

*Extract of a letter from the Prince of Wales's Island, dated Jan. 21, 1787.*

"We have one of our bastions finished; it mounts two eighteen, four nine, and one six pounder—the other three are getting ready as fast as possible, and will each mount two nine pounders. At each of the two large gates stands a twelve pounder—carronade—ready loaded with grape, and two six pounders, on travelling carriages, ready to run to any part of the fort. The Sepoys are told off in four divisions, and ready to act at a moment's warning; all this caution was absolutely necessary—as a Malay, called Orang Riah, accompanied by about five hundred of his countrymen, has settled on the island without liberty—we have a great look out after them. We have recruited five, and buried four Sepoys, since our landing: there are generally from 25 to 30 sick in the hospital, owing to the bite of a sand fly, which immediately festers.

"The ship Harriot, Capt. Bond, (formerly the Dudaloy) put in here, being too late for China this season; she took fire on the 15th inst. but by the timely assistance given from shore, and the Prince Henry, it was extinguished with the loss only of a few bales of cotton.

"The ships now in the harbour are, the Prince Henry, Capt. Glas; Harriot, Bond; Speedwell, Lindsey; Eclipse brig, ———; Nonfuch, Lounds; Munster Lass cutter, and Fly sloop; the latter sails this day, with dispatches for Bengal.

"There are (besides the reinforcement from Bengal) 150 Coffries to be sent from Bombay—The Recourse, Capt. Gordon, sailed from hence for Malacca yesterday."

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