

CAPTURE OF PIRATES.

Intelligence has been received by the *Sesotris* of a very dashing and successful attack in the Straits of Malacca, by the boats of His Majesty's ship *Harrier*, Commander Spencer Vassall, on a strong nest of Malay pirates, which has been completely routed, their settlement and village destroyed, with all their pirate vessels. The *Harrier* picked up at sea four Malays, who had been captured, enslaved, and who had afterwards made their escape; her commander at last succeeded in persuading them to point out the pirates' settlement, and after much difficulty and some hard work, she was got where ship never was before, among islands known only to the natives.— Making use of these captured Malays as guides the *Harrier* was anchored at midnight ten miles from their settlement, and Commander Vassall, with some of his officers, started in their boats, armed, to get off their village at early dawn. These pirates, although never visited before, when they saw the boats pulling into the bay, aware they should be attacked, commenced arming, removing their women and children from the village, and dared our gallant tars to the beach. The commander instantly pulled off in his gig to the shore; they allowed him to get within a few yards, when they let fly guns, swivels, and musquetry into his boat, extraordinary to say, without mischief; he then gave the signal for his large boats to follow, who opened their fire, when the Malays fled to the jungle, and kept up an extensive but most irregular fire, so ill-directed as only to wound two seamen belonging to the *Harrier* (since recovered) although their numbers were five times greater, and under cover. Commander Vassall and his brave little band landed, burnt their settlement and all their piratical boats, and every thing they had left. On returning to Singapore, they learnt that native information had been brought over of these pirates having heard of the *Harrier* picking up their four Malay captives, and had, with the assistance of the neighbouring island of pirates, collected 300 men. The officers and crew from the *Harrier* amounted only to 42.— Among their killed and wounded is the *Peorgelino*, or Captain-chief; he came down to the beach, distinguished by his dress, and deliberately aimed at the British commander, who instantly fired a rifle at him, with visible effect, as the party carried him off to the jungle. Commander Vassall, on his return to Singapore, received an extremely handsome letter from the Government there, specifying the great benefit that must accrue for some time at least, from his spirited and gallant conduct.
