

The Times | October 4, 1817

The following is an extract of a letter from Croe (coast of Sumatra), dated March 21 :—

“ About two days ago, three people arrived here from the southward, who proved to be Lascars, belonging to the ship *Union*, Capt. BARKER. This vessel sailed from Calcutta about 15 months ago, and has been missing ever since. She had a cargo of cotton, bound to Java first, and then to Canton; but, unfortunately, on passing the island of Engano, she struck on a reef of rocks about 8 o'clock in the morning, and about 4 o'clock p. m. she sunk. Two boats got on shore with the captain, 1st officer, and about 50 men; but as soon as they reached the shore, the natives seized them, and plundered them of every thing, even the very clothes they had on their backs. The two boats they broke up.

“ The remaining crew, nearly 50 in number, were seen on a raft, attempting to make the shore, which they could not effect, and have never been heard of since. The Captain and chief officers, with about 40 Lascars, are still on the island, at work at the Oobee or yam plantations, no rice growing there. These people declare, that whenever any of them proved to be incapable of working, their hands and feet are tied together, and large stones hung to them, after which they were thrown into the sea.

“ Poolloo Bartallanjong is the Malay name for Engano (or Island of Descent), which lies a little to the southward of Bencooler. It is the usual land fall in the north-west Monsoon, when bound to the Straits of Sunda.”