

THE
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AND
MONTHLY REGISTER

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1820.

Deputy-Comptroller of Customs at that port.

William Henry Hooper, Esq. Collector of Jaffnapatam, to be Collector of Customs for the said district.

Edward Kelwick, Esq. to be Assistant-Custom Master at Jaffnapatam.

Mr. J. E. Thiele, and Mr. J. Parkinson, to be Assistant Custom-Masters at Point Pedro and Kalis respectively.

Stephen Baron Van Lynden, to be Sitting Magistrate and Assistant Custom-Master at Mulletivo.

June 9.—Charles Scott, Esq. to be Assistant Collector of Jaffna.

Barry St. Leger, Esq. to be second Assistant Chief Secretary's office.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Republished in Ceylon, from the London Gazette.

Colombo, May 31.—73d Regiment. Ens. John Atkinson to be Lieutenant without purchase, vice McConnell, deceased, dated 24th January, 1818.—Secoud Lieut. Chas. Matthew Manger, from the half pay of the late 3d Ceylon regiment to be ensign, vice Atkinson, dated 24th Jan. 1818.

83d Regiment.—Capt. John Hutchinson from the half pay of the 94th foot, to be captain, vice Donald Campbell, who exchanges, receiving the difference, dated 20th August, 1818.—N. B. Capt. Samuel L. Jenkins, of the 1st Ceylon regt. placed upon half-pay, 24th Sept. 1818.

1st Ceylon regiment.—Lieut. John Braham, from half-pay of the 83d foot, to be first lieutenant without purchase, dated 18th Feb. 1818.

Ibid, July 12.—Maj-gen. Barues, K.C.B. to serve upon the staff of the army in Ceylon, in the room of Maj-gen. Jackson.

With reference to the late service in the Kandyan country, in a dispatch received from Maj-gen. Sir Henry Torrens, dated 24th October, 1818, his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief has been graciously pleased to express "The greatest satisfaction to learn the good conduct and discipline which distinguishes the troops in the arduous service they have to perform, and he earnestly hopes, that a perseverance in such exertions will soon bring the affairs of Kandy to a favourable conclusion."

As a most gratifying mark of his Royal Highness's approbation of the services of that gallant army, the lieutenant-general announces with pride, the promotion of Major McDonald, of the 19th regiment, to the rank of lieutenant-colonel; which honourable distinction, conferred on this incomparable officer, for his great and unwearied exertions during the rebellion, will, the commander of the forces assures himself, be felt by every officer and soldier, as a flattering proof of the favoura-

ble manner in which his Royal Highness has been pleased to view their zealous endeavours in support of the honour and dignity of the British crown:

DEATHS.

April 12.—At Point de Galle, Lieut. Farren, H.M. 73d, after suffering for fourteen months from liver complaint and dysentery, whilst waiting for an opportunity of proceeding to Europe for his health, he was suddenly carried off by the spasmodic cholera, leaving a widow and infant son to deplore his loss.

Aug. 7.—Drowned, off Trincomalee, by the upsetting of a boat, Mr. Robert Cockey, midshipman on board the Mindea, Admiral Sir Richard King, Bart.

SINGAPORE.

The following review of the local history and relations of the Sultan of Johore and the Rajah or Vizier of Rhio, shews that the former is a prince reigning by a legitimate title independently of any native authority at Rhio or Malacca, or any transfer of sovereignty over Rhio or Malacca to the Dutch.

Vague reports have been in circulation, tending to create a belief that the settlement at Singapore, so recently made by Sir Stamford Raffles, and placed under the care of Major Farquhar, the late resident at Malacca, was about to be relinquished, as being found to be in breach of some previously existing treaty between the government of Netherlands India, and the Sultan of Johore.—The circumstances which led to the occupation of this settlement, and the grounds on which its security may be said to rest, are briefly these. The eligibility of possessing some station in the Straits of Malacca, until now wholly engrossed by the Dutch, was no sooner suggested by the active and penetrating mind of Sir Stamford Raffles, (than whom no man has given to the world a more splendid proof of his intimate acquaintance with every thing connected with our eastern possessions) than it was immediately concurred in by the supreme government of Bengal; and Sir Stamford, during his visit here in October last, was selected by the government as the fittest person to carry it into execution.—Sir Stamford accordingly sailed from hence, vested, as it was generally understood, with discretionary powers to select a fit and appropriate station for a British settlement, to command in some degree the free navigation of the Straits of Malacca; being fettered with no other restrictions than the just ones of not violating any acknowledged rights of our rivals the Dutch, nor using force or undue

