

LOSS OF THE VISCOUNT MELBOURNE.

We regret to learn that the *Viscount Melbourne* has been totally lost on her passage to China. The particulars of this melancholy affair have not reached us beyond the fact of the vessel's loss, and a statement that the whole crew took to the boats, which had all but one reached land, and in that one, for which great fears were entertained, was, we are concerned to say, Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, en route to join the 37th N.I. in China. A Malay prahu had boarded one of the boats and fired into her, wounding one European, and plundered the poor people.

We are indebted to the *Madras Athenæum* for the following additional particulars from the *Singapore Free Press*, of which we have not yet ours lves received a copy:—

"LOSS OF THE VISCOUNT MELBOURNE.—We regret that it falls to our lot to announce the loss of the ship *Viscount Melbourne*, Capt. M'Kenzie, on the 5th inst., on the Luconia Shoal, in the China Sea. She took her departure from this for Macao on the 25th ult., with the following passengers on board—viz., Mrs. Dare and two children, Lieut.-Col. Campbell, 37th regiment Madras native infantry, and—Scott, Esq., of Calcutta. On the 5th inst., at 4 30 a.m., during a calm, breakers were descried on the lee beam close to the vessel, when she sounded in 18 fathoms, and let go both bower anchors, which, however, would not hold, and the ship struck abaft and swung broadside to the reef, from which it was found impossible to get her off; and nothing remained to be done but to get the boats out. This was accomplished with some difficulty; and before they left the ship she had begun, with the flow of the tide, to strike very heavily abaft, threatening destruction to all the after part of the vessel, although, in consequence of the anchors holding forward, she was comparatively safe in that part. Having put provisions and water on board, they left the vessel in five boats; the captain, Mrs. Dare and children, Mr. Scott, and 23 of the crew went in the launch; in the cutter, the chief and third officers, with Lieut.-Colonel Campbell, three European seamen, and seven lascars; in the second cutter, the second mate and nine of the crew; in the third cutter, 22 of the lascars; and in the jolly-boat, the fourth officer and six of the crew—in all seventy-seven hands.

Having left the vessel, the boats steered towards the coast of Borneo, with the intention of making Borneo Proper, and on the 7th came in sight of land on the coast, but finding that the strength of the current would prevent their reaching the capital, Captain M'Kenzie directed them to steer for Sambas; the 22 lascars in the third cutter, however, being apparently determined to shift for themselves, went off at once towards the shore. On the same day they also parted company with the second cutter, the chief officer having said that he would run in to look at the land, and return by sunset; but apparently met with some obstacle, as he did not afterwards join them. On the 10th, a Malay prahu came alongside of the launch, the nakhodah of which was permitted to come on board, and endeavoured to persuade them to go on shore—but this invitation being declined, he went again on board of his own prahu, and getting alongside the jolly-boat, which was astern, boarded her and plundered the men in her of everything they had. She was doubtless a pirate, and Captain M'Kenzie supposes he was only prevented from attacking and plundering the launch by seeing that they were well supplied with fire-arms on board. As it was, the prahu fired several shots at the launch, one of which wounded a European seaman in the head. Finding the jolly-boat the cause of detention, the people were taken out of her and divided between the launch and second cutter, the boat herself being turned adrift. On the following night the second cutter parted company with the launch, and seeing no traces of her at daylight, although she had hove-to and fired muskets during the night, the second officer determined to steer in his boat for Singapore. He arrived here early on the morning of Monday last; and Captain M'Kenzie having also adopted the same determination, after parting company with the second cutter his boat arrived about 12 hours after, having been 13 days from the ship. They all had suffered much from exposure, and in particular Mrs. Dare, one of whose children was at the breast, and whose situation for such a period in an open boat was necessarily painful in the extreme.