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THE *Times* of yesterday sings a *Te Deum* over the execution done on the piratical fleet on the coast of Cochin China. But the *Times* has profited by our instructions, and no longer confounds China with the Eastern Archipelago, or Chinese pirates with Malay. That journal is silent on the latter subject altogether. It has dropped RAJAH BROOKE, his *battues*, and his fort-building as abruptly as a man might a bar of hot iron he had taken up—and for the same reason, because they have burned its fingers. We shall find a time to discuss the Chinese affairs, but we must finish the Rajah's.

The news which each successive overland mail brings from Labuan and Sarawak is of the same tenour: miserable intrigues carried on to establish what is called an "English party" in the councils of the feeble and distracted state of Borneo, acts of retaliation for aggressions or pretended aggressions, rivaling or exceeding the savage atrocities of the natives—these are the sole achievements of RAJAH BROOKE and his creatures. The task really entrusted to them by the British government, the establishment at Labuan of a city of refuge for commerce and traders that might equal Singapore, and promote the prosperity even of that emporium, is utterly neglected. Governor and Deputy-Governor are alike engrossed by a miserable and degrading complicity in the intrigues and mutual outrages of their barbarous and semi-barbarous neighbours.

At Labuan, the person installed by Sir JAMES BROOKE as his deputy, has been, according to the most recent accounts, imitating him in a small way. At his instigation the Bornean minister threatened to waste the country of an unoffending tribe with fire and sword unless they captured some parties accused of having committed a murder on the outskirts of the British territory, these parties being better armed and disciplined than the tribe and strongly entrenched. The terrified natives, availing themselves of the expression "dead or alive," which was used in the order issued to them, produced two heads and four hands, and these ghastly and disgusting trophies were accepted as a tribute to justice. The parties pursued by the Bornean minister and English deputy-governor were not convicted of a crime; the heads and hands produced are believed to have belonged not to them, but to slaves, killed to save appearances. The unreasonable nature of the demand made upon the tribe, the savage mode in which it was complied with, are assuredly not of a nature to inspire the natives with correct views of what is just, or reclaim them from violence and bloodshed. Then the Bornean minister, whom we find allied with the British deputy-governor in this disgraceful transaction, is no other than the DER MACOTA who has been again and again denounced by RAJAH BROOKE as the most abandoned of human beings, and hunted by the Rajah from Sarawak and Sarebas as if he were a wild beast.

Turning from Labuan to Sarawak, from the deputy to his principal, the prospect is equally hopeless. The disinterested philanthropist who condescends to accept 2,000*l.* per annum for governing an island which he never visits, "contemplates," we are told, "a trip to Labuan"—has some thoughts of paying a short visit to the place where he ought to reside. In the meantime he had gone to the Linga to construct a fort there, and instal a governor in it. In what capacity has he taken upon him to do this? As governor of Labuan? Linga is 300 miles distant from that island. As commissioner of the British government in Borneo? We never heard that diplomatic agents were warranted to erect fortifications in the territory of the government to which they may be accredited. As Rajah of Sarawak? It is expressly declared in the deed by which the Sultan of Borneo conferred that government on RAJAH BROOKE, "and be it understood that this grant extends only to the country of Sarawak, and that JAMES BROOKE, Esq., is not to govern any other dependency of Borneo."

The erection of a fort on the Linga, taken in connection with other sayings and doings of Sir JAMES BROOKE and his colleagues, throws a flood of light on his inveterate persecution of the Sakarrans and Sarebas. Notwithstanding the express restriction of his authority to the province of Sarawak, within a few years after the new rajah had been installed we find him addressing a letter to the chiefs of Sarebas, which begins—"The commands of the Tuan Besar to the Chiefs of Sarebas," and relates solely to a matter of their internal government. A few months later he ordered the Dyaks of Sakarran to "turn three sheriffs out of their river." The Dyaks, to evade his anger, showed a disposition to comply; the sheriffs mustered a flotilla to defend themselves; the rajah denounced this step on their part as a piratical movement, and forthwith despatched a fleet, which drove them from the country. Every subsequent attack upon the Sarebas and Sakarrans has been prefaced by some similar unwarranted assumption of authority over them on the part of

