

ears. Some of the inhabitants of the *Wâkwâk* island are of black colour. In our countries there is a great demand for them as slaves. People fetch from thence the black ebony-wood; it is the pith of a tree, the other parts of which are thrown away, whilst the kinds of wood called *mulamma'* and *shauhat* and the yellow sandal-wood are brought from the country of the Zanj (Negroes).

In former times there were pearl-banks in the bay of Sarandîb (Ceylon), but at present they have been abandoned. Since the Sarandîb pearls have disappeared, other pearls have been found at Sufâla in the country of the Zanj, so that people say the pearls of Sarandîb have migrated to Sufâla.

India has the tropical rains in summer, which is called *varshakâla*, and these rains are the more copious and last the longer the more northward the situation of a province of India is, and the less it is intersected by ranges of mountains. The people of Mûltân used to tell me that they have no *varshakâla*, but the more northern provinces nearer the mountains have the *varshakâla*. In Bhâtal and Indravêdi it begins with the month Âshâdha, and it rains continually for four months as though water-buckets were poured out. In provinces still farther northward, round the mountains of Kâshmîr up to the peak of *Jâdarî* between Dulpûr and Barshâwar, copious rain falls during two and a half months, beginning with the month Śrâvaṇa. However, on the other side of this peak there is no rainfall; for the clouds in the north are very heavy, and do not rise much above the surface. When, then, they reach the mountains, the mountain-sides strike against them, and the clouds are pressed like olives or grapes, in consequence of which the rain pours down, and the clouds never pass beyond the mountains. Therefore Kâshmîr has no *varshakâla*, but continual snowfall during two and a half months, beginning with Mâgha, and shortly

On the
rainfall in
India.