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1892.

accounts from Batavia inform us that an American frigate of sixty guns (the *Potomac* or *Potosia*, we are uncertain which), now at that port, has lately returned from Qualla Batu, having taken signal vengeance on the place for this savage act, by opening a heavy fire of grape-shot on the village and the people who were collected on the beach for the purpose of selling their pepper, by which 170 Malays are said to have been killed, and the whole village destroyed. This, we think, is a punishment the Malays of that coast have well merited, by their numerous acts of treachery, murder, and rapine, which they have committed, even recently, on peaceable vessels that have gone thither for purposes of commerce. It is to be hoped the Malay states on the west coast, some of which are little removed from barbarism, will learn a wholesome lesson from Qualla Batu.—*Sing. Chron.*, April 26.

PIRACY.

The bark *Alexander*, from Indramayo, experienced the loss of her late commander, Mr. Brown, a few days previous to her sailing from thence, he having been cut off by pirates at the mouth of Indramayo river, as he was proceeding to join the vessel. Having taken leave of his friends, he left the town at about half-past eight in the evening, and as he was entering the sea, which is at a considerable distance, a pirate canoe boarded the boat which contained him and a crew of four men; Mr. Brown was stabbed, and jumped into the water, as also did one of the crew, who subsequently saved himself by swimming to the shore; and reaching Indramayo, he reported the affair to the authorities. The boat and remainder of the crew were carried away by the pirates.—*Ibid.*

Malacca.

EXPEDITION AGAINST MANING.

The following are copies of despatches from the officer commanding the troops at Malacca, to S. Garling, Esq., deputy resident.

“ Sir:—I have the honour to report a gallant and successful little affair which took place yesterday evening. I should premise that, shortly after receipt of your communication and copy of that of R. Ibbotson, Esq., the British resident in the straits, on the subject of my letter of the 16th inst., I despatched a messenger to Capt. Burgess, commanding the reserve, and Capt. Justice, who, under the first-named officer's orders commanded the support and covering parties to the sappers who were employed in clearing the jungle under Lieut. Smythe. The conduct of the Malays who occupied the stockades in the

vicinity of Soongyapattye, which were, by opening the jungle, sufficiently developed, warranted the officers so employed to attack their position, which was carried into effect between four and five in the afternoon, by Capt. Justice taking his right subdivision of the light company of the 5th regiment N.I. across the rice-fields to attack their left flank stockade; whilst Lieut. Poole, with the left subdivision, made a simultaneous movement by the high road towards their right. This party was somewhat amazed by the ranjows, which the enemy had planted in thousands skirting the footpath, but both steadily advanced, and Capt. Justice carried the left stockade, *without firing*, at the charge. The Malays occupying this defence ran, without discharging their muskets. The party under Lieut. Poole proceeded with great coolness, but were fired upon from the stockade on the right. The firing of jingalls and musketry now became general, until the five defences fell one after the other into our possession, as these officers respectively advanced upon them. At this juncture, myself and brigade major, who had left the camp to visit the covering parties, came up at an accelerated pace, having heard the fire open just as we reached the reserve, from which I ordered Capt. Burgess to bring a strong party to the advance. Several jingalls were fired at us after this, but without effect, and having thrown out skirmishers to protect the sappers, the whole of the five stockades were demolished and fired, and a party sent to destroy a sixth which flanked the road on this side of the rice-fields, which having been done by seven P.M., the whole returned to Rumbiah. It is reported that the enemy had from 400 to 500 armed men in their defences; and I feel that in making this report, I cannot speak in too high terms of commendation of every officer and man engaged in the attack, the success of which was complete. I am happy to add, that only one private was wounded by their fire, and from eight to ten, including the sappers and contingent, by the ranjows. The retreat of the Malays from observation was so rapid, owing to the vicinity of the jungle in their rear, to which such a defence had an opening, that I am unable to state what number on their side may have been hurt.

“ I have, &c. &c.
(Signed) “ C. HERRERT, Lieut. Col.
“ com. the troops.”

“ Head-quarters, camp Rumbiah,
18th March 1832.”

