

ADMIRALTY COURT.—JULY 10.

BEFORE DR. LUSHINGTON.

CAPTURE OF PIRATES.—Dr. Addams applied to the court to grant bounty to Her Majesty's ship *Ringdove*, for the taking of some pirate vessels, called "Prahus," off the island of Borneo; one was captured, three were burnt, and two escaped.

The Queen's Advocate opposed the application, and quoted, in support of that view, the 6th Geo. 4, chap. 49, which set forth they "that should be captured or destroyed," but, as two of the vessels had escaped, they could not come within the meaning of that act of parliament.

Dr. Phillimore, on the same side, did not dispute the merit of the parties before the court; but it was bound to give its judgment as the law was laid down.

The Court said this was a question upon the construction of the statute. It appeared that the sum paid for every man killed or taken would be 20*l.*, and for every man who escaped 5*l.*; but the act further says, that the vessel must be "taken, burnt, sunk, or destroyed." Whatever may be the feeling of liberality on the part of the court in placing its construction on the act of parliament, it cannot go further than the law will allow it, as in this case; it can therefore, only give bounty for those vessels which were taken. It must, therefore, reject the claim for bounty in this case.

THE ELEVEN PRAHUS.

This was a similar application on the part of the East India Company's steam-ship *Nemesis*, which was said to be under the command of Lieutenant Grey, an officer in her Majesty's service, and fell in with a fleet of pirates off the Island of Borneo, on the 30th May, 1817. Five were captured, and six made their escape.

Dr. Addams thought there was sufficient evidence to pronounce for the bounty.

The Queen's Advocate opposed the application on the ground, that it was not one of her Majesty's vessels, but that of the East India Company, and although an officer in her Majesty's service went on board, this did not constitute compliance with the act of parliament. In this case the parties claimed bounty for 550 men, which would be at the rate of 50 men for each prahu, whereas some of them had not more than 40 or even 30 on board, and then only five pirate vessels were taken.

The Court considered the evidence not sufficient to prove more than five vessels had been taken and destroyed. It would, therefore, grant bounty for that number and the men who manned them, and who were stated by the Rajah Brooke to be 210.—*Daily News, July 12*