

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. VII.

FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 1819.

LONDON :

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

1819.

difficult for their followers to ascertain where they will be at any time. Reports had reached them of British troops being expected to enter Hewahetty and orders were given to block up the roads. Kiwulgodera with three other chiefs were upon the look out on the heights near Badulla: we have no doubt that all their precautions will be quite unavailing to prevent Lieut.col. Kelly's marching with the utmost ease through Hewahetty towards Kandy, and we only wish that Kappitopola's illness might so far retard his movements as to enable our troops to come up with him, or that the late inauguration of the pretender might embolden him to make a stand; there would be little doubt of the result. The hon. the resident has received many particulars of information from another Kandyan who has lately been with the pretender and Kappitopola; his account agrees in general with that given by the Doorlahs. He states that the pretender is not a person of Malabar birth, and that it is easily seen by his conversation that he has been a priest; in private conversation it was whispered that he was the son of Willawe Kapurale. This informant agrees also with the Doorlahs in saying that there is a general disgust towards the cause of rebellion prevailing among the people, and much disappointment expressed at the repeated failures of all the great promises of which the headmen and the priests had been so lavish.

Every thing remains perfectly quiet in Oodamooro Yatteenoora, the four, and the seven Korles, except in that part of the latter which borders upon Matele, where the rebels continue to disturb the country; but nothing of any consequence has of late occurred.

From Kornegalle we hear by a letter from Lieut.col. Hook dated the 16th inst. that two Doorlahs had given information of the treasonable practices of Maha Watta Gamma Nilame, who had by threats and force prevented the inhabitants from making known their complaints to government, and was himself at Wandoragat temple with his followers preparing to join the rebels. In consequence of this intelligence Lieut. Murphy was sent on the 15th at night with a small party of picked men, who completely surprized the Nilame and took him prisoner with 20 of his people. He was tried on the 16th before a court martial, convicted upon the clearest evidence and sentenced to be hung. The present disturbed state of the province towards the frontiers of Matele, and the treacherous efforts of the chiefs to persuade or force the people into rebellion, while they are themselves actually under the protection of the British government, induced Lieut.col. Hook to consider this traitor as a proper subject for a severe

example of justice; his sentence was therefore immediately carried into execution. There is indeed a double reason for exercising such wholesome severity; the chiefs are, it may almost be said, the sole instigators of the rebellion; they only therefore undergo the deserved chastisement of their guilt; again, if to deter others from similar crimes be the best justification of rigorous punishment, the execution of one considerable headman is more likely to produce that effect than the slaughter of 100 of their wretched followers, whose death they regard with the most callous indifference.

From the Bombay Gazette, Sept. 9.—The last accounts from Ceylon continue as favorable as we can wish. The troops from Bengal will most likely arrive at Colombo about the 20th or 25th Sept. when we have no doubt that the restoration of tranquillity, and the final subjugation of this fine island will speedily take place.

DEATH.

May 2. At Trincomalee, Sampson Waring, Esq. formerly Capt. in H. M. 94th Light Dragoons; and on the 30th of the same month, the relict of the deceased, Alicia Emily, daughter of the late Sir John Meredyth, Bart. while on her passage to Calcutta.

— At Trincomalee, Mrs. Maria Tranchele, aged 49 years.

AVA.

Madras, Aug. 22.

Accounts from the eastward state, that the city of Rangoon had been nearly destroyed by fire on the 29th of May. It is added, that a band of thieves, amounting to 200, taking the advantage of the confusion that took place, plundered the houses of many of the European inhabitants in open day, and though the leader of this band was discovered, his interest with the government enabled him to escape with impunity.

PEGU.

From the Bombay Gazette, Aug. 26.

It is said that a considerable portion of the town of Pegu has been destroyed by fire. This occurred on the 21st of May, and much injury has been sustained. This will, perhaps, be deemed a punishment, consequential to the orders of the new government, for removing all foreign priests and missionaries.

SUMATRA.

At the rise of the republic of Holland, a generous sympathy with the protestant cause on the continent, and a political regard to the creation and maintenance of a balance of power in Europe, induced

the government and people of England to make efforts in assisting the Seven Provinces, for which the Batavians seemed to want both the ability and inclination to make any correspondent returns; so that the want of reciprocity in the assistance rendered, was not partially compensated by a community in feeling, or by the decent appearance of a good will. The English acted as if the independence of Holland was of equal consequence with that of England, and the Dutch as if it was the only thing which the English would go to war for in Europe. At the same time, the maritime strength of the Dutch East-India Company, and the facility with which a local superiority could be provided by that party by whom hostility was contemplated as impending, while a pretext for rupture was but a subject for opportune discovery, made the Dutch court occasions of quarrel in India, as a frequent relief from the restraint on enterprize, imposed by treaties of friendship at home. Hence the two nations were repeatedly at peace, or prosecuting in Europe a joint war as allies, while the rival companies in oriental commerce, their respective servants, and forces, were assailing each other's ships and settlements with the fury of irreconcilable enemies. The principle of the English government was to support the independence of Holland; Elizabeth, and James, and Charles, were therefore tenacious of friendship with the House of Orange, and reluctant to take offence at the irregular proceedings of its subjects between the Cape of Good Hope and the sea of Japan, as if the cant of national honour had there no jurisdiction. It was the business on one side to commit aggression, and of the other to overlook it. The stronger state disciplined her temper to forbearance, and the weaker applied her mind to insult, till generosity looked like connivance, and what was policy in Europe sunk to imbecility in India.

