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by the latter will still bear the same proportion of half to that paid by the British trader, consequently there is no absolute breach of the agreement made between the two governments in Europe, in the adoption of this custom by the Java government. The root of the evil appears to his Lordship is Compulsory to be in the circumstance, that the imposition of double duties becomes necessarily a prohibition to the foreigner, when the original duty is high, for though his trade may bear the enhancement of an addition at two and a-half or even five per cent., and still compete successfully with the trade of the native merchant, no advantage of manufacture or cheapness of carriage can compensate for an addition in the shape of duty equal to ten or fifteen or twenty per cent. upon the price in the markets of consumption. Before, however, any relief in this respect can be asked for the British merchants in the ports of other nations, a correction must be applied to the system adopted in the custom laws of Great Britain and its colonies, which are based on the same principle."

CHINESE EMIGRANTS.

The junks which have arrived lately brought altogether about 1,500 emigrants from the celestial empire; the greater part of these, however, have proceeded already by means of sampan pucats to different parts of the peninsula or to Rhio, to seek for employment in the pepper and gambier plantations, or at the gold and tin mines.

It is much to be regretted that these useful and industrious emigrants are effectually debarred from settling themselves on this island as cultivators of the soil, by the exorbitant quit-rent levied upon all grants of land, amounting to upwards of one Spanish dollar the acre per month. If Mr. Fullerton, the contriver of the tax, in his well-known tender mercies for the welfare of this settlement, thought to benefit the interests of his employers by enforcing the regulations regarding it, he was much mistaken, for he has created a complete prohibition to agricultural improvements on the island as far as natives are concerned. The generality of cultivators find it impossible to make the jungle produce sufficient to meet this heavy impost and maintain themselves besides, and the consequence has been, that the plantations and gardens, which formerly flourished on the island, have been neglected, and are now overgrown with jungle, while the labourers have either gone to some more favourable region, or have become lawless bandits existing in the jungle. Little more is known of Singapore beyond the hills above the town, the rest of the island (the whole circumference of which we believe to be fifty miles) is covered with jungle, with here and there a reclaimed spot. The soil

is excellent, and capable of producing spices to a considerable extent, and it only requires that preparatory encouragement be given to the Chinese to convert the whole into a beautiful and productive garden. This object will best be attained by lessening the quit-rent of all lands beyond the precincts of the town, and by the construction of a few roads across the island.—*Sing. Chron. Mar. 3.*

GOLD DUST.

This precious metal forms one of the most valuable of our imports. The quantity annually brought into the settlement by native traders is of such an extent, that we are induced to give it particular notice.

The principal portion comes from Pahang, on the east coast of the peninsula, and is mostly brought here in the sampang pucats, which trade between this and Pahang: indeed it forms the most valuable article of export from that port. The Pahang gold, we believe, is considered superior to all other brought into the settlement.

The following is a statement of the quantities which have arrived since May last from the different ports from whence gold dust usually comes; we have no doubt that more has been brought privately by natives, which was not reported at the office of the registrar of imports and exports:—

From ports on the east coast of the peninsula.	
Pahang	bunkals 4,215
Calantan	do. 300
On Borneo.	
Sambas	do. 1,808
Pontiana	do. 633
Bintoolo	do. 30
Banjur	do. 27
Soongai Raya	do. 427
Cota Ringin	do. 5
Passir	do. 23
On Sumatra.	
Jambie	do. 104
Campar	do. 100
On Celebes.	
Kylie	do. 509
From neighbouring islands.	
Polo Tamblan ..	bunkals 12
Rhio	do. 9
Lingin	do. 10
31	
Total	
8,108	

Or cattle 405 bunkals 3.

The greater part of this immense quantity is sent to Calcutta, where it forms a good remittance for opium and other articles imported from Bengal.—*Sing. Chron. Jan. 20.*

Borneo.

A paper written by Mr. Dalton,* entitled "Thoughts on Cotti," which appears

* See his observations on Borneo in vol. iv.

in the *Singapore Chronicle*, contains some original and curious observations upon the Malays of Coti (one of the maritime piratical states of Borneo), in which he resided for eleven months. We abridge his account, which is too rhetorical:—

“ On the 3d October 1827 I left Singapore, and went on board a small prow belonging to the sultan of Coti, and bound to that place.

