

**SLAUGHTER OF A EUROPEAN CREW BY
MALAYS.**

The *Overland Free Press*, dated Singapore, Tuesday, November 4, says:—"Amongst the news this month from Singapore is an account of an outbreak of the Malay sailors, on board of the British barque 'Fawn,' while on her voyage up the Straits, from this to Calcutta, resulting in the murder of the whole of the European officers and passengers, and the destruction of the vessel by fire. The particulars, as far as they have at present transpired, are as follows:—The barque 'Fawn,' a new vessel, owned at Calcutta, arrived from China at Singapore, and left the latter port in progress of her return voyage to Calcutta on September 28. When at Singapore, Captain Rodgers, the master of the 'Fawn,' discharged a portion of his Calcutta-shipped crew, and in their stead took Malays, Javanese, and a Cochin-Chinese who had turned Mahomedan. The captain, it appears, was rather of an irascible temper, and what is termed a strict disciplinarian. On the sixth day, after leaving Singapore, about noon, the burra-tindal (head of a native crew) was observed sitting on the fore-hatch smoking, upon which the chief officer spoke harshly, and asked him if he intended to set the ship on fire. Words arose between them, and ultimately the chief-mate gave a thrashing to the burra-tindal with a rope's-end. The captain appears to have approved of the mate's conduct. Indian Lascars do not much heed this summary mode of punishment, although few experienced commanders in the country service would disgrace his chief native officer in such a manner before the crew. Malays are proverbial for resenting any such indignity, and, as in the present instance, take the earliest opportunity of revenge. Apparently the matter was passed over; but such was not the fact. The burra-tindal gained over some of the Malays, Javanese, and the Cochin-Chinaman, and resolved to be revenged on all the Kaffirs (Christians) on board. It is usual when ships sail at night through the Straits of Malacca for the captain to remain on deck all night, dozing occasionally in a chair. This circumstance was taken advantage of by the mutineers. At midnight the burra-tindal and his confederates found the unsuspecting captain sleeping in a chair on the poop; they despatched him with knives, and threw his body overboard. The portion of the crew (Bengales) not in the plot at once fled to the ship's tops, or other places in the ship. An European named Elphick, who was proceeding in charge of a horse to Calcutta, also sleeping on deck, was likewise murdered, and his body cast into the sea. The chief and second mates retired to their cabins and armed themselves; they offered a stout resistance until after mid-day. The infuriated Malays literally cut the second mate to pieces; but, finding they could not get at the chief mate, they commenced with axes to cut through the poop-deck into his cabin. Finding they had effected an entrance, the mate rushed out of his cabin and jumped overboard. All this time the captain's wife and a Mrs. Becham, who, with her child, was voyaging for her health, were spectators of the frightful slaughter going on. Having got rid of all the male Europeans on board, the burra-tindal and another ringleader proceeded to Mrs. Rodgers' cabin, adding the crime of rape to their previous atrocities, and behaving in the most outrageous and revolting manner, totally unfit for publication. These two ladies, the child and caddy, male and female servants, were then placed in one of the quarter boats to be lowered and sent adrift in the sea. On the order being given to lower the boat, the fiend burra-tindal stood by and held on the after fall, so that the wretched inmates were cast into the sea and perished, save one man and a woman, whose husband was one of the crew. The wretches then fired the vessel, crowded all sail, and steered for the land. On nearing the shore, the ringleaders quitted the vessel in the long-boat, casting the latter adrift, and landed at a place called Bruas, about forty-eight miles distant from Penang. The remaining portions of the crew, finding the fire gaining on the vessel quitted in the captain's gig and pulled for the drifting long-boat which they secured, and then set the gig adrift. Those in the long-boat proceeded to Singapore; when near the latter place two of the men took advantage of the others being asleep, swam on shore, and reported all that had occurred to the authorities. After some days several of the men were captured, including the Cochin-Chinese, others delivered themselves up, but six escaped. The hon. Company's steamer 'Hooghly' was despatched to Bruas to see if the vessel could be saved, and with letters to the Rajah of the country to deliver up, the guilty parties. In the meantime some of the men proceeded in a native boat to Penang and surrendered themselves up to the police, but these are not believed to have taken any other part in the outrages than such as they were in a measure compelled to do by threats. The ringleaders, after some excuses on the part of the Rajah, were secured and taken to Penang, where they will be tried on the 17th of November, by the recorder, Sir William Jeffcott. The barque 'Rajah,' of Liverpool, from Bombay, bound to China, passed the 'Fawn,' when she was on fire, standing in for the land, but did not proceed to her assistance, or it is probable some of the unfortunate creatures cauted out of the quarter-boat might have been rescued from a watery grave. The master of the 'Rajah' on the following day fell in with the 'Amazon,' and reported what he had witnessed the previous day. The 'Amazon' went in the direction indicated, but found no vestige of any vessel, the 'Fawn' having, it would appear, burned to the water's edge."