

EXTRAORDINARY MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS.—The following is from the *Liverpool Standard*. Messrs. Heyworth and Co. owners of the vessel on board of which the murder was committed while pursuing her voyage off the coast of Java, have communicated the following deposition:—We, the undersigned, master, officers, and crew of the barque *Rossendale*, do declare that, on Monday, April 6, 1835, at two A.M., we were disturbed from our sleep by our seaman, John Lax, running aft, and calling out that he had been stabbed by the black Malay who had come on board from the Arab ship on the 4th instant. When we came to him he was on the poop, bleeding profusely from three wounds in his right shoulder. He said that, while lying asleep on the forecabin, he was awakened by a person stabbing him in the arm, and before he could defend himself, he had received two other stabs in the arm; but he no sooner got on his feet than he saw the Malay run from him, and jump overboard from the larboard cathead. We all commenced a strict search, when it was discovered that the Malay had murdered two of our crew, John Mean, seaman, and Francis Richardson, apprentice. Richardson was on the starboard side of the quarter-deck, and had, no doubt, come aft to raise an alarm; but having had the windpipe cut through, and a deep stab in the left breast, he was not able to call out, and must have died with the loss of blood instantaneously. John Mean had his throat cut in a dreadful state; a piece, apparently, being scooped out of his neck, so that he must have died as soon as the deed had been committed. We found on the forecabin, about where Lax last saw the Malay, a knife, belonging to one of the seamen, covered with blood—a long, sharp-pointed pocket-knife; and that was the instrument that the Malay must have committed the murders with, as the breadth of the blade was exactly the size of the wounds on Lax's shoulder. At daylight we made another search, but could find no trace of the murderer, nor has he been seen since; Lax saw him jump overboard, so that he must have drowned himself, in our supposition. As there was no boat or vessel of any sort in sight at the time, we cannot form any idea what could have been his motive for so outrageous an act: there had been no quarrel between him and any other person, but, on the contrary, he had always been used with the greatest kindness by every one since he came on board, which was on the 4th inst., in a very singular manner. A large Arab ship that left Sourabaya the same time that we did, and which, we understand was bound to Batavia, being a light ship, and there being little wind, she got 2 or 3 miles ahead of us. We discovered that we came up to her very fast, and that she was before the wind just on the weather bow. It being dark, we thought we should go to windward before we came close; but, on nearing her, found that she had her topsails down on the cap, although there was no appearance of any squall, and was lying in a singular manner for a vessel working to windward. We hailed her, and desired her to make sail and haul to the wind, or we should be foul of her. We, after hailing three times, received no answer, but were forced to wear to get clear of her: we then discovered that this Malay, who has been guilty of these outrageous murders, was on the head, and no clothing on except a handkerchief tied below his breast. The captain ordered him to be searched; but there was no weapon found on him. The ship being by daylight a long way to windward, and not seeming to notice us, we were not able to send him on board, and no person being able to interpret the Malay language, we could not ascertain from him why or how he had left his ship. While she was in sight we saw that he seemed very careful to keep out of view from her; and, if we pointed to the ship, and made signs of sending him on board, he appeared much distressed, and would lay down on deck to imitate sleep, draw his hands across his throat, jump up suddenly and throw his hands over the ship's sides, so that we concluded he had been badly used, and was in danger of having his throat cut in his sleep, and thrown overboard, occurrences not uncommon on board ships of that description, manned partly by Malays and partly by Arabs. The captain allowed him to remain, as there was no help for it, the ship never coming within hail again. Since we had lost sight of her, he appeared quite pleased and in high spirits; the following day he came aft of his own accord and delivered up to the captain a small knife and fork, which we suppose he must have secreted in the head on his first coming on board.