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similar measure produced at the Mauritius. We do not anticipate that the same effects would follow here to the same extent; but there would not improbably be a *tendency* to such results, and it will be well if the merchants and planters of Bengal should be taught by the example of others rather than by their own experience of the evils which rash and inconsiderate speculation has brought on the Mauritius.

Malacca.

DISASTROUS RESULT OF THE EXPEDITION AGAINST NANING.

The *Singapore Chronicle* of September 8th contains the following history of the campaign against the Panghooloo of Nanning, "from several authentic sources:"

The expedition, which consisted of 200 sepoys, with two brass six-pounders, under the command of Capt. Wyllie, and four other officers, a surgeon, and Mr. W. T. Lewis, as commissioner, proceeded, on the 6th August, towards Nanning, which is about thirty miles from Malacca, the road or path laying, for the most part, through a thick, impervious jungle. At Sunjic Pooth, or, as others call it, Pitay, distant about twelve miles from Malacca, a kind of depot for provisions, &c. had been formed, at a government bungalow. Here the expedition halted for the night, and on the next morning proceeded towards Nanning. At Alor Gagah, more than half way between Sunjic Pooth and Nanning, in an open space, it met with the first signs of hostility, and which, we believe, were rather unexpected, as it was thought at Malacca, that it would prove a very easy matter to march up and take Nanning with 200 men. The force the expedition encountered at Alor Gagah consisted of about 100 Malays, armed with spears, crises, &c. and headed by a panglima, who, with great gesticulations, defied the soldiers to combat, and called on his men to run *amuk*. A grape-shot from one of the guns, however, swept him away, with five others; at which the whole band fled into the thicket.

Had the troops always encountered the enemy thus openly, the war might have terminated speedily and successfully; but this, we believe, was the only opportunity they enjoyed of meeting their opponents in a close body, or even of seeing them. From that day, they were subjected to hidden attacks from the jungle, which bordered both sides of the narrow path. At this place, or farther on, the troops became possessed of a granary, in which were about 3,000 gantans of paddy, and to which they set fire, as they had no means of removing the paddy, and in order to distress the enemy. A house belonging to

one of the panghooloo's relatives was also burned.

Thus far the expedition had the advantage, but its success was destined to cease here. Having encamped, and finding that the expected supplies of provisions did not arrive from Sunjic Pooth, seventy coolies and a small guard of sepoy were despatched on the 10th to hasten it on. Very shortly after, it was with difficulty that the guard and thirteen only out of the seventy coolies returned to camp, the communication between it and the depot having been entirely cut off by the Malays and the coolies dispersed by the enemy's fire from the jungle. Thus situated, the troops found it necessary to fall back to Sunjic Pooth, which they accomplished by forced marches and with much difficulty, leaving the camp, officers' furniture, baggage, and every thing not of a very portable nature, behind, in the possession of the enemy. In this retreat, unlooked-for obstacles presented themselves, the Malays having felled large trees across the path, and in some places barricaded it with trees to a considerable height. Pitfalls, stuck with sharp bamboos, had also been dug, into which, however, none fell, we believe. The greatest difficulty was in bringing on the guns, which were about to be abandoned several times. This was accomplished, however, by cutting circuitous paths for them in the jungle, round the fallen trees.

Previous to the return of the troops to Sunjic Pooth, the depot had been attacked at night by a band of Malays, who killed two out of the twelve sepoy left to guard it. The soldiers behaved well, having succeeded in defending the place, and in shooting several Malays, whose bodies were found next morning.

On the return of the expedition to Sunjic Pooth, a stockade or defence was raised, in which it remained secure. Provisions becoming scarce, on the 13th, ninety-six Chinese coolies were despatched, under a small escort, from Malacca, with rice, &c., but when they reached Rumbier (about nine miles from Malacca), they were attacked by the Malays, who killed two of the coolies and wounded another; the remainder, throwing away their burthens, fled back towards town, and no inducement or price could procure a coolie of any description to hazard another attempt to throw provisions into the camp.

During the forenoon of the 16th, Capt. Wyllie and Mr. Lewis, with about seventy sepoy, reached town, having left the camp at 3 A.M. that morning, during a squall: they did not meet with any of the enemy on the way.

