

The following particulars connected with the cutting off of the *Zoroaster*, are taken *verbatim* from the communication of a Penang correspondent which we have received during the week; viz.

Penang, 1st Novr.

"This Vessel left Pedier on Monday night the 25th of July in company with the Brig *Fanny*. In passing the Achinese Barque *Baggianna* at anchor off Pekum Baru, she fired a shot at the *Zoroaster*, but finding it produced no effect, her Naquedah Abbas gave immediate orders to weigh anchor & make sail in chase, but owing apparently to some difference of opinion on board of the *Baggianna* he was obliged to desist from his piratical intention; at midnight the wind failed and Captain Patton found himself the following morning drifted back to Pedier Point but at a considerable distance off shore. Calms and light variable airs prevented both vessels during that and the following day from making any progress—on the third night at 8 o'clock it became the turn of Captain Patton to take watch. Mr. Bowman the chief officer after having delivered over charge went forward to smoke a segar previous to retiring. Captain Patton immediately on receiving charge of the deck went to the binnacle in order to take the bearing of the *Fanny* (being moon light she was discernable) & whilst in the act of stooping for that purpose he received a stab in his side from the Tindal. Captain Patton had the presence of mind instantly to pluck out the weapon and seizing hold of the assassin (who appears to have been terror struck at his own act) immediately plunged it into his face, with such violence as to penetrate the back part of his head, and dropped him dead at his feet. This was no sooner done than he found himself surrounded and assaulted from all quarters and being exhausted from loss of blood he fell a sacrifice upon the same spot. Mrs. Patton who was sitting in a chair on the poop was at the same instant assaulted by the Gunner Mariano, and whilst in the act of prostrating herself before him exclaiming at the same time "dont hurt me, my good men"—received a tremendous blow from a crowbar on the back of her head from the hands of the Gunner which threw her from the poop down upon the deck. The Gunner following repeated the blows until she ceased to exist; at the same moment Mr. Bowman was as suddenly attacked in the forepart of the vessel by the Syrang who after giving him a dreadful cut with a hatchet pushed him overboard where doubtless he perished; The little boy Daniel (an apprentice on board) was their next victim; perceiving him running and crying about the body of Mrs. Patton these unrelenting monsters seized hold of this innocent child and threw him alive overboard. The Secunny Pedro de Vos states that on being called up at 8 P. M. to take his turn at the wheel he found the deck in the greatest confusion which induced him immediately to retire to his berth again. He had not been long there before he heard his name called by the Gunner; on making his appearance he was desired by him in a peremptory manner to take his station at the wheel which he accordingly did; on his way thither he was obliged to pass very close to what he supposed to be the body of Mrs. Patton and found he was stamping on blood; the body of Captain Patton was lying on the opposite side of the deck—he also saw them throw the little boy Dan overboard, and after tying something heavy to the feet of Captain and Mrs. Patton, their bodies were likewise thrown into the sea. They remained on board until 11 P. M. when they took to the boats and quitted the ill-fated vessel. She was fast sinking at the time they left her, as they had opened the raft port forward to admit the water. They arrived at a place called Koorong Ryah about noon the following day. De Vos and four Malabar servants were agreeable to their request, permitted to return to Pedier, but the Gunner, Syrang and their accomplices made the best of their way to Acheen to which place they were all extremely anxious to proceed.—De Vos also saw the jewels of Mrs. Patton produced the following morning in the boat by the Gunner and heard him say they should be divided among them. De Vos having missed the *Maria* at Pedier obtained passage on the *Anna* for Penang, where on his arrival he gave in his deposition at the Police office. Thus far regarding the particulars of this shocking catastrophe which I have collected from the evidence of De Vos, and from what has been elicited from the Malabar servants, who were met with and interrogated by a very intelligent native merchant, lately from the Coast at a place called Gogean, which I have every reason to suppose will be found to approximate the truth of this melancholy event."

In our number of the 12th instant we intimated that the Company's schooner *Zephyr* had returned unsuccessful from the mission on which she had been despatched by the Penang authorities to the King of Acheen to require explanation of the atrocities lately witnessed on that Coast,—a result which has elicited the following notification from the Governor:

CIRCULAR.

"THE GOVERNOR begs to inform the Mercantile Community of Prince of Wales Island, that in consequence of receiving no reply from the King of Acheen, and only very unsatisfactory ones from some of the Chiefs of that country to his demand for explanation relative to recent outrages committed on their Coast, he has determined to have no further communication with them and moreover to refuse admission to any Vessel of War under Achinese colours into any British Port in the Straits of Malacca, pending a reference on the subject to His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

The prohibition is not meant to extend to Achinese boats and prows solely engaged in Trade, but merely to the *Baggianna* and vessels like her professing to represent the Government of the King of Acheen or of the particular chief to whom she may belong.

