

Northern Echo

Friday, November 5, 1875

We regret to learn that the British Resident at Perak, in the Malay Peninsula, has been murdered. Perak lies a little to the south of Penang, in the independent Malay States, not far from Salangore, a place which, till the last year or two, was notorious for its pirates. It will be remembered that Sir ANDREW CLARKE, the able and energetic Governor of the Straits Settlements, settled the sanguinary disputes which had long sealed the Malay territory to industrial and commercial enterprize, and induced the Rajahs of Perak and Salangore to accept British Residents, by whose advice they agreed to be guided in all affairs of importance. Mr BIRCH, the Resident appointed to the Court of the RAJAH of PERAK, has, it appears, been murdered, but the telegram gives no information as to the authors of this outrage. Troops were, yesterday, despatched from Penang to punish his murderers, but it is not stated whether they were private assassins, or whether Mr BIRCH met his fate at the hands of the RAJAH, who had requested that he should be stationed at his Court. Probably some of the factions whose struggles convulsed Perak before Sir ANDREW CLARKE composed their feuds, have resorted to arms, and, having gained a temporary advantage over the RAJAH, have taken the opportunity to kill Mr BIRCH. Whoever the criminals may be, they are likely to experience a prompt retribution. Perak is not far from the coast, it stands on a river, and our troops may be relied upon to give a good account of the murderers. Ultimately, these independent Malay States will have to be annexed; and the Malays, or Chinese, or whoever they may be, cannot hasten that process by any more effectual means than by murdering our Residents.
