

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper  
Sunday, November 14, 1875

**THE MURDER OF THE RESIDENT AT PERAK.**

We have received the following communication from the Colonial office:—"Telegraphic intelligence has been received at the Colonial office from the Governor of the Straits settlements to the effect that the Lieutenant-governor of Penang had telegraphed on the 3rd inst. that Mr. Birch had been treacherously killed at Passir Sala, between Rhot 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."

[Perak is a State on the western coast of the Malay peninsula, bounded on the north by Quedah, on the south by Salangore, and on the west by the Straits of Malacca. The population of the State is 35,000, and its capital, Perak, is a small town on a river of the same name.]