

We mentioned in our last the return of the expedition, which had been sent to Calantan on account of the embargo there under which the *Sampan Pukats* trading from this had been placed, with answers to the remonstrances which had been transmitted by the local authorities on the subject—and we have since been favoured with the perusal of a journal of the voyage, kept by the young Portuguese gentleman whom the Chinese merchants interested had prevailed on to go in charge. It seems so far fortunate that there was a European in company, as they had scarcely been four days out, when the Chinese and Malay interpreters began to think it advisable to put back to Singapore, not relishing the further prospects of a rough voyage, and their legs being besides excited by the accounts which they had received of Ilianoon pirates being on the coast—apprehensions which would probably have prevailed but for his presence. They reached Calantan river on the 12th April, a fortnight after their departure from Singapore, having touched at Pahang and Tringann on the way—and found the country in the disturbed state in which it had been before represented. Seven Siam, & as many Chinese junks were lying in the river, where they expected to be detained until the conclusion of the war, before they should be able to collect their outstanding debts—and all trade was in the meantime put a stop to. The war, as it is called, seems to be carried on after a very unwarlike fashion—and apparently with a very orthodox disposition as to the unnecessary shedding of blood. The three claimants to the honours and dignities of supreme rule live in such close neighbourhood, that the stockades which surround their dwellings actually touch each other—and whatever is spoken above a whisper in the one can be heard in both the others. They are not of course besieging each other; but two of the chiefs, the Bind'hara & Tammangong, have combined their forces against the other, and confine him within his fortifications, in the hope of starving him out. He in his turn has however got his advantages,—being situated closer upon, and lower down, the river than the two confederates, he commands the principal approach by water from the outside to their quarters, and fires upon every thing that attempts to pass—rendering it necessary at the same time to reach to their stockades by a considerable deflection from the customary approach by land, from the same side, or to scamper past his works with

as much haste as possible. It was therefore intimated by the Rajah Bind'hara to the gentleman whose account of the proceedings is before us, that he must needs approach his Highness's house to deliver the letters from Singapore at risk of some bodily harm or peril of his life from the enemy's fire—a piece of intelligence which was not without receiving its full share of confirmation, as when advancing with his party, consisting of fifty men with 5 spears a piece, a swivel ball whistled close by them, and immediately "brought them to a dead stop"! The letters for that chief and the Tammangong were therefore sent, in the meantime, by other hands—that addressed to the *Iang de per tuan* being detained, as it was not yet a matter of certainty either who he was or was to be: and on a following day the young envoy, by a manoeuvre executed in double quick time, passed the hostile works and obtained an interview with the Bind'hara. This personage desired him to tell Mr. BONHAM that "the war was begun very foolishly, and that he saw no occasion for it."—By his account also it appears that the old Rajah told his three sons (for the contending parties are brothers) that five days after his death they must fight among themselves for the right of succession to his place—but that it was settled among them without resorting to that alternative: one being named *Iang de per tuan* or Rajah, the other Bind'hara, and the third Tammang-gong—and that under this arrangement they had lived in amity and peace for a few days, when the former thought proper to fire one night into the quarters of the Bind'hara, without any provocation given, and without deigning to assign any reason for so unexpected an act of hostility. It would seem to follow from this account of the quarrel, that the besieged party is the one who had been allowed to assume the chief authority—but the remaining part of the story is not perhaps quite entitled to the same degree of credit, as the Bind'hara would no doubt put the best colouring he could upon the fact of his being in arms against his liege lord. But on whatever side the right may be, the Bind'hara is the *de facto* ruler of the territory for the present,—he released the sampan pukats detained, and sent assurances to the local government that he would exert himself to the best of his ability to procure payment of the money due to the *sampan pukats* as soon as the district was restored to its former state of tranquillity.—A supply of powder and shot, in addition to his present store, would he seemed to think materially tend to hasten on that desirable end, as he pressed the youthful envoy to convey to Mr. BONHAM his earnest request to forward him some munition of war,—and we believe repeated the same modest petition in his official communication to the authorities! There appears no doubt that he has also solicited the intervention of the Siamese—a Malay of some

note having informed the writer of the journal, that he had actually despatched an embassy to the Court of Siam, with presents to the amount of Drs. 10,000, to obtain the assistance of that power—of course on his own side, and while the party was still at Calantan, an elephant arrived overland from SANGORA, bringing intelligence that the mission had reached that place on its way to Siam.—There is a marked distinction certainly in the manner in which he sets about petitioning the British and Siamese governments for aid—He sends ten thousand dollars to Siam, and we are asked to supply him with warlike stores *gratis*—at least the only thing which, as we are informed, accompanied the missive from Calantan to the local authorities was a *goat*.

The question however of Siamese interference with any of the Malayan states of the Peninsula is one which cannot be considered lightly. Should they, notwithstanding the intimation which we understand they have received, that these states are regarded as in some measure under our protection, introduce an armed force into Calantan, the consequences may be serious to that territory, as they would in all probability lay the country under contribution, to the complete interruption of all commerce. But unless our government adopt some measures, when occasion calls, for the pacification of these states, what right have we to object to the interposition of Siam when solicited by the Malays themselves? Were the Malays taught to look to us on such occasions and to expect that we would engage in pacifying their internal commotions, we should never hear of their applying to Siam for the same purpose, or see that power intermeddling, as it must always do injuriously, with their affairs. The Steamer we understand is about to proceed on a voyage up the East Coast, with orders to touch at the several ports, and particularly at Calantan. Her appearance there will no doubt occasion some excitement in the present state of affairs—and the government would we think be doing well to avail of the opportunity to intimate that the intervention of the Siamese, or the presence of a Siamese force in the territory, will give offence—if they will not once propose to step in and compose the dissensions of the chiefs, by settling the question as to the succession to the title and honours of *Iang de per tuan*.

Another object of the intended voyage of the Steamer is, we are informed, to visit the port of SANGORA to prosecute those inquiries regarding Mrs. BRESLEY, in which, as our readers will remember, Capt. RUNDLE some months ago displayed so much zeal and activity.

Since writing the foregoing we received the letter of Mr. KOHANN, who accompanied the said expedition to Calantan, as Chinese interpreter, which will be found under the usual head. The letter is the composition of KOHANN himself.