We hope a history of the past will not furnish a prediction of the future; and that the share of the English in achieving the victory of Waterloo, is not to entail upon this nation the secure insults of the Dutch; nor that the independence of the Netherlands, as one of the weights in the balance of power, is to hang for two centuries more as a millstone upon the

neck of England. Can a retrocession be accepted, and the obligations conveyed with it refused? If full dominion derived from conquest gave the right and power to make a treaty with their parties, the territory can only be restored, subject to the same conditions which it had acquired by such a compact. The island of Banca is of much importance in a commercial point of view. The tin mines which it contains are very productive, and are worked by a Chinese colony said to consist of 25,000 persons. Many cargoes are yearly carried to China, where the consumption is chiefly for religious purposes. It sells rather higher than the English grain tin, as the Chinese say it is more malleable, and on that account prefer it. In former times the profit from it to the Dutch East-India Company was estimated at £150,000, but very little was sent to Europe. The island, and the tin mines, were taken possession of by us in 1813, and restored to the king of the Netherlands by the 22d article of the convention of 1814; under what stipulations, and for what purposes, will appear from the protest of Sir T. S. Raffles.

RELATIONS WITH THE DUTCH.

Political—Official.

The following is the protest of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, Lieutenant-Governor of Fort Marlborough, against the aggressions of the Dutch in the Malayan Archipelago.

Protest.—The honour and interests of the British government rendering it indispensable that a public and formal protest should be made against the proceedings of the Dutch authorities in the Malayan Archipelago; I do hereby, as the nearest British authority, solemnly and publicly protest against the following proceedings of the representatives of the Netherlands government. When the agents of the British government transferred the government of Java to their excellencies the commissioners of his Netherlands Majesty, they called upon the commissioners-general to fulfil the engagements which the British government had contracted with the native princes during its administration of Java. The British authorities considered themselves bound and entitled to insist on their doing so, that having accepted the benefit of those acts which were favourable to them, they could not reject the burden of those which they deemed otherwise. No provision was made in the engagements with

the native princes, for the contingency of the colony returning to Holland. Holland, indeed, did not then exist as a nation, and the authorities who administered Java would have been fully warranted in resigning the whole country to the native princes. The language which was in consequence held out to the natives, was that of a government competent to make agreements in perpetuity.—Without such a language, the British could never have done what was done for the Eastern Islands. Those leading measures, of which the Netherlands government are now deriving all the benefit, could never have been effected had not the natives relied on the British government being able to secure them in a perpetuity of those rights which they had recognised.—The commissioners-general of his Netherlands Majesty, however, refused to guarantee those treaties, and the consequence was a formal protest on the part of the British authorities, who, on account of this and other measures of the Netherlands government, were compelled to leave Batavia, under a declaration, that there was an evident distinction to concede any thing to the name and character of the British nation in the Eastern Seas; and that, judging by the general policy evinced, there seemed reason to believe it to be the wish of the Netherlands government to erase the recollection of the British administration, and studiously to prevent the native princes and chiefs perceiving any influence of the British government in the arrangements of that transfer.—Such were the early impressions of the British authorities, and the subsequent proceedings of the Netherlands government will shew how far they are correct.—The British government considered the native princes as independent sovereigns, and treated with them accordingly. The Dutch refused to guarantee or respect our treaties, and would appear to have considered those faithful allies of the British nation as unconditionally subjected to their disposal.—If this be unjust with regard to the settlements actually subjected to European control, what must be thought of it with regard to those states which have risen into importance, and maintained their connexion with Britain in opposition to the restrictive policy of the Dutch? The representatives of his Netherlands Majesty would seem to aim at an absolute despotism over the whole Archipelago, with a view of excluding other European nations. The British had encouraged sentiments of freedom as far as was compatible with tranquillity, and had led the natives to rely upon them for the continued enjoyment of them.—But whatever may be the arrangements or arguments of the Netherlands

government with regard to the Archipelago generally, it is not necessary to go beyond the confines of Sumatra for evidence of the system which they seem determined to pursue, and against which it is the main object of this paper to protest. The circumstances are as follow.—By the 2d article of the convention of the 13th Aug. 1814, the British government ceded the Island of Banca to the King of the Netherlands.—This island, valuable on account of its tin mines, had, in the year 1812, been previously ceded to Great Britain by his Highness Sultan Najamuddin, of Palembang, on the express condition that all former contracts and agreements should be annulled, and that the Sultan should be maintained and supported in his dignity by the British government, without the farther interference of the European government in the affairs of Palembang. So important was this stipulation considered by the Sultan, that on the 1st Aug. 1813, it was an express article of an explanatory treaty, that the former clause, which stipulated that his Highness should do homage, or consider himself always dependent on the government of Java, was “null and void,” as being unnecessary under existing circumstances.—When the British were about to withdraw from Java, and arrangements were made for the transfer of Banca, it was necessary to withdraw the small British force which had provisionally remained at Palembang for the protection of the Sultan. On that occasion the Sultan appealed to the British government in the strongest terms. The following extract from one of his Highness's letters to the hon. Mr. Findall, may be sufficient for the present purpose:—“I hasten to send back my ambassadors to Batavia to wait upon my friend the Lieutenant-governor, of whom I earnestly entreat that he will confirm and settle all the arrangements regarding me and the country of Palembang, as heretofore existing, and that those relations may remain uninterrupted, notwithstanding the establishment of the Dutch government on the Island of Java. I cannot on any consideration separate myself from the friendship existing between me and the British government, and I place my reliance on the British government, that their protection may not be withdrawn, &c. &c. I cannot understand any other power upon which I can place my dependence than the English government, &c.”

