

Aquarell by Hermann de Schlagintweit-Sakulinski, Febr. 1856. Nr. N^o 161.

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Alluvial Deposits in the Brahmaputra, above Rakusni Hill, Assam.

Lat. North: 26° 6' 5"

Long. East of Green: 91° 36' 3"

Height (of river above sea level): 65 Engl. feet.

The centre is occupied by a granite rock to which has been given by the Hindus of Assam the name of the hero Rakus, in allusion to its power of breaking the mighty current. Large sandbanks are deposited above the rock, and although changing with every high-water season, they are covered with cane jungles, the shelter of animals of various kinds occasionally of herds of wild Assamese buffaloes (Bos Arm). The general height of the water in the rains is marked on the rock by the trees, which form a well-defined line immediately above it. Below the betel-palms on the promontory to the right, belonging to the village of Suvalkuchi, another mighty bend follows, abounding with clays, or sandbanks, which divide the river into numerous branches of as many different forms. The outlines of the sand in the foreground to the right indicate sufficiently the action of the river; such deposits of whirlpool-like form, now above the level of the stream, and even often some distance from its present banks, are met with in Assam, scattered all over the valley. The Hills to the right are the Molung Hills; those to the left are granite rocks above Dhorapar.

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The Jhils of Bengal, at high water.

Lat. North: 24° 0'

Long. East of Green: 87° 50'

Height (of the bank above sea level): 50 Engl. feet.

The Jhils are lakes and swamps varying greatly in size, situated in the upper part of the Delta of Bengal. In the height of the rains the country becomes here so vastly overflowed that even large boats may sail right across the country between temporary islands; in the dry season a few lakes remain. The view is taken about half-way between Rampur Boleah, on the Ganges, and Dhaka on the Surma, looking up the current to the northwest. The village of Sellovás in the foreground, with its wretched native huts, and a rounded cane temple of rather unusual form, is in a position of equal temporary insulation with those we see further on. The vegetation is luxuriant wherever the soil is not too muddy; the field is covered with jute 10 feet high (the fibrous *Corchorus olitorius*); close by mighty bamboo stems 62 feet high are seen, terminating in most tender wavy branches. As a peculiar tropical modification, the uniformity in the tint of the water, and its glare, may be remarked; it is the effect of the almost vertical position of the sun, whilst in the morning and evening the shades are of a much greater variety, in accordance with the differences of depth and current.