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EXAMINER.—Lord Derby and his colleagues have good reason to congratulate themselves on the decision they came to to have nothing to do with Sarawak, for the mail just arrived brings very unfavourable accounts indeed. The principality seems, in fact, never to have recovered the blow which a couple of hundred half-armed Chinese were able to inflict upon it in February, 1857, when in a night attack they surprised, sacked, and burnt it. Since then it has been threatened in one direction by the Chinese, and in another by its old enemies, the Sarebas Dyaks. In October last the latter had become so troublesome, that the relative and vice-rajah of Sir James Brooke resolved to carry the war into their own territory. He accordingly organised an expedition, but his allies failing to join him at the appointed rendezvous, he was obliged to return without accomplishing his object. In due time, however, a second expedition was resolved upon, and on this occasion Sir James's Malay and Dyak allies having proved punctual, he invaded the territory of the enemy with a force of 5000 men, conveyed in 300 boats. After encountering many serious obstacles, he so far succeeded as to carry fire and sword into the territory of the savages, but was ultimately baffled by them and forced to retire. We give the result from a narrative drawn up by the defeated party itself, as we find it in the *Singapore Free Press*, of the 4th November. "The Sarebas country was then traversed from one end to the other, and the villages, war-boats (to the number of 30), and other property destroyed. The only resistance offered was by the old chief, Rentab, who headed the party which killed Mr Lee in February, 1853. The chief has fortified himself very strongly on the ridge of a very high mountain with almost precipitous sides. Captain Brooke's party made an attack on this position, carrying up a light mortar, but after expending all his shells, the place remained as firm as ever; and as his men were falling fast from a well-directed fire of grape, which entirely swept the only narrow path by which the place was approachable. Captain Brooke, was reluctantly compelled to retire, with the determination of going better prepared for an attack on a future occasion." From this statement, which wears a somewhat filibustering aspect, it will appear that the savages, who ten years ago fled and dispersed at the report of a musket, have now learnt the art of fortifying themselves, and are in possession of an artillery capable of giving a well-directed discharge of grape." Such, then, at the very moment when 300 British merchants were recommending it to her Majesty's ministers as a most eligible acquisition, was the state of the principality of Sarawak. To the north a horde of barbarians had baffled the most powerful expedition which its possessor could fit out, while to the south it was threatened by thousands of hostile Chinese, full of resentment for the recent slaughter of their countrymen. It was, then, but common prudence on the part of Lord Derby to decline thrusting his hand into a nest in which he was sure to find no honey, and certain to find wasps or hornets: