

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SINGAPORE CHRONICLE.

Mr. Editor,

We have now been exactly one week in the greatest state of excitement and alarm by reports which have reached this of a threatened invasion from the Ex-Rajah of Kedah, who, it was said, had collected a fleet of forty prows, all well-manned and armed, at a place called Bruwas (a dependency of Perak) for the purpose of retaking his country from the Siamese, and, that with the view of saving time, he intended to enter the southern, and pass out through the northern channel of the harbour, rather than create any delay by going round the Island.

The moment these rumours reached us, the most prompt measures were adopted by the authorities to meet every surprise. The *Baggiana*, a bark belonging to Rajah Bojong, of Trumon, and the only available vessel in the harbour, was immediately chartered and stationed off Pulo Jerajah, well officered and manned, and armed with eight guns and forty European artillerymen under a Lieutenant.

The *Black Joke* Schooner was taken up at the same time as a tender. Troops came down from cantonments for Town and Province Wellesley, the militia were called out, and every one was on the alert. Arms and ammunition were eagerly sought for and purchased, and the old Dowagers and Dames commenced secreting their treasures. While these precautions were going forward, reports reached us almost hourly, from Province Wellesley, that our expected foes were increasing in numbers every moment, and the Rajah of Perak and the Heir Apparent of that state, had joined the Ex-king of Kedah with the firm determination of KISSING every Englishman at Pinang who would dare to oppose them, and that they had partizans in the place that would readily and effectually second their blood-thirsty intentions.—Of course additional re-inforcements were despatched to Province Wellesley (the focus of our intelligence and long groaning under enormous land taxes) until we had not more than two companies left for the protection of the Island. THEN it occurred to some of the old KNIGHTS here that this was all a false alarm, originating entirely from the fears of some two or three opulent agriculturists at that Province who never have been popular and still continue very unpopular there; and that this alarm was just such another hoax as the KUDIN WAR! But I will say, that similar accounts from Malacca reached the authorities here, of an intention on the part of the Ex-King of Kedah through his partizan Rajahs in that and the neighbourhood of Singapore to attack the two settlements likewise at the same time, and reports went so far as to say that the Dutch were secretly to assist them from Rhio. A more preposterous story could never have been invented! Here you have the truth, and the real truth; and tell me then, who is to be thanked for putting his Majesty's lieges here in so much bodily fear. The supposed fleet of the Ex of Keda has turned out to be thirty tin boats for Pinang, which have been detained at Perak on account of the pirates, and also for accompanying the RAJAH MOODA of Perak on a visit to the Governor here relating to some dispute between him and his brother, the reigning sovereign, of considerable property that a subject of Perak died possessed of without any heir. The surmised armament for the attack of Malacca is nothing more than a parcel of small boats, partly under Dutch colours certainly, despatched thither by one of the relations of a native chief of some rank in the Straits for the reception of the remains of his deceased uncle who died at Malacca recently.

Some of these tin boats before-mentioned with nearly 100 Bhars came in last night, and the remainder are now at Kreean about a day's sail from this, waiting till they have permission to come in also. You would have laughed to see what long faces there were in Beach Street this morning when the arrival of the tin boats was known!!

Yours very truly.

P. P.

Pinang, 29th April, 1836.