“ Sir:—I have the honour to report another successful affair which took place this morning, under command of Capt. Poulton, seconded by Ensign Walker, with the grenadier company of the 5th regiment N.I., upon the defences of the enemy, four in number, at Kalama; En-

sign Walker having taken them in flank and Capt. Poulton proceeding immediately to their front; and am gratified in stating that they were driven from the whole of their defences, which were subsequently destroyed by the sappers, under Lieutenants Watts and Smythe, so soon as the reserve came up.

"I cannot speak in too high terms of the conduct of Capt. Poulton and the grenadier company; and this is augmented, if possible, by the very favourable report that officer has made to me of the gallant bearing of Ensign Walker with his party.

"Capt. Justice and Lieut. Poole, with the light company 5th regiment N.I., accompanied by Lieut. Bell, of the sappers, made a detour to the right, and succeeded in destroying the stockades. The enemy was in considerable force, and kept up a heavy fire upon the advancing parties, particularly from the centre stockade, which the right subdivision of the grenadier company under Capt. Poulton carried, and in which it is reported Dholi Syed was present; the defences were bloodstained in many places, but from the proximity of the jungle I am unable to state how many of the enemy have fallen. The casualties on our side are, one private mortally wounded, one slightly, and a third severely hurt by a ranjow.

"In conclusion, I do myself the honour to state, that I think every officer and man engaged this morning is deserving high commendation.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) "C. HERBERT, Lieut. Col.,
"com. Malacca Field Force."

"Head-quarters, camp Soongaputye,
25th March 1832."

Private accounts, received at Madras, state that the labour of clearing a way through the dense forest had been great, and the natives were not inclined to assist. The pioneers and engineers had had fatiguing work. The clearing was unavoidably slow; 150 pioneers and a few convicts had to make a passage through a forest of 150 feet on each side of the road, many of the large trees being from fourteen to sixteen feet in girth. Greater progress was made when the civil authorities induced about 100 Malay woodmen to assist, and who did the business well and expeditiously.

The following is an extract of a letter, dated "Head-quarters, Aln-Caja, 7th April 1832.—We moved up from Rumbiah to Soongaputye (the next post) on the 2d ult., having cleared that place of four of the enemy's stockades the day before without any loss on our side. The brigadier followed a day or two after. We (*i. e.* the advance), while stationed, had several marches, taking Kalama, which was defended

by five stockades, and where three sepoy were mortally wounded. I regret to say that, at the taking of another stockade, which was built in the heart of the jungle, Lieut. Harding, of the 29th regiment, who was entering at its rear, received a gunshot wound in the neck, which fractured his spine, and he died twenty-four hours after. This was peculiarly unlucky, for the Malays at the time were evacuating the stockade as fast as possible, and it was one of the last of them who singled out Harding, considerably in advance of his company. The path was so narrow that two could not walk abreast. The Malays carry off their wounded with the greatest expedition; indeed the situation of the stockades, which open in the rear into a dense forest, favour them in this respect. Mulikee and Taboo (the capital) are our next points. At present we are commencing another stockade as a *dépôt*, and I dare say we shall not be at Taboo before July. The same thick forest we have every step to contend against."

By recent accounts from Malacca, we learn that the troops have advanced to Alor Gaja, within a few miles of the Panghuloo's residence; but that a party of soldiers who were protecting the coolies employed in clearing away the jungle in that quarter, were attacked by the enemy, when Ensign Wright, who was in command, received a wound in the shoulder, and another in the leg; one sepoy was killed and two others wounded. The Malays are said to have sustained some severe losses.—*Sing. Chron. April 12.*

The latest accounts we have heard from Malacca are of the 26th ult., and are rather unfavourable for the expedition. Two days after Lieut. Wright was wounded, another officer, Ensign Thompson, received a severe wound on the head, which we are happy to hear is not mortal. It appears that the Malays during the night raised two or three stockades on the line of a new road leading to Taboo, which had not yet been cleared of jungle. The soldiers who were protecting the coolies employed on this work, by some means or other got between two of these stockades, which were well situated, and became exposed to a destructive fire, by which, it seems, not only Ensign Thompson was wounded, but four sepoy and one *havidar* were killed, and about twenty more sepoy were wounded, according to the information we have received. Had not timely assistance arrived, it is said that Ensign Thompson would have been killed, and in all probability, the whole detachment cut off. The Malays chopped off the heads of those that were killed, and stuck them on poles in their stockade.

