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1823.

PENANG.

State of the Island.—Letters from Penang, dated 25th March 1822.

"We are here in a state of blockade with these paltry Siamese junks and prows cruizing between the Ladders and Junkcylone. They take all vessels they can master, coming from Pegou, and they do not respect the Chinese junks and vessels belonging to this island. We must however submit, for we have no vessel of force here; the Nautilus, Bombay cruizer, being at present employed in a survey on the coast of Acheen, which is already well known. We have now

500 men of the 20th, under a very gallant and able officer; and we have also a few Golundatus, Gun Lascars, and forty-five Europeans; also the local corps, now called the King's own force, they having the charge of the body of the King of Keddah. They amount to about 200 men of sorts: what was enlisted here are said to be Dhobies and Syces, &c. The Malay part of this corps walked off long ago. We have also 1,500 convicts that would be glad to see the Siamese or any one else that would allow them to do as they wish: property is therefore not safe till we get at least 300 more troops to reinforce our garrison. We all look up to your noble chief, to order them down, and allow no more chopping and changing of good troops. We hope at the same time our worthies may be informed that it makes no difference to the Hon. Company Bahadur, whether they pay these troops at Penang or Calcutta. If we are strong we shall be respected, if we are weak we shall be insulted; and it would take four months for you to send us aid if we require it."—*Cal. Jour.*

King of Quedah.—All apprehension of the threatened invasion from the Quedahs had entirely ceased, and the King continued his residence at Penang, under the protection of the British Government.