

Friday's Post.

... We have been favoured with the following particulars of the melancholy affair at Candy :

The British troops on the 2d of Feb. captured Candy, and set a new King upon the throne. The troops in Candy and the neighbouring posts, dying daily, and being much reduced by sickness, the Candians formed a plan to rise *en masse*, on a certain day, all over the Island, and massacre the English troops. On the day appointed, about 12,000 of the natives surrounded Candy, and attacked the palace, which was defended with the greatest obstinacy by the 19th and the Malays, who fought hand to hand for near two hours, and at one time they could not load their pieces, but merely used the bayonet. After a desperate struggle, they at last beat the Candians off with great slaughter. We lost about 12 or 14 killed and wounded, and 2 gallant young men, Lieutenants Blakeney and Plenderleith, of the 19th. The surrender of Major Davie happened soon after this transaction. While our troops were on their way to Trincomalee, the Adigar on the 26th sent them a message, saying the King positively insisted that they should march back to Candy and lay down their arms, and that Mootoo Swammy, the new King, should be given up to them. After some time Major Davie marched back towards Candy, and was met by the Adigar and the Dissavacs, or Chiefs, and shewn where they should pile their arms, close to the town. When that was done, the Europeans were marched to some distance from their arms, which were immediately secured by the Candians. The Malay soldiers in our service were separated from the Europeans and marched another way. The Candians then took the new King Mootoo Swammy, and put him to death on the spot. Major Davie and Capt. Rumley of the Malay regiments, and Capt. Humphreys of the Bengal Artillery, were separated from the rest of the Officers. The other Officers, 8 in number, with all the men of the 19th, were then led away, and tied two and two. The greater part were then brought into the jungle in this state, and, horrid to relate, beat against each other with clubs till they expired. The remainder, by two and two, had their throats cut: one corporal of the 19th regiment, alone escaping; he had his head and neck desperately cut, and was thrown among the heap of slain; but at night was able to creep into the wood, and make for the river, over

which he swam, though very broad and rapid, and escaped to Fort Macdowal. In all, there were 198 Europeans of the 19th put to death, and nearly the whole of the Malays, who would not voluntarily enter into the King's service. Many of those who did so to save their lives, contrived afterwards to effect their escape. Major Davie, Captains Rumley and Humphreys, were kept prisoners for some days after the first massacre, and when the grand feast was made upon establishing the King again on the throne at Candy, these unfortunate men were dragged out in the presence of the King and all his Dissavacs, by command of the Adigar, and put to death in the most cruel and inhuman manner. Several valuable Malay Officers perished in their attempts to protect the Europeans. A very fine young man, not above 17, Ensign Barry, of the Malay corps, who was reserved from the first slaughter, being sent for a few days after by the Adigar, to come before the King, finding his execution at hand, snatched a sword from one of the guards, and thrust it through his body.