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1833.

It is stated to have been during the temporary government of Sir Edward Barnes, from 1820 to 1822, that the project was conceived and in a great measure executed, of forming carriage-roads from Colombo, over the Kandyan mountains, to the heart of the interior, by the combined effort of the native population and the pioneer establishment. It was prosecuted with unabated energy under Sir Edward Paget's government, and, since its completion, the greatest advantages have been found to result from it. By the old mountain-paths, which led to Kandy, a single coolie could only transport 40lbs., whereas a bullock-cart transports upwards of 1,100lbs. of goods, equal to the work of about twenty-eight coolies. From 1815 to 1823, the rates of transport, paid by government, for twenty-eight coolies, averaged £12. 5s., whereas a bullock-cart, which performs the same work, can now be hired for 16s. 6d. Every cart, therefore, that plies on account of government, releases twenty-eight persons from forced labour, and occasions a saving in transport of 1,400 per cent. The opening of a carriage-road from Kandy to Trincomalee will be attended by similar advantages, and it is expected to be completed in the course of two years.

On the 10th July, the governor convened a meeting of Buddhist priests, at Kandy, to whom he delivered an address urging them to exercise their influence, in every possible manner, not inconsistent with propriety, to induce the votaries of Buddha to consent to vaccination, as a means of checking the ravages of the small-pox, which the governor stated to be one main cause of the stationary condition of the people. The priests stated, in reply, that there certainly did exist a dislike to vaccination on the part of most of the inhabitants of the Kandyan provinces, arising from ignorance, but that they would exert their utmost influence to remove that prejudice from the minds of the people, and to persuade them to adopt vaccination.

Penang.

We learn by the *Cecilia*, from Penang, that Governor Ibbetson had arrived there on the 7th of June, for the purposes of restoring the powers of the Court of Judicature, and of presiding at a criminal session, which was to be holden on the 25th of that month: the number of criminal cases amounted to sixty-four. A private letter states, that Chesiong, the Chinese merchant, who has been imprisoned about two years, on a charge of being accessory before the fact to the murder of Chetow,

another Chinese merchant, appears now to have been committed on false evidence; his accuser, a principal in the murder, on whose confession he was considered guilty, having recently sworn that he was instigated to denounce Chesiong solely from revengeful feelings, believing that, when he was sent to the police jail for improper conduct in Chesiong's shop, the latter had influence sufficient and intended to get him transported for life to Bombay.

The accounts received at Penang with the governor respecting the progress of the war at Malacca were of a most favourable nature—the war was said to be virtually at an end by the Pangula of Nanning having sent in his submission, on condition that life and liberty were granted him; which was not acceded to. There was, however, a studied secrecy as to particulars, that threw a suspicion over the good news, and the sudden despatch of the ship *Lady Munro*, from Penang for Madras, on the evening of the 10th June, professedly for the purpose of countermanding further reinforcements, occasioned speculations on the very reverse being the true purport of her voyage. It is added, that both judges and inhabitants regretted exceedingly the absence of a professional judge; for independently of many intricate points that were likely to arise in the great number of criminal cases about to be tried, there were some civil cases of much importance between the Company and individuals, that were likely to be left to the hearing and decision of one of the Company's own servants.—*Bengal Chron.*

Malacca.

The accounts from Malacca do not give so favourable a report of the proceedings of the expedition as we could wish. We have been favoured with a letter from Alor-Gaja, sent from Singapore by the *Elizabeth* to Calcutta. At the commencement, the expedition in Malacca consisted of the 5th regiment N.I., two companies of sappers and miners, 25 European artillery, 5 companies of the 29th regt. N.I., and one company of the 46th regt. N.I., which constituted what was then considered a very respectable force, and sufficient to quell the rebellious spirit of the Malays, being altogether 1,800 effective musketeers with artillery, &c., but this, we regret to say, has proved inadequate to accomplish the object of the expedition. The following is from the letter with which we have been favoured:—"There are at present about 150 men in the hospital, besides 12 killed and 30 wounded, who have been sent to Malacca. Wright has been shot in the shoulder, and also

