

Reynolds's Newspaper (London),
Sunday, October 3, 1875

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

THAMES.

ALLEGED MURDER.—On Monday, A Japanese, named Seedin, boatswain on board the British ship Neva, lying in the London Dry Dock, was brought before Mr. Lushington on the charge of causing the death of Sali, a Lascar seaman on the same vessel. John James, a Lascar sailor, deposed that one day, when the Neva was at anchor at Barbadoes, the prisoner abused Sali. On the same evening Sali was in the fore-castle, the boatswain being in bed. Witness saw the deceased come out by the fore hatch. About eleven o'clock at night witness heard a noise, and saw the prisoner knock Sali down, kick him, put him on a rail, and push him overboard. Witness heard a noise in the sea, and the water splashed up on deck. Twenty minutes afterwards the boatswain went aft and told the first mate that Sali had jumped overboard. The first mate looked about, but could not see the deceased, and returned to his berth. After twelve o'clock all hands went to sleep. In answer to the magistrate, the witness said he made no complaint of what he had seen or heard to the captain, mate, or crew, and the first person he told it to was a constable in the London Dock. The ship had been taking in cargo, and was at anchor. The vessel stayed in the harbour at Barbadoes three weeks after this happened. On the morning after Sali had been thrown overboard the defendant asked witness not to say anything about seeing any row that took place, and promised to give witness £1 ls. on the ship's arrival at Calcutta. The testimony of the witness was interpreted to the prisoner by Mr. Salter, of the Sailors' Home. In reply, the accused declared that the witness was not telling the truth. The prisoner also gave the names of several of the crew, who, he alleged, were fishing at the time of the occurrence, and saw the deceased fall overboard. Mr. Lushington ordered a remand. On Tuesday two Malay seamen, who were on board the vessel at the time of the alleged murder, were called, and they deposed that the deceased accidentally fell overboard. One of the witnesses said the boatswain was not there at the time, and the other that he was in the fore-castle. Mr. Lushington, after referring to the witness James not having said a word about the supposed crime till some days after the arrival of the vessel in London, expressed his belief that the charge was groundless, and that the prisoner had nothing to do with the death of the deceased. The magistrate then discharged the prisoner, adding that he might, if he thought proper, give James into custody for perjury.