

	Brought forward . . .	425,821
Ditto descendants . . . . .		75,000
Cochin Chinese . . . . .		5,000
Cambojians . . . . .		5,000
Siamese . . . . .		80,000
Peguans . . . . .		10,000
Laocians . . . . .		15,000
Burmese and Tavoyans . . . . .		8,000
Malays . . . . .		15,000

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638,821

Most of the Chinese emigrants settle in the country permanently, and take to themselves Siamese wives, and not above one-sixth of their number return to China. They readily conform to the Siamese customs, and even religion, and many of them rise to high offices under Government. They are the most industrious part of the population, and some of them are the wealthiest individuals in Siam. The Malay population consists partly of voluntary emigrants and partly of prisoners of war. These last, although still forbidden to leave the country, have in other respects experienced a very favourable change in their mode of treatment. They receive regular rations of rice from Government, and are allowed to work on their own account excepting during a certain number of days in each year, which they must give to government work. The females are in general very industrious, and work in gold and weave dresses, and many earn as much as 10 dollars per mensem. A number of Malays have emigrated to Bangkok from a Malay Colony in Camboja. The descendants of Malays, although Moslems, are said to assimilate very much to the Siamese in habits and language.

We would, in conclusion, offer some suggestions of what we think ought to be the basis of any new treaty with Siam. The abolition of the present prohibitive tonnage duties, substituting an equitable tariff of import and export duties, and prohibiting the interference of the King or Government in trade. As long as the latter continues there can be no guarantee for the uninterrupted continuance of a regular trade. At present, although by treaty the foreign merchants and the inhabitants of the country are to be allowed to buy and sell without the intervention of any other persons, and with freedom and facility, yet it is well known that the King or Government never scruples to monopolise any article of export, when by so doing, a good profit is to be made. When the King wishes to effect this, orders are issued that the particular article to be monopolised is only to be sold to the agents of the King, and it is only when the King's ships are fully loaded, that merchants are allowed to purchase from the King's stores, by which a large profit accrues to the royal treasury. It will, therefore, be necessary that this interference with the free course of trade should be well guarded against. The residence of a consul to see to the due fulfilment of the treaty, and to afford protection and assistance to British subjects, will also be necessary. Were these points carried, we might soon expect to see the trade with Siam increasing in value and importance most rapidly, and affording an excellent outlet to a large amount of British manufactures.