

THE  
**ASIATIC JOURNAL**

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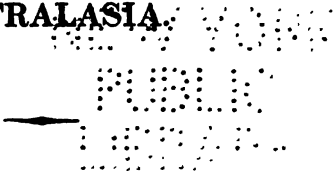
**MONTHLY REGISTER**

FOR

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN INDIA, CHINA,**

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**SEPT.—DEC. 1890.**



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**LONDON:**

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**1890.**

announces that the cholera morbus broke out on board the H.C. ship *Berwickshire*, on the 10th inst., and that by one o'clock on the next day, eighteen hands had died, and that there were between thirty and forty in a very deplorable condition. The greatest aid, it is said, was promptly administered by the medical officers of H.M. ship *Chalenger* and of the Indiamen. Medical aid was also supplied from the shore, and every measure that could arrest the progress of the horrid disease was speedily adopted by order of government. The surviving members of the crew were removed on the Friday to Butcher's Island; such of the sick, however, as could be brought on shore having been conveyed to the general hospital. The ship itself was ordered to be removed to the middle ground at the turn of tide.

The *Bombay Courier* goes on to say that the disease is purely local; that not one of the other Indiamen, nor any of the free traders in the harbour, have been attacked, and that on shore the complaint is gradually assuming so mild a complexion, that only eighteen cases were reported as having taken place amongst the whole population in the middle of the week.

#### MR. TAYLOR.

By an advertisement in the *Bombay Gazette*, it appears that Mr. Taylor started for England on the 2d May, in the Company's cruiser *Amherst*, taking the packets with him. He will be in England, according to the advertisement, in three months or three and a-half, if nothing impedes his progress; and he expects to be at Bombay again in October or November. His route is by way of the Persian Gulf.

#### NATIVE EDUCATION SOCIETY.

The Native Education Society held a meeting on the 12th May, which was attended by the principal natives and about thirty European gentlemen, the Hon. the Chief Justice in the chair. The report was read by Mr. R. C. Money, of the civil service, who has succeeded Capt. Jarvis in the office of secretary to the society. It set forth that within the last two years and a-half 13,000 volumes had been published by the society; that twenty-five schoolmasters were ready to commence their labours, having acquired a thorough knowledge of their own languages, and gone through the higher branches of mathematical science; and that the Kairah school had made greater progress than any of the rest, owing to the attention of Mr. Mills. It was also stated, that a letter had been addressed to government, begging for information regarding a reference to the Court of Directors about their making up the sum necessary to enable the society to send for the three Elphinstone professors,

to which letter no answer had as yet been received, but was daily expected. A most interesting letter was then read from the first native gentlemen in Bombay, addressed to Mr. Money, requesting him to communicate to Mr. Elphinstone their earnest desire that he should himself choose and send out the first three professors.—*Bomb. Cour. May 22.*

## Ceylon.

#### STATE OF THE HEATHEN.

The views of the unhappy idolaters around us are, alas! unchanged by missionary exertion. The name of Jesus is not yet precious to them, nor is his salvation desired by them: the sweet invitations of mercy seem lost upon them, and the calls to repentance and newness of life appear to be made in vain: they still continue devoted to superstition and idolatry, the willing slaves of ignorance, sin, and Satan. Yet it may be hoped that the gradual diffusion of knowledge among them will tend, under the guidance of God's holy spirit, to enlighten their minds, to remove their prejudices, and to convince them of the fallacy of idolatry, and of their need of a Saviour. I sometimes think, when examining the children in the schools, and hearing them answer so promptly questions that affect the fundamentals of their system, or when hearing the sons of the Kandian chiefs translating into English the tract against idolatry, or Mr. Ward's Letters to the Grand Modeliar, that, surely, the impressions made on their tender minds by these instructions cannot be easily effaced. The blessing of God alone can make such means effectual; but, while we use them with faith in Him, we may hope that He will not withhold his blessing.—*Journal of the Rev. T. Browning, Jan. 1830.*

We often meet with disappointments in those of whom we had hoped well: sometimes some of the boarding boys, or schoolmasters, or servants, of whom we have entertained good hopes, and who appeared to have spiritual feelings, and to walk well for a time, have, by some expression of their sentiments, or by evil conduct, led us to fear that our hopes of them were too sanguine. Such frequent disappointments tend to make us excessively suspicious: we are ready to conclude, when any one makes any profession of religion, that he does so from some worldly motive, and that it is only hypocrisy.—*Journal of Rev. G. C. Trimmell, Oct. 10, 1829.*

## Singapore.

PIRACY IN THE ARCHIPELAGO.  
A person named Dalton has written the

following statement, which appears in the *Singapore Chronicle* of May 20 and June 3, with a view of urging the subject of piracy upon the notice of the English and Netherlands governments in the East. The editor says, "the personal experience he has had, and the hardships he endured, and which, to his knowledge, other Europeans, both male and female, are enduring, as slaves, in parts of Borneo, entitle his statement to some attention."

"It is a well-known and deplorable fact, that within the last ten or twelve years, piracy has, in various parts of the Archipelago, increased in a frightful manner. What was formerly considered merely predatory excursions has now become a trade, and is at this moment carried on so systematically by the principal Bugis rajahs and chiefs inhabiting the most prominent parts of the various coasts, along which trading vessels must pass to and from European settlements, that strong measures are loudly called for to protect the native vessels, and such of the small traders as are honestly inclined.

