

Daily News (London, England),
Monday, February 18, 1850

THE *TIMES* AND BORNEO.

The following letter was transmitted some days ago to the *Times* by a gentleman intimately acquainted with the Eastern Archipelago, but was not published:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *TIMES*.

Sir,—I was once like you an admirer of Sir James Brooke, and I still think him a bold and enterprising man, but surely, on his own showing, rather an unscrupulous one. You have been publishing extracts from his diary. I beg you to read on, and call your special attention to two transactions which he has recorded. The first of them will be found at from page 307 to 312, and the second at from page 325 to 333, of Captain Mundy's book, volume 1st. The astounding narrative contained in these pages has staggered me, and I confess the transactions described in them have, to my judgment, very much the appearance of five deliberate murders. In the first case, when three persons were put to death, piracy is alleged in justification; but in the last, no charge of piracy is made. In none of these was there any show of trial. When the three alleged pirates were put to death, Sir James Brooke had been in the undisputed sovereignty of Sarawak for seven months, and when the two last persons suffered, for a whole year. These very ugly looking matters may be capable of explanation, or extenuation, and Sir James Brooke who deliberately authorised the publication of the narrative containing them must have thought so; but it is certain that neither you, nor any other friend of Sir James, have offered any explanation or indeed for that matter even mentioned them at all, although Capt. Mundy's book has been before the public for two years. I shall be glad to see your explanation, and hope you are not going to allow judgment to go by default against your client, for assuredly these transactions will be mentioned in the House of Commons. I am, sir, your obedient servant,
London, Feb. 13, 1850. VINDEX.
