

mostly covered by
not in any part
accounts (see
enlarging
and the con-

belt of country
the interior, or old
most part, flat,
n., and, in the N.,
green plains giving
autaneous appear-
barren and sandy
ent. The interior
ral divisions—the
mountains. The
9° N. is occupied
m. in length, by
ated at from 2,000
interior of the N.
r ranges of moun-
SW., and varying
sea, clothed to the
ts, and intersected
ts, and cascades,
nical-shaped hills
small height of from
napeous summit
name of Adam's
galese), in lat. 7° 9'
n. ESE. Colombo,
N. Namany-Cooli-
is about 5,518 ft.

ly in continuous
er found isolated,
ly country, from
in elevation from
summits of more
tracts is destitute
of features of the

ns numerous small
but few of them
e, to many miles
al is the Mahavilly
t part of the cen-
Candy; and, hav-
falls into the sea,
a course of about
navigable for any
t most important
ch has its source
Adam's Peak, and
y several months
it is made con-
le.

sequence in the
more than 4 m.
e, from Batticaloa
extensive lagoons,
annels, are made
oons exist in the
Colombo. (Davy's
on, pp. 1-5; Per-

rocks met with in
and consist, with
gneiss, with large
and a snow-white
y in Jaffnapatam,
of grey or black
formations, nearly
The upper soil is
small mixture of
the disintegration
on soil near Co-

lumba is perfectly white, and consists of pure
quartz. Ceylon is rich in valuable mineral; its
metalliferous products are, however, comparatively un-
known: ores of iron, lead, tin, and manganese
are found in the interior, but are made little use
of; plumbago is the only article amongst these
which has become of any commercial importance.
Mines of quicksilver were formerly worked by the
Dutch. It has numerous gems; and common
salt-beds are found in various places. No volcanoes
exist in Ceylon, nor are mineral waters very
abundant; but they are met with near Trin-
comalee.

Climate.—The mountain ranges which separate
Ceylon almost completely into two parts, by arrest-
ing the course of the monsoons, occasion a radical
difference at the same moment in the climate of
the E. and W. parts, whole floods of rain deluging
the island on one side, while on the other the
natives are carefully hoarding all the water left
from previous inundations. In the S. and SW.
the climate is moist, temperate, and similar to
that of Malabar; in the E. and SE. it is hot and
dry, and more like that prevalent on the Com-
mand coast. The SW. monsoon lasts from April
to Sept., the NE. from Nov. to Feb.; in the inter-
vening months the winds are variable. The SW.
monsoons are usually accompanied by violent
storms of thunder and lightning, and torrents of
rain, which sometimes extend themselves to the
central table-land, especially in March and April;
but this high region is generally out of the influ-
ence of either monsoon, and both its winds and
temperature are greatly modified by its own phys-
ical character, and the directions of its principal
ridges. The quantity of rain which falls during
the year is about three times as great as in Eng-
land; the rains being, though not more frequent,
far heavier, so much so that a fall of two or even
three inches in twenty-four hours is not uncom-
mon: 84 inches is the annual estimate in the
alpine region, and 100 inches at Colombo. The
seasons depend more on the monsoons than on the
course of the sun; and the coolest season is during
the summer solstice, while the SW. monsoon pre-
vails. The heat is, however, nearly the same
throughout the year, and much less oppressive
than on the continent of India. Along the coast,
the annual mean temperature is about 80° Fahr.;
at Candy, 1,467 ft. above the sea, it is 78°; at
Colombo the annual variation is from 79° to 86°;
at Galle, 70° to 90°; at Trincomalee, 74° to 91°.
For a tropical country, Ceylon has a comparatively
salubrious climate; but some of the less inhabited
parts, and the low wooded hilly country between
the mountains and the sea, are highly insalubrious.
Near Colombo and Trincomalee, where the jungle
has been cleared away, and the land drained, the
country has been rendered perfectly healthy. The
prevalent diseases are those affecting the liver and
intestines, often accompanied by fever; diseases
of the lungs, urinary organs, and nervous system,
are very rare; gout is unknown. Elephantiasis,
Libien tropicus, and other cutaneous complais,
are common. The small-pox was formerly very
destructive, but is now guarded against by vacci-
nation, to which the natives raise no objection;
measles and hooping-cough both occur in a mild
form. The beri-beri (*Hydropho asthmaticus*) is a
disease nearly peculiar to Ceylon.