"The population on the coasts of these large islands, viz. Borneo and Celebes, is immense; generally speaking, they are not poor; on the contrary, with few exceptions rich, in those productions most valued by Europeans. All they desire is the opportunity of exchanging; this at present cannot be done, as they are compelled to sell their produce to some neighbouring rajah or rich bugis for what he thinks proper to give them: a few of these rajahs and principal men combine, and then get nearly every article into their hands. These are all pirates, who paralyze the exertions of thousands of individuals who would be otherwise active; no inhabitant dare send out a vessel larger than a fishing boat without express permission; such a circumstance would not only end in the massacre or slavery of all on board, but must infallibly draw down upon the campong in which he lived the vengeance of the pirate; neither could the rajah of that part of the coast in which the campong was situate assist them, as one powerful pirate will keep in awe a long line of coast.

"In Nov. 1827 a principal chief of pirates, named Sindana, made a descent upon a Mamoodgoo with forty-five prows, burnt three-fourths of the campong, driving the rajah with his family amongst the mountains. Some scores of men were killed, and 300 made prisoners, besides women and children to half that amount. In December following, when I was there, the people were slowly returning from the hills, but had not yet attempted to rebuild the campong, which lay in ashes. The great fault of Koning, the Mamoodjoo rajah, appeared to be his friendly intention towards Europeans. During my stay here (ten weeks) the place was visited by two

other piratical chiefs, one of which was from Kylie, the other from Mandhar point under Ben Bowman, who appeared to have charge of the whole; between them they had 134 prows of all sizes. The whole of these prows, likewise those under Sindana, which destroyed the campong, wore Dutch colours; they, however, had others which were displayed occasionally as a decoy.

"Amongst the most desperate and successful pirates of the present day Raga is most distinguished. He is dreaded by people of all denominations, and universally known as 'the prince of pirates.' For more than seventeen years this man has carried on a system of piracy to an extent never before known; his expeditions and enterprize would fill a large volume. They have invariably been marked with singular cunning and intelligence, barbarity, and reckless inattention to the shedding of human blood. He has emissaries every where, and has intelligence of the best description. It is truly wonderful how this pirate and his associates beguile his European neighbours, from whom he easily manages to procure his yearly supplies of arms and ammunition; principally, indeed, through the intervention of his brother Agi Bota of Pergottan, his worthy associate and coadjutor. It was about the year 1813 Raga commenced operations on a large scale. In that year he cut off three English vessels, killing the captains with his own hand (exploits which, with many others of a similar kind, he loves to dwell upon). So extensive were his depredations about that period, that a proclamation was issued from Batavia, signed by the Lieutenant-governor, declaring the east coast of Borneo, from Banjermassin to Browe included, under strict blockade, and prohibiting any intercourse between the interjacent native states and European ports. Two British sloops of war scoured the coast. One of which, I believe the *Elk*, Captain Reynolds, was attacked during the dark by Raga's own prow, who unfortunately was not on board at the time. This particular prow, which Raga personally commanded, and the loss of which he frequently laments, carried eight guns, and was full of his best men. He had himself landed at Pergottan a few days previously, and sent off the prow with a favourite panglima (or commander), to pick up any small things which might be seen off Point Salatan. An European vessel was faintly descried about three o'clock one foggy morning; the rain fell in torrents; the time, the weather, were favourable circumstances for a surprise, and the panglima determined to distinguish himself in the absence of Rajah Raga, gave directions to close, fire the guns, and board. He was the more confident of success, as the European vessel was observed

to keep away out of her proper course on approaching her. On getting within about an hundred fathoms of that *Pariah vessel*, as they supposed her to be, they fired their broadside (four guns), gave a loud shout, and with their long oars pulled towards their prey. The sound of a drum beating to quarters no sooner struck the ear of the astonished panglima, than he endeavoured to get away: it was too late; the ports were opened, and a broadside, accompanied with three British cheers, gave sure indications of their fate. The panglima hailed the English captain, and would fain persuade him 'it was a mistake.' It was indeed a mistake, and one not to be rectified by the panglima's Malayan explanation. The prow was sunk by repeated broadsides, and the commanding officer refused to pick up any of the people, who, with the exception of five, were drowned.\* These, after floating four days on some spars, were picked up by a Pergottan prow, and told the story to Raga, who swore, anew, destruction to every European he should henceforward take. The writer of this conversed with one of the officers of the sloop of war; it appears that the prow was early pointed out to the lieutenant on deck, who, seeing her a head, and being fearful of running her down, did alter the course a point each time. Two or three of the sloop's company were wounded. It would be well if all other vessels followed the example set by the captain of this sloop, in attempting to destroy the whole, instead of taking prisoners, who, in all probability, will make an *amok* on board, or, if set at liberty, will certainly return to their former course of life.

