

The Times, April 17, 1787

EAST INDIA INTELLIGENCE.

Calcutta, Nov. 13, 1786.

The importance of the new settlement of Pulo Punang, or Prince of Wales's Island, will attract the favourable attention of Government. Deprived as we now are of our principal marts for the sale of opium, by the Dutch having taken possession of Rhio and Salingan, if some place of safety is not established to which the Buggesses can resort to make their purchases, we must soon give up all pretensions to the Malay trade, which will be solely monopolized by the Dutch, and of course materially affect the Company's revenues, as well as their trade in the sale of their opium: for by being the sole venders, they must be the only purchasers; and by having no rivals, will only purchase at their own price. While the Company stand pledged to the nation to provide the sole supplies of tea, it is certainly of the first importance to their interest to be furnished with money in China to make their purchases. This object would be much facilitated by the new settlement, as the the greatest part of the proceeds arising from the Malay trade would be deposited there, and afterwards shipped to China, where nearly the whole money arising from the sale would be paid into the Company's Treasury for bills on the Court of Directors, thereby providing the Company with large sums to make their purchases, and diverting the remittance of private fortunes from foreign channels, so baneful to the public good, to one highly beneficial to both public and private interest.