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PIRACY.

Since our last publication, another native vessel has been cut off by pirates in these straits; the whole crew were murdered with the exception of one individual, who arrived in this settlement a few days ago. It is reported that the *Zebra* sloop of war has gone to cruise off the Carimons, in hopes of meeting with the piratical vessels.

To such persons as are acquainted with the haunts and habits of these cunning desperadoes, sending forth a man-of-war to cruise for them on the open seas must appear a rich farce.

If the British Government wish to effect any permanent good, they must establish, and keep up, a small naval force, as at Rhio, consisting of at least six fast-sailing prows, rigged Malay fashion, well armed, and manned with men of approved characters. (The war prows at Rhio are all manned by Malacca men; and the *nacodahs* are paid sixty Java rupees a month each.) Were these prows to cruise continually about the straits, and to the southward, as far as Lingin, in conjunction with the Dutch prows, we feel confident, that in the course of one year the native trade of this port would increase materially, because piracy would be in a great degree repressed.

Since writing the above, the *Zebra* has returned from her cruise, bringing in four sampans laden with fruit, on their way from Muar river to Singapore; as the men had no passes they were detained, but dismissed on arrival here, as being peaceable subjects. We conceive the principle on which Capt. Pridham acted to be a correct one; but the question is, how small craft, coming from native ports, are to obtain passes if the neighbouring rajahs will not condescend to give them.—*Sing. Chron.*, Aug. 12.
