

PIRACY.

In our last number we mentioned that a report prevailed here of two or three junks having been captured by pirates and brought into a river near *Pahang*, where their cargoes, consisting of rice, salt &c. were being disposed of at very trifling rates. This report has since proved to be so far incorrect that only one junk is positively known to have been thus captured. On the 13th inst. we find that a Chinese belonging to a pukat which has lately returned from *Pahang*, deposed at the Police office, that while he was at *Pahang*, he heard the Tuanko relate to the Chinese Captain of the place that pirates had captured a junk, and would have brought her into *Pahang*, but he would not permit them, as he feared to give offence to the British Government—a proof that some of the petty neighbouring chiefs do stand a little in awe of British authority! The informant further states that he saw a Hainan man offered for sale—but as the latter could not speak the Malay language, or the same Chinese dialect with himself, he could gather no information from him as to his misfortunes.

It is probably in the recollection of most of our Straits readers that a Chuliah brig was captured some months ago near Malacca while on her passage from Penang to this Port. During this week, four of the Chuliah who were on board at the time, have returned from captivity, and have made depositions at the Police office to the following effect, which are the more interesting as they give us a little insight into the ways and haunts of the marauders who infest these seas.

On the 14th inst. the four men above alluded to appeared and deposed at the Police office, that they formerly belonged to a Chuliah brig called the *Sandannee*, of Nagore. About seven months ago, while that vessel was on her passage from Penang to this port, about a day's sail from Malacca, four pirate boats came off from the land, and captured the vessel, the crew making no resistance whatever. The brig was laden with piece-goods, rice, ebony, &c., had 38 persons on board including passengers and 3 Chinese men and one Chinese woman. No person was either wounded or killed by the pirates. After landing a boat-load of the cargo, the vessel was towed over to the Siac side of the Straits, and onwards to *Galang* (an island near *Linga*) which they reached in 25 days. The four pirate boats had altogether 160 men, and were armed, the two larger vessels, with 4 lelals, and the smaller with two lelals, each. They were commanded by Panglima *Awang*, under whom were four other panglimas, whose names are unknown to the deponents, but they, as well as the many of the crews could be identified by them at any time. *Awang* is described as being about 5 feet 9 inches in height, slender in form, has Chinese features and squints. He was subsequently and very recently seen at *Linga*, professedly on his way to Java. During the passage of the brig to *Galang*, he possessed himself of the Chinese woman, whose husband, it is said, threw himself overboard.

Before arriving at *Galang*, the pirates stopped at a place called *Kayu Arang*, where the four inferior panglimas reside with their families. At *Galang* the cargo was divided, and the head panglima sold his share to some Chinese residing there. The rigging, sails, &c. of the vessel were taken off. One of the deponents, formerly a serang on board, was sold with the mate, to a Malay, who had come to *Galang* to sell sago, by whom they were conveyed to a district in *Linga*, called *Banka*, where they were resold—five of their companions were also there. About two months after arrival, the Sultan came that way and after some enquiry into their case, told the deponent and mate they were at liberty to go where they liked. On applying, however, to

the Muntri *Inchi Ya Ya*, at *Linga*, he demanded money, and would only allow them to depart on their promising to send money for themselves and companions on arrival here. Two other deponents, who had been passengers on board the brig, were taken to *Indragere* and there offered for sale—but the Sultan would not allow of their being sold, and forwarded them to this Settlement.

Galang is described as being large campong of Malays, with a few Bugis and Chinese—the houses are a good deal scattered—there were about 100 boats employed in landing the brig's cargo—it is supposed she was subsequently burnt.

H. M. sloop of war *Wolf* and the Company's schooner *Zephyr* left the harbour on Friday night last on a cruize, accompanied by the gunboat, all in full trim for a brush with the pirates. We trust this expedition will prove more successful than the last.