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BURNEY PAPERS

Vol. II.

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PART I.

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V.N.L.

(January to June, 1825)

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B.P.

V.N.L.

FORT WILLIAM 6th Jany. 1826.

Bangkok 14 Jany. 1825.

To J. Crawford Esqr.

Resident &c. &c.

My Dear Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint you, that on my Arrival here the 12th Novr. I have conformably to your directions delivered into the hands of the Phra Klang the several letters you were pleased to entrust to my care as well as the various presents sent by the Ship Caroline as follows:—

1000 Muskets

a Gold Watch

a Parcel of Coral Beads

a fowling Piece and an Emerald Ring—all in good Condition. The Coral turned out short of weight, weighing only $6\frac{1}{2}$ Catties instead of 15 Catties as stated in your letter. I regret this circumstance the more, as these suspicious people may think that it was plundered in my possession. I therefore beg to request that you will have the goodness to put me right in their Opinion in one of your early Communications to the Phra Klang. That personage appeared much pleased with all the presents except the Ring which, as well as the one you formerly sent him, are condemned as mere imitations, and he hinted as much as if he intended to return them. I said as much as I could in support of their genuineness but without any effect.

I have not received any intimation what the return presents are to consist of, but this I shall most likely hear very soon, and shall have the pleasure to acquaint you of it in my next.

On the Subject of the Burman War I have had frequent Conversations with the Phra Klang, and others of the officers of Government, but seldom amounted to more than mere enquiry on their part, generally to the following import. What are the names of the Generals Commanding the English Army? the number of Troops engaged, how many, and what are the places taken by the English? These questions I answered as far as I was acquainted with the facts, and on all occasions I endeavoured to satisfy them as to the friendly disposition of the English towards them.

On one occasion the Phra Klang informed me that they were about to dispatch a large Army (as was their annual Custom) to the frontiers, under the Command of the 2d. Phra Klang, Phya Phiphu, who was then present to observe the motions of the Burmese, and to seize any of them who might pass the boundaries to bring them into slavery. I here recommended to him to address a letter to any of the English Generals who might be in the direction he went, to inform of his intention, who I was persuaded would enter into some arrangements with him as it would be advantageous to both parties for the prosecution of the War. To this recommendation no answer was returned, had they pursued the subject a little further, I would have offered them an introduction, by means of one or both of the letters you were kind enough to have favored me with, but as they did not appear to wish for such, I did not consider myself authorized to offer it.

The Phra Klang informed me very lately that the King has in consequence of your representations, ordered several large Armies to the frontiers, to assist the English—and that he has also given directions to the Rajah of Ligoré, to render them every assistance they required, in providing Boats or otherwise—and that another is about to be dispatched from hence for the same purpose.

This show of preparation sounds well, if its sincerity could be depended upon. My own opinion however is, were I allowed to offer one, that it is entirely forced, and that if they could conveniently consult their own disposition, they would willingly assist the Burmans; this feeling they cannot conceal when they hear of any advantage having been gained by the English. I have heard it mentioned that, when the present King was first informed of the War, he observed "it would only increase the number of Slaves (English?) to cut grass for the King's Elephants."

I have also been informed lately that not long since he received a letter from the King of Ava, inviting him to send him an Army to his Assistance against the English and that he would for ever forget all past differences; and was very anxious to be present at the Ceremony of burning the body of the late King. This compliment it is said much perplexed the Councils of the King, and consequently they were a long time before they could decide upon any Measures—and now when they have decided in favor of the English their professions are without sincerity and they will be ready to embrace the first favorable opportunity to join the Burmans. What truth there may be in these statements and reports I cannot say but from what I observed of them myself now, and formerly, I should certainly say that their fears of the English is such that they will never enter into any Cordial Alliance or Co-operation with them. They are now busily employed constructing Forts—but so flimsy are these Airy buildings that they will not long stand the shock of their own Guns, much less that of an Enemy's—they are preparing Beams to lay across the river to obstruct the Navigation.

I have seen a Burman Soldier here a short time since with a small English flag in his possession—his story was that he and several others were left by the

English to guard a small fort somewhere near the frontiers of Siam with instructions to guard it and that in case they might be seen by the Siamese to shew the flag and that they would not molest them. A party of the Siamese, however, having discovered them they seized this man with the flag (the others made their escape) and brought him up here and examined him before the King who was so satisfied with his Account that he ordered him presents in Money and Cloth and to be sent back immediately and delivered to the English. Like a true Soldier this man would never part with the flag on any Account—he reported also that the English did not hurt the people, that they were all returning to their houses and were very happy. I believe this Account more than anything else induced the Siamese to declare in favor of the English.

I shall again do myself the pleasure of addressing you Per Caroline to sail in all February—when I shall acquaint you of any fresh occurrence which may come to my knowledge.

I have not yet obtained permission to Build a House here nor even to remain on Shore—the former has been totally refused. Whether they will persist in this or not I cannot at present say—much I think will depend upon the result of the War. In the event of your concluding any arrangements with this Government of a Commercial Nature, I hope you will not forget to put in a clause for our benefit.

I shall be most happy if any information I can from time to time give you without interfering with any other views, be of any Service.

I have &c.

(Sd.) JOHN GILLIES

A True Copy

• (Sd.) J. CRAWFURD Resident.

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 3. February 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 315-334.

AGENT to the SIAMESE STATES.

Political Agent
to the Siamese
States 28
January 1825.

To

W. S. CRACRAFT Esqr.

Acting Secretary to Government

Sir,

Having visited Kedah under the instructions conveyed to me in your letters under date the 8th and 17th instant, and having obtained a promise from the young Chief there to despatch as soon as the Elephants and Attendants can be made ready, a Confidential Agent from me to his father at Ligore, and to provide me in three or four days with two of his own Servants and letters of introduction addressed to the Siamese Chiefs to the Northward; I have deemed it advisable to return to Penang, in order to give the young Chief time to fulfil his promise, as well as to enable the H. C. Brig Jessy to have some trifling repairs executed; and I now beg to detail my proceedings at Kedah for the information of the Honble. the Governor in Council.

I left Penang on the 20th and arrived at Kedah in the evening of the 22d. A few days previous to my departure, I had despatched a Chinese, Achong the son of Low Ammee, to Kedah, with directions to proceed to Singora and Ligor in the character of a Merchant, and to meet me at Trang with intelligence; but on my arrival at Kedah I was sorry to learn that he had been stopped in consequence of some very peremptory orders which the Governor of Ligore had recently issued, against allowing any British Subject to cross the Country.

At noon on the 23d. I had my first Audience with the young Chief of Ligore, and it lasted upwards of five hours. After some general conversation I prevailed upon him, and not without some difficulty, to grant me a private audience, in which manner I saw him again on the 24th 25th and 26th during the two last of which days he admitted me at night, and on the 25th detained me until past 10 o'clock in the morning. The young Chief and some of his Servants immediately recognized me as the person who had twice visited his father in 1822, and after the first day, I think I succeeded in removing all distrust and suspicion on their part. A small Schooner, which the very crowded state of the Jessy had obliged me to hire, and which I have found truly serviceable, was allowed to enter the River and anchor close to the Fort and Palace, nearly five Miles distant from the spot where the Jessy was obliged to anchor. No opposition was made to my visiting every part of the Fort and Town, and rowing up the River as far nearly as Alister, while the Sepoys and my Attendants were allowed to go on shore from the Schooner as much as they pleased, and to mix with the people; and I was not only suffered to sleep in the Town of Kedah during the nights of the 24th 25th and 26th but to converse, and without any appearance of being watched, with every class of the inhabitants. I did not affect any show or state, and had thus very favorable opportunities of gathering intelligence.

With respect to the ostensible object of my visit, namely "to effect some arrangement for suppressing the Robberies and Piracies which have been committed of late on our frontiers" I found the young Chief extremely ready to give orders for apprehending and punishing offenders, but I could not persuade him to give me a written engagement for a mutual surrender of Criminals between Penang and Kedah, although he admitted the advantage of such an

arrangement. He observed that he was always anxious to apprehend and punish offenders, and to comply with any requisitions on this head from the Governor of Penang, and in proof thereof he stated, that he has at the present moment several Pirates, and among others a noted character named Che Beintan, in chains—that he had apprehended and delivered several Convicts who had fled to Kedah from Penang, and that he had kept Tucang Chukoor, the Chinese Farmer at Qualla Muda, and against whom the Governor of Penang had preferred a Complaint, confined in a Cangue or moveable Pillory during several weeks. On the second day when the young Chief shewed me the Draft of a letter which he was about to address on this subject to the Honorable the Governor, in reply to the letter I delivered to him from the Malay Translator, I found it contained only general and unmeaning expressions of friendship. I pointed out to him the inutility of any such letter, and prevailed upon him to order another Draft. When this second Draft was shewn to me on the following day, I remarked in it a phrase against which I immediately objected, and the pertinacious manner in which the young Chief and his principal Officer Chiom Pyaban insisted on the word being used, convinced me that I was right in suspecting the interpretation, which they meant hereafter to apply to it. I had heard from several respectable persons at Kedah, that the Governor of Ligore was fitting out the twelve or fourteen large Boats which I saw at Kedah, as well as a great many others at Settool and Trang, in order to take possession of Perak, and to attack the Raja of Salangore, with whom he was stated to be much offended, and I suspected therefore, that the design of the young Chief in proposing to acquaint the Honble. the Governor that “he would apprehend and punish “Robbers and Pirates to the *Southward* of Penang,” was to pave the way for his father’s invasion of Perak and Salangore. Conceiving that we had never admitted

the Governor of Ligore's right of jurisdiction to the *Southward* of Penang, and that it would be impolitic to admit it now, I opposed the introduction of that phrase; and after much discussion succeeded in persuading the young Chief to order a third Draft to be prepared, in which the word "*Northward*" was substituted.

