

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper (London),
Sunday, November 21, 1858

THAMES.

A CURIOUS DIFFICULTY.—A most ferocious-looking Malay seaman was charged with stealing a red Guernsey frock and two shirts, the property of a Dutch sailor, named Kneiss.—John Smith, a police-constable of the H division, said he was called to the West quay of the London-dock, at half-past twelve o'clock that morning, and found the Malay on board a Dutch vessel, and was informed that he had stolen a frock and two shirts from the fore-castle. The prisoner, who had crept into the fore-castle without his shoes, while the crew were asleep, belonged to another vessel, and made signs that he was cold, but could speak no English.—Mr. Yardley: Have you brought an interpreter here?—Witness: No, I have not. I could not find a person who understood the Malay language.—Mr. Yardley: And he can't speak our language at all. How are we to get on?—The Dutchman said the things were his, and muttered a few almost unintelligible words.—Mr. Yardley: Do you understand English?—The Dutchman: Ik kan niet verstaan (I do not understand)—Mr. Yardley: You don't understand English, and the Malay can't speak a word of it, or know what is going on. I suppose these articles you produce, constable, belong to the witness.—Smith: Yes, sir.—Mr. Yardley: Give the things up to him. It is an utter farce to attempt to administer justice. I must discharge the prisoner, because there is no evidence against him.