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Company. But it is a curious fact, that the accounts of the China trade, the absence of which he deplora, were inserted in the *Asiatic Journal* for July, the month previous!

Ceylon.

We understand that it is in agitation to establish, by private subscription, a mail-coach to run between Colombo and Kandy. The journey is to be performed in from twelve to fourteen hours. If the affair succeeds, private carriages will be permitted to avail themselves of the relays of horses at the different stations. It is calculated that the capital required will be £2,000, which is to be raised by £50 shares. This coach will convey the government mail, and have a contract to that effect for five years. Independently of the advantage of such public establishments, it is estimated that this will afford a fair profit to the shareholders. We shall give further details as soon as we have a prospectus.—*Ceylon Gaz. Nov. 26.*

Penang.

The following letter appears in the *Bengal Hurkaru*.—"Exclusive of the attention that has been paid for the last four months to the war between the Malays of Kedah and the Siamese, the Penang government has also been lately involved in a dispute with Malays of the opposite coast, on the question of boundary, which has been attended by the most fatal consequences. Upwards of thirty years ago, province Wellesley was not only ceded by the king of Kedah to the Company, but the extent of its boundaries defined by treaty as follows: "his majesty agrees to give to the English Company, for ever, all that part of the sea-coast that is between Kwala Krian and the river side of Kwala Mooda, and measuring inland from the sea-side sixty or-longs, the whole length above-mentioned to be measured by people appointed by his Majesty's and the Company's people. The English Company are to protect this coast from all enemies, robbers, and pirates that may attack it by sea from north or south." This tract of land was accordingly surveyed by the late Mr. Fletcher, surveyor to government, and, in the plan submitted by him (the correctness of which has never been disputed) the Company's boundary from north to south, with the breadth inland, has been clearly laid down. How any difficulty would have arisen on such a subject appears very extraordinary. What was it but ignorance of the Company's bounda-

ries, or something worse, that caused the unfortunate casualty which occurred on the 7th June, at a place called Bukit Kichil, whereby the lives of five men were sacrificed?

"The party killed consisted of a pangulu or constable, three sepoys of the 46th regiment Madras N.I., and a Malay. These were also accompanied by other peons and Malays, who however were wise enough to stand afar off, securing themselves thereby a chance of escape.

"The object of this expedition to Bukit Kichil is said to have been for the purpose of collecting the Company's revenue from the people of that place, who, it appears, had on all former occasions proved refractory, and refused to pay, alleging, reasonably enough, that as the territory did not belong to the Company, but to Tuanko Soliman (the present king of Kedah's brother), they were, as the subjects of the latter, obliged to pay rents to him. This only excited the ire of the constable, who immediately seized two of these unoffending people and manacled them, until they evinced a better disposition, by promising to pay after first consulting with their liege lord, when they were set free. Soon after this, the party encountered the pangulu of Tuanko Soliman and some of his attendants, and falling into dispute with them on the same subject, the Company's constable commenced the attack by ordering the three sepoys to fire upon the adverse party. This order was very imprudently obeyed; and, before the men could reload and defend themselves, they with the constable were instantly surrounded and cut down. The Malay was killed in his flight in the adjoining jungle. The remainder of the ill-fated party saved themselves by a precipitate and cowardly flight, scampering off to report the circumstance to their superior at province Wellesley.

"Province Wellesley, for upwards of twenty years after its cession to the Company, had no resident, nor was one considered necessary until after the subversion of the power of the king of Kedah by the Siamese, and the general flight of his subjects into the Company's territory for protection. It was to alleviate the misfortune and to supply the wants of these refugees, that Mr. Maingy was sent over by the government of Penang, some eight or nine years ago, with authority to apportion out lands to such emigrants as might choose to become permanent settlers. This duty appears to have been performed by that authority in the most judicious and conciliatory manner; emigrants daily flocked in from all quarters attracted to settle under the British government, administered with so much kindness and humanity. To those disposed to cultivate, Mr. Maingy distrib-

