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PIRATES.

We are given to understand that there are, at the present moment, several pirate-prows lurking outside the harbour, to the great risk and detriment of our native trade. At this, we are by no means surprised, as the impunity with which these marauders have been treated for years, renders them so bold that we should not wonder to hear of their entering the harbour and plundering vessels even in sight of the inhabitants of the town and in open day. Were they to attempt an enterprise of the kind, there is not a single vessel or boat belonging to government, stationed in the harbour, to prevent them, excepting indeed the report-boat, which, being manned by four native rowers and a tindal, constitutes a formidable naval armament for the defence of such a settlement as Singapore! Surely the interests of this place are not consulted, when the native traders, who frequent it, and who constitute its principal support, are thus left to the mercy of remorseless robbers, who lurk for them at the entrance of the harbour, and who deprive them of their hard earned property by murder and rapine.—*Sing. Chron. Aug. 2.*

Subsequently, one of the war-boats, intended to act as cruizers against the pirates, arrived from Malacca and another was expected.