In the same manner as the British authorities had called upon the commissioners general to guarantee the treaties with other princes, they called upon them to respect that with the Sultan of Palembang; but the commissioners refused a compliance with this request; a solemn

protest was accordingly made on the part of the British government, and the question referred to the authorities in Europe. —The grounds on which the British authorities felt themselves warranted in requiring, in a particular manner, that the existing treaty with the Sultan of Palembang should be respected, were obvious. That treaty had been fully recognised, as well by his Britannic Majesty as by his Majesty of the Netherlands; it was no longer a connexion dependant on the local government of Java. The island of Banca was not considered to revert to the Dutch as a matter of course, under the general provisions of the convention of 1814; it required that an express article should be inserted in the convention, and his Majesty the King of the Netherlands having received the island of Banca under that express article, must be bound to respect the treaty by which it was originally ceded to the English. The very act by which the Netherlands government took possession of Banca, confirmed the independence of Palembang, and rendered it incumbent on the British government to maintain the independence unimpaired. While the British government availed itself of the benefit which they derived by the treaty with Palembang, they were surely bound to fulfil that part of it which was beneficial to the Sultan. Having transferred Banca to a foreign power, the British government became bound in honour and good faith to fulfil the express condition on which they first obtained it. —Bound, therefore, as the British government was, to maintain the rights and dignity of the Sultan, as the price for which Banca may be considered to have been purchased, and deeply interested as it was in protecting the independence of the port of Palembang, it was with surprise that I received, on the 17th of June, a letter from the Sultan, of which the following is an extract.—"At this present time there is much trouble and anxiety, owing to the confusion and alarm spread by the arrival of a great Dutchman, called Edeler Muntinghe, who wishes to enter the country of Palembang, and says he was sent over by the Dutch commissioners-general, for the purpose of communicating with me. At present he is at Minto, and it is uncertain when he may come to Palembang. The object of his mission I do not know, but he has ordered a ship of war to precede him up the river, &c. &c. I hope that my friend will afford me whatever assistance he possibly can, and also give me instructions in order to prevent the Dutch from at all, or in any way affecting my present state and situation, by introducing disturbance and confusion in the country, and by co-operating with those who wish to destroy my respect and authority; for I

most fully rely on being, through the kindness and assistance of my friend, securely and firmly established in the rule of the country, &c. &c. I request my friend will send me an early reply, and that my friend will at the same time send me something to hold to, for I am still in a state of very great anxiety and alarm."

On receipt of this intimation, Capt. Salmond was directed to proceed to Palembang, as agent of the British government, under instructions (dated Fort Marlbro', 20th June 1818) of which the following is a copy, viz.

"To Capt. Salmond.—Sir:—You are hereby appointed to proceed on a special mission to Palembang, the object of which is to afford to the Sultan the protection of the British government.—2. I am unacquainted with the measures which may have been pursued by the Dutch government with respect to Palembang; but whatever they may have been, they can in no way interfere with the duty of the British government, to support the present Sultan, Ratoo Achmed Najmuddin, on the throne, to which he was raised by their authority. This, indeed, was the express condition on which he ceded the island of Banca.—3. The Dutch government have no claim whatever to a footing at Palembang, by virtue of the recent convention, and therefore it depends upon the Sultan, as an independent prince, whether he chooses to admit them or not. In his recent communications to me, he expresses himself to be in the utmost distress and anxiety, in consequence of the disorder and confusion into which the country has been thrown by the expected arrival of a Dutch commissioner, and he full hopes that I will give him proofs of my assistance and friendship, calls upon me to know what I can do for him, as his sole reliance is upon the British government, who raised him to the throne.—4. From this it would appear, that the Sultan has not yet entered into any formal arrangement with the Dutch government; but as they may have taken measures for forming an establishment in defiance of the protest of the British government and of the rights of the Sultan, no time should be lost in calling upon the Sultan to make his election; and if he is desirous of excluding the Dutch, and of remaining under the British protection, an explanatory treaty should be negotiated.—5. At all events, it will be your duty to convince the Sultan that he is not abandoned by the British government; and should he place himself unequivocally under its protection, to afford him that protection to the extent of your means, and to require that the Dutch withdraw all pretensions, and in no way further interfere with the

affairs of Palembang.—6. It is, perhaps, unnecessary for me to suggest the propriety of all your communications with the Dutch authorities of Banca or elsewhere being as guarded as possible, but at the same time in the spirit of harmony and good understanding which exists between the two governments.—7. I enclose the translation of the accompanying letter to the Sultan of Palembang, which you will be pleased to deliver to his Highness immediately on your arrival.—Relying on your judgment and discretion in the execution of the duty reposed in you, I am, &c.—(Signed)—T. S. RAFFLES.”

The following is the letter to the Sultan, alluded to in the above instructions:—

“To his Highness Ratu Achmud Nadjemudin, Sultan of Palembang.—(After compliments.) I have received your highness's letter, sent by your Uturans, as well as the letters from the members of your highness's family. Your highness calls upon me for assistance, in order that you may be maintained on the throne of Palembang; I, therefore, lose no time in sending to your highness's court Capt. Salmond, a gentleman in whom I place every confidence, and who will be my representative in inquiring into the grievances complained of by your highness and your family. This gentleman has also full authority from me to adopt all arrangements that may tend to your highness's security.—I have to request to bespeak your highness's kind offices to Capt. Salmond and the gentlemen in his suite.—I have nothing to send my friend but the British flag.—Written at Marlborough, the 31st June 1818.”