"Pergottan is the most paltry insignificant native state along the whole coast, the country claimed by the rajah of small extent, proverbially poor, producing nothing but rattans. The power of Agi Bota is truly contemptible, far inferior to many of the chiefs of campongs in other parts; yet by displaying the Dutch flag, and writing the most obsequious letters to the resident of Banjermassin, he continues to enjoy European protection, without which he would soon be driven from his possessions (which he usurped), notwithstanding his relationship with Raga. Although Pergottan is within three days' sail of Banjermassin, it is most certain that no resident of the latter place has been at all acquainted either with the country or its inhabitants; nor is this to be wondered at when the nature of the country is considered, and the deceptive arts practised by the native population to keep the Europeans in ignorance. There is a sort of freemasonry among them, which includes all ranks and classes of men: this particularly applies to the Arabs and Bugis. Whatever injuries they may receive from each other, and

however deadly their enmities may be, they invariably, and without hesitation, make common cause against Europeans, whose persons and property are fair game wherever found. This is so evident, that no person, however credulous and partial to the native character, can entertain a doubt on the subject. Among themselves they are like beasts of prey; their neighbourhood is a continual scene of contentment and ravage: yet no Bugis chief ever invited an European power to put an end to it. Thus their hatred of European character, and an united opinion of their interests suffering in common from their interference, induce them to bear up with wrongs from each other rather than apply to an European neighbour, whose policy of aggrandizement they dread, and whose persons they hate. The present position of Raga, the pirate chief, is a strong instance of this feeling.

"This desperado has for upwards of seventeen years been the terror of the Straits of Macassar, during which period he has committed the most extensive and dreadful excesses, sparing no one. Few respectable families along the coasts of Borneo and Celebes but have to complain of the loss of a prow, or of some number of their race; he is not more universally dreaded than detested; but every good Bugis will readily admit, that although Raga has done all this, and much more, he has likewise done much good, and shewn many redeeming qualities, inasmuch as it is well known he has cut off and murdered the crews of more than forty European vessels, which have either been wrecked on the coasts, or entrusted themselves in the native ports. It is his boast that twenty-five of the commanders of these vessels have fallen by his own hand. These exploits are a set-off against his aggression on the native trade, and few even of those who had themselves lost prows will speak against Raga, whose successes, as they call them, over the Europeans are the admiration of all the young men, and the theme of much of their modern poetry.

"Another remarkable instance may be found in some circumstances attending the destruction of Major Mullen's detachment by the sultan of Coti; there is not a chief along the coast of Borneo or the opposite one of the Celebes unacquainted with the sultan's participation in this signal act of treachery. In the country of Coti, man, woman, and child know it; there is no rajah more disliked than the sultan of Coti, particularly by the Bugis, who have twice waged war on him; on an average there are not less than forty-six prows great and small trading to European ports, the crews of which are all slaves, and the *Dg'ragom* Bugis; yet for the space of five years no individual ever came forward to communicate the

\* This we cannot believe.—Ed. A. J.

facts of which they were all intimately acquainted; and it is more than probable that the particulars of this catastrophe would never have become known to Europeans had not an Englishman contrived to make his escape from Coti, where he was confined more than a year, several hundred miles up the river of Coti. This secrecy amongst themselves proceeds not merely from the deep-rooted hatred they universally bear the European character, but likewise from fear of retaliation upon each other.

Pergottan and its immediate neighbourhood may be considered the grand focus of piracy; it is the key to the Straits of Macassar, as all vessels going or returning, in either monsoon, invariably endeavour to make Pulo Laut or Point Salatan, between which places the entrances to the rivers are situate. During the N.E. monsoon all prows, whether from Boni, Macassar, the eastern coast of Borneo, or the western one of Celebes, take their departure from Mandbar Point. The latter coast for about 250 miles is absolutely lined with prows belonging principally to three considerable rajahs, who act in conjunction with Raga and other pirates. Their prows may be seen in clusters of fifty, eighty, and 100 (at Sedano I counted 147), laying on the sand at high-water mark, in parallel rows, and kept in an horizontal position by poles, completely ready for sea. Immediately behind them are the campongs in which are the crews; here likewise are kept the sails, gunpowder, &c. necessary for their equipment. On the very summits of the mountains, which in many parts rise abruptly from the sea, may be distinguished innumerable huts; here reside people who are constantly on the look-out. A vessel within ten miles of the shore will probably not perceive a single prow, yet in less than two hours (if the tide be high) she will be surrounded by some hundreds. Should the water be low they will push off during the night flood. Thus vessels are entrapped, and if it be calm there is little chance of coasting craft escaping. Signals are made from mountain to mountain along the coast with the utmost rapidity; during the day-time by flags attached to long bamboos; at night, by fires. Each chief sends forth his prows, the crews of which in hazardous cases are infuriated with opium, when they will most assuredly take the vessel, if she be not better provided than are most European traders, for in this particular spot they make the most desperate efforts, dreading an escape, by which news would be immediately conveyed to Macassar, and signal punishment inflicted by the government.

(To be continued.)

#### STREAM-VESSELS.

The steamer *Forbes*, which conveyed

the *Jamesina* to China (see p. 59), touched at Singapore on her way back, and the following is a report of her passage, inserted by Capt. Henderson, the commander, in the *Singapore Chronicle* of June 3:

"Left the Sandheads 14th March with the *Jamesina* in tow, and arrived at Singapore on the morning of the 27th, having been eleven and a-half days under steam, and twenty hours at anchor in the Straits; the rest under sail while cleaning boilers.

