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ing the institution, upwards of five years ago. This application was met, on the part of the committee, by a demand that he would renew his engagement with them, or, in other words, bind himself to remain in their employ for a further period, on the former term, an indefinite promise being thrown out, at the same time, that when he did so, the question about the house would be considered. The master declined to enter into any compact before the terms were determined upon, and the committee thereupon passed a resolution dispensing with his services, which was immediately communicated to him, with an intimation that his salary would cease from that day.—*Durpan*, Nov. 9.

Singapore.

PIRATES.

We are happy to find that the Dutch authorities at Rhio have been exerting themselves very strenuously of late in endeavouring to suppress piracy to the southward. According to well-authenticated accounts, we learn that, early last month, M. De Groots, the resident, with Mr. Borgen, the master-attendant, left Rhio on an expedition against the Lingin pirates, who recently committed so many depredations on the trade of this settlement. H.N.M.S. *Amphitrite*, H.N.M. schooner *Janus*, two gun-boats, and three armed boats (a formidable armament), formed a force which spread consternation among the piratical savages, as the schooner, gun-boats, and native armed boats were despatched between the numerous islands which compose their principal lurking places and abode. The vessels entered the very rivers and creeks which they occupy, but the pirates fled in all directions; and report states that upwards of fifty of those who inhabited the well-known piratical island of Sikana, who had fled inland at the approach of the expedition, died for want of food. Eleven of the sultan of Lingin's prows are now cruising in that direction, in search of the panglimas who were principally concerned in the late depredations, and it is said that, as the sultan is a very resolute and determined man, they will not return until they capture the said panglimas. The piratical haunt on the island of Timiang has been burnt down by the people of the above prows, on account of disobedience towards the lawful sovereign of the place.

The resident and master-attendant remained eight days at the sultan's house, at Lingin, and on their return visited many of the islands, of which no idea can be formed unless personally seen. The island of Lingin itself is stated to be not so large as is represented in the charts, as half of

the supposed island is composed of numerous isles not inappropriately called by the natives "*satu ganteng lada*" (a measure of pepper).—*Sing. Chron.*, Jan. 17.

Malacca.

The enclosed notice was sent to Lingy by a self-made rajah, who was in the English camp during the late disturbance with the Nanning people, "the famous Seyd Saban," who, it must be remembered, was also the chief cause of the war, for had he not joined the Panghuloo of Nanning when the first expedition went up, it is well known nothing would have happened, and Government would have saved above twenty lacs of rupees.

People assert that this duty has been allowed to be levied as a remuneration to Seyd Saban; but it can hardly be believed that the government would allow their merchants to be such great sufferers for a paltry consideration of this nature.

The notice is as follows:—"Orders from the Eangdepertuan Besar, the Eangdepertuan Moodah, the Dattoo Lellah Maharajah, to be respected, and sent to the Orang Kyah Katas, to inform him from us that, in regard to all tin that comes from Soongey Oojong, and is carried down the Lingy river, we require that a tax of three dollars a bahar must be paid to us. For we have done this after having consulted with the government of Malacca, that is to say, the governor of Pulo Penang, and the resident of Malacca. This order is to inform the merchants of Lingy that whoever exports tin must pay a duty at Sempang of three dollars per bahar. Written in the year 1248."

It is well known that the tin mines are chiefly worked by Chinese, and that the traders at Lingy and Soongey Oojong could not go on working them if they did not get advances from the merchants at Malacca. It has been on this system that the trade has flourished so well. The Malacca merchants have, at this present moment, above 10,000 dollars outstanding, for which those of Lingy are bound to deliver tin at a certain rate; therefore this heavy duty falls on the Malacca merchants, as those that have engaged to receive it at Lingy will have to pay the duty, and those that may have agreed to receive it at Malacca must either pay the extra three dollars or lose their money altogether; for the Malay merchants at Lingy declare that they cannot afford to sell it, their profits not amounting to one-fourth of the duty, being equal to one dollar per pecul, or about ten per cent. As the profits will not cover the expense of the workmen, the Chinese will of necessity abandon the mines.—*Corresp. Sing. Chron.*