had his thigh bone shattered. Young Walker was shot through the head and brought in dead. Lieutenant Harding, who was shot through the spine, died soon afterwards. Thompson received a shot in the head which tore away much of the scalp, and laid him senseless, but he is now fast recovering. We have been victorious in all our contests, with the exception of Thompson's affair, in which twenty-eight of his men were laid prostrate at the first fire from a concealed stockade; the enemy then charged in such numbers that the sepoys fled to the guns, leaving six of the dead in the hands of the enemy. Upon reaching the guns they rallied, and maintained their position until a reinforcement arrived, when the enemy were beaten back. We are now at Alor-Gaja, about sixteen miles from Malacca, acting upon the defensive, until the arrival of more force; for, deducting the 500 men left at Malacca for its defence, with two companies at Roombiah and one at Soongaputtye, and sick, we have not more than 400 men for duty; whilst the enemy, who are round us on every side in thousands, are well supplied with arms and ammunition; harass us night and day, and endeavour to cut off our communication with Malacca, but have not succeeded. On Thursday they made an attack upon the camp, when, after half an hour's hard fighting they were repulsed with considerable loss. The artillery created much havoc, and to them we principally trust for the maintenance of our position."

We regret hearing of the sepoys getting sick, and this appears to be increasing; they have, however, succeeded in making a road to Malacca of about 100 yards wide. The camp at Alor-Gaja is in a commanding position, and the jungle cleared for several hundred yards on each side, whilst the stockade was nearly completed. Most of the officers enjoy good health, with the exception of Colonel Herbert, who has been indisposed.

We understand that, besides the 23d regt. N.I., a considerable increase is to be made to the forces in Malacca. The ship *Ganges* has been engaged for the conveyance of the remaining companies of the right wing of the European regiment from Masulipatam. It is also reported that the rifle company of the 38th regt. N.I. is also under orders for Malacca, and that another regiment or two will also be sent over.—*Madras Gaz.* July 4.

We are happy to find that the Nanning war is likely to terminate very speedily, for the present at least, the expedition having advanced to Tabu, the residence of the unfortunate Panguloo, and taken possession of it without encountering any opposition from the Malays, the chief and his adherents having fled further up the country. The two brass field-pieces, of

which the enemy became possessed after the retreat of the first expedition, were found planted before the house, and strange to say, they were mounted on their own proper carriages, "with appurtenances complete," all of which, according to a certain "narrative," were stated to have been broken up and destroyed during the said retreat!

It is said the Panguloo has sent an emissary to Malacca, offering terms of submission; but of their nature, and of the result, we have heard nothing. A reward of one thousand dollars for his capture being still in force, we suppose nothing short of absolute possession of his person, and control over his actions, will satisfy the government, as it is natural to suppose that he will prove a troublesome enemy, especially after the present formidable force is withdrawn, until he is either captured or killed. To check his future operations, as well as those of his secret associates and auxiliaries, it will henceforth, be necessary to sustain no small military force, in order to retain possession of the newly-acquired country.

On the other hand, the retention of Nanning, as a dependency of Malacca, is stated to be highly important;—for while it affords the means of overawing, and at the same time, opening a friendly intercourse with, the petty independent states to be found in the interior of the peninsula, the resources of the district itself are in themselves by no means despicable, when properly developed. Besides its agricultural productions, it possesses one hill in which gold is found, and another abounding with tin-ore, and these alone, with proper superintendence, might be made very productive. If, however, our honourable rulers exhibit "an inordinate desire of gain," and introduce oppressive systems of collecting revenue and forced labour, without consulting the inclinations and feelings of the natives, they may naturally expect much trouble to themselves; to end, most probably, with ruinous losses, and a total abandonment of the country.—*Sing. Chron.* June 28.

Copies of Despatches from the Officer commanding the Troops at Malacca, addressed to the Hon. S. Garling, Esq., Resident Councillor at Malacca.

"Sir:—I have the honour to report a warm and successful contest with the enemy which took place this morning in the vicinity of my camp; it continued without intermission for one hour and a-half, and terminated in the destruction of three of their defences, most formidably posted, and under cover of which and the surrounding jungle, the enemy were in immense force.

"The casualties are recorded in the

margin,* and I have to regret the loss of a most gallant young officer in Acting Ensign Walker.

"I am unable to state what loss the enemy may have sustained, from the facility with which they carry off their killed and wounded; but the principal stockade and path leading to the jungle was covered with blood and entrails of the sufferers.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) "C. HERBERT, Lieut. Col.

