

White descent; but one of them said, that "the Telinga Bramins were highly respected; while the Bengal, Guzerat, Cutch, and Cashmere Bramins, were regarded as impure."

From repeated inquiries it appeared, that the rules of 'cast' are independent of colour or physical difference between the two races; and further, that unlike what takes place in other countries and in respect to other races, no such distinction is recognised by the people themselves. I am not, on this account, prepared to abandon the claims of the Telingan to be considered a distinct race; but I confess the population of this part of India seemed so blended, that I was unable to define the precise limits.

To the Westward of Hindoostan, at Muscat, I saw two individuals whose personal appearance agreed entirely with that of the Telingan race. They were from Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf.

MADAGASCAR

On the passage from Singapore to the United States, the Vincennes touched at the island of *St. Helena*; where I found myself, as I supposed, again among Lascars; in this instance, more or less mixed with Negroes. On inquiry, I was greatly surprised to learn, that notwithstanding the admitted resemblance, "this class of the population had been all brought many years since from Madagascar."

On the other hand, I was unable to detect the slightest appearances of Telingan admixture, among the numbers of Madagascar people seen subsequently at *Zanzibar*. It is true, these had been derived, perhaps exclusively, from the Sakalava country, on the western coast. In regard, however, to the alleged origin of the *St. Helena* people, Ellis's* description of the "Betanimena and Betsimisaraka," seems to correspond; and in another place, he expressly mentions the occurrence of "straight-haired blacks" among the population of Madagascar.

Drury appears to have been the only writer who has seen some of the 'Vazimba' of Madagascar; and he speaks of them as being a distinct race from the other inhabitants of the island; but his description does not well correspond with the Telingan race.

* History of Madagascar, vol. i. p. 130, &c.