Subsequently to the departure of Capt. Salmond, a further letter was received from the Sultan, of which the following are extracts:

“I further acquaint my friend, that on the 29th of Rajah 1233, the great man, called Warner Herman Muntinghe, entered Palembang with apparently hostile accompaniments, consisting of one ship and one brig of war, a gun-boat, and upwards of twenty small prows. There were also with him Rajah Ahib, a native of Batak, and Pangeran Shirif Mahomed, together with many other persons of different descriptions. He also brought me letters from the Commissioners-gen. and the Governor-gen. of Batavia. These letters which I received inform me that they send Mr. Muntinghe as a commissioner to make inquiries respecting Banca and Palembang, and request me to pay him due honour and respect as their representative. On a subsequent day he waited upon me, and said he brought orders to me from the Commissioners-

gen. at Batavia, requiring me to make a division of the villages, &c. in order that one-half might be given to the former Sultan, Mahomed Budrudan, and the other remain with me. He at the same time wished to give me 1000 Spanish dollars a month, and told me I must conform to these orders; that if I did not, an act similar to that of Maj. Robinson's would certainly take place; namely, that of dethroning me. His vessels of war were anchored directly opposite the gate of my fort, as if he intended to have recourse to compulsive measures, without further discussion.—Be it known to my friend, that whenever I mentioned the name of my friend, the British government, his anger increased; and if I am not now at once assisted by my friend, my destruction, perhaps my death, is inevitable. Let the orders and assistance of my friend, whatever they may be, come quickly to Palembang.—Further, I have been found fault with for receiving my friend's letter, and have been told by him (Mr. Muntinghe) not to send any more people to Bencoolen. I replied, “How, can I not receive the letters of my friend, having been raised to the throne by the British government; I certainly must remember its kindness and attachment, and never can forget the same, or separate myself from it,” &c. &c. He also desired me to dispatch persons without delay, to overtake those I before sent with the letter to my friend, and get back the same from them; and it is owing to this circumstance, that I am now enabled to forward the present letter to my friend; and let him not take offence at the unsuitable manner in which it is done. But my friend knows too well how unhappily I am at present situated to do this, &c. &c. I having nothing to send my friend but tears which never cease to flow.”

The following additional instructions (dated Fort Marlboro', 24th June 1818), were in consequence forwarded to Capt. Salmond, on the 24th of June.

“To Capt. Salmond.—Sir: Since your departure a letter from the Sultan of Palembang, of which the enclosed is a translation, has been received.—The Dutch having proceeded to actual measures of aggression, I have deemed it necessary to address the chief authority of that nation at Palembang, and as circumstances have considerably changed since your instructions were issued, I must leave the rest to your discretion and judgment.—I enclose a copy of the letter addressed to Mr. Muntinghe, together with the proclamation therein referred to, for publication, if necessary.—I am, &c. (Signed) T. S. RAFFLES.”

Copy of a Letter to W. H. Muntinghe, Esq., dated Fort Marlboro', 24th June 1818.—“Sir: It is with the utmost astonishment and surprise that I have just received information of the measures pursued by you at Palembang, as representative of the Commissioners-general.

—It is stated that you have taken up a warlike position off the Sultan's palace, and demanded of him to surrender one-half of his country to his brother, the deposed Sultan Mahomed Badrudau, and in the event of not doing so, threatened him with dethronement.—It is impossible, Sir, for you to be ignorant of the circumstances under which the Sultan Najmudin was raised to the throne; and that his Britannic Majesty having by an express article of the convention ceded Banca to the King of the Netherlands, is bound to protect the Sultan in his rights and dignity.—The King of the Netherlands having further accepted and taken possession of that island under the treaty, has, by that act, fully acknowledged the independence of the Sultan; whatever, therefore, shakes the authority of that prince, shakes also the only title by which his Britannic Majesty could cede Banca to the Netherlands government.—I can hardly bring myself to believe that this act, on your part, is authorised by the commissioners-general; and much less that you, Sir, above all men, should have taken upon yourself to act in the manner above stated towards a prince under the immediate protection of the British government.—The Netherlands government have no right whatever, under the recent convention, to claim any interference at Palembang; and all interference there, after the protest of the British government on leaving Java, and in defiance of the authority of the reigning Sultan, is an unwarrantable and unjustifiable aggression on their part.—As such I view your conduct, and hereby protest against all your measures, holding you liable to answer to the authorities in Europe for every act injurious to the rights and dignity of the Sultan.—I do hereby further declare null and void all arrangements that you make at Palembang of the nature alluded to, and I require of you to lose no time in removing from Palembang all military force of every description now stationed there.—With reference to the little respect paid by the Commissioners-general to the protests of the British government on their quitting Java, I shall deem it my duty, in the event of demur on your part, forthwith to proclaim at Palembang and throughout the Archipelago, that all interference of the Netherlands government in the politics of Palembang is unauthorised, and that your arrangements are declared null and void.—I expect that the government of Batavia will at an early period

receive instructions to withdraw from Palembang; at all events, an immediate reference will be made to his Majesty's ministers on the subject, and it will be for the consideration of the authorities at home to decide in how far the measures pursued by you shake the title on which Banca was ceded to the king of the Netherlands.—Until the affairs of Palembang are satisfactorily arranged, I shall retain the settlement of Padong on this coast.—I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) T. S. RAFFLES.”—“P.S. I intrust this letter to Capt. Salmond, who is charged with a special mission from me to the court of Palembang, and I have to request you will respect him and his suite accordingly.”

