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Singapore by land, where he made known the circumstances to the owners of the vessel and cargo. The parties interested forthwith sent off six cargo boats; and the nakodah himself returned to Tree Island, when the *Helen* was surrounded by Malay fishermen in sampans, but they made no attempt at plunder.

He subsequently procured at Singapore some spars, ropes, &c., with a view of raising the *Helen*, and on reaching her he found the Raja Jaffier, with three prows, from the Carimons. The raja, being a professed friend, inquired very minutely into all the circumstances connected with this his misfortune; and after ascertaining all the particulars, sent two of his prows to the Carimons, and remained at Tree Island himself. The crew commenced to load the boats with such of the cargo as was at hand. As there was no appearance of the wind abating, Goan-sing came to the determination of sending the empty boats back to Singapore, there being no probability of raising the vessel that tide. Goan-sing therefore requested the gunner and crew to remain in charge of the vessel, while he proceeded to Singapore with the cargo and boats. The gunner said he was afraid to remain. The nakodah requested the raja, as his friend, to remain with the gunner and protect his property until he returned from Singapore. The raja promised to stay by the vessel, or at all events to leave some of his men to defend the property against the attacks of pirates until Goan-sing returned. Upon this promise, Goan-sing left for Singapore with the boats and cargo, where he arrived the same night about nine o'clock. About eleven o'clock the gunner and crew also arrived here, saying that they had been expelled from the island by a party of Malays acting under the orders of Tanku Abdul Rahman, son of the Raja Moodah of Rhio, and the Raja Moodah's representative at the Carimon Islands.

It appears that about two hours after Goan-sing left Tree Island, a boat with five men arrived from the Carimons, with a letter from Abdool Rahman to Raja Jaffier, ordering him to send the crew away from the vessel, take charge of her, and bring such party of the cargo as remained to the Carimons. Raja Jaffier then set sail for the Carimons, leaving the panglima, Abdul Lattib, the bearer of the letter from Rahman, in charge. The gunner wishing to save some more of the cargo, ordered his men to dive for the tin, and on a slab being brought up, he was in the act of putting it into his boat, when the panglima put his hand to his kris, and threatened to stab him if he attempted to take away another article belonging to the wreck. The panglima then had the tin put into his own boat, and ordered the gunner and crew to depart forthwith, or

he would kris every man of them. Shortly after the crew had left the wreck, they saw Raja Jaffier's boat put about and return to Tree Island.

The fact of the crew having been thus forcibly driven from their vessel was communicated to the authorities here, and four boats and a party of sepoys were immediately put under the orders of the master-attendant, who proceeded to Tree Island, where he found Raja Jaffier in a prow with sixteen men, all armed. When the master-attendant came up to him, he inquired who and what he was; the raja replied that he was guarding the wreck by order of the Raja Moodah's son of Rhio, and produced the letter. He was then asked what he had in his prow, and he replied, nothing. It turned out, however, that the ropes in his prow were the lashings of the spars. He likewise had some sheathing copper, bolts, rigging and other articles, of which he had plundered the schooner. The master-attendant brought him and his crew to Singapore, and we regret to say, without leaving any one in charge of the vessel. The raja, after undergoing several examinations before the magistrates, has been discharged, in consequence of the evidence which was produced against him not being considered sufficient to warrant them in committing him.

It is proper to add that the account given of this transaction in the *Chronicle* has been accused by the government of Singapore as imperfect and objectionable.

In a subsequent paper it is stated that "the local authorities here have lately sent the *Active*, with Acho on board, in quest of the panglima Go. Acho is not only personally acquainted with that pirate, but also with his principal places of resort, as he was about four months in the same prow with him, during which time they visited most of the haunts of these marauders in the straits of Malacca, between Penang and the Carimons; and, from this circumstance, it is to be hoped that there is some chance of their shortly succeeding in capturing him."

THE BUGIS.

The following character of the Bugis is given in a letter published in the *Singapore Chronicle* of Dec. 31, giving an account of the murder of Capt. Graveson and part of his crew at Semerindon, a Bugis campong on the Cotti river, by a person who was imprisoned by the Bugis. The editor of the *Chronicle* states that the gloomy description exactly coincides with the accounts he has received from Bugis and other nakodahs, who allege that these people, in their hostility to the English, are actuated chiefly by feelings of revenge, as they suffered so much from the British during the war.

