

MILITARY.

The city is defended by forts and batteries with all modern equipments that make it the Gibraltar of the Far East. About twenty-five hundred men of the different arms of the service are stationed here. The excellent police force is composed of Sikhs, Malays and Indians, who preserve order throughout the city and suburbs.

INDUSTRY.

The two hundred thousand Chinese of the Island are the human dynamos that are the real developing power of the rich island, and the several hundred thousand scattered through the Malay States are rapidly promoting the material welfare of the Peninsula. They are the successful planters, mine workers, merchants, manufacturers, and traders of this region, where, through the liberal British policy, they have become rich and prosperous, and they are also charitable and philanthropic, as many of the noble institutions of Singapore and Malay Peninsula will testify.

THE ISLAND OF SINGAPORE

is 27 miles long, 14 miles wide and 66 miles in circumference. Between Singapore and Canada the time difference is 12 hours. While you breakfast here your friends are dining there. Singapore is about 76 north miles of the equator and basks in eternal summer on the China sea.

The climate is equable and healthful. It is cooler than Colombo or Calcutta, which is owing to the fact that it rests on a sea-girt island where

The air is soft with the breath of sweet blossoms,
And mild are the breezes laden with dew,
And gentle the touch of the winds that are blowing,

Over the waters of changeable hue.

The death rate among the natives is 40 in 1,000; among the whites it is only 17, which compares favorably with the healthiest European or American cities. Monsoons blow northeast from November to March, and southwest from



SINGAPORE—A RUBBER TREE.

from May to September. Singapore is always favoured with a gentle breeze, and knows neither typhoon nor the serious earthquake.

POPULATION.

Look at the streets if you want to see what kind of population Singapore contains. Everywhere the keen-eyed and active Chinaman predominates, in number and commercial progress. There is only one European to every forty Chinese. In the throngs that move over the busy thoroughfares you see specimens of forty different races and tribes. There is the Tamil, Arab, Negro, Bugis, Dyak, Battak, Javanese, Japanese, Parsee, Sikh, Annamese, Maratta, Afghan, Siamese, Burmese, Jew, Armenian, Turk, etc.; all clad in picturesque costumes, some scarcely clad at all. Five thousand whites are here, mostly British subjects. There are only about twenty Canadians and fifty Americans on the island.