See Enclosure
No. 1.

Although the third letter was not satisfactory on the subject of a mutual restitution of Criminals, I did not think it prudent to importune the Chief any further for the present, and particularly as he told me that the letter from the Malay Translator did not mention this point, and assured me that he would be always ready to apprehend and deliver any Criminals for whom the Honble. the Governor might apply. It is inconceivable how averse the Siamese are to commit themselves on Paper. But should the Honble. the Governor still consider it advisable to persuade the the young Chief at Kedah to enter into an engagement for the mutual surrender of Pirates and Robbers, I am inclined to think that a proposition to this effect and an offer on our part to agree to such an arrangement, would be successful.

The day after my arrival at Kedah, I learnt that Tucang Chukoor had been released and sent to Qualla Muda. On my remonstrating with the Chief against his permitting such a character to return thither, he assured me that he had only been sent with 30 men, in order to point out the haunts of several Pirates, who infest that River, and that he hoped by this means to apprehend them.

Kedah is at present in a very wretched condition—most of the Houses are in ruins, and the appearance of the Inhabitants denotes poverty and disease. The smallpox is raging in the Fort, and almost every person whom I saw is afflicted with some cutaneous

disorder. The young Chief himself, although attired in fine Silk, and with handsome Jewels, has his Arms and Legs covered with Itch. Poultry is cheap—from five to seven Dollars per hundred, but the exportation of Grain is prohibited, and the trade between that place and Trang is almost entirely at an end. I learnt, and pointed out to the young Chief that some of his Chinese and Chulia Servants make exactions on all Boats visiting the Port, and he observed that as such a practice was unauthorized, he would direct his Officers to put a stop to it. I pointed out to him also the impolitic and unfriendly procedure of suppressing the intercourse and trade which formerly subsisted overland between Kedah and Ligore, and I beg to submit, that if on this head, as well as on that regarding the extortion of his Chinese and Chulia Servants, a letter were addressed to the young Chief by the Honorable the Governor, the measure would most probably obtain some advantage in favour of our Native traders.

The Fort of Kedah is truly contemptible. On the works, which are in many places in ruins, are mounted about 30 or 40 old and honey-combed pieces of Ordnance, generally with broken Carriages. The residence of the Chief, a brick and tiled Building, the Audience Hall of Attap, and the Houses of his Officers and Suite of the same Material, are within the Fort. I found the Court very thinly attended, and with scarcely a twentieth part of the Guard of Soldiers which surrounded the Governor of Ligore in 1822.

The present Chief is an illegitimate Son and about 25 years of age—his name is Poosing but his Father has directed him to be always named by the Malay title of Bajinda Muda or Young Prince. He possesses rather pleasing manners, and displayed more intelligence in his Enquiries regarding the Burmese War than I should have expected. The principal

officer under him, and without whose advice indeed his father has forbidden him to undertake any measure, is a tall and athletic man, called Chiom Pya ban. This is the person who first entered Kedah, and killed the Laxamana. He boasted to me that he had attacked Kedah with only 300 Soldiers, and had driven several thousand Malays before him. He has repeatedly served against the Burmese and particularly in the direction of Mergui. Among numerous questions regarding the present War, he shrewdly asked me, whether the English had yet succeeded in prevailing on any of the Burmese to accept Pay and Service under them and fight against their own Countrymen—and I obtained from him, after taking some trouble to conciliate him, the information upon which the accompanying sketch of the Siamese States between Bangkok and Kedah is formed.* I compared his information however with that which I elicited from the principal *Suammee* or Siamese Priest, named Sichoom, with whom I formed an acquaintance at Kedah. Both Chiom Pya ban and Sichoom are Natives of Ligore, and have repeatedly visited Bangkok. With respect to the places lying between Mergui and Junkceylon towards the Bay of Bengal, I obtained additional information from some respectable Malays, who had often visited that Coast.

* See Enclosure
No. 2.

Throughout the Kingdom of Kedah there are not at present more than 6 or 700 Siamese or Ligorians. Of these there are 300 at Kedah, 150 under a Chiom or Luang at Purlis, 50 more under two other of the Governor of Ligore's illegitimate sons at Settool, and the remainder scattered about the interior. The above intelligence is the result of much enquiry among the different Classes of Inhabitants at Kedah.

With respect to the alleged rising influence of the Chief of Singora under the new King of Siam's

favor, I found it extremely difficult to collect any positive information. Several Malays and Chinese at Kedah assured me, that after the remains of the late King of Siam are burnt, (and the Governor of every Province has been summoned to assist at the Ceremony which is to take place in about two months from this date) the Chief of Singora is to be appointed to take charge of the Territory of Kedah, and to replace the Ex-King. The Siamese however ridiculed this report, and informed me, that it originated in the circumstance of the Chief of Singora having been released from Chains upon the death of the late King of Siam, when, according to the Laws of Siam, every Prisoner's confinement was remitted. This intelligence was confirmed by the Siamese Priest. The Chief of Singora is stated to be an old friend and playfellow of the present King of Siam. An intelligent Chinese declared to me, that altho' the Chief of Ligore is at present under some disgrace at Siam, yet as he had despatched his wife thither with valuable presents, and is preparing to follow her with still richer presents, and as he possesses much greater means than the Chief of Singora for conciliating the corrupt Court of Siam, it is most probable that he will retain his credit and influence. He is at present much vexed at the death of a Daughter, whom he had intended as a Bride for the present King of Siam. There is no doubt that a very strong personal enmity exists between the two Chiefs; and the Chief of Merdeelong or Kotelon as well as the Chief of Singora, is now entirely cut off from all communication with the Western Sea. Until very lately, they were each allowed a Port in the Kedah territory by the Chief of Ligore.

During the long conferences which I had with the young chief at Kedah, I informed him very fully as to every circumstance relating to the present War. I presented him with a Copy of Horsburgh's Chart, in which I filled up the direction of the Irrawaddy, Saluen or

Thaluan and Menam Rivers, and assisted him to write down in the Siamese character, the names of the principal Places.

The Chief questioned me very minutely as to the number of places captured by the British forces, their strength and the names of the principal officers. He took notes of my replies, for the purpose he said of communicating the information to his father; and this gave me an opportunity of offering to go myself and see his father at Ligore. I then dwelt much upon the many important points regarding the present War, which I could relate to his father, and which it would be highly creditable to his father, to communicate as soon as possible to the Court of Siam. I shewed the direction in which the Siamese troops might move against the Capital of Ava, and probably seize the person of the King of Ava at Moneh, to which place, it is stated, that Monarch would fly the moment our Troops approached. But I now discovered that the Siamese at Kedah, and probably at Ligore, do not entirely credit the intelligence of our War with Ava. They suspect that our object in spreading such a report, is in view only to be allowed to penetrate across the Country towards Ligore and Siam, and I afterwards learnt from several intelligent persons who have lately arrived from the Eastern Shores, that the Court of Siam is full of doubt and suspicion as to our views, and is hardly yet convinced that we are really engaged in hostilities against Ava.

To my proposition to visit his father at Ligore, the young Chief replied, that he regretted his orders were peremptory against permitting any British subject to cross the Country. He said however that he would write minutely to his father every thing I should communicate to him. Accordingly I took great pains to let him understand the cause, nature and progress of the present War and shewed him on

the Map the great advantage of the Siamese immediately moving a force from Cheung-mai or Zeneé, and possessing themselves of a portion of the valuable tract of Country, lying between their boundary and the Saluen or Thaluán River, and into which they had so often of late years been making incursions.

Fortunately on the 26th a Native Boat belonging to the Chief of Phoonga arrived at Kedah from that place, and brought intelligence that the British Troops had taken Mergui, and were actually in Garrison there. After this I succeeded in persuading the Chief to allow Achong to proceed to his father at Ligore with the letter from the Honble. the Governor, as well one from myself, urging that Chief to give me an interview as soon as possible, either by meeting me at Trang or allowing me to join him at Ligore. In consequence of Achong having accompanied Mr. Crawford to Siam, he is much distrusted, and as the Chief told me that it would take four or five days to have the Elephants and Attendants ready for conveying him to Ligore, I took the precaution of having it mentioned in the letter to the Honble. the Governor that Achong was to be allowed to pass. I have every reason therefore to hope that the young Chief will fulfil his promise, and that Achong in the course of five and twenty or thirty days will be able to meet me at Trang with some correct intelligence, not only regarding the present condition of the Chiefs of Ligore and Singora, but regarding the views and feelings of the Court of Siam. He has been instructed to use every means in his power to allure the Chief of Ligore to give me an interview.