“ Coti lies to the S.E. of Borneo in lat. 1° 30' S. and long. 123° E. Few Europeans had hitherto traded so far eastward on this island; the last European (Major Mullen, of the Dutch service) was murdered by the natives about two years since. Misfortunes having long pressed me hard, I was determined to leave for a time the society of Europeans altogether, and strike into a path hitherto untrodden, in hopes of either procuring for myself a comfortable independence during the remainder of my life in England, or of losing a life, the misfortunes in which had for many years preponderated over the good. Knowing I should have plenty of vacant time, I proposed filling it up in writing a diary or journal of my proceedings, considering that on visiting a strange country I might have matters to relate somewhat new and entertaining.

“ On the morning of the 13th, sailed past numerous islands flanking the S.E. point of Borneo. At noon we were well in with the mainland off Banjermassin. The appearance of the coast is wild and mountainous; none of the islands are inhabited, or indeed seldom visited, even by pirates, on account of the difficulty and danger in approaching the shore. They are all surrounded with sharp sunken rocks, amongst which sharks of the largest size continually play. There are several other kind of fish evidently different from the shark, but quite as ravenous. We caught two with heads like a fox, and teeth of an amazing length. The largest was eleven feet long. The people on board said this peculiar kind is not caught elsewhere. On the 15th, close in with the main land. The Bugis quite at home, as there is not a point or a single feature in the country with which they are not intimately acquainted. This morning the d'jragon or captain was detected breaking open a case of brandy, and stealing some bottles. On being taxed with the theft he got into a violent rage, and threatened to murder Mr. Heckler and myself. This, however, was treated with such contempt that all the people burst into a loud laugh; however, knowing the vindictive character of the man, I set people to watch him, lest some attempt might be made when we were asleep; awake I did not fear any attempt; we were well armed, with many of the best people in our favour, and in case of disturbance our determination was

to shoot the d'jragon, with one or two others of the most forward, which would have ensured quietness very soon. In such cases as this if an European hesitates he is lost. In all the Bornean states there is little or no law on the subject; therefore, it is always best to begin—shoot two or three, the remainder will submit instantly; if this is not done the European's life is worth nothing. Let no man content himself with merely wounding a Bugis; after receiving the slightest hurt he will follow through the world the person who inflicted it, and never give over until his object of murder is accomplished. God knows what may occur to me, but should I be attacked openly by these wretches, I make little doubt of taking a few of them out of the world with me.

“ It is entirely beyond my power to give a faint description of the treatment I have experienced amongst the people of Coti. Scarcely covered with a bamboo shed, which nestled venomous snakes, which have more than once dropped upon the paper whilst I was writing, with nothing to eat but rice and dried fish, with bad water to drink, robbed of every thing, even to my jacket, by the sultan himself, and scarcely a night without attempts being made to murder me, I was told by those on whose veracity I could rely, that if I could not persuade the sultan he would gain more by sparing my life than by killing me, I was certainly gone, as this was the common method with him. Upon this I put my wits to work, and found the matter not so difficult. By presents of any little articles that remained to me, I bribed some of the sultan's favourite concubines and one or two of the slaves to whom he was most partial, and soon learned my cue. Many consultations had been held at which the sultan and all his brothers were for putting myself and Mr. H. out of the way. One of the head-people, named Inchi Gandel, however, reminded the sultan that it was well known by the government at Singapore that I was in the country, who on the event of my not returning would seize all the Coti prows. The d'jragon of a Sambas prow, which arrived in the month of March, informed the sultan that to his knowledge I was very rich, and one of the principal men in Penang, being related to the governor of that place. To my knowledge I had never seen the man before, however I claimed the relationship, and took credit for all the riches they could give me. I then proposed to the sultan to make a contract with him, sending him from Singapore what money and articles he required, to receive payment in produce at a future season. This is what the sultan had frequently wanted, while I well knew the impossibility of performing it; but now nothing was impossible, my only desire being to leave

the country. Saib Abdullah, the bandarre, undertook to manage on the part of the sultan. This man, the very worst in the whole country, had formerly lived amongst the English at Banjermassin, and was looked upon by his master as a prodigy. He had escaped from that place as well as Java on account of crimes which would certainly have hung him. He planned the whole business regarding the massacre of Major Mullen, who unfortunately confided in him, leading him on, step by step, to his ruin, and, under various pretences, depriving him of his resources. Saib Abdullah is the agent for selling arms and gunpowder to the bugis at Macassar, and in fact the head and principal of all opposition to the European powers.

