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The Foreign Office has received a despatch from Sir H. St. George Ord, the Governor-General of Penang, detailing the result of an expedition to the Nicobar Islands to rescue some European women and children captured by the natives, and to punish the latter for their numerous murders of crews of vessels which endeavoured to trade with the natives. A Liverpool merchant vessel called the *Futtay Islam*, trading to the Nicobar Islands, was attacked by the natives, and twenty-one out of twenty-four of her crew were murdered. This led to inquiries, which resulted in the procuring of evidence that white women and children were held in captivity by the natives and were exposed to the greatest brutality. The governor thereupon resolved on despatching her Majesty's ships *Satellite* and *Wasp* to endeavour to rescue any captives and punish the perpetrators of the outrages, and to take such steps as would impress upon the natives generally the danger of continuing their piratical attacks. One of the natives who was in the expedition ascertained beyond a doubt that a white woman and her two children had been a few months before alive on one of the islands visited. The lady is supposed to have been the wife of some person on board one of the ships seized by the savages about two years since. She gave birth to a child almost immediately after her capture, and after suffering the most terrible indignities, it was considered dangerous to allow her to live. After an ineffectual attempt to poison her and the two children, they were released from further suffering by being taken into the jungle and knocked on the head. The principal actor in this tragedy evaded capture and got away to the island of Katcheive, where, from its inaccessible character, he was safe from pursuit. He is said to have carried with him a white woman and two children. One of the little children however, after great exertion, was rescued, and is now in the charge of Captain Bedingfield, who commanded the expedition. On searching the villages, although they had been very careful to remove, as far as possible, everything that could give a clue to the detection of particular piracies, enough was found in the way of tools, seamen's chests, cabin fittings, and ship stores to show that a large number of vessels had been from time to time plundered by them, and as no wrecks were visible, it is almost certain that these things were obtained from vessels captured and afterwards sunk in deep water, a proceeding which they admitted they always adopted in these cases. Enough was, however, discovered to justify the expedition inflicting on the natives a severe retribution for their crimes, and the officers and men accordingly proceeded to destroy their houses and canoes, many of which were war canoes, seventy feet long. The cocoanut trees, with the produce of which they carried on their trade, were, in compliance with the governor-general's suggestion, spared. After completing their work at the central group as far as was considered necessary, the man Johnson (the native who had accompanied the expedition) was put ashore, a promise being held out that if he disclosed all he knew his property would be spared. He was entrusted by Captain Bedingfield with a book, in which was written in English and Malay a notification that the natives of the islands had been guilty of acts of piracy, plundering vessels, murdering their crews, and carrying off white women and children, who, after the vilest treatment, were put to death. This book was left with Johnson, to be shown to captains of men-of-war and merchant vessels visiting the island, who are requested to write in it the particulars of each ship's visit. The utmost efforts of the expedition to obtain any trace of the names of the four ships which, by the admission of the savages, have been captured and plundered, proved ineffectual. Although unsuccessful in rescuing the people who were in captivity, it is satisfactory to know they have been released from their terrible sufferings by death. There may be possibly still some more persons in captivity, but Captain Bedingfield thinks these are probably of a class not much above that of the natives themselves, and, therefore, their condition is not one of extreme hardship.