

QUEDAH RETAKEN BY THE MALAYS.—The Malays are once more in possession of Quedah, having driven out their Siamese masters at the point of the sword. The struggle however, has not been a very sanguinary one. It appears that the Siamese, trusting perhaps more to the terror with which their cold-blooded butcheries rather than their prowess had on former occasions inspired the Quedans had left a garrison of only 80 men in the fort, when it was attacked by a party of Malays headed by a nephew of the Ex-king, and easily mastered with the loss of only one man on each side. It appears, however, that the Siamese in their retreat massacred about twenty Malay district chiefs of the territory, who had been appointed to this trust under the government of Siam, on a suspicion of having instigated or confederated with the invading force which had thus a second time wrested Quedah from their barbarous domination. It is said that numbers are crowding from Province Wellesly, and other places in the neighbourhood, to join the standard of the insurgents, who doubtless expect that the Siamese will again endeavour to bring Quedah under their subjection, and are consequently using every means in their power to resist the overwhelming force that will be sent against them, and to maintain the ground they have already gained. Although therefore they have achieved their conquest by a comparatively bloodless *coup de main*, the Malays are not likely to preserve it without great effusion of blood, and a repetition of the same revolting barbarities which characterised their enemies in the unsuccessful struggle under Tuanku KODIN about seven years ago. They no doubt look forward with apprehension and anxiety to the probable part that will be taken by the British government in the approaching struggle—and it is assuredly a question of deep interest and importance to what side our government will lend its assistance—supposing it again to take an active part at all—or, to the claims of which side it will lend its countenance, should it attempt the office of mediation. That our government feels a disinclination to assist the Siamese with arms a second time to recover possession of Quedah is, we should think, extremely probable—and it cannot but be equally reluctant to allow an overpowering army

of barbarians to be poured down upon the devoted Malays who are engaged in the noble cause of rescuing their country from the thralldom of a hated enemy. In again taking an active part in the contest, on the side of the Siamese, our government would probably only be assisting to extinguish the flame of insurrection to see it again break forth in a short period—for neither the recollection of our previous effective hostility, nor the determination we lately evinced to support the Siamese cause by dragging the ex-King of Quedah out of *Bruas* by force of arms, are, it appears sufficient to deter the Quedans from another effort to recover their independence. The proper course therefore we should say for our government to follow—that which is dictated alike by humanity, justice and a sound policy—is to interpose between the Siamese and Quedah, and to endeavour to procure the restoration of that country to its former state of independence. As to the hateful Treaty of 1826 with Siam, that power may no doubt be made to understand that it would be unwise on their part to insist that the articles relative to Quedah should be rigorously observed—and if averse to seeing it again under the rule of a native prince would probably be found ready to consent that the administration should pass into the hands of our government, an alternative to which the natives of Quedah would we believe joyously submit. We trust therefore that our government will interpose its mediation to settle the affairs of Quedah on a basis which will ensure its future tranquillity, the peace of the neighbourhood, and with these advantages, the civilizing influence of commerce, which is checked in its course by these disturbances. We have no hesitation,—and we feel sure we shall be joined by all who have any acquaintance with our former relations with Quedah—in saying, that it will be most disgraceful should our government lend its powerful aid to the Siamese to recover Quedah, (let the Treaty say what it may)—and that it will be equally disgraceful to it to permit that country to be overrun by a barbarian and merciless horde of Siamese, capable of every atrocity under heaven, who have a new plea for their vengeance in the recent successes of their Malay foes.