

On Saturday last H. M. sloop of war *Zebra* and the steamer returned to the station, as also the boats of the former which, with the Government gun-boats, had been out on a cruize in search of pirates, along the East Coast of the Peninsula of more than a month's duration, having left this on the 1st of June last. On leaving this the boats proceeded to examine Point *Romania* and the coast to Pulo *Seba*, Pulo *Tingy* and the adjoining group called Pulo *Babi*, in the neighbourhood of which they spent three days without coming in sight even of a *sampan* and then returned to the coast visiting *Blair's* group and the main as far north as the river *Endow*, which was ascended about 12 miles; the boats visiting a Settlement here and there and finding that numbers had emigrated. Ten or eleven days had been passed in this manner when provisions being nearly expended, the boats made a retrograde movement to replenish and on the 12th of June fell in with the *Zebra* and steamer lying at anchor between Pulo *Seba* and the main. Having joined the *Zebra* and procured a fresh stock of provisions, the boats again set out on the following day and visited Pulo *Timeon* which was thoroughly explored and not a soul found on the island, altho' there were many remains of habitations; and it was afterwards reported to the boats that the inhabitants had been driven away by the Illanoon pirates. Thus far not a single prow which presented a suspicious appearance had been encountered, excepting one which, on examination, proved to be a Borneo trader. The boats then steered their course to Pahang, where Lieut. Le FEVRE, the officer in command of the expedition, had an interview with the prime minister of the Rajah, who, judging from his conversation, appeared desirous to put an end to all piratical depredations. They remained three days in the Pahang River, during which time an opportunity was afforded of rescuing two men, one a Javanese the other a Chinese, from slavery—so that the protestations and assurances of the prime minister are not perhaps to be quite so confidently relied on. That functionary appeared exceedingly anxious to get rid of so formidable a force; and as he had assembled round him during the interview no less than 300 Malays, armed with spear and kris, it is probable, that in the first instance, he expected an attack. From a native tope which was refitting here, the boats were informed that no pirates had made their appearance on the coast for three months past, at which time 5 Illanoon prows were in the neighbourhood and had carried away the fishermen. These prows were described as very large, each containing about 150 men and having two rows of pullers—which was regarded as being rather an exaggeration. Pahang was left on the 21st, the boats standing to southward, examining the coast and ascending numerous rivers apparently unknown, proceeding up some of them as high as 15

and 20 miles. One of these, about 15 miles above the *Endow*, before altogether unknown either to the person in charge of the gun-boats, or any of their crews, as also to Capt. CONGALTON and his officers, was found to be a finer river than that of Pahang; its depth averaging six to eight fathoms as far up as 20 miles from its embouchure, and there being 5 to 6 feet water over the bar opposite its mouth at low water. On the 24th the boats revisited the *Endow* and this time proceeded up about 26 miles, and met with numerous settlers growing rice and Indian corn, and having a considerable extent of land under cultivation. Here also they had the satisfaction of restoring another Javanese to freedom, who had sometime ago been captured by the Gallang pirates and sold to slavery.

On the morning of the 29th the boats again rejoined the *Zebra* in company with the Steamer, having already had a four weeks cruize under a burning sun, during which they had explored the line of coast from the old Singapore Straits up to the Pahang River, besides the islands adjoining, with a care and minuteness which does not appear to have been equalled on any former occasion, without encountering the shadow of a pirate or having even a morsel of a scrimmage to put *Jack* in good humour with his adventures. Not yet tired of the chase, the *Zebra's* boats were, the following day, in tow of the Steamer, making search round point *Romania*; and then crossing over to Bintang prosecuted a diligent search in that direction also, but without seeing a single suspicious sail. They finally rejoined the *Zebra* on the 1st inst. and came in here the following day.

Such are briefly the details of this cruize, as supplied us from an authentic source—from which we feel satisfied that the accounts given to our contemporary by the *Mary Sharp*, about fleets of pirate prows having been seen in the neighbourhood in a menacing attitude, is pure imagination—the fact being that these selfsame prows seen by that vessel off Pulo *Babi* & supposed to be pirates, were boarded by an officer of the *Zebra* and found to be very poor and peaceful traders filled with cocoanuts &c. and were probably making towards the *Mary Sharp* in order to get a market for their trifles, when the valiant commander of that vessel, let fly his six-pounders at them! In fact, ever since we remember of the Captain of the free trader *Minerva* having actually taken to flight and put back to Singapore from the alarming appearance of a trading tope, which he saw quietly lying at anchor a few miles outside, we are rather backward as to placing the most implicit reliance upon the reports coming from that class of vessels about Malay pirates, whom their imaginations have invested with such terrible attributes—from the false and exaggerated reports which we sometimes see published respecting these vagabonds, aided by their own inexperience of their true character.