The troops, it is said, are now encamped at Alor Gaja, exposed to occasional shots from the enemy.

tack the coolies and carts carrying provisions to the camp. Colonel Herbert is said to be in a bad state of health; and reinforcements of one, some say two, regiments, with two companies of European soldiers, are expected at Malacca from Madras.—*Ibid.* May 3.

The expedition has proceeded, during a period of about four months, not more than twenty miles from the town of Malacca, and that, too, in a country claimed as our own. The present position of the troops is stated to be even difficult to retain, the enemy disputing every inch of ground, encompassing the camp, and cutting off supplies as far as they are able.

The reinforcement of three companies, lately arrived from Penang, and the supply of bullocks and other necessaries lately despatched from Madras by the *Lady Munro*, may infuse fresh courage amongst the troops, and cause them to advance more boldly; but as symptoms of panic have appeared amongst the sepoys, it is as likely to communicate itself to the reinforcement as not; while the Malays will be rendered more desperate and reckless (a disposition most congenial with their character) by seeing a determined perseverance on the part of government, to carry on a war of extermination against them.

It is a matter of surprise to us to consider from whence the Nanningites derive the considerable auxiliary force which, it is said, they have called to their aid. We have recently learned from an intelligent gentleman, who has lately returned from a voyage to one or two ports on the east coast of the Peninsula, that the chiefs of Tringanu and Calantan, so far from aiding and abetting the people of Nanning, seemed to be ignorant of and indifferent to the progress of the war, and indeed, they were so occupied in preparing themselves against an expected invasion of the Siamese that they seemed to care little for their neighbours. We are inclined to think the Nanning chief derives assistance more from the western states of the Peninsula than the eastern.—*Ibid.* May 17.

Netherlands India.

Java papers to the 3d of July show, that the insurrection of the Chinese is completely quelled. The governor-general, however, had, by a decree of the 19th of May, withdrawn the license granted on the 26th of July 1831, to bring to Java a certain number of labourers from China, to be employed in agriculture and manufactures, because "experience has proved that the plan has not answered the end proposed, and has only led to the importation into the island of the refuse of the Chinese, who were dangerous to the public tranquillity, as the late events at Kiowang have shown."

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It is much to be regretted that the active naturalist, M. Macklot, has lost his life in these events, and that his MSS. and the fruits of his travels and researches in Java and the least known parts of the Indian Archipelago, were a prey to the flames.

A resolution of the governor-general of the 26th of May, orders the establishment of a school for the Javanese language at Socra Karta, in which ten young Europeans are to be qualified to converse and to write in the Javanese language.

From an account of the events on the west coast of Sumatra to the 1st of May, it appears that the hostile attempts of the Padries had been completely defeated.—*Dutch Papers, Oct. 17.*

Siam.

We have heard it reported here amongst natives, that his Majesty of Siam is about to collect a large army, in order to subdue the Malayan States on the east coast of the Peninsula, which have lately revolted from his authority. It is expected the Malays will be unable to withstand their overwhelming numbers, and that those states, including Singura, Patani, Calantan, and probably Tringanu and Pahang, must fall again under the Siamese sway. The Malays, however, are said to be determined to resist to the death; the oppression and exactions, formerly practised on them by the Siamese, appearing more intolerable than death itself. We hear, the Siamese were accustomed to levy a tax equal to six dollars per head per annum, on every individual, whether man, woman, or child. With one or two resolute and skilful leaders like Rajah Koodin, of Quedah, the Malays might resist successfully, and drive back the Siamese into their own country.—*Sing. Chron. May 3.*

Australasia.

The *Sydney Herald*, the *Australian* and the *Sydney Monitor* (the latter, the latest, to the 23d May) have been received during the month, but they contain no local intelligence of the slightest interest.

The state of things at Swan River was reported to be improving.

New Zealand.

A report having been current, we believe without any foundation, that the French government contemplated taking possession of New Zealand, thirteen of the chiefs addressed the following letter to the King of England, soliciting his interference, to prevent such an occurrence:—

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