"Left Singapore noon 30th March. Found a strong N.E. monsoon and steady current the whole way. On the 13th of April parted company with the ship, having steamed nearly all the way to lat. 14° N. On the 14th had a fresh gale from the N.E. with a very high sea, which obliged us to make sail. Arrived off Macao on the 18th April.

"Left Macao at daylight on the 9th May, but from the fuel being so very bad, only reached the Maccliesfield on the 12th. Took off the paddles and made sail on the 13th. Being calm tried the steam again, and managed with the help of sails to get to Pulo Bralla on the 21st, where we procured about twenty-five tons of wood, which burnt better than what we had before, but only lasted one day, and after a fruitless attempt to get dry wood at an islet off Pulo Tingy, were obliged to make sail, and arrived at Singapore at daybreak on the 26th of May."

The *Canton Register* of May 1, says that the *Forbes*, the first steamer which had visited China, excited, on its arrival, much interest amongst the natives.

We learn that the *Irrawaddy* (the government steam-vessel despatched from Calcutta to China) is to be stationed in the Straits, and intended, no doubt, as a means of communicating more speedily with the Supreme Government, under whose immediate auspices these settlements, we expect, will be placed ere long.—*Sing. Chron.* May 20.

### Malacca.

Excise Farms, sold in the year 1829-30, and 1830-31.

	1829-30	1830-31
	Drs.	Drs.
Opium .....	per month 335	... 410
Spirit .....	460	... 760
Serec Leaf .....	61	... 320
Toddy and Baang .....	45	... 45
Markets .....	50	... 120
Shop and cart tax .....	50	... 46

Drs. 1,001 1,701

Total increase ..... Drs. 700  
Pork-farm was sold for 260 dollars per month. This is to be given for a native hospital.—Pawn-brokerage-farm was bought in for 15 dollars.

If some steps be not taken, the Chinese will be obliged to abandon the country, and the mines fall into disuse; for the Malays, of themselves, are too lazy to work them; or else they will seek revenge of their own accord, an affair not very improbable. The Malays, further, if left unreprimanded or unchecked in such villainy, may be emboldened to commit other acts equally notorious.

## Singapore.

PIRACY IN THE ARCHIPELAGO.—MR. DALTON'S STATEMENT.

(Continued from p. 146.)

"From the extremity of Salatan Point to the southern entrance of the Pergottan River will be found about 120 miles, for the first fifty of which the shore has a remarkable appearance, being in some parts bold, when huge craggy mountains rise almost perpendicularly above the sea; at others the environs of the land are thickly studded with small rocky islands, which in some places project many leagues in the water. The natives' prows seldom venture within ten miles of the shore; but an European vessel should keep about five miles further off, when she will have from nine to eleven fathoms water. On approaching Pulo Laut, the islands are more numerous and larger; few of them are marked in any chart which I have hitherto seen; some of the largest are situated thirty miles from the land, and are the haunts of the most desperate pirates, who swarm like locusts about the principal points and inlets. Their prows are small, and might be deemed contemptible, but from their number and swiftness of pulling. Formerly most of these islands were independent of Pergottan, and "did business" on their own account, taking Agi Bota's prows, as well as others; but since the establishment of Singapore, the trade increased so rapidly, that Raga thought it worthy of his notice to pay more than usual attention to the subject. He accordingly fixed his head-quarters at Pergottan, and not finding the entire subjugation (for nothing less would content him), so easy a matter as he anticipated, he went to work upon another plan, which promised the success that attended it. Rajah Agi Bota wrote to the Resident of Banjermassin, lamenting in pathetic terms the sad state of affairs, and the necessity of the adoption of some decisive measures, to put down piracy amongst these islands, which destroyed the native trade. To shew his abhorrence of such acts of atrocity, and testify his devoted attachment to the Netherlands' government, and to the resident of Banjermassin, in particular, he mentioned that he had prevailed on his brother

Raja to sail against them with several large prows, bearing the Dutch flag. This letter, (which was a very long one, and is yet talked of along the coast as a master-piece of policy) highly pleased the resident of Banjermassin, who sent an officer in a gun-boat to confer with the Rajah. This visit was somewhat unexpected on the part of Agi Bota and Raga, perplexing them not a little, as at that very moment there were three prows lying in the river captured on their passage from Java to Sambas. They however got intelligence over land from an Arab friend, and had sufficient time to make their preparations. The Dutch officer was received with much respect, and matters went on swimmingly. The Resident of Banjermassin highly approved of Agi Bota's measures in sending out Raga, offering every assistance from the westward. This, however, was declared unnecessary, as under Dutch colours the two worthy brothers felt themselves sufficiently strong to put down those pirates, whose enormities upon their European friends affected them much more than their own losses. They therefore modestly contented themselves with a request to be supplied with some arms and ammunition; this was of course granted them. When Raga found that Europeans were not to interfere in the business (a circumstance which would at once ruin his plan), he put to sea, and did more mischief the three following months than the island pirates had done during the same number of years. The chiefs of the islands, finding how matters stood, came to terms with Raga, who has since acted in concert with them, and he and Agi Bota are at this moment the principal managers of all their affairs of the lawless kind. The most absurd representations were now made to Banjermassin, that piracy was suppressed as far as it could be effected; and as an earnest of the good intentions of the islanders, they would in future hoist the Dutch colours, which they do when it suits their purpose.

