

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SINGAPORE CHRONICLE.

Sir,

If you consider the accompanying statement given by the person it relates to worthy of a place in your columns, you are at full liberty to make use of it. I can vouch for the accuracy as given to me, having taken it down from his own lips about 3 months since, and have only delayed sending it to you in consequence of the original paper having been laid out of sight, until accident brought it in my way this morning. The information may perhaps may be some comfort to the man's friends.

Yours obediently

A.

Singapore 11th March 1836.

"Golam Hussain, a Malay man, states, that his home is at Batu Kawan in Province Wellesley, is a follower of Baba Basar,—About eight months ago he was proceeding to Soongie Krian along with his wife in a sampan, and early in the morning when opposite Soongie Tenga they fell in with a sampan manned by four men, who began throwing stones at him and afterwards seizing him and his wife, tied their hands and took them to Qulla Koorao, where there were twelve large Lanchangs. He was taken to one commanded by Panglima Hamat which had a crew of about 20 men, Sikanah people. The prow had one long gun, two Lellahs, 1 pamurus besides spears and krisses. He found four Chinese prisoners one of whom he knew, Che Eu. The others were strangers (orang baru) and three Malays, namely, Che Etam, Chinga and Se Bahul. They sailed, from Koorao, stopping for water at Pankor (Dindings) Jegra, and passed through Selat Lambagin (Straits of Calam). On reaching Tanjong Tuan (Cape Rachado) they passed over to the Siak shore, from thence they sailed to the Carimons, from thence they reached Sikanah in one day and one night sailing with a fair wind. The deponent was sold for forty gantongs rice to one of the Illanoon people of Rete, called Tuanko Pankamah, and his wife was sold to the same person for fifty Reals. She was a Siamese, handsome and young. Che Eu was sold for thirty gantongs of rice. The deponent was employed planting Paddy, and remained at Rete' about three months, when one night having arranged with a Javanese called Hodin they seized a sampan, and after four nights reached Jambi being obliged to conceal themselves during the day among the mangroves. He went to Tuan Kiar (so he pronounced the name) a Dutchman and stopped two months and a half, when he was sent in a Lanchang to this place where he has been two months.

On questioning him why he did not fetch his wife away, he said, that the Tuanko had made her his wife, and that she woman like preferred being the wife of a rich man, and that he was afraid to let her know of his intention, but that he had other two wives at home to solace him, having followed the Superintendent's advice to the people of the Province, who not having the fear of Malthus before his eyes, recommends them to spend their money in purchasing wives. The fair frail one he lost cost him 15 Dollars."