

THE
ASIATIC JOURNAL

AND
MONTHLY REGISTER

FOR
British India and its Dependencies:

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VOL. XVII.

JANUARY TO JUNE, 1824.



LONDON :

PRINTED FOR KINGSBURY, PARBURY, & ALLEN,
BOOKSELLERS TO THE HONOURABLE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,
LEADENHALL STREET.

1824.

Miscellaneous Notices.

The brig General de Kock, belonging to Messrs. Thornton and West, on her passage from Batavia to Samarang, with a valuable cargo of English goods, &c., was taken by Malay pirates off Indramago Point, on or about the 28th of October, and the captain and mate, after receiving several severe wounds, jumped overboard; the captain was picked up the following day, clinging to a fish stake, by a coasting vessel, which arrived at Batavia on the 2d of Nov. Mr. Thornton, supercargo, was kept on board by the piratical crew, who demanded a ransom for him of a few chests of opium and 10,000 dollars. His friends had sent from Batavia, and hopes were entertained of saving him from those marauders.

The Straits of Java have been long infested by these pirates. The day before the General de Kock was taken, a Dutch ship was attacked by twelve Malay prows, who beat them off after three hours' hard fighting.

Mr. Thornton, Supercargo of the General de Knock, who had been taken by the pirates off Batavia, was safe, having been conveyed to one of the Leeward Islands; the Rajah had interfered, through his former kindness to some Malays, and he was expected to return to Batavia about the 15th December, with the grateful feelings of his friends, who were alarmed for the preservation of his life.

Mr. Thornton, the English merchant who had been taken in October last by the pirates who infest the Java seas, was not released when the Windsor passed the Straits of Sunda. They stripped and dressed him in their own fashion, and placed him, as they term it, in *mild* slavery, although the high ransom they demanded was beyond all reasonable propriety. It was expected he would be restored to his friends by the intercession of the Dutch Government at Batavia, the English at Singapore, and the Malay Government.

Letters have been received from Batavia, dated the 26th March. The General Kock, brig, which had been captured by the Malay pirates near Batavia, was burnt at Borneo. Mr. Thornton, supracargo, was still at the island of Retty, and the Malays continued to demand 40,000 dollars as a ransom, but his friends were hesitating as to the propriety of giving such an unreasonable and exorbitant sum ; and by holding out it was expected he would be soon restored to his friends.

Mr. Thornton.—By the *Philotaxe*, arrived from Java, we have letters dated April 10, at which time the British merchant, Mr. Thornton, was still in custody of the pirates, by whom he had been conveyed to Borneo, in expectation of a larger ransom. As no direct communication has been made by that gentleman, his friends and relations are ignorant of the treatment which he receives. The *Philotaxe* was boarded off the West-India islands by a privateer, professing to be from Buenos Ayres, and plundered of a considerable quantity of coffee and pepper.