

We have transferred to our columns a letter from Captain VAN JSEGHEM of the French brig *L' Aglae*, published in the *Pinnng Gazette* of 13th instant, giving an account of the treacherous murder of Captain WILKINS of the American ship *Eclipse*, by the natives on the West Coast of Sumatra. One of the crew also was killed, and the second mate, with several others of the ships company were wounded more or less severely. From the circumstances detailed in Captain VAN JSEGHEM's letter, it does not appear that any quarrel or disagreement led to the catastrophe, or that the murderers were proceeding in the accomplishment of any act of mere revenge. The plunder of the vessel was no doubt their whole and sole object. It is probable enough, however, that they did not come on board with such a purpose—indeed the delivering up of their arms, when they first entered the vessel, without any remonstrance, or attempt at concealment, which the darkness would have favoured, inclines us to think they did not. Finding the Captain weak from indisposition—that the chief-mate and four of the crew were on shore, and that they had so few remaining on board to deal with—they then probably first conceived the design of robbing the vessel, and induced the Captain to deliver back their *kris*es upon the pretext that they were hurt by the want of confidence displayed in removing them—an appeal which the Captain was unfortunately induced to listen to, from the confidence he reposed in the head man of the party, to whom he had been long and well known. They succeeded in carrying off from the vessel 18,000 Dollars and four chests of Opium. It appears that part of the plunder fell into the hands of the Rajah of *Soosoo*, and that he had refused to deliver it up.

We wish that the Captains who frequent that part of the Coast could only learn that the sole means to guard against the perfidy of the natives, is never to allow them to enter a vessel with arms of any kind on their persons, or in such numbers as would be sufficient to over-power those on board—or, if they will be so imprudent, let them at least arm every man in the ship with sword and Pistol—instead of tempting such a set of ruffians by a total disregard of every necessary precaution.