

THE  
**ASIATIC JOURNAL .**

AND  
**MONTHLY REGISTER**

FOR  
**British India and its Dependencies :**

CONTAINING

Original Communications.  
Memoirs of Eminent Persons.  
History, Antiquities, Poetry.  
Natural History, Geography.  
Review of New Publications.

Debates at the East-India House.  
Proceedings of the Colleges of Haileybury  
and Fort William, and the Military  
Seminary at Addiscombe.

India Civil and Military Intelligence, Ap-  
pointments, Promotions, Births, Mar-  
riages, Deaths, &c. &c.  
Literary and Philosophical Intelligence.

Missionary and Home Intelligence, Births,  
Marriages, Deaths, &c.

Commercial Intelligence.

Shipping Intelligence, Ship Letter-Mails,  
&c.

Lists of Passengers to and from India.

State of the London and India Markets.

Notices of Sales at the East-India House.

Times appointed for the East-India Com-  
pany's Ships for the Season.

Prices Current of East-India Produce.

India Exchanges and Company's Secu-  
rities.

Daily Prices of Stocks, &c. &c. &c.



VOL. IX.

JANUARY TO JUNE 1820.

---

LONDON :  
PRINTED FOR BLACK, KINGSBURY, PARBURY, & ALLEN,  
BOOKSELLERS TO THE HONOURABLE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,  
LEADENHALL STREET.

1820.

coffee, spices, cotton, and pepper.—The Isabella, Capt. Forster, was the latest arrival from that island. At the period of her departure Sir S. Raffles and suite were there.—*Penang Paper.*

## BIRTH.

On the 25th of July, Mrs. Barnard, of a daughter. This is the first birth at the new settlement.

## MALACCA.

*Destructive Fevrr.*—The depositions of the medical gentlemen at Penang, published a few days ago, went to prove that the disorder prevailing at Malacca was not the cholera morbus. It appears, however, to be a disease of almost equal violence to this, as we find in the Penang paper the following paragraph:—"We are concerned to state, that the fever, which we lately noticed as prevailing at Malacca, continues with increased violence, and that the daily victims to its destructive ravages were numerous."—*Calc. Journal, Aug. 23.*

## DEATH.

July 17.—Mrs Joaquina Bruynes, wife of Mr. Barnaldo Bruynes, aged 43 years; and on the 19th of the same month, his daughter, Miss Maria Antonio Bruynes, aged 17 years.

## SUMATRA.

## ACHEEN.

*Relations of the British with the Native Powers.*—Aug. 31.—By the Minto we have received letters from Penang, which state, that the son of Syed Hussein, one of the late rival kings of Acheen, had been ordered from that place to Penang. The caudid and direct conduct of Sir S. Raffles, in effecting a decision between the contending claimants to that kingdom, is spoken of with much encomium, and appears to have been worthy of the representative of the British government. He is stated to have declined employing any military force beyond one hundred men as a guard. On his departure from Acheen he left arms and ammunition, and a civil servant behind him. Our letter concludes this subject with stating, that "it now depends on the government to decide, whether it will be eligible to form a settlement at this place or not, as the sultan and people are much disposed to place themselves under the protection of the British power."—*Oriental Star.*

A correspondent of the *Calcutta Journal* introduces the following sketch of the circumstances under which the rival kings in Acheen stand, in respect to each other, by saying, that from the state-

ments which had been given in some of the late Calcutta papers respecting the state of affairs at Acheen, that subject appeared not to be well understood; on which account he was induced to communicate what he had the best grounds for believing to be an authentic sketch.

It is, as the Calcutta editors observe, generally known, that a revolution took place some time ago, which expelled from his throne and capital, the then reigning Monarch, Jowhar Alum Shah, and raised to the vacant musnud Syf-ul Alum, the son of Tuankoo Syeed Hussein, who for many years has been a resident at Penang; but it is not as generally known, under what circumstances this revolution was effected, or upon what foundation the Tuankoo's claims to the high destiny of regal elevation are built. Tuankoo Syeed Hussein is accurately designated, as being now a wealthy and opulent merchant of Penang, but he claims from the famous Jemal-ul Alum, who sat upon the throne of Acheen in the last century, and is celebrated as one of their best and most respected princes. The successful rebellion and treachery of the great officers who held under Jemal-ul Alum, the officers of Shahbunder and Maha Rajah Lela, drove that unfortunate prince from his throne, and transferred the sovereign authority to the usurper. Syeed Hussein's father, waged an unsuccessful war against the usurper and was killed in battle; the Syeed's family therefore quitted the kingdom, and sought a refuge in some neighbouring country. Soon after the establishment of this colony, Syeed Hussein settled at Penang under every encouragement that could be offered him by the then local authorities, bringing with him a numerous train of followers and dependents. Here he continued to reside and to carry on extensive commercial pursuits, enjoying the respect of the community and the good opinion of the government.

