

## PART V.

## THE DUTCH EAST INDIES.

The Dutch possessions in Asia, forming the territory of Dutch East India (Nederlandsch Oost India), are situated between 6° N. and 11° S. latitude, and between 95° and 141° E. longitude.

In 1602 the Dutch created their East India Company. This company conquered successfully the Dutch East Indies, and ruled them during nearly two centuries. After the dissolution of the company in 1798 the Dutch possessions were governed by the mother country.

Politically, the territory, which is under the sovereignty of the Netherlands, is divided into (1) lands under direct government; (2) vassal lands; (3) confederated lands.

With regard to administration, the Dutch possessions in the East Indies are divided into residencies, divisions, regencies, districts, and dessoas (villages). They are also very often classified as follows: (1) Java and Madura; (2) the outposts—Sumatra, Borneo, Riouw-Lingga Archipelago, Banca, Billiton, Celebes, Molucca Archipelago, the Lesser Sunda Islands, and a part of New Guinea.

The following table shows the values of the imports into and exports from the Dutch East Indies (inclusive of Government stores but exclusive of specie), distinguishing the principal islands, for the years 1896, 1897, and 1898, the figures being taken from the latest Dutch official returns:—

*Trade of the Dutch East Indies.*

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1896.	1897.	1898.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Java and Madura ..	9,123,000	9,469,000	9,471,000	11,870,000	11,850,000	12,393,000
Sumatra and Riouw	2,773,000	3,463,000	3,139,000	3,338,000	3,949,000	3,979,000
Banca and Billiton .	149,000	155,000	151,000	49,000	22,000	70,000
Dutch Borneo ..	234,000	275,000	334,000	286,000	473,000	449,000
Celebes ..	653,000	721,000	578,000	645,000	733,000	658,000
Bali and Lombok ..	177,000	154,000	143,000	195,000	159,000	97,000
Other islands ..	72,000	61,000	136,000	178,000	266,000	401,000
Total .. ..	13,181,000	14,298,000	13,952,000	16,561,000	17,452,000	18,047,000

The chief articles of import into the Dutch East Indies are yarn and cotton goods from the United Kingdom, iron and steel manufactures from Belgium and the United Kingdom, wine and spirits from France, and machinery of all sorts from the United Kingdom and Germany.

Java, the most important of the colonial possessions of the Netherlands, was formerly administered, politically and socially, on a system established by General Johannes Graaf Van den Rosch in 1832, and known as the "culture system." It was based in principle on the officially superintended labour of the natives, directed so as to produce not only a sufficiency of food