

Caledonian Mercury (Edinburgh),
Tuesday, April 28, 1857

SUMMARY.

The London papers are occupied chiefly with the news just brought by the Overland Mail from China, and we observe that the French journals also are making it the theme of editorial comment. No facts are recorded beyond those noticed in our last, and as details cannot be had till the arrival of papers and letters, the public must be content to wait some days ere they come to any decided conclusion as to the real state of affairs.

The next item of intelligence is not exactly news from China, yet it seems to be an incident in the smouldering war, and one of magnitude. At Sarawak, in Borneo, the Chinese, a numerous portion of immigrant inhabitants, rose in insurrection, on the 17th of February and massacred several Europeans. Sir James Brooke, formerly known as the Rajah of Sarawak, but more recently as British Governor and Commander-in-Chief, escaped the treacherous assassins only by swimming across a creek. One of the Borneo Company's steamers subsequently arrived at Sarawak with Malay and Dyak troops, commanded by Governor Brooke. They retaliated on the insurgents and obtained their submission, after a sacrifice of 3000 lives. There is possibly some exaggeration in these numbers; for already there seems a doubt if the telegraph indicated 3000 or only 2000. A Dutch war steamer had arrived to the assistance of Sir James Brooke and his native force, but as it was not needed, we may infer that the insurgents were wholly subdued. To what extent the revolt against British authority at Sarawak was inspired by the rewards offered for the heads of our countrymen by the Chinese Government may not be easily known. Already it is suggested by our anti-national countrymen at home that it was likely to have arisen out of Sir James Brooke's oppression. This is alleged in the absence of any proof, positive or presumptive, that there was oppression. It is much more probable that it was caused by the widely spread instigation of Chinese vengeance, and the hope of reward.