Jowhar Alum Shah, the deposed King, is the descendant of the Maha Rajah, who usurped the throne from Jemal-ul Alum. Jowhar Alum succeeded to the throne when a minor, but does not appear ever to have established an official authority; his peculiar habits, attachments and pursuits, appear to have created a general feeling of dissatisfaction, and gave equal offence to the aristocracy of the country as well as to the people; accordingly, whilst on one hand the sovereign authority has been gradually sinking lower and lower into a state of feebleness, degradation, and decay, the country in general has been a prey to misrule and its attendant consequences, anarchy and confusion.

The vexations and injuries experienced by British traders, in their intercourse with the ports of Acheen, had become so

multiplied and frequent, that at length they attracted the attention of the government, and in 1814, Capt. Canning was deputed by the supreme government, as commissioner invested with full power, to discuss and adjust all existing differences with the state of Acheen, and to form arrangements for the future and permanent protection of our commerce.

The insulting and injurious treatment which the infatuated king was induced to offer to the accredited envoy of the British government is well known; but to such a height had the dissatisfaction at this prince's misconduct arisen, on the part of his chiefs, that at the very time he was thus insulting and provoking the British government, the leading men in his kingdom were preparing to depose him and expel him from his throne, to which extremity they did at length proceed in a solemn council of state.

The deposition of Jowhar Allum Shah was formerly announced to the British government by the great "chiefs of Acheen," and was followed by an invitation from them to Tuankoo Syed Hussein, to repair to the capital and resume the throne of his ancestors.

The aged Syed wisely preferring the security, ease, and comfort he enjoyed under the British government of Prince of Wales's Island, to the cares and anxieties of sovereignty, declined for himself the tempting offer; but deeming it not just to his family, to deprive them of the inheritance to which their birth entitled them, notified to the government, that he would go over with his son to visit the tombs of his ancestors, and if the chiefs of the kingdom chose to accept his son for their King, he would leave him.

The Syed accordingly repaired to Acheen, about the middle of the year 1815, when the assembled chiefs of the kingdom solemnly invested Syf-ul Alum Shah, the Syed's second son, with the sovereignty, and swore allegiance to him. Tuankoo Packee, the powerful chief of Pedir, attending in person and bringing a powerful aid to support and establish the new King.

The deposed King sought a refuge in a remote corner of the kingdom, where he continued in indigence and obscurity until the disaffection of Tuankoo Packee, the Pedir chieftain, and his abandonment of the new King, on account of some pecuniary claim, restored him to some degree of consequence by serving as a tool to further Tuankoo Packee's personal views of ambition.

The new King, Syf-ul Alum, quitted the capital and retired to Telluwamoy on the eastern coast, where he has since remained, but the government at Acheen (such as it is) has been carried on in his name, and the duties at the capital

and at the other ports, excepting those dependant on Tuankoo Packee, levied under his authority.

It has throughout been the uniform and cautious policy of the government, to avoid any participation in the internal disputes of the country, or to give any countenance to one party in preference to the other; but it has always been an object of just and anxious desire to see some settled government and fixed authority established, with which we might form arrangements of a permanent nature for the security of our commerce, and for the mutual advantage of the subjects of both states.

To effect this very desirable purpose, Capt. Coombs was dispatched by the government of Prince of Wales's Island, in Jan. last, on a mission to Acheen, instructed in the first instance to ascertain whose authority was recognized by the chiefs and people, in what hands the sovereign power was lodged, and having ascertained this point, empowered to negotiate a commercial treaty with the actual authority.

Capt. Coombs repaired to Acheen, where he was met by the great chiefs of the kingdom, and the purposes of his mission being explained to them, in a full assembly of what may be termed the national council, the chiefs distinctly and unanimously gave him the most formal and solemn declaration of their unchanged adherence and allegiance to their new sovereign, Syf-ul Alum Shah, declaring that they had renounced for ever the authority of Jowhar Allum and would never more admit him to reign.

