

MORE PIRACY.


The pirates on the East Coast are bolder than was to be supposed, considering that there is now so formidable a naval force in that direction. About 10 days ago, a Siam Junk, on her way from *Chantiboon* to this port, with a cargo of salt and oil on board, was attacked by a piratical fleet of 9 prahus, a little to the southward of *Pulo Aor*, and while still in sight of that island. Seven of the boats are described as being of a large size and having each about 30 men on board, the other two as being considerably smaller and having only about 10 men in each. These stationed themselves at some distance, apparently on the look-out, while the seven large boats maintained the attack upon the Junk, which was fortunately armed with two six-pounders, and five smaller pieces, but had only 18 men in all on board. The attack commenced in the morning not long after sunrise—the Junk was becalmed, and the pirates came within less than a stone's throw of the vessel, and at one time approached so close that they prepared to grapple the Junk, extending out for that purpose a long pole with an iron hook at one extremity. They moved off again however on seeing that the Junk people had a kind of grenade all ready to cast into their boats as they came closer, and seemed more willing to trust to the effect of their shot. The contest lasted until a late hour in the afternoon, the Junk making the best resistance she could, but apparently doing little or no execution, while her hull was pierced in every direction by the shot of the pirates, and her sails and rigging much injured. A breeze at last came on, and enabled her to escape, the pirates not continuing the

pursuit. The latter moved off towards *Pulo Aor*,—and shortly after they had desisted from the attack, the people on board of the Junk observed that a fire was lighted on that island as a signal to the pirates, which was replied to in the same manner from on board of their prahus by holding aloft a large burning torch. No person on board of the Junk was killed—but one man received a slight wound from a splinter in the arm. On arriving here and discharging their cargo it was found that the water coming in through one of the shot holes had caused a considerable loss of the salt that was on board.

We have always held the Malay pirates cheap as a dangerous enemy, when means of resistance are at hand—and nothing we think can place them in a more contemptible light than the account just given of their attack upon the Siam Junk. Seven large boats, having fully 200 men in all on board of them, with all means and appliances to boot, and every circumstance in their favour, are unable in a day's fighting to capture such a craft as a Siam Junk, with only 18 people in her, & not a man among them accustomed to the use of warlike arms of any sort!

This fleet does not appear, from the account obtained of them, to have been the Illanoon pirates who are known to be in that vicinity at present—and as we have received information of another piratical fleet having been seen in a different quarter, the whole marauding force now along that coast must be very considerable. A sampan pukat from Triuganu reports, it appears, that eight prahus had sailed from that port a short time ago, and proceeded to the northward, intending to lay in-wait for the Cochin-China vessels—

as they were afraid to make their appearance in this neighbourhood—and the Chinese traders that have last arrived from Pahang report having seen five of the Illanoon boats off the mouth of the Pahang river—a rich harvest for the *Wolf* and Steamer—and we trust it will be gathered.

