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the place of interment (the burial ground on the south esplanade) by the governor and his staff.

Penang.

QUEDAH.

The accounts from Quedah are of a more favourable nature than we anticipated. When the captains of H.M. ships *Crocodile* and *Zebra*, in proceeding up the river of Queda, in company with the Siamese admirals, approached the Malayan fort, they observed the Queda flag flying over it; but the hero of Queda, Tuanko Kudin, sent to invite the English captains into it, and informed them that if they were so desirous he would immediately hoist the English colours, but as long as a Malay continued in the country, and while the fort stood, no Siamese should have possession of it. The conference ended amicably, and the captains returned to their boats, much to the chagrin and disappointment of the Siamese admirals, who in the meanwhile had stood aloof, and who asked the captains, with surprise, why they had not seized the traitor while he was within their power; so little idea have these wretches of any thing like national honour. The Tuanko, we understand, expressed himself so far as to intimate that, if the English persisted in giving up the country to the Siamese, they must not be surprised if the Queda Malays would seek retribution by endeavouring to possess themselves of Penang, the gift of their former rajah to the English. From this, we believe, arose the alarming report that the Malays were about to invade Penang.

The Quedans, however, have now established themselves so firmly in their own country, to the complete exclusion of the Siamese, that it is thought the latter can never again possess any sway there, unless indeed the English interpose their strength in favour of the Siamese. It is to be hoped, however, that justice and good policy will prevent such an unwarrantable interference. The Malays of Queda, we doubt not, will prove as good neighbours and as faithful friends as the Siamese have shown themselves to be.—*Sing. Chron. Sept. 29.*

The *Chronicle*, of October 20, contains a letter from a personage who is styled "General Reiter," and described as a country-born foreigner, formerly residing at Penang as a watch-maker, who, on the breaking out of the war between Siam and Quedah, joined the Malays, and was employed by them in putting their fort in a state of defence; and, being of an

ingenious turn, made himself so useful to them that they soon raised him to the rank of general or commander-in-chief of their forces.

The letter, which is written in ungrammatical English, states that a fleet of Siamese boats, forty-two in number, took up a position before the fort of Quedah, a few days before the date of the letter (28th July), when they were fired at and soon fled. The writer asserts that a British frigate and a Company's cruiser interfered, and prevented the Malays from making the most of their success against the Siamese, the cruiser even firing into the Malay boats, and taking the guns and ammunition from one of them. The Siamese, in consequence, were encouraged to renew hostilities, and attacked Juloon, the inhabitants of which, seeing two of the frigates' boats with the Siamese, with the British flag flying, abandoned the fort. He complains bitterly of this unwarrantable conduct of the British, and states that a representation of the facts is about to be made to the Bengal government. He describes the bravery of the men and even of the women of Quedah as most determined, and the conduct of the Siamese as cruel and dastardly. He says that the chiefs and inhabitants have proclaimed Tuanko Pudier as king regent, he being one of the blood royal. He observes: "the Malays say they have as much and more right to claim the English protection, which protection they should have given to the poor Malays instead of the Siamese, who they well know have suffered greatly under the tyranny of the Siamese; they say when the Siamese drove the English from Junk Ceylon (or Junk Sallang), the king of Quedah gave them protection and supplied them with every necessary, and to show their attachment to the English gave them Pulo Penang, which they enjoy to this present day, which is open and known to the whole world; this is the treatment they now receive for their kindness towards the English. They also say not enough in having forced their king to go to Malacca, parted him from the bosom of his family, and afterwards sending one of his majesty's frigates to help the Siamese. What have the Siamese given to the English that can be seen to the world to make the English show such attachment? Is it on account of their treaty? Have they not made a treaty with the king of Quedah? Why did they not abide to this treaty, and drive the Siamese away again from Quedah when their king flew to them for protection and assistance? They well knew that the Siamese did not take the place with fair means; they came in under a false pretence and massacred the chiefs in cold blood. Eleven years they waited for the English to perform their

promise, and submitted to all the cruelties and sufferings the Siamese pleased to put on them, which they could no longer endure; in consequence took the country back from the Siamese themselves without troubling the government of Penang; but they had that faith that the English would give them protection immediately the place is taken; instead of which the Penang government has thought proper to give assistance to their enemy, to encourage tyranny and slavery, which they themselves shew in Penang they abhor."

