

# Hampshire Telegraph

## Saturday, November 6, 1875

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### MURDER OF THE BRITISH RESIDENT AT PERAK.

We learn by telegraph that Her Majesty's ship *Pluto* arrived at Penang on Wednesday night, with the news that Mr Birch, the British Resident at Perak, had been murdered in Malayan territory. Troops started immediately for Perak, to punish the guilty parties.

The *Daily News*, commenting on this intelligence observes:—Perak is one of a number of small States of the Malay Peninsula which lie south of Lower Siam and the British province of Wellesley, to the east of those Straits of Malacca of which so much was heard at the last general election. It is not expressly stated that Mr. Birch met his death in Perak, but "in Malayan territory." Malay is at once a general geographical and a particular political expression: but if the occurrence had taken place in Malay proper or Malacca a different expression would probably have been employed. The excitability of the Malays is a proverb, and the act was most likely committed by somebody who had worked himself up to a state of madness. It will be followed, however, by swift punishment. Troops were sent off yesterday to apprehend the guilty parties. No costly expedition will be necessary, and no irritating "little war" is to be feared. The State of Perak contains less than 50,000 inhabitants, and its neighbours are not much larger.

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