

Since noticing in our number of 27th ultimo the piratical attack upon a Pukat on her way to this Port from Perak, we have been put in possession of some further particulars which at the time of our writing were not communicated to us, and although they do not vary the substance of our statement, will serve to shew still further the valiant conduct of the Nakhoda and crew, who it appears after having fought throughout the night ran the Pukat on shore early the next morning, and erected a temporary stockade within which he and his party continued for two days fighting at intervals with the pirates, who then retreated to their boats in pursuit of some other plunder less difficult in the acquisition. The Nakhoda remained two days longer to float his Pukat and to finish such other preparations as were required to enable him to pursue his voyage. We stated that five men had been killed and four wounded; it appears there were nine men wounded besides those who were killed.

Within the last few days there have been several instances of piracies committed a short distance from this settlement, upon native craft on their way here and upon fishermen in the pursuit of their business. A Wankang from Hai-nan, and which touched at Cochin China, about ten days ago was on passing Tanjong Pangoosoo attacked by ten piratical prows, three of which

are represented to have been of a large size carrying from forty to fifty men, and the other seven as somewhat smaller having from twenty five to thirty men, and they kept firing at the Wankang for several hours during which five of the Chinese crew were killed and several others wounded. It does not appear that the Wankang made any resistance being totally unprovided with arms of any kind, and of course was so much the more easily boarded and plundered by the pirates, who also carried off the remainder of the crew, with the exception of two that jumped overboard and escaped, who ultimately were picked up at a small island near Rhio by a Malay man, and landed at Tan-nah Merah whence one of them came here two days ago to report to the consignees the fate of the Junk. The Wankang was about the burthen of 56 coyans, and had altogether twenty eighty men on board, was laden with Silks, Rice, Salt, Oil, Buffalo Horns and other merchandise.

Upon the 15th instant another Prow of about eight coyans on her way here from Pahang was attacked off Pangoosoo by eight pirate prows of the description called Launchang, but fortunately escaped, having at the time a strong breeze of which the Nakhoda took every advantage continuing on his course for this Port pursued by the pirates who kept up a running fire after the fugitive, and although they fired fifty shots, none of them struck the hull, but all were so well directed as to pass through the sails. They ceased from the pursuit off the entrance of the old Straits and the prow arrived here without further molestation.

In addition to the foregoing a fishing Pukat with seven men on board were attacked on the 17th instant by ten pirate prows near Johore whither they had gone to catch fish. When the attack was made the fishermen jumped overboard and swam for the shore where they all arrived without injury, except three who were severely wounded; one having received three balls in the breast and the other two severely cut. These poor people lost their Pukat, fishing net, and fish; and ultimately found their way back here in another fishing Pukat.

And further on the 16th instant a sampan with twelve men while proceeding from Tannah Merah Kechil to Salat Tabrow for the purpose of cutting Rans were attacked about midnight. Tannah Merah Besar by a pirate prow of the Pukat description, which without even the ceremony of a hail, commenced immediately to fire upon them. The sampan upon this made all speed to the shore, where the crew landed, and ran into the jungle for refuge. The pirates captured their sampan, which had on board seven piculs of Rice and other articles.

These scenes of bloodshed and plunder have all been committed within the past few days and within 30 miles to the Eastward of this Port. Indeed two of the four have occurred about six or eight miles outside the harbour, and it may be expected that further depredations will at this season be daily perpetrated upon the small description of trading Junks from China on their way here who in general are totally defenceless, as was the case with the Hai-nan Junk abovementioned, and thus a valuable portion of the trade to this port be thereby materially impeded if not destroyed should the present piratical system be allowed to continue.—We must however for better things, and since the local authorities possess not any discretionary power to extend the hand of protection to the trade of the port, we humbly conceive that much good might be effected, if not an entire discretionary power invested in them, by representations to the Supreme Government, who ought to be importuned without cessation by every vessel which leaves the Port for Calcutta on their apparent indifference to the interests of these settlements.—Until the subject is made an every day topic and constantly driven as it were into their remembrance, the Bengal Authorities have too many interests nearer at home to consider of, that the Government of the Straits is altogether expelled from their recollection as being probably of very minor importance.—If that should in their opinion be the case and the thing was of so little consideration, would form a very good ground for their transferring such a frivolous concern from their own shoulders upon those of their Authorities located on the spot, holding the latter responsible for all tormenting reports of piracies that might thereafter reach ears which have hitherto been so entirely closed to the cries of the people in these parts. We do not propose to stir up strife between the Bengal and Straits authorities, for that would be madness, as the superior would soon settle the argument by the probable curtailment of the Rupees, annas and pie of the Junior, but we imagine the latter might advance their authority as well as the welfare of the Mercantile Community through the simple and not always ineffectual means of steady, resolute, but a continued series of remonstrances until one of two objects be obtained, either that the Supreme Government at once furnish a suitable and permanent marine force for the suppression of piracy, or invest the local authorities with entire discretionary powers in the conduct of the Government of the Straits Settlements.—