

“ENGLISH FILIBUSTERS.”

The Hague Correspondent of the *Brussels Nord* makes the following singular statement :—

The last mail from India brings accounts from Batavia to the 11th Feb. The Dutch war steamer *Merapi* has made a fresh expedition against some English filibusters, who had at first established themselves at Siak, in the Island of Sumatra. They were afterwards driven out, but on the departure of the troops sent against them they established themselves in the Island of Bankalis, where they fortified the village of Clapa Pati, hoisted the English flag, and levied contributions on the native fishermen for the support of their Malay and Chinese soldiers. The *Merapi* was again sent to the place, having on board the resident governor of Riourd and a Dutch commissioner, and arrived there on the 18th of December last. The Governor of the fort, an Englishman named Carnie, at first assumed a haughty tone, and declared that he placed himself under the protection of the British flag. He was summoned in writing on the 20th of December to evacuate the place without delay, the establishment of an English colony being prohibited by the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824, according to the terms of which England renounced the right of forming any settlements or purchasing any territory in the Sunda Islands. Mr. Carnie replied that the Governor of Singapore had authorised the construction of the fort, which was intended to protect English merchandise landed there, and that it was therefore necessary to refer the matter to him. The commandant of the expedition refused to accede to this proposition. On the 22d, the leader of the English filibusters, named Wilson, sent a letter inclosing the copy of a document, by which the Sultan of Siak had ceded to him the Island of Bankalis. This letter was answered by sending a second summons to evacuate, accompanied by a threat of hostile measures. On the 23d, every preparation was made on board the *Merapi*, while the adventurers, on their part, prepared for defence. On the 24th the troops landed, but they met with no resistance, as the fort during the night had been abandoned by the garrison. The energetic measures adopted by the Dutch Government prove that it has decided on not tolerating any more such manoeuvres as that of Rajah Brooke's at Labuan, and that it will no longer allow foreign adventurers to establish themselves on its possessions.