



THE WAR WITH THE MALAYS

THE conflict in Perak seems to have originated in much the same way as most of our other difficulties with dark-skinned semi-civilised tribes. We get a footing on their coast for the purposes of trade, and in the actual settlement itself British law and order prevail. But as our commercial operations usually soon spread far beyond the limits of our colony proper, our people get into difficulties and disputes in regions where British jurisdiction does not exist. A demand arises for annexation. This was the case in Perak, a territory governed by a quasi-independent Sultan and his chiefs. Sultan Abdullah was persuaded to consent to the publication of certain proclamations which practically handed over the country to British rule. The posting of the bills announcing this momentous transfer not unnaturally aroused the wrath of the more patriotic inhabitants, but they committed both a crime and a blunder when they treacherously murdered Mr. Birch, the Resident at Perak, for in posting these proclamations

he was simply doing his duty as the servant of the British Government, and the murder has been avenged by a war in which numbers of the Malays have been slain (for brave as they may be they cannot stand against a force armed with rockets, and all the other appliances of modern warfare), their villages have been burnt, their crops devastated, and before long the survivors will find themselves compelled to submit to British rule, and their country overrun by a swarm of immigrant Chinese, whose patient untiring industry overcomes all obstacles.

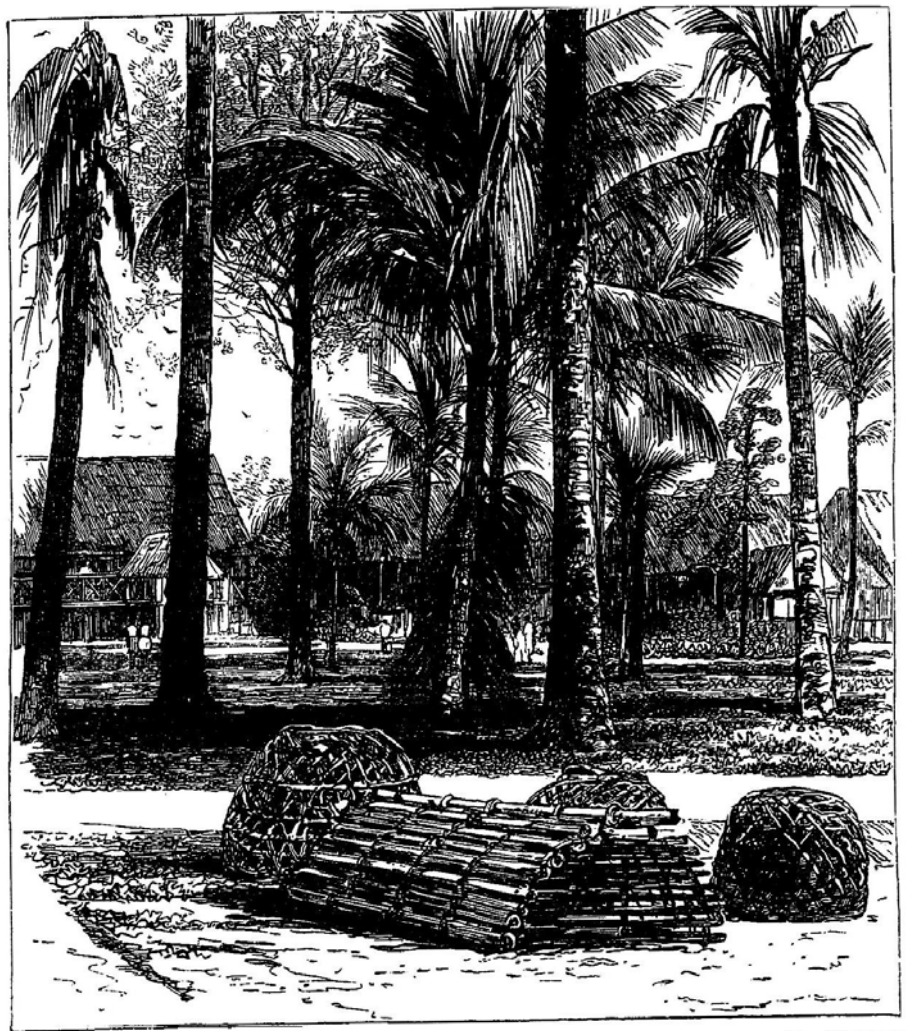
Our engravings need little explanation. One of them represents the temporary Residency at Banda Bahru, on the Perak River, where Mr. Birch lived. After the murder the building was fortified by Lieut. T. F. Abbott, of the *Thistle*, and although his force only consisted of four blue-jackets, fifty Sepoys, and a few Chinese volunteers, he successfully warded off an attack till reinforcements arrived. The second sketch gives a view of the Barracks at Banda Bahru, from the site of the proposed new Residency. Here under the basket-work erections in the right foreground Mr. Birch and Captain Innes lie buried. Captain Innes was killed, it will be remembered, in an attack on a Malay stockade, about a week after Mr. Birch's murder. In this attack, owing to the inefficiency of their native contingents, the Europeans suffered with disproportionate severity. The third sketch depicts the attack on the 4th of January on the village of Kotah Lama on the Perak River. This village is situated about 1½ miles from the British Camp at Qualla Kangsa. It was taken by a portion of the forces under the command of Brigadier-General Ross, C.B. It was only intended that the houses of some notorious outlaws should be destroyed, but owing to the determined resistance shown the whole village was burnt. The sketch shows one of the chief's houses, where the Malays made a steady charge after firing a volley into the troops to cover the advance of their spearmen; their fire did no harm, thanks to the thickness of the jungle, but not so the charge of the spearmen, which weapon they use with the greatest dexterity. Major Hawkins was one of the first to fall, Dr. Townsend then received two wounds, two of the Naval Brigade and one Ghorka were killed, and two wounded.

