

Within the last few days there have been two arrivals from Siam—one of which is the Hamburgh brig *Emma & Mathilde*, which left this port the 8th of January last, for Bangkok, and now brings accounts from that port up to the 15th ultimo. The other arrival is of a rather more interesting description, being His Siamese Majesty's Frigate *Conqueror*, a vessel of 600 tons, and carrying 40 guns, which was built at the port of CHANTI-BOON, and the voyage she now makes to this port is her first trip to sea. Notwithstanding her warlike designation and appearance she is intended to be employed as a merchantman, or, "to trade" whichever is easiest to get in between this port and Siam and instead of going upon the odious principle of monopoly, and, like the ships of the King of Cochin China, trading only on the sovereign's account, and refusing to carry freight for the private merchants; the *Conqueror* is open for "freight or charter" to any of the king of Siam's subjects. Another vessel of 1,000 tons burthen has also been laid down at Chautiboon and will soon be in a condition to put to sea. She is to be similarly equipped with the *Conqueror* and is intended to trade to this port upon the same liberal footing. The rate at which this vessel has taken in freight, is, we believe, one *tical*, or about 60 cents, per pecul, and the principal part of her present cargo is taken in on these terms. She is not a teak-built vessel, that description of timber not being procurable at the place where she was built.

The Malay pirates have, it is stated by our correspondent at Bangkok, been committing serious ravages among the native vessels of the country trading along the coast from Chautiboon to that port—and within the last ten or twelve days prior to the date of our advices, no less than three trading Junks had been captured by these marauders,—one of them having on board a cargo of three hundred piculs of pepper, and the others being loaded with general cargo, but principally with bark intended for the China market. War-boats had been dispatched against them by the Siamese government, but it would appear to very little purpose, as the Siamese war-boats whenever they *come in sight* of a pirate, let go their anchor and forthwith commence a vigorous discharge of shot, without much troubling themselves, except upon their own account, as to whether the pirates are within its range or not—and if they withstand such a display of their skill and prowess in gunnery, and don't run away, the ammunition of the war-boats is of course very speedily expended, and an excellent excuse is thus found for returning to port. If the pirates make off, the Siamese war-boats are sure to pursue, but generally with such an abatement of their vigour, or such an exercise of their discretion, as to prevent their overtaking the enemy! The pirates therefore do not meet with much molestation in their course of plunder, and will probably be thanking us for the trouble we have taken in driving them away from this neighbourhood to a field so much more

secure and productive, unless we take the same pains to check their depredations in that quarter also. The king of Siam indeed appears to be sensible that he will be the better of our assistance, as he has, we understand, directed the Praklang to address the Straits government on the subject, requesting their aid in *extirpating the pirates from the face of the earth*. His Majesty, it seems, is desirous to know from what quarter the pirates come, and makes particular enquiries on this subject, and as to whether Pahang and the neighbouring countries are subject to the English or Dutch government—and if he finds that any of these places are under the Dutch he will cause a letter to be written to them also. The royal missive is, we understand, rather a singular document—not very intelligible in its scope and tendency, but *got up* with due regard to ceremony and etiquette, being in the first place cased in a fine hollow bamboo which is put into an envelope of silk, and this is then put into another large stand, with a silk bag and seal over that! Whatever may be the result of this application we are glad to find a potentate like the king of Siam in communication with our government as to the means of putting an end to the depredations of a race of inbred marauders. It would not however, we imagine, be altogether

advisable to let his Majesty avenge the cause of his subjects against the pirates in *Pahang and the neighbouring countries* in the manner most congenial to his royal feelings!

The hot season at Bangkok had this year been very sickly as well for the natives themselves, as for the European and American sojourners among them. The Thermometer was standing about 99 in the shade. It had been in former years, seen at 100 and 102—but the air on such occasions had been clear, while this year it was thick and heavy.

The commercial advices from Bangkok are to the 15th ult., at which date the *Hero* had arrived, and the market for all descriptions of British imports was much depressed, and stocks very heavy. *Betelnut* appeared to be the only article in any demand, and 500 a 600 pls. would bring 6 a 7 ticals per pl. while a larger importation it was thought would not bring over or 5 ticals, Drs. 3, per pl. The *Fattal Rachman* now loading here takes about 2,000 piculs, which will of course fully supply the market.

Exports, especially *Sugar*, continued high.