

## The Hull Packet.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19, 1875.

### ANOTHER "LITTLE WAR."

CONSIDERABLE uneasiness prevailed for some days last week—and which is not yet entirely removed—with regard to the state of affairs in the Malay peninsula, which threatened another of those little, but not on that account unimportant, wars, to the liability to which, from the wide extent of our colonial empire, we are unavoidably exposed. The circumstances in which this difficulty has arisen are as follows:—Sultan ISMAIL, the pretender to the Chieftainship of Perak, who was set aside by Sir ANDREW CLARKE in favour of the elected chief ANJOLAH, plotted, and, to some extent, organised an attack on Europeans. In consequence of this the Residency was attacked on the first or second of the present month, and Mr. BIRCH, the resident, was murdered in his bath during an affray which followed on a Malay tearing down a proclamation which had been posted at Passin Sala, where the Resident was. A force consisting of about 60 men of Her Majesty's 10th Regiment, 60 Seiks, and 50 native police, and commanded by Capt. INNES and three lieutenants, was sent to punish this outrage; and having encountered the insurgents, who occupied a stockaded position, a fight which lasted one hour and a half ensued, in the course of which Captain INNES was killed, and two of the lieutenants—Messrs. BOOTH and ELLIOTT—wounded. It was then found necessary to order a retreat, and a larger force of nearly 1,000 European soldiers, well-armed, and two ships of war, are on the station, and five hundred more are expected soon to arrive. The uneasiness which at first prevailed as to the extent to which disaffection might prevail in the peninsula has been greatly lessened by the publication of a telegram to the Government, which states that the principal chiefs of Perak remain unshaken in their loyalty, and that the SULTAN has offered to assist with men and boats. The disturbances, he states, are confined within a very limited area, and the Residence on the Perak river is securely held. There is no reason for anxiety as to the result of this attempt at defying our authority, as the troops that in a few days will be concentrated at the scene of war from Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Calcutta will be sufficient promptly to suppress the insurgents; but the question of grave difficulty that arises is—how are we in future to maintain our authority in these Malay States? It will be remembered that when Mr. DISRAEL, referred to this subject at the general election

near, and pointed out the important interests connected with it, he was met by a torrent of verbal ridicule, to which Mr. GLADSTONE himself brought a contribution in the form of his "rattled rhyme chaunted on Blackheath about 'the Straits of Malacca' and 'the Straits of Malacca.'" The question of this sort was quite too small to attract the attention of the party of great principles, so they laughed to scorn the meaning that Mr. DISRAELI gave of its importance. But now times are changed, and those who laughed at the laugh of ignorance are now the most seriously impressed with the gravity of the case.