

The Pall Mall Gazette (London), Thursday, November 11, 1875

EPITOME OF OPINION IN THE MORNING JOURNALS.

THE DISTURBANCES IN THE MALAY PENINSULA.

The *Times*, remarking upon the latest news from Penang, says that it materially aggravates the importance of the information previously received. The statement that "a religious war is expected" constitutes the main danger to be apprehended. A revival of the old fanaticism has for some years been spreading through the Mahomedan world, and the Dutch in Atchin have encountered of late most unwelcome evidence of the vigour with which it had seized upon the Malay population of the north of Sumatra. We need not, however, anticipate anything like the difficulties the Dutch have had to encounter; but we must not expect the successes of our troops to be immediately decisive. On the other hand, it is not impossible that the local apprehensions of the hour may somewhat exaggerate the indications of a religious war. There are not wanting some considerations to justify a hope that this may be the case, and the *Times* is not indisposed to believe that the troubles are due to the jealousy excited among the native States by recent British intervention. We need not call in question the wisdom or the necessity of these various acts of intervention. We may have been forced into them as we have been in India. But it is easy to see that they offer fresh possibilities for misunderstanding and for jealousy of British power; and though religious motives may now be imported into the difficulty, it is not necessary to resort to them to imagine its origin. We may, therefore, reasonably indulge a hope that the matter is somewhat less serious than it may at first seem. If it arose in any way from diplomatic intervention, it may, after a sufficient display of force, be permanently settled by the same means. But, whatever may be the course of affairs, it is to be hoped we shall be warned to restrict within the smallest limits possible our further intervention between these wild and inflammable communities.