

Trewman's Exeter Flying Post

Wednesday, November 17, 1875

THE OUTBREAK AT PERAK.—Telegraphic intelligence received at the Colonial office on Monday, throws some additional light upon the circumstances attending the murder of Mr. Birch in Perak. It appears that a proclamation had been issued and had been posted throughout Perak on the 1st November. Mr. Birch on that day telegraphed to Sir W. Jervois that the proclamation had been well received, and that all was quiet in Perak. On the following day, however, a Malay tore down the proclamation posted at Passir Sala, where the Resident was, and, on being struck by the Interpreter of the Residency, at once stabbed that officer. An affray followed, in which Mr. Birch, who was in his bath, was murdered. The force sent to punish the perpetrators of this outrage consisted of Captain Innes, R.E., Lieutenants Booth and Elliott, with sixty men of the 10th, Lieutenant Abbott, R.N., sixty Sikhs, and fifty police and Malays, with rockets. They arrived at the Residency on the 5th, and on the 6th marched through the jungle against the Maharajah Lela, in whose village the murder was committed, and who was found occupying a stockaded position. After an hour-and-a-half's fighting the European troops charged the stockade. In this charge Captain Innes was killed, and Lieutenants Booth and Elliott were wounded, and it was considered necessary to order a retreat, which was effected in an orderly manner, and not before the enemy had abandoned the stockade. The Governor telegraphs that the principal chiefs of Perak remain unshaken in their loyalty, and the Sultan has offered to assist with men and boats. He reports that the disturbances are still confined to a limited area, and that the Residency on the Perak river is securely held. He has at his disposal between 700 and 800 European troops, besides eighty artillery, and two men-of-war are on the station; others are expected, and, in addition, General Colborne sailed with 300 men of the 80th Regiment on the 11th for Singapore.