

CAPTURE BY MALAY PIRATES.

The *Gironde* publishes the following account of the capture by the Malay pirates of the French merchant vessel *Pauline et Victoire* of Bordeaux, as communicated to the governor of Timor by M. Lionel Hocquart, the mate:—

“On the 28th of September I was directed by Captain Desparmet to proceed in a boat and take soundings of a narrow strait through which the vessel had to pass. About five in the evening, as I was returning towards the vessel, I saw the captain's boat coming to meet me, and on getting alongside I was astonished to see the captain lying on a mattress in the stern sheets in a senseless state and covered with wounds. I was informed by the boat's crew that about one in the afternoon, just at the moment when the crew were at dinner, a large canoe containing fourteen men came alongside, and twelve of them immediately came on board. The captain, who was in his cabin at the time, ran on deck, and ordered the savages to quit the ship. Instead of obeying him, some of them sprang on him and seized him by the throat to strangle him, while others beat him with heavy weapons. The crew hearing the noise rushed to the assistance of the captain, and after a warm struggle the savages were compelled to retreat. While the conflict was going on, the vessel, which in the morning had several times touched the ground, struck, and became fast on a coral reef. About two o'clock twenty canoes were seen approaching the vessel, and as the crew were too weak in number to defend themselves against so many, it was resolved to abandon her, and every arrangement was immediately made for so doing. The *Pauline* being in the power of the savages, I thought it would be imprudent to approach her, and the two boats then steered together to the westward to reach Coupang and Timor. It was not until the third day that the captain was restored to sensibility, and that circumstance gave us all courage. Almost the first words he spoke was to ask me whither I was steering. I told him for Coupang, and he replied that the course was W. ½ N. In the night of the 2d of October I lost sight of the captain's boat, and although during the whole of the following morning I steered about in different directions, I could not discover her. I then resumed my former course, thinking the other boat had got the lead of me. We had scarcely a demi-john (a large jar) of water left, and I was at a distance of 200 leagues from the Island of Timor, the only place where we could get assistance. On the 5th October I got sight of the north-eastern point of the island. Being worn out with fatigue and in want of water, I was obliged to land and have recourse to the savages for a supply. In the evening of the same day I brought the boat to an anchor just without the breakers. A number of savages, all well armed, had assembled on the beach and made signs to us to land. I hesitated for some time, but at length our necessities required that we should come to some decision. A Spaniard, named Carlos Arquilla, having no weapons but a knife in his belt, jumped overboard and swam to the shore. He put himself in communication with the chief of the savages, and explained to him that we were in want of water. Some of the savages hastened off in search of coconuts and water, and with some difficulty, on account of the breakers, we got the supply on board the boat by means of a small line. I paid for it with some old clothes and the knife of Carlos, which the savages had much admired when he was on shore. As soon as I had got what we wanted, I had the grapple hauled up, and steered away for Coupang, where I arrived on the 14th. I was happy to there rejoin Captain Desparmet, who had reached the place three days before. The captain's health is rapidly improving. The crew are well, and are about to embark on board an English vessel about to leave for the Mauritius.”