"In all the native states of Borneo,

particularly those to the north-east coast, from Point Salatan to the northern extremity, Point Sooloo, bordering on the sea-coast, may be seen abundance of articles belonging to European vessels. It is impossible to see the number of figure-heads of vessels stuck up in various quarters of the campongs, throughout the country of Cotti, and other territories adjoining, without reflecting on the dreadful fate of the crews of such vessels as have been cut off or wrecked on this inhospitable coast. In all such transactions the Bugis are always principally concerned, who never yet spared a European when once within their power. The fact is, the people are jealous of others participating in their trade, the profits on which are enormous. Indeed the Bugis are by far the most intelligent traders amongst these islands, of which, in a great measure, they may be said to be absolute masters. Every Bugis is served by Malay slaves, whilst, on the contrary, it is a rare occurrence to find a Bugis slave serving a Malay master; but, beyond doubt, the Bugis are the most mercenary, blood-thirsty, inhuman race of the whole, not excepting the Diaks, the most deadly foes to all Europeans whenever they get them in their power. It is utterly impossible to deal with them excepting in European settlements, and even then they should not be trusted beyond the range of guns."

Malacca.

SLAVERY CASE.

At a court of quarter session, on the 10th Nov., a female named Domina, was charged on the oath of Daniel Kock, complainant, with having left his service without permission, and now refusing to return to the same. Defendant pleaded ill usage, as the ground of her leaving complainant, and denied his right to her further services.

Complainant being called upon by the court to shew cause why defendant should not be discharged, alleged that he acquired right to her services on the 25th Sept. 1812, by virtue of a certain deed in his possession, duly registered in conformity with certain regulations subsequently made and passed by authority of the Dutch supreme government; and further that he had never since parted with such his individual right in any way whatever, but that she had remained under his roof as a household domestic ever since he so became possessed of her, until about the month of May last, when she departed without his permission and against his will.

The deed alluded to by the complainant was produced and proved. The original registry of slaves kept at Malacca (according to certain regulations passed by

the Governor-general in Java in July 1819), opened in 1819 and closed in December 1820, was also produced. Evidence was likewise adduced as to the practice regarding slaves under Mr. Cracroft, Major Mackenzie, Mr. Presgrave, and Mr. Garling, former residents at Malacca. A Dutch almanac for the year 1820, printed at the Batavian government press, was then produced by the complainant, who pointed out the regulation before alluded to, and declared the same, in its present form, to be an authentic document, and one which, in a Dutch court of justice, would be received in evidence as such.

Sevinus Klassen, being sworn, stated that he had been a resident at Malacca since 1784, at which time slavery existed at Malacca. The head constable then exercised the power of punishing slaves when complained against by their owners. He remembered the English taking Malacca in 1795; that court of justice was continued, Dutch laws were administered, and that slavery existed as before. He remembered the Dutch flag being again hoisted at Malacca; but could not say in what year. The same law continued in force, and the same system was afterwards pursued with regard to the slaves. He also remembered the English coming the last time, but could not recollect the year; neither did he know whether the laws had been altered or not.

This is the substance of what was brought forward by the complainant, and the following is the decision of the magistrates:

"Considering the several facts, and the absence of a professional judge, and that this is the first time, since the introduction of British law into the territory of Malacca, that the important question of a right to such a description of property as a slave, acquired at a period when such a right was legally recognized and could have been maintained, has incidentally arisen in the course of a judicial investigation before a tribunal, competent in all other respects to inquire of, hear and determine, the alleged offence of the wilful absenting of one person from the service of another, who claims a right, upon cause to be shewn, to his or her labour. The magistrates now assembled, in conjunction with the hon. the president, and the hon. resident councillor, as lay Judges of his Majesty's court of judicature, are of opinion that the ends of public justice will be best consulted, and the rights of private individuals more equitably guarded, by the court viewing the defendant in the light of a servant, engaged to serve her master for a certain period—that is to say, pending the final decision of the general question to be referred forthwith to the highest competent authority, viz. 

1st. "Whether the slaves, registered as