"I very soon found myself capable of turning this man to my purpose, by a promise of lending him a sum of money. The drawing up of the contract between myself and sultan proceeded on my part with as much apparent anxiety as if I really intended to abide by it, on the other side with every attempt to impose on me. At length, we arranged matters at Marpow, where we signed and sealed a contract, by which I agreed to send him 40,000 dollars of articles, and about half that sum of money. At this place, I took the bandarre's advice, and rented a mountain called Bale Papang, which produces edible black birds'-nests, and for which an offer had already been made of 500 dollars per annum; but I asserted every one was ignorant of its value, and engaged for 3,000 dollars per annum, the money to be paid previously on the return of the prows from Singapore. This being settled, I considered myself quite safe, and indeed was so, as the sultan actually appointed persons to take care of me; in short, I was almost smothered with kindness. This lasted until my return to Tongarron, the capital, where some surmises began to float that I was aware of the fate of Major Mullen, when I was at once in a more perilous predicament than ever, for the slightest suspicion on that subject would have been instantly fatal. A circumstance took place which gave me great uneasiness and placed my life at once in the power of others, and which indeed was entirely my own fault, having one day departed from my usual caution. The d'gragon of the tope from Sambas, Mesmile, had given to the sultan about 1,500 dollars, to receive in return bees'-wax. He was at Marpow with me, but could not get a doit, and was at length obliged to leave the country without any thing. This man (who was formerly a pirate) is shrewd and clever; he came to me one morning in an agony of rage against the sultan, but more particularly against Saib Abdullah, the bandarre, who had not only recommended the sultan to give him nothing

and seize his vessel, but had himself taken nearly 1,000 dollars, which he refused to pay. I well knew it was in contemplation to seize the tope, and gave Mesmile a hint of it, when we were at Marpow. I now advised him to go on board at once, and drop down the river, when we would be safe, as none of the sultan's people dare go near her, she being well armed, and the d'gragon known to be a resolute man. This he promised to do, and asked me to give him a paper to shew the residents of Singapore and Rhio, where he might possibly obtain some satisfaction; these he received. After looking about carefully, he closed the door of the room in which we were conversing, and, with an air of great mystery, inquired whose property that time-keeper was, which was at that moment laying on my bed; I replied the sultan's who had given it to me for the purpose of getting it repaired. He then inquired, where was the late resident of Sambas, Major Mullen, killed? I replied, "by all accounts near Pontiana." "Tell me," says Mesmile, "you who have been so far up the country as Marpow, did you ever hear of the major having reached that place?" I said there would be little doubt of his being killed far beyond it. "Then," replied d'gragon, "I tell you, sir, that you are in error, if you think so. You are an Englishman, and I am from Sambas, which is under the Dutch flag. My sultan is a good man, and the sultan of Coti is worse than a pirate. Major Mullen was a friend to my sultan, and I believe you know as well as myself that he was killed in this country, and that the time-keeper belonged to him, for he had it in Sambas." Here I made what I considered a fatal mistake, as instead of denying these assertions, and expressing surprise that he should venture to make them, I made a friend and confidant of him, and out came the whole affair. He was not surprised, having understood much of it previously. I now made up a package for the resident of Rhio, containing the whole particulars, which Mesmile promised to deliver. After promises of secrecy we parted, I soon found out my folly had committed me past all cure, and that my life hung upon the discretion of a man, who, although angry at the sultan, was likewise a Malay, a man who had been, and was yet supposed to be, a notorious pirate, and well knew he could make friends with the sultan, and get payment for divulging such a secret. I did not sleep that night, but the next morning went to him, and let him know his life as well as my own was lost were he to mention a word to any one. He said he knew that, and that I had nothing to fear. Some days afterwards, Mesmile went to Semerinden, seventy miles down the river. I was so anxious, that I followed him in a small canoe. I learned at Semerinden,

