

## DESTRUCTION OF AN ENGLISH SHIP BY CHINESE PIRATES.

The *Straits Times* of the 16th of July gives an account of the destruction by pirates of the brig *Louisa*, of Singapore. The vessel left Hong Kong on the 18th of May, 1864, and on the 30th was becalmed off the coast of Hainan, but not in sight of land, when she was attacked by what the gunner supposed to have been a Macao or Canton junk, heavily armed. The *Louisa* kept her off by constant firing of her bow gun until it became so much heated that it burst the breechings and fell overboard. The vessel was then, at the mercy of the junk, which having got under the brig's stern fired shot and shell into her cabin window for some time; the pirates then boarded, on which most of the crew of Malays, headed by the serang, threw some spars overboard, jumped after them, and swam away from the vessel. The mate was killed, the captain was shot in the thigh and dropped on the deck, and the gunner, though wounded in the breast by a musket ball, managed to throw the captain into the cabin, where he remained for about two hours. The pirates in the meantime ransacked the vessel's cargo, of which they took about one-half; they then dragged the captain on deck, cut the mate's dead body in half, cut off one of the captain's hands, and commenced torturing him by cutting off his toes to make him declare whether there was money on board the vessel or not; they at the same time threatened the life of the gunner and his wife—who seeing this threw his wife and child overboard and jumped after them with a board. Captain Ross threw himself after them and swam away from the vessel, the captain's son, a youth about ten years old, being taken on board the junk. The Chinese cook says, however, the pirates afterwards quarrelled among themselves about him, tied his hands, and threw him into the sea. After four hours Capt. Ross, exhausted with the loss of blood, sank. The gunner's child sank on leaving the vessel. As near as the gunner can tell, about ten o'clock at night he saw a vessel, which proved to be the *Young Greek*. He hailed her, and she heaved to, lowered a boat, and picked up the gunner and his wife. The *Louisa* at this time was on fire about two miles to leeward. The *Young Greek* lay to till morning, then sent a boat to the brig, which was at this time burnt to the water's edge, and took off the Chinese cook and passenger, who were in the water hanging to the anchor. Nothing was seen of any others of the crew, and the vessel proceeded to Bangkok. The gunner states that the captain and mate fought with great determination, and, but for the unfortunate accident to their gun, he thinks they would have beaten the junk off. Had it not been for the *Young Greek* heaving in sight, the *Louisa* would have added another to the list of missing vessels in the Chinese sea, for which, not unfrequently, typhoons are held responsible. The gunner and his wife, the Chinese cook, and Chinese passenger, suppose themselves to be the sole survivors of the crew of the unfortunate vessel.

The following is an extract from the log of the British barque *Young Greek*:—"At four p.m. light airs from S.S.E. Saw a column of smoke bearing S.E. 15 miles; supposed it to be a steamer. At five p.m. saw a boat with big sails standing towards us. Reasoning that the smoke was large in quantity and lighter coloured than a steamer's, concluded it to be a vessel on fire. Tacked ship and stood towards her, hoisted after-lights and fired several guns to attract boat's attention. At 11 p.m. passed close to leeward of the wreck, totally on fire. At 12 midnight tacked and stood back to windward. Fell in with and picked up two Malays, one man and one woman. The Malay then informed us that it was the brig *Louisa*, Captain Jas. Ross, of Singapore. Was attacked by pirates. They killed the chief officer and several of the crew; the remainder jumped overboard. The captain also jumped overboard, after having one of his hands chopped off. Getting very dark, and after lowering the boat a second time, and not succeeding in rescuing any of the remaining crew, we lay to until midnight, hoping to find some more of them. At daylight stood across to windward of the still burning wreck, hoping that the wreck would drift faster than a man on a spar or other buoyant article in the water. Not succeeding in finding any, stood towards the wreck, which was then burning to the water's edge, and found two more, who were hanging to the anchor. The pirates carried off the captain's boy, about ten years of age. She was attacked and set on fire in lat. 17° 20' N., long. 110° 40' E."  
"Bangkok, July 8."