On the young Chief hearing that I would probably visit Mergui, and expressing a desire of obtaining more information regarding the progress of the War, I proposed to him to dispatch some of his most trustworthy Servants to accompany me to the Northward,

and promised to bring them back to Kedah in safety. He acceded to this proposal, and further consented to give me letters of introduction to the Chiefs of Phoonga, Chimpohun and Tuccopa, as I observed that I was anxious to explain to them, as fully as I had done to him, the circumstances of the present War. If the young Chief do not disappoint me on this last head, I shall certainly secure very important facilitation in communicating with the Ports to the Northward; and it was principally to inspire him with additional confidence in my professions, that I resolved to return to Penang, and convey to him other letters, and some trifling Articles which he expressed his desire to possess.

I deem it my duty, however, to state candidly, for the information of the Honble. the Governor in Council, that from this Coast, it will be impossible, in my opinion, to communicate with the Chief of Singora—that I am by no means sanguine of being now allowed to pass across the Country to Ligore—and that while I hope Achong will be able to avail himself of the talent which he possesses to collect some positive intelligence regarding Siam, Ligore and Singora, I think my only chance of being useful, will be to explain the circumstances of the present War to the Chiefs of Phoonga and Tuccopa, and to endeavour by means of the Rinnong River, to perform the same duty with respect to the Chief of Chimpohun, who appears to be the proper person through whom communications regarding our occupation of Tavoy and Mergui can be made to the Court of Siam. From all that I could collect at Kedah, I am convinced that no impression either with respect to the affairs of that Kingdom, or concerning our objects in the territory of Tenasserim can be made on the Court of Siam by negociation, but by means of the Chiefs on the Eastern shore, and if therefore, I fail in persuading the Chow-pya of Ligore to meet me at Trang, or in reaching Chimpohun,

through the Rinnong River, I would beg to suggest that I be authorized to go round at once to Singora, Ligore, and Chimpohun, and to wait at the last mentioned place for such instructions as the Supreme Government may be pleased to transmit through Mergui, the passage from which place I am assured is of three days only, and my presence at Chimpohun would perhaps lead to its being immediately laid open by the Siamese.

I have, &c., &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY,
Political Agent to the
Siamese States.

H. C. Brig Jessy

Fort Cornwallis

28 January 1825.

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 3 February 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 335-6.

Enclosure 1
in letter from
Capt. Burney
dated 28 Jany.
1825.

TRANSLATION

of a letter from the Son of the Rajah of Ligore at Quedah to the Honorable Robert Fullerton, Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

(After the usual Compliments.)

I have to acquaint my friend with respect to his having sent Captain Burney with a letter to me at Quedah, concerning the Pirates and Robbers who have been committing depredations to the Northward of Pulo Penang, that I understood all the contents and purport of that letter. I have given strict orders to search for and seize these Pirates, in order that they may be punished and be made an example of, to deter others from the commission of such offences.

I have communicated with Captain Burney on the subject of these Pirates and bad people. My friend requested I would receive Captain Burney with hospitality and friendship. I have done so agreeably to the desire expressed in my friend's letter.

Captain Burney was anxious to send China Achong with a letter from my friend and himself to the Rajah of Ligore, and I will order Elephants to be prepared to convey him across, and people to accompany him, from a regard for my friend and Captain Burney. Captain Burney will acquaint my friend with all the communications which have passed between us.

DATED at Quedah Thursday 27 : January 1825.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 3 February 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 336-344.

REMARKS.

Enclosure 2
in letter from
Captain Burney
dated 28
January.

The present King of Siam or *Khun Luang* is not an Usurper as reported from Singapore but the eldest Son of the late King. The Uncle of the present King of Siam is Nephew to the Governor of Ligore, and he has been appointed *Khun Luang Wang-na*, or Rajah Muda, literally Heir Apparent, an Officer of much authority in the Eastern States.

This is the same who was before called Kroom Sat. The report of his decease, and of the Siamese at Kedah having shaved their heads in mourning of this event is void of foundation.

None of the Chiefs between Kedah and Bangkok are independent Sovereigns or feudatories, but Servants implicitly bound and actually obeying the dictates of the King of Siam.

Although some of these Chiefs, and particularly those styled *Chow Pya*, Governor General, or as Loubere translates it, Viceroy, exercise some degree of Sovereign power over their own Countrymen, yet with respect to Europeans not one of them dares engage in any negotiation with them, but under the direct Authority of the Court of Siam.

The gradation among the Chiefs of Provinces and Towns, or *Chow Muang*, is as follows:—

Chow Pya, Governor General.

Pya, Governor.

Prah, answering to our Lieutenant Governor.

Luang or *Chiom*, answering to our Resident—the latter title is more honorable, and is never used in the presence of a Superior.

Khoon or *Mome*, a grade lower.

Meun, a grade still lower.

The *Pya* or Governor of Chimpohun was always entrusted by the Court of Siam with the duty of watching the Burmese on the Coast of Tenasserim, and all communications regarding that Coast should be addressed to him. The shortest, and alleged only route from the Gulf of Siam to Tavoy and Mergui is from Chimpohun, where the Siamese forces destined to attack those places always assembled.

Rinnong or Rindong was within a few years back governed by a Malay Chief, but when the Burmese attacked and laid it waste, the Inhabitants fled and settled near the East Coast at a place called Langsewun. The shortest space between the Eastern and Western Seas appears to be at Rinnong. Some persons who have often gone the passage declare, that in one tide up the Rinnong River (which is of some size) you arrive at a road that leads to the Chimpohun River, and may be passed in 4 hours, and that thence down the Chimpohun River you may arrive at the Seat of the *Pya* or Governor of Chimpohun in 8 hours.

The *Pya* or Governor of Poongha has much influence at Siam, as well as the *Chow Pya* of Ligore.

The *Chow Pya* of Ligore is of Chinese extraction, and not only the father of the *Pya* of Singora was a Chinese, but his Mother was of Chinese extraction.

The late *Pya* of Merdelong or Bondelon of Kotelon was a Mahometan, but the present *Pya* is a Siamese sent from Bangkok to succeed.

An illegitimate son of the Governor of Ligore governs at Kedah, two others reside at Settool, while the favorite and legitimate Son who was at Trang for some months has just returned to Ligore.

All the Coast between Puhlas in Lat: 8 and Kedah is occupied by the Troops of the Governor of

Ligore, who has put a stop to all communication with Singora and Merdelong.

The Siamese at Kedah state that Ligore was at one time an independent Kingdom, including a great portion of the Coast of Tenasserim, but that the *Chow Pya* of Ligore has at present no authority or control whatever over the intermediate Siamese States of Chimpohun, Chenga, Tuccopa or Poongha. They also state that there are few Siamese settled at Mergui, and a great many in Tavoy, that within the last three years the Siamese made an incursion close to the Gates of Mergui, and took the Burmese second in Command, who is at present a Prisoner in Bangkok.

They also pretend that the Court of Bangkok is quite indifferent regarding the possession of any portion of the Coast of Tenasserim, and had only been making incursions into that territory for many years past because it belonged to their inveterate Enemies the Burmese.

The present Rajah of Perak is a weak Prince, and his Bindahara applied to the *Chow Pya* of Ligore for assistance against Salangore, a relative of the Rajah of which place, Tuanko Hussein, has established himself in the territory of Perak at the mouth of the principal River. The Detachment which was sent two years ago from Kedah was defeated by the Rajah of Salangore, who came up from Salangore and attacked the Troops of Ligore. Another application has been lately made to Ligore by the Bindahara of Perak, who has offered to send a *Bunga Mas* to Siam, and the *Chow Pya* is now fitting out a large fleet of Boats to attack the Rajah of Salangore, as well as to occupy the Country of Perak. Ligore has not at present more than 6 or 700 Siamese Troops, throughout the territory of Kedah. •

The Siamese Dominions on the Eastern Shores between Ligore and Pachpuri, are remarkably thinly peopled, and Ligore itself has but a scanty population. The *Pya* of Chimpohun is not allowed to trade, and that place since the conquest by the Burmese of Mergui and Tavoy appears to have been converted into a purely Military Post or Garrison. This accounts for the entire cessation of that valuable trade which formerly passed between Mergui and the Gulf of Siam.

Krah is a small town inland between Rinnong and Chanya under a *Luang* of Chinese extraction, and although not set down in any Chart or Map that I have ever seen, the name of Isthmus of Kraw appears to have been taken from it.

There has arisen a violent personal enmity between the *Chow Pya* of Ligore, and the *Pya* of Singora, and the former had placed the latter in chains, which were lately taken off in consequence of the death of the King of Siam, upon which event according to the established custom of the State, every prisoner was released. From this circumstance the Siamese at Kedah state the report of the rising influence of the *Pya* of Singora at Siam has originated. There is no doubt however that the *Pya* of Singora is an old friend and playfellow of the present King of Siam; nevertheless it is believed that as the *Chow Pya* is much more wealthy than the *Pya* of Singora, and has deputed his wife to Siam with very rich presents, and is preparing to follow her with still more valuable presents, he will succeed in retaining his influence and credit at that corrupt Court.

All the Chiefs of the Siamese States have been summoned to attend Bangkok within two months for the purpose of assisting at the Ceremony of burning the remains of the late King of Siam.

Since writing the above, I have met with *Luang* Took Krat, a Minister belonging to the Chief of Tuccopa, who has confirmed all that I had collected at Kedah, and has further told me that although his Master is styled by many people *Pya*, he is in fact a *Prah* only, and is unwilling to be called by the other title, from an apprehension that it will excite jealousy and envy among the other Chiefs. This *Luang* has undertaken to convey letters and presents from me to his Master immediately, and to prepare him for my visit.

