

Having so often and so earnestly deprecated the prevalence of a hitherto unchecked and destructive system of piracy within the neighbouring straits and seas, we rejoice to find that the pirates have at last become the sufferers in their turn, and that they are no longer destined to remain in that state of impunity which has, in so great a degree, contributed to embolden them in their ravages. Our last number contained a short account of the capture of three formidable pirate prows, with the almost total destruction of their crews, by the boats of the *Andromache* at the Arroas. Continuing her cruize, the sloop of war proceeded to Point Romania, without touching at this place: and when near the scene of action of the late skirmish between the *Wolf's* boats and the fleet of pirate vessels mentioned in our 27th. number, Captain Chads sent off her boats on a search close along the shore. The boats had been a considerable time out, without meeting any thing suspicious, when doubling a point of land, they came in sight, at close distance, of five piratical prows. Chase was immediately given by the man of war's boats, the pirates making for the shore, and vigorously but ineffectually returning the fatal fire of grape and musketry from the *Andromache's* boats. Having neared the shore, the pirates instantly abandoned their vessels, leaving a considerable number of killed, and suffering severely while making their escape into the jungle, under cover of which they sought shelter. A great variety of arms were found in the abandoned prows—the latter being pulled up on shore by their captors and burned. Altho' the carnage on this occasion was not so great as at the Arroas, it is nevertheless probable the example will be equally efficacious—as it is not the mere loss of life which will prove the most effectual check to these depredations; the capture of their vessels—the destruction of their settlements and encampments wherever found, joined to the conviction that the British Government is at last in earnest, and possesses the power as well as the determination to extirpate piracy, will, without doubt, form the most effectual instruments and causes of its final suppression.

We remarked in our last number that Mr. BONHAM, Resident Cornelilor of this Settlement, was joined in commission with Captain CHADS to devise and carry into effect means for the total suppression of piracy in the neighbouring seas. The most ample powers are, it is understood, entrusted by the Supreme Government to the Commissioners, and we are disposed to rely upon their being exercised with discretion as well as energy. The Commissioners, it must be obvious, have work on hand which requires them to possess not only a considerable degree of knowledge as well of the Malayan character, as of the customs and institutions of the surrounding native states, but to evince an equal degree of tact and determination in their intercourse with the various native chiefs to whom they will have to address themselves, while it will, at the same time, be not the least important part of their duty to keep a watchful eye towards the interests of Singapore, and see that the flow of commerce towards this port is not likely to be checked or retarded by insisting upon the introduction of a rigid adherence to systems and practices novel in themselves, and altogether foreign to the habits as well as feelings of the natives.

The *Andromache*, we believe, will set out this afternoon on her voyage to the various Malayan States in the neighbourhood which the Commissioners propose to visit; besides her usual crew she carries from this settlement a force of 50 sepoys with a European officer.