

H. M. Ship *Andromache* still continues out cruising against the pirates, and since our last notice, nothing has been heard of her movements further than that it was understood she had passed through the roads on Sunday night and had proceeded on towards the eastward in quest of further adventures. In the late affair at the *Arroas* the boats of the *Andromache* encountered four pirate prows, and that the smaller of the former were employed as a means of decoying the latter round a point of land where the succeeded in the secreted, and having skilfully having at length operation and the pirates which they had discovered the snare into smart firing immediately, then thus unwarily led, a perhaps it is unnecessary to state, the Malay prows were entirely destroyed, and upwards of a hundred pirates killed. Several escaped on shore by swimming, and we learn these were all afterwards taken prisoners. Among the number a person supposed to be of some importance from his corpulency, had been captured; and as bulk may safely be taken in these parts for a tolerably certain criterion of a *stall-fed* personage among the Malays, we may be assured, he will ultimately prove one of these favorite *Panglimas* who are usually employed in piratical expeditions by their own countrymen of superior rank and authority.—The prisoners now on board the *Andromache* are understood, though not yet authentically ascertained, to be under the control of the Sultan of Lingin, a personage who has been long more than suspected in being the promoter (and profitably too) of the piratical system. On the arrival of the *Andromache*, however, more authentic proof of his connexion with the fleet lately destroyed will in all probability be obtained, and should the present rumours, for they are nothing more, receive sufficient confirmation, we have no doubt there will be a way, as there will not be wanting an inclination, to impress upon his mind the necessity of betaking himself to better courses, as well as to restrain the lawless propensities of his people, or be responsible for all outrages committed on the high Seas against British property when admitting themselves or being detected as at all within his jurisdiction.—The *on dit* of the place states that our Resident Councillor Mr. Bonham had been appointed by the Supreme Government as Commissioner, it is to be hoped with ample powers, for the suppression of a system which has through the mere omissions of a superior authority, been the destruction of not only innumerable lives but perhaps an incalculable extent of property of which there is certainly no means of computing the amount with any precision. It is also reported that Captain Chads of the *Andromache* is joined in the commission with Mr. Bonham, but of this, at present, we believe there is nothing yet known in the station beyond surmise. We shall, however, be rejoiced should such prove the reality; for, from what we know of the one, and have heard of the other, we anticipate that the objects of the commission could not have been entrusted to two public officers who are more likely to co-operate with cordiality as well as unanimity in establishing such an understanding with the Chiefs of all the Malayan States, as will most probably have the desired effect of repressing the so frequent recurrence of acts of spoliation within view of British stations in the Straits. That piracies will immediately cease because the heads of the Malayan states have that understanding with the

government we do not contemplate, for perhaps many petty chiefs will continue in the exercise of that calling, whom the supreme will acknowledge he has neither power nor control of any description, and plead the hardship of being held accountable for the perpetration of acts of which he may allege he has had no knowledge. But these are all more or less false pleas, feints assumed by the superior merely to deceive the government who may call upon him for an explanation; for although many expeditions may be planned by inferior chiefs, and multiferous depredations committed by them without the sanction or authority of the head authority, it ought not for a moment to be forgotten that a large portion of the funds of these spoliations find their way into the treasury of these feudal lords; and if they have not participated in the crime of rapine and bloodshed, they ultimately receive knowledge of such acts, and then exercise a very wholesome control to fill their own coffers. If this can be done, the allegation of any Malay Prince or potentate ought to be disregarded, and both himself and country held liable for all robberies and despoliations perpetrated by the people who acknowledge him as their superior. Should it be found that these chiefs are unable or unwilling to co-operate with this government in the upsetting a darling and lucrative iniquity, which is detrimental to all mankind but such as themselves, there perhaps could be no more effectual method of rendering them assistance which they pretend so frequently not only to require but to court, is to support such imbeciles with the protection of a British Commissioner at their respective seats of government to shelter them from the tyranny and treason of their own subjects.—That some such plan will ultimately have to be adopted with the Malayan states we should not be at all surprised, and perhaps with the exception of Lingin, our neighbours the Dutch could have no cause of complaint; and not even there probably, so long as their trade was not excluded through British interference. When the nature and extent of the commission, to which the community look forward with such favorable anticipations, becomes more fully known we may recur to the subject. All references, however, to Dutch authorities for forms sake should be eschewed, they are only creative of procrastination; and generally terminate in abortiveness.*—

H. M. SHIP ANDROMACHE.

His Majesty's ship *Andromache* from the Sand Heads the 10th. arrived here on the 23rd. instant. Captain Chads, we understand, has been commissioned by his Lordship the Governor General to visit the Straits for the purpose of concerting with this government, after reference to the government of Java, some effectual system for the suppression of piracy. We are not of course in possession of particulars, but from what we have gleaned from casual conversations, the plan proposed seems to require that all native vessels shall possess the recognition of some state by colours and papers; and from what we hear of the means authorized to be employed and know of the distinguished character of the gallant Captain for good judgment and activity, we confidently look forward to as good results as can possibly be expected from negotiations in this quarter, where to keep treaties sacred, there must be always force at hand and an occasional cracking of crowns. The *Andromache* proceeded for Singapore on Wednesday evening.

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* Since writing the above we have been informed that the ship signaled to the eastward is the *Andromache*, but as from the distance it is supposed she would not be in to her anchorage before morning, we cannot, of course, obtain any information as to the success of her trip to the eastward for this paper, but we hope to be favoured with all particulars for our next number.