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jury by the suspension of the functions of the Court of Judicature, 15th July 1830, since which date a debt of more than 32 Sp. drs. was not recoverable; that petitions be presented to Parliament, accompanied by a document containing the views of the petitioners as to the particular form of court most suitable to the exigencies of this settlement, together with an estimate of the expenses necessary for the maintenance of such a court. That, in order to secure the *proper* and *uninterrupted* administration of justice, it was not only desirable but essentially necessary that this settlement should be provided with a court altogether independent of the local government; that the judge of such court should be a barrister of not less than five years standing; that he should reside permanently at Singapore, and that in case of death or unavoidable absence, he should be succeeded temporarily by a judge from Calcutta; that the expenses connected with the maintenance of such a court as this settlement requires need not exceed 4,500 sicca rupees per month, and that the fees, if the same rates continued which were levied during the operation of the recent Court of Judicature, may be expected to amount to 1,100 sicca rupees per month.

Petitions were accordingly adopted by the meeting, which were to be forwarded for presentation to the Marquess of Lansdowne and Mr. C. Grant.

SLAVE TRADING.

We had occasion last year, in publishing an account of the island of Bali, to notice the notorious fact that French vessels are accustomed *annually* to make a voyage amongst the islands to the south and eastward of the Malayan archipelago for the purpose of purchasing slaves, especially boys and girls, whom they convey either to Bourbon or the Mauritius, or probably to both. Two French vessels had recently left the coast of Bali with slaves, when the writer of that account was on the island.

We have been informed very recently by a respectable eye-witness, who has lately returned from a trading voyage to the southward, that while he was at Buna on Sumbawa, a French vessel arrived having on board a great number of boys and girls, all nearly in a state of nature. Our informant, who went on board, was told by the captain, who spoke the Malayan language well, that he had purchased them amongst the islands, but principally at Enday, and that he was conveying them for sale to Bourbon. He seemed desirous of purchasing more, for which purpose he had a quantity of specie on board. During his stay, however, an official gentleman of rank, connected with the Dutch government, arrived at Buna, when the

Frenchman thought it prudent to move off. This occurred about five or six months ago.

We have noticed the subject in the hope that both the English and the Dutch governments, who are bound by solemn treaty and by the tie of humanity, to suppress and prevent slavery in these regions, may be induced to become more alert, and to adopt some active steps for preventing the continuance of the nefarious and yearly traffic of slaves carried on by vessels connected with Bourbon, and, we suspect, the Mauritius likewise. We forgot to inquire the name of the French vessel, but will endeavour to ascertain it.—*Sing. Chron.* Oct. 27.

Malacca.

NANING.

Our accounts from Malacca are of a recent date, but they afford little intelligence of an important nature. The government have employed a number of natives in clearing away the jungle to a considerable distance from either side of the road leading to Naning, and in removing all obstructions likely to impede the progress of any future expedition. The Naning people, however, occasionally come down, and attack the coolies thus employed; but as the latter are protected by sepoys, little hindrance is made to the work, and they have already completed several miles of the road.

The panghooloo of Naning now refuses to trust his person at Malacca to treat with the authorities, although security has been offered and the word of government passed for his safe return.

If the panghooloo acts thus from an idea of his superiority or from a confidence in his own resources, we imagine he will find, so soon as hostilities against him recommence, that he has been acting unwisely to allow such a favourable crisis of coming to an amicable understanding with the English to slip by. From the nature of the preparations and the great resources of every description on our side, there can be little doubt that so soon as the next expedition marches up, Naning will fall completely into the possession of the English, with little or no opposition; for it is not to be supposed the Malays will hazard an open engagement with the overwhelming force which should be sent up. The panghooloo and his councillors and adherents will be deposed and outlawed, and we suppose Naning will become a residency attached to Malacca, with a guard sufficient for the protection of the government officer in charge of the district.