RAJAH BROOKE. They have been called pirates solely with a view to justify his attempts to subdue them, for there is enough in MUNDY'S book, compiled under the superintendence of Sir JAMES BROOKE, to exonerate them from the charge. In a letter from the Rev. Mr. M'DOUGALL, dated the 25th of last August, which has been published by the Borneo Church Mission, there are expressions relative to the attack upon the Sarebas on the 31st of July, which are full of meaning. Mr. M'DOUGALL congratulates himself that he will have more leisure to attend to his missionary duties "now that our war excitement is over;" and he goes on to remark: "This last expedition up the Rejang and Sarebas has, as I anticipated, gone far to open up a most extensive and interesting field to the mission among the tribes of the interior, whose numbers and wealth seem to be, from what has now been seen and heard of them, far greater than was before imagined." The field occupied by these "wealthy" tribes has been opened by their subjection to the rule of the Rajah of SARAWAK, and his building of a fort to control them. The expedition against Sarebas was not to punish pirates, but to extend the territorial sway of the Rajah of SARAWAK.

We will not do Lord PALMERSTON the injustice to imagine for a moment that he has authorised this last mad enterprise of the Rajah of SARAWAK. We learn, however, from MUNDY, that the erection of a fort at Linga has been in the Rajah's contemplation ever since 1845. We have, therefore, no doubt that he has applied for the sanction of the British government to its construction, and has been refused. Consequently the only interpretation we can put upon his conduct is, that he sets the British government at defiance, and is resolved to set up for himself. At all events, if he has not himself taken the first step to dissolve the copartnership, government ought not to lose a moment before throwing him overboard. By the mail which arrived on Saturday we learn that Mr. BALESTIER, "the United States Envoy and Diplomatic Agent to South Eastern Asia," had arrived at Singapore, and proceeded to China, where the American commodore had been instructed to place a man-of-war at his disposal. Sir JAMES BROOKE, Commissioner for the British Government, has taken upon him to destroy the flotilla of the Sarebas chiefs, and devastate their territory, because they made war upon a neighbouring tribe; what if the American diplomatic envoy were to order the flotilla of the chief of Sarawak to be destroyed, and his territory to be devastated on the same plea? Great Britain, which connived at the Rajah's proceedings, and lent its men-of-war to aid him, could scarcely object; and yet it would be awkward so long as the chief of Sarawak continues to hold two commissions from the British crown.

Let us pause to ask what is the policy which the British government has, by word and deed declared that it is resolved to pursue in the Eastern Archipelago? It is the course initiated by Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES, when he founded Singapore. It is the promotion of commerce, not the acquisition of territory. Singapore, Hong-Kong, and Labuan have in succession been acquired as depôts or warehouses for British trade. Small and unimportant islands were selected to avoid the fatal necessity which, in India, has been found unavoidable, of encumbering the English nation with the government of distant and alien dependencies. To carry on this wise policy Sir JAMES BROOKE was made governor of Labuan: he has done all in his power to thwart it. He has utterly neglected Labuan. That settlement has in fact yet to be founded, after a lapse of two years, a period which made Singapore a wealthy and populous commercial emporium. And while he has neglected the trading depôt entrusted to his charge, he has been by force and intrigue acquiring and extending a territory which he hopes to make for the Eastern Archipelago what the jagheer of Calcutta was for India. The delegated agent of the British government has been counteracting the policy he is paid to enforce.

Hitherto the only two European powers in the southern parts of the Archipelago have been Holland and England. Holland has for two centuries and more pursued a course of territorial aggrandisement and coercion of the natives; England for little more than a quarter of a century has avoided territorial aggrandisement, and contented itself with exercising over the natives an indirect influence through its example and the property and habits of settled industry its trade diffused among them. More has been done by England in this way in a quarter of a century to elevate the natives in the scale of civilization than by the Dutch in two centuries; and so much greater has been the gain of England that the Dutch are gradually adopting the English system. It is in the face of these facts that Sir JAMES BROOKE has disobeyed his orders and substituted the approved worthless system of Holland for the approved rational and beneficial system of England. He has resorted to the plan of territorial aggrandisement and coercion of the natives. And his coercion has been of an infinitely more reckless and ruthless character than that of the Dutch. The Dutch records of two centuries will be searched in vain for such a cold-blooded massacre of weak and unresisting natives as was perpetrated off Sarebas on the 31st of last July. And that merciless slaughter was only one of many that have been perpetrated at the instigation of Sir JAMES BROOKE in the brief lapse of ten years.