

The Leeds Mercury
Tuesday, December 26, 1865

RUNNING AMOK.—Like other countries inhabited by Malays and Bugis, Singapore is subjected occasionally to the dangerous practice of amok running. In apparent obedience to some sudden impulse, a Malay, or Bugis, will arm himself with two large *kris*es, or daggers, one in each hand, and rushing from his house along generally the most crowded street in the neighbourhood, stab at random all who come in his way. As many as fifteen persons have been killed or seriously wounded, and many others slightly hurt by one of these amok runners before he was slain, but the killed always bear a small proportion to the wounded, as the strokes of the infatuated man fall promiscuously and are ill-directed. As soon as an amok runner makes his appearance, a warning cry is raised and carried on in advance of him all along the street. On hearing this cry a general rush into the houses is made of all the women and children and of all the men who are not armed—no attempt is made to capture the maniac alive, but he becomes a mark for the musket, spear, or *kris*, of every man who can obtain a favourable opportunity for attack. He ceases to be viewed as human, and is hunted down like a wild beast, yet it is surprising how long he will escape the death which is aimed at him from every side. Some of these unfortunate wretches have run the gauntlet of nearly a mile of street that was up in arms against them, and have temporarily evaded destruction, some for hours, and others for days. But the end is inevitable, they refuse to be captured, and are ultimately shot down or stabbed.—*Our Tropical Possessions in Malayan India.*