

The Belfast News-Letter
Wednesday, November 17, 1875

THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

The *Times* says that one thing we must continue to do and that is to keep open our communications with the East; but we should merely be running our heads against a wall if we were literally to repeat the exact demands which were defensible on the eve of the Crimean war. The present crisis threatens to be incomparably more important than that which Canning had to face, and a slavish adherence to a rigid set of rules would be incomparably more dangerous.

The *Standard* asks the question, "What is to be our future policy towards the Malay States?" and proceeds to answer it by saying that we cannot hope to solve it by railing petulantly at the intervention of the British in Malay affairs. We must in some shape continue that intervention, and the only real choice is between covering the country by residents—a plan which has been tried and which has not answered, and extending our dominion over at least so much coast as lies between the province of Wellesley and Singapore.
