

Our private advices from the Eastern Archipelago reveal the existence of a state of things scarcely alluded to in the public journals. Owing to the long interval which has been suffered to elapse between the hoisting of the British flag on Pulo Labuan and the actual establishment of our settlement there, the Suloo pirates have resumed courage, and ventured to make their appearance in the narrow strait between our new possession and the main. To the chastisement inflicted on them by the *Nemesis* on the 30th of May we yesterday alluded; but there are certain circumstances connected with the event to which we now feel it to be our duty to direct public attention.

During the tremendous fire of the *Nemesis* on the piratical prahus, a great number of the marauders fled to the shore, and, together with several of their captives, concealed themselves in the jungle. Here, in the course of a few days, they were discovered and captured by the subjects of the Sultan of BRUNÉ, who is said to have put them to death in the midst of cruel and unheard of tortures, which have excited sympathy even in their worst enemies. Had they been hanged or shot they would merely have met with their deserts, because, though the simple act of piracy may not in those parts of the world be regarded as a capital offence, these miscreants had removed it out of the ordinary category of robbing at sea by the wanton barbarities they perpetrated against their captives, who were bound down to the deck by rings and ropes of rattan, often in a state of complete nudity, and reduced to the last stage of emaciation. Death therefore the Balinini unquestionably deserved; but had there been a British resident in Bruné, or a British governor on Labuan, he would doubtless, by his influence, have prevented those acts of inhumanity toward them, from the commission of which our ally must be restrained.

Beyond the straits the necessity is universally felt of our sending an armament to the Sulu group, to annihilate the piratical fleets, and constrain the SULTAN to enter into a treaty for the suppression of the slave trade and plundering on the high seas. But with such Powers treaties alone are of little avail. Nothing will ever deliver the Archipelago from the curse of piracy but an adequate number of British settlements and naval stations, of which there should be one in the centre of the Sulu islands. The expense ought to be of no consideration to a State so rich and munificent as ours; because it would not and could not be thrown away, since the slightest acquaintance with the resources of the Archipelago must suffice to show that no limit can be assigned to the trade which by judicious regulations may there be called into existence. But the very first step towards the accomplishment of this design must be the total suppression of piracy; for while the natives shall continue to be exposed, by putting to sea or engaging in traffic, to such horrors as were experienced by the captives just delivered from the power of the Balinini, the proper development of commerce will be impossible. Thirty of the unhappy prisoners in question have been conveyed to Singapore, where measures will immediately be taken for restoring them to their homes.

Mr. BROOKE, Rajah of Sarawak, who will arrive in England about the 30th instant, brings along with him the treaty recently concluded with the

Sultan of BRUNÉ, which secures great privileges and advantages to the British in Borneo. In spite of the dangers surrounding it, trade is rapidly on the increase. A day or two before the departure of the last mail a vessel had arrived at Singapore from Bruné laden with pepper and sago, and the greatest desire was felt, both by natives and Europeans, to settle on Labuan. We have already on several occasions pointed out the value of the coal discovered on that island, the useful qualities of which have now been proved by experience. Captain GREY, of the *Columbine*, lately collected a large quantity for the public service, and according to the testimony of several officers it has been thoroughly tried, and found to be of a very superior description. It exists in great quantities, and the seam is very conveniently situated for working. A report embodying all the particulars respecting it has been drawn upon the spot by competent persons, and will immediately be laid before the Government.

After each successive chastisement inflicted on the piratical powers there is a lull of some duration in their enterprises, during which commerce puts forth redoubled strength. At present everything is tranquil at Sarawak and Borneo, where the constant re-appearance of our ships of war inspires all classes of traders with confidence. Our undertakings, however, must be modelled on a grand scale if we desire to exercise throughout the Archipelago the influence justly due to us. The Dutch, with their usual vigour and sagacity, are turning to the best possible account that delicate forbearance and dignified reserve by which we have been hitherto withheld from making use of the most obvious and important privileges secured to us by the treaty of 1824. They are never restrained from pushing their own interests by any considerations whatever, while we abstain from pressing the most legitimate claims, and from making use of the most indisputable rights, from our elevated ideas of the forbearance due from a great and powerful State to a feeble and inferior one. However, the crafty and overreaching policy of the Netherlands must at length awaken us to a sense of what is due to ourselves. Certain disclosures have recently been made respecting a new code designed for the regulation of affairs, internal and external, of the Dutch East Indies. And from these we may confidently infer that all the efforts of the Netherlands Government will be concentrated in order to effect its one great purpose of obstructing the growth of British influence in the Eastern Archipelago. It is believed in Holland that the prosperity of that country rests entirely on its Oriental possessions, the value of which it is supposed would be diminished, if not altogether annihilated, by the intermixture of British settlements. Every imaginable artifice has therefore been resorted to in order to guard against our dreaded rivalry, and it is only since Lord PALMERSTON re-appeared in the Foreign-office that any step has been taken towards placing this matter on its proper footing.

A short time ago the extraordinary ferment excited in the Dutch mind discovered itself in the language held by the Rotterdam and Hague journals. Great Britain was denounced with a virulence and pertinacity of which we scarcely remember any parallel. It was evident our neighbours felt they had been detected in the attempt to perpetrate an act of political dishonesty, and were perfectly furious with us for having found them out.

But when their rage had evaporated for some time in declamation, they formed the extraordinary plan of opposing what they regard as our encroachments by the construction of that code of which we have already spoken. Its object is to place all but unlimited power for mischief in the hands of the Governor-General, while his functions for good are circumscribed in the most remarkable manner. This measure will, it is to be hoped, completely open the eyes of the British Government, which has hitherto persisted in putting the most honourable construction on the more than equivocal proceedings of the Dutch. At any rate, events will soon force upon us a fresh adjustment of our mutual pretensions in the Indian Archipelago. The subjects of the two countries will be established there in presence of each other, and they who display the greater energy, intelligence, and integrity must triumph in the end. Hitherto the Netherlands authorities have regulated their conduct, as well towards us as towards the natives, by the most questionable maxims of morality; concluding treaties with Malay and other chiefs, carrying on destructive wars, and constantly forming fresh settlements in the teeth of their most solemn engagements with us. It was all along foreseen, however, that an end must sooner or later be put to such proceedings, and we are now apparently approaching the moment of reckoning. Every day augments the interest with which the public regard the Eastern Archipelago, so that the feeling of the country would now go along with the Minister in whatever he might determine to do, of course consistently with justice, for the promotion of British commerce in that part of Asia.

Admiral INGLEFIELD sailed from Singapore for China on the 12th of July, and reached Hong Kong on the 24th. The *Nemesis*, at the date of our despatches, was cruising between Labuan and Sarawak.