

PIRACY AND MURDER.

The *Sag Harbour Corrector*, of Aug. 11, contains an account of an atrocious murder and daring piracy, sent them by the American Consul at the island of St. Helena, to put persons on their guard visiting the Nicobar islands. It appears that the whaler *Pilot*, after leaving Timor, proceeded to the Chowry islands, which they reached in December, and entered Nonchony harbour in order to trade with the natives for cocoa nuts, fruits, and provisions. The natives appeared to be very friendly. A portion of the crew went on shore in one of the boats, and the narrative, signed by "W. Blackwell, surgeon, whaling-barque *Pilot*, of London," proceeds as follows:—"All of a sudden we heard a kind of howl or scream, which appeared to proceed from the ship. Mr. Snowdon said it imported something he did not like to hear, and added, 'Let us go to the boat and return.' At the same instant he saw several natives arming themselves with spears, and Robinson asked one old man, in the Malay language, what they were going to do; his answer was, 'I do not know,' and immediately a number of natives came running from the bush at the back of the houses, and attacked us with spears. One struck Mr. Snowdon, the second mate, through the body; he fell, and the native then pierced him through with another, and pinned him to the ground; James Robinson was, immediately after, struck by another native in the same way; Mr. Clark was struck through the side with a spear, close to the boat; Wm. Burt, wounded in two places: these two and the rest succeeded in getting into the boat, and pushing off towards the ship, although numbers of spears struck the oars, boat, &c. Upon our nearing the vessel, great was our consternation to find her in the possession of the natives, who were standing all round the rail, in the boats, and every one armed with ship's cutlasses, cutting spades, lances, harpoons, &c., and in such numbers that we had not the slightest chance to get on board, being totally unharmed ourselves, therefore we had no alternative than either to be killed there, or endeavour to proceed to sea and risk being picked up by some vessel. As soon as the natives saw us retiring from the ship, they immediately pulled off in canoes from the village we had been attacked at, as also from another village, both being between us and the entrance of the harbour; but through the good management of James Clark, who took the steering oar, they could not come up with us sufficiently to throw their spears to do any injury, although they pursued us till dark. We continued at the oars all night; in the morning Chowry island was in sight, about seven miles off; we continued pulling against wind, tide, and a heavy sea, and when it came near about midday, saw some natives fishing, and endeavoured to buy some cocoa nuts from them for handkerchiefs, tobacco, razors, knives, &c., and one rupee, which we had about us. We succeeded in inducing the natives to let us have about twenty-seven cocoa nuts, and we then put to sea without bread, water, sail, or any individual thing to subsist upon besides the twenty-seven cocoa nuts, amongst ten men in an open boat, and 1000 miles from Ceylon, and 700 from any other place we could pull towards, having no compass. We agreed to live upon two cocoa nuts per day if possible, but our thirst becoming great, we were obliged to use more; we cut off the legs of our trousers to make a sail, and tore up the boards from the bottom of the boat, and tied them with handkerchiefs together, and made a sail, the mast being one of the oars; in this way we were picked up at sea by her Majesty's ship *Cruizer*, who took us on board on December 29th, at half-past eight in the morning, and immediately gave us sago, &c., and in the afternoon the captain inquired the particulars of us, and he having General Sir Hugh Gough, for the China expedition on board, proceeding to China, he altered his course, and on the 31st December, at five in the evening, we re-entered the place where the *Pilot* was still lying, but not one of our crew to be found, and every appearance of their being all massacred. The vessel was found to be plundered of every article of clothing; bedding, sails, ropes, blocks, lances, harpoons, muskets, guns (large), cutlasses, all the spirits, wine, ale, porter, bread, and every piece of iron cut out from the bulwarks, davit heads, the copper stripped off her bottom, and, in fact, such destruction committed in the short space of one week, that no person can accurately describe, and in a day or two more she would not have been worth removing. We visited the villages, and the natives had fled upon our coming in. We found a great quantity of rope, canvass, sails cut in pieces, lances, &c., iron hoop bands from masts, &c., but no clothing or article of dress."

A list then follows of the names of the missing crew, amounting to 21 persons, who have all, there is too much reason to fear, been massacred. Ten persons were saved, which, together with the two men whose deaths are detailed above, complete the ship's company of thirty-three.