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to be scarcely felt individually, by those most affected by them, and by Europeans the least, inasmuch as they are not consumers of the farmed articles.

Singapore being a free port, the mode of raising a revenue by means of custom-house duties is not applicable here; and were it to be substituted for the present one, would, we have every reason to believe, affect the trade of the place most materially, and annul the wise objects for which this settlement was established.

Singapore being thus singularly constituted, no other means remain of raising a revenue for the support of the establishment necessary for its government, than by exacting a tax, in the way of license, from the vendors of certain articles, such as opium, spirits, &c., the use of which becomes vicious when indulged in to excess.

The regulations by which the farms are governed are not considered oppressive, and to prove our assertion, we will take the liberty of drawing out a short summary of them.

The opium farm consists in the sole right of preparing opium for smoking, and of retailing it under one chest, these privileges being vested in the persons licensed by government; and all persons found infringing thereon to be heavily fined, on conviction before *two* magistrates; and in case of non-payment, the punishment to be commuted to imprisonment and hard labour for six months.

According to the spirit-farm regulations, Asiatic spirituous liquors cannot be sold or retailed under certain specified quantities, except by the farmer, and in some respects by licensed tavern-keepers. Wines and European spirituous liquors cannot be retailed in less quantities than three gallons or one dozen quart bottles, and no wines or liquors can be removed from one place to another unless a permit be first obtained from the farmer; otherwise such wines or liquors are liable to seizure, and become the property of government.

The pork-farm consists in the exclusive privilege of killing hogs and selling pork within the settlement, though the farmer can exercise no control or interference with hogs killed by European butchers, or by Europeans for their own use, these being exempt from the operation of the farm. The price of fresh pork is limited to a certain amount, and a penalty is attached to the farmer if he should sell unwholesome meat. The revenue of this farm is appropriated to the support of a native poor-house and infirmary.

The specified object of the pawnbrokerage-farm is both to improve the revenue, as well as for the effectual prevention of fraud or collusive receipt of stolen goods in pawn. The farmer has the exclusive

privilege of holding pawnshops: all these shops are to have their licenses exposed over their doors; registers of pawns are to be kept, and duplicates given; and when suspicion may attach to the pawn tendered, notice must be given to the police. Failing in this, the pawnbroker is liable to a fine of fifty sicca rupees, or one month's imprisonment. The rates of authorized interest to be written in various languages, and exhibited on demand.

The market-farm regulation is stated to be for the establishment and management of public markets, in central and fixed situations, and at the expense of government; the latter reserving the power of either renting the stalls, or farming out the whole market for a fixed sum. No person can sell or retail meat, fish, poultry, fruits and vegetables in any place, excepting in the established markets, without a license from the farmer, under forfeiture of fifty sicca rupees.

Of the toddy-farm little need be said, as it is an insignificant one; not so, however, of the seerih or betel-leaf farm, which has been decried by natives in general, not only in this but at the other Straits settlements, as being disagreeable and obnoxious. The betel-leaf may be considered more a necessary article of life with the natives than a luxury, and any vexatious and innovating restrictions on the free use of it are felt by them as an evil. The privileges of the farmer not extending beyond the limits of the town, all natives entering it are constantly exposed to a degrading search in the streets and roads by the myrmidons of the farmer, who lurk about these limits in the hope of pouncing upon a seerih leaf not bought of the farmer; and many instances have occurred where even young women have been treated by them with indecency and gross insult, under pretence of searching for betel-leaf. Hence squabbles continually arise, and ill-will is generated against the farm. A heavy penalty is attached to the person on whom smuggled seerih is found. Another evil arises from the growers of this article being prohibited from vending it to any one but to the farmer, and at his own price; and this proving a great discouragement to them, many seerih plantations have now ceased to exist, and the lands which they occupied are neglected.—*Sing. Chron.*, April 26.

PIRATES AT QUALLA BATU.

