

THE MASSACRE OF MALAY PIRATES.

WE are not likely to be accused of having any feelings in common with the perpetrators of wholesale murders, whether of Malays, Dyaks, or any other of our human brethren—black or white—pirate or no pirate—it is abhorrent to the sentiments of humanity to take the lives of men in cold blood by hundreds at a time. A very strong case, indeed, must be made out for so awful a proceeding as the slaughter of 1500 natives of Borneo and the adjacent islands, suspected of piracy, by the squadron under command of Captain FARQUHAR, in August last; especially when operations of such a nature are rewarded by what is called "head money," on which account the claims amount to no less than £20,000 or £30,000!

We honestly admit, therefore, that we are not disposed to screen the Government or any other party, for the refusal to justify every reasonable request for information on so serious a subject. Neither the admiration we entertain for the career of Sir JAMES BROOKE, and the gallant men who have assisted him—neither the alleged ingratitude and treachery of Mr. WISE, nor the trenchant reply of Mr. HENRY DRUMMOND—neither the miserable envy of Mr. HUME or Mr. COBDEN, nor the hypocritical cant of Protection Societies, will warrant us in excusing the Government of this country from giving a full and complete account of a transaction which stands out, in grave and serious aspect, from every deed which the forces of her Majesty's navy have been engaged in for many years.

It may be true that these 1500 miserable Dyaks, or Malay slaves, were pirates;—it may be true that Sir JAMES BROOKE is one of the noblest and best of men—it may be true that his duty on the coast of Borneo has been for these twenty years past to root out a savage and buccaneering race from the islands of the Eastern Archipelago—it may also be perfectly correct that, because he refused to enter into a mercantile speculation at the suggestion of his quondam friend and now inveterate enemy Mr. WISE, he (Mr. WISE) "knowing what a place England is for humbug," as Mr. Drummond naively said in the debate on this question on Friday night, got up a conspiracy to excite the "Aborigines Protection Society," against the absent Rajah. All this, we say, may be true (and we have every confidence in its truth), still that is no reason why every information on so awful a subject should not be placed before the nation, who have to watch the conduct of public men at home and abroad, to check the sanguine and impetuous, and remind the victor, in the midst of success, that Mercy should always temper Justice, and that it is almost always as politic as it is Christian-like.

Whilst we give vent to our notions on the importance of having every information that can be attained placed before the country, we are far from attempting, or desiring to deny the immense value to the commerce of the world which the presence of RAJAH BROOKE, and a division of the British fleet, has been on the coast of Borneo. We have no disposition whatever to lessen the merits of his achievements, compassed amidst trial and danger, amongst a barbarous race, and on an inhospitable shore. We have no leaning to that peaceful agitator RICHARD COBDEN, nor to the tool of the Aborigines Protection Society, the venerable JOSEPH HUME. We have, nevertheless, no objection to possess full and explicit accounts of the attack on the Bornean Prahus; and if we do not greatly err, none would be more desirous of affording them than the RAJAH himself, and the gallant officers, who led on their men against the miserable savages who fled before them.