

The Aberdeen Journal.

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THE CHINESE IN BORNEO. — Complete details have arrived of the sanguinary attack on Sir James Brooke and the Europeans at Sarawak, of which we mentioned a few particulars last week. An interesting narrative of the events will be found in the Supplement to this day's *Journal*. It is not at all to be wondered at, that the Chinese should feel in some measure jealous of the influence of British authority, and the germ of European civilization in that part of the world. Sir James Brooke has shewn what one resolute enlightened man may do to influence the minds of the ignorant and savage natives of the country over which he has instituted his authority. He has fairly revolutionized the character and habits of a race of piratical savages, and laid the foundation of commercial enterprise and Christian civilization in their semi-barbarous regions. It is now about 16 years since Mr Brooke armed a small yacht, and manned it with a dozen stout fellows, and set sail for those little-known islands of the Indian Archipelago, which native exclusiveness has hitherto kept in a measure sealed from Europeans. He found on the out-lying skirts of the island of Borneo a race of rude savage Malays and Dyaks, who lived by plunder and murder, and whose long prahus crept along the shore on the watch for traders, and pounced on every becalmed vessel that was not too formidable. In this way many a rich ship went down in those seas, with its crews murdered by the Malay pirates; and all that was heard was, first, that she was amissing, and then that she was lost. Among these people Sir James Brooke cast his lines, and very successful lines they were. He began teaching them that there were better ways of settling disputes than by a stab of a dagger, and better ways of living than by murder and piracy. Gradually he gained authority and influence—the people about throve better than their fellows anywhere else. There had been few English factories in Borneo, the trade being carried on from the coast of Coromandel; but soon commerce began to be prosperous—mining followed—the Borneo Company carried commercial enterprise where there had been nothing but stagnation and idleness. The Sultan of Borneo, who seems to be a clear-headed personage, gave Mr Brooke every encouragement, and made him Rajah of the Government of Sarawak, the seat of his political experiments. The Dyaks, who naturally took up an extreme aversion to the individual who had done so much to put down their predatory way of life, made an attempt upon his Government, but they were defeated, and brought down upon their heads the vengeance, not of the Rajah only, but of the British Government. A British ship of war, under the command of Captain Farquhar, knocked the whole fleet of Dyak prahus to pieces, and the crews that manned them. The question was brought before the British Government again and again by Mr Hume, for it was an ugly affair, inasmuch as the ship's crew were paid for their work on the usual principle of pirate-hunting, viz., by head-money, £24, if we recollect a-right, for every pirate's head. That was little better than the Chinese offering so much for every English head. However, with the exception of this unpleasant feature in the history of Sarawak, we have continuous prosperity. There is a considerable European population, an English bishop, a missionary station, extensive trading ramifications, and indeed everything that can constitute the nucleus of a new colony. The Chinese population, who are very numerous, and who have much of the trade of Borneo in their hands, seem to have regarded Rajah Brooke all along with hostility. Lately this feeling had increased in consequence of the state of matters in China; and the severe measures taken by the Rajah to put down the opium smuggling, appear to have blown up the hot coals of their hatred into a blaze. Their attack on the seat of Government well nigh resulted in the death of the Rajah, and every European in his service, and the ruin of the whole enterprise. But the gallant spirit that originated the idea of civilizing the people of the island at any risk, and with every disadvantage to contend with, triumphed in the end, and will triumph still more completely, in consequence of the recent calamity.