Northern Echo
Tuesday, November 23, 1875

THE WAR IN THE MALAY PENINSULA.

The Colonial Office, last night, forwarded the following information for publication :—

A telegram from Singapore, dated 21st instant, received *viâ* the Nagasaki and Wladinstock Line, states that General Colborne, with 300 men of the 80th Regiment, left Singapore for Perak on Thursday. The *Ringdove* and *Egeria* had also started for Perak on Monday. The troops from the Perak Residency shelled and took four stockades at the village of Passir Sala, where Mr Birch was murdered. Mr Birch's property was found in the house of the Maharajah Rela. The troops afterwards returned to the Residency. Satisfactory news had been received from Mr Davidson, the acting Resident in Salangore, up to the 8th inst.

In the official statement respecting the recent outbreak in Perak, furnished by the Colonial Office on the 13th inst., it was stated that the affray in which Mr Birch was murdered arose out of the tearing down by a Malay of a proclamation which was issued and posted throughout Perak on the 1st of November, but the nature of this proclamation was not stated. The *Straits Observer* of the 19th of October contains the text of a document, dated Singapore, October 15, which is probably the proclamation referred to. After referring to the unsettled state of Perak, the disputes among the chiefs, and to the fact that the British Government had incurred, on behalf of the Government of Perak, "financial responsibilities for which there is no adequate security under the present system of Government," the proclamation continues :—

"And whereas the Sultan of Perak and other chiefs of that country, with the view of reconciling opposing factions and promoting order and good government in the country of Perak, have requested Her Britannic Majesty's Government to administer the Government of Perak in such way and manner as Her Britannic Majesty's Government may think most beneficial; now, this is to make known to all people that, in compliance with the request of the said Sultan and chiefs of Perak, Her Britannic Majesty's Government have determined to administer the Government of Perak in the name of the Sultan, and to this end His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements is about to appoint officers, who will be styled Commissioners and Assistant-Commissioners of Her Majesty the Queen, to carry on the Government of the State under His Excellency's instructions; further, that the Sultan of Perak has invested such British officers as are or may be accredited to His Highness from time to time as such Commissioners or Assistant-Commissioners, as aforesaid, with powers to issue and enforce proclamations and orders, and generally to administer the Government of Perak. And this is further to make known that a Malay Council, consisting of Rajas of Perak of the highest rank, will be appointed to aid the aforesaid Commissioners in matters touching the affairs of the Government of Perak."