which place I reached at midnight, he had gone towards the mouth of the river with an intention of going to sea. I immediately followed him, arriving at the open sea in eight hours, the distance being eighty miles, the current assisting us at least five miles an hour. The prow was not to be seen, but we overtook a boat returning with a bugis chief, who had gone to see him off. I now imagined that it was possible Mesmile, finding himself safe beyond the power of the sultan, might possibly entrust the secret to his friend the bugis, who was a very old acquaintance, in which case the chance would be 100 to one against me, as the priests would certainly get at the information. During the period I remained on board the prow at Semerinden, seven days, I had every reason to imagine all was discovered, as meetings were nightly held at the bandar's house, and likewise in that of the Bugis chief; boats were dispatched up the country during the night, no one knew for what purpose, and our own d'gragon, who was sick, received a visit from the high priest and the identical Bugis, at eleven o'clock one night, immediately after which he went up the country in a swift boat. I was at this moment so certain of being murdered within a few hours, that I primed my gun, determined either to shoot myself or jump into the river the moment I was certain my fears were realized. Every circumstance seemed to concur against me, and my mind was fully made up; the only satisfaction which remained was the knowledge that all particulars had already been forwarded, so that my death would not prevent Europeans from learning the facts besides the information which Mesmile would convey. These thoughts consoled me so much that I felt quite careless about the consequence, when our d'gragon returned, and the particulars of the meeting became known. The former went to take leave of his wife at Tongarron, and the consultations were about the property of a rich Bugis lately dead, who had left no will, which occasioned great disputes amongst his relations. My fears were over, it being evident the d'gragon had been faithful in keeping the secret. I had not been twenty-four hours on board the prow before a Dutch-made swivel was pointed out to me, by one of the sultan's people, as having belonged to Major Mullen. This I knew immediately, having seen the fellow to it mounted on one of the sultan's boats. The major brought to the country several Palembang swivels, and one pair of European ones. There are several articles on board which belonged to the said master. At Semerinden, Saib Abdullah desired me to be very cautious in shewing the time-keeper to any Dutch gentleman, such was the sultan's particular wish.

"During my stay at Semerinden, I

had much information I could not get at before, as the sultan would never allow me to go amongst the Bugis inhabitants then at Campong. The whole of the Bugis are against the sultan on account of some fresh duties imposed upon their trade up the river, and their hate to the Bandar is, if possible, increased, they thinking the sultan had been acting according to his advice, which is likely enough to be the case. Many of the Bugis talk very openly. They have said to me, "you know all the circumstances about the sultan murdering Mullen as well as we do; it was the sultan's act, and he must take the consequence." I replied, "the sultan had himself told me how Mullen was killed by the Diaks, that the sultan was my friend and I should believe no other person." Every person supposed the particulars were known to me, because they were well known to every slave in the country, and was the subject of daily conversation amongst each other. No one had, however, any reason to suppose that I had got the proper information, and my business was to appear ignorant and treat the subject with indifference. The Bugis informed me, when they understood I had gone up the country as far as Marpow, they were convinced I should never return; so certain were they of this that they determined among themselves to give up the truth to the English government, that the blame might fall in the proper place, and not be imputed to them. The Pangerang Rato, the father of Sa Jarring, who murdered the major with his own hand, wrote particularly to the sultan that as I had seen his son there was actually a necessity for my death; a report, the old man said, could be made that I had either been bit by a snake or taken by an alligator. I was myself aware of the danger of my situation, but depended upon the sultan's anxiety of getting possession of the large sum of money and the quantity of valuable goods I had agreed to send him, which alone saved my life, joined to my apparent ignorance about the main point. Not only the Bugis at Semerinden, but the people of Tongarron were astonished to see me return; they, however, were not aware of the contract which, at the sultan's request, was to be kept secret, that no one might be aware of what valuable property he would soon have in possession."

Pitcairn's Island.

Those who are familiar with the recent accounts of the prosperous condition of the descendants of the mutineers of the English ship *Bounty*, residing at Pitcairn's Island, will learn, perhaps, with some surprise, that the whole number of them