The *Chow Pya* of Ligore does not give entire credit to the English having captured so many Burmese places, and in fact suspects, that the report of our War with Ava is spread in view only that an Officer from Penang may be able to cross and see the Country between Ligore and Kedah.

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Political Agent to the Siamese States.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 344-354.

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 3 February 1825.

Minute by the
President 31
January 1825.

THE following Minute by the President with Letters to the Siamese Chiefs is recorded.

MINUTE BY THE PRESIDENT.

As it appeared to me, after the perusal and consideration of Captain Burney's report, that the letters addressed to the neighbouring Chiefs should be somewhat more full and explanatory as [to] the objects of his Mission, and the general subjects connected therewith, the War with the Burmese, and the occupation of Tavoy and Mergui. I directed accordingly the letters, of which the translations are now laid before the Board, to be prepared.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

31 January 1825.

TO THE SON OF THE RAJAH OF LIGORE.

To the son of
the Rajah of
Ligore at Kedah.

To

The Son of the Rajah of Ligore at

KEDAH.

The Governor of Penang has received the letter which the Buginda Muda residing at Kedah has sent him by Captain Burney, and he has to thank the Buginda Muda for the determination which he expresses to apprehend and punish the Robbers and Pirates that infest the Seas and Countries to the Northward of Penang. The Governor also thanks the Buginda Muda for the civility and attention which he has shewn to Captain Burney, and regrets that that Officer was not allowed to go across the Country to Ligore to communicate with the Chow Pia upon many important particulars regarding the War in which the English are at present engaged against Ava. He hopes however that the Chow Pia will hear from Achong such intelligence as will induce him immediately to give Captain Burney a meeting. The British Government is very anxious of explaining every particular regarding the Burmese to the Siamese, with whom it has so long been on the most friendly terms; and now that it is engaged in hostilities against their mutual enemies the Burmese, the Governor of Penang is confident that the King of Siam will be most happy to receive authentic intelligence as the views and proceedings of the British forces which have occupied Cheduba, Negrais, Rangoon, Dalla, Pegu, Martaban, Yek, Tavoy, Mergui, and Tenasserim, and he has commissioned Captain Burney to communicate very fully all such particulars to every Siamese Chief in the neighbourhood of Penang, in order that there may arise no doubt or suspicion of any kind in the minds of the Siamese, and that the long subsisting harmony between the Siamese and English may become

more firm and permanent. It is the duty therefore of every Siamese Chief to hear all that Captain Burney has been ordered to communicate and to report it as soon as possible to the King of Siam.

The Governor of Penang is happy to hear from Captain Burney that the Briginda Muda is willing to put a stop to the sale of stolen property at Kedah, and to seize and deliver up to the Governor of Penang all Pirates and Robbers that may fly to the territory of Kedah from Penang, and the Governor engages to issue the same orders as the Briginda Muda may issue at Kedah, with respect to Robbers and Pirates taking shelter at Penang or the Honble. Company's territory from Kedah, and with respect to persons selling property stolen from Kedah.

But the Governor of Penang is sorry to hear from Captain Burney that the Native Trade between Kedah and Penang is much oppressed by the exactions of some Chulia and Chinese Servants of the Briginda Muda at Kedah, and that the valuable trade which formerly passed overland between Kedah and Ligore from Penang, is now entirely stopped, in consequence of all persons being prohibited to cross the Country without the previous permission of the Chow Pia of Ligore. The Governor hopes that the Briginda Muda will encourage and promote Commerce at Kedah, in the same manner as it [is] encouraged and promoted at Penang, by fixing a regular Schedule of Duties, punishing all persons who may extort unauthorized fees, and permitting every Trader to go and come whenever and wherever he pleases without any trouble or hindrance.

Lastly, the Governor of Penang trusts, that from the confidence and good terms that now subsist between Kedah and Penang, and from Captain Burney's being an old friend of the Chow Pia of Ligore, that

the Briginda Muda will give letters of introduction to the Chiefs of Phoonga, Tacowpa and Chimpohun, in order that they also may become acquainted as friends with every particular regarding the Burmese War, and regarding the occupation of Tavoy and Mergui by the British Troops; and he is happy to learn that the Briginda Muda has resolved upon ordering two of his servants to accompany Captain Burney towards Mergui, for the purpose of acquiring full and complete intelligence as to the War carrying on between the English and the Burmese, the ancient and bitter Enemies of the Siamese.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

Translated by

(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

TO THE PIA of CHIMPOHUN and other CHIEFS.

To the Pia of
Chimpohun and
other Chiefs.

Pia of Chimpohun, Pia of Tacoopa, Pia of Tucatoon
the Aluang of Kraw, and Chow Pia of Ligore.

The Governor of Penang has thought it proper to depute Captain Burney to the Pia of Chimpohun, in order to communicate to the Pia important information regarding the War in which the English are at present engaged against Ava, and he hopes the Pia will receive Captain Burney with the same hospitality and good will which every Siamese visiting Penang, or any other British Port, has always experienced, and may be certain of experiencing from the English.

The British Government is very desirous of explaining every particular regarding the Burmese War to the Siamese, with whom it has so long been on the most friendly terms, and now that it is engaged in hostilities against their mutual enemies the Burmese, the Governor of Penang is confident that the King of Siam will be most happy to receive authentic intelligence as to the views and proceedings of the British forces which have occupied Cheduba, Negrais, Rangoon, Dalla, Pegue, Martaban, Yek, Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim, and he has commissioned Captain Burney to communicate very fully all such particulars to every Siamese Chief in the neighbourhood of Penang, in order that there may arise no doubt or suspicion of any kind in the minds of the Siamese, and that the long subsisting friendship and harmony between the Siamese and English, may become more firm and permanent. It is the duty therefore, of every Siamese Chief, to hear all that Captain Burney has been ordered to communicate, and to report it as soon as possible to the King of Siam; and the Governor of Penang trusts that Pya Phoonga will not only note down and report to

Bangkok all that Captain Burney may relate, but assist Captain Burney to give the same important information to all the Siamese Chiefs between Mergui and Phoonga, in order that the English on the Coast of Tenasserim may be considered as friends to the Siamese, and that the Siamese may know that if they move their forces in the direction of Aungwa and Moneh from Bangkok and Cheung-mai, they will have an opportunity of securing great advantage for themselves over their ancient and bitter enemies the Burmese.

Captain Burney will deliver some tokens of friendship and good will from the Governor of Penang to the Pia of Poongha, and communicate either to the Government of Bengal, or to the Governor of Penang, any thing that the Pia will have to communicate.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

Translated by

(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transl. to Govt.

TO THE PIA OF POONGHA.

To the Pia of
Poongha.

Pia of Poongha.

The Governor of Penang takes the earliest opportunity of thanking the Pia of Poongha for the civility and politeness with which he received some months ago, the Governor's Agent Captain Low : and he now deposes Captain Burney to Poongha, in order to communicate to the Pia important information regarding the War in which the English are at present engaged against Ava, and to hope the Pia will receive Captain Burney with his usual kindness and attention. The British Government is very desirous of explaining every particular regarding the Burmese War to the Siamese, with whom it has so long been on the most friendly terms, and now that it is engaged in hostilities against their mutual enemies the Burmese,

.

[From this point to the end, the document is a copy of the letter addressed to the Pia of Chimpohun.]

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 3 February 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 355-361.

The following Minute by Mr. Clubley, proposing the discontinuance of any further Proceedings on the subject is recorded.

MINUTE BY MR. CLUBLEY.

Minute by Mr.
Clubley.

When the Mission of Captn. Burney to the Siamese States was proposed by the President, I certainly declined recording my dissent, to the measure, from respect to the high authority of the Supreme Government, under whose recommendation that officer was appointed to the trust, and under a hope that the important interests which were supposed to be involved in the Mission, would justify its adoption. The return of that Officer, and his Report of Proceedings at Kedah, oblige me however now to say, that I look upon the continuance of such a Mission not only as impolitic, but as improper. It is impolitic because it appears to me that no ultimate good can result from it, while the Deputation of a British Officer, for purposes which are unattainable with the petty States on this Coast, can only lead them to unreasonable expectations, and perhaps involve us in a way which may be ultimately inconvenient. It has the appearance also of a solicitude for assistance, which none of these States can afford, and even if ultimately given, will prove too late to be of any avail. It is quite quite unreasonable to suppose that the Siamese Court and its dependent Governments have not been fully aware of our hostilities with Ava, as well as with the progress of our Arms, and if they had been disposed to take advantage of the opportunity, there has been ample time to enable them to do so in a way that might have been useful to us, and advantageous

to themselves. The Mission is improper on these grounds, and also because the expense of it is certain, without any probability of a proportionate advantage.

We have before us in Captain Burney's report 8 Sheets of Paper full of that sort of information which has been given in every preceding Mission to Kedah, with particulars regarding the Country, which could have been easily gleaned from the 1st Volume of the Penang Records, from the more voluminous reports of Mr. Crawford of his Mission to Siam in 1822, and from the practical result of Lieutt. Low's Mission of last year, the Report of which is on record. Besides which the opportunities afforded to Lieutt. Low in his last, and in his present visits to the Northward will have placed the Siamese in full possession of our views and objects in the War with Ava, as he circulated Translations in the Siamese Language of the Proclamation of War, and actually invited their assistance. I think it will be time enough when Lieutenant Low returns from Mergui to judge whether another Mission for the same purpose is now expedient, after Government shall have received his Reports of the feelings and sentiments of the different Siamese Chieftains with whom he may have had intercourse.

