

THAMES POLICE.

Two Malays, named *Autrehman* and *Samut*, belonging to the Asiatic crew of the *Scaley Castle*, East Indiaman, were brought before Mr. Ballantine, charged with feloniously cutting and wounding a Chinese seaman, named *Howsang*, with intent to murder him, or do him some grievous bodily harm.

The prisoner *Autrehman*, as he is called, but whose real name is probably the common Malay one, *Abdulrehman*, was brought before the magistrate on Thursday afternoon, when evidence was given by a dock constable of a serious affray on board the *Scaley Castle*, in the East India Dock, between the Malays and Chinamen, who have Europeans to control them, but the case was then remanded in consequence of the want of an interpreter to explain the evidence between the parties.

To-day, a native of China, who calls himself *John Que*, who was born at Canton, and has been in the English service since he was nine years of age, attended as the interpreter.

After the witnesses had been examined at length, it was ascertained that *Samut* had also taken part in the outrage, on *Howsang*, and Mr. Ballantine sent a Thames police inspector to apprehend him. At five o'clock the prisoners were placed at the bar. Both are Mahomedans. The Chinese examined are Roman Catholics, having been converted to that faith by some of the missionaries at Mexico.

*Howsang* having been sworn, deposed that he came home as a foremast man in the *Scaley Castle*. There were eighteen of his countrymen on board, and 100 Lascars and Malays. About five or six days ago he fell down the hold of the ship and hurt himself, and was confined to his berth very sick. On Thursday, just before dinner time, the second mate of the ship ordered two of his countrymen to get buckets of water and wash between decks. They were to get the water out of the tank. One of the Malays was washing, and would not let the Chinamen get the water, and they began quarrelling and a fight commenced. A great many more, both Malays and Chinese, joined in the affray, and after a good deal of fighting and noise, the second mate came below, and parted them. Directly after they had done fighting, some went one way and some another. He raised his head from his sick bed to look at the fight, but never spoke to either of the prisoners, who remained below after the fight, and came to him. *Samut* pushed him down and pressed upon him, while *Autrehman* with a knife stabbed him in the face, close to his eye, and cut him down the cheek. He sung out very loud, and his countrymen came to his assistance, and found the blood gushing from his face. The Malays then ran away, and concealed themselves. He was sure that *Autrehman* stabbed him with his own knife, with a bone handle.

Mr. Ballantine asked why the Malays attacked *Howsang*, who was in his berth, and had taken no part in the affray?

*Howsang* replied to this question by stating that the Malays, not being able to get their revenge of the other men, stabbed him and meant to kill him.

The prisoners were then called on for their defence, and *Samut* declared that *Autrehman* had not stabbed the Chinaman at all. But he (*Samut*) struck him on the face with a piece of wood. *Autrehman* made a similar declaration.

Mr. Ballantine asked when the ship would sail, and was informed not till February.

The Magistrate then said that he should commit both prisoners for trial at the Central Criminal Court, and he regretted the want of proper arrangements regarding the Asiatic crews of the East Indiamen. He gave some directions to Mr. Evans, the superintendent of Thames Police on the subject, and intimated that one of the police galleys should occasionally look in at the dock, and the officers go on board and see how the Lascars were provided for.