

Yesterday the brig *Lady Grant*, Captain Jeffrey, from Calcutta the 20th ultimo arrived. Her commander gives us the information of an attack being made by pirates on his vessel off the Sambalang Islands on her passage hither, and from the account we obtained from him personally the escape of the *Lady Grant* was somewhat miraculous. There were five prows

altogether; One, Captain Jeffrey represents as very large with three lateen sails, filled with men and well managed; the others of a smaller description. The object, most in view with the pirates, was if possible to board the *Lady Grant*, and which it is supposed they would have effected had there not been, besides the commander and officers, four European steersmen and gunner who worked the guns with great activity, while the native part of the crew had secreted themselves wherever they could find a place of concealment. Captain Jeffrey, ascribes his escape from the Pirates in a great measure to the good conduct of the few Europeans he had happily on board, and also in a lesser degree to the fortunate circumstance of having discovered these boats before dark which suggested suitable preparation in the event of any attack being made upon the vessel during the night, otherwise he has no doubt that the *Lady Grant*, and about four hundred chests of opium, would ere this have been a prize to the straits pirates. We have hitherto had to complain of piratical depredations in reference to the injury inflicted thereby on the native trade, but when we observe a daring attack of this description upon a British vessel laden with such a valuable cargo, there can be no room to doubt that the owners and insurers of such property will aid our humble efforts in impressing upon government the necessity of some more active measures in the suppression of piracy in these seas than have hitherto obtained. Until such be adopted, vessels of the dimensions of the *Lady Grant*, to be free from constant apprehen-

sion in navigating the straits ought, we think, to be manned in some proportion with Europeans, as there is not the smallest dependance to be placed in any case of such emergency upon native lascars. Captain Jeffrey has favored us with the following note from his log book connected with the attack which we have now brought before the public and which will exhibit the imminent danger from which he has escaped. The meritorious conduct of the European seamen on board in the defence of the vessel we conceive entitles them to the consideration of the underwriters or owners of the vessel and goods which would have been, without their instrumentality, captured.

EXTRACT FROM THE *Lady Grant's* LOG.

2nd. Feby. 1836, at 2 P. M. Sambilangs bearing S. E. we passed 5 Malay Proas, one of which was very large, carrying a Black Flag at the Main, and apparently full of Men; when on our quarter, they shortened sail and rowed to windward, until they got into our wake; they then made sail and stood after us, but having the advantage of a breeze, we outran them; observed they were using every exertion to overtake us, cleared the decks for action. At 6 P. M. the Proas nearly out of sight astern. At 7 P. M. fell calm, kept all hands at quarters. At midnight saw the Proas making for us ahead; when they came within shot, opened fire upon them from the fore-castle, but not being in the least intimidated, they gave us 3 cheers yelling, shouting and beating the Tom Tom.

Let go the kedge with a spring on it, and got our broad side to bear on them, opened fire but apparently without effect. Finding they closed in with us very fast, we gave them a second broad side, which checked their ardour a little, they were by this time, within half a cable's length of us and seemed determined to board, but a well directed fire of grape and cannister made them sheer off and pull a little further astern, and lay too for some minutes we still keeping up a well directed fire, they pulled in shore apparently very much disabled. I am confident that had we not been all ready they would have succeeded in boarding us as they were close to before seen, although all hands were on the look out.

Singapore, 6th Feby. 1836.