A few days only previous to Captain Coombs' arrival, a brig under British colours belonging to the port of Nagore had been captured and plundered off the coast by Tuankoo-Packee, and the Pedir crew made prisoners. This outrage, on being made known to Capt. Coombs, was represented by him to the assembled chiefs, who expressed their deep sense of the disgrace such acts brought on their country, and their resolution to call the Pedir Chief to account. It must be understood that the Sagis or great chiefs of the three principal divisions of the kingdom of Acheen proper, form the council of the state, and of late years have in fact more than participated in the sovereign power.

After a stay of a fortnight at Acheen, having been referred by the chiefs to Syf-ul Alum as the acknowledged king, who alone had the power of making any treaty with foreign states, Capt. Coombs had intercourse with Syf-ul Alum, and then repaired to Calcutta to submit his report and the result of his enquiries to the governor general.

It is quite an error to suppose that a counter-revolution had again been brought

about, and that the ex-king had been successful in any attempt to recover his throne or overthrow what he and his friends designate as the *Usurper*. Such an impression had been industriously disseminated in Bengal and Prince of Wales's Island, and has found partizans of no inconsiderable weight to support it; but it has been grounded on a misconception of the transaction that took place at Pedir, which has been also greatly misrepresented.

It was asserted on the authority of some persons who had touched at Pedir, that a deputation had been received from Acheen, sent by the great chief of the kingdom, to tender their submission to Jowhar Allum, to solicit pardon and to invite him to return to the capital and resume his authority, and at the head of this mission was the Shabundar of Acheen, the principal executive officer of the state.

The main facts were true, such a deputation was sent and was conceded to the Shabundar, who was sent to accomplish by stratagem, a purpose the chiefs feared they could not otherwise effect. Under pretext of a respectful embassy to entreat forgiveness, and to invite the ex-king to return to his throne, the Shabundar was employed to get possession of his person as a prisoner to the Sagis. Finding himself unable to effect his object, the Shabundar determined on getting rid of the new king's most powerful adversary, Tuankoo Packee, and accordingly seizing his opportunity he stabbed the Pedir chieftain to the heart. He soon afterwards fell himself by the hands of the Tuankoo's adherents. Thus terminated the fictitious embassy, said to have been sent to invite the deposed king back to his throne. So thoroughly the reverse of any such design existing, or of the leading chiefs of Acheen proper, having again changed sides, no later than December, a deputation headed by one of the principal chiefs, a brother of one of the Sagis, arrived at Tillaswamoy, to entreat Suf-ul Allum to return without delay to the capital.

It will be clearly evident from the foregoing sketch that the state of the kingdom is as nearly as possible the same as it was when Captain Coombs left it, in February last year, and as it has been since the end of 1815. The deposed king remains at Pedir, acknowledged by the chiefs immediately dependant on Tuankoo-Packee; whilst Suf-ul Allum continues to reside at Tillaswamoy, acknowledged and the government administered in his name, at the capital; but in effect, the whole authority exercised by the Sagies or great Acheen chiefs. On one hand, the party of Suf-ul Allum appears to have gained strength rather than lost it, by the removal of his

powerful adversary the Pedir chief, whilst on the other, the hopes of the old king have been recently revived, by his professed expectation of support from a powerful friend which he has interested in his cause.

It is not however likely that either of the two rivals will ever be able to establish any thing like efficient authority without the intervention of foreign aid and council."

The above was published 23d March 1819, about the time when Sir Stamford Raffles effected the treaty mentioned, *Asiatic Journal*, vol. viii. p. 511.

*Picture of a Sultan*.—The following was published in the *Penang* paper; but as several articles which lately found their way into the Indian prints under the date of Penang, make it apparent that it is the object of some partisans at that island, to depreciate the acquisitions in territory and influence, which Sir Stamford Raffles has effected for the Company; the description of the Sultan of Acheen, is perhaps not a faithful picture, but a studied caricature.

Extract of a letter from Pedir Roads, by a passenger on board one of the transports.

