

It will be remembered that in our number of the 27th ultimo, we made some allusion to a letter which by the command of the King of Siam had been addressed to the local government by one of his ministers, complaining of recent depredations committed by Malay pirates along the coasts of that country, and in which the states of Tringanu and Pahang seemed to be pointed at as meriting His Siamese Majesty's vengeance for their supposed participation in these marauding exploits. The local authorities have, we understand, written in reply that if the Siamese government would look after and protect their own coasts as far down as Patani, the British government in the Straits would exercise a rigid surveillance along the shores of the Peninsula up to that point. The Siamese are not however encouraged to attempt reprisals on the Malayan States on the East Coast which appeared to come under suspicion as aiding and abetting in this predatory system—although we believe that the government at the same time expressed the sentiments which it may be supposed to entertain as to the liabilities of these marauders to be cut off whenever found engaged in acts of plunder. This caution against any invasion of the Malay States by Siam is perhaps not altogether unnecessary—and is in fact required as much by policy as humanity—for although it is likely enough that the natives of the places which have been named are many of them engaged in piracy, with the connivance too, though not under the avowed authority of their chiefs, still the indiscriminate and barbarous vengeance which would be exacted by the Siamese, should they make a descent upon the coasts of the Peninsula would far exceed the amount of the injury sustained or guilt incurred—and the bad consequences which might thus result would perhaps more than equal the worst effects of piracy itself to our commerce in that direction. The chiefs of Pahang and Tringanu have, we believe, been warned at the same time against the consequences which may ensue, should they afford protection or encouragement to piracy among their subjects; and the Steamer which sailed from this on Monday last for the East Coast of the Peninsula, is, we understand, charged with letters from the local government to the rajahs of both of these States, intimating the complaints from Siam, while we believe it is stated that if the charge is made out, the British government would not interfere to prevent, the infliction of the well-merited chastisement by the Siamese—a hint which we hope the former will have the good sense to receive literally and in earnest; whatever difference there may be between the actual intentions of this government and those which it has expressed.