

We have been favored through the kindness of a friend with some particulars connected with the late well-planned and successful attack made upon the pirates at the Arroas by the boats from H. M. Ship *Andromache*. The boats, five in number, approached the islands on the night of the 30th May, well armed and manned in different directions. The pinnace, in which was Lieut. Reed, when rounding one of the islands, observed three prows on the beach in a small cove. On nearing them, a voice hailed in the Malay language, "who are you? Are you sons of Malays? If not you are ours;" to which the answer was given "we are white men; we are your friends." The same voice that before hailed, was again heard animating, as it were, his people to action, "there is," said he, "only one boat, she is ours! Come let us fight them!" Accordingly two prows were speedily manned, and made towards the pinnace, when Lieut. Reed, after causing them to be repeatedly hailed and informed, that the white men did not come to attack them, and perceiving nevertheless that it was still the intention of the two prows to board the pinnace from the gestures of a Malay who appeared to be a chief, and who was brandishing his spear and singing a war song inspiring his followers to the attack, was at length compelled in self defence to order a commencement of hostilities, when immediately a well directed fire of grape was showered upon them from the pinnace, and although the pirates returned the fire (happily ineffectually) and seemed unwilling to withdraw from the contest, yet they had been so much peppered, that the smaller boat made for the shore, refitted, and then attempted to escape. The larger one was entirely disabled, and her crew, in order to escape the destructive execution the pinnace was dealing out, forced to leap into the sea, where the greater proportion met with that reward which they so well merited, and which they had no doubt intended for those they came to attack. Even when in that helpless condition, they were so desperate and reckless of life that they refused quarter, and many died with their krissees in their hands. At this stage one of the Cutters came up, when the officer in charge (Lieut. O'Callaghan) was ordered to give chase to the prow attempting to escape, and though the latter threw overboard quantities of lumber, with the view doubtless of lightening her and to accelerate her speed, she could not get away from the cutter which was rapidly gaining upon her. Seeing she could not escape, and with the hope of crippling her pursuer, she faced round and fired in desperation in the direction of the cutter, when the latter opened a fire of grape in return upon the fugitive, which operated as an immediate persuasive with the crew that a further continuance in their prow would be certain death. They also jumped into the sea preferring a watery grave, by refusing all quarter, to the dishonour of being taken by the hand of an enemy. These two prows, and a third which was afterwards found on the beach, were all burned. On the next day the crews of the *Andromache's* boats landed, and in scouring the island, nine of the pirates, who were supposed to have escaped from the larger prow, were made prisoners and taken on board the Ship.

One of these prisoners, some time subsequently, was by mere accident discovered to be a chief, whom our informant's orthography would lead us to the belief to be an aspiring descendant of Balaam that dubious personage in scripture, but whether the present Balaam (or more probably in Malay Balum) has any ambition to be considered a prophet, or magician, or astrologer, one thing is now ascertained beyond doubt, that whatever reputation he may have hitherto acquired among his more ignorant countrymen as a predictor, his feigned prophecies in that way, it is earnestly to be hoped, have at length been finally terminated, and that Balaam will now find the necessity of erasing from his Malayan escutcheon for the future the motto of *Balum sa kali meng-alah kan*, and begin to meditate whether his demerits may not by and bye claim the honor of deserved martyrdom for the zealous discharge of his piratical commission from his liege lord the Sultan of Lingin. On board the *Andromache* this Balum had, it appeared, ordered his followers to designate him by an assumed name, and in order effectually to carry on the deception, he well forwarded the design by adopting the exterior and performing the offices of a menial to his people, until his secret, fortunately for the public, was discovered by the crew of one of the Company's gun-boats which joined the *Andromache* at Malacca, when Balum was recognised of a verity to be redoubtable *Red breeches*, after which he was separated from the other prisoners, and placed in appropriate fetters becoming his occupation and rank. The number killed on this occasion could not be exactly ascertained, but it is believed upwards of one hundred perished, and that many had been left on the island who had contrived to conceal themselves from the *Andromache's* rangers.—Thus far as relates to the affair of the Arroas. We will now proceed to detail the operations of the *Andromache* posterior to that fortunate event. On Sunday night the 12th. instant, the *Andromache* disguised as a Dutch Bark passed through the Straits of Singapore, and on the following day sent her boats manned and armed, accompanied by the two government gun-boats, to explore the islands and rivers about Point Romania. On one of the island's, some prows were discovered,

