

NANING.

We have been favored with a valuable communication relative to the rise and progress of the present dispute with the Panghooloo or Chief of Naning, of which we gladly avail ourselves in laying before the public what we consider to be a fair and impartial statement of the question at hostile issue between the Malacca authorities, and that Chief.

It appears the Portuguese, when their power was paramount in these regions, first conquered the district of *Naning* from the Malays, and subjected it to their authority at Malacca. This must have been previous to the year 1640, when the Dutch took Malacca from the Portuguese, by siege.

After the Dutch had fixed themselves at Malacca, they sent a Commissary to the Panghooloo, confirming him and his Ampat Sookoo, or four councillors, in their offices and dignities; the Commissary at that time entered into a regular agreement or engagement with the Panghooloo that he (the Panghooloo) must subject himself to the orders of the Dutch Government, and pay annually, as a tributary prince, the following tribute: 400 gantans of paddy; 6 Dozen of fowls, and certain number of buffaloes, besides which every boat coming down with fowls, fruits, vegetables &c, from *Naning* to Malacca must pay a duty of 45½ Cents, each boat. At that period, the rivers were the only means of conveying produce from the interior, there being no roads.

Sungie Baroo, *Sungie Petter* and several other districts were then under the authority and jurisdiction of the Panghooloo of *Naning*, but they were thinly inhabited. Subsequently however the Dutch gave away a portion of those lands to several individuals, inhabitants of Malacca, while the remainder continued under the direction and authority of one Panghooloo to another. Those were appointed by the Dutch in the following manner:

The Ampat Sookoo come down to Malacca with the person they wished to appoint, and having called on the Malay Capitan, Government, on the recommendation of the latter, confirmed the chosen individual in the office of Panghooloo.

In this manner matters continued during the Dutch time; with the exception that the tax or tribute of buffaloes was dispensed with. In 1795, the Dutch gave over the place, on the same conditions, to the British Authorities. In 1802, when Colonel Taylor was Governor or Resident of Malacca the old Panghooloo appointed during the Dutch time, died, and the four Ampat Sookoo, before burying his remains, came down immediately with the present Chief, whose name is SIABOO, wishing him to be appointed the successor. The Captain Malay took them to Colonel Taylor, when SIABOO was appointed Panghooloo of Naning, on condition that the old Dutch *chap*, (seal or badge) should be changed from an English one. On the part of the Panghooloo, it was agreed that he should continue in possession of the rights and privileges granted him by the Dutch, and that he was to continue to pay the 400 gantans of paddy, 6 Dozen of fowls, and the duty of 45½ Cents for every boat

coming down the river; this impost however, was subsequently withdrawn in 1807, by Colonel Farquhar.

During the Dutch time, the Panghooloo was allowed the right to punish and put to death his own people, which power he continued to possess until Colonel Farquhar, when the English ruled Malacca, went up to Naning, in 1809, and prevented the Panghooloo from inflicting any more summary punishments, on his own authority.

When the Dutch got possession again of Malacca, in 1818, the same Panghooloo continued to enjoy the same privileges, but Governor Timmerman Thysen, in 1822, caused a statement to be made of the quantity of fruits, paddy, &c. &c., produced at Naning, and sent it to Batavia, with a view to obtain the sanction of the Governor General of Netherlands India, to impose some duty thereon; but before an answer came from Batavia, news were received that the Settlement was to be given over again to the English; so, no further notice was taken of the matter at that period.

In 1825, Malacca was given over again to the British, as also was Naning.

Under every government, whether Dutch or English, when the authorities at Malacca requested the attendance of the Panghooloo, he was always ready to await their orders. During the last Dutch government, several murders and robberies were committed at Naning, the perpetrators of which were sent down to Malacca to be tried and punished by the authorities there. In 1828, however, when the British authorities at Malacca sent for the Panghooloo he positively refused to come. It must be observed that it was at this period the duty of 10 per cent was first levied on the produce of all lands within the jurisdiction of Malacca, and the Panghooloo, we suspect, shrewdly considering that a similar measure was about to be enforced with regard to Naning, kept out of the way of being either persuaded or forced into an agreement. In 1829, Mr Church, the Deputy Resident of Malacca, was sent to *Sungie Petter*, with 6 Seapoys and an interpreter, to confer with the Panghooloo. The latter met Mr. Church at that place, accompanied by 200 men. Mr. Church's instructions were to give an order for levying 10 per cent upon the produce of Naning, which was to be sent to Malacca, and to inform the Panghooloo that he must not exercise the power of punishing or even fining the people, but that all cases of delinquency must be sent to Malacca, to be tried. In consideration of the losses which the Panghooloo should suffer by the transfer of his privileges, and the power of levying his per-centage on the produce, Mr. Church was authorized to offer him and the Ampat Sookoo, pensions from Government. The Panghooloo, however, refused every thing, and insisted that matters should remain according to former agreement and old custom. In this mood, they parted; the Panghooloo returning to Naning, and Mr. Commissioner Church to Malacca.