"Com. Mal. Field Force."

"Head-Quarters, camp Dattoo,
Mambangun, May 3, 1832."

"Sir:—I have the honour to report that the Toowankoo left camp last night between twelve and one o'clock, taking with him Seen Kong with forty of the contingent and a guide, in addition to the armed followers who came with him. He reports that he met some slight opposition, but succeeded in destroying ninety houses at Ayr Pootih and bringing in two prisoners, one of whom is wounded. I will forward them to Malacca, to be dealt with as you may deem proper—they are of no note.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) "C. HERBERT, Lt. Col."

"Head-Quarters, camp Dattoo,
Mambangun, May 3, 1832."

"Sir:—I have the honour to report for your information and that of the Hon. the Governor that, in conformity with the proposition of Toowankoo Seyed Saban, and your concurrence in the measure, conveyed in your private communication of the 17th and your official letter of the 18th inst., at the instance of the Toowankoo, he quitted my camp at three A.M. on the morning of the 21st, and arrived at the Bookit Si Boorsoo at daylight, by a circuitous route; that, with the assistance of the guides, he got into its rear with his party (which, including the contingent, amounted to seventy-five muskets), and took six large stockades, besides breast-works, the enemy making little opposition, and vacating them rapidly as he advanced; that, turning to camp, he came by the high road of Priga to Datta, where he took possession of eight stockades and smaller defences, and moving on to Seelalah Pulawan, he took eight others of similar description; at the two last places no opposition was offered. His party suffered no loss whatever, and with assistance sent from camp the whole were destroyed.

"You will perceive by the Toowankoo's letter, which was written last evening, that it was determined either to establish a small post at Priga to Datta, or to attack Mullekehe and subsequently to occupy it; but on more mature consideration, and taking the opinion of the officers who had been in advance, and that of the se-

nior engineer officer, as to either being tenable for a small detail of troops in tents, I was reluctantly obliged to abandon it, and have been able only to detail a party to clear the road to Priga to Datta. My means are so straitened, owing to sickness, and the work still to be done of completing the stockade and dépôt for provisions, the cover of convoys and working parties, added to the severity of duty for the protection of the camp, all combine to cripple my force for any decided operations.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) "C. HERBERT, Lt. Col."

"Head-Quarters, camp Dattoo,
Mambangun, May 22, 1832."

"Sir:—I do myself the honour to report that, finding myself somewhat relieved, on the evening of the 24th, by having had the road to Priga to Datta sufficiently cleared and the cut jungle partially burnt, and having been aware for the two days previous that the enemy were renewing their defences at Bookit Si Boorsoo, which has been so ably taken possession of by Toowankoo Syed Saban, I determined, notwithstanding the weakness of my force, to take possession of it, and if possible to retain it. Accordingly, at daybreak of the 25th, I detached Capt. Poulton and Ensign Stoddart, with the grenadier company of the 5th regt. N.I., Capt. Wallace and Lieut. Stevenson, with the F company, 46th regt., Lieuts. Begbie and Lawford, with a small detail of artillery, a howitzer and mortar, Toowankoo Syed Saban with the whole of the contingent and his own followers, Lieut. Bell, accompanied by thirty sappers and a considerable body of convicts.

"Capt. Poulton directed the opening a fire from the artillery at a quarter past six o'clock, and giving fifty sepoy to the Toowankoo, they each made a slight detour in flank of the defences, from which a heavy fire was kept up for an hour, when the 'British Grenadier' from the drums, and the 'Dheen Aheen' of the sepoy, announced to my anxious sense of hearing that the place was in our possession. A desultory fire was, however, kept up for a considerable time, and I thought it proper, to make 'assurance sure,' to direct Major Farquharson, if possible, to afford me fifty men; the result was an instantaneous volunteering of ninety-nine (of all ranks); and this body moved off immediately, with Capt. Justice and Lieut. Minto, with orders to support Capt. Poulton. At the termination of two hours from the commencement the firing ceased entirely, and Bookit Si Boorsoo was forthwith occupied, and the guns mounted on the height previously occupied by the enemy.

"The margin * exhibits the casualties.