Vegetable products are numerous and valuable.
The most important, next to rice and other grain,
is the cinnamon (*Laurus Cinnamomum*), called by
the Singalese *corundoo*, which here arrives at its
greatest perfection, and has always been a chief
article of export. It delights in a poor sandy soil,
with a moist atmosphere, and is almost exclusively

confined to the SE. part of the island, between
Negombo and Matura. In the N., where the cli-
mate is dry and sultry, it is totally unknown, and
the endeavours to propagate it at Hatavia, in the
W. Indies, and on the opposite coast of Timor,
have not been so successful as was anticipated.
In its wild state it grows to the height of 20 or 30
ft., and bears a white blossom in January; while
in bloom, the cinnamon forests have a very beau-
tiful appearance; but the aroma of the plant res-
ides wholly in the bark, and the fragrance of the
groves is not nearly so great as strangers have
been led to believe. The soil is peculiarly suitable
for the growth of coffee; and its culture has of
late years been so much extended that it is now
the principal article of export. The coco-nut
tree flourishes with singular vigour, and is of
great importance to the native population, almost
every part of the tree being converted into articles
of food or domestic use: the best trees produce
from 50 to 100 nuts annually, and grow so close
to the sea, that the roots are even washed by its
surge. The Palmyra palm grows principally in
the N. part of the island, and is scarcely of less
importance than the coco-nut tree. The talipot
palm, the leaves of which are large enough to
shelter many individuals, grows luxuriantly here,
though rare on the continent of India. The
bread-fruit-tree attains an immense size; cotton
is not equal to that of India; indigo is found
wild, but its culture is neglected; the areca and
betel nut, as well as tobacco, all of which are of
excellent quality, grow abundantly; the carlammou
seeds are inferior to those of Malabar. Gun-lao
and gamboge are also produced in this island.
The Flora of Ceylon is not so extensive as beau-
tiful and various: the rose, pink, mignonette, &c.
are as fragrant as in England, and the Jessamine
much more so; the *gloriosa superba* and anaryllis
grow in profusion, and the jamba, or rose-apple,
strews the ground with its scarlet blossoms.
(Heber's Narrative, lii. 143-145, &c.; Percival,
pp. 319-337.)

Animals.—Ceylon has been from an early period
celebrated for its breed of elephants, which, though
inferior in size to those of other countries, are more
valued for their greater strength and docility.
The chase of these animals has always been with
the Singalese an object of great importance; but
the avidity with which they have been pursued
has greatly diminished their numbers, and they
are now chiefly confined to the N. and NE. dis-
tricts. The royal tiger is not met with, but bears,
leopards, the cheta (a small species of leopard),
hyenas, jackals, and tiger-cats are numerous;
besides elks, deer, gazelles, buffaloes, wild hogs,
and monkeys. Near Jaffna a large baboon is very
abundant, and fearless: a large variety of the
monkey tribe, porcupines, racoons, armadilloes,
squirrels, and mungoses, are met with. There
are no foxes; but the flying fox and rats are very
common and troublesome. Pheasants, snipes, red-
legged partridges, pigeons, peacocks, and a great
variety of birds; with serpents, alligators, and
reptiles of all sorts, are abundantly plentiful. The
fishing of the pearl oyster is an important branch
of industry.

People.—The pop. of Ceylon, exclusive of the
various colonists who have at different times pos-
sessed themselves of the coasts, may be divided
into four classes:—1st, the native Singalese or
Ceylonese, who may be again subdivided into
those occupying the Caualian territories, and
those of the coasts; 2nd, the Moors, who are
found in all parts of the island, and form the
chief population of the district of Puttiam; 3rd,
the Veddahs, a savage race, who are supposed to