

### TRIAL OF THE SOOLOO OR LANOON PIRATES.

On Saturday, the last day of the Session, the following prisoners were brought up and placed at the bar for trial; viz.—*Mah Roon* alias *Mah Sandar*, *See Elong*, *Iogi-ah*, *Dauil*, *Basoh*, *Tala Goa*, *Miskin*, *Sakoh*, *Salapa* alias *Buloon*, *Talapa* alias *Pariaktih*, *Sepolnio*, *Tallanz* alias *See Pecul*, *Janapie*, *Madane*, *See Pay Hay*, *Anal* alias *Abak-Abak*, *See Tokah*, and *See Lamkom*; being 18 of the pirates who were captured by the Steamer—other four were in Hospital too ill of their wounds to be brought up. The prisoners were arraigned on a charge of piracy near the *Sambas* river, on the 25th of April last. On the indictment being read and explained to them, a few of them were proceeding with some account of themselves, when they were recommended by the Court to plead "not guilty," which they all accordingly did.

*Sabit* was the first witness called for the prosecution, and deposed to the following effect. He resided at *Pontianak*, in a place called *Serasan* which is subject to the *Dutea*—about a month ago was taken by pirates, with eight others, while crossing over in a trading boat from *Pulo Laut* laden with Coconuts, Oil, Sago &c., in which all were jointly concerned—had besides separate property of his own on board consisting of 100 gantangs Oil, 400 Coconuts, and 50 gantangs of Sago, which with all the other property in the boat was taken away by the pirates—were overtaken and plundered by the pirates off *Tanjong Ditu*—there were six prahus, but could not say how many men were in each, they were armed and had guns on board—the prahu on board of which they were carried mounted a large gun, and the men were armed with spears, muskets, &c. witness was put below, and he with three others of his companions were bound hand & foot, and had collars put round their necks—the other five were *Hajis*, and were in consequence released and set on shore at *Pulo Serasan* by the pirates—the pirates told this to witness and his companions but they could not themselves see, as they were below the hatchway—their boat was sunk after all the property was taken out of it—the prisoners were the people that took him (witness then proceeded to identify all the prisoners except four, saying that the first prisoner kicked him)—all the men pointed out by witness were on board of the prahu which was captured by the Steamer—was about a month on board of the pirate, and was compelled to bale out the water—they touched at several places on the Malay coast about *Calantan* and *Tringanu*—did not know what country the pirates belong to, but was informed by *Tala Goa* the headman of the prahu, that they came from *Sooloo*, which they said was three months sail from *Tanjong Ditu*—his country was not at war with *Sooloo* that he knew of, the pirates did not tell him they had been sent to plunder by any one, and did not hear them say so. The pirates attacked a Chinese junk, which resisted and did not give in, while engaged with her they saw the Steamer come up, and having found out what she was they wanted to run away—she overtook and fired upon them—was down below and could not see how many of the pirates were killed, but was trampled over by many of them—the prahu was taken by the Steamer, but was so much injured by the shot that after the pirates were taken out of her she went down—did not count how many men were on board the prahu, but the *Manila* people know—they had been made captive before witness was taken.

Cross-examined on behalf of the prisoners, witness said that he had heard of the *Lanoon* people—that they were always spoken of as a race of pirates, and that they attacked every vessel at sea which they could take.

*Francis Thomas* was the next witness. He came from a place called *Kabeety* which is near *Manila* and on the same island—was on board of the pirate when last witness was taken, having been previously captured—did not know the name of the place near which *Sabit's* boat was taken—four of the people in it were taken, and pinioned, the other five were released and set on shore—saw property taken out of the boat, but could not say how much there was (witness here particularised a quantity of Coconuts, Oil &c.) the whole six prahus came round *Sabit's* boat, there was about the same number of men in each—looked at all the prisoners, and was quite sure every one of them was on board of the prahu in which he was—there were several others besides those he saw at the bar, but did not well recollect how many, remembered the names of four who were killed, *Kohumbo*, *Sepat*, *Mustapha* & *Dainy*—could not say how many were on board of the other prahus as he was not allowed to go on board of them—was in a large prahu, there was one larger, and the other four were smaller, *Tala Goa* (6th prisoner) was the headman of the prahu witness was in. The name of the pirates' country is *Bo ailyoon*, which is one day's voyage from *Baseelan*—they are a bad race of people, because they always seize all the Christians whom they find afloat—they attack every body at sea, and are called *Moros*, has not before heard of a people called *Lanoons*—the pirates' country is about two months voyage from *Manila*—was on board the pirate several months before *Sabit's* boat was taken—was compelled to work at the oar on board, and was beaten if he refused to do so, *Sabit* was used the same way—the pirates afterwards fell in with a Chi-

nese junk, which they attacked, about midday while still fighting with the junk the Steamer was seen towards the land. The father of witness, his younger brother *Augustino*, *Marcello*, and himself were all taken together—their father was killed in his own boat by—the pirates coming up and firing into her—they were fishermen, and were employed fishing at the time.

