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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 ..	3,390
Spirit .....	1,500 ..	1,620
Pawn brokerage .....	190 ..	190
Market leases campong } China .....	341 ..	340
Do. do. campong Glam ..	83 ..	86
Toddy and beang .....	85 ..	76
Seerib .....	535 ..	490
Pork .....	690 ..	550
	Sp. Drs. 6,314 ..	6,672
Increase .....		358
Monthly .....	Drs. 7,630	

### 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

printed and published here. It complains of misapprehension and false reports respecting the late operations and the political events which gave rise to them.\*

The writer observes that the panghooloo of Naning (who resides at an insignificant place, called Tabo, about twenty-three miles from Malacca) never disputed the fact, that Naning was an integral part of the Malacca territory, ceded by the Dutch to us in exchange for Bencoolen, in 1825, and that even to this day he signs his letters with the Company's seal.

The tenth of the produce, levied on the rest of the possessions, was commuted for the rice and fowls (as before stated), until improved cultivation rendered the payment of the tax easy to the inhabitants. The late Mr. Fullerton, in 1828, conceiving that the period had arrived, prepared an expedition to force the panghooloo to comply; but suspended it in deference to superior authority. This indecision on the part of Mr. Fullerton, the writer considers, confirmed the panghooloo's resolution and inspired the Malays with an idea that we feared them and their panghooloo; and the interval which elapsed, between the virtual declaration of war in 1828 and the recent commencement of hostilities, afforded time for a powerful coalition of independent princes in the interior against the British arms. The Malays began to look upon the panghooloo as superhuman. "His character for sanctity, which had been growing for years, was vastly strengthened by this circumstance, and he was exalted into a demigod, and the sick, and the maimed, and the blind, crowded from all quarters, to drink the waters in which the holy foot had been dipped, fully persuaded that thereby they would be healed of their diseases, however inveterate those might be." Inflated with the notions thus instilled, he committed aggressions on a weak neighbour, whom he ejected from his lands, which the occupier held by deeds dated in 1723. The latter took refuge in Malacca, and demanded redress from the government. The civil authorities pointed out to the panghooloo the injustice of his usurpation, and requested the restoration of the lands. The requisition met with a haughty and peremptory refusal; and authority from the Court of Directors having been received to dispossess the chieftain on the original grounds of complaint, a proclamation was addressed to the inhabitants of Naning, setting forth the refractory behaviour of their leader, who had forfeited all claim to countenance and favour, declaring that no evil was intended towards such of his subjects as remained neutral during the approaching contest, and that they would

be in future relieved from all vassalage and feudal services: adding that the tenth would not be taken till the country was improved and the inhabitants better able to afford it.

The determination of the government to resort to hostilities was, however, known in the bazar prior to the date of this proclamation (15th July), and even to the issuing of the orders to the different departments; and a Portuguese maker of muskets and carbines was clandestinely employed in his vocation, and the arms he sold found their way into the interior.

The panghooloo was known to be poor and unable long to maintain a large body of men, and it was expected that the greater part of his force would be disbanded before the expedition started. The government was not aware that a powerful combination of independent princes, along with by far the largest proportion of our own subjects, was upholding the panghooloo secretly.

The expedition was not ready to start before the 6th August. In the mean time, a letter was received from the rajah of the powerful state of Rumbow, which adjoins Naning, stating that he had heard that we intended, after the reduction of the panghooloo, to attack Rumbow; that he did not wish to quarrel with the British government, and requested to be informed whether the report was correct, as a guide to the line of conduct he should adopt. The government strongly disclaimed all hostile views, stating that the sole object of the expedition was the apprehension of the Naning chieftain. Unfortunately, this letter never reached its destination, and the troops had marched before the government was aware of the failure of this despatch, on which so much depended. The Rumbow chieftain naturally concluded that the report was correct, and, by joining the confederacy, strengthened it nearly as much by the influence of his name, as he did by his resources in men and money.

The information obtained by the government tended to confirm the previously conceived opinion, that no real opposition was intended; and people of all ranks, except the military, ridiculed the idea of so large a force proceeding into the interior, flatly asserting that the Malaya peninsula could be subjugated by a havildar's party, and that not a shot would be fired. It unfortunately happened that the spies employed by government—men who had been long confidentially employed by government—were false without exception. The spies declared that the Naningites, with the exception of a few devoted to their chieftain, were ready to join us. It was known that the Malays were addicted to treachery, cowardice,

\* See the details which we have given from the *Singapore Chronicle*, last vol. pp. 138 and 191.

and cruelty; but never anticipated such an extent of treachery.

