

Lloyd's Weekly (London),  
Sunday, April 28, 1850

---

### PIRACY IN CHINA AND THE INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO.

A return of English vessels "captured, attacked, plundered, or in any way molested by Malay or Dyak pirates, on the coast or elsewhere," from August, 1839, to August, 1849, has been extracted from "Lloyd's Lists," and presented to the House of Commons. Thirty-nine vessels are enumerated. In not one instance are the pirates alleged to be Dyaks. Only one of the cases is said to have occurred within three hundred miles of Borneo; and that is the case of a vessel "wrecked on one of the islands on the coast of Borneo," in 1845, of which the officers had been made prisoners, and part of the crew sold as slaves "at Sooloo."

Thirteen of the ships are simply said to be missing: Of their fate nothing is known. Three of them are expressly said to have passed outwards through the Straits of Sunda. Of five there is no evidence that they ever reached the Indian Archipelago. One disappeared between Chusan and Macao; one disappeared between Chusan and Penang; one between Cochin and Calcutta; one had sailed from Manilla to Boston; and one from the same port to Falmouth. For none of these can the Dyaks of Borneo be suspected.

Three of the vessels are stated to have been plundered in the Straits of Sunda and Lembeck. Two of them were plundered at the Nicobar Islands; one on the coast of Achein; and one in the Straits of Banca. Four were attacked near the Anambas (three hundred miles from Borneo), but the pirates were obliged to sheer off.

One vessel "was passed as if burnt," sixty miles from the Straits of Sunda; one "burned to the water's edge" was passed in the Pallawem Straits.

In the course of ten years twenty-nine vessels have been lost in and near the Indian Archipelago; the manner in which fifteen of them were lost is unknown; six were wrecked and plundered, as they might have been on the west coast of Ireland or Cornwall; eight were attacked by pirates (one unsuccessfully); four of them outside the Indian Archipelago; three in the Chinese waters; and one at the Anambas. There have been six cases of "wrecking" and eight of piracy in ten years. In only one case (a case of wrecking) was the outrage committed near the coast of Borneo, and that case occurred at the north end or on the east of the island, many hundred miles from Sarebas, and was committed by Malays of the Sooloo islands.

These facts are worthy the consideration of those who have been misled by Rajah Brooke's rhodomontades.

---