The *Singapore Chronicle* of November 3d says: "we regret to learn by a letter recently received from Penang, that Quedah is retaken by the Siamese, and poor Reiter, whose letter on Quedah affairs we published lately, has lost his life in its defence."

In the treaty of June 1826, concluded by Capt. Burnes with the Siamese court, it is stipulated, in return for commercial privileges, that "the English shall not attack Quedah, (then in possession of the Siamese) nor suffer the former government to disturb it, or any other territory of Siam."

A communication from another quarter contains the following particulars respecting the capture of the fort of Quedah:—

"On the day of the final assault, Tuanku Koodin had only fourteen men with him able to bear arms; the rest of his garrison consisted of such of his followers as had been disabled in previous actions with the enemy, and a crowd of women and children, all in the utmost distress for want of provisions. Tuanku and his people offered a desperate, but a fruitless resistance: most of his followers were overpowered and cut down. The Siamese having carried the fort, Tuanku and another chief retired into a dwelling-house, from which they assailed the enemy with shot, killing several, and keeping them all at bay. The house was at last set fire to, when Tuanku and his companion sallied forth with a drawn weapon in each hand, and struck down several of their assailants; but seeing no hope of ultimate escape, they, by mutual consent, plunged their weapons into each other.

"The Siamese shewed no mercy, and the following day the interior of the fort presented a scene of indiscriminate slaughter, one hundred and twenty bodies of every age and sex being found murdered. Only one man escaped alive; having made his way through the enemy, he took to the water, and made for the frigates; he was discovered the next day (after having been twenty-four hours in the water) by the *Wolf's* people, by his raising his arm

out of the water, and waving his kris, which he still retained, who promptly lowered a boat and picked him up.

"It is stated that Reiter also escaped, by representing himself to be an English subject, with a severe wound, and was conveyed to the hospital at Penang.

"The day after the capture of the fort, a fleet of fifteen or sixteen native prows, from Lankawa, approached the spot with the intention, as it appeared, of throwing assistance into the place, but after a shot or two from the frigate's boats, which were sent out to prevent their disembarkation, they retired."

On the 26th October the chief resident embarked on the Honourable Company's schooner, *Zephyr*, to pay a visit to the rajah of Ligore, at Quedah, to congratulate him on the signal success he had obtained over the unfortunate Malays, as well as, possibly, with some view to extension of territory on the opposite coast. These objects, in the general opinion, might have been as well, if not better achieved, by deputing a messenger from government. It is to be feared the importance that will be attached by the arrogant Siamese to such unusual condescension and deviation from ordinary diplomatic etiquette, will be productive of nothing but a diminution of respect for the power and character of the government. The Siamese, like other native powers, cannot perceive the policy, or appreciate the honour of a superior demeaning itself to an inferior power; and while such conduct tends only to excite suspicions in their minds, they are apt to ascribe it to apprehension or imbecility. That the rajah of Ligore will look upon it as a most extraordinary act of humiliation on the part of government, and value it with a corresponding share of contempt, seems not improbable, if any inferences can be drawn of his respect for this government from the style of his correspondence, which, it is said, has, in some instances, been of a most imperious and insolent tone. The party returned from Quedah on the 4th inst., highly satisfied with their excursion, but what good they have effected has not yet transpired. The presents given to the rajah amounted to about one thousand dollars, and the Company received in return some silver teapots, to the value of fifty dollars!—*Sing. Chron. Nov. 24.*

Singapore.

WANT OF A COURT OF JUDICATURE.

On the 8th October, a public meeting of the inhabitants of Singapore convened by the sheriff was held at the Court-house, Mr. A. L. Johnston in the chair, when it was resolved that the trade of the settlement had sustained considerable in-