In consequence of the state of affairs thus communicated to Capt. Salmond, and the information he obtained on his route, he deemed it advisable to proceed without the escort which had accompanied him over the hills, and to direct that the party should not follow until orders were received from him, a precaution taken by Capt. Salmond in order to prevent the possibility of disturbance, or the misinterpretation of his views, which under the change that had taken place were simply to deliver my letter, and to ascertain the sentiments of the Sultan.

On the 2d inst. a dispatch, of which the following is an extract, was received from Capt. Salmond.

“I have the honour to inform you that myself and suite arrived at Palembang about 8 A.M. on the 5th inst., and were received by his highness the Sultan Achmed Najemuden, who conducted us to the small fort or palace lately occupied by the Ex-Sultan, which was given us for our accommodation. His highness immediately entered into the engagements which you had suggested, with much pleasure (and on which I shall further communicate with you on my arrival at Fort Marlborough, as I am necessitated to close this letter in haste), and as a proof of his alliance with the British government, immediately hoisted the Union Jack on the walls of the fort.—In the afternoon I received a visit from Capt. Bakker, of his Netherlands Majesty's frigate at anchor in this port, accompanied by Capt. Vander Wyck, of the engineers, who brought a letter from Mr. Muntinghe, to which an immediate answer was requested; but as the subject of it required some deliberation, the want of rest which we had experienced some days past made me desirous to postpone a reply until next morning. It however contained three propositions, to which I immediately gave a verbal negative answer, that is, 1st. That after receiving a reply to the letter you addressed to him, I would imme-

diately fix my departure for Bencoolen the same day. 2d. That on my return home, I would accept of a military safeguard from outside as far as the limits of Bencoolen. 3d. That I would immediately withdraw the British colours hoisted on the Sultan's palace.—Shortly after sunset in the evening, a number of the natives, who were in the palace with us, informed me of the circumstance of an armed party having surrounded the same, and prevented further ingress or egress; and they were represented to be the partisans of the Ex-Sultan and Rajah Alibib, of Siak. I immediately directed inquiry to be made at the outer gate by whose orders they were placed there; to which they replied, Mr. Muntinghe's, and that they would oppose any one that attempted to pass them. I then wrote to Mr. Muntinghe on the subject, and was informed, in reply, that not having acceded to the above-mentioned requisitions, he was called upon to take these measures to maintain the rights of his Majesty the King of the Netherlands; and that, in addition to the former requisitions, he now added that of demanding our arms and ammunition, and putting thyself and suite under the safeguard of the Netherlands government, or it would become unavoidable to repel, what he was pleased to term, our hostile measures; to which, of course, I refused to comply. I soon afterwards received another letter from Mr. Muntinghe, principally on political points, to which it was unnecessary for me to reply, and concluded upon insisting upon his first offer. In answer I referred him to my former letter. At half-past three A.M. on the 5th, I was awake, and found that three officers with an armed party were come to the palace, and, upon their entrance, they presented a letter from Mr. Muntinghe to surrender myself and suite. I objected to deliver over the arms, but told the officers that I would parade the Buggesses, and if they thought proper, they might take them, which they did, when an armed force of Europeans were brought in front, and we were immediately escorted to the water-side by an armed party of Europeans and natives, and conveyed over here. The side arms of myself and Buggesse officers were left us.—My political functions being at an end, I have written a private letter to Lieut. Haslahn, recommending him to return with the escort to Moarra Bulliti to wait your further orders, and beg to inform you that I consider it as impossible for them to land here, or even to proceed down the river, if opposed, which it is most probable they would be by the vessels of war of his Majesty the King of the Netherlands now at anchor off the fort."

Capt. Salmond having ascertained that

the Sultan had in no way committed himself to the Netherlands government by any legal act, the following are the articles of the treaty entered into on the 4th July, 1818:

"This is a solemn treaty this day entered into between his highness Ratoo Achmed Najemudin, Sultan of Palembang, on the one side, and Capt. Francis Salmond, as the representative of the hon. Sir Thos. Stamford Raffles, Lieut.-gov. of Fort Marlboro', on the other: 1. His highness being desirous of the protection of the British government, and of excluding all other European nations from his dominions, the Lieut.-gov. of Fort Marlborough hereby agrees to furnish such military establishment as shall be adequate. 2. The Sultan, on his part, agrees to receive the said military establishment, and to provide for the expenses thereof. Signed, sealed, and delivered, in duplicate, at Palembang, this 4th day of July, 1818."

It may not be necessary to remark, that the first application of the Sultan for the advice and assistance of the Lieut.-gov. of Bencoolen was received on the 17th June; and that on the 21st June his highness was informed that the British government would render him the protection required; that in the interim, and while informed of the preliminaries between Palembang and Bencoolen, the Dutch commissioner commenced his measures of coercion; and that on the 4th of July the engagements between the court of Palembang and the Lieut. Governor of Bencoolen were confirmed and proclaimed by the hoisting of the British flag on the walls of the Fort.—In explanation, it would appear, that on the 24th of June, only ten days previous to the arrival of Captain Salmond, and while it was publicly known that a British agent was on his way to Palembang, rafts and provisions having been provided by the Sultan for the convenience of the party on their way down the river, the unfortunate Sultan was compelled to resign his authority, and to deliver over his palace. On that day the Dutch commissioner stated that he obtained seals and signatures to a treaty, which nominally transferred all authority to the Dutch; but it is not proved in what manner the same was obtained. That they were obtained in an unlawful manner, that is to say, *vi et armis*, and by intimidation, cannot be denied; and, indeed, the letter from the Sultan above quoted, and the act of his immediately hoisting the British flag, would be sufficient evidence, were not the details which could be produced conclusive on this head. The Sultan is understood to be at this moment a close prisoner; and not to introduce into this paper any particulars

which might be construed into a desire to lower the character of these proceedings below a fair standard, it may be sufficient to insert the following extracts from the commissioner's statement, in order that it may be contrasted with the evidence above adduced :—

