

THE
ASIATIC JOURNAL

AND
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FOR
British India and its Dependencies :

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1821.

**SUMATRA, — JAVA.—
CELEBES, &c.**

DUTCH :

Expeditions against Palembang, and Macassar.—Pirates.*—Army and Finances.—Dearth and Failure in Salt-works, &c.—Loss of the Galates.—Volcano, &c.*

A very extensive armament was equipping at Java to make another attempt against Palembang, which it is stated is to consist of 5,000 European troops, and to be commanded by Gen. de Kock. A seventy-four has been cut down, and her sides filled up six feet deep with timber, to oppose against the batteries there.

It appears to be the prevailing opinion at Java, and credited by the government, that the Malays at Palembang are organized and guided by some Europeans, without whose aid it is considered impossible that they could have any idea of the formidable and well directed resistance made against the late expedition; and although the present force is stated to be so extensive, and composed of all the disposable means of the Java government, very faint hopes are entertained of its success.

The chief person suspected of directing the Malayan forces at Palembang, is a Frenchman, who served under Buonaparte as an engineer officer with great credit, and subsequently embarked for Batavia in the Dutch service, as a non-commissioned officer; but a spirit of adventure and ambition had induced him to desert, and employ his abilities where they were better estimated and most profitable to himself. Another French officer is mentioned as being similarly circumstanced at Palembang.

It is stated that the expedition is to sail about the beginning of July from Sourabaya, to avoid the sickness which generally prevails at Batavia, and to which the late failure had, in a great measure, been attributed.

The pirates, it is said, have become very daring on the coast of Java, several instances of plunder had occurred even in Batavia roads; cargo boats have been cut off in the presence of the ships to which they were consigned, no means of defence or security against them being spared from the expedition now equipping.

A great scarcity of rice prevailed at Batavia, which was sold at 100 dollars per coyan; the Government was obliged to throw open the public granaries to supply the inhabitants.

The Dutch admiral in a seventy-four, and a sloop of war, with several armed

schooners, were at anchor in Minto Roads. A large frigate, two sloops of war, and several armed schooners, were stationed at the northern entrance of the Palembang River, closely blockading the place.

The Governor Petrie and the *Mary Ann*, of Madras, have been bought up by the Dutch. The *Union*, Capt. Skitter, and the Marchioness of Wellesley, were both taken up by the Java Government to convey guns and stores, the former to Sourabaya, and the latter to Minto.—*Penang Gaz. May 10.*

Our readers will no doubt be gratified to learn, that the 44 gun ship *Argentina*, which infested the Streights of Sunda and the China sea about two years ago, robbing and plundering every thing that came in her way, was seized by Lord Cochrane, on the S.W. coast of America, and her commander, Mons. Bouchard, (a Frenchman) thrown into prison at Santiago, where he still remained in confinement when the *Good Hope* left Chili.—*Ibid.*

Yesterday morning the *Amboyna*, Capt. Wilson, arrived in the roads from Sydney the 24th April, and Batavia 27th June.—Private letters which we have received by this opportunity, state that the finances of the Dutch Government are in a most deplorable state, and getting worse every day; in the army, desertion and discontent; our correspondent states, that he witnessed the execution of 7 men on the 12th June, all shot by a single volley. The sight was most afflicting! The party consisted of nine, going over with arms and baggage to the Sultan of Palembang. Many single stragglers had succeeded, and have been going quietly for some time past. These poor devils were to cross a river, and the natives, seeing them armed, consented to let them have a boat, but overset it in the stream; two were drowned, the arms lost of course, and these secured. They have only, as I am told, above 300 old Dutch troops on shore to depend on, the others are Brabanters seeking a change by riot and confusion; the expedition against Palembang has not yet sailed, although long talked of—it is the opinion of many it will never go.—*Mad. Gaz., July 15th, as quoted by Bom. Cour., Aug. 5.*

Hague, Nov. 28.—Accounts from Batavia confirm, in a great degree, the assurance of the American capt. respecting the sailing of the squadron against the Sultan of Palembang from Batavia Roads. On the 28th of July, the *Nassau*, the *Wilhelmina*, the *Ajax*, and the *Swallow*, with many other armed vessels, sailed for Banca. His Majesty's frigate the *Vanderwerf*, and the *Anna Paulowna* corvette, sailed on the 24th with troops for Macas-

* See vol. X. p. 200.

war. The Tromp, with two schooners and several gun-boats, lay before Batavia on the 6th of August.

