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Malacca.

WARNING.

It appears, by the latest arrivals from Malacca, that Seyd Saban, the heir apparent of Rumbowe, has recently joined the English with a considerable native force, raised in Rumbowe, and that at the head of the "contingents," or Malay volunteers, he was instrumental in dislodging the enemy from Bukit Perling.—*Sing. Chron. June 14.*

From Malacca, we learn nothing new of the progress of the expedition; it is stated that 300 European soldiers and two native regiments are expected to reinforce it. The *Magicienne*, man-of-war, we understand, is at Malacca, and a strict blockade of Lingie, Kesang, and Muar rivers has been commenced.—*Ibid. June 21.*

A correspondent of the *Singapore Chronicle*, who signs himself "An Officer of the Force," and dates his communication "Camp at Dattoemenbanjam, 3d June," complains that the statements which had lately appeared in that paper, respecting the operations against the Naning chieftain, are "nothing but perfect misrepresentations throughout." The "formidable opposition and unexpected delay," which were represented to have "retarded the progress of the expedition," he says, were less than might have been reasonably expected; and so far from "the present position of the troops being difficult to retain," a party had taken several stockades in advance; among the rest, the strong and well-fortified position of Bookasaboosa. The enemy, he observes, have not only *seen* but *felt* the effects of their attempts to encompass the camp; and, to judge from appearances, seem in no way inclined to gain more experience from the artillery which surrounds it. "Not one article of supply has ever been cut off; the road from the camp to Malacca being, as it is, perfectly and scientifically commanded." He adds: "Regarding 'the panic,' with which you have heard, we are struck, I can only say, if such ever existed, it must have been among people, as inferior in their abilities to, as they are different in their profession from, the military; but as I have heard that symptoms very like it have, on more than one occasion, developed themselves at Malacca, I imagine your correspondent must have supposed the disease to have become general:—to which cause, no doubt, we have to thank him, for so kindly and gratuitously giving his reports to the public."

Malay Peninsula.

We learn by a late arrival from the east coast of the peninsula, that the Siamese,

having marched a large army into Patani, have repossessed themselves of that country, with little or no opposition on the part of the inhabitants. Many thousands of them, it is stated, had previously fled from the face of approaching destruction, into the neighbouring states of Calantan and Tringanu, the population being utterly unable to withstand the overwhelming hordes of barbarian slaves, which the king of Siam literally drives forward into the peninsula, in order to wreak his vengeance on those who were principally engaged in the late insurrection on the east coast. The whole population of Patani is supposed not to exceed 50,000 souls, while the Siamese force, now in that country, is said to be 300,000 strong: an amount by no means improbable, when we consider that the population of Siam itself is estimated at six millions, of which about one-sixth may be Chinese.

So soon as matters are settled at Patani, which we doubt not will be accomplished by most speedy and summary methods peculiar to the Siamese, such as impaling, roasting, boiling, and pounding the unfortunate wretches who have been most obnoxious to their magnanimous chiefs and leaders; we are informed, the Siamese fully intend proceeding to Calantan, which is but a few days' journey south of Patani, over a level and well cultivated country, and subduing it in a similar manner. Tringanu will next occupy their attention, the access to that state being equally easy and short, and were it not that some difficult mountains and rivers intervene, Pahang would shortly after undergo a similar visitation from the Siamese.

The late insurrection, which appears to have been chiefly confined to Patani, was caused, we understand, solely by the inability of the inhabitants to endure the heavy exactions of the Siamese government, the principal of which is a poll-tax of ten dollars a year on every individual. Such a severe tax being no longer tolerable in a country comparatively poor, we are by no means surprised the inhabitants should "kick against the goads," and endeavour to shake off a yoke so very oppressive to them; though they must have been aware, from their knowledge of the power of Siam, and their experience of Siamese cruelty, that their efforts in the cause of liberty must be attended with eventual failure, and sure destruction to themselves. The Malays say, however, that as the latter is sure to come on them, whether they submit to exaction, or rise to oppose it, (Scylla and Charybdis-like) they would rather hasten its approach by resorting to violent measures, than retard it by dying patiently under the weight of tyranny.

