

H. M. SHIP ANDROMACHE.

The following short diary of the proceedings of H. M. Ship *Andromache*, since her departure from this up to the 7th instant, we have great pleasure in publishing as likely to afford great interest to our readers. Our Rhoio friends appear to have shewn *wonderful* zeal in the good cause; but their backwardness confirms, in our opinion, the prevalent report that the existence of piracy is not an un lucrative system to others whose duty it ought to be to suppress it. We shall endeavour to obtain every information on the subject we can, and if we can arrive at facts satisfactory to our mind of encouragement being given where the reverse should be exhibited, we shall not hesitate to expose the iniquity.

On the 23rd. June left Singapore; on the 25th. anchored in Rhoio Roads, after the customary salutes to the Dutch Authorities, Captain Chade and Mr. Bonham landed, and had a conference with the Resident (Mynheer).

No obstacle was ostensibly thrown in the way, but he declined lending 2 gun boats there in the harbour to co-operate with our force. It was hinted that the interference of the English was uncalled for; that the suppression of piracy ought to be left to the "ACTIVITY" of the Dutch!!

Early on the morning of 26th. the boats were sent under the command of Lieutenant Reed with Lieut. Garlon, and 16 sepoy's of the Honorable Company's Troops to explore the numerous small islands at the southern extremity of Galang well known as the resort of pirates. Two Chinamen accompanied them as guides, who had been captured and plundered by pirates and conveyed to these islands. The boats did not return for three days, during which time the party destroyed three or four villages, fourteen large prows fitted with stockades and carrying heavy guns, 30 or 40 smaller ones fitted for swivels and small guns and a great number of small rowing boats. Some of the prows appeared ready for sea, with guns, ammunition, and provisions on board, others were under repair their guns being landed, little or no opposition was made, the pirates, seeing the superiority of their assailants, escaped into the jungle from which, however, they fired a few shots. But most unfortunately on the night of the 26th two seamen in one of the cutters were severely wounded. Lieut. Reed and one or two seamen were slightly wounded by the explosion of some gun powder which unfortunately had escaped detection in one of the prows committed to the flames.

A Junk formerly the property of the Chinese guides, which had been seized and plundered by the pirates, was discovered hauled up on the beach, attempts were made, *ineffectually*, to get her off.

On the morning of the 30th. June, the boats were again sent away to examine Pulo Tanjong and the N. E. extremity of Bintang with the adjacent islets and rivers; returned the next day, having found nothing piratical, some Chinese Gambier-makers occupied the islands.

On the night of the 1st. July were again sent to Point Romania &c. no pirates were seen. Proceeding to the northward the boats were again sent to explore river Dilly, Sedill river, on the morning of 3rd. July; returned in the afternoon of the same day having met with nothing but a few Malay inhabitants in a small village. By them Mr. Mitchell was informed that a few of the pirates who effected their escape from the assault at Point Romania on the 13th. June had passed on their way to the northward; three of their chiefs had been slain on that occasion, and a great number of men.—

His Majesty's ship proceeding northward an unfortunate accident happened on the afternoon of the 4th. July. The Pinnace, towed astern of the ship with her Gun, Shot, and Provisions ready for service, was swamped and sunk by a squall suddenly overtaking the ship. A marine lost his leg by his foot getting entangled in the coil of a hawser to which the Pinnace was made fast; he was prevented from being carried overboard by some of his shipmates laying hold of the upper part of his body. On the 5th very fortunately with her gun and some of her shot the Pinnace was recovered, though sunk in seven fathoms water.

On the evening of the same day the boats were sent to explore Blair's Harbour, and river Endoe. They proceeded about ten miles up the river which is large and broad and which they were informed had its source at Mount Formosa. A village was found, the inhabitants of which seemed very unwilling to give any information respecting piracy. They had heard, they said, of the attack at Point Romania, at which their Rajah was so rejoiced that he gave a grand feast on the occasion, and had set out to Singapore to see the head of the Piratical Chief which, rumour said, was taken thither. On the afternoon of 7th, the ship anchored off Pahang, and a boat with a Lieut. was sent to communicate with the Rajah of that place. Two gun boats were also sent with orders to bring off any Chinese detained in slavery. The Rajah was distant three days journey, so that no answer to the Commissioners' letter can be procured till the ship calls on her return to the southward.

Two Chinamen availed themselves of the opportunity of escaping from slavery and were brought on board by Mr. Mitchell in spite of the remonstrances of their proprietor (a Chinese) who, as he said, having purchased them from the pirates and thereby saved their lives, thought it very unjust that they should be taken from him without remuneration.