

The *Andromache* is now once more amongst as—and the *Diana* steamer at last—the former bearing all her honors thick upon her—the latter having them all yet to gain. To the exploits of the *Andromache* the Indian public has assuredly done any thing but scanty justice. The happy hero who has directed her thunders has been welcomed with something more than the evanescent “reek of popular breath”—of which however he has had an ample share. He has been greeted with the substantial pledges of fifty-guinea swords in some places—and hundreds of pounds worth of plate in others—and besides double batta allowance, is in gratifying expectancy of his lawful share of eight thousand four hundred pounds of head money! and who knows but that all this yet remains to be crowned with knighthood and a blushing ribbon as soon as the triumphant pirate-queller reaches his native shore! But his crew as well as Captain CHADS himself are to have their reward—

“Nemo ex hoc numero non muneratus abibit!”
 the State, it appears, has taken care to provide a bounty of £20 sterling a head for every pirate killed or taken—and the *Andromache* has despatched four hundred and odd, besides making 9 captives who were, fortunately for themselves, taken as pirates, instead of being mistaken for them. But so great seems the present propensity to honor the brave that it will not surprise us to hear by and bye that the crew of the *Andromache* have received medals from the Humane Society for considerably saving nine innocent lives! Who would have thought

the rogues (we mean the pirates, of course) were to cost so much money in the killing! We really had no idea of this when we wrote sometime ago with so much vehemence against taxing the trade of the port for the maintenance of an anti-piratical flotilla, or possibly our opposition might not have been so strenuous, as we flattered ourselves, that excepting powder and shot the fellows would be killed gratis! What! a few score of a rabble Malayan banditti to cost the State, besides ball cartridge no less a sum than forty thousand dollars!! As to the amount of fighting, so far as any great danger went at least, it is scarcely worth mentioning by British seamen—since there never was half-a-minute of regular stand-up fight ever got out of these very desperate Malay pirates by the boats' crews of the *Andromache*. We are not now writing to depreciate what has been done by the *Andromache*, for which there undoubtedly is no small degree of credit to be justly claimed; we should only wish to see praise even where it is due somewhat less lavishly bestowed, and adjudged with some greater degree of discrimination as to parties, than it appears to us to have been in the case of the *Andromache*. But in sooth, there has been as much fuss and flummery about the achievements of that vessel as if the whole trade and shipping of the Indian seas had been delivered from a band of pirates every one of them as terrible as Paul Jones or Captain Kidd—instead of a horde of ragamuffins formidable only in the weakness as well in numbers as in arms of the victims they selected for attack—and who when brought to compete with Europeans are alike contemptible as to means, resources and courage, while their numbers only serve to make our grape-shot tell more fatally on themselves. These are not the sort of enemies over whose overthrow by the discipline and courage of British seamen backed by ample resources of every description, such loud pæans are to be sung—and, if these swelling notes of triumph which have been sounded have not disposed the officers and crew of the *Andromache* to view their own exploits with a more self-complacent eye than they would otherwise have done, we are confident that they do not particularly plume themselves upon demolishing such a “rabble rout” of Malays as they had to cope withal. We have not the smallest doubt that if left to themselves they would have taken the whole affair very coolly, as Englishmen generally treat such, and much worse matters. We do not doubt indeed that the despatch to the admiral containing an account of these doings would vie in brevity and simplicity with the laconic missive in which Captain WALTON informed his superior officer of the sea-fight at Passaro* that he captured or sunk a whole division of Spanish naval force, consisting of one or two line-of-battle ships and four or five

other men-of-war: “Sir, we have taken and destroyed all the Spanish ships upon the Coast, the number as per margin.” True the *Andromache's* despatch would of course show a more crowded margin—but the context was doubtless equally Lacedæmonian, and gave the same proof of merit by claiming none! We therefore lay all the blame of these glorifications on the newspapers, to whom a skirmish in these “piping times of peace” is a dispensation of no ordinary magnitude—and quite as “glorious” as a nibble to a cockney in a summer day's angling.

As to the steamer, we wish she had more speed, and drew less water—two requisites of the greatest importance in pirate-hunting—and without which we apprehend she will not be so successful as might be desired. In other respects her equipment is complete, and she is possessed of an active Commander thoroughly experienced in these seas, and who we are happy to observe has been appointed to that situation on board of her—and we understand besides that as soon as more powerful engines can be procured they will be fitted into her. The Straits community, we certainly think, have some reason to be satisfied with the present government of India. Not only is it since the accession of Lord Auckland that the Straits have been cleared of a piratical banditti from whose acts of blood and plunder the native trade had suffered severely for years, and was in constant danger—but a steamer has been constructed and fitted out for exclusive employment in this neighbourhood—as well for the effectual suppression of piracy, as for the conveyance of the Court on circuit, and thus insuring the regular periodical administration of justice at the three places—which has never existed since the establishment of the present Court in 1827. The insults which our flag has received, and the danger to which the trade both native and European has been of late exposed, on the Acheen and Pedier Coasts, and which under a former administration would have been probably passed over as matter of no moment, are also to be redressed and averted—the *Andromache*, and gun-boats, being now on the point of directing their course to that quarter. It is no doubt owing to this evidence of such a disposition on the part of our government to put an effectual stop to these depredations, that the Spanish Government of Manila has, as we have been informed, requested the co-operation of a part of our naval force in the East, to assist in quelling the Sooloo and Illanoon pirates—races of marauders of a more formidable description than those generally seen in this neighbourhood. It is for this purpose that, as we understand, H. M. sloop of war *Raleigh* will take her departure hence for Manila in a day or two, while the *Wolf* will continue in the Straits.