June 2.—Our touching here may prove of some public use, as it will give us an opportunity of taking to Calcutta the latest and most authentic intelligence respecting the state of this country, and of the affairs of its sultan Jowhar Allum. Col. O'Hallaran whose ideas of a sultan were of course all founded on Nabobs of Lucknow and other great princes of India, landed here in state shortly after our arrival; his surprize and embarrassments were rather amusing, when he saw a poor creature surrounded only by a set of half starved chooliahs, sitting in a wretched common Artap house. The king, however, behaved with much civility, and talked a great deal about his future plans and operations. He said (which I can scarcely credit) that the late commissioners had promised, by their treaty, to send him immediately from Penang a lac of rupees, and a large supply of military stores, and that his prime minister had gone to receive them. He applied to the officers of the 20th reg. for a book on drill, saying that he was going to raise a corps of 600 men, and that the moment his military stores arrived, he intended to march, with his great guns in front, all along the sandy beach, from Pedir to his good city of Acheen! I dare say he will never be able to execute one half of his present intentions, for he does not appear to have one respectable native near him, and seems to

possess a considerable portion of that kind of good nature which generally goes by a harder name. I make no doubt, if this story about the money and military stores be true, the former will soon be squandered away, and the latter share the same fate with the handsome service of porcelain which Lord Minto sent him some years ago, but the greater part of which was shortly after hawked about Penang for sale."

We have inserted the last article chiefly as an example of the mischievous uses to which a free press may be perverted in India, if it be suffered to degenerate into an organ of jealousy, and an engine of counteraction between the Company's own servants. But suppose the above representation of a harassed and distressed sultan, struggling under the difficulties of divided dominion and precarious power, were true, that would not detract from the value of any territorial cession which he had made with the Company; so that the political position and influence which the treaty negotiated by Sir Stamford Raffles has acquired is the main thing to be appreciated.

*Character of the Acheense.*—By private letters, containing the results of recent observation, the Acheense are represented as in the highest degree treacherous, which corresponds with what we have before heard of them; and it appears that they have lately endeavoured to cut off a French gentleman at Acheen, whom they robbed of some fowling pieces and some shooting equipage. Mr. Deard, however, by quietly surrendering these, and making no effort at resistance, but calmly preserving his temper, saved his life, and succeeded in swimming to a distant point of land. By creeping along the shore he at length reached his boat, although the villains fired at him twice with his own gun. He had been long amongst them, and had been deceived by placing a degree of confidence in them which they did not merit.—*Calcutta Journ. April 23.*

#### PALEMBANG.

*Relations of the Dutch with the Native powers.*—The *Batavian Courant* of the 31st July announced, that M. Muntinghe, the commissioner at Palembang, had been forced to retire from that place, with the troops, to the island of Banca.

A letter received in Calcutta, dated Batavia, July 28, communicates some particulars of this occurrence:

"Mr. Muntinghe, the resident at Palembang, arrived here yesterday, after be-

ing driven from thence by the Malays; they opened a battery of thirty pieces of cannon on them, which the Dutch soldiers stormed three times and were as often repulsed; after a loss of 117 men and two officers, killed, Mr. Muntinghe has gone after the governor (who is to the eastward) and nothing further will transpire until his return."

The *Penang Gazette* of 17th July, after mentioning the fact in concise terms, adds some explanatory details:

The *Penang Gazette* of the 17th of July mentions, that the Dutch were driven from Palembang, with the loss of many men, but not by the chief who was set aside by the Netherland government, on the restoration of the Dutch possessions, but by the reinstated sultan, on whom implicit dependence had been placed. It may be remembered, that, while Java was under our dominion, Palembang was ceded by the Sultan to Great Britain, on the express condition that he should be maintained on his throne and supported in his dignity by the British government. By a distinct and separate article in the treaty of 1814, this island was also transferred to the King of the Netherlands; but on the conditions, and subject to those compacts which had existed between the King of Great Britain and the Sultan. The first act, however, of the Dutch commissioners who were sent from Java after the transfer of Palembang, was to depose the Sultan whom we had protected, and seat another on the throne. It is this other who has expelled the Dutch from his territories.

A letter, dated Batavia, July 19, conveys some further insight into the origin of the contest, and the manner of the explosion. This statement coming from a Dutch source, rests on private authority.