At the left hand corner of the sketch are a portion of the Naval Brigade, which were under the command of Captain Garforth; at the right hand corner is the body of Major Hawkins near the fence of a paddy field. The houses are thatched with palm leaves, and the walls are made of split bamboo; they are, when near a river, invariably raised from the ground about five feet on hardwood posts.—The two first-named sketches are from photographs by a newspaper correspondent at the seat of war, and are kindly lent to us by Mr. Hancock, of 55, Parliament Street. The other is by an officer who was in the fight above described.

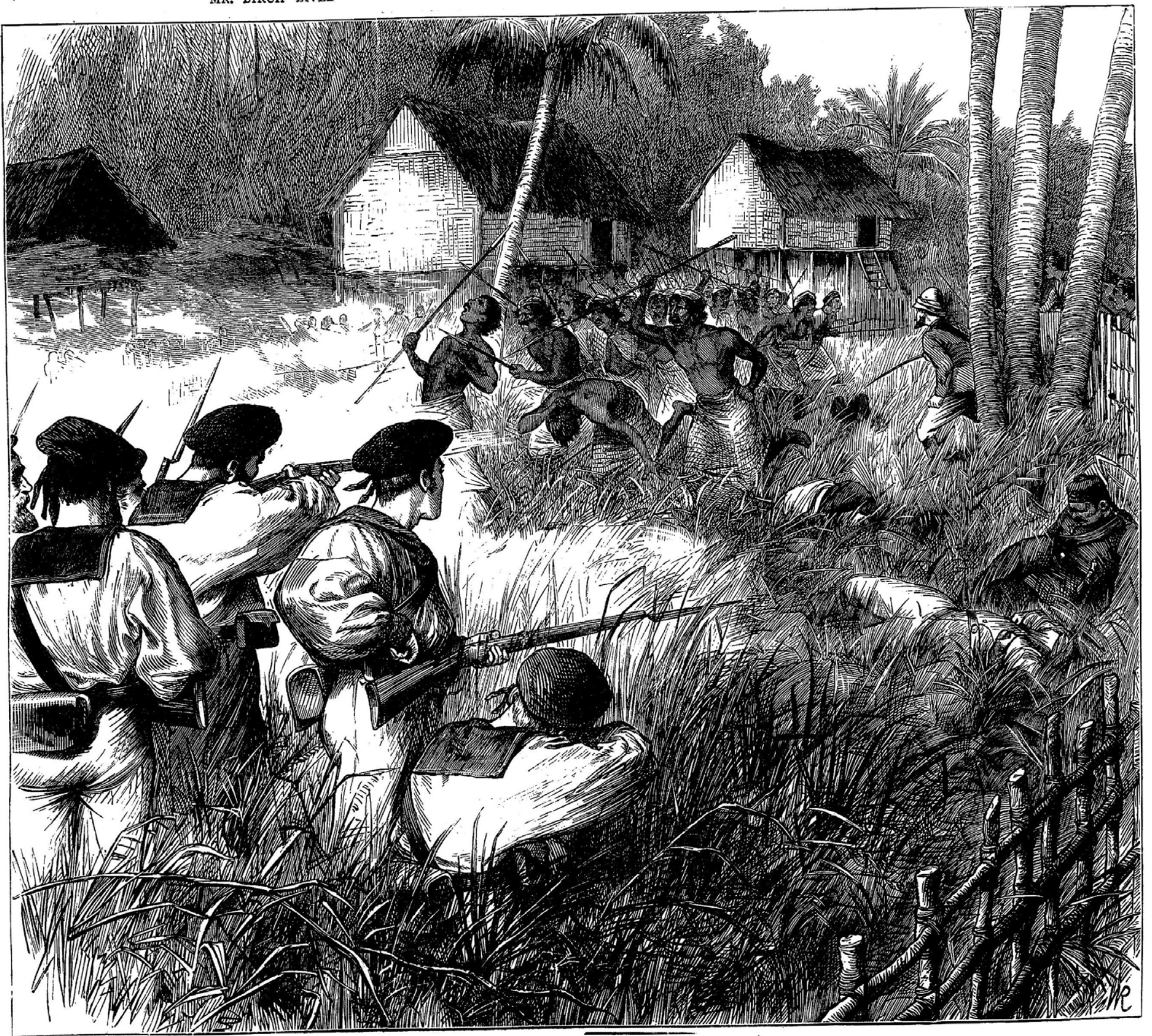
THE WAR IN THE MALAY PENINSULA



TEMPORARY RESIDENCY AT BANDA BAHRU, PERAK RIVER, WHERE MR. BIRCH LIVED



THE BARRACKS AT THE RESIDENCY, BANDA BAHRU, WITH THE GRAVES OF MR. BIRCH AND CAPT. INNES



ATTACK ON THE VILLAGE OF KOLAH LAMA ON THE PERAK RIVER