* Act. Ensign G. H. Walker killed; wounded, 1 havildar, 1 naick, 1 private.

* Wounded; Capt. Poulton, slightly, by ran-zow, and nineteen men.

"It is probable the effect of this measure will throw the enemy on my flank and rear, which with my diminished force will be harassing in the extreme, and I therefore solicit a reinforcement of one company from Malacca, if that measure be at all practicable, until other resources reach me.

"It is possible that the moral influence caused by the possession of this strong-hold may draw off the inhabitants from following the fortune of Dholi Syed, in his resistance to the British government; but this would be rendered more likely if I could by possibility even assume the appearance of strength which in reality I have not.

"I think it my duty, in conclusion, to report that I consider the conduct of the European officers I have enumerated, that of the Toowankoo Syed Saban, and every man of the regulars and auxiliaries, as entitled to the highest praise.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) "C. HERBERT, Lt.Col."

"Head-Quarters, camp Dattoo, Mambangun, 26th May 1832."

"Sir:—I have the honour to report that, yesterday morning early, intimation was given to the officer in command of Bookit Si Boorsoo that the stockades at Purling were unoccupied. Capt. Wallace, therefore, in concert with the Toowankoo Syed Saban, detailed a jemadar's party with the Toowankoo's followers and half the Malay contingent to move upon them. The Toowankoo accompanied the party, which came upon the defences and found them partially occupied; but little resistance, however, was made, and two large stockades fell into our possession; in addition to which, one very large breastwork and a smaller one flanking it, both at about 300 yards beyond Purling and on the high road to Taboo, were destroyed and burnt.

"The two stockades are occupied by a party of the regulars and the contingent.

"I trust it will be manifest to superior authority that, with my weakened force, I am losing no opportunity of fulfilling the wishes and expectations of the government, in which I am ably supported by Toowankoo Syed Saban and all under my command.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) "C. HERBERT, Lt.Col."

"Head-Quarters, camp Dattoo, Mambangun, May 28, 1832."

The following Summary of the active Operations of the Malacca Field Force, appears in the *Madras Gov. Gaz.*

23d February. — Ten stockades and breastworks taken by Capt. Poulton and destroyed; no opposition.

17th March.—Six stockades taken and

destroyed by Capt. Justice and Lieut. Poole, with the light company 5th regt., at Soongaputtye.

25th March.—Four stockades at Kalama taken and destroyed by Capt. Poulton and Ensign Walker, with the grenadiers of the 5th regt.; Doll Syed said to have been present in the centre stockade. Capt. Justice and Lieut. Poole made a detour on the same day, and destroyed two other stockades.

27th March.—Rifle company 5th regt. and grenadier company 29th regt., under Capt. Winbolt and Lieut. Harding, destroyed five stockades at Malacca Peenda; no opposition.

29th March.—A large stockade, numerous defended, carried and demolished by Capt. Justice, Lieuts. Poole and Harding, with the light comp. 5th regt. and grenadier company 29th regt.; Lieut. Harding fell, and died on the next night of his wound.

30th March.—One stockade destroyed, at Ayer Rertum, by Capt. Poulton and grenadier company 5th regt. Another stockade destroyed by Capt. Burgess, with C company 5th regt., at Lundos; no opposition.

8th April.—Eleven houses burnt at Pankalang Naning, by the grenadier company 5th regt. N.I., under Capt. Poulton.

12th April.—The rifle company, under Capt. Winbolt and Ensign Wright, forming the covering party, came suddenly on a breastwork from which they were fired on — breastwork carried; Ensign Wright severely wounded. A private letter records the distinguished gallantry of a very young rifleman, who, after his officer (Ensign Wright) and his comrades had fallen round him, stood alone, bravely covering them, by loading and firing with the utmost coolness, until assistance arrived: "this young soldier's determined conduct saved Ensign W. and the others from being carried off by the enemy."

17th April.—A severe contest between the enemy and covering party (the F company under Ensign Thomson, 5th regt., with a small body of artillery), the whole under Lieut. Begbie, artillery; 1 havildar and 5 privates killed and missing, Ensign Thomson, 3 havildars, 2 naigues, 17 privates, and a convict wounded. A private letter states: "Ensign Thomson's affair was unfortunate and melancholy, from not being able to bring off the men who were killed and wounded desperately; it arose, in the first instance, from a mistranslation of the Malay language by the interpreter, and a misconception of Col. Herbert's orders."

