

SINGAPORE,

THURSDAY, 3RD. MARCH, 1836.

By late arrivals from Malacca, we have received accounts of a daring attack by pirates, on the brig *Fattal Gannie*, whilst on her way to *Lookoot*, a tin district, a little north of Malacca. The following are the particulars, as furnished us in a letter by a gentleman who was on board at the time.

The brig left Malacca on the 12th ult. at 8 P. M. and very early next morning, when near *Pulo Arrang-arrang*, with a light breeze, the people on board descried three suspicious-looking prahus, (one being considerably larger than the others) making towards their vessel from the island, with considerable speed, by the aid of oars. Preparations were soon made on board to give them a warm reception, and at 7 A. M. being within musket shot, the vessel hailed the largest boat, which in return asked who they were &c. Having learned the vessel's destination, the pirates expressed a wish to keep company; but a minute after, fired upon the brig with one of their largest guns loaded with grape or cannister shot, which compliment was returned with long four-pounders, swivels and musketry. The action now became general, and was continued for about half an hour, until the *ampelan*, or wooden shield of the largest boat having been carried away by a shot from the brig, the boats gradually retired, keeping their bows towards the vessel, and laying-to for six other boats which were pulling up quickly to their assistance.

One of the sea-cunnies, named *Astaceo de Concencao*, having been killed by a ball, while serving a gun, and the people on board being fearful of the numbers now approaching, the vessel put back for Malacca, with a favorable breeze, where she arrived on the 14th. The sails and rigging were much damaged by the firing of the pirates. She was in command of a native Christian named *Louis Pereira*, Capt. Baumgarten remaining at Malacca. The pirates, we learn from another source, have been bold enough to approach Malacca, and to attack a boat laden with attaps, off *Laray*, within 4 or 5 miles of the town, when one man was killed, and another so severely wounded that he has since died.

The catalogue of these open atrocities does not end here—as a *sampan pukat* arrived here during the week, the nakodah of whom, —a Bugis, named *Moot Talib*—has furnished us with the following particulars (which are well authenticated,) of an attack made on his vessel:—

Four months ago, he chartered a Chinese boat, commonly known under the designation of *sampan pukat*, to go on a trading voyage with cloths, up the Straits of Malacca, leaving his own prahu here. He had a crew of 50 men, including 4 boys. The vessel touched at *Malacca*, *Salengore*, and *Perak*, and left the latter place on her return to Singapore about a month ago, with 280 pls. tin, 10 pls. lakkawood, and 4,000 dollars in specie.

Twenty four hours after leaving *Perak*, while in the Straits of *Lambajin*, about 9 at night, the people heard a noise close in shore, followed by the beating of the *tawah tawah*, which was answered from the *pukat*. Immediately after, four prahus approached which surrounded the *pukat*, and when within musket shot, fired into her, one shot going thro', a little above water.

The *pukat* being prepared, and well-armed, having 4 swivels, 10 muskets and rifles, 40 spears, 40 krisses, and a good supply of powder and ball, commenced firing in return, which was continued until 7 o'clock the following morning when the pirates ceased firing. The Nakodah states that three of the pirate boats were about 6, and one about 5 fathoms long;

they had no masts: one had a large gun, the others only *telas* or swivels, with a few muskets;—he supposes each carried not less than 30 men. The *pukat* had five men killed and nine wounded, but none dangerously. Being ready to sink, the crew pulled the *pukat* in shore, and entered a small river, where she was beached, and while some were busy repairing the injuries, others erected a stockade for defence. The pirates followed soon after and continued the attack, for about 5 hours, partly on land, and partly from the boats, when they sheered off at about 5 P. M. The *pukat* remained four days repairing, and putting up an *ampelan*, but saw no more of the pirates. She arrived at Malacca in 5 days, and after taking in water and provisions, sailed for Singapore where she arrived on Friday last.

The Nakodah thinks that not less than 30 of the pirates were killed—the boats were of the class called *Penjajah*, manned entirely by Malays; but he does not know where they came from. His men, who are all Bugis, did most execution with their muskets and rifles.

We need only remark on this gallant defence, that did all native traders possess the courage of the Bugis, we should not be long troubled with pirates. It is a custom with these people never to yield, however formidable the odds may be against them.

The *Hoginne* brings a report that a boat belonging to H. M. sloop *Rose*, had been attacked by pirates near Penang and that the former had succeeded in capturing one of the pirate-craft, after some of the sailors had been wounded. No doubt, more authentic accounts of this affair will soon arrive from Penang.

