

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1915 edition. Excerpt: ... translucent; it is composed of the porcelanous, not of the nacreous constituent of the shell.<sup>22</sup> It has been stated that this Sulu superstition is not shared by the natives of Celebes Island, near Borneo, for here such pearls are kept as charms and talismans. One of an irregular pear-shape, weighing 27y2 grains, has been found on the northern coast of the island.<sup>23</sup> The finding of a nautilus pearl by a Chinese woman in Borneo is noted by Rumphius, who describes it as being as large as a bean and East Indian Baroque pearl. Weight over 1700 grains. Holland, 1775. white as a piece of alabaster, hard and bright, but of very irregular shape. The finder put it in a closed box, and was not a little surprised to discover when she opened the box after a time that the original pearl had engendered another one the size of a lentil; later it had two other, smaller offspring. The woman carefully treasured her find as a lucky stone which would bring her good fortune in her search for mussels. Bumphius shrewdly conjectures that the smaller concretions had broken off the larger one while it was enclosed in the box.<sup>24</sup> H. Lyster Jameson, in \* Nature, Oct. 7, 1912. See Nature, Oct. 24, 1912, p. 220. \* Rumphius, DAmboinische Rariteitskamer, Amsterdam, 1741, p. b2. The well-known lines in Shakespeares Othello: Of one whose hand, like the base Judeans, Cast away a pearl richer than all his tribe. have been explained in many different ways by the commentators, one of whom (Steevens) saw in them a reference to the following story current in Venice in the sixteenth century. A Jew, after long and perilous wanderings in the East, succeeded in bringing with him to Venice a great number of fine pearls. These he disposed of there at satisfactory...

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