"Agi Bota thus ingratiated himself into high favour, and has since been left entirely to his own measures; the consequence is, Pergottan and its neighbourhood are swarming with pirates, and the bazars are stocked with European articles plundered from small vessels which have been decoyed amongst the islands, or captured at sea by the large prows of Raga. At this moment, whilst Agi Bota is feeding the government of Banjermassin with the most fulsome adulation, he has Europeans, both men and women, up the country doing the work of slaves, leading a life of unequalled misery! The writer of this happens to know something of the situation of Europeans in such hands, having himself been twice wrecked on Sumatra and Madagascar; both times he was

bought and sold as a slave, besides being in the centre of Borneo upwards of twelve months in a like condition. But more of this anon.

“Approaching within twenty miles of Pergottan the main land has a most dreary and desolate appearance: the higher mountains are far inland; the coast broken, and studded with rocks. The soil about this part is strongly impregnated with mineral ore; neither animal, tree, or plant live on a surface of at least a thousand square miles. The natives entertain a superstitious dread of this portion of the country, conceiving it to be the peculiar abode of evil spirits. In no other part of the world have I observed lightning have so tremendous an effect, that of a forked description playing upon the ground for the space of several minutes, in infinite mazes of zigzags. In whatsoever part of the heaven the lightning appears, to this spot it is always attracted. We were off this place three days, viz. Nov. 21st, 22d, and 23d, 1827, and each night it was the same; and from all I could learn, the effect is much the same all the year round, but particularly so at the change of the monsoon. Of course there are no inhabitants near the place on which is scarcely to be seen a blade of grass. The iron here is of a very superior quality, as every person who has visited Banjermassin must have remarked.

“Small vessels running northward and eastward should never attempt to sail close along the land, particularly during the night. Native prows do so, but they are frequently lost; of the prows that left Singapore in Nov. 1827 there were nine lost, four of which I saw on the rocks and abandoned. An European vessel should not approach nearer than five or six leagues, when she will have deep water, and be outside most of the smaller islands; she must, however, sail between others, should she venture closer in shore, where the navigation is so critical, and the hidden dangers so many, that in all probability she will either touch or get becalmed. Hundreds of small pirate prows are continually looking out for such occurrences. It is melancholy to think on the number of small craft which have been thus cut off within the last ten or dozen years; when once aground there is no extrication, and a calm is almost as fatal. The natives compare these small islands to so many spider webs, and it is evident few flies can escape when once entangled in them.

“The main entrance to Pergottan is by the western river, which is wide, and has the advantage of being without any bar, (or a very trifling one) so common to most rivers in this archipelago. At the mouth it is not less than five miles wide; the depth of water at the full and change

of the moon from fifteen to twenty fathoms, and the holding ground excellent, the soil being very similar to that off Batavia and Singapore. On getting within the river about three miles a vessel appears land locked on three sides, but by keeping the western bank, on board, an opening will soon be discerned; proceeding about ten miles further, she will find herself immediately under a very remarkable hill, perhaps 1200 feet high, called by the Bugis Pulo Pâtana, from its near resemblance to a saddle; here all the prows anchor opposite the point of a small promontory, on which the rajah has an establishment; there is likewise a bazar at some little distance. Whilst I remained here, there was 71 prows of considerable sizes, 39 of which were professed pirates. The largest of these belonged to Raga, who received by the fleet of prows in which I came his usual supplies from Singapore of arms, ammunition, &c. for the ensuing year. From the base of Pulo Pâtana the surrounding country has the appearance of a vast amphitheatre, enclosing an extensive lake of water, as no outlet can be distinguished.

The river running past the point expands itself. Here nestle the principal pirates, and Raga holds his head quarters; his grand depot is a few miles further up. Rajah Agi Bota himself generally resides some distance up a smaller river which runs eastward of the point; near his habitation stands the principal bazar, which would be a great curiosity to an European to visit if he could only manage to return, which very few have. The Rajah gave me a pressing invitation to spend a couple of days at his country house, but all the Bugis Nacodahs strongly dissuaded me from such an attempt, the Dgr'gon of the Sultan's prow particularly. I soon discovered the cause of their apprehension; they were jealous of Agi Bota, well knowing he would plunder me, and considered every article taken by him was so much lost to the Sultan of Coti, who naturally would expect his people to reserve me for his own particular plucking. When the fact was known of an European having arrived in the Pergottan river, this amiable prince and friend of Europeans, impatient to seize his prey, came immediately to the point from his country house, and sending for the nacodah of the prow, ordered him to land me and all my goods instantly. I was to be sent up the country as a matter of course, and my baggage, &c. was to be divided, the Rajah contending himself with merely one half of the whole. An invitation now came for me to go on shore and amuse myself with shooting, and look at some rare birds of beautiful plumage which the rajah would give me if I would accept of them; but

knowing what were his intentions, and being well aware that I should be supported by all the Bugis prows from Coti, I feigned sickness and requested that the birds be sent on board. Upon this Agi Bota, who could no longer restrain himself, sent off two boats of armed men, who robbed me of many articles, and would certainly have forced me on shore or murdered me in the prow had not a signal been made to the Bugis nacodahs, who immediately came with their people, and with spears and krisse drove the rajah's people overboard: The nacodahs, nine in number, now went on shore, when a scene of contention took place shewing clearly the character of this chief. The Bugis from Coti explained, that with regard to me it was necessary to be particularly circumspect, as I was not only well known at Singapore, but the authorities in that settlement were aware of my being on board the sultan's prow, and they themselves were responsible for my safety; this was indeed the fact, as, previous to my leaving the latter place, I had taken the precaution to obtain a letter from the sultan of Singapore to the sultan of Coti, besides which several Bugis nacodahs were assembled before Messrs. Prosegrave and Becham, who were kind enough to give particular directions regarding their care of me. To this circumstance alone I owe my life on several occasions, as in the event of anything happening to me every nacodah was apprehensive of his prow being seized on his return to Singapore; I was therefore more peculiarly cared for by this class of men, and they are powerful.

