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countenance closely, but could discover no trace of fear, or any emotion but that of pleasure. She stretched up to a little fire within a couple of yards of the pile, sat down before it, and again repeated some prayers after a Brahmin, throwing at intervals some grass upon the fire. She then took and stone once turned the pile with a firm and steady step, sprinkling some grass upon it, which was handed to her at the work. She then stood close by the wooden steps of the pile, which, like Jacob's ladder, went to lead her to heaven; divesting herself of her ornaments, again repeated, in a firm tone, some prayers after a Brahmin, and prepared to ascend. Here a number of Brahmins pressed round her, telling her what to do, what she was to say as she ascended to heaven, and I believe what she was to do when she got there. I thought the poor woman looked glorified as she looked from one to the other, anxious to hear what they all said, and at the same time giving a nod of assent to each of them. I even thought it possible that she turned pale, and repeated her approaching sacrifice. But the thought was momentary; for, as with one foot on the steps she turned round, as if to bid an eternal adieu to the world, she recognized some one of her friends in the crowd; she smiled, and pointed up her hand to heaven with a look of contentment and resignation.

"She then mounted the pile. Some better was placed on her head, and she laid herself down on the right side of her husband's corpse, stretching it at the same time with her right hand. She remained perfectly motionless, awaiting the instant which was to send her into eternity: her dearest relations then set fire to the four corners of the pile. The effect was momentaneous.—Aided by a strong breeze from the sea, the flames surrounded her in a second. I saw a convulsive motion of her body, and in less than half a minute, the flames having reached the cow strings which supported the ponderous roof, it fell in, and with it all means of escape were shut out. Shouts of triumph, but which were meant to drown the cries of the victims, should any escape, now arose from the multitude, accompanied by the noise of the tom-toms and horns; but she said not a word, and her soul in calmness and quiet fled to its destined abode."

Although the burning of widows was chiefly practised in Bengal, yet it is well known that instances of it are not infrequent in the territories subject to the other presidencies. It is probable that the example of the Supreme Government will lead to the entire abolition of the practice; but in the mean time it is interesting to know the course which is adopted for its regulation where it is still permitted. Instructions, we understand, have been given

by the Governor in Council at Bombay to all the civil authorities of that presidency to the following effect: that when a suttee requests leave of a magistrate to burn with the body of her deceased husband, he is to assemble a punchayet of the most respectable natives, who are to report whether permission should be given. This is wary treading on what is believed to be dangerous ground; but no one can suppose that the verdict of the native punchayets against the unfortunate widows will exonerate British rulers from the moral guilt of being accessories to the sacrifice, or from the stigma which it attaches to their political government of the country. This mode of proceeding is probably as unobjectionable as any other that can be suggested short of abolition; but it is a mere subterfuge, and only proves the anxiety which men of humane and generous feelings experience to remove, as far as possible from themselves, all participation in so unnatural and odious a transaction.—*Ind. Gaz., Feb. 5.*

CUTCH.

Great preparations are making in Cutch to celebrate the marriage of the young Rao, who is now between thirteen and fourteen years old—he is to marry his four wives at once. The preparations are in a style of magnificence befitting the occasion.—*Dem. Gaz., Feb. 3.*

KANDAHAR.

Two envoys have arrived from the rulers of Kandahar, Pooril Khan, and Rahim Khan, to the Hon. the Governor.—*Ibid.*

Penang.

PIRACY.

The *Penang Gazette*, referring to the affair of the *Helen* (see p. 149) remarks: "Ever since the establishment of the Malay power, the rulers, in the enactments of all their laws, have manifestly favoured piracy. There are two great bodies of men engaged in piracy; the subjects of the sultan of Johor and the people of Lantun, who come from the Sooloo-seas. Partly, nearly between these two roving bands there is an unquenchable spirit of hostility; so much so that if a Lantun power appears in sight at the moment the people of Johor are taking a prize, even the appetites for plunder is for the moment suspended, and they proceed to mutual destruction. Though all the subjects of the emperor of Johor may be looked on as pirates, still ready to obey any leader, the inhabitants of the following places are pre-eminently for their attachment to this pursuit, considering it as their bloodright and inheritance: Temiang, Muppa, Sakana, Pumah, Bura,

