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Singapore

Virg. and J. von G. R. Virchow
am 1878. W.

My dear Professor Virchow

After a long silence due to eight months wandering through the states of Pahang, Trengganu & Kelantan I return to Singapore. to get fresh supplies report progress & shake off a very severe attack of fever. The first is accomplished I now proceed to the second, the third will follow in due course. I send salutations and 3 cases marked A. B. C. & a small box marked D addressed to the Museum für Vol. & Naturkunde through Messrs. Behn. Meyer & Co. of this port. Your instructions were to send to Penang but the Consul there wrote me that he would only have to send the cases down to Singapore again to be shipped to M. Eschke the Consul here advised & introduced me to Messrs. Behn & Co. asking them to see to this & future shipment. Case A contains samples of sumpitans B & C. general samples
from

from the Lakeis & D stone implements.
The list & notes thereon are on the top of
case B. which please have opened first. Case
A will have to have the wood carefully broken
away. It is packed & fastened in such a
manner that it cannot be opened in any other
way.

My next proceeding is in about a weeks
time to go to a river some 60 miles south of the
river pahang & 30 inland (: to see the wood sum-
pitan made (: vide notes in Case B.) Next to
go to Bangkok & get the King of Siam's promise
'chop' or pass to travel in patanie & Kelantan
his tributary states. Since the English occupa-
pancy of pahang, Siam has forbidden Euro-
peans to travel in his tributaries without
a pass I saw him in Singapore last month
& he agreed to give it to me but as the Sia-
mese Govt are most unpunctual & dilatory
Please to send me a special introduction

to

to the German Consul of Bangkok who
can arrange for interview with the Minister
more quickly than I can. If you send it
to the care of the German Consul here it will
arrive just about the time I return from this
next trip to Pahang.

I was tracing the Lumpitans through
Pahang to Telanton to find out where they
were made (vide notes Case B.) and before I got
to the place was turned back by the Rajah.
I know where abouts it is however & have left
a depot of Provisions for a later stay there.
as from Bangkok I shall enter the Peninsula
at Patani & come south to intersect the rivers
of which nothing is known to ascertain which
ones run from the centre. Lakei populated
hill land so as to reach them afterwards
by boat. I know now where Lakei camps
& road from Fohore to Telanton & not only
know the places but have made friends with
all

all the men. I have a broad scarlet-
band on the left arm & by arrangement
with them, when now even a Sakai who has not
previously met me sees me through the jungle
he comes unhesitatingly forward to receive
a present instead of running away or hi-
ding. The news of the "Churtah" stranger (Chur-
tah is a large red & white flower in their jungle)
travels far ahead of me & knowing I bring pre-
sents with me & I do not hurt them all the
tribes welcome me. I can talk a little in three
of their languages. the Pinnoi Fummeor &
Pauggban, but have not yet met many of the
Semang. I have to go alone among them. The
wilder men would instantly shoot any Ma-
lay the moment they saw him. On this last
trip a Pauggban chief shot a Malay servant
of mine who contrary to orders had followed
me into the jungle. I had given all my boat
men instructions to keep on the boat while

I started off a two days march to some hills where as I expected there were Sakai. I was busy taking notes when the Malay appeared his prying curiosity was soon satisfied. the chief seized his sumpitan & instantly drove a dart almost up to the butt in the man's chest. He died in a little over five minutes.

This having to go alone into the jungle & search for the Sakai, sometimes for days among the hills till I hear one calling to his friends in the distance makes it very slow work. It is impossible to see them first & if I did not know how to live in the jungle by myself I could not get at them at all. When I hear one calling I reply & knowing their calls soon come up to him & from him the main body. who then go to the river & I having sent the Malays & the boat down stream they take up my baggage & presents from the shore & I go back to where they are camped & after giving all presents they show me the

next

next-settlements till I come to another river when I have to return to the boat & go across or round out of their district to the next river & repeat the process. Untill I know exactly where the camps are all over the peninsula I cannot make any definity arrangements.

Moreover, instead of one there are I find two distinct tribes of Sakai, besides the Papuan & the Negrito & not-reckoning the mixed Mautras & Benuas &c. The whole of the information hitherto known requires correction for it is mostly wrong. (See notes on races.)

I can get skulls & skeletons without much difficulty from them & could by this time have sent you fifty had I only wanted to make a good cheque out of you, but the first-traveller who really knew the wild men in after years would probably make the collection perfectly valueless to you had I sent them before being well acquainted.

I never yet put my signature to a skeleton
I was not perfectly sure about & I think you
will at once agree with me that ten authentic
ones are infinitely better than a hundred
which are open to suspicion. I have to learn
to distinguish one race from another beyond
doubt & to recognize cross breeding. Inspection
of the cash of attached will shew you that the
delay is not attended by any very great expense.
In this utterly unknown country difficulties
arise of which you can have no perception
and you must trust to me to fulfil your com-
mission faithfully but in such fashion as I
find most expedient. When I have known the
North (- Patanie Kedah & Kelantan) as well as
I do the rest of the Peninsula. you may
accept all I say or send as that of an expert
& standard authority. Till then it is the old
saying, "More haste less speed".

I send samples of Iakei things I managed
to

to bring down this time. As I cannot tell
where or how far I am going & cannot have my
men to carry things I have contented myself
with nothing every thing for a later return &
now want to know from you how many of each
article you want. It does not matter
whether one or a hundred I can put my hand
upon them & all where I have once been I arrange
for the men if I come again to carry every thing
to the rivers. In your next letter please to
let me know as it is no use going to trouble
& expense sending you more of anything
than you require after I have done the
work, which will occupy me till the be-
ginning of next year. I can send you
exhibits by the ship load. rapidly. I
shall only get the chance of this one letter
from you as in about two months time
I am away for six or eight months in
the wildest & most unknown part

of

of the North.

With most hearty good wishes
I remain

Yours very sincerely
(gez.) Hrolf. C. Vaughan - Stevens.
