

THE MALAY DISTURBANCE.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Thursday that the 3rd Buffs were to start for Perak yesterday. The 1st Ghorkhas are expected from the Punjab today, and will follow with artillery shortly. The 21st Fusiliers, from Madras, and four Engineer officers, are also under orders for the Straits Settlements.

A correspondent calls attention to an agent which plays an important part in Atchinese, and, presumably, in Malay warfare generally. The "randjoes" consist of slips of bamboo, of about 8in. in length, deeply notched at the middle, sharpened, and sometimes hardened by fire at either end. Hundreds of these are sunk in rows, half way, and obliquely, at an angle of about 45 degrees, in the earth, in front of the approaches to their "bontongo," or the more solid structure, or "kraton," which surrounds the residence of their Sultan. To barefooted troops they are especially annoying, as the bamboo slips can so much the readier penetrate, and having done so, either break off at the notch and stick fast in the sole, or else dangerously wound the artery which runs just behind the inner side of the ankle. Wounds made by these "randjoes" are further very slow in healing, as a quantity of the fibrous tissue of the bamboo is generally left in them, thus acting effectually as an irritant. A soldier may thus be rendered unfit for duty by one of these seemingly trifling wounds for six weeks at the least. I have in my possession (adds the correspondent) some iron "randjoes," which were, however, probably on account of the material, very rarely in use. These are rudely made; each of two slender pieces of iron about 3in. in length, sharp, and barbed at either end, and fastened together in the middle at right angles, each being further bent at a right angle, so that when the "randjoe" is thrown upon the ground, three of the limbs either rest upon or sink into the earth, while the remaining one projects upwards, to the detriment of the foot of man or horse. An officer of artillery informed me that such implements are in use for savage warfare in our Service, under the not inappropriate name of "crow's-feet." They are further interesting from their resemblance, both in use and appearance, to the "caltrops" of ancient warfare.

The *Times* is requested to state that the Mr. Birch who was murdered at Perak is not related to Mr. Arthur N. Birch, who in 1871-2 was Acting Lieutenant-Governor at Penang.

It is very unfortunate that telegraphic communication between Madras and Penang is for a time suspended, the marine cable having been injured. It is said that it will take at least a fortnight to repair the cable.