

be the aborigines, and inhabit the mountainous regions and unexplored fastnesses, almost in a state of nature; 4th, the Malabar and other Hindoos, who are chiefly confined to the N. and E. coasts. The Singalese of the coasts, whose complexion, features, language, and manners closely resemble those of the Maldivians, are about 5 ft. 8 in. in height, of a slim figure and fair complexion, especially the women; they are represented as remarkably mild, bashful, and timid, and rather deficient in intellect. The Candian Ceyloneese are in all respects superior to those of the coasts, and differ from Europeans less in feature than in colour; they are taller, better made, and more robust, than the Singalese; and for Indians are stout, with large chests and broad shoulders. They have small bones, rather short but muscular legs and thighs, and small hands and feet; heads well formed, and, like those of other Asiatics, longer than those of Europeans; features often handsome. The colour of their skin, eyes, and hair varies from brown to black; they have a profusion of hair, which is allowed to grow to a considerable length. The Candian character differs essentially from that of the Singalese, having none of the effeminacy and timidity which distinguish the latter, and there is a certain haughtiness and independence in their whole bearing and demeanour. They will not generally, however, attack an enemy in the open field; but resort to ambush, in the same manner as the Singalese. Indolence, hypocrisy, and revenge may be regarded as national vices. Some traits may be recognised as common to the natives of Ceylon with the Bengalese, but they are still more closely allied, both in physical and moral characteristics, as well as language, religion, and traditions, with the Indo-Chinese nations, and especially the Birmanese. The Malabars of Ceylon differ but little in any respect from those of the continent, though varying somewhat in their manners and customs. They retain, in great measure, the religion and manners of their congeners of S. India, and are much less numerous than formerly. The Moors have a tradition that they are the descendants of a tribe of the posterity of Hashem, expelled by Mohammed from Arabia. They retain many customs similar to those of the ancient Jews.

Of the Veddahs little more is known than that they chiefly inhabit the great forests which extend from the S. to the E. and N., and also the most inaccessible parts of the central table-land, having neither clothing nor habitations, subsisting upon wild fruits and animals, and having the branches of large trees for their resting-places. They are conjectured by some to be a portion of the original inhabitants, who, upon the invasion of the island, retreated to the inaccessible haunts in which they are now found. They are divided into two tribes, —the Village and the Forest Veddahs; the former, who are the more civilised, occasionally go down into the lower districts to exchange their game and cattle for rice, cloth, and iron. They live in huts and cultivate the ground; though, in common with their more savage brethren, they seek their chief subsistence in the forests. They are peaceable and inoffensive, never commencing, although easily persuaded to join in any insurrection; and in times of disturbance they have occasionally been employed as mercenaries.

The other inhabitants of the coast consist of Dutch, Portuguese, and English colonists: some Caffres and Javanese; a few Chinese and Parsee traders; and a various pop., sprung from the intermixture of these with each other and with the native races. The burghers, many of whom fill public offices and subordinate situations under

government, are the descendants of Europeans and half-castes. The distinctions of caste are recognised, and in some instances scrupulously preserved, by the Ceyloneese; but they respect them only in their civil, rejecting their religious, influences.

Till latterly, the pop. had been diminishing for four or five centuries. But a considerable increase has taken place in the pop. of the maritime provinces during the last thirty or forty years. Several parts of the interior are, however, very thinly peopled, there being, in some districts, not more than four, five, or six persons to a square mile. In the central prov. the pop. is dense in certain parts; but with the exception of the country round Candy, and the districts of Ouva and Mattele, seven-eighths of the ground is covered with wood and jungle, and nearly unpeopled.

Ceylon is now divided into six provinces, the area and population of which, according to a census taken in the year 1862, is shown in the following table:—

Province	Area in Square Miles	Population
Western . . .	3,890	725,812
North-Western . .	3,362	204,924
Southern . . .	2,147	334,759
Eastern . . .	4,753	83,738
Northern . . .	5,427	419,062
Central . . .	5,191	306,939
Total . . .	24,700	2,075,234

Not included in these population returns are 4,647 military persons, which added make the total population 2,079,881.

It will be seen, from the preceding table, that the pop. of Ceylon is very unequally distributed, the western province being the densest populated part—190 inhabitants per square mile—and the eastern province the least dense—only seventeen inhabitants on the square mile. This inequality is only partly explained by differences of soil and climate.

Agriculture.—The tract of country near the Coromandel coast is only in some parts fit for tillage, the ground for many miles exposing only a barren and naked surface. The soil of the central parts is capable of producing luxuriant crops were it properly cultivated. All products requiring a moist soil and climate flourish most in the SW., and rice is grown chiefly in the level lands there, or in the valleys of the hill region, but often also on the slopes, on account of the facilities they present for irrigation. Around the fields, on the level lands intended for its reception, small embankments, about three feet in height, are raised, and water let in upon them; they are afterwards trodden over by buffaloes or turned up with a sort of light plough. On the hill slopes the rice-fields are dammed up, and form a succession of terraces, for irrigating which the water is conveyed sometimes for a mile or two along the mountain sides, and let off from one terrace to another, as the state of the grain requires it. There are two rice harvests during the year; the first crop is sown from July to October, and reaped from January to March; the second is sown from March to May, and reaped from August to October. What is called a plough consists of a piece of crooked timber shod with iron, which tears rather than ploughs up the ground. After the first ploughing, the fields are flooded; then ploughed again, and carefully weeded. Rice is industriously cultivated by the Malabars of the N. and N.E. districts; but the produce is insufficient for the consumption of the island, and large quantities are annually