

Daily News (London, England),
Wednesday, February 6, 1850

RAJAH BROOKE'S NATIVE ALLIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—The *Times* would have you believe that Sir James Brooke's allies were harmless as sucking doves. Take, in answer, an extract from the speech of Mr. Richards, at the meeting at the London Tavern :

But a more graphic touch than that appeared in the *Singapore Times*, by which it appeared that when the prahu had been of course scattered by the fleet, the *Nemesis*, a great war steam-ship, was ordered to sail up and down among them, in order that with her strong paddle wheels she might break the backs of the unfortunate wretches who were swimming in the agonies of death. (Hear, hear, and general expressions of horror.) Even that was not sufficient. Their hereditary foes, the Sarawak Dyaks, were let loose among them, pursuing them into the jungle. What was the result? Mr. Vigers, a member of the expedition, sent the following account to the *Illustrated London News*:—“During the absence of the boats, numbers of the pirates who had escaped in the action, but were not aware of our still occupying the river, were cut off by the Dyak boats in attempting to ascend the Sarebas, and I then had an opportunity of witnessing the operation of preserving the heads. The Dyaks, having killed their enemy, immediately cut his head off, with a fiendish yell; they then scoop out the brains, and suspend the head from a rod of bamboo, as represented in the sketch. They then light a slow fire underneath, and the smoke ascends through the neck, and penetrates the head, thoroughly drying the interior. It is then placed in a basket of very open work, and carried suspended from the belt of the captor, more highly prized than ornaments of gold or precious stones. On one occasion I saw five heads on a platform, undergoing the operation; and within two feet of it the Dyaks were coolly cooking some wild boar chops for their dinner, and inhaling the mingled perfume of baked human and hog's flesh.

In answer to the sophistry of the editor, in the conclusion of his leading article this morning, I need not remind your readers that Mr. Sturge and the peace party have been always opposed to the blockade of the coast of Africa, to put down the slave trade.

Yours, &c.,

Lloyd's, Feb. 5.

W. JANSEN.
