

The Pall Mall Gazette (London),  
Saturday, November 13, 1875

SECOND EDITION, 2.30 p.m.

THE LATE MR. BIRCH.

A correspondent writes to us :—Mr. J. Woodford Birch, who has just been treacherously murdered at Perak, was no novice in the government of Mahomedans. For many years he was Government agent of the eastern province of Ceylon, where the population is largely Mahomedan and partly Malay. There Mr. Birch gained the confidence alike of the Colonial Office and the natives by his energy and good judgment, besides earning a reputation for himself as a crack elephant shot. When the Straits Settlements were constituted a Crown colony Mr. Birch was appointed its first Colonial Secretary upon the recommendation of Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of Ceylon. If, as is now reported probable, a religious war should break out on the Malay Peninsula, there would be some danger of its influence spreading to Ceylon. The Ceylon Rifle Regiment, disbanded about two years ago, was formerly recruited at the Straits, and in Colombo and other large towns there is a considerable sprinkling of Malays, and a still larger number of Mahomedan Mooimen. The best of the disbanded Rifles were drafted into the armed island police, while by far the greater portion were left to seek civil employment, or to wander discontented or desperate over the country.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR MALACCA.

HONG KONG, Nov. 11.—Major-General Colborne, eleven officers, and 300 men of the 80th Regiment left for Singapore by the English mail steamer to-day.