We have received also from Captain Burney a Sketch of the Siamese Empire, derived as usual from Native information, and therefore likely to mislead from its vagueness and uncertainty.

The names of Native Authorities and Potentates, under the Siamese Government, may be correctly described, as may perhaps also Captain Burney's correction of Mr. Crawford's report regarding the present King of Siam.

The personal character of the young Chief at Kedah, and of his Ministers may also be satisfactorily described by Captain Burney, as well as the

state of the Country, and the price of poultry; but I cannot think that such objects so frequently before descanted on, can be of sufficient consideration for an expensive Mission, not even if the Private Lives and Adventures of all the Chiefs and Ministers between this and Mergui were added to the Report. I decidedly object to the measure adopted by Captain Burney of sending an unaccredited Chinese Person to Ligore upon a Mission, which required all the delicacy he himself could have bestowed upon it.

Captain Burney has moreover " candidly acknowledged " in his Report an opinion that " from this Coast it will be impossible to communicate with the Chief of Singora, and that it is not likely he will " be allowed to pass across the Country to Ligore." For all practical purposes, therefore, of utility and of general policy, the present Mission might terminate. The problematical result of any endeavour to penetrate across the Country from the " Rinnong River " to " Chimpohun " can be of no public benefit as respects the objects of Government referable to the present Burman War. Far better would it have been if Colonel Snow had been allowed to carry into effect the objects of this Government with the Siamese States, and eventually with Siam itself, against which the Supreme Government so decidedly objected.

The conduct and proceedings of the young Prince at Kedah, as well as of all the petty States to the Northward, will be entirely regulated by the orders of the Rajah of Ligore, and it is quite certain that that haughty Chief is equally bound by the instructions of the Court of Siam. We may receive from the Rajah of Ligore, and from the tributary Siamese Chieftains abundant expressions of good will and professions of regard which are quite unmeaning, and in no case to be relied upon, without the authoritative orders of their Lord and Master at Siam, who can only be courted at his Capital. His dependent

Ministers will of course receive with avidity all complimentary Embassies, but the substantial advantage to ourselves is not obtainable from such a mode of Intercourse.

(Signed) W. A. CLUBLEY

THE BOARD resolves that the subject lie over until Reports of his further proceedings are received from the Political Agent.

**Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 361-363.**

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 3 February 1825.

AGENT to the SIAMESE STATES.

**Agent to the
Siamese States
2d Febr'y. 1825.**

To

W. S. CRACROFT Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I beg leave to apprise you for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, that on my late visit to Kedah, I engaged a small schooner of 12 or 14 Tons burthen, to accompany me—that, in view to incur as little expense as possible, three of the Crew belonging to the Honorable Company's Brig Jessy were put into her to man her, and that I derived important assistance from this Vessel. I was in hopes of again being able to avail myself of such a benefit without any immediate outlay, but the Commander of the Jessy being unwilling to spare any of his crew, I have to solicit the Honble. the Governor in Council will authorize me to entertain an intelligent Seacunny and four Lascars, for the purpose of manning the Schooner above referred to and to incur an expense not exceeding 100 Drs. per month on account of her.

Referring to the frail condition of the H. C. Brig Jessy, and to the necessity which will exist for my keeping close to the shore, and entering some distance into Rivers wherever the Seat of a Siamese Chief is in the interior, I submit the presence of such a Schooner, or other decked Boat is indispensable for the due execution of my Mission. Perhaps the Honorable the Governor in Council may, in lieu of authorizing the expense which I propose, direct the Gun Boat lately

built for the Honble. Company to accompany me.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Poll. Agent to the Siamese

P. W. Island

States

2d Feby. 1825.

RESOLVED that the authority solicited be granted, instructions being given against exceeding the above expense, and for limiting the charge incurred to as economical a scale as possible.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 399-405.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 17 February 1825.

RAJAH of LIGORE.

Rajah of Ligore
20 January 1825.

Translation

of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Honble.
the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

(After Compliments.)

The reply to my letter which my friend returned by Aluang Ram Dichu, Kon Aksoon and Nei Neem, expressive of his desire to promote a friendly understanding with me has been duly received, and the contents fully understood.

The successes of the English in their hostilities against the Kingdom of Ava, I am extremely rejoiced to learn ; for Ava and Siam can never be at peace, or preserve a good understanding.

I am anxious to know what is the cause of the English having quarrelled with Ava, and I am also desirous to learn how many of the Burman Countries, have been already taken by the English. I should like to be informed also, as to the nature of the intended attack, and the preparations which have been made by the English for the capture of the capital of Ava. I request, therefore, that my friend will inform me of these particulars by letter, for the Siamese will be happy to hear that Ava has been overcome by the English.

When the Kingdom of Ava has been completely subdued by the English, the Siamese will be very happy and be enabled to trade with greater facility. I am anxious to establish friendship and cordiality with my friend, more close and intimate than formerly.

Aluang Ram Dicho, Kon Aksoon, and Nai Neem, who conveyed my last letter, mentioned to me that my friend wanted some small Prows to send up and co-operate in the Ava River, and that he also required some elephants at Penang. If my friend wishes to have Prows to the number of ten, twenty, or thirty, and elephants for amusement at Pulo Penang, he will be pleased to send me a letter, and I will send them, in order to adhere to, and promote friendship and good will.

I herewith send a *Kundi* (a Silver Water Pot inlaid with thin Gold) of the manufacture of Siam, which I beg to present like a flower to my friend, and beg he will accept, using it as he pleases, as a token of regard.

Further, it is mentioned in my friend's letter that there have been a great number of Pirates and Robbers, who have been committing depredations, and taken refuge in Kedah. I have sent a letter there, directing search to be made for them, and the seizure of their persons—if discovered they shall be punished according to custom.

There is a person of the name of To Jahan, a Native of Purlis, also a Panglima Saib and a Panglima Bahar, from a place called Temblang (Dependencies of the Kedah Country) who were under my orders and control formerly—they have fled and taken refuge in the territory attached to Pulo Penang, together with Che Allang, Che Akeel, Che Musa, and Che Jaya, Inhabitants of the Kangkawi Islands—these people have concerted together to commit piracies, and to attack trading Prows, robbing and plundering the Birds Nests at the Islands from which I derive a Revenue.

Moreover, with respect to Rajah Antah, Rajah Oosman, Rajah Kahar, Fakir Saib and Nga Manid

alluded to in my friend's letter—I have sent a letter to Kedah directing that they shall be watched and seized—but they dare not continue long in the Kedah territory—they make piratical and plundering incursions and then fly.

All these people have conveyed their wives and families to reside at Prye, Teluk Ayer Tawar, Tanjong Tokong, Teluk Jelutang, Sungei Glugore, and Sungei Kluang, under the Government of Pulo Penang, and my friend having but lately arrived may not perhaps be aware of this.

The person who is charged with this letter is well acquainted however with the resort of these people, and I request my friend will enquire of him. If my friend wishes to seize these people without difficulty, it may certainly be accomplished.

I therefore beg my friend who governs Pulo Penang, to seize all these pirates and robbers and send them to Kedah, according to long established custom. When these evil disposed people are removed, the Commercial intercourse between Pulo Penang and Kedah will be improved and easy. All that is herein stated, I submit for the consideration of my friend, in order that he may decide upon promoting entire friendship.

There is another point. So long as the Rajah of Kedah has been residing at Pulo Penang, all these wicked people who have fled, take a pleasure in conveying false reports to Pulo Penang, in order to create a bad feeling and enmity between the English and Siamese. What I now profess I assert with real sincerity and a friendly disposition—that from this time should any person bring any intelligence of such a nature, and endeavour to promote discord and division between the English and Siamese, I request my friend

will seize the person bringing such reports, confining him and sending me intimation in order that I may be enabled to point out satisfactorily to my friend, the falsity of any such reports of my evil designs. I again repeat that what I now declare, is with the utmost sincerity, as a token of truth, and in order that friendship and good will may be promoted and continued from this time forward.

Dated 29th Jemadilawal in this year 1240—20th January 1825.

Malay Translator's Office
Penang
The 11th February 1825.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Note—This letter was received yesterday at noon. It is a reply to the Honorable the Governor's dated 13th December last. The Original is in Malay. The Rajah of L'gore has sent a complimentary present of a Silver Cup inlaid with Gold by the Messengers to the Malay Translator.

(Signed) J. A.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 406-8.

Son of the Rajah
of Ligore at
Kedah II.
Febry. 1825.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 17 February 1825.

SON of the RAJAH of LIGORE.

Translation

of a letter from the Son of the Rajah of Ligore at
Kedah to the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esquire
Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

I have received my friend's letter brought by
Captain Burney, and understand fully all its contents.
With respect to the Pirate Prows which have been
attacking trading Vessels, and committing depreda-
tions to the Northward of Pulo Penang, I have sent
my friend's letter to the Chow Pia of Ligore, and
whatever reply he may return upon that subject, shall
be communicated to my friend.

Farther, my friend mentions that the Chinese and
Chooliahs commit extortions at Kedah on traders: I
had not formerly heard of this, nor had any repre-
sentations been made to me upon the subject; but now
that I am informed of such being the case, I shall give
orders for preventing their being guilty of such
practices in future. Do not let my friend be
suspicious.

