

THE
ASIATIC JOURNAL

AND *monthly register*

MONTHLY REGISTER

FOR



British India and its Dependencies.

CONTAINING

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| Original Communications. | Missionary and Home Intelligence, Births, |
| Memoirs of Eminent Persons. | Marriages, Deaths, &c. |
| History, Antiquities, Poetry. | Shipping Intelligence, Ship Letter-Mails, |
| Natural History, Geography. | &c. |
| Review of New Publications. | Lists of Passengers to and from India. |
| Debates at the East-India House. | State of the London and India Markets. |
| Proceedings of the Colleges of Haileybury | Notices of Sales at the East-India House. |
| and Fort William, and the Military | Times appointed for the East-India Com- |
| Seminary at Addiscombe. | pany's Ships for the Season. |
| India Civil and Military Intelligence, Ap- | Prices Current of East-India Produce. |
| pointments, Promotions, Births, Mar- | India Exchanges and Company's Secu- |
| riages, &c. &c. | rities. |
| Literary, Philosophical, and Commercial | Daily Prices of Stocks, &c. &c. &c. |
| Intelligence. | |

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consumed. Thus, by the despatch of one individual, have nearly a hundred families been deprived of their roofs, and have lost the greater part of their little property, which but for the voluntary exertions of the inhabitants, and to the fortunate circumstance of wind subsiding at the moment, might have extended to the whole town.

The volcanic mountain, on the Island of Umbawa, named Tomboro, an account of the awful eruption of which was published in our Journal, has been so much reduced by the enormous quantity ejected in its late convulsion, as to have assumed the form of table land instead of the peak, for which it was formerly remarkable.

A Chinese trading junk belonging to Batavia, which she left in January last on a voyage to the West Coast and Batavia, on her return, and lying at anchor in the harbour of Pulo Dua on the West Coast, when she was attacked on the 1st of July by three piratical boats, containing nineteen Malays. The Nakhoda and part of the crew were on shore at the time, and there being but nine remaining in charge of the junk, the pirates succeeded in capturing her, after having killed three of the crew, and compelled the remainder, half of whom were wounded, to jump overboard and swim for their lives. They then took possession of a chest containing 11,000 dollars, the proceeds of the voyage, and immediately dispatched them in one of their boats to Sinkil, a port near to Pulo Dua. The unfortunate Nakhoda subsequently gained possession of his vessel with the aid of another junk which came in, after a contest, in which five of the pirates were killed, and the remainder put to flight,—and he has since returned to his port. It was ascertained that the pirates were from Sinkil, and headed by a relative of the Rajah of that place, whither it is supposed intelligence of the amount of the treasure on board must have been carried, as the junk had been lying at Pulo Dua for six days previous to the attack.

As a large trading prow, laden with attans was on her way from Batavia to Batra (on the east coast of Sumatra, about one hundred miles to the southward) to Batavia, she was hailed early in the morning by three large canoes and two boats, who demanded of the Nakhoda a supply of rice, and inquired if he had pepper or tin on board. Upon being told the nature of the cargo, they immediately commenced an attack with blunderbusses, and other fire-arms, which was returned by the crew of the vessel;—when a spark unhappily communicated to a jar containing their powder, (about four gantons in quantity) it exploded

whilst the Nakhoda was close by it; he immediately jumped overboard and was picked up by the crew, who took to their canoe, abandoning the prow to the piratical enemy. Upon their arrival here, the wretched Nakhoda was instantly conveyed to the hospital, but died very shortly after, having been so dreadfully burnt, that in several parts the skin was literally blown from his body by the violence of the explosion.

A large Java prow, bound to Batavia from Malacca, was attacked and sunk near Salangore, by two large pirate prows and four or five smaller ones, commanded, it is said, by some men of Rhio. The pirates, after taking the Javanese prisoners, put the Nakhoda on shore on one of the Sambelong Islands, which is uninhabited, where he was two days afterwards discovered by a Malay fisherman, who conveyed him to Perah.

"During the progress, in 1815, of the Lieut.-Governor to the Eastward," says a correspondent, "His Excellency elevated several of the natives to additional rank, and was himself present at the installation of the Pngambahan, at Sumanap, which diffused universal joy. The greatest part of the population of the district was assembled on the occasion, and the ceremony took place amidst the firing of artillery and the reiterated plaudits of the multitude.

"The son of the Sultan of Madura has been declared heir apparent of that country, and obtained the title of Pangerang Ali Patty.

"The son of the Adl Patty of Grisace has been appointed Tummungong, and eventually to succeed. The son of the late Tummungong of Sedayo, (whose hospitality every traveller must recollect) has been confirmed regent, and we have likewise been informed that his Excellency conferred the additional rank of Adi Patty on the Tummungongs of Banghill and Besooke, sons of the present regent of Laasum, a Javanese nobleman much distinguished by his abilities, who was presented by General Daendels with the ribbon of the order of knighthood established by King Louis, in testimony of the great services performed by him for the government."

From the log-book of the Dispatch, it appears that on the night of the 11th of April 1815, the explosions of the Tomboro Mountain were distinctly heard, like the discharge of heavy cannon, at the distance of seven degrees to the Eastward of Bima. Capt. Fenn informs us that the floats of timber and pumice-stone were so considerable along the coast of Flores, that it was with great difficulty the ship could at times make any progress through the water; and the hulk of some of the spars was so great, that she must have