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OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The information just published from the Colonial Office with reference to the disturbances in the Malay Peninsula, and which was anticipated in the extract from the *Straits Observer* printed by us last Monday, is certainly most important, and at first sight, it must be admitted, a little startling. From this it would appear that, previous to the outbreak which occurred on the murder of Mr. Birch, the relations of the British Government towards Perak had assumed an entirely new form, and that the policy of Sir Andrew Clarke had received an unexpected development in the hands of Sir W. Jervois. By a proclamation dated the 15th of October, and signed by the Governor of the Straits Settlements, it was announced that "her Majesty's Government, in compliance with the request of the Sultan and the chiefs of Perak, have determined to administer the Government of Perak in the name of the Sultan; and that to this end the governor is about to appoint officers who will be styled Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of the Queen, to carry on the Government of the State, and that a Malay Council of Rajahs of Perak of the highest rank will be appointed to aid the said Commissioners in matters touching the affairs of the government of Perak." It cannot be denied that this has very much the appearance of assuming "the responsibilities of annexation" in Perak; but it is not yet certain that this is the true state of the case, and until we get further particulars it is premature to discuss the question whether the annexation or quasi-annexation of territory is or is not a step too important to be settled by a colonial governor on his own responsibility.
