
DREADFUL SHIPWRECK, AND LOSS OF LIFE.

The Bombay papers report that the Columbus, of 760 tons, bound to Singapore, commanded by an Arab, went to pieces, near Rutnagherry, on the 15th Aug. She had a crew of 40 men and 230 passengers, principally Malay pilgrims. Upwards of a hundred lives were lost. It appears that, six days before the wreck, the vessel sprang a leak, which on the third day increased so much that the pumps were useless, and, the salt having melted, the ship became water logged, and rolled so dangerously that the master determined to make for the nearest land. He put the ship before the wind, and crowded all sail on her for two days. On the evening of the 15th August, the wind was blowing hard at the time, with lightning and rain, the lead told them that they were in eight fathoms, then seven, when they shortened sail, and finally six, when they dropped anchor, although they could see no land. The anchor dragged, and soon after the cable parted, when the vessel struck and went to pieces almost immediately. All on board tried to save themselves by clinging to portions of the wreck, and many succeeded in reaching the land though wounded and bruised, through the surf hurling them ashore. On coming within a mile of Wurrodo, some brown objects were seen lying on the strand, within the wash of the waves; they were the bodies of a Malay, a Chinaman, and a Chinese woman, all perfectly naked and all with their skulls fractured, and fearful bruises on body and limb. For the next mile it was the same; every few hundred yards, men, women, and children all quite naked, frightfully wounded and bruised, lay dead on the sand and among the rocks in every conceivable attitude. Nearer the place where the vessel broke up were dead horses and other animals, and just opposite to where she struck, well up on the beach, was a large pile of broken beams, spars, ribs and planking, and tightly jammed between them, and under them, the dead bodies of men and horses, sheep, goats and fowls, Persian cats, Manilla dogs, and large rats, all beginning to decompose.
