

SALEM, AMERICA, AUG. 27. Particulars of the capture and destruction of Makey, a Malay settlement on the coast of Sumatra.

On the 13th of April, two large English ships and three brigs came to anchor in Makey Roads, close in shore. They were well armed, and had on board from 3 to 400 Seapoy troops, commanded by European officers. The expedition was fitted out in Bencoolen. The commanding officer immediately made the following demands:—

1st. That the natives should pay 100,000 dollars for the destruction of a similar armament by the French in Pulo Bay, near Bencoolen, about six months previous, which armament was destined against Makey.

2. That a second 100,000 dollars should be paid for the loss of a country ship near Makey, which the British alledged had been plundered by the Malays.

3. They demanded another 100,000 for the expence of the second fleet, then before the port.

These demands were addressed to the Chief, Dattoo Sabelleon, and four o'clock P. M. fixed for a definitive reply. The settlement was totally unprepared for defence; no cannon was mounted, and there were no troops to defend it. No answer being returned at the appointed time, the English commenced the attack, by firing on the town with all their vessels. Many natives were killed before a single shot was returned. In the night they hove up banks of sand, and planted a few cannon, and in the morning of the 14th returned the fire. A warm engagement continued for about six hours. The English lost about 20 men. The Captain of one of the brigs was wounded. The first shot from shore killed three men on board of one of the ships.

Finding little could be done by continuing in their vessels, the English landed the soldiers and attacked the intrenchments. Here there was a brave resistance, but finally the natives abandoned the ground, flying in all directions into the country. Dattoo Sabelleon, the Malay Rajah, who bravely defended the place, was supposed to be mortally wounded. The English now intrenched themselves in turn, built a fort, and took possession of the country, and fearing the natives might poison all the streams and wells in that neighbourhood, landed 200 casks of water from the ships. They destroyed the town of Makey, burning all the houses to the ground, and plundering the natives of all the pepper which had been collected for the season. The quantity is stated to be equal to five ship loads. The American vessels in port took no part on either side. A few shot from the English vessels passed over them but did no damage. Not having completed their loading, application was made after the surrender of the place to the British Resident for permission to purchase pepper, but the answer was that it was against his instructions, and no pepper could be sold to foreigners.

It will be here necessary to make only a single observation, to prove that this unprovoked attack has fallen on the Malays, chiefly in consequence of the Americans visiting their country, and purchasing pepper. Last year it was publicly reported on the coast, that so long as the Americans were suffered to trade among the natives, the English ships could get little or no pepper, and declarations were made that it would be necessary to take possession of the native ports, with a view of excluding all foreigners from any participation in the trade.

One of the English brigs, on her return from Bencoolen, was fallen in with by a French privateer, and sent to the Isle of France.