

We made mention in our last number of an attack made at Changhee river by the crews of two native prahus on a small party of four Malays who had gone out there from this place to cut timber. We have since learned that the two men who had escaped, and one of whom reported the occurrence at the Police Office, went back to the spot, found their boat, despoiled of every thing she contained, another of their companions, and discovered the body of the fourth pierced with spear wounds, and already in such a state of decay as prevented their bringing it into Town.

Our contemporary falls foul of us in his Saturday's number for having, as he supposes, treated this affair as "*a piracy*" in our publication of last Thursday. If he will look again he will find no such term applied by us to *the transaction*—although we do not entertain a doubt that its perpetrators were *pirates*; a fragment in all probability of some of those hordes whose haunts have recently been broken up and destroyed, and who, being in consequence unable to exercise their predatory tastes on a more extensive scale in the open sea, have betaken themselves to the *pettifogging* business to be transacted in shore, or on rivers "within the Jurisdiction of Singapore." But how does our contemporary view the affair in question? merely "as an ordinary every-day occurrence, and of that description *against which there is no possible prevention*"—"a petty offence,"—"an insignificant violation of the law"! Our contemporary's vision is so dazzled with the glories of "the late effectual operations of the commissioners against piracy—the opening of the high seas to freedom of navigation—the eradicating all the well-known and ascertained haunts of piracy &c. &c." that, all that lies between him and the object of his admiration is shrouded from his sight—lost in the gloom of its *insignificance*! We are quite content to leave our contemporary, in the enjoyment of these sublimities—we should, however, be very sorry to believe they were indulged in by the HEADS of the people here or elsewhere. It is necessary to afford protection to the lives even of "hewers of wood"—and it is quite within the power of the local government to take efficient steps to do so, altho' the *Chronicle* deems that there is "no possible prevention against" such acts of spoliation and murder as the recent one at Changhee river. Why not keep the new gun-boats, when not engaged on more distant service, constantly employed in searching all along the Coasts of the Island—penetrating its creeks and rivers, instead of lying idle in the river, as one of them now is?

As to the grandiose manner in which our contemporary talks of the exploits of the Commissioners against piracy, it will not be thought that we intend to detract from the merit of their proceedings when we say that such talk is somewhat premature—and that in our judgment, the work of suppressing piracy has only been fairly commenced—not completed, by the checks which the practice has lately received. In the meantime, we think that such of H. M. Ships of war as may be stationed in the Straits could not be better employed than in making a survey of the various seas, coasts, rivers straits &c. in the neighbourhood, embracing the Peninsula and the islands off its coast, on the eastern side as far up as *Sangora*, and the western side as high up *Perak*, as also the East Coast of *Sumatra*, extending the survey among the various islands of the archipelago as far south as *Lingin*. Such a survey would not only be a valuable improvement in the hydrography of these places, and thus conduce to the greater security of Navigation, but would at the same time prove in our opinion the very best means of discovering the many piratical haunts scattered over the wide area which it would embrace and thus enable us at all times to take the most effectual measures either to crush the whole of the old piratical communities, or prevent the establishment of new ones.