

ANNALS

OF THE

HONORABLE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,

FROM THEIR

ESTABLISHMENT BY THE CHARTER

OF

QUEEN ELIZABETH,

1600,

TO

THE UNION OF THE LONDON AND ENGLISH

EAST-INDIA COMPANIES,

1707-8.

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1810.

CHAP. III. the Herne, on the United Company's account, with a cargo,
 1705-6. amounting to 225,018 rupees.⁽¹⁾

Report on
 the state of
 trade at Ban-
 jar-Massin.

The report on the state of trade at BANJAR-MASSIN, in BORNEO, which, on the whole, was rather favourable in the preceding season, continued, in this, to give hopes, that this Settlement would be placed in security, and that pepper, its staple produce, would become a valuable import of the United Trade. A grant had been obtained from the King, for a free trade, without any objection being made to the fortifications which were carrying on, for the defence of the Factory and port; but the Natives were inimical, notwithstanding this grant, and as the season advanced, manifested their aversion so strongly, that a supply of soldiers was absolutely necessary, there not being above eighteen European soldiers, fit for duty, and the whole Europeans in the Settlement not exceeding forty in number; a force which was inadequate, when it was considered, that four hundred people were at work on the fortifications.

The garrison
 at Pulo Con-
 dore massa-
 cred by the
 Malays, and
 the station
 lost.

At the close of this year, the most afflicting accounts reached Borneo, of an insurrection, by the Malay soldiers, on the Island of PULO CONDORE, on the 2d March 1704-5:—these revoltors first set fire to the Company's warehouses, and then murdered President Catchpoole, and the greatest part of the English

(1)—Letters from the United Council in Bengal to the Court of Managers, 30th November 1705, 17th January, and 15th February 1705-6.— Letters from the Separate Council for the English Company to the Court of Directors of that Company, 5th and 26th December 1705.

English on the Island. To this treachery the Malays were supposed to have been instigated by the Cochin Chinese, that they might get possession of the remainder of the Company's treasure, estimated at twenty-two thousand tales Mr. Baldwin, one of the Factors, who escaped this massacre, after many hardships, arrived at Banjar-Massin, on the 18th January 1705-6; but he was ignorant of the fate of the surviving English on Pulo Condore, and supposed that the Company's books must have been burnt with their warehouses.

CHAP. III.
1705-6.

Such was the fate of a Settlement which President Catchpoole had projected, and which the Court of Directors of the English Company formed, on the presumption that it might become a market for the sale of English goods in China, and for obtaining China produce, without being exposed to the vexatious oppressions of the officers in the ports of that Empire. The effect of this event on the new establishment at Banjar-Massin, it was apprehended, might be serious, and, therefore, the Agent repeated his request for a supply of twenty cannon, and of soldiers sufficient to make up a strong garrison; the re-inforcements from Pulo Condore, on which they had more immediately depended, having been, thus, unfortunately cut off.

The report on the pepper trade of Banjar-Massin, in substance, was, that though the crop had been abundant, the price was high, owing to the number of Chinese junks which were frequently arriving, and purchasing it, and that it was doubtful, whether the Agent and Council would be able to fill up the six ships which had arrived from Europe, amounting

CHAP. III. amounting, together, to sixteen hundred and fifty tons;—he,
1705-6. therefore, submitted, that two ships, only, should be appointed for this port, in the subsequent season :—that, however, if sufficient stock should be sent, he would be able to purchase the whole cargoes of the Chinese junks, and thus engross the trade in pepper ; but that fifty thousand dollars would be necessary for this purpose, and an annual supply of ten thousand dollars, in Coast and Bay goods, which might be disposed of, in Borneo, with advantage.⁽¹⁾

(1)—Letters from the Agent and Council at Banjar-Massin, in Borneo, to the Court of Managers, 28th May, 2d June, 7th and 8th October 1705, 31st January, 4th February, and 23d March 1705-6.— Letter from Mr. Baldwin to the Court, giving an account of the Massacre at Pulo Condore, dated Banjar-Massin, 14th February 1705 6.