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*Quedah; or Stray Leaves from a Journal in Malayan Waters.* By Captain Sherard Osborn, R.N., C.B., &c.  
Longman and Co.

Captain Sherard Osborn tells in this volume the story of his adventures in Malayan waters eighteen or nineteen years ago. He was then a midshipman in command of a gunboat at the blockade of Quedah. Quedah had been seized by the Emperor of Siam, and although the British East India Company had clearly enough acknowledged the Rajah of Quedah's title by buying of him the island of Penang, yet there had been since that purchase a treaty signed with Siam, and a new complication of commercial interests. So it came to pass that when the Malay chiefs who had been ousted from their possessions sought to recover them, and, raising the flag of the deposed Rajah, collected a strong fleet at Quedah, the British Company, as the ally of Siam, was bound to regard the Malays, not as patriots, but pirates, and to co-operate by sea with the land operations of the Siamese. Quedah was subdued.

Captain Osborn looked at the case with the eyes rather of an honest middy than a politic East India director, and respected his enemy. He was engaged in a little Asiatic war, saw Malay battling with Malay, and in his own gunboat commanded a crew formed of Malays exclusively. He learned to understand and like the race; and writing from the journal he kept at the time, he here gives us a brief and genial account of his experience. His book is full of incident, and is a true sailor's book by reason of the frank way in which it puts upon everything the happiest and the most generous—which is in the long run always the least blundering—construction. He sees in the Malays a race of sailors who combine, with all their faults and all their vices, many of the finest attributes of a sea-faring people. We can make hearty and zealous friends of them in any hour of need by other policy than grinding them down, shooting, and paddling over them.

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