This witness was cross-examined to the same effect as the former, but without eliciting anything material. *Nah Loo Hong* the next witness, was a Chinese & lived in *Patani*, a Malay country under the government of *Sangora*. Was taken by the pirates, and found *Sabit* as well as the last witness captives on board of the prahu by which he was taken. This witness could identify only two of the prisoners, *Tala Goa* and *Janapie*, the latter of whom he said had wounded him—there was another he said wanting a finger, whom he remembered, but he was not among the prisoners.

*Augustino Santa Maria* was then called. He was brother of *Francisco*, and was on board the pirate when *Sabit's* boat was taken near *Tanjong Ditu*—there were nine people on board of his boat, whom the pirates bound, and rifled the boat of everything that was in her, oil, coconuts, &c. The pirates come from *Bo ailyoon*, which is far from *Manila*, they are called *Peitonaaka*, had heard them also called *Lanoons* in his own country, and of *Baseelan* and *Madimahat* as places from which they came, when taken was bound, and fed out of a coconut-shell—knew all the prisoners, and was acquainted with the names of all of them from the time of his being in their own country—was carried from *Maitila* to *Sepak* which is close to *Bo ailyoon*, and from there went round *Pangasinan* where the Spanish gun-boats being seen the pirates went on shore. Remembered when the pirate prahu was taken by the Steamer—they fell in with a Chinese junk just before, all the six prahus attacked her, but did not board her—thinks they were fighting for about four hours with the junk, when the Steamer came up. Could not say how many men were in each boat, some had more some less—there were thirty men on board of the prahu in which he was—there was another larger than it, which was commanded by the *Orang Kaya* of *Kultal* (the Captain of the fleet) the others were smaller—there were five men killed in the prahu that was taken, but could not speak as to the number of lives lost in the others.

This witness said on cross-examination that the prisoners belonged to a race of pirates who infested the seas in their neighbourhood, that they made descents on the coast near *Kabeety* carrying away the people, and attacking all the vessels they met—he was carried by them to *Sepak* where the pirates anchored their vessels, and went on shore, mixing freely with all the people of the place—witness was on shore at this place. They also went to *Madimahat* where witness was taken on shore with them—the pirates here also anchored their vessels close to the houses of the people on shore with whom they lived—their Sultan was at *Madimahat*, witness heard so from the pirates, as also from the people of the country—did not hear whether the pirates were sent out by the Sultan to plunder, and did not know whether this was the case or not.

*Captain Congalton* was then called. He captured the prisoners off *Tringanu*, their prahu was one of a fleet of six which was in chase of a China junk when he fell in with them—observed the junk return fire, and the pirates were preparing to renew the attack when the Steamer came in sight—this was seen from the mast-head as they were not then visible from the deck—as the Steamer approached the pirates bore down upon her, supposing her to be a vessel on fire, but finding out their mistake as they came nearer, they turned round again and endeavoured to escape—gave chase and steered right for the middle of them—took one prahu after totally disabling her, the others favoured by night coming on and the squally weather, effected their escape—the prahu that was taken had twenty-nine fighting men in her—the other prahus were numerous manned, should say they contained about 30 men each, some perhaps more—cannot say what was the loss of lives in the other prahus, seven or eight were killed in the one that was taken, and she was less fired into than any of those that escaped, which were baling out apparently nothing but blood when they were away, and scarce shewing a man at their oars—there must have been twice as many killed on board of each of the prahus that escaped as in that which was captured. Proceeded to the attack of the pirates by orders of Capt. STANLEY of H.M. Sloop-of-War *Wolf*, which was lying in sight, but prevented from coming up by light baffling winds—had a party of men on board from the *Wolf* with two of her boats. Never before met with any pirate prahus of the same description as these—they are quite different from the Malay prahus—they mounted each one long gun in the bow, with swivels along the sides, and the men were armed with muskets, spears, and other weapons—the captured prahu was 56 feet long and 15 feet beam—the others also were half the length of the Steamer, reaching from her paddle boxes to her stern—the 6th prisoner *Tala Goa* was the *Panglima* or head fighting man of the prahu; and the 17th prisoner *See Toka*, a son of the *Orang Kaya*, was another.

*Augustino Santa Maria* having stated in the course of his examination in chief that several of the prisoners were Christians, was called back and questioned on this point. He said he knew them to be Christians from their having told him so while on board the pirate—they did not say where they came from, but said that they had been captured and were slaves of the pirates—their names were *Sepolnio*, *Daniel*, *Janapie*, *Madane*, and *See Pay Hay*.

No more witnesses were called for the prosecution. The prisoners had no witnesses to call, and were asked if they had anything to state in their defence, but none of them spoke except in answer to some suggestions from the Court. The Recorder having summed up, the Jury returned a verdict of "Guilty" against all the prisoners—and they were remanded to the custody of the Sheriff until the Court had time to institute inquiry before passing sentence.