With respect to my friend's request, that I should
write letters to the Pia of Poongha, and the Praws of
Tacoopa and Tuccatoon, and send them by Captain
Burney, I will do as my friend requires. With respect
to Captn. Burney whom my friend mentions as
desirous of proceeding immediately to wait on the
King of Ligore, I consulted with him to send over
China Achong with some of my people, to inform

the Chow Pia of Ligore, and I have since dispatched other Messengers to convey the information to the Rajah of Ligore. If he sends a reply I will conform to whatever directions it may contain, and will inform my friend accordingly, for it is the Rajah of Ligore's order that previous intimation shall be sent him of the intentions of any person wishing to proceed to meet him.

Dated Friday 11th February 1825.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

15 Feby. 1825.

THE HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR acquaints the Board, that the Bearers of the Letter from Ligore have requested an interview with him, when he will prepare a lettter to the Chow Pia and acquaint them that unless Captain Burney is received and admitted to a conference, this Government will decline granting a similar reception to any more Envoys from that State.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements, Vol. 99,
pp. 408-410.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 17 February 1825.

SUPT. of POINT WELLESLEY.

Superintendent
of Point Welles-
ley 15 February
1825.

To W. S. CRACROFT Esq.

Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I deem it my duty to report, for the information to the Honorable the Governor in Council, that during the past week, upwards of fifty of the former inhabitants of Pulai have entered Wellesley Province, having fled from their homes to prevent being forcibly carried away by the Forces under the authority of the Rajah of Ligore, and that at least two hundred more may be shortly expected.

It appears that the Siamese authorities at Kedah have sent orders to the Shabundar of Pulai to collect 200 men, and place them under the orders of the Siamese Authorities in the neighbourhood of Perak. No immediate object is avowed for demanding this force, but the prevailing opinion is, that it is intended to assist in the long threatened attack on Salangore.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley.

Point Wellesley

the 15 February 1825.

THE OBJECT now in view by the Siamese Authorities, appearing to the Board to be fraught with injury to the British Interests, and to be nearly the final step to the complete subjugation of the Malay Peninsula—

IT IS AGREED, that a Special Report of the progress of the Siamese Conquests be again made to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, more particularly with reference to the approaching transfer of Malacca, and the Treaties and relations subsisting between that Settlement and the States of Salangore and Rumbow.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 28 February 1825.

To the Rajah of LIGORE.

Letter

from the Honble. Robert Fullerton Esq. Governor of
Prince of Wales Island to the Rajah of Ligore.

The Governor of Pulo Penang has received the letter from the Rajah of Ligore brought by his Messenger Kon Aksoon and the Governor regrets that His Highness did not permit Captain Low to proceed across to meet him and communicate with him upon the subject of Boats which were required some months ago. These Boats would have been of much use at that time in co-operating against the Burmahs at Rangoon. The time is now passed however. The British troops have been very successful and a great number of Boats have been obtained. The elephants which His Highness offers also are not at present required, but if the public Service should render it necessary, the Governor will avail himself of His Highness's offer.

With respect to His Highness's enquiries relative to the Burmah War, and other matters alluded to in his letter, Captain Burney has been deputed to him for the express purpose of entering fully into the detail of all matters connected with the war, as well as the explanation of the mutual advantages that may result, not less to the Siamese than the British Government by its successful termination.

The Governor of Pulo Penang therefore trusts that the Rajah of Ligore will receive Captain Burney as an accredited Agent of the British Government, and

communicate fully and confidentially with him upon all the present subjects of discussion, and the Governor thinks it proper to add, that unless His Highness receives Captain Barney, it will be inconsistent with the Governor's duty to receive any Envoys from His Highness in future.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

Penang

18 Febry. 1825.

**Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99,
pp. 543-8.**

FORT CORNWALLIS The 28 February 1825.

THE HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR submits the following Memorandum of a Conversation between him and the Envoys from Ligore.

**Memorandum of
a Conversation
with the Ligore
Envoys—18
Febry. 1825.**

**MEMO : of CONVERSATION with
LIGORE ENVOYS.**

Memorandum

of a Conversation between the Honble. the Governor of Penang, and the Envoys from the Rajah of Ligore, on Friday the 18th February 1825.

The Honorable the Governor mentioned that he had perused the letter from His Highness of Ligore brought by the Envoys, and that the Boats which were now offered would have been very acceptable some months ago, when Captain Low proceeded to Trang for the purpose of procuring them. Since that period however, the British Army had been very successful against the Burmahs and we had captured many of their principal Seaport Towns. The Government would therefore decline the offer of Prows or Elephants at present, but should they be required hereafter, he would acquaint His Highness.

The Envoys replied that in consequence of the Honble. the Governor's enquiries when they were last here, they had mentioned the object of Captain Low's Mission, which he had declined to communicate fully, and hence the disappointment in procuring Prows, which the Rajah of Ligore expressed a desire to supply the moment he was informed by them that they were wanted, and they added that there was a ship at Trang and a schooner at Quedah, which the Governor might also have, if he wished.

The Governor stated that he had sent Captain Burney to communicate fully and confidentially with the Raja of Ligore upon the subject of the Burmah War, the King of Quedah, Pirates and other matters alluded to in His Highness's letter and he therefore recommended the Envoys to return without delay and make this known to His Highness, so that he might receive Captain Burney. The Governor added, that if Captain Burney was not received as he expected, he could not receive any more Siamese Envoys, but he had no doubt that if the Rajah of Ligore gave him a meeting every thing would be satisfactorily explained.

The Envoys assured the Governor that His Highness had a great respect for the Governor, and was desirous of conforming to his wishes. His Highness was also acquainted with Captain Burney, and they had little doubt the Rajah would permit that officer to go across.

The Governor next enquired for what purpose so many Boats were fitted out at Trang, Quedah, Lingow, Sitool and Purlis. The Envoys replied they had been fitted out in expectation of an attack from the Burmahs.

The Governor expressed a suspicion that they were destined to attack Salangore, and reminded the Envoys that Malacca was about to be occupied by the English; that Treaties existed between that Settlement and Salangore and Perak, and that any hostilities by the Rajah of Ligore against these States would not be regarded with indifference by the British Government. He therefore requested the Envoys to caution the Rajah of Ligore against sending any force to the Southward of Penang.

The Envoys replied that Perak was already in possession of the Siamese, and that the Rajah of Ligore would of course acquaint the Governor of his intention of proceeding further before he did so.

The Envoys after repeatedly expressing the friendly feelings entertained by the Ligore Rajah towards the Governor, his anxiety to conciliate his favor, and requesting him not to credit any reports at variance with His Highness's professions, and to seize any Natives who brought reports unfavorable to him, adverted to the Piracies committed by the Malays in this quarter, and expressed an anxiety that the Chiefs should be seized.

The Governor informed them that he was using his utmost endeavours to suppress Piracy, and that additional Vessels had been, and would be employed for that purpose.

The Governor again repeated that his Agent Captain Burney would explain everything, and the head Envoy promised to return in four days to expedite the reception of Captain Burney by the Rajah of Ligore.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

18 Febr'y. 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements, Vol. 99,
pp. 550-8.

To the Governor
General in
Council at Fort
William 28 Feb.
1825.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 28 February 1825.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

William Pitt, Lord Amherst

Governor General in Council

FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord,

* [See 15 Feb.
1825.]

We have the honor to transmit for the information of your Lordship in Council the annexed Copy of a letter^o from the Superintendent of Point Wellesley Province, reporting that an attack which has been for some time meditated by the Rajah of Ligore is now likely to be put in execution against the State of Salangore. Whether the Siamese being aware of the approaching transfer of Malacca are tempted to presume that the Netherlands Government of that place will not deem it worth while to support the interests of its ally by active measures in his behalf, or whether they are anxious to reduce that State to subjection previous to our taking possession of the neighbouring Territory, their success cannot fail to be productive of effects extremely detrimental to the British interests, and calculated indeed to nullify all the advantages Political and Commercial which it has been the object of the Framers of the new Treaty to obtain for us with those Countries.

2. In the Dispatch of your Lordship in Council dated the 19 November last, it is justly regretted that circumstances should have brought us in immediate contact with the Siamese power at one point of our Possessions. If (as is almost certain) from the weakness of the Rajah of Salangore, they succeed in establishing themselves there, we shall be also in contact with them

at our Settlement next to the Eastward, Malacca, not only so but Salangore having fallen, Rumbow and Johore will it is feared fall an easy prey. The Siamese Government will border on and be only divided by a shallow and inconsiderable channel from the island of Singapore, and our three Settlements become as it were insulated by that jealous and haughty race of people. The rich productions of the interior of the Peninsula will be intercepted by that monopolizing spirit which has always characterized that Nation, and we shall become dependent on them for every Article of Commerce or Supply which they enjoy by any other conveyance than that of a long Sea voyage.

3. On the renewal of the Alliance between the Netherlands Government and Salangore in the year 1819, an Agent was deputed from hence at the request of His Highness the Rajah. Copies of the correspondence which took place on that occasion between the Governor of this Presidency and that Chief—the Proceedings of the Agent and the Treaties between Salangore and Malacca form enclosures * in this dispatch, and will serve to shew the intimate connection subsisting between those two Governments.

* Not in this Vol. These papers appear in Vol. 70 and will be copied with the records for 1819.

