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INVESTIGATION AT POONA.

We understand that a certain great person is at present engaged at Poona in investigating a case of great delicacy and interest, and in which it appears *political expedience* has been more consulted than honesty. We hear also that circumstances of the most "untoward" nature have transpired during the investigation.—*Bom. Gaz., Aug. 6.*

Singapore.

We have learned with great pleasure that on the recommendation of our resident, the supreme government has sanctioned the use of six war-boats in the straits, rigged after the manner of native boats, for the purpose of cruising against pirates. We have long expressed an opinion that this system is the only one likely to be attended with beneficial results, and the one most dreaded by pirates themselves. In conjunction with the Dutch war-boats of a similar nature, they will prove an effectual check to piracy, in and near the straits; that is, if proper attention and vigilance be used.—*Sing. Chron., July 7.*

Malacca.

HOSTILITIES WITH NANING.

We are concerned to find that the quarrel with the Rajah of Naning is likely to become something more serious than a "sham-fight," as we expected it would prove to be, in a previous number.

Recent accounts from Malacca state that the troops having marched as far as Sungie Petter, had an irregular engagement with the Malays, who retreated farther into the interior, near to Naning, where another engagement took place. We have not heard the real result of these conflicts, but we understand that many Malays were killed. In the first engagement one Panglima, or petty chief, and seven men were killed, while several of the seapoys were wounded. During the night, however, the Malays made a *detour* through the jungle, seized on the provisions for the troops, and killed two seapoys who were on guard, the rest of the guard having made their escape. The Malays likewise stockaded the road to Malacca and otherwise blocked it up with trees, and it is presumed that had the troops not forced their way back to Malacca through these obstructions, there was every fear of their being cut off in detail. The Malays, it is stated, muster 10,000 strong, the people from the neighbouring independent states and dependent districts having joined cause with the Na-

ningites. The latest accounts received, mention that the troops had retreated to Malacca, having twenty-six men killed and wounded, and that the Malays had approached within five miles of the town, and stockaded Ching, a neighbouring plantation. The inhabitants of Malacca were in great trepidation, through fear of an attack on the town at night.

This intelligence has naturally caused a considerable excitement at this settlement, and 120 additional troops have been despatched to Malacca, while the resident has proceeded in person to the seat of war. The detachment of thirty-eight marines, lately landed, has likewise been called upon to render assistance, and consequently sailed for Malacca.

That the stability of our government on the Peninsula depends materially on driving the Malays back into their own jungles, and in proving our superior strength at the present crisis, there cannot be any doubt; but we trust, after such has been effected (if practicable), some satisfactory arrangements will be entered into with all the dependent districts, by which they will be relieved in some degree from the oppressive and vexatious regulations relative to lands, and from the no less severe and oppressive system hitherto in vogue of collecting the tenth of the produce. Until some such modification takes place, we fear our possessions at Malacca will prove much more unproductive, and as difficult to retain as the Dutch settlements on the west coast of Sumatra.—*Sing. Chron. Aug. 18.*

FREE SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF SETTLERS OF DIFFERENT NATIONS.

This valuable institution, which arose out of a sense of the necessity and duty of imparting the elementary principles of useful knowledge to a large community entirely destitute of the means of receiving education, was founded in the month of December 1826. A meeting was held and resolutions were agreed to, stating the object of the school, which was to be conducted on the Lancasterian system. Early in December, the school-room was fitted up according to the principles laid down in the Manual of the British and Foreign School Society; and the school was opened on the 7th of December, when fifteen boys were admitted. The greatest number of boys that were collected at any one time during the year was 132. On the 17th of July, the first public examination of the boys' school took place, and it gave general satisfaction; early in the same month application was made to the hon. the governor, for an allowance from government to the free-school. The liberal grant of 100 Spanish dollars per month was allowed. Encouraged by the prosperous state of their funds, the Committee en-