The Governor has been induced to make this communication in anticipation of the arrival of the *Baggianna* now daily expected, in order to obviate as much as possible inconvenience to Individuals who might, without some such warning, engage in commercial dealings with her commander."

(Sgd.) K. MURKISON,

Governor P. W. Island, Singapore, and Malacca."

Prince of Wales Island, 22nd. Oct. 1836.

The interposition of vigorous and decisive measures on the part of the Government will,

we are satisfied, alone be adequate to check the further progress of outrages similar to those here complained of. We have already expressed our opinion that to prevent their recurrence it will be requisite to check the power of the several petty chiefs of Acheen who have availed themselves of the weakness of the king of that country to assert independence. To accomplish this it will either be necessary to subdue the whole country ourselves, or to support the government of the king and enable him to resume his authority over the revolted nobles and tributary chiefs of the country. We should then have a responsible party to look to for the future—if indeed such a measure would not itself effectually provide for the security of our shipping on that part of the Sumatra Coast.

From the Penang correspondent to whom we are indebted for the particulars relative to the *Zoroaster* which we publish in this number, we have also received the following statement of Capt. West of the *Trusty* and one of his people, which we presume to have been made officially, respecting the extraordinary and most disgraceful conduct of the European commander of the schooner mentioned in a former number as having been cut off, carried into Acheen and finally set on fire.

CAPTAIN WEST'S STATEMENT.

"During my absence from the *Trusty* on Saturday the first of October, an armed vessel, schooner-rigged, under Achinese colours, and sailing as a vessel of war belonging to the King of Acheen, anchored about two cables' length from my ship. Upon returning on board I found the person in command of the Achinese schooner (a renegade Englishman) waiting to see me, wishing to purchase a cask of gun-powder. As he brought with him Batavia Bank Notes, to me perfectly unknown, I refused to let him have any; when he asked me to allow one of my boats to take him on board the schooner, offering to return with Spanish dollars. I ordered two hands into my gig to take him on board. No sooner had he left the ship, than he endeavoured by persuasions and threats to induce the men to desert, holding out to them, as a particular inducement, the immediate capture of the *Trusty* by a piratical attack. The men being by this time close to the schooner, and in the hands of this villain and fearing to be seized and forced on board, were compelled to temporize and offered to enter; asking what wages they were to receive they were answered that the only wages would be 5 Spanish dollars a month, but that was no consideration; the way they would make it answer was by pirating and taking every thing they came across. On board the schooner he endeavoured to entice the men below with spirits; but fearing they would be at once seized they resolutely refused. He then gave each half a cup of brandy on deck and sent them in the boat with one of his own crew (a Malay) for a part of his clothing left on board the *Trusty*, and a message, that if I did not instantly send the boat back he would sink me with Long Tom, and ordering the men on their return to pull directly ahead of the ship as he intended to commence firing immediately they left the ship. As my boat left the schooner he had the long gun aimed to bear on the *Trusty*. Scarcely was the above told me by the men on their return on board, when to my astonishment, a shot was fired at my ship. I instantly cleared for action and secured his man as a prisoner and brought my guns to bear upon his decks, but as the vessel was not struck, and an armed vessel belonging to the Indian Government was in company, I did not conceive myself authorized to fire. I then left my ship and pulled across the Achinese schooner's bows to the H. C. Schooner *Zephyr* to the Captain of which vessel I stated all that had occurred. On my way to the *Zephyr* I crossed close to the bows of the Achinese when I was hailed by the renegade who in abusive language threatened to blow both *Zephyr* and *Trusty* out of the water."

(Signed) JAMES B. WEST.

"When we shoved off from the ship he asked us to volunteer and go into the schooner. "If you will only enter with me we will damned soon take that ship. I dont care a damn for Captain West or any one on board, nor yet for the Captain of the cruiser. I would take both, one after the other"—"What wages will you give us?"—"5 Dollars a month; but it is not for that—the way I will make it answer is by Pirating—I'll take any vessel I come across—as for that Doctor, if I catch him any were I'll murder him for not giving me poison for my creases—what sort of a man is that chieftain of yours?"—we answered, he uses us very well—he then said we were telling lies—and that he was a damned rascal and if we did not obey his orders we should rue it when we got along-side; he told us to come out of the boat and have some brandy; we said we could not for fear of the boat being damaged along-side. He then ordered two of his men to take care of her. I then went on board but Drescol remained in the boat fearing she would get under the schooner's channels. He afterwards made Drescol leave the boat and come on board. He then tried to get us below, but fearing he would confine us in irons, we made excuses to remain on deck and a man then gave us each half a cup of brandy; he then let us go into the boat and sent one of his men, a Malay, with us with a message to Captain West that if the man and a cloth he left on board were not instantly returned he would blow the *Trusty* out of the water.—"For, by God, said he, here's Long Tom & I'll give it to him in a minute." When we shoved off from the schooner he pointed the gun to bear on the *Trusty*."

(Signed) THOMAS CLARK.