4. The Correspondence which took place between Major Farquhar and the Rajah of Rumbow (a Country to the Southward of Salangore but inland from Malacca) in the years 1816 and 1817 shew a more immediate connection and dependence on the part of that weak Malayan State on its more powerful European neighbour. Copies of this Correspondence are likewise enclosed * for the information of your Lordship in Council.

* This correspondence is immaterial to Siam and has not been copied.

5. From the letter which we had the honor to address to your Lordship in Council under date 18th January, it will be seen that we entertained hopes

that the early occupation of Malacca by British Authority would have prevented the Siamese Chief of Ligore from attempting the subjugation of that State, and extending the Siamese Dominions in that direction; from the nature of the intimation now received, fears may be entertained that the event may precede our taking possession of Malacca, and considering that the relations to be observed in respect to the Malayan States in that neighbourhood will probably become the first question for the consideration of the person to whom the charge of that new Settlement may be entrusted by your Lordship in Council, it seems advisable that no time should be lost in submitting the information and the Documents on our Records connected with this question. In respect to any measure to be pursued by us pending reference to the Supreme Government relating to Siamese encroachments on the Peninsula, it may be observed, that although, as already stated by us, we do not consider the Government of Siam to have held over the King of Kedah at the time of the cession of this Island such a degree of legitimate authority or Supremacy as to have barred the right of the King of Kedah to make the cession, or to have authorized the subsequent expulsion of the King, yet as all those proceedings have been virtually assented to by us, the restoration of that Kingdom to its ancient, and to us most desirable state, can only now be the subject of negotiation: how far the same argument applies to the next Southerly State of Perak is not certainly clear. It appears that the Rajah of Ligore sent about 20 prows there in February and March 1822. The Siamese and some Malays remained there a few months. The Rajah of Salangore was requested by the King to come up and assist him. He did so, and the few Siamese who were at Perak and the renegade Malays from Kedah were completely expelled in November or December 1822. Since that time no further attempts have been made by the Siamese to

possess themselves of Perak till about 3 months ago, when, at the very time the Ligore Rajah was sending Envoys here ostensibly to negotiate for the restoration of Kedah, he sent down 40 Siamese and about 300 Malays clandestinely overland to Perak, and occupying a Military Post thence infer actual possession of the Country. It is understood that the form of renewing the Treaty was gone through by the Dutch on their return to Malacca, but it does not appear that they took any measures to defend the Country against the Siamese. The State of Perak certainly was in alliance with the Dutch at Malacca, and as such may be considered within the scope of Political arrangements connected with that Settlement, it cannot even now be said to be in possession of the Rajah of Ligore, and its subjugation has certainly not been recognized by the British Government.

6. As regards Salangore, the course is still more clear. The subject is still open for consideration, and it seemed advisable therefore that a cautionary communication should be made to the Chief of Ligore on that point. It will be seen by the enclosed copy of a Memorandum of a Conversation between our President and the Envoys sent here from Ligore, that they have been distinctly informed that any hostile attempt on Salangore under existing circumstances might possibly be seriously noticed by the Supreme British Authority, and we propose that a similar communication should be made direct to the Rajah by Captain Burney. It may be right to observe that the communication in question has not been made with a view to any immediate proceeding on our part, but merely to bar any supposed recognition of the right of Conquest which might hereafter interfere with the ulterior arrangements directed by your Lordship in Council.

We have the honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient

humble servants.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

W. A. CLUBLEY.

Fort Cornwallis

The 28 February 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 100,
pp. 622-23.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 11th March 1825.

RESIDENT at SINGAPORE.

Resident at
Singapore dated
the 23rd February
1825—with
Enclosure.

To

W. CRACROFT Esquire
Secretary to the Government
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 28th Ultimo intimating the appointment of Captain Burney and transmitting the instructions given to that Officer, together with the Despatch of the Honble. the Governor in Council to the Supreme Government touching the objects connected with the nomination in question. I request you will be pleased to submit my acknowledgements to the Honble. the Governor in Council for the valuable and instructive documents which he has been pleased to transmit for my perusal, and that you will lay before him the inclosed Extract of a Despatch * to the Supreme Government, bearing upon the question of Siamese Politics.

◊ See letter in full in Bengal Secret and Political Consultations Vol. 325, dated 31 May 1824.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD
Resident.

Singapore
23rd February 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 100,
pp. 638-42.

FORT CORNWALLIS, The 11th March 1825.

To
G. SWINTON, Esquire

Secretary to the Government

FORT WILLIAM

Poll. Dept. Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council that the English Vessel Shannon arrived last night from Siam, bringing a letter to my address from the Siamese Minister of which a translation is herewith annexed, as well as a letter from Mr. . . . * of which a copy is also transmitted. The Right Honble. the Governor General in Council will have the goodness to observe that the sentiments and conduct evinced by the Siamese Court as portrayed in the present correspondence are such as were looked for at an early period. I have reason now to hope that as the Siamese become more assured of our success, and when the results of the war shall appear no longer dubious, they will proceed to render us useful assistance, such as may be of material service in harassing and distracting the Enemy, and expediting the termination of the contest.

* See letter
from Mr. J. Gilles,
14 Jan. 1825,
in Bengal Secret
and Political
Consultations,
Vol. 336.

I have thought the present communication of sufficient importance to warrant me in taking up a Despatch Boat to forward it to P. W. Island with the view of overtaking a Ship bound for Bengal which sailed from this Place on the 28th Ultimo, and which was to have touched at that Place.

Copy of this Despatch and of its Enclosures has been transmitted to the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore 3d March 1825.

(A True Copy)

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD Resident.

FORT CORNWALLIS, The 11th March 1825.

The Letter of Chao-Pia-Prah Klang first Minister to His Majesty the King of Siam to John Crawford Esquire Resident of Singapore.

Your Letter informs me that your Nation is at war with the Burmans, that the English have captured Rangoon, that the Burmans joined their forces to take the place in question, but found that the English had abandoned it, and had marched towards Cheduba, Ramree and Negrais, that the British Army left those places, and proceeded towards Martaban, Mergui and Tavoy, that the British Commander is well aware that the Burmans are great enemies to the Siamese, and that if we assisted the English, they should feel extremely obliged to us, and report the same to the Governor General of Bengal.

I have stated to His Majesty the contents of your letter who said that he is glad that the English are at war with the Burmans because they are our enemies, while at the same time he remarked that as yet our nation and the English are on good terms, and that commerce between them was daily increasing.

Your Letter states that the English would be very glad if we assisted them against the Burmans. This has been done, and accordingly our Troops are ready on the Western Frontier to attack the Burmans. Formerly it was the custom to send Chao Phaia Maha Jotha the Peguan General with his Troops towards the Northern Frontier to harass the Burmans and to seize their encampments, houses &c. at Martaban, Mergui, Tavoy and Tanao (Tenasserim) and to learn from them the movements of the Burmans, but now as His Majesty has heard that the English are at Rangoon, he has therefore ordered Chao Phaia

Maha Jotha to proceed towards Martaban, who on his arrival found that the Siamese Troops were not there, but had gone to Pegue and Tavoy.

Some persons arrived here lately from Martaban, Mergui and Tavoy who informed us that the English had taken those Places, some have also come from Pegue and Tavoy with our scouts to see their friends and relations, and to remain as resident inhabitants. The people of Pegue and Tavoy very often remove to Siam on account of the tyranny of the Burmans. Lately vast numbers have flocked here from the places in question, altho' many have left their friends and relations behind, but having heard that the English had captured those places, they are now returning fast.

Chao Phain Maha Jotha on his way to Martaban met the English General, and asked him if he had heard any thing regarding the Burmans, but could get no news.

I send this letter in order to enable you to inform the British General that we have sent an Army into the Burman territory to help the English.

Si Yuthia

17th January 1825.

(A True Translation)

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD.

(A true Copy)

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD.

Resident.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 100,
pp. 650-3.

FORT CORNWALLIS, The 11th March 1825.

LIEUTENANT LOW at TAVOY.

(Extract.) To

The Secretary to Government

Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

* * * * *

* Without ad-
verting to one
or two instances
apparently
arising from
ignorance.

The Siamese seem quite averse* to any interference with the Countries in this direction which conquest has placed under British rule, and have made friendly advances to the Officer in Command at Martaban by sending in several Chiefs, two of whom have gone on to Rangoon.

With reference therefore to the Siamese merely, it may perhaps be deemed a superfluous measure to detain me longer on this Coast than will be barely sufficient to enable me to obtain information respecting it and for this purpose it seems to me that six weeks more will prove quite sufficient, fifteen days of which period may be passed at Merghi.

* * * * *

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES LOW Lt.

Acting under the orders of the
Honble. the Governor in Council
of Prince of Wales Island.

TAVAI

10th February 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 100,
pp. 700-6.

Rajah of Ligore
14 Febry. 1825.

FORT CORNWALLIS, The 17 March 1825,

RAJAH of LIGORE.

Translation

of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Honble.
Robert Fullerton Esquire Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments)

I have to acquaint my friend that Captain Burney sent China Achong with a letter from the Governor of Pulo Penang and one from Captain Burney himself, overland from Quedah to Ligore. These I received with satisfaction agreeably to the rules of friendship with the English, which may be prolonged. I understand the contents of the letters.