In the year 1819, the changeableness of the weather, and the entire want of the usual dry season, was very injurious to several branches of agriculture and industry, and in particular entirely prevented the making of salt along the north coast. The prospect this year is no better; according to accounts from all parts of the island, incessant rains impede the labour of the salt-makers, and this weather is, at the same time, very unfavourable to the coffee-plantations, which are now in bloom.

We lately received news that his Majesty's corvette the Galatea struck, on the 22d of May, on the rock Karang Hadje, near the island of Banca, so that that new and handsome vessel was rendered wholly unserviceable, only the crew, and part of the guns, tackling, &c., being saved. An inquiry is making into the cause of this misfortune, and into the conduct of Capt. Hinxt.

Accounts from Banda of the 25th July say the eruption of the volcano, the Goezang Api, still continued, but it was hoped that the danger was over; many plantations of nutmegs had suffered severely.—*London Paper, Dec. 4.*

Letters have been received from Batavia to the beginning of Aug. The expedition against Palembang had been given up, and the troops were to embark for Macassar to reduce to obedience the Sultan of Boui, the most powerful prince of Celebes, who had proved refractory. Their giving up the expedition against Palembang may be considered as conclusive of the weakness of the Dutch government in the Archipelago.—*London Paper, Dec. 18.*

By the American ship Restitution, in 95 days from Batavia, intelligence has been received of the total failure of the Dutch expedition against Palembang.—This account, however, is only verbal, resting on the sole authority of the captain of the American vessel, and is accompanied with no details. It is merely stated that the Sultan of Palembang carries matters with so high a tone, that on proclamation being made by the commander of the Dutch forces, offering a reward of 100,000 dollars for the head of the Sultan, that monarch immediately adopted a similar mode of proceeding, and offered a reward, double in amount, for the head of the Dutch general. The voyage made by the Restitution has been extremely quick, that vessel having left Batavia on the 20th of Sept.; and the intelligence is generally credited.—*London Paper, Dec. 22.*

A doubt has been thrown on the

count received two days ago, of the total failure of the Dutch expedition against Palembang, by the arrival of the American ship Clay, from Batavia, the captain of which states, that up to the 21st Sept., the day of his sailing, no certain information of its fate had been received. The captain of the Clay is the bearer of dispatches to the Dutch Government.—*London Paper, Dec. 23.*

Batavia, Aug. 19.—Accounts from Banda of July the 22d, say that the old crater of the volcano Goezong Api does not burn so furiously at present, but that the new crater still continues to rage without ceasing. The six spice plantations in Lonthorr had suffered severely from the ashes discharged from the volcano, and the crop of spices will be very small, as the fruit opens before it is ripe and falls from the trees, and many young trees are broken short in the middle.

In Neira the prospect was not much better, and the whole island had a desolate and melancholy appearance. The planters on whom this misfortune falls are thus again disappointed in their expectations, and after the very unproductive crop last year, this distressing event will affect them to such a degree, that they will not be able to pay for the rice and clothing for the slaves in the plantations.

The Chinese and citizens, many of whom had gardens at Goezong Api, where fruit and vegetables prospered, were mostly obliged to leave them, and many had not preserved any thing, not even the ground, which was converted into a heap of rubbish.

The command of the infantry and cavalry under the orders of the Maj.gen. commandant of the troops, has lately been given to Maj.gen. Von Teen.

On the 9th another division of eight gun-boats and armed vessels sailed from Pansa. H. M.'s ship the Tromp lies in Batavia roads, and the *Kudragt* corvette and the *Schildpad* schooner lie in the road of Sourabaya.—*Brussels News of Dec. 21st, as per London Paper of Dec. 26, 1820.*

A letter from Brussels of the 26th Dec. affirms that, 'so far from the second expedition against Palembang having failed, no attack on the place was in fact included in the plan of operations; the squadron which sailed in Aug. last being only intended to blockade the entrance of the river.'—*London Paper, Dec. 30.*

We have received a file of Batavia papers from the 6th of May to the 10th of June, but they contain little of importance. Some successes have been gained by the Dutch on the island of Banca. The expedition was commanded by Col. Keer, and the Palembangers are said to have

sustained considerable loss in the several conflicts that had occurred.—*Calcutta paper, Aug. 3.*

Accounts from Batavia have been received to a late date, by which we find that the expedition against Palembang still lingered in consequence of a want of seamen. The Indian Trader, on her way to this port, fell in with a Dutch ship of war, having a number of troops on board from the mother country. This reinforcement may probably enable the long threatened expedition to sail.