and the English boats succeeded in approaching them unperceived. On getting near to them, however, they immediately commenced upon a retreat using both threatening language and gestures. The pirate prows were four in number, and in the chase which immediately began one of them, the smallest, was abandoned upon its being observed the pursuers were gaining ground upon them. The fugitives finding themselves hard pressed made a beginning of hostilities by firing at the pinnace, and striving at the same time with their utmost endeavours to gain the shore with the intention, it was thought, of beaching their prows and effecting their own escape in the jungles. In the mean time, a squall coming on, they then altered that design, and attempted to round the northern extremity of the Bay, but from the fire which was opened upon them by the pinnace, they were ultimately compelled to again direct their course in shore where these marauders finally deserted their prows, and by this means many of them escaped, but a great number were slain, and among them one of distinction supposed to be their chief. In one of the prows, four Cochinese captives were found, who had fortunately escaped all injury; a fifth who had retreated, it is said, with several other fellow sufferers into the jungle, escaped from the hands of the pirates and made all speed towards the sea, and although pursued by his captors finally effected his liberation by swimming off to the boats. The three prows were then taken to the *Andromache*, and afterwards destroyed, together with the small one which, as we have already stated, had been abandoned at the first onset. One of the boats proved to be a Chinese Pucut which had been captured by these public pests of the seas in these parts. Our informant expresses a hope, in which we most anxiously participate, that some useful information may be gleaned by the authorities here from the "emancipated" Cochinese, as he states their appearance would indicate a familiar acquaintance with the toils and hardships of galley slaves.—No interpretation during the time they were on board the *Andromache* had been accomplished, from the obvious circumstance perhaps (although not alleged) of there being no competent translator.—After this second and salutary lesson to the pirates, the *Andromache* visited Pulo Tingo and Pulo Aor without falling in with any more piratical prows, and on her return to Singapore, the boats repeated their visit to Point Romania and adjacent islands, as well as to Johore without success, and that was fairly to be expected from the severe blow which had been so suddenly inflicted, and which would be immediately bruited abroad among the piratical confederates by those who had escaped. The *Andromache* anchored in our roadstead on Sunday morning last, and during the day, the prisoners taken at the Arroas were landed and conveyed to the gaol, until some plan can be devised and matured for their better disposal. We know of nothing more effectual than, if they are subjects of the Sultan of Lingin, that they should be conveyed thither, their atrocity complained against and proved, when we venture to say, the Sultan would inflict upon them that punishment according to their own laws, which we cannot award by English law without much formality, trouble, and expense, but which in the Malayan states, we have understood, would be determined in a more summary manner without any infringement of their notions of justice.

On Thursday afternoon last, the Honorable S. G. Bonham Esqr. embarked on board H. M. Ship *Andromache*, to proceed, with her commander Captain Chads, in the execution of a joint commission from the Supreme Government for the permanent suppression of piracy in these Straits. We believe nothing authentic has, as yet, transpired respecting the intended plan of operation determined to be carried into effect by the commissioners, or whether that determination is subject to any conditional contingency. Perhaps should Dutch co-operation be considered of material importance, or an acquisition highly desirable, it may be politic that the movements of the commissioners should not be prematurely disclosed, as our neighbours, it is thought, are somewhat irascible at the present moment against British trade, or British interests of any description, on account of their no longer being permitted to levy duties on the British trade at Java contrary to the stipulations of the treaty between the two powers, and also of the great probability of their being called upon, before long, to refund to the British government the whole amount so levied and collected by them. It may be safely conjectured, should the commissioners consult the authorities at Batavia in the first instance, as a sort of preliminary step in their commission not to be omitted, that the visit will be viewed as not only highly complimentary but conciliatory, and will terminate with professions on the part of the Dutch of unbounded willingness to participate in so laudable an undertaking as the repressing of piracy. But whether such professions are hereafter to prove either hollow or sincere, it is to be hoped, after the concession of a complimentary visit under the immediate and personal sanction, as it is supposed, of the Governor General of India, that the commissioners' powers may be found in the event of so ample and discretionary a nature as to be altogether independent of any co-operation, or want of co-operation of foreign parties. The complete overthrow and annihilation of the grievous system of piracy, must entirely depend upon the energy and firmness with which they proceed on the responsible principle, and upon their invariably insisting upon the head authority of every state being accountable for any depredation committed by their respective subjects against the British trade, and that such subjects when taken in the act of piracy, and brought to the territory to which they acknowledge obedience by any British ship should, on their conviction, be condemned to suffer the ordinary doom of pirates and robbers in conformity with their own laws.

Mr. Wingrove, in the absence of Mr. Bonham, has been appointed by the Supreme Government to act as Resident Councillor at this Station. The charge of the government at this Settlement accordingly devolved upon that gentleman on the 22nd. instant.