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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 sepoya 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-

gannu of late. We understand that a Malayan chief, distantly connected with the rajah of Lingin, has been exciting some commotion on the east coast, by setting up a claim to the rajahship of Tringanu and Kamaman; and to prevent an usurpation of his long-acknowledged rights, the rajah of Tringanu has sent a deputation to the chief authority here, requesting the interference and protection of the British on this score also. We learn, that a communication has been despatched to the resident of Rhio on the subject, and the latter personage has written to Lingin, desiring the above-mentioned pretender (who, it seems, has returned to Lingin for assistance wherewith to enforce his claims) to appear at Rhio within fourteen days. We believe the Dutch authorities have some awkward account to settle with him for piracy.

We believe, it is scarcely necessary for us to set forth to our local readers the great value of the trade with the east coast, and the deep importance of keeping it as free and unshackled as it has been hitherto. It is, in fact, the redeeming feature of the whole of our native commerce; for while it affords a fair market for British manufactures, cotton-twist, and extensive quantities of opium, it produces a regular return in gold-dust, tin, and pepper, which are the most valuable of all native productions. We believe that upwards of 600 chests of opium are annually sent from this port, to those of the east coast; of this however, we are informed, the greater portion finds its way into Siam, by means of native boats, carriers, &c., as the Siamese government strictly prohibits its direct importation into the country.

It is to be hoped the British government will remind the Siamese king of the different articles of the treaty, and point out to him that he has already infringed it, by molesting Calantan in the manner he has done.—*Sing. Chron. June 28.*

Netherlands India.

COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS.

Our letters from Batavia, up to 13th June, continue to give the most gloomy accounts of the future prospects of free-trade on Java; and state that only one universal feeling of the greatest depression existed throughout the commercial community of all nations, from the fixed monopoly-system which appeared to have taken root there.

It appears that the government of Java, after having already taken forty per cent. upon all the productions of free coffee-gardens, as land-tax, has given positive orders that the remaining sixty per cent.,

although the *bona-fide* property of the planters themselves, must be bought up by the resident or government servants, for account of government; and within a few days previous to the above date, three native chiefs of villages had been publicly flogged at Tayal, by order of the resident, for having infringed upon this order.

Let the world judge of the manner in which the spirit of treaties, existing upon a reciprocal footing with the Dutch nation, can be fulfilled under such a state of things! A government and united company making a monopoly of all the produce of a colony, to the exclusion of every other interloper. But we shall overlook the reciprocity due by Holland to other nations in this case, and look only into that reciprocity (if support and protection be not obliterated from the Dutch language) which the subject has a right to expect from the sovereign and nation whom his purse and blood support. Where is that now to be found in Java?—Where is the trade now left there to the Dutch merchants themselves?—driven from *every article* which can form a remittance, where are they to look for a homeward freight for their ships? It is now nowhere to be found; and they have only to submit to be the tame and oppressed carriers of the Maatschappij of Batavia. Their ships come out empty, too happy even to be honoured with a homeward freight from this dear pet of Dutch royalty.

Probably it may not be known to our readers, that a very recent arrangement has been made at Batavia between the government and the Dutch company, by which the latter advanced five millions of guilders to the former, by bills on their direction at home, receiving, as security from government for these advances, all the coffee, sugar, spices, and indigo which the government can deliver over to them within the next ten months; besides what Banca tin and Japan copper may be required to make up the difference, short in amount upon the other goods. The whole of these goods are to be sold for account of the Dutch government, on a commission by the Dutch Company at home, and the balance (*if any*) handed over to his majesty! In such an unheard-of state of things, where is the province of the free merchant on Java? To what is he to turn his attention? Monopoly, armed with the power and rod of government, every where surrounds him, and crushes every attempt at honest industry and exertion.

But it is not the European merchants only that are thus crushed and trampled upon; the natives writhe under the influence of all these exactions and operations still more painfully, and have now arrived at such a pitch of poverty and despair, as has created the greatest alarm for the fu-