" I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your official letter, dated Fort Marlborough, the 24th of June last. If the information which has reached you with regard to the measures I was pursuing at Palembang, under the authority of the Commissioners-gen, has been able to raise your surprise and astonishment, it was on the other hand with no less degree of regret and consternation that I was affected on the perusal of your letter, and on being apprized of the further measures you had determined upon, if you allow me to say, on such a slight foundation.—The natives, on whose reports only every information depended that could have reached Fort Marlborough at the date of your dispatches, left Palembang at a period when I myself had not yet arrived at that place, when no overtures of any nature had as yet been made to the court of Palembang, when the military force stationed at Palembang was still far below the usual rate of that garrison, and when of consequence every intelligence sent off with regard to the demands I had to make, and to the military force I should station there, could only be conjectural and premature, and naturally would be exaggerated and erroneous.—So they have in fact proved to be. The military force even now collected at Palembang falls short of what a usual garrison ought to be, and does certainly not exceed the limits of a mere protection to a settlement where not a single entrenchment nor place of safety is to be found.—If, therefore, the usual means of self-preservation have been able to raise the apprehensions and anxiety of a pusillanimous court, it is a mere accident, not to be imputed either to me or to the higher powers under whose authority I was acting.—Nor did my instructions say to use threats or military force against any of the Sultans.—It was not these warlike means that were depended upon for the success of my mission. A hope for this success was raised on a better foundation: on the natural force of truth in convincing the Sultan Naya Moedin of his wrongs, and of the acts of hostility which he had committed, or allowed to be committed, by his subjects, as well on our own territories as on those of our allies, and on the irresistible influence which the principles of a liberal and humane administration would have on the hearts of all the people of Palembang, as soon as they were tendered to them, in lieu of that state of bondage and oppres-

sion to which they had been degraded by the unwarrantable conduct of their Sultan, Naya Moedin, and his adherents.—And, instead of threats and warlike force, I have the greatest satisfaction to acquaint you, that it was by mere peaceful and persuasive means, not only without drawing a sword or firing a shot, but without a single affray, without any individual being hurt, or even restrained or curtailed in his personal rights or liberty, that I was fortunate enough to establish a new state of affairs in this country, and to obtain the free assent of both the reigning and the ex-Sultan to arrangements which, according to my own view of the subject, and under the orders under which I acted, most certainly I had a right to make; and from the operations of which, it may be expected, that the whole population of Palembang, from the very low state of want and oppression to which they have been reduced, will make a rapid stretch towards the enjoyment of ease and plenty, and of all those rights and comforts which are dependant on a state of personal security and civilization.—It was by the warlike rumours of your military detachments descending from the mountains that my messengers were stopped on their way, going up to the poor inhabitants of the country, to announce to them the abolition of their Tiban and Tookop, of every kind of forced labour and delivery of produce, and above all, of the abominable custom of enslaving, not only individuals, but whole families and generations of them, for the trifling amount of a civil debt.—But how could it be the fate of these humane principles to be stopped in their course by a friend to humanity, by excellence? how could the patron of these principles rise up in opposition to the accomplishment of his own system, and the lieut. gov. of Fort Marlborough oppose, what it was, and ever will be, the glory of the late lieut. gov. of Java to have first proclaimed?—I am sensible, hon. Sir, you would want here to put a stop to my argument; you would remind me that it is on a right by contract that you found your claims, and pointing to the final clause of the treaty you allude to, propose your system, that the Sultan of Palembang was an independant prince, under the protection of the British government, where former rights were to be left untouched, even should humanity suffer by it.—As it seems that on these points a difference of opinion has existed between the Commissioners-general and the late British authorities on the island of Java, it perhaps might be my duty to withhold from entering on the subject, and confining myself to the orders under which I am bound to act, I refer you for explanations to the higher authorities at Java; but considering the decisive mea-

and you already have entered upon, and the circuitous way by which any explanation could reach you from Java, I will take it upon myself to enter into some explanation, though always with due deference, and save the different view my superiors might take of the subject * * * *"

On the tone in which the Netherlands government are determined to maintain their system, some idea may be formed by the following additional extract from the letter of the commissioner at Palembang:—

"Of the facts constituting such a breach of faith (on the part of the Sultan) they, the Netherlands government, are naturally, as an independent power, the sole judge in these quarters of the earth, and it would be highly improper to enter into any justification of them but before their higher authorities at home, who have a right to call for it, and to whom a reference lays open on the subject."

On the act of publicly arresting the person of the British representative, after that officer was publicly accredited and recognised in that capacity by the Dutch commissioner, and while he was sleeping under the protection of the British flag, hoisted by an independent prince in alliance with Great Britain, there can be but one opinion; but so little is an act of the kind now thought of by the Dutch authorities, that the commissioner, though voluminous in his correspondence on other points, does not even condescend to offer an explanation, much less an apology, on this. Whatever measures might have been found necessary for the support of the authority that thus had so unjustifiably been wrested from the hands of an unfortunate prince, under the immediate protection of the British government, it is to be regretted that nothing less than open insult and the degradation of the British character in the eyes of the natives, and this on a spot where British valour had recently been so conspicuous, and where the Dutch gratitude was so imperiously called for, would have been resorted to.

