
THE POLICE COURTS.

THAMES.

A Malay named *Seaden*, boatswain on board the ship *Neva*, lying in the East India Dock, was brought up on remand, charged with causing the death of a Lascar seaman named Sali on board the same vessel.

The only evidence against the prisoner was that of John James, a Lascar seaman on the *Neva*. He said that while the vessel was lying at anchor in the dock at Barbadoes a quarrel ensued between the boatswain and Sali. About 11 o'clock the same night he heard a noise, and saw the prisoner knock Sali down, kick him, place him on a rail, and push him overboard. Twenty minutes afterwards the boatswain told the first mate Sali had jumped overboard.

Two Malay seamen on board were called, and they deposed on the night in question they were close alongside Sali, who was fishing, and that he fell overboard. One of them said the boatswain was not there at the time, and the other that he was in the fore-castle. The vessel stopped three weeks at Barbadoes after the occurrence, arriving in England on the 26th of August. During the whole of that time James made no complaint whatever to the captain, officers, or crew. The witness James assigned various reasons for not giving information of the occurrence, one of which was that he was afraid of the prisoner throwing him overboard; that the captain could not speak Malay, and the rest of the crew were of a different caste to him.

Mr. Lushington said, after hearing the evidence of the two men who were fishing on the deck at the time Sali went overboard, he could not doubt it was an entirely groundless charge, or that the prisoner had nothing to do with it. He discharged him, and said he could, if he thought proper, give the witness James into custody for perjury.