

THE MURDER OF MR BIRCH.

PENANG, Tuesday.—Mr Birch's body has been recovered in a mutilated condition. Captain Innes was killed fighting with the Malays.

The *Times*' Penang telegram states that the body of Mr Birch has been found tied to a tree. A general outbreak in the Malay peninsula is feared. Troops have been telegraphed for from Hong-Kong. The *Modeste*, *Thistle*, and *Fly*, war vessels, have arrived near Perak.

THE WAR WITH THE MALAYS.

PENANG, Nov. 10.—The Rajah of Lilla has ordered the districts of Larat, Singapore, and Perak, to take up arms. Jahore and Queda are friendly. The troops have retired to Baturabet, Sultan Abdoolia's residence, two miles below the Residency. The Ringdove and Egeria gunboats are expected from India. One thousand men, with artillery, are on their way from India. The Malays are ejecting the Chinese inhabitants, who are recruiting their forces in the outlying districts. A religious war is expected.

SINGAPORE, Nov. 10.—Governor Jervois has returned here from Perak. According to the latest reports, the body of Mr Birch was found in the river. 1500 British troops are on their way from Calcutta and Hong-Kong to take part in the further operations against the Malays.

PENANG, Nov. 12.—The Residency at Perak is now garrisoned by 800 British troops, supported by the gun vessels *Thistle* and *Fly*. Sultan Abdallah is friendly to the British. The murder of Mr Birch is believed to have been unpremeditated. The Malays, however, are arming for defence. The Governor (Jervois) is preparing to undertake military operations.

The Colonial Office sends the following for publication:—

"The telegrams received at this office to-day (Saturday) throw 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 of November. Mr Birch on that day telegraphed to Mr 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—consisting of Captain Innes, R.E.; Lieuts. Booth and Elliott, with 60 men of the 10th; Lieut. Abbott, R.N., 60 Sikhs and 50 police and Malays, with rockets—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 that 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 Perak River is securely held. He has at his disposal between 700 and 800 European troops; besides 80 artillery, and two men-of-war are on the station. Others are expected, and in addition, General Colbourne sailed with 300 men of the 80th Regiment on the 11th, for Singapore."

THE WAR WITH THE MALAYS.—A correspondent, who has had 18 months' experience on the Malay Coast, contributes to a morning contemporary, under the signature of "R.N.," some interesting information respecting the difficulties that will have to be encountered in the event of a campaign being undertaken in the peninsula by the British troops. The whole country is, he says, a densely wooded and well watered one, having a network of small rivers nearly all communicating with each other, flowing through a dense forest, through which there are only a few foot-paths, the whole of the carrying trade of the country being done on the rivers, which are perfectly navigable for their shoal rafts and canoes, but which after a few miles become impassable to European boats. The inhabitants are a most warlike and determined race of men, as has been proved during the late war between the Dutch and Acheenese. They are for the most part well armed, and they possess numerous strong stockades in all their rivers, and are most expert at building new ones. The Malay crease, which they all carry in addition to European arms, is often poisoned, and at all times inflicts most dangerous wounds; so that I much fear that, should the reports of the papers prove correct, we shall have a most tedious and difficult little war on our hands, and one which we shall no doubt find rather a more serious business than our late Ashantee campaign. None of the papers make any mention of a very faithful and intelligent ally of ours—the Sunka Dia Oudin of Klang—who, I expect, finds himself in rather a dangerous position, on account of the leading part he has always taken on our side on all occasions of difficulties amongst the Malays. I hope, however, he will not be forgotten by us, as he will be a most useful friend, having one of the most navigable rivers in his possession, a fairly drilled force of native soldiers under European officers, and a small fleet of schooners and a steam launch or two.