"The rajah answered the nacodahs by saying, I might be disposed of as many others had been, and no further notice taken of the circumstance; he himself would write to Singapore, likewise to the resident of Banjermassin, that I had been taken by an alligator or bitten by a snake whilst out shooting, and as for what property I might have in the prow, he would divide it with the Sultan of Coti. The Bugis, however, refused to listen to any terms, knowing the Sultan of Coti would call them to account for the property, and the authorities of Singapore for my life. Fortunately for me, another Rajah was then on a visit to Pergottan, who was said to be on very indifferent terms with Agi Bota, and the Bugis were apprehensive of his giving intelligence. This noisy conference ended in the Rajah declaring the prows should not leave the river until some arrangements were made. Our prow, with others, therefore, dropped about four miles down the river, to the eastward of which is a spring of fresh water, where we took in a supply. Here we remained six days, every argument being made in vain to entice me on shore; at length the Bu-

gis nacodahs came to the determination to sail without passes, which brought the Rajah to terms. The prows returned to the point, and I was given to understand I might go on shore in safety. I did so, and was introduced to the Rajah, whom I found under a shed, with about 150 of his people: they were busy gambling; and had the appearance of what they really are, a ferocious horde of banditti: Agi Bota is a good-looking man, about forty years of age, of no education whatsoever; he divides his time between gaming, opium, smoking, and cock-fighting; that is, in the intervals of his more serious and profitable employment of piracy and rapine. He asked me if the government of Singapore were aware of my intention of touching at Pergottan; I answered yes, and that I had written letters to Banjermassin to the same effect. He appeared satisfied, and asked me to produce what money I had about me: on seeing only ten rupees, he remarked that it was not worth while to win so small a sum, but that if I would fight cocks with him he would lend me what I wanted, and added, it was beneath his dignity to fight under fifty reals a battle. On my saying it was contrary to an Englishman's religion to bet wagers, he dismissed me; immediately after which the two rajahs produced their cocks, and commenced fighting for one rupee the battle. I was now obliged to give the old Bandarra five rupees to take some care of me, as whilst walking about the people not only thrust their hands into my pockets, but pulled the buttons from my clothes: Whilst sauntering behind the rajah's campong, I caught sight of an European woman, who on perceiving herself observed; immediately ran into one of the houses; no doubt dreading the consequences of being recognized. There are now in the house of Agi Bota two European women; up the country there are others, besides several men. The Bugis inimical to the rajah made no secret of the fact: I had heard of it on board the prow, and some person in the Bazar confirmed the information. On my arrival, strict orders had been given to the inhabitants to put all European articles out of sight. One of my servants going into the Bazar, brought me such accounts as induced me to visit it. In one house were the following articles: four Bibles, one in the English, one in the Dutch, and two in the Portuguese languages; many articles of wearing apparel, such as jackets and trousers, with the buttons altered to suit the natives; pieces of shirts tagged to other parts of dress; several broken instruments, such as quadrants, spy-glasses, binnacles (two), with pieces of ship's sails, bolts, and hoops; a considerable variety of gunners' and carpenters' tools, stores, &c. In another shop were two palis-

ses, one of a faded lilac colour, the other grey; these were of modern cut, and fashionably made. On inquiring how they became possessed of these articles, I was told by some they were wrecks of European vessels, on which no people were found, whilst others made no scruple of averring that they were formerly the property of Europeans who had died in the country. All the goods in this bazar belonged to the Rajah, and were sold on his account; large quantities were said to be in his house up the river, but on all hands it was admitted Raga and his followers had by far the largest part of what was taken. A Mandoor, or head of one of the campongs, showed me some women's stockings, several of which were marked with the letters S. W., also two chemises, one with the letters S. W.; two flannel petticoats; a miniature portrait frame (the picture was in the Rajah's house;) with many articles of dress of both sexes. In consequence of the strict orders given on the subject, I could see no more; indeed there were both difficulty and danger attending these enquiries. Having no money about me, (the five rupees which remained to me being given to look at these things) I could purchase nothing; had it been otherwise, I dare not be seen taking them away. I particularly wanted to obtain the miniature picture, and offered the Mandoor fifty rupees if he could procure it; he laughed at me, and pointing one hand significantly to his kiria, drew the other across his throat, and mine, giving me to understand such would be the result to us both on such an application to the Rajah.

