

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OUTRAGE AT PERAK—GUY FAWKES DAY—
LORD DARNLEY—MR FOLEY'S WILL—GOVERN-
MENT CHARWOMEN—THE ATLANTIC CABLES.

Friday Evening.

SOME doubts exist at the Colonial Office as to the identity of the victim of the outrage at Perak, the news of which has just been received. There are two gentlemen of the name of Birch in the service of the Crown at the Straits Settlement, one of them Mr J. W. W. Birch, who was originally in the Ceylon Civil Service, and was appointed Colonial Secretary at the Straits Settlement in 1870, and who, as a rule, would reside at Singapore, the seat of the Government. The Colonial Secretary holds, however, the temporary and honorary post of British Resident at Perak, having for his assistant and deputy during his usual absence Capt. Speedy, who, it will be recollected, served as the Chief of the Intelligence Department on Sir Robert Napier's staff, during the Abyssinian campaign, and who was rewarded by being appointed by Her Majesty's guardian to Prince Alamaya, King Theodore's son. The other Mr Birch is, I believe, the son of the above-mentioned, and was appointed to the Straits Settlement civil service only a few years ago, and held the post of Collector of Land Revenue in the province of Wellesley, which is a narrow strip of land belonging to this country, to the north of the Malay province, of which Perak is the principal town. For many years Perak and Selangore have been a source of disquiet to the Straits Government, and it is only within the last year of Sir Andrew Clarke's administration that a treaty was entered into, by which British residents were to be stationed at these two capitals.

THE MURDER OF MR BIRCH.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received at the Colonial Office, from the Governor of the Straits Settlements, to the effect that the Lieut.-Governor of Remang had telegraphed on the 3d inst. that Mr Birch had been treacherously killed at Passir Sala, between Rhots and Durian, on the Perak river. Mr Birch appears to have been attacked while in his bath. His Malay interpreter is reported to have been killed, four of his suite wounded, and two missing. Energetic measures have been taken to bring to justice the perpetrators of this outrage, a detachment of troops having been sent from Singapore to Perak as well as a force of armed police. The Governor himself started for the Perak river yesterday to inquire into the state of affairs. Mr J. W. W. Birch, the Colonial Secretary at Singapore, has been acting as Resident at the Court of the Sultan of Perak. There is therefore every reason to fear that the Governor refers in his telegram to this officer, though the Christian names are not given.