influence with the natives of the country. —It was intended, and of course believed, that every assistance which might be necessary for the prosecution of the plans adopted would have been rendered by the local government of Penang, but some disappointment appears to have been experienced in this particular. The obstacles which this unexpected want of cordial co-operation created, were not, however, insurmountable, and the expedition left Penang to proceed to its destination. —At this period the Dutch claimed sovereign authority over Rhio, and the whole of the ancient empire of Johore, as a former dependency of Malacca, and they spoke openly also of their determination to prevent the Rajah from making any cession of the Carimons to the English. They had at this time so far effected their purpose as to have formed an establishment at Rhio, under a treaty with the chief, the terms of which were not publicly known, but the nature of which must have been extremely limited. No Dutch flag has been actually hoisted either at Lingas, Johore, or Padang, the other three great divisions of the empire; so that in truth the Dutch influence might have been considered as strictly confined to Rhio, which port was governed by a Baggene chief, the Rajah Manda or Vimer, while the legitimate Sultan of Johore was still a free agent, and under no engagements to the Dutch. —Though Rhio was thus in a manner secured to the Dutch, or at least so much so as that a semblance of injustice might have attached to any interference with their right there, yet Johore remained free for examination; but as it was advisable, before fixing decidedly on any one point, to examine the whole of those that suggested themselves as eligible, the expedition proceeded first to the Carimons. —These islands, geographically considered, are admirably situated for giving to a strong naval power the command of the Straits, but they are yet uninhabited, and are covered with primeval forests. The northern part of the larger island is mountainous; but to the southward, for an extent of three-fourths of the whole island, it is low and apparently swampy. The only harbour is found to the north-east, by the position of the little Carimon, and although it has sufficient depth of water on one side to enable ships to lie under the protection of batteries—where this advantage is offered, the mountains rise abruptly from the sea, and the defences must necessarily be distant from the principal settlement, which would require to be fixed where level land is to be found. Some doubts might also be entertained of the salubrity of the place, and under all circumstances the Carimons did not appear sufficiently inviting to be made the

chief object of attainment. —The expedition next proceeded to Singapore, where it was understood that the chief authority of Johore had now fixed his residence. This town was founded by the Malays in the 12th century; it was their first station in the Archipelago, and long the rival of Menamcabon in Sumatra. It is situated on the island of Singapore, and at the bottom of a harbour which is unrivalled in these seas, either with reference to its extent or to the shelter and security it affords. The port of Rhio will bear no comparison with it on these points, and much less on the more essential one of geographical situation, as it lies in the direct route of all ships passing through the Straits. In the neighbourhood of the town there was found to be sufficient cleared land for the immediate accommodation of the troops, the surface of the country was elevated without being mountainous, and in every respect this station appeared to be admirably adapted for the proposed establishment of a British settlement. —It was found on enquiry that there had never been any Dutch settlement either here or at Old Johore, and that the Dutch had hitherto not even attempted to exercise an influence or authority over these parts. Johore Lama, it was found, had long been deserted, and the chief authority now resided at Singapore, where the Dutch flag had never appeared, and where it would not be received or admitted on any terms. —The Toomoongung, who now exercised authority here, held the lands of Singapore, Johore, and of all the islands about the Straits, with the exception of Rhio and Lingas, as his own inheritance, his family having always enjoyed the revenues of them, since he held his commission as an independent chief of this division of the empire, from the late Sultan of Johore, Mohammed Shah, whose independence the English had always acknowledged; and since the death of that chief, there had not even existed a contest for influence or rule throughout these dominions. —It having been previously ascertained by a visit of Maj. Farquhar to Rhio, that no claims to the exercise of authority over Singapore were set up in that quarter; and the actual governor of the island, whose legitimacy was fully established by his being the 26th monarch in his own line, having solicited the friendship and the protection of the British, an arrangement was concluded for establishing a British settlement there, on grounds which it appeared could not be objectionable to any of the parties concerned, and the British flag was hoisted with all due honours.