"It is the universal custom of all the pirates on this coast to sell the people for slaves immediately they arrive, the Rajah taking for himself a few of the most useful, and receiving a per centage upon the purchase money of the remainder, with a moiety of the vessel and every article on board. European vessels are taken up the river, where they are immediately broken up. The situation of European prisoners is indeed dreadful in a climate like this, where even the labour of natives is intolerable; they are compelled to perform all the drudgery, and allowed a bare sufficiency of rice and salt to eat. As I am confident the European woman saw me, she would naturally expect me to make the fact known, and procure her release with that of her companions in misery. God knows how willingly I could do so at any sacrifice, well knowing by experience what it is to live thus on 'hope deferred,' where nothing supports the mind but the anxious expectation of some such event as occurred to this poor creature, whose friends and relations have doubtless long since concluded she was dead. If she yet survives, she can never believe I have made her case

known to an European government, as she will think it impossible for them to hear of it and not attempt her release. I am however strongly impressed with an opinion that to recover any of the Europeans will be attended with extreme difficulty, as the Rajah will strenuously deny having them in the country. He will immediately cause them to be put to death, and carefully destroy every vestige of European property in the place. The slightest hint of suspicion given him by any one would be sufficient to occasion this conclusion of his villainy, and the character I have given previously of the natives, will (if it be a correct one) convince any person of the inutility of making inquiries in the country. I shall however hereafter venture to give an humble opinion how this desirable object may be best attempted.

"There are likewise up the country of Pergotta a great number of Chinese, and a few country-born Portuguese, the former people they are very anxious to capture, not only because they are useful in several occupations to which the natives are unequal, but they have a malicious pleasure in tormenting them, in return for the many acts of roguery and trickery practised upon the prows by the Chinese shopkeepers and others.

"The whole population of the country of Pergotta, according to the highest calculation, is 11,000, including women. The Rajah's bandarre told me 7,800; the truth may be between: 9,000 will probably be the amount. They are scattered over a large extent of country. Agi Bota, with all his efforts, could not bring forward more than 800 armed men, and these of the most wretched cowardly description. There are not more than eight or ten prows belonging to inhabitants of the place, if we except those of the pirate description, who are only there occasionally."

(To be continued.)

## Netherlands India.

### DIEPO NAGORO.

Private letters from Batavia, published in the *Singapore Chronicle*, give the following version of the surrender of Diepo Nagoro:—"Diepo Nagoro has at last been made a prisoner by General De Kock, and will shortly be brought up here. The popular version of this affair is, that he came over to negotiate, but did not surrender unconditionally, as was some weeks ago stated, but suspended the negotiations during the Bolau Pu'assa, all which time he hoisted his flag; that when he renewed the negotiations, the general intimated to him that his terms were too extravagant, and closed them at once by informing him that he was his prisoner.

## LOSS OF A CHINESE JUNK.

We are sorry to state that a large Chinese junk of 375 tons register, which left this port for Sung Hai on the 29th ult. with a cargo, valued at 22,165 Sp. dra., was lost a few days ago near Pedra Branca. The weather being calm, and the current from the China sea running strong, the commander threw out his anchor, but it not holding, the vessel in drifting struck upon some rocks and bilged. The crew launched their boats, in which they all deserted her, and returned to Singapore to procure assistance, in saving as much cargo as could be got. *Ib.*

## RAJAH OF TRINGANU.

We noticed in our last number some particulars of atrocious conduct on the part of the rajah of Tringanu, and are most happy to announce to our readers that the affair has met with some notice on the part of the ruling authorities here, as the cutter *Emerald* has been despatched to Tringanu, with a letter from our resident, which, we doubt not, will bring the despot to reason. A naik and six sepoy are on board for the protection of the vessel. The expedition, if it deserves that name, was accompanied by three respectable Chinese merchants, in a small yacht of one ton burthen. Whether they go as ambassadors, or in a private capacity, as creditors of the late Lee Ching, is a matter of doubt with some. If the former, we think the dignity of the British nation required a more respectable set-out, and one European, at least, of respectability, to conduct the proceedings.—*Ib.*

## PIRACY IN THE ARCHIPELAGO—MR. DALTON'S STATEMENT.

[Concluded from last vol. p. 203.]

"It is utterly impossible for Europeans who have seen the Bugis and other such people in places like Singapore or Batavia, to form any conception of their true character; there they are under immediate control, and every part of their behaviour is a tissue of falsehood and deception. They constantly carry about with them a smooth tongue, a fawning, cringing demeanour, a complying disposition, which always asserts and never contradicts, a countenance which appears to anticipate the very wish of the European, and which generally so imposes upon his understanding, that he at once concludes them to be the best and gentlest of human beings: but let the European meet them in any of their own campongs, and a very different character they will appear. My own opinion of the proper method of treating with these people is as follows: the remarks are general, but will stand good in all situations.

