

ANDERSON'S MALAYAN PENINSULA.

• The present Ex-King of Quedah.

Description of the Tin Countries on the Western Coast of the Peninsula of Malacca from the Island of Junk Ceylon to the River Lingi near Malacca and the Rivers on that Coast &c. &c.
(Continued from the Chronicle of 2nd Jan.)

Chiefs of the Country.—I have been unable to trace, in a satisfactory way, the history of the Chiefs of Quedah, beyond the Grand Father of the present King. The first settlers at Kedah were from Malacca, the Inhabitants of which came originally from Menangkabaw, in the interior of Sumatra. The King, who was possessed of various historical records, lost them all upon the Siamese invasion. In a work however in my possession, which I have been some time engaged in translating, containing the Laws, Port Regulations, Court Ceremonies, &c. of Quedah, adopted from the Undang Undang Malayu, I find, that these Laws and Regulations were compiled by order of Sultan Rajil Aludin Mahomed Shah, who reigned at a place called Naga, in Quedah; no mention is made of the period when the Sovereign reigned; but he is supposed to have died a little more than a century ago. The Grand Father of the present King was sultan Mahomed Jawa, styled Sultan Abdil Ma-alum Shah Alsultan Mahomed Jawa Kalifat Rahaman Zeina Adelin Ma-alum Shah and at his death, called Marhum Kiangnan, or the Saint of Kiangnan, his residence during the last few years of his life being at a place of that name up the river Purlis. He was king in Mr. Monckton's time. His son succeeded him, under the name of sultan Abdullah Mahkurram Shah. Mr. Light says "The old king had no issue by his lawful wife, and sultan Abdullah was a natural son, his mother being a slave girl. The old king had two brothers, and several nephews, who thought themselves injured by the election of this bastard to the succession. In the year 1770, they raised a rebellion, and brought the people of Salengore and Perak to their assistance. They entered Quedah, but finding the people did not join them, they burnt Allustar, then a very flourishing town, and at the Kwala, took several of the coast vessels, and carried off a considerable deal of plunder. The old king was so much enraged, that he forbade their ever returning to the country. The disappointed Princes returned to Salengore, where they died in want and misery. Only one of their children is left, who lives with the present king. The old king then married his favorite son to the daughter of the Laxsamana. At the old king's death, which happened in 1778, his son was acknowledged king. The king is a weak man, too fond of money, very lax in the execution of the laws, not so much from a principle of clemency, as timidity. His income consists in monopolizing all the trade and the produce of the mines. He receives likewise a deal in presents and fines; every person who has any demand to make, or suit to prefer, first presents a sum of money which he thinks adequate to the demand; if the king approves of the sum, he signs the paper, and the suit is obtained, unless another person comes with a greater sum. He receives a small duty upon every prow, and upon the sale of cattle and slaves. The ryots are obliged to cultivate his lands, and to defend the country at their own charge." This was the chief who ceded Prince of Wales Island to the English. From the tradition of the natives of the present day, however, it does not appear, that sultan Abdullah was a natural son of sultan Mahomed Jawa, as mentioned by Mr. Light, though I am disposed to consider his account correct, and that the king of Quedah has an object in passing over this part of the history of his ancestors. It is stated, that sultan Mahomed Jawa, had two wives and three children, viz two sons and a daughter. The eldest son, Abdullah, succeeded to the throne, and the younger, Ticaodeen, became rajah Muda of Purlis. The daughter married the Rajah of Patani, Tuanko Rajah Chara, who had a daughter named Tuanko Kunit.

Sultan Abdullah had two wives, Wan Meh, and Wan Mas, and four favorite concubines, viz. Che Bonda, Che Mas, Chendra Sari, and Bida Sari. By Che Bonda, he had three sons and a daughter; the sons named Tuanko Ibrahim, Solymann, and Kusoo. The second wife had nine children, viz. three sons and six daughters, the sons named Tuanko Pangeran * Busnoo, and Petra. Wan Meh the other wife had no children. The second concubine had one son, named Tuanko Daud. The third concubine had two sons, named Tuanko Amboon and Mahomed, and two daughters; and the fourth concubine had two daughters; sultan Abdullah died during the time Mr. Caunter was acting superintendent of Pinang in the year 1798, and was succeeded in the Government by his brother the rajah Mooda of Purlis, under the title of sultan Tleaoodeen Makhurram Shah. This Chief granted the territory on the main to the Honorable Company, in Sir George Leith's time. After some time, Sultan Tleaoodeen getting old, became weary of conducting the affairs of Government, and he transferred it to Tuanko Pangeran, the eldest Son of the late King's second wife, and Tuanko Ibrahim became Rajah Mooda. This arrangement and resignation of the Sultan Tleaoodeen in favor of his Nephew, was voluntary. Tuanko Pangeran had some time before proceeded to Siam, where he remained some months, to pay his respects to the Emperor and to conciliate his good will. All the Chiefs and Nobles of the country unanimously consented to receive Tuanko Pangeran as their King, and he assumed the reigns of Government in the year of the Heijerat 1218, or A. D. 1804, and afterwards took the title of Sultan Ahmed Tajudin Halim Shah. He is thus styled by the Siamese Government, Chou Pia Ratismeram Ramapuck dae Sri Sultan Mahomed Ratna Rajah Budin Tersurin Terwerei Wangsa Chou Pia Cherei Burei—Cherei being the Siamese name of Quedah.

In such a large family of sons, it was natural to expect there would be many disputes in respect to their separate authority, and in the division of the patrimonial property, and the late King often complained that he could not controul his numerous Nephews, who were each aspiring to power. Tuanko Ibrahim, Daud, and Busnoo, each laid claim to part of the annual subsidy, and the former engaged in open rebellion against his Brother the King, but was overcome by the Laxsamana at Kwala Muda, where he had fortified himself, and soon after died.

Another Brother, Solymann, has long resided on

the borders of the Honorable Company's territory in the Prye District, and has always conducted himself with great propriety. The present King who is now in exile at Pinang, appears always to have maintained a good character. Lieu Governor Farquhar says of him "Pangeran, the present King, is a young man, whom report speaks more favorably of, than of the other Princes, and who, if treated with liberality, may be secured as a real and firm friend. If it be admitted therefore, that near neighbours are either firm friends, or bitter enemies, we ought to be at some pains to secure the friendship of this Chief, whose aid, if he were inimical to our Government, might enable even a weak enemy to attempt and persevere in that, which, without the King's assistance, he would never have presumed to undertake." The present King has two sons grown up, named Tuanko Abdullah and Tuanko Jakoob, the latter his favorite, who was carried off by the Siamese and has been in confinement at Ligore ever since.