

There are few people who have not been interested by the memoirs of Mr. BROOKE, of Sarawak, lately published by his friend, Captain KEPPEL. The crusade of both with the crew of the Dido against the pirates and slave captors of the great rivers of Borneo, presents some of the most gallant exploits and one of the most epic narratives of our age. It was not however to be expected that a solitary expedition, or a few bright examples, could suffice to change the habits, obliterate the prejudices, and overcome the perverseness, of a populous, powerful, ignorant, Eastern race, in possession of a magnificent continent. If some of the chiefs of Borneo were induced to forego the advantage of piracy and kidnapping, other members of this Malay aristocracy were very naturally attached to such profits, sanctioned by the "wisdom of their ancestors." The levying of tribute by pirates upon the commercial shipping which pass from the Straits of Malacca to China, or which return, is quite as natural to the Borneans as the Corn-laws were to many of our own aristocracy. And the Pangerangs of the Court of Borneo, who denounce Mr. BROOKE, are just so many Dukes of RICHMOND, anathematising Sir ROBERT.

It seems that these Borneo ultra-Tories have succeeded in getting the Sultan's ear, and swaying his sceptre. They have attacked a friend of Mr. BROOKE's, blown him up, and now menace that gentleman himself. But a British naval force has been sent to their rescue, which will probably knock the Sultan's capital about his ears, make him dismiss his RICHMOND administration, and forswear piracy or its protection.

In addition to this, it is proposed that we should take an island, get up a colony, and have a naval station off the coast of Borneo; and Labuan has been recommended for that purpose. Capt. KEPPEL speaks highly in its favour; and the Manchester commercial association has petitioned for its occupation. Such stations are costly things. But steam navigation requires these short relays, this succession of naval post-houses, which will soon stud the globe all round. And, if Labuan have really the "seams of coal" that are talked of, it certainly might prove an advantageous acquisition.

Some journals seem to think that the founding of such a state or colony would embroil us with the Dutch. Taking this for granted, a liberal evening cotemporary goes so far as to attribute this recent hostility of the Sultan of Borneo to the effect of Dutch intrigue. It inveighs against the Dutch in consequence, and winds up by regrets that we should ever have abandoned Java to such an ungrateful nation.

Let us not pervert our policy, or poison our political feelings, by jealousy of the Dutch in these seas. Let us not suppose that England alone has capital, activity, population, and science sufficient to colonize the world. She has fine colonies, to which she can spare not a scruple of these necessary elements—New Zealand for example. And it is very like the dog in the manger, keeping New Zealand, yet breaking up a company which proposes to people it by reason of the bigotry, stupidity, and incapacity of our own Colonial-office—and at the same moment envying the Dutch their colony of Java, which they have rendered most thriving and productive. The Dutch are the last people in Europe, or Asia, of which we should be jealous. They are not of a force to alarm us. Their religion, habits, fortresses, resemble our own. Their commercial policy comes nearer than that of any other country to our own. Let us, then, for these and a hundred other reasons, accept them as good neighbours. Our trade and navigation will more and more augment through and with their colonial possessions. That betwixt Batavia and Australia is yearly on the increase; whilst that between Britain, India, and Ceylon must bring us into almost daily contact with the Dutch of the Asiatic Archipelago.

With respect to our occupation of the Isle of Labuan, if it should be considered advisable for us to undertake it, the Dutch can have no cause of remonstrance. It is very far north of the Straits of Singapore, in the islands south of which we have stipulated not to form settlements, or to make treaties. A great part of Sumatra is, like a great portion of Borneo, north of the Straits of Singapore; and it has been made an express article in the treaty that we should not form settlements and make treaties with any country or province of Sumatra. Borneo has not been mentioned; and even supposing Borneo affected by the demarcation line of the latitude of the Straits of Singapore—and we think it is not—the English are free to found establishments north, as the Dutch are to form them south, of that line; which by the bye would nearly cut Borneo in two.

The Dutch have formed establishments on the west coast, of which they have declared only two ports, Pontianic and Sambas, open to foreign trade. By this edict, and indeed by all its edicts for restricting trade, Holland breaks through the 4th article of the treaty of 1824, which stipulates "in no case to impede a free communication of the natives in the Eastern Archipelago with the ports of the two governments respectively, or of the subjects of the two governments with the ports of the native power."

Holland must be forced to respect and observe the free-trade stipulations of her treaties with us. And a station at Labuan will bring the necessity more strongly before her. But while insisting on this, we still deprecate an undue jealousy of Holland,—that nation which is the most industrious and deserving of all Europe, yet which has been more victimised and despised and wronged during the present century than any other state.