So far are the Malays of the east coast from assisting the Naning chief, that we are told by a respectable witness that the

rajahs of Calantan and Trianganu, and we believe, Pahang, think seriously of placing themselves under the protection of the English, in order to save themselves from the dreadful effects of Siamese cruelty and oppression. These states, Pahang especially, may, with as much justice as Siam has to shew, be claimed by Johore, which principally is professedly under the protection of the British. In a commercial point of view also, the government should not allow these states to fall under the complete sway of Siam, as the trade carried on between this and the ports of Calantan, Trianganu, and Pahang,—which, on reference to the last official statement of the trade of Singapore, published in December last, will be found to be very important and considerably on the increase,—must gradually dwindle into insignificance, through the heavy duties which the Siamese will impose upon the imports and exports of those places, and thus one great source of our trade will be dried up.

This should be seriously considered by our rulers, and if the above chiefs do actually supplicate for assistance or mediation, we hope no selfish policy, no base submission to grovelling expediency, as in the disgraceful case of Quedah, will intervene to give over a brave, and a hitherto friendly and admiring people, into the relentless clutches of a race of semi-barbarous beings, whose tender mercies are the cruellest of the cruel.

We have been told by a respectable eyewitness, an European, who visited the fort of Quedah shortly after the Siamese had re-possessed themselves of it, solely by starving out its defenders, that these brave conquerors, not content with butchering the helpless and infirm, and treating their dead bodies, in many instances, as described by our correspondent "A Quedah Trader," in last number, must need wreak their savage vengeance on the graves of those who had died through want and disease during the siege, by digging up the dead bodies and casting them into the river. Our informant said that a neat bazaar formerly stood in the middle of the fort, but it had been destroyed, and the whole place presented the horrifying spectacle of "a valley of bones." The state of the neighbouring country we need not describe, as we have done so already; suffice it to say, it was miserable and destitute in the extreme.—*Sing. Chron.* May 31.

We learn from several Chinese refugees, who have arrived, within a day or two, from Calantan, that the Siamese have actually invested that port with about seventy war-boats, and that the Siamese force at Patani (which, according to the calculation of the natives, who are addicted to exaggeration, would amount to between two or three hundred thousand men, but

which, more probably, consists of not more than thirty or forty thousand) was on its way to Calantan overland. The rajah of Patani having fled to Calantan, the Siamese, it is said, have demanded his person, as also those of the four rajahs of Calantan, brothers, who rule over the four divisions of that state. The Siamese accuse the latter of having assisted the Patanese in their late revolt. The Calantan people, it is said, have offered the sum of 40,000 dollars, and a picul of gold dust, in order to be spared the destructive effects of an invasion; but up to the departure of the boats, the Siamese had not accepted of these terms of submission. It is reported also that the people of Calantan had offered to give up the rajah of Patani; but of this we have no certain account.

In looking over the notable treaty with Siam, concluded by Major Burney, we observe the following:—

"Article 12th.—Siam shall not go and obstruct or interrupt commerce in the states of Trianganu and Calantan. English merchants and subjects shall have trade and intercourse in future with the same facility and freedom as they have heretofore had, and the English shall not go and molest, attack, or disturb those states, upon any pretence whatever."

This stipulation the Siamese have now broken, by investing Calantan; and there can be no doubt that it is now the bounden duty of our government to interfere, and that speedily, in order to prevent those rapacious robbers from plundering a weak and defenceless state, whom we have taken under our protection, and ruining its commerce altogether.

We understand a letter has been received from Calantan by the chief authority here; we sincerely hope, it will induce the government to adopt speedy measures for the relief of that place and Trianganu, which latter state, no doubt, will likewise receive an unwelcome visit from the Siamese soon, unless the British authorities interfere.—*Ibid.* June 1A.

Netherlands India.

INSURRECTION IN JAVA.

The *Singapore Chronicle* of June 7th, contains the following details respecting the insurrection of the Chinese at Carawang, to which reference is made in p. 139:—

The Java government have lately imported several hundreds of Chinese from Canton, for the purpose of rearing the silkworm, the tea-plant, indigo, and some other articles of agriculture, on experiment we believe. These Chinese were bound to the government for a fixed pe-