Justly indignant at conduct so unjustifiable on the part of the representative of a nation at peace and friendship with Great Britain, and desirous to check the progress of a system of which it is to be feared this will not be found a solitary instance, I do hereby most solemnly and publicly protest—First, Against the whole of the proceedings of the Netherlands government at Palembang, as unjustifiable, and in direct violation of the rights and treaties which it is incumbent on them to respect; by which proceedings, not only the character of the British government is seriously involved, but its proceedings with regard to Banca rendered questionable.—Secondly, I protest against the gene-

ral proceedings of the Netherlands government in disregarding the solemn protests made by the British authorities before they quitted Java, and do declare null and void all arrangements, not provisional in their nature, which may have been made in defiance of those protests.—Thirdly, I further protest against any military force being sent by the Netherlands government to any place within the Archipelago, with which the English are in alliance and carry on trade, in which the Dutch flag did not actually fly on the first of Jan. 1803, with the exception of such as may have been in the charge of the British government at that date, and which may be regularly transferred.—Lastly, and in the strongest manner, I protest and appeal against the insult offered to the representative of the British government, in the arrest of the person of Capt. Salmon, the British agent at Palembang, holding the representatives of the Netherlands government in these seas responsible for all the acts of aggression and insult connected therewith, and which will hereafter be made known in another place, unless prompt and adequate satisfaction is given.

In conclusion, I deem it necessary to state, that the object of this protest is not directed against the minor measures of their Exc's. the Commissioners-gen. nor of the commissioner at Palembang, nor is it intended to affect the personal good understanding and harmony which happily prevails. I have reason to respect and esteem them. It is against the political system which, as representatives of the Netherlands government, they have felt it their duty to adopt, that I protest; a system by which the interests of the Netherlands government appear to be exclusively considered, without the least reference being had in how far the honour and interests of the British nation may be involved thereby. To such a system it is incumbent on me to oppose the rights and duties of the British government; and it is to be hoped that when the character and interest of both nations are duly considered and deliberated upon by higher authorities, such a liberal policy will be resolved upon as will at once put an end to the confusion and irregularities which must continue, and even increase to an alarming extent, while the present system is allowed to be persevered in.

Done by me, the Lieut. gov. of Fort Marlborough and its dependencies, at the Court-House at Marlborough, this 12th day of August, 1818.

(Signed) T. S. RAFFLES,

(Registered)

W. R. JENNINGS, Secretary to Government, and Registrar.

The following documents, received since the signature of the above protest, are au-

nexed, as connected with the very extraordinary proceeding at Palembang, and from which it would appear that the Sultan Achmed Nujemudin has been actually deposed, and his brother raised to the throne in his place, by the Dutch commissioners at Palembang.

Translation of a Letter from Sultan Achmed Nujemudin, of Palembang, to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bencoolen.

Captain Salmond, on his arrival at Palembang, had immediately an interview with the Sultan, when he presented to him a letter, and a flag that accompanied it, from the honourable the lieut.-gov. of Fort Marlborough, which were received with the greatest joy and with every mark of respect.—The flag was then ordered to be hoisted, and a letter sent by Capt. Salmond to Mr. Muntinghe. It is not known what may have been the nature of the communication thus made, but Mr. Muntinghe sent to call Capt. Salmond, and to order him to pull down the British flag, which had been hoisted by the Sultan. Capt. Salmond replied, that he dared not to pull it down, and after this, not to enter into details, there came a party of Dutch soldiers, together with a party of Palembang people, favourable to the interest of the Ex-Sultan, and also of Siaks, to the number of at least 700 in all, by the two latter of whom the residence of the young Sultan was surrounded by order of the Dutch, so as to prevent all communication with him.—At sunset the flag, according to custom, was ordered by the Sultan to be lowered and taken in. He himself was then confined by the Dutch, and no egress or ingress on any account permitted, and early the following morning the flag-staff was cut down by the Dutch.—The Sultan's place of confinement was a small apartment on the eastern side of the new fort, which did not admit of more persons being accommodated there than ten petty officers, who were all that were with him, the rest of his people being obliged to remain outside. Capt. Salmond and those with him were taken by Mr. Muntinghe, at four o'clock in the morning, and have now been sent off direct to Batavia in a small vessel.—The persons who were deputed by the Sultan to meet and receive Capt. Salmond on his arrival at Palembang, viz. three Pangerangs, a Tummuungung, a Ranga, and a Demang, were all seized and placed under arrest within the Dutch entrenchment.—The Sultan still continues a close prisoner, and no communication is permitted between him and any one outside. The only persons allowed to pass in or out of the place where he is confined are some women, who are employed to fetch water

and buy provisions for him, and it is only at stated times that this indulgence is granted, and for a very limited period that they are allowed to be absent.—Such is the inconceivable state of misery and distress to which the Sultan has been reduced.—Trusting, however, to the benevolence and compassion of the British authority at Bencoolen, and firmly relying on assistance from thence, he has peaceably borne with and submitted to all that has befallen him.—Night and day he anxiously hopes that the honourable the lieut. gov. will afford him speedy relief; for so great is the misery and the shame he now feels that he cannot keep his eyes dry."

Deposition of Ki Baba Sangking and Pali Jenah, taken at Fort Marlboro' on the 1st Aug. 1818.

