse white cottons; a very soft and light muslin; a coarser kind, used for turbans and jackets; silks, remarkable for the brilliancy of their colours, and which are much prized at Ava; iron articles; and salt. The chief iron articles made are axes, hoes,