

of the Archipelago, if not of the world,* reaching a height of 200 feet. One of the middling size which I had cut down measured at the base, where the camphor leaks out, $7\frac{1}{2}$ Paris feet in diameter (about 8 feet English); its trunk rose to 100 feet, with an upper diameter of 5 feet, before dividing, and the height of the whole tree to the crown was 150 feet. The precious consolidated camphor is found in small quantities, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to 1 lb. in a single tree, in fissure-like hollows in the stem. Yet many are cut down in vain, or split up the side without finding camphor. The camphor oil is prepared by the natives by bruising and boiling the twigs." The oil, however, appears also to be found in the tree, as Crawford and Collingwood mention, corroborating the ancient Arab.

It is well known that the Chinese attach an extravagantly superior value to the Malay camphor, and probably its value in Marco's day was higher than it is now, but still its estimate as worth its weight in gold looks like hyperbole. Forrest, a century ago, says Barus Camphor was in the Chinese market worth nearly its weight in *silver*, and this is true still. The price is commonly estimated at 100 times that of the Chinese camphor. The whole quantity exported from the Barus territory goes to China. De Vriese reckons the average annual export from Sumatra between 1839 and 1844 at less than 400 kilogrammes. The following table shows the wholesale rates in the Chinese market as given by Rondot in 1848:—

<i>Qualities of Camphor.</i>	<i>Per picul of 133½ lbs.</i>
Ordinary China, 1st quality	20 dollars.
„ „ 2nd „	14 „
Formosa	25 „
Japan	30 „
China <i>ngai</i> (ext. from an <i>Artemisia</i>)	250 „
Barus, 1st quality	2000 „
„ 2nd „	1000 „

The Chinese call the Sumatran (or Borneo) Camphor *Ping-pien* "Icicle flakes," and *Lung-nau* "Dragon's Brains." [Regarding Baros Camphor, Mr. Groeneveldt writes (*Notes*, p. 142): "This substance is generally called *dragon's brain perfume*, or *icicles*. The former name has probably been invented by the first dealers in the article, who wanted to impress their countrymen with a great idea of its value and rarity. In the trade three different qualities are distinguished: the first is called *prune-blossoms*, being the larger pieces; the second is *rice-camphor*, so called because the particles are not larger than a rice-kernel, and the last quality is *golden dregs*, in the shape of powder. These names are still now used by the Chinese traders on the west coast of Sumatra. The *Pên-ts'au Kang-mu* further informs us that the Camphor Baros is found in the trunk of a tree in a solid shape, whilst from the roots an oil is obtained called *Po-lut* (*Pa-lut*) *incense*, or *Polut balm*. The name of *Polut* is said to be derived from the country where it is found (*Barcs.*)" —H. C.] It is just to remark, however, that in the *Ain Akbari* we find the price of the Sumatran Camphor, known to the Hindus as *Bhim Seni*, varying from 3 rupees as high as 2 mohurs (or 20 rupees) for a rupee's weight, which latter price would be *twice* the weight in gold. Abul Fazl says the worst camphor went by the name of *Bálús*. I should suspect some mistake, as we know from Garcias that the fine camphor was already known as *Barus*. (*Ain-i-Akb.* 75-79.)

(*Mas'udi*, I. 338; *I. B.* IV. 241; *J. A. sér.* IV. tom. viii. 216; *Lane's Arab. Nights* (1859), III. 21; *Battaländer*, I. 107; *Crawf. Hist.* III. 218, and *Desc. Dict.* 81; *Hedde et Rondot, Com. de la Chine*, 36-37; *Chin. Comm. Guide*; *Dr. F. A. Flückiger, Zur Geschichte des Camphers*, in *Schweiz. Wochenschr. für Pharmacie*, Sept., Oct., 1867.)

NOTE 4.—An interesting notice of the Sago-tree, of which Odoric also gives an account. Ramusio is, however, here fuller and more accurate: "Removing the first

* The Californian and Australian giants of 400 feet were not then known.