The deponents state as follows.—The letter this day brought by them to Fort Marlborough, from the Sultan at Palembang, and presented to the Hon. the Lieut. gov. was smuggled out of the place where the Sultan is at present confined, within the precincts of the New Fort, by one of his female attendants, who are employed to fetch water and provisions, and on that account alone are the only persons permitted to pass in and out, and that only at stated times, and for very limited periods.—The strict manner in which these women are searched by the Dutch guard placed over the Sultan, every time they go in or come out of his place of confinement, and the circumstance of one of them, on whose person a letter from the Pangeran Depati to his wife, merely respecting some domestic affairs, was found, being nearly flogged to death, rendered much precaution necessary, and the letter in question was accordingly bowed on to her naked thigh, and thus escaped detection. Similar precaution was necessary to enable the deponents and their followers to get safely out of Palembang, guards and spies being stationed above the town to stop and examine all persons passing up and down; and for this purpose they withdrew one by one to an appointed place of rendezvous in the woods, and thence departing together, travelled by stealth across the country, and by a difficult and circuitous route reached Fort Marlborough in 21 days.—The letter, which, from the hand-writing, appears to them to have been written either by the Sultan himself or his brother the Pangeran Depati, who was in confinement with him, was delivered to them by the female already mentioned, with injunctions from the Sultan to convey it without delay to the Lieut. gov. of Fort Marlborough, and on no account to let it fall into the hands of the Dutch, or any of the Ex-Sultan's people.—It was well understood that Mr. Muntinghe first of all eodea-

oured to obtain the consent of the Sultan to arrangements that were favourable to the interests of the Ex-Sultan, and prejudicial to his own, but of which they do not know more of the particulars than that the Sultan was to have a monthly allowance of one thousand dollars, five coyangs of rice, and 100 gantanaks of salt, and be paid the gross sum of 25,000 dollars, to repair and improve the old palace for his accommodation.—That the Sultan positively refused to enter into any such agreement, on which Mr. Muntinghe acted as he has done, in opposition to the wishes, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Sultan; that they are perfectly sure the Sultan never put his hand or seal to any treaty or written document whatever connected with the measure lately adopted at Palembang: on the contrary, he invariably told Mr. Muntinghe that he could not, and would not accede to any arrangements proposed by him; that he had not the power to resist his acts, and could not prevent him from doing whatever he pleased with himself and the country, but that he would not voluntarily resign any of his rights or authority.—He refused to move out of the palace, although pressed in the most urgent manner to do so, and it was not till after the Dutch frigate and other vessels were placed opposite to it, and he was told that it would positively be battered down about his ears, and preparations were apparently making to carry the threat into effect, that he agreed to move into that part of it where he is now a prisoner, still refusing to quit it altogether.—The Regalia were not got from him till after the departure of Capt. Salmoud for Batavia, and many threats had been used on the part of Mr. Muntinghe, to take him by force and send him to Batavia.—The Ex-Sultan, in consideration of being again placed upon the throne by Muntinghe, agreed to make over to the Dutch the whole of the interior of the country, and to pay down the sum of five lacs of dollars in cash and valuables; the sum of four lacs was received by Mr. Muntinghe, and shipped by him; the payment of the remaining lac was to be made after Mr. Muntinghe's return from the interior, and his effecting the expulsion of all the British troops from the territory of Palembang.—The warlike equipment which Mr. Muntinghe fitted for this purpose, consisted of about 100 troops, Europeans and Natives, 100 Siaks, and 1000 Palembang people, armed in various ways, and who were conveyed in 1804 boats, in which were mounted eight large guns, and about 100 small ones.—When they left Palembang the Dutch had a ship of war of 22 guns, and a large military force there.

(Signed) T. S. RAFFLES.

Fort Marlborough, August 15, 1818.

Intelligence by the Flanders Mail.

Brussels, Jan. 17.—Accounts from Batavia of Sept. 26, 1818, say—"In the course of the year 1818, the troops of the Netherlands were going to resume possession of the settlement of the Netherlands at Pedang, on the west coast of Sumatra; but difficulties were made by the British government at Bencoolen, which obliged the troops to return to Java.

The authority of the Netherlands has been recognised for these two years past on the east coast of the empire of Palembang, opposite Banca.

The *Voltaire*, from Batavia, has arrived in the *Texel*, after a passage of 100 days. It arrives very seasonably to contradict the news of an insurrection at *Samarang*, which had been circulated on the authority of the English papers.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Madras, July 11.—The treasury at Bencoolen has been shut, and the Company's sales in future would take place only twice a month.

London, Jan. 5.—By the arrival of the *Kingston*, from Java, intelligence of much importance, as affecting British interests in the Indian seas, has been received. The Governor of Fort Marlborough has displayed his characteristic energy and activity since his arrival in Sumatra, and has anxiously endeavoured to extend the British influence over the whole of that valuable and extensive island. Sumatra has hitherto been very little known. The European establishments are entirely on the coast; Europeans had never penetrated into the interior. All attempts to do so, indeed, were reckoned desperate; no European would embark in them. The population of the interior were considered as savages, and the mountains impassable, and yet the natives would still bring down their gold and cassia, and camphor, &c. for which Sumatra had from the earliest ages been famous. The Governor felt there was but one alternative, and that was to open the road by going himself. His enterprise was crowned with success. He penetrated into the interior in three different directions; to the southward inland of Manna, to the important provinces occupied by a people called the *Passummahs* to the northward to *Menangcabon*, the far-famed capital of the Malay empire; and inland of Bencoolen, across the island to Palembang.

The result has been the discovery of a mine of wealth, a country highly cultivated, and abounding in precious metals. The *Passummahs* are an athletic fine race of men, as superior to the people on the coast as it is possible to conceive; they are agricultural and numerous. At Me-