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We are given to understand that the demand for a Court martial by Captain Vassall of H. M. S. *Harrier*, referred to in the following paragraph from the *Standard* of 21st July last, proceeded from some remarks by Admiral Sir J. Gore, on his conduct with reference to the skirmish at the *Arroa Islands*, the same having been elicited from the Admiral by some observations which appeared in the Straits newspapers of the day on the same affair. Our information may not be altogether correct on these points; but we think it an opportune occasion to express our condemnation of that practice of carping at or disparaging the services of his Majesty's naval officers in these parts which we have seen to characterise the public prints of the Straits, without too nice a regard to the justice or propriety of such a proceeding on every particular occasion. Captain Vassall was more active and did more good service in putting down piracy within the Straits than any other officer we have yet seen in his place, and merits commendation and not censure for such services at the hands of any Straits journalist, who has generally such good cause to exclaim against the prevalence of the predatory system which Captain Vassall did something to abate. It is extremely ill-judged to undervalue such services. Our Transatlantic brethren act very differently—look at the Qualla Batoo affair; the commander and crew of the *Potomac*, a 50-gun frigate, take great fame to themselves, and it seems as readily accorded to them by their countrymen, for their exploits on that occasion. Yet it appears to us that there was quite as dangerous work and quite as good service done at the *Arroas* by Captain Vassall, and his crew, only less talk about it, and what talk there was among the public, all the wrong way.

“With reference to a paragraph which appeared in the Hampshire Telegraph of the 29th ult., relative to the Courtmartial which Commander Vassall, of his Majesty's ship *Harrier*, had deemed it necessary to demand upon himself, it has not been complied with by the Admiralty, their lordships having most fully and publicly approved of the conduct of Captain Vassall, his officers, and ships' company for their services in the Straits of Malacca. The following are the particulars of the skirmish which the *Harrier* had with a body of Malays, at the *Arroa Islands*. While in India, the *Harrier's* services were principally confined to the Straits of Malacca, for the suppression of piracy, and the general protection of commerce. On the afternoon of the 20th of April, last year, the *Harrier* anchored at a cluster of Islands called the *Arroas*. In the evening one of the gigs left the ship with two officers (the second lieutenant and master), and proceeded to a small quay adjoining the larger *Arroa*, for the purpose of turtling, as that Island was well known to be a resort for Malay marauders, so much so, that Horsburg's Directory advises merchantmen to be cautious in anchoring at these islands. About eleven the boat returned with a seaman mortally wounded, and another with a spear-wound in the head. The master saved himself by swimming. She reported that while turning a turtle they were attacked by a large band of Malays variously armed (who must have crossed over from the larger *Arroa*), and had much difficulty in effecting an escape. Boats were immediately despatched under the orders of the first lieutenant to watch their proas. When daylight dawned a fire of musketry from the jungle, and of gingsals from the rocks, was opened upon the pinnace and cutter, which was promptly returned. After some time had elapsed, the seamen and marines made good their landing from the boats, and advanced at once upon the Malays, who fled from the jungle—many of course fell, more particularly as it is a peculiarity in the Malay character neither to give nor take quarter. Three armed proas and two other boats were destroyed, two guns and a variety of arms captured. It may be remembered that the *Harrier* destroyed the pirate village of Soojee the year previous to this affair.”