Our readers may remember our having noticed last year (No. 18, last series) a most atrocious act of piracy and murder committed on the west-coast of Sumatra, by the inhabitants of Qualla Batu, on an American vessel, when the officer in charge of the vessel, and most of the crew, were crissed by the natives, and the vessel plundered of specie to some extent. Late

accounts from Batavia inform us that an American frigate of sixty guns (the *Potomac* or *Potosia*, we are uncertain which), now at that port, has lately returned from Qualla Batu, having taken signal vengeance on the place for this savage act, by opening a heavy fire of grape-shot on the village and the people who were collected on the beach for the purpose of selling their pepper, by which 170 Malays are said to have been killed, and the whole village destroyed. This, we think, is a punishment the Malays of that coast have well merited, by their numerous acts of treachery, murder, and rapine, which they have committed, even recently, on peaceable vessels that have gone thither for purposes of commerce. It is to be hoped the Malay states on the west coast, some of which are little removed from barbarism, will learn a wholesome lesson from Qualla Batu.—*Sing. Chron.*, April 26.

PIRACY.

The bark *Alexander*, from Indramayo, experienced the loss of her late commander, Mr. Brown, a few days previous to her sailing from thence, he having been cut off by pirates at the mouth of Indramayo river, as he was proceeding to join the vessel. Having taken leave of his friends, he left the town at about half-past eight in the evening, and as he was entering the sea, which is at a considerable distance, a pirate canoe boarded the boat which contained him and a crew of four men; Mr. Brown was stabbed, and jumped into the water, as also did one of the crew, who subsequently saved himself by swimming to the shore; and reaching Indramayo, he reported the affair to the authorities. The boat and remainder of the crew were carried away by the pirates.—*Ibid.*

Malacca.

EXPEDITION AGAINST MANING.

The following are copies of despatches from the officer commanding the troops at Malacca, to S. Garling, Esq., deputy resident.

“ Sir:—I have the honour to report a gallant and successful little affair which took place yesterday evening. I should premise that, shortly after receipt of your communication and copy of that of R. Ibbotson, Esq., the British resident in the straits, on the subject of my letter of the 16th inst., I despatched a messenger to Capt. Burgess, commanding the reserve, and Capt. Justice, who, under the first-named officer's orders commanded the support and covering parties to the sappers who were employed in clearing the jungle under Lieut. Smythe. The conduct of the Malays who occupied the stockades in the

vicinity of Soongyapattye, which were, by opening the jungle, sufficiently developed, warranted the officers so employed to attack their position, which was carried into effect between four and five in the afternoon, by Capt. Justice taking his right subdivision of the light company of the 5th regiment N.I. across the rice-fields to attack their left flank stockade; whilst Lieut. Poole, with the left subdivision, made a simultaneous movement by the high road towards their right. This party was somewhat amazed by the ranjows, which the enemy had planted in thousands skirting the footpath, but both steadily advanced, and Capt. Justice carried the left stockade, *without firing*, at the charge. The Malays occupying this defence ran, without discharging their muskets. The party under Lieut. Poole proceeded with great coolness, but were fired upon from the stockade on the right. The firing of jingalls and musketry now became general, until the five defences fell one after the other into our possession, as these officers respectively advanced upon them. At this juncture, myself and brigade major, who had left the camp to visit the covering parties, came up at an accelerated pace, having heard the fire open just as we reached the reserve, from which I ordered Capt. Burgess to bring a strong party to the advance. Several jingalls were fired at us after this, but without effect, and having thrown out skirmishers to protect the sappers, the whole of the five stockades were demolished and fired, and a party sent to destroy a sixth which flanked the road on this side of the rice-fields, which having been done by seven P.M., the whole returned to Rumbiah. It is reported that the enemy had from 400 to 500 armed men in their defences; and I feel that in making this report, I cannot speak in too high terms of commendation of every officer and man engaged in the attack, the success of which was complete. I am happy to add, that only one private was wounded by their fire, and from eight to ten, including the sappers and contingent, by the ranjows. The retreat of the Malays from observation was so rapid, owing to the vicinity of the jungle in their rear, to which such a defence had an opening, that I am unable to state what number on their side may have been hurt.

“ I have, &c. &c.
(Signed) “ C. HERBERT, Lieut. Col.
“ com. the troops.”

“ Head-quarters, camp Rumbiah,
18th March 1832.”

“ Sir:—I have the honour to report another successful affair which took place this morning, under command of Capt. Poulton, seconded by Ensign Walker, with the grenadier company of the 5th regiment N.I., upon the defences of the enemy, four in number, at Kalama; En-