

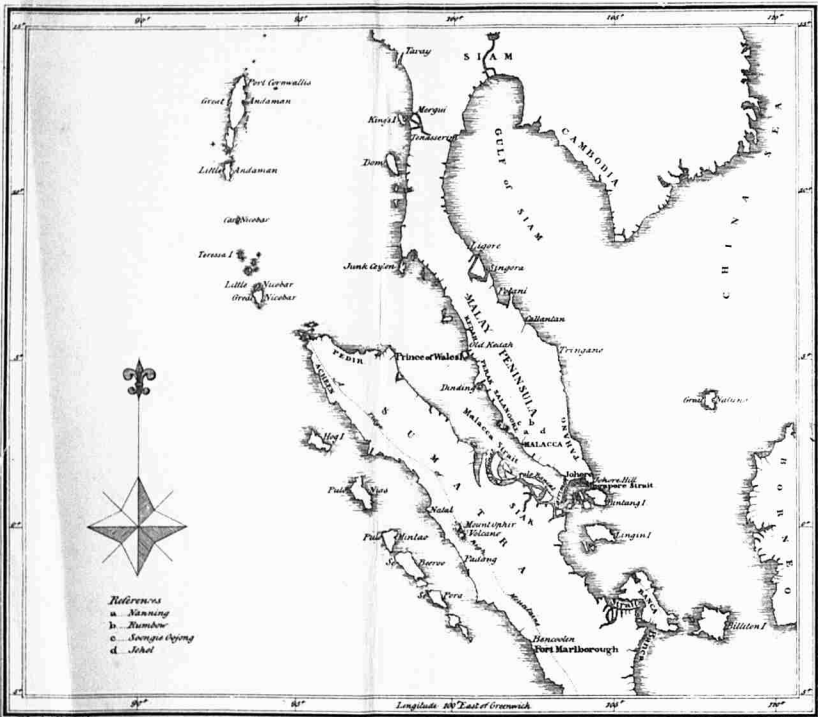
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THE MALAYAN PENINSULA

*Copied from my original
edition of 1834.*

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Donnelly Luskon
1967.

THE
MALAYAN
PENINSULA

BY
P. J. BEGBIE

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
DIPTENDRA M. BANERJEE



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INTRODUCTION

PETER JAMES BEGBIE, the author of this book, lived the best part of his life in India. Trained in the military seminary at Addiscombe, he arrived in India in 1823 at the age of nineteen as a lieutenant in the Madras Artillery. He became a captain in 1833 and was promoted to the rank of major in 1846. He was employed with the Jaulnah light field force in the southern Mahratta country during the siege of Kittor (1824-25) and was a participant in the East India Company's wars against Burma in 1824-26 and against Naning in 1831-32. He was awarded the India Medal for Ava.¹ It must be admitted that there was nothing unique about his military career, but Begbie was one of those British officers who utilized their professional stay in the East for fruitful historical purposes. Being an army officer, he was naturally interested in military affairs; and a substantial part of *The Malayan Peninsula* is devoted to the military aspects of the Naning war. Later, after returning to India from Malaya, he worked on a history of the services of the Madras Artillery which he published in two volumes in 1852-53.²

The Malayan Peninsula is neither a mere chronicle nor a casual travel-story. It is an important book. It contains, among other things, an account of Dutch admin-

¹ Information from *Service Army List, Madras*. Volume 5. Also from the book mentioned below in footnote 2, Volume 2, Appendix I, p. xxix.

² *History of the Services of the Madras Artillery with a Sketch of the Rise of the Power of the East India Company in Southern India* (2 Volumes; Madras, Frank & Co., 1852-53).