The writer then details, with great minuteness, the military operations, and attributes the disasters of the expedition to "an unaccountable panic."

The present posture of affairs in the interior (according to the pamphlet) is such as to render war inevitable. Our furthest picquet was (in October) at the government bungalow at Tanjong Kling, distant seven miles from Malacca; the remaining picquets cover the outskirts of the town; beyond them we cannot enforce our claim to a foot of ground. The enemy have levied a tax of twenty reals on each village. Out of this tax a curious transaction has arisen.

In September, the panghooloo of Naning's people went to a village in the British territory to enforce the tax, which the head-man refused till he obtained permission of his own panghooloo, Inchi Kachu, who had sided with Naning. The latter, however, suddenly changed his politics, arrested the collectors, and conveyed them prisoners to Malacca. He then applied to the British government for a guard of sepoys, as he had drawn upon himself the vengeance of his brother panghooloo of Naning; and whilst the government were making arrangements to comply with his application, this very Inchi Kachu arrived at Malacca, as the bearer of a letter from the panghooloo of Naning, in which he demands the immediate release of the prisoners, and threatens in the event of any delay in complying with this requisition, to march down and effect their release. From this circumstance, the writer infers that the Malays are still intent upon annoying us: they abstain from ravaging the fields, at present, in order to conciliate the cultivators. He founds his belief on "the well known character of the Malayan character, and the hypothesis that all nations seek to be free, and would, if an opening be yielded them, rather starve under the grinding oppression of a ruler of their own choice, than live comfortably under the yoke, however easy, of a foreigner."

The Rumbow chieftain and others have written to the government that they were misled by the misrepresentations of the panghooloo of Naning, as to our designs upon Rumbow, and have in consequence withdrawn from the confederacy; but the writer doubts the sincerity of these professions. Lingy, about thirty miles N.N.W. of Malacca, the very nest of piracy, which we are intent upon putting down, is in the Rumbow territory. A war with the British would, therefore, not only stop the Rumbow raja's exports of tin, but curtail his piratical revenues.

Of the nature of the war in which we

should engage, according to his policy, the writer affords some idea:—"it is impossible to calculate what force may be requisite to accomplish the reduction of the enemy. It is no longer Naning, but the Malayan peninsula, that is to be subdued. Even the rajah of Moar, once a firm ally of our's (whose territories lie S.E. of us), has within these few days seized upon the lands of a gentleman resident in Malacca, which adjoin his district, impudently asserting that they belong to him, thus affording a striking resemblance to the aggressions of the Naning chieftain. There is no capital, properly so called, throughout the Malayan peninsula. They never dream, therefore, of fighting "*pro aris et focis*," but recede as you advance. With a flying enemy a heavy blow cannot be struck; every village will be successively abandoned on the approach of the troops, and the principal rebels will betake themselves to the strongholds in the recesses of the jungle. Yet, although the enemy would suffer little in actual property even by the destruction of their villages, the total cessation in husbandry, which would inevitably result from the presence of a hostile force, would decidedly tend to loosen the link between the chieftains and their dependents. It would be useless to pursue the flying leaders through the wildering mazes of a Malayan forest; but if a severe lesson of British superiority were once read to the dependents, they would soon desert the cause of their chiefs, and for a slight reward bring in all those who are obnoxious to government."

The Madras papers state that H.M. ship *Comet* was to be immediately despatched to Malacca with troops and stores. She was to carry the rifle company of the 5th N.I., and a party of the corps of sappers and miners, and a number of cannon, &c., to be under the command of Colonel Herbert, who was to command the whole force at Malacca upon his arrival. The remaining companies of the 5th N.I., which were under orders for Moulmein, were also under orders for Malacca.

## Netherlands India.

The following decree has been issued by the king of the Netherlands:—

Decree of the 4th May 1831, containing a modification of the duties on foreign cotton manufactures imported into the colonies of the state direct from ports of this country by vessels navigating under the Dutch flag.

"Having under consideration the expediency of some immediate modification of the duties on the importation of foreign