25th April.—E company 5th regt., under Lieut. Poole, proceeded to Soonga-

puttye, and destroyed a stockade in embryo.

28th April.—A stockade near Prigatoo-datta—discovered by a party of the contingent and destroyed; no opposition.

3d May.—Severe but successful contest with the enemy in the vicinity of the camp—three defences destroyed in which the enemy had been in immense force; Ensign Walker killed. The letter already quoted adds: "the cause of so few casualties in the attack made on the 3d May arose from the readiness of the officers in getting the men under cover, by which means the enemy's fire passed over their heads in one direction, while that of our artillery, battering their principal defence, also went over theirs on the other. Young Walker was killed by coming suddenly on a concealed breastwork—and a gallant boy he was."

A private letter, dated Alor Gaja, May 26th, describes the labour of clearing the road as severe. The Malays keep at a respectful distance from the great guns; their great amusement is yelling in defiance about sunset. Our men, it is said, are tormented by ulcers, which often spread over the skin, and eat holes in the flesh.

Another letter says: "the Malays are a very ignorant and weak enemy, and as yet timid in the extreme, never shewing themselves in the fair face of day, or defending their stockades after one volley or rush from our side. The whole business is of the most unsatisfactory description—tedious and harassing to a regular force, and a consummation to it is devoutly wished for by all. If the civil government had at first made a requisition for an efficient force, no delay like the present would have occurred. The companies employed daily between this and Malacca, with the supplies, never pass without a shot or two from the jungle and breastworks in it. There are more than the Naning people now fighting. They have guns which throw 1,200 yards. The colonel, who is an excellent man, does not enjoy good health, and the fatigue and anxiety of the business are evidently too much for him,"

The following is an extract of a letter dated Roombiah, 31st May:—"The accounts received from camp state that the war is drawing to a close, or rather that it is all over; but the pungoolah of Naning has not yet been taken, and at the commencement of the business, he declared he would die in defence of his country, and leave a fair name to posterity. It is supposed that he will be off to Sumatra, availing himself of the help of a river that runs through his territory, but a short time will show. We have been much indebted to a native chief, named Syed Saubhoon, for

the assistance he has afforded us, from his being highly connected, and having through that influence caused the allies of the pungoolah to cease acting in hostility against us."

In allusion to the action of May 27th, which terminated the exploits of our troops, another letter says:—"Two companies of the 46th N.I., under the command of Captain Wallace, made a dash at five or six stockades within a mile of Taboo, and took them all, one after the other. The sepoy behaved most gallantly, never flinching in the least, though the fire from the enemy was very heavy. Their brave leader was the first man in the principal stockade; the enemy had come in considerable numbers. Accounts have been received that Mr. Westeraught had had an interview with the pungoolah, who cried like a child, and offered immediately to surrender, with the whole of his force, if he was granted life and liberty: what the authorities intended to do had not transpired, but hostilities had ceased."

The *Madras Gov. Gazette* states that, "notwithstanding the report that the panghooloo had surrendered or offered to do so, more troops are to be sent from Madras to Malacca."

The reported surrender of the pangooloo of Naning was not confirmed by the *Wall Watch*, which left Penang on the 28th June. Naning had fallen; but at the above date protracted hostilities were still talked of at Malacca, and the Madras reinforcements were anxiously expected.

Malay Peninsula.

By a late arrival from Tringanu, we learn that all is peaceable in that state, there being no disposition on the part of the Siamese to molest it. The latter, it is said, having accepted the *tribute* offered them by the Calantan rajah (a picul of gold-dust and 40,000 dollars), have returned to Putani, taking the unfortunate ex-rajah of the latter state with them, who is doomed, as a light punishment for his revolt, to be chopped to pieces, on arriving at Siam.

Previous to the arrival of this intelligence, we hear the Rajah of Tringanu had sent to the chief authority in this settlement, requesting permission to place himself under the English government; which was refused. We understand, however, that the rajah, having received an English flag some years ago from a man-of-war, or cruiser, fully intends hoisting it, should the Siamese make their appearance.

But a Siamese invasion has not been the only calamity which has threatened Trin-