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also spoken of. The article of sugar is no longer to be purchased in the interior, but it is to be bought at Calcutta. The plan, it is stated, is gradually to be extended to other articles of commerce.—*Bombay Cour. June 30.*

ARREST OF A NATIVE GENTLEMAN.

It is stated in the *Summachar*, that Bappoo Saib (the nephew of Suysjee Roy Guicowar) was seized by order of the collector of Surat, on the 9th June, for having caused to be cut the ears, nose, and fingers of the hands of some of his servants for certain faults, and was given in charge of the kotwal, Ardesur Bahadoor, to be dealt with as Mr. Grant, the judge, might think proper.—*Durpun, June 22.*

BORING FOR WATER.

Considerable progress has, we understand, been made in boring for water in the vicinity of Dollera, where the merchants and others who flock there at this season, to purchase cotton, suffer severely from a want of water. They are wholly dependent on a scanty and muddy supply of rain-water, collected in catch tanks. The whole of the country around is a dry arid wilderness: and if flowing water is found (as is hoped), the sight to the natives will be as the miracle worked by Moses' stroke from his rod, which drew water from the rock.—*Ibid.*

LAUNCH.

The fine teak ship, which has just been built for Merwanjee Nowrojee, in the dock-yard, was floated out, on Thursday last, with all the ease and security afforded by building in dock, instead of the more common mode of construction upon stocks. After the operation had been completed, a large party of ladies and gentlemen, who were present, sat down to a handsome collation prepared for the occasion. The vessel, which has been named after our present Governor, measures between 900 and 1,000 tons burthen, and is intended for the China trade.—*Bom Cour. May 19.*

Singapore.

PIRACY.—ENTERPRISE OF THE CHINESE.

Some weeks ago, a report having been brought to this settlement that several formidable pirate prowls were lurking outside the harbour, and were endeavouring to capture and otherwise intercept the boats which trade between this and the ports on the east coast of the peninsula, the Chinese traders resident here, who are principally interested in that trade, very laudably raised a subscription amongst themselves, and having obtained the sanction, though not the aid of government, fitted out four sampan-pucats, or large trading boats, with 30 men in each (all Chinese); well-armed, and carrying a few light swivels, for the purpose of driving the pests from the coast. The agreement with these boats was, that such of them as attacked the pirates were to receive 200 dollars each, to be distributed amongst the crews, and if any of the latter were killed, the friends of the deceased were to receive 200 dollars more for each man, which were to be forwarded to the relations of the deceased in China.

These four boats have lately returned, and reported that they fell in with two pirate prowls, one a large, and the other a small one; that they encountered them, and sunk the smaller prow, killing six or seven of the crew, and that the larger prow escaped. One or two of the Chinese lost their lives.

While this transaction confers great credit on the liberality and laudable activity of the Chinese traders resident here, it, on the other hand, reflects considerably on the vigilance and exertion of the government, which, from the support it derives here, principally from the Chinese, ought to be the foremost in endeavouring to protect the native trade from pirates who, emboldened by impunity, continue to harass it in no small degree, even close to our shores. We have stated before, in as forcible language as we could express ourselves in, and we shall repeat the assertion now again, that unless active measures are taken to suppress the pirates which infest the straits and the neighbouring seas, our hitherto flourishing native trade must speedily decrease, and that considerably.

We have also stated before, that the Dutch hold out to us an example well worthy of imitation, in placing six-armed war-boats, which are the terror of the neighbouring pirates, at Rhio,—a small port, with little or no trade to benefit the mother country, and the government of which is supported solely by a few local farms,—while Singapore, the boasted emporium of Eastern commerce, possesses not even one single boat, for the purpose of protecting the extensive and important trade carried on between it and numerous neighbouring states.

If economy acts as a preventive in this case, it is a ruinous and impolitic economy; for the more prosperous the trade of this settlement becomes, the more beneficial will it be to government. A small expenditure, in maintaining a few such boats as are at Rhio, would be of incalculable benefit, in giving confidence to native traders, and would be the means of adding considerably to our prosperity.—*Sing. Chron. June 7.*

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