We should not envy, for some years

at least, the lot of him who may be selected resident or assistant resident of Naning; for besides the pleasure of living in a deserted district, in company with solitude and tigers, there is the constant apprehension of being harassed, attacked, and perhaps murdered, by the Malays of the neighbouring states; for so long as the panghooloo of Naning and his adherents are alive, they will be continually exciting their countrymen to acts of revenge, and to protracted strifes with the Naning resident. It is not to be supposed, also, that the neighbouring rajahs will tamely witness the encroachment of British dominion so close to themselves; and we may be assured they will spare no efforts, privately in conjunction with the panghooloo, to render Naning as little valuable to government as it can be.

We are at a loss to guess of what political advantage Malacca itself is, in its present state, to the British nation: its commerce is most insignificant, and the establishment there is a dead weight on the government purse. With proper management, and due encouragement, it might be rendered productive in its agriculture, for the lands are extensive, and the soil, in general, good. But monopoly, exclusion, and oppression stand in the way of improvement, and render the place so unprofitable, that, until a reform of the whole system takes place, we are inclined to think the Company will be considerable gainers even were they to abandon it altogether to its own fate, especially if Naning is to be added to it as a military appendage.—*Sing. Chron. Sep. 29.*

A pamphlet published at Malacca, containing an authentic narrative of the late expedition, states that our furthest picket was, in October, only seven miles from Malacca, and that the panghooloo was levying taxes in the British territory, which were in most cases paid.

Mauritius.

JUDICIAL CHANGES.

The *Gazette de Maurice* of August 20th contains a proclamation of the governor (Sir C. Colville) of an order of His Majesty in Council, dated 13th April 1831, for making provision for the better administration of justice in Mauritius and its dependencies.

The order directs that the Supreme Court of Judicature, or Cour d'Appel, shall in future be held before three judges only; that the tribunal de Première Instance shall be held before one judge; that vacancies, or additional judges, if needed, shall be supplied by the governor till the pleasure of His Majesty be known.

It confirms the ordinance of the 17th February 1830, establishing a court of the governor to judge certain *prises à parties et récusations* directed against the court of appeal. The exclusive jurisdiction of the Vice Admiralty is preserved, and exempted from the jurisdiction of the other courts. The office of Grand Juge, Commissaire de Police, is abolished, and the Procureur General is relieved from the duty of making conclusions for the assistance of the courts. No judge of any of the courts, nor procureur general, nor advocate general, nor the surrogate of a judge, can be a slave owner, nor have an interest in land cultivated by slave labour, either directly or as trustee. Such officers may hire, and employ in their domestic service, any number of slaves, making it first appear to the satisfaction of the governor that it is not in the power of the officer to hire free persons for such domestic services. A petty court of a juge de paix is established at Port Louis for the decision of all civil causes of small amount, and for the trial of all crimes and offences of a low degree, from which there is no appeal. The governor in council is empowered to establish a similar court or courts in one or more of the dependencies. Appeals, in civil suits, from the Cour d'Appel to His Majesty in Council, are limited to such as involve property to the amount of £1,000, or the right of personal freedom.

In the proclamation of the governor it is stated, that Lord Goderich has signified His Majesty's directions that a criminal code, better adapted to the existing state of society than that now in force in the colony, should be prepared and promulgated. In reference to this important work, the secretary of state observes, that there does not exist any necessity for the assumption, by the ministers of the crown, of the arduous office of framing this code themselves, since, both in England, and in almost every part of the continent of Europe, but more especially in France, the revision of the criminal code has of late years occupied the attention of the most eminent jurists and statesmen. Their labours (continues the secretary of state) have removed the greater part of the difficulties in which the subject was formerly involved; and it would be in the highest degree irrational if any feelings of national rivalry were permitted to obstruct the adoption of any of those improvements in the criminal code for which Europe is indebted to the profound wisdom and research of the authors of the French digest. In conclusion (the secretary of state further observes), that however desirable the gradual assimilation of the colonial to the English code may be, as a firm bond of union between the two countries, His Majesty will not as-