Such are the outlines of the history of this transaction; and on a review of the origin, progress, and termination of it,

we cannot but conceive that it is alike baseable to the penetration of those who planned, and the judgment and moderation of those who executed the task. The objections that have been urged, (but these have hitherto been heard only in the low and sullen murmurs of those who envy the rewards of enterprise and talent, from which they are themselves shut out by their want of these virtues) are, that the whole of the eastern stations enumerated were dependencies of Malacca, and as such belonged to the Dutch, and that besides this claim, the Rajah of Rhio had absolutely ceded Singapore to them by treaty.

To the first objection may be given a plain and satisfactory answer; namely, that Rhio, or rather the empire of Johore, was not a dependency of Malacca when the latter place came into the possession of the British in 1795. On that occasion the military and naval commanders of the expedition demanded of the Dutch authorities at Malacca, whether Rhio, &c. were dependencies. The Dutch governor replied, that all engagements between the chief of Rhio and the Governor-general of Batavia had ceased and determined, and they were consequently considered and acknowledged by the British as independent states, and a document to this effect was actually given to the sultan.

The second objection may be removed by referring to what we have before advanced, namely, that the Rajah of Rhio, with whom the Dutch are said to have concluded the treaty by which a cession of all these other ports are made to them, has really, according to his own confession, and the general understanding of all the eastern chiefs, no authority beyond his own immediate territory. Singapore was found by the British expedition in the quiet and undisputed possession of its legitimate sovereign, reigning as much by the suffrage and consent of the subjects over whom he exercised his rule, as by his own right to the throne, occupied as it had been by his ancestors for generation beyond generation.—*Calcutta Journal*.

The following are extracts of private letters:

Penang, 18th June.

The Indiana, Cornwallis, Mary Anne, and Marchioness of Wellesey, are now at Singapore, where every person was engaged in landing and mounting the heavy ordnance, sent from Penang, for its garrison, consisting of three 24-pounders and 12 18-pounders, with abundance of ammunition and warlike stores. After this duty had been performed, the ships named were expected to return to Penang with the remainder of the 1st batt. of the 20th that had been at Bencoolen.

Madras, Aug. 24.

Extract of a letter from an officer on board one of the Hon. Company's cruizers in the Eastern Seas.

"On our way up we called at the new settlement of Singapore; we found them doing well, and have no doubt of its being a flourishing place before long. The harbour or road is safe, easy of access at all times, and commands the passage through the straits close to St. John's Island. The landing is good, plenty of fresh water, and a fine plain to build on. When I first visited it with Sir S. Raffles, there was not above 30 Malay houses; others are rising in all parts just now; and other Malays from various states came to express their satisfaction at again seeing the English amongst them. Batteries were built, and the best arrangements made to give our Java friends a warm reception, should they feel inclined to visit them, which the Malays confidently expected, but without doubt of the issue, having the greatest reliance on Maj. Farquhar, whom they know by no other name than the Rajah of Malacca to this day. We were falling much in the opinion of the Malays, until the new settlement was made; whereas now, there is nothing like this English in their estimation."

The natives of Singapore say, that the climate is very salubrious; that there is no sickness peculiar to the island; and that they do not know what sickness is, but they say, indeed, that even in this healthy and beautiful spot "people do sometimes die when they get old."

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

IRRUPTION OF THE CAFFRES.

From the Papers of the Colony.

Aug. 28, 1819.—The minds of the colonists will be greatly relieved from the anxiety they have hitherto felt for our comrades on the frontier, by being acquainted that the preparations, which had taken much time to make, having at length been completed, Lieut. Col. W. M. Shire marched from Graham's Town on the 26th of last month against the hostile tribes of Tsimble, Lynx, and Congo; the Lieut. Col. divided his force into three columns in order to enter the Caffre territory in the most convenient manner; Maj. Fraser with the right column was directed to cross the Fish River at Trompeter's Drift, for the purpose of preventing the occupation by the enemy of the fastnesses in that direction; while the Landdrost of Graaff-Reinet, turning the Winterberg, entered the Caffre country by the sources of the Chumie; Mr. Stockenström having a great distance to march, broke up from his encampment