On the 18th, the reinforcement of 100 men from Singapore, under Capt. Hibgame, arrived at Malacca, as also did the

resident, Mr. Ibbetson. Early on the 20th, Capt. Hibgame marched up, with his detachment, to join the camp, taking with him 120 convicts to carry provisions, ammunition, &c. But, at a little more than half way to the camp, this detachment fell in with three new stockades, which were easily stormed, the Malays having left them on the first attack, and retired within the jungle. Here it was that one of our brave officers, Lieut. White, most unfortunately met with a lamentable death: Having been very active and bold in storming the stockades, he was just in the act of taking some refreshment, when a number of bullets were fired from the thicket towards the spot where he was standing, one of which penetrated his breast at one side, and was driven nearly through to the other side.* The bullet was long and cylindrical in form, such as the natives of Malacca generally use in killing deer. Lieut. White survived but a very short time; his body was carried to the camp, and there interred. One or two sepoy were shot at the same time. Finding it impossible to continue this kind of covert warfare, Capt. Hibgame and his detachment returned to Malacca from the camp, on the 22d, and on the evening of the 23d, sixty sepoy, under command of an officer, and fifty convicts, were sent to assist the retreat of the first detachment, still in camp at Sunjje Pootih, which they reached in safety.

Before retreating, however, it was found impracticable to bring on the guns; they were accordingly spiked, and the carriages burned; such provisions and baggage as could not be conveniently carried were destroyed, and the shot and ammunition buried; the stockade was demolished, and the government bungalow set on fire: this latter occurrence, however, is attributed to accident. The retreat was attended with other disasters; two ponies, laden with fifty grape-shot, fell into the hands of the Malays, who harassed the troops on the way, and took seven convicts prisoners. These unfortunate men were taken to Nanning, and put to death, with the exception of one, whose life was spared, he being a Mahometan. This detachment reached Malacca on the 25th.

Of all the troops sent on this fruitless expedition, we understand upwards of seventy or eighty men are reported to have been either killed or wounded. Most of them, however, as also the convicts, were wounded in the legs and feet by certain

* In a Calcutta paper there appears a private letter from Singapore, which contradicts this account of Lieut. White's death, and states that "he was mortally wounded whilst leading on a party (in front of which he was at the moment several paces) against the stockades, the bullet passing through his right wrist, for he held a pistol elevated in the hand, entering the chest, and lodging under the skin at the opposite side, from whence it was extracted."

small wooden-pikes; which the Malays tie together in such a manner, as to present sharp points whichever way the weapons may be thrown on the ground, and which are so sharp as to penetrate shoe-leathers. We are not aware that more than three or four sepoy were killed by gun-shots.

The last accounts we have from Malacca are of the 28th and 30th August. From these we learn that the Malays have become emboldened by the (to them) unexpected retreat of the troops, and that small parties go about threatening destruction to all Company's property. Another government bungalow, situated on the road to Nanning, and within four or five miles from town, has been burnt by the Malays; and five houses, belonging to Chinese, at Bukit Rambae, a plantation not very distant from town, have been plundered and burnt, while the inmates were either killed or wounded. The Malays have likewise threatened to burn Priangit House, Mr. Lewis's residence near town, and to take away that gentleman's life, when an opportunity offers. It is said, likewise, that the two beam guns have been unspiked by the Malays, and are already in use; and that one of them has obtained the appropriate name of *Sapu Rantaw*, "sweeper of the jungle;" and the other, *Serrec Nanning*, "welcome to Nanning;" further, that all the shot, and two barrels of gunpowder, buried in the stockade at Sunjje Pootih, have been dug up and carried to Nanning. In digging for these, the Malays came to the bodies of Lieut. White and the sepoy interred there, but they did not molest them, covering them over again with earth.

Eighty additional troops had arrived from Penang, on the H.C.S. *Marquess of Huntley*, which increases the whole force at Malacca to about 600 men. Under such protection, the inhabitants have now no reason to be in such a state of alarm as they were in, with some cause, when the Malays were in possession of the communication between the town and the expedition, and when, before the arrival of a reinforcement from this place, the enemy was known to be within five miles of Malacca, threatening an attack on the town at night—for which, indeed, every preparation was made.

That the Malays will not now venture openly near Malacca may be guessed from their method of warfare—the jungle is their element—there, experience, for the first time, in a humiliating lesson, has shown us, they are more than a match for our sepoy, courageous and disciplined as the latter are.

