
**DARING ATTEMPT BY SOME MALAY
CONVICTS TO TAKE THE SHIP HAR-
RIET SCOTT.**

(From the Penang Gazette, Sept. 23.)

It is our duty to report a very daring and outrageous attempt which was made on Monday morning last to take the ship *Harriet Scott*, at sea, by a party of fourteen Malay convicts, who sailed on board that vessel on the preceding Friday under sentence of transportation to Bombay; in which attempt the commander, Captain Beynon, was most cruelly murdered, and the chief mate, Mr. M'Fee, and three of the crew were severely wounded. Between four and five o'clock on Monday morning, after the watch had been relieved, a squall took the ship, and while the crew were engaged shortening sail, the fourteen convicts made a rush out of the long boat (in which they were lodged and accommodated) towards the quarter-deck, armed with capstan-bars, pump-break, crow-bars, pump-spears, &c., upon which the captain immediately got in the cabin and procured a cutlass, with which he attacked them, and being soon joined by the chief mate, they were kept off for a short while until their number increased, when the captain received a blow on the head, which felled him, while another knocked down the chief mate, who, however, made good his retreat into the cabin and barricaded the door, by which means the convicts were fired upon through the skylight and other available parts of the cabin. One was shot dead, and three mortally wounded; and the remainder finding it impossible to continue in the ship, although they had possession of her nearly five hours, got into and lowered the quarter-boat and escaped. After they had quitted the vessel, the captain was discovered lying on the deck almost lifeless, with extensive wounds on his head, and his body shockingly mutilated. He was removed into the cabin and died about half an hour afterwards; his body was subsequently preserved in a cask to be interred here, for which purpose, and owing to the weakly and reduced state of the crew, several of whom, besides the chief mate, were wounded and required medical treatment, the ship was put about and returned to this port. Nothing was subsequently seen of the quarter-boat with the convicts in her, but it appears that they were picked up on Tuesday afternoon by the grab brig *Harsinger*, bound to Calcutta, in sight of this island, when they were recognised, and brought back as prisoners into port. Had it not been for a very intelligent native, named Hyder Ally, who reads and writes English, and who was a passenger on board of the *Harsinger*, it is very probable that the tale which the convicts gave out of their having been shipwrecked would have been credited, and they carried on to Calcutta; but the names of the ship and captain being painted on the stern sheets of the boat, immediately discovered to Hyder Ally who they really were, and it was at his recommendation that the *Nacoda* secured the villains and conveyed them hither.