ed small tracts of land, as well as assisted them with small loans, repayable in *future*, and others were encouraged to direct their attention to the rearing of cattle and poultry, to provide for any future contingency in the event of the usual supplies of provisions to Penang from Kedah being impeded or cut off by the Siamese. If the same course of good management had been pursued by his successor in office, that province would have been at this day a highly cultivated country, in place of being, as it is, a mere jungle (with the exception of here and there a small paddy field or two) with high rents and a discontented population. Instead of the industry of the people being encouraged or stimulated by the imposition of a moderate rent on their lands, their exertions are depressed, not only by a most oppressive tax but by the vexatious and despotic mode in which it is levied.

“Formerly the tax on land (after due allowance of time to the holder for its clearance and cultivation free of rent) was twenty cents of a dollar per orlong of 240 feet square. Now the present rate has been raised to treble, in some instances to quintuple that amount; which, taking into consideration the sterility of the soil, unadapted to the growth of any thing but paddy or coco-nuts, is quite disproportioned either to the produce of the land, or the means of the ryots. The lands, therefore, that were distributed by Mr. Maingy at twenty cents per orlong, have in general reverted to the Company, from the inability of the ryots to pay the more exorbitant demands of the present authority. So miserably distressed and wretched are the poor people there, that the rents and assessments are collected with the greatest difficulty, and in the majority of instances found perfectly impracticable. It is to intimidate such wretchedness that military force is resorted to!! Such a system is not likely to endure, the patience of the Malay will not last for ever.

“*Pulo Boonting, 22d July 1831.*”

Singapore.

MR. CRAWFURD.

A correspondent has suggested to us that in giving an account of the proceedings of the public meeting at Singapore, at which the petition to the Legislature for a Court of Judicature was agreed to, we omitted to notice what is stated in the *Singapore Chronicle's* report of the proceedings, namely, that, on its being proposed to forward the petition through Mr. Crawford, Mr. Charles Thomas “loudly objected to Mr. Crawford as a *very unfit person*,” and that it was agreed to by the

meeting not to forward it through Mr. Crawford.

The fact is, we gave no particulars of the meeting besides the substance of the resolutions agreed to, which was all we considered necessary.

GOVERNMENT FARMS.

The government farms were let on the 15th October for the ensuing half-year, from November 1.

The following are the prices obtained in comparison with those of the previous half-year:—

MONTHLY.		
	Preceding Half-year.	Ensuing.
Opium	Drs. 2,960 ..	3,300
Spirit	1,500 ..	1,620
Pawn brokerage	120 ..	120
Market leases campong ..	341 ..	340
China	83 ..	86
Do. do. campong Glam ..	85 ..	76
Toddy and beang	535 ..	490
Senrib	690 ..	550
Pork		
	Sp. Drs. 6,314 ..	6,672
Increase		358
Monthly	Drs. 7,030	

TRADE OF THE SETTLEMENT.

From an official statement of the trade of the settlement, in the year 1830-31, it appears that the value of the imports was 17,805,628 sa. rupees, being a falling off, as compared with the preceding year, of 2,272,135 rupees (principally in the imports from England and China); that of the exports was 17,410,924 sa. rupees, being an increase of 423,854, principally in the exports to Calcutta, China, and Java.

TIGERS.

It appears that the tigers on the continent have discovered the island of Singapore, and some of them have made up their minds to settle here. No fewer than three of these ferocious animals have been taken lately alive, by means of pitfalls, killed, and their carcasses publicly exhibited in the town. The last were taken at Soongie Callang, where another tiger chased a man, who took refuge up a tree, and the animal finding him out of his reach, began to *throw dust at him*. The two former ones were caught in the same way, in the direction of Blakang Mati. A tigress and its whelp were seen by a man while at work in his laddang, at the back of Mount Sophia.—*Sing. Chron. Dec. 22.*

Malacca.

THE NANING EXPEDITION.

A narrative of this disastrous affair, by an officer of the expedition, has been