Commissioner Muntinghe had concluded some negotiation with the Sultan (the object not distinctly known), one condition of which stipulated that three hostages, princes of his family, should be surrendered to the Dutch. The time fixed upon was seven in the evening; but Muntinghe dispatched a messenger, requesting that an earlier hour might be appointed. His envoy found the gates of the Kraton closed, and saw preparations making for battle, which induced him to proceed to the commanding officer of about 200 troops, stationed near the palace, who were all ready to embark for the other side of the river, where Muntinghe was stationed. The troops embarked hastily with their baggage, but were fired on from a battery of heavy guns, upwards of 30 in number, and suffered

considerably. A corvette and schooner, stationed in the river, opened a heavy fire upon the Kraton and battery, under the cover of which the troops rushed to the assault. They found the outer gate open (a trap!), but on proceeding to the second, met with so warm a reception, that they drew off with the loss of several men; and about this time the fire from the vessel slackening for want of ammunition, the troops were all embarked, and the place entirely evacuated. They have since reached Banca, and Muntingie has arrived here from that place. He has proceeded after the governor, who is absent in the interior. The number of troops at Banca is stated at 800; but a large expedition is ordered to be in readiness from hence of 1,500 or 2,000 men. Nothing will be done until the receipt of the governor's orders, which he may find expedient to give in person, and will probably return for that purpose. The natives in the mean time will have leisure to strengthen their defences. They are said to have some heavy guns, which are conjectured to have been obtained from the wreck of the *Alceste* frigate. The Dutch talk of sending one of their 74's with the troops, for the purpose of demolishing the works by the weight of metal, and if such a ship can get up the river, it is supposed she will effect that object.

Nor does it appear that they have been allowed to remain in quiet possession of the island of Banca, to which they retired after this defeat.

In the *Supplement to the Madras Gazette* of October 6, it is stated that the news was confirmed of a revolt of the natives of Banca against them. There is every reason to conclude, therefore, that the dominion of the Dutch in these possessions will not be easily established.

*Relations of the Dutch with the English.*—This subject is mixed with the preceding in a letter from Penang, received in Calcutta, Aug. 21.

Since my last we have received intelligence of the Dutch at Palembang having made the whole of the British subjects, whom Mr. Raffles sent to Palembang, prisoners, and sent them to Batavia. A few days subsequent, the natives of that place rose on the Dutch; the latter defended themselves, till they could embark in boats, which, under favour of the night, they succeeded in doing; and, with the loss of ten men, abandoned Palembang and proceeded to the mouth of the river, where they embarked in a brig for Batavia. The Dutch government intend to dispatch, immediately, an expedition against the place.—*Oriental Star*.

## PADANG.

*Relations of the Dutch with the English.*—The *Bataavian Courant* of 1st May confirms the intelligence of the surrender of Padang to the Dutch authorities, by an order from the supreme government in British India, as contained in the following paragraphs, published in the Penang Gazette of the 3d July.

It is well known that Mr. Du Puy, who has sent last year to take possession of the Dutch settlement of Padang, on the west coast of Sumatra, refused to receive that place on the conditions prescribed by the British lieutenant-governor of Bencoolen, and that this officer unsuccessfully returned.

The governor has since received information from the British supreme government in Bengal, that positive orders to deliver the residency of Padang to the Dutch authorities, have been forwarded to the lieutenant-governor of Bencoolen.

Mr. Du Puy has, in consequence, been appointed a second time commissioner as well as resident of Padang, and sailed for that place on the 26th April, in H.M. frigate *Wilhelmina*, under command of Capt. Dibbets, knight of the military order of William. On board this ship are also several civil officers and troops for the garrison of Padang.

## JAVA.

## BATAVIA.

*Political—Unofficial.*

*State of the Interior.*—The representations on this subject circulated by the Dutch differ widely from the accounts transmitted thence by visitors from other parts of India permitted to trade there.

*Batavia, Aug. 22.*—By accounts from Samarang, we learn that his Exc. the governor, and the Baroness Vander Capellen arrived there on the 29th July, and set out on the 15th of this month on a journey to the courts of Sourakatta and Djocjocarta.

The crops hitherto have been very productive, and the corn still in the field promises very well. These favourable circumstances led the native population fully to appreciate the advantages which the measures of the government procure them; since the direct sale of most of the fruits of their industry, and the circulation of money thereby occasioned, afforded them indeed a degree of prosperity which they probably never before enjoyed.

*Batavia, Sept. 30.*—Extract of a letter received at Penang.—Insurrections have occurred in some districts of Java owing to the dissatisfaction of the natives under the unexpected restraints imposed by the Dutch. A plot had been discovered at