We are glad to find, however, that the panghooloo of Nanning, already tired of hostilities, has written to two or three respectable inhabitants of Malacca, requesting their interference with regard to a re-

conciliation, and that the *Autumnists* are inclined to treat with him on terms which may be satisfactory to both parties. The panghooloo requires security of person, and a hostage, before he will venture to come to Malacca for this purpose.

The *Chronicle of Sept. 15* adds:

"The latest accounts from Malacca state that all hostilities have been suspended on the part of the government until the rainy season (now just commencing) shall have ceased, and which will not permit a renewal of operations against Nanning until the latter end of the year. The panghooloo, however, loses no time, and is erecting stockades throughout the country, some of them very near to town. The Malays continue to burn down houses in different parts, and would have destroyed the remaining government bungalows built in different directions, and Mr. Lewis's habitation on Pringit Hill, had they not all been well-guarded by sepoy. The guard at one house were assaulted with a shower of stones, thrown from slings, by the Malays. Out of twenty-seven buffaloes, formerly used in dragging the guns, and which were all captured, likewise seven have served the Malays for a grand feast lately given by the panghooloo of Nanning (some say, in commemoration of his victory), on which occasion the two six-pounders were fired. We have heard nothing definite as to a negotiation with the panghooloo.

"The *Isabella* conveyed 150 sepoy, and two pieces of artillery, from Penang to Malacca; but it is said, such was the state of affairs at Penang itself, that the vessels and the troops were ordered back immediately."

The same paper contains the following comment upon this subject:

"The present hostilities against Nanning, we find, were first suggested by Mr. Fullerton, sanctioned by the Court of Directors, approved of by the Supreme Government, and are now carried into effect by the orders of the latter. It were well, however, that Mr. Fullerton, and those who were his advisers and abettors in this suggestion, had studied the Malayan character and disposition before recommending hostilities; that great ignorance of both has been betrayed throughout the whole affair is pretty evident, from the manner in which matters have been conducted from the commencement.

"Without having some great and useful object in view, and without ample resources in men, ammunition, money, and other necessary 'sinews of war,' it would be actually foolhardiness to continue hostilities against Nanning, especially in the present state of the country. Even with these, we question much the policy

of war at all. Supposing two or three regiments were to arrive and to march up and take possession of Nanning, the country will be theirs if it is true—but can they compel the Malays to till the ground, and to continue that amicable and almost necessary intercourse with Malacca which has existed, uninterrupted until now, for years and centuries past? The inhabitants of Nanning have only to move a few miles further inland; and they are completely out of the reach of soldiers, and amongst independent, wild, and barbarous states. Our gain then will indeed prove a most ruinous loss, were we merely to count the costs of outfit for such an expedition, adding the expenses already incurred. Even as it is, it will take some years, and require a few more such grinding collectors as ——— to make up the losses in money, sustained in this most unnecessary war. We say unnecessary, because we agree in opinion with many well acquainted with Malacca affairs, that the present rupture might have been avoided, and the object of the government gained to some extent, had a more conciliatory system been adopted at first by Mr. Fullerton and his advisers towards the panghooloo. We have been informed that, on the contrary, the latter has been treated not only with contumely, but with insult to his dignity as a Malayan chief—a point on which his honour had been offended most. Had prudent and skillful commissioners been likewise despatched, at first, to treat with the chief, all this bloodshed and confusion and less might have been avoided; but it was no doubt thought that an overbearing, haughty demeanor, with a little bullying and blustering, would obtain by intimidation what courtesy and conciliation could have won without much trouble."

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Persia.

The *Tigris* brings most melancholy accounts of the plague in Persia. At Tabreez, and throughout the whole country, as far as Tehran on the one side, and Hamadan and Bagdad on the other, it continued to rage with unabated vigour.—*Bom. Cour. Oct. 15th.*

We have been able to gain but little information of a political nature respecting the affairs of Persia. The last accounts state that the Shah was encamped on a plain to the southward of Ispahan, near the frontiers of the province of Fars. His Majesty, it appears, had been extorting large sums of money from the Prince of Sheeraz, by threatening him with a visit from Abbas Meerza (who is still at Kerman), should he refuse to disgorge the arrears due from the revenues of the province of Fars.