Shortly after, Mr. Fullerton arrived at Malacca, when he wrote to the Panghooloo to come to the town; but the latter still refused. It was at this period, we believe, that a military expedition, similar to the one recently mentioned by us as being about to be dispatched to Naning to subdue its obstinate ruler, was prepared, and ready to march at a moment's notice. But, from some cause or other, whether owing to a misgiving of conscience, or lenity, or the unpopularity of the measure, the troops (200 or 300 men) did not proceed on the intended campaign, and the Panghooloo continued in full possession of all his privileges and in an exemption from the 10 per cent duty.

The next mention we have of this sturdy Malayan Chief is that, last year, (1839) he went to a place called *Panklangdha*, and on his own authority, took possession of a *Durson*, (hamlet or garden) which the Malacca authorities had taken over in 1823 from INCHI SURIN, and which was acknowledged and found by title deeds, dated 1696, to have belonged to SURIN's great-grand-father. Of this seizure, SURIN complained to Government, and the Government wrote to the Panghooloo on the subject. In his answer, the latter stated that the land and the Durson belonged to him, & that he should keep possession of them.

Besides this piece of injustice, we learn that those inhabitants of Naning, who are not connected with the Panghooloo, are very willing to allow the land being placed under the same regulations as exist with regard to all others taken over by the Government; because the Panghooloo's exactions and cruelties are intolerable, and when a man is unable to pay the demand made on him, his wives and children are seized as slaves

and become the Panghooloo's property. Whether this accusation be a "weak invention of the enemy," or well-founded on facts, we are not prepared to say;—we never heard of the charge, until very lately. Another "misdemeanor" is in not having paid the last annual tribute agreed on, viz. 400 gantans of paddy and 6 dozens of fowls;—but this omission may have arisen on the Panghooloo's part in a question whether in the present state of things, such would be accepted by the Government, in lieu of the still greater demand of a tythe on the whole produce of the district. It is further stated that all his replies to letters sent by the Malacca authorities are couched in impertinent and disrespectful language, and several are not answered at all! serious charges these, for which the Panghooloo deserves a trashing to teach him better manners. We do not doubt for a moment that the communications sent to him from Malacca are penned in a far different style, such as become the enlightened rulers of that settlement.

The population of Naning is estimated, according to a census taken in 1829, at about 4,300 inhabitants, of whom from 16 to 18,00 are capable of bearing arms. There are about 900 houses; the productions consist of about 300 piculs of tin, annually, with little or no gold; but there is an immense quantity of fine fruits, vegetables, &c. and about sixteen thousand gantans of pad-

dy obtained from the land. Coir-ropes are manufactured there from the cocoanut tree, and excellent timber for beams, spars &c. procured. Canes likewise are obtained in abundance. The Panghooloo's revenue is about 9000 gantans of paddy, a year, with 2 fowls and 2 coconuts from each house. The fines, exactions, and presents form separate items in his Civil List.

Such, in substance, is the History of the present dispute with the Panghooloo of Naning, to end which by a summary military process, 200 Sepoys, two field-pieces with their appurtenances, four British Officers, and a Doctor, have been dispatched into the interior of the Peninsula. Mr. W. T. LEWIS, Assistant Resident, Superintendent of Lands at Malacca, and the prime mover of the whole affair we believe, acts as Commissioner in concert with Captain WYLLIE, the Commandant of the troops.

We have no doubt the heads of the Government gave the matter due consideration, and took all the possible bearings of the case, before arriving at such a determination, and before incurring the heavy extra expense which must necessarily attend the outfit, and the progress of the expedition. But a question still exists as to the justice and legality of endeavoring to deprive the Panghooloo of Naning of the feudal rights invested in his predecessors which they continued to enjoy, uninterrupted and inviolate for upwards of two centuries, under different governments, and which were confirmed to the present chief by the English themselves at a former distant period. That the present Panghooloo has been a little insolent and mutinously inclined, we allow, but his conduct may really be accounted for, when we consider the state of his feelings at the prospect of being deprived, unwillingly, of his dignities and immunities, and reduced from the rank of an independent prince to that of a pensioned subject.—The system of levying 10 per cent upon all produce, is likewise, very unpopular, (and even unprofitable to Government,) throughout all the districts included within the Malacca territories. We are not surprised therefore at the resistance made by the Naning people to its introduction amongst them, who have some grounds for considering themselves exempt from it. Indeed, we are informed, that one grand object of the present expedition is not only to punish the Panghooloo of Naning for his resistance and insolence, but to intimidate the other petty chiefs, subject to Malacca, who it is supposed being weak in themselves, secretly urge on and assist the Naning hero in his opposition. We have already lengthened our subject beyond the limits we originally intended, although we have much to say yet regarding the ten per cent system, and land in general, at Malacca. As we shall probably have to publish some information very soon on the result of this *pétit* "Peninsular Campaign," we shall take that opportunity of reverting to the subject.