Mr. Van Braam and his secretary, we understand, died in May.—*Mad. Cour. Aug. 1.*

Penang.—Letters from this island of the 29th of July, state that the Dutch have entirely abandoned all thoughts of their projected expedition against Palembang for this year at least, as they cannot spare from Java the troops necessary for this purpose, in consequence of the dissatisfaction and insubordination of the Javanese and Chinese, from whom a general resistance to their authority might be anticipated, if they for a moment removed the strong yoke of military power by which they are now held in subjection.—*Cal. Journ. Aug. 26.*

The latest accounts from Batavia state that the government there is in great financial embarrassments, and has been obliged to borrow money from the merchants to enable them to fit out their expedition against Palembang; and that, after all, it is afraid to detach the troops, lest the Javanese should avail themselves of the opportunity to rebel. On the other hand, it is stated that the people at Palembang continue determined to resist to the last; and, conscious that they have but little mercy to expect, are become desperate. The preparations which have been made at Batavia are, however, so extensive, that one can hardly conceive it possible that the expedition can fail. Several vessels, it appears, have been fitted up as floating batteries; the whole naval force of the government will be employed, and the troops will not be less than 4,000 fighting men, if, as before stated, the local government feels sufficiently secure at home to detach so large a portion of their European force.—*Extract of a letter, dated Madras, Aug. 10, 1820; and communicated to Asiatic Journ.*

DEATH.

July 3.—At Batavia, James, second son of Mr. Mearns, navy agent of Barking church-yard, Tower-hill, and chief mate of the country ship Jane; a young man highly esteemed by his brother officers, and whose death is much lamented by all who knew him.

FORT MARLBORO',
Port Regulations recently established at.
General Department, Fort William,
Feb. 25, 1820.

The most noble the Governor-gen. in Council is pleased to direct, that the following copy of port regulations, recently established at Fort Marlboro', be published for general information.

Fort Marlboro', 21st Aug. 1820.

Port Regulations.—In lieu of the regulations and duties heretofore in force at the port of Beucoolen, which are hereby abolished, the following are to take effect from the 1st proximo.

Pilotage.

An European pilot, duly qualified, will be stationed by government at Rat Island, and the following rates fixed for pilotage.

Pilotage into Rat Island Basin, P.	5 0
Do. out of do. do. do.	5 0
Do. into Pulo Bay	5 0
Do. out of do.	5 0
Do. into the Inner Roads	2 2
Do. out of the do. do.	2 2

per 100 tons of the vessel's registered tonnage.

All vessels mooring in the Basin to pay port pilotage, according to the above rates, whether the pilot be employed or not, but vessels coming into the roads, or proceeding to Pulo Bay, will only be liable to the charge for pilotage in the event of their actually employing the services of the pilot.

Wharfage.

Wharfage will be charged on account of government at the rate of fifty (50) cash, or four (4) annas per ton, the ton to be calculated as laid down in the article regarding the hire of boats.

Boat-Hire.

Boat-hire for landing or shipping off goods of every description shall not exceed one dollar per ton, to be computed as follows, viz.

Grain of different sorts, saltpetre, salt, or other heavy articles, 13 bags of 164lbs. each to be considered equal to one ton.

Pepper 16 cwt. to the ton.

Wine 2 pipes to do.

Beer and other hogsheads four to the ton.

Cases and bales by measurement 50 cubic feet to the ton.

Lead, iron, steel, copper, tin, or other dead weight, 20 cwt. to one ton.

Bar-iron dollar 1 1 per ton.

For boats arriving alongside by 9 A.M. and not discharged by 3 P.M. of the same day, should it be satisfactorily proved that the boat has lost a whole day, double boat hire shall be charged.

Any boat conveying cargo to a vessel in Rat Island basin or the outer roads, and receiving return freight from same or any other vessel, the proprietor