"In the first place, never trust them

unless their own particular interest is evidently and immediately concerned; and even then trust them with caution, for like a surly cur, they invariably endeavour to hurt the hand that feeds them. Never allow them to take the smallest liberty, they are the most encroaching people living; if a Bugis can find a hole large enough to introduce his finger, his body will shortly follow. Mildness and good-nature are qualities absolutely necessary to deal with them; whatever a Bugis chief may feel, he is never heard to express any resentment, but will coincide in all you say. In conversation, he will sound the opinions of his antagonist at a distance; however much these may be against himself, he will express no disapprobation, which might create suspicion, and put him on his guard; the Bugis forms his own conclusions, silently acting upon them. These are amongst the very first lessons the Bugis youth receive, and as they grow older they generally better the instruction. In dealing with them, firmness of mind should rather be implied than expressed; they possess wonderful acuteness in diving into the character of men, and soon find out how far they can safely tamper with them; there is no difficulty in managing these people if you commence properly. Never appear to doubt of the propriety of measures it may be necessary to adopt, or they will take immediate advantage of it, and involve their antagonist in a labyrinth of argument, which is precisely the point at which they aim. When a Bugis is allowed to dispute, he never knows when to stop, and no satisfactory conclusion can possibly be made. After much procrastination, the conference breaks off with mutual discontent; every word spoken by the European is positive gain to the Bugis, whose only wish is to collect information; and should the European believe a single word that the Bugis has told him, so much the worse for himself. In a word, give him to understand in temperate language, that every difficulty has been foreseen and provided for; that it is utterly useless for him to attempt to deceive you, as you are already in possession of the requisite information from Arabs in the European interest, although they do not appear in the business. Let them at once perceive the strong line is drawn; "thus far may you go, but no farther;" they will then see the inutility of deceptive tricks, and matters will go on smoothly. Never on any consideration give a Bugis to understand that you fear him, or are within his power, otherwise you are certainly lost. Let the fact be impressed upon the mind of every sensible man, that the passion of fear is the only feeling on which these people act, and to this they must be brought before dependence can

be placed or safety ensured. Bring them at once to the point you desire, and keep them fast, not permitting them to deviate to the right or left in a single instance; one false step requires many to return it, and it will be found difficult to bring them back to the main object. However matters proceed to extremity, give battle to preserve the first step of ground, and be always prepared for it; by these means the line of demarcation will be drawn and strictly preserved. It will readily be imagined, that to get the Europeans out of such hands requires some little dexterity; but beyond all doubt it is to be done by the method I have pointed out, and probably by no other. Negotiation would be the signal of immediate destruction, not only to all Europeans, but to those whose views might be conceived any way favourable towards them; every vestige of European property would be collected and destroyed, when it would be found impossible to discover a clue where-by enquiry might be guided. It is by no means unlikely, that ere the change of the N. E. monsoon the admiral will be in the Straits; upon a proper representation to the governor, there can, I think, be little doubt he will spare a small sloop of war for the purpose of cruising off Pulo Lint, and dispersing the pirate vessels which swarm there; after which to sail up the Pergottan river (there is plenty of water) and destroy Raga's flotilla, or such part of it as may be there found, together with his grand depôt and those of his chiefs: These should be fired and totally consumed, as some little atonement for the *twenty-seven captains of European vessels*, who by his own account have fallen by his hand, and for the seas of blood beside which has been wantonly shed by these ruffians. There can be little doubt of the cordial assistance of the British Admiral, when his Excellency is made fully acquainted with the extent of their enormities. We live far from England; whether it be that a long residence in this climate renders Europeans indifferent, and indeed almost insensible to the calls of humanity, which some say it does; or whether the most callous, cold-hearted, stoical misanthropy, have alone found their way to this quarter of our Indian possessions, I cannot say; but atrocities which in England would rouse that generous people almost to madness, here create neither surprise, sympathy, or concern; the excessive love of accumulating wealth has destroyed all those feelings which in our youth we were taught to consider as most valuable and precious."

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### Madagascar.

By information lately received from Mauritius, we learn that the French em-

bassy, which had been sent about three months ago to the queen of Madagascar, to propose terms of accommodation, has failed in its object. It seems that the Malagasy had sternly resolved not to concede any portion of their country to the claims of the French government; and having proved too powerful for the French division, which made its attack on Foule Pointe, Tamatave, &c. in the autumn of last year, they probably feel confirmed in their determination to oppose the pretended rights of the French to establish settlements in their country.—*South Afr. Adv. Oct. 16.*

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### Ascension.

The Corporation of the Trinity House have issued a notice, dated on the 3d September, respecting the rocks off the island of Ascension, which have been found by a late actual survey to bear as follows:—viz. at the 12-foot rock, Tartar Stairs bear by compass S. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. distant a quarter of a mile. At the 15 feet rock, Tartar Stairs bear by compass E. S. E. distant nearly half a mile; a large coppered buoy is now placed on the N. W. point of the reef, which extends from the foot of the fort along shore to S. W. bay. No ship should go within the buoy, or come nearer to the reef than 10 fathoms water, owing to the very long swell which breaks the whole way to the shore.

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### Australasia.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES.

##### PETITION TO PARLIAMENT.

The petition to Parliament, which was agreed to at a public meeting, at which the sheriff (Mr. Mackness) presided, expressed the gratitude of the petitioners for the interest manifested by Parliament in the affairs of the colony, for the enlargement of the legislative council, and extending trial by jury in issues between subject and subject; but at the same time declares, "that the efforts of Parliament have not kept pace with the advancement of their society; and that nothing short of the full enjoyment of the constitutional rights of legislation by representation, and trial by jury in its most perfect form, can either satisfy the wishes of the people, or permanently improve the condition of the colony." They urge that the want of constitutional modes of government operates as a serious discouragement to emigration from Great Britain; and consequently precludes the full development of the resources of the colony. They ascribe the tide of emigration which has flowed to the new settlement on the western coast, to the inducement held out by the statement in the public notifications, that