Meroh, Gulang, Trong, Sugi. The prows which annually sail from these places amount to about 170, varying in number of their crews from forty to eighty men. During the months of February, March, and April, these freebooters are employed in collecting from the rocks of their various isles the *agar agar*, which sole article of commerce they are forced to sell by the mandates of their governors, for a sum inconceivably below its market price, and thus the only incitement to patient industry is torn from their grasp by this oppressive conduct. The scene of their operations embraces both sides of the straits of Malacca, even to the north of Quedah, which they scour either in going or returning, and the time for commencing their piratical operations is the month of June, when the south-east monsoon is steadily set in. By the end of October they return to their fastnesses, to pass the time in listless ease till the returning season permits them to gather their marine productions. There is hardly an officer of the sultan of Johor who does not participate in the spoils, and support with his influence and authority these piratical pursuits. The Lanum people, who come from the Sooleo seas, are more dreaded, as employing more formidable armaments, and extending their ravages over a wider field of operations. The Straits of Banca, the east coast of the peninsula as far north as Siam, and the Straits of Malacca, are annually visited by them from August to October, in which latter month the monsoon having become too strong, they usually return homeward with their spoil. It is a redeeming feature in the character of the people of Lanum that they have less delight in blood than the subjects of the emperor of Johor, who usually spare none but women and some few Mahomedans. Exclusive of these two piratical bands, the smaller Malay states of Salaugor and Siack either employ their subjects in the same pursuits, or afford protection and intelligence to those who are engaged in them. Judging from reports made at the police-office, it would appear that the islands south of the Singapore Straits, and within the political limits of the Netherlands government, form the great seat of mischief, to which places persons carried away, as well as their property, have been generally traced; and it is from that authority the main exertion for the destruction of piracy must emanate.

"Each of the large piratical prahus have on board from eighty to one hundred men, being accompanied by three or four fast-sailing boats; and while the larger vessels are hidden in the creeks, and behind the islands, these are sent forth to plunder—whole fleets of them are heard of at the Dindings, Sambelanga, and Lancaey."

CAPT. BRESSLEY.

It appears from the *Penang Gazette*, that Capt. Bressley, his wife and child, who embarked on the *Susan* schooner, when the alarm of an insurrection at Mergui took place, have been murdered by the crew. The H.C. schooner *Zephyr* was despatched to ascertain the correctness of the rumour, which is fully confirmed by the report of the commander. The vessel was run ashore in the straits of Papua, and burnt by the crew. Several articles belonging to Capt. Bressley have been recovered, but none of the murderers have been apprehended. A gold watch and other articles, identified as having belonged to Capt. B., were found on a Malay, but whom the commander of the *Zephyr* could not prevail upon the rajah's son at Poongah to give up; as well as another man, who acknowledged to have been engaged by Capt. Bressley's serang, at the time in charge of a prow in the Straits of Papua, who admits that Capt. Bressley's vessel was burnt near Mergui, himself, his wife and child, murdered.

Singapore.

TRADE.

The *Singapore Chronicle* of February 11 contains the following statement of the value of the imports and exports of this settlement for the official years 1827-28 and 1828-29:

Imports.

Names of Places.	1827-28.	1828-1829.
From England	1,990,152	2,482,822
— Foreign Europe ..	541,673	86,800
— South America ..	—	105,338
— Mauritius, Cape of Good Hope, and N. S. Wales)	155,951	48,654
— Calcutta	2,316,426	2,977,062
— Madras	414,627	1,080,374
— Bombay	376,824	369,249
— Pulo Penang	883,054	843,354
— Malacca	378,677	418,404
— Rhio	—	193,901
— Java	2,294,637	1,449,140
— Ceylon	19,364	26,000
— Sumatra	—	525,730
— Acheen & north- ern pepper ports)	2,800	8,420
— Straits	—	190,000
— Celebes	—	400,000
— Bally	—	130,300
— Borneo	—	406,333
— E. C. Peninsula ..	—	646,600
— Siam	275,812	792,950
— Cambodia	—	8,000
— Cochin China	104,449	321,407
— China	1,792,674	5,022,135
— Manila	—	300,073
— Neighbouring Islands & other native ports ..	3,514,720	220,000
	14,885,000	10,611,000