It is mentioned in the letter of my friend the Governor of Pulo Penang, that the English have been successful against Ava and taken many Countries, and that Captain Burney was sent as an Agent to represent the person of my friend the Governor of Pulo Penang, to concert with me and consult about Countries, and Capt. Burney mentions that the General of Bengal ordered him to come and consult about establishing friendship. Captain Burney wanted to meet me at Trang which I should be happy to do, so that the English and Siamese might continue on terms of friendship, and that the two Countries might remain like one.

I have considered however, that if I went to Trang just now, it would be too distant for my friend the Governor of Pulo Penang, and it would be difficult to transact any business. I shall come to Quedah to be near my friend the Raja of Pulo Penang, in order that

business may be easily transacted, and that friendship may be increased more than formerly.

My mind is very sincerely disposed to promote friendship and intercourse between the Siamese and English. I intend, therefore, to proceed to Quedah in 30 or 40 days, therefore let my friend wait for the present. When I arrive at Quedah, I will consider how I may conform to the wishes of the Governor of Pulo Penang.

Farther, the Articles which China Achong brought with him are a Neck lace and two Arm Bangles and a Shawl, which I have received and kept as a token of friendship. I cannot prepare any thing at present to send in return, but shall do so when I go to Quedah.

Date 14: February 1825.

(A True Translation)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

12: March 1825.

The style of the letter is very vague and less courteous than formerly. It is besides extremely ill written which is considered rather disrespectful.

(Signed) J. A.

Transr.

THE BOARD concurring in opinion, that no advantage is likely to be obtained, by further attempts at communication and negociation with the Rajah of Ligore

ORDERED that the following letter be dispatched to Captain Burney, with as little delay as possible.

To

CAPTAIN BURNEY

Political Agent to the Siamese States.

To Capt. Burney Political
Agent to Siamese
States—
17 March 1825.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose copy of a letter received from the Rajah of Ligore and addressed to the Honorable the Governor. This letter was received by Achong the person deputed by you to Ligore, and a letter addressed to yourself by the Son of the Rajah was at the same time received and forwarded to you along with a public letter of the 4th Instant.

* ? our
* ? on

From the tenor of the letter addressed to the Honorable the Governor by the Rajah, very serious doubts may be entertained whether it is the intention of that Chief to admit you to any personal communication, the notification of an intended visit to Quedah forty days hence seeming indeed to put off any immediate meeting. Under these circumstances, there appears no reasonable prospect of any^o opening a communication of^o the various points which formed the object of your Mission being effected through the medium of the Rajah of Ligore. There seems little doubt that the Rajah is now making extensive preparations for the attack of Salangore and the strong expression of friendship conveyed in terms so evasive, lead the Honorable the Governor in Council to believe them as intended merely to cover measures, which the Chief is fully aware may not meet the ultimate approbation of the British Authorities.

The Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that no advantage is likely to attend the continuance of any intercourse with the Rajah of Ligore, and unless before the receipt of the letter, circumstances should have occurred to afford a better prospect

of an early and candid communication, it is the desire of the Honorable the Governor in Council that you should by letter take leave of that Chief, intimating to him the anxious desire that has always been entertained by this Government to maintain with him constant and friendly communication, and more particularly at present on points in which the mutual interests of the British and Siamese are concerned in this neighbourhood, and the corresponding regret felt by the Honorable the Governor in Council that the disinclination evinced by him to meet you personally, has precluded the possibility of such communication.

As to the intention expressed by the Rajah of proceeding in forty days to Quedah, it may be enough to observe to him generally, that this Government will at all times be happy to meet any serious disposition shewn by him to open a communication, and keep alive the friendly relations now subsisting. As regards your ulterior proceedings in respect to any of the other Chiefs in the neighbourhood, you will be guided by the opinion you may entertain how far your communicating with them will promote, in any degree, the success of the ultimate measure of an Embassy to the Capital, which will probably be resolved on by the Right Honorable the Governor General.

I am &c. &c.

(Signed) E. A. BLUNDELL

Acting Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis

the 17 March 1825.

Factory Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 100
pp. 786-7.

FORT CORNWALLIS, The 24 March 1825.

Minute by the
President 21
March 1825.

MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

The Armed Schooner Commerce being ready for Sea, I propose that she be dispatched with the letter lately addressed to Captain Burney, call first at Quedah, proceeding if necessary to Traang and Phoonga, or even to Mergui, should it be found that Captain Burney has proceeded in that direction. On delivering the letter Captain Poynton will wait a sufficient time to enable Captain Burney to reply, which it may be expected will contain report of his proceedings. Should it be found that Captain Burney has proceeded up the Country, the letter may be delivered to Mr. Cuthbertson in the Jessy, as it is probable instructions will have been left by him as to the manner of forwarding his letters;—having fulfilled these instructions as the case may require, Captain Poynton should be directed to return to this Port, making report of his Proceedings.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

21: March 1825.

THE SECRETARY reports, that the Master Attendant was directed to dispatch the Commerce, without loss of time, with the letters for Captain Burney.

**Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 100,
pp. 843-853.**

*** See Bengal
Secret and Pol:
Consultations
Vol. 330 for two
reports from
Burney to
Blundell,
Dated 2 April
1825.**

**Minute by the
President 7:
April 1825.**

FORT CORNWALLIS, The 7 April 1825.

READ the following Reports with a Geographical Sketch from Captain Burney Political Agent to the Siamese States, containing the Proceedings of his Mission.*

MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

After an attentive perusal of Captain Burney's Report, I arrive at the following conclusions: that although the influence of the Chiefs of Ligore and Phungah is considerable, and might have great weight in determining points connected with the interests of this Government yet from the relation in which they stand, they cannot be made the medium of negotiating the final adjustment of the various points in discussion with the Kingdom of Siam: That for the above purpose an Embassy to Siam is indispensable: That such can only be effected under direct powers from the Supreme Government: That a previous communication with the Supreme Government is absolutely necessary: the more especially as in the course of the War, other points may arise of a more general nature, and not exclusively connected with the affairs of this Presidency: That from the various communications held with Captain Burney, that Officer is fully acquainted with the general motives and views of this Government in respect to them: That the Memorandum of Mr. Crawford may be taken as the basis of negotiation with the exception of Article 7—that Article seems to abandon the interests of the King of Kedah, and to stipulate instead of them an increase of territory for ourselves.

It appears to me that our true policy is, 1st to keep up the petty States now standing between us and the Siamese Territory; 2nd to endeavour to restore those which have been subverted, so as to prevent our coming in contact with that power in this neighbourhood. The restoration of the King of Kedah is a point I consider no less consistent with true policy, than essential to the credit and reputation of Government as far as Political considerations are concerned. The same arguments apply to Perak, it being understood that the Siamese from Ligore are actually in possession. Should the restoration of the King of Kedah prove impracticable, then I am willing to admit that a cession of the Territory stated by Mr. Crawford might be advantageous, by interposing a greater portion of Forest between us. The object of holding Territory on the Continent opposite the Island, was that we might command the Straits between the Main land and the Island, and counteract the tendency to plunder and piracy otherwise open from the proximity to an unsettled Country. I admit fully that the belt of Land so occupied is too narrow, being comprised within 3 Miles of the shore, and therefore terminating just as the land emerges from Mangroves and Swamps and becomes fit for cultivation; great, no doubt, would be the advantage of some extension, but certainly not of such consideration as to be an argument against the more essential object of re-establishing, if possible, the Malay Chiefships on defined terms, that is to say, subject to the payment of a fixed sum, to be guaranteed by us, and no other mark of homage or subjection.

In respect to Kedah, it may be observed that we have pursued towards it rather a middle course, we have not supported the King in possession of his Country, but we have afforded to him protection and support by a residence on the Island. The proximity to his Kingdom, the hopes still entertained by all the Malay

Inhabitants of his ultimate restoration, tend to keep up constant feelings of animosity, encourage partial and unavailing opposition to the existing Government, and bring upon us as the protectors of the exiled King, the odium of encouraging them; there can hardly be a question that the feelings so generated have led to the distrust evinced by the Rajah of Ligore in his communications. We are bound to do our utmost for the restoration of the King, but if we fail, it may remain for consideration, whether the residence of the King should not be fixed at a great distance from his ancient dominions.

Perak being South of Kedah, the removal of the Siamese is alike important. With Kedah between them it is not likely the Siamese could maintain themselves at Perak, their withdrawal may therefore be also a subject of negociation. In respect to Salangore, as the Siamese of Ligore are not in possession, it may be enough for us to act at once, and by a Treaty with the Rajah debar the Siamese from any attempt on that State. I concur in opinion with Captain Burney, that the Conquest of Kedah, and the extension of Conquest to the South are rather objects of the Rajah than of the Court of Siam, and that the general advantages to be derived by that State in other quarters, may be made to outweigh the more immediate views of the subordinate Chief. It is not likely that under existing circumstances, the opposition of the Authorities at Malacca to the views of Ligore would be noticed by the Court of Siam. It must be our endeavour, however, to keep on friendly terms with Ligore, so as to avoid the alternative of making him our Enemy, and raising an influence against us, pending the negociation.

The deputation of our accredited Agent to Siam being determined on, the only question which remains for consideration is the most convenient route. Unless

it be deemed advisable with reference to other general objects, that the deputation should proceed from the immediate Seat of War, it appears to me that the offer and services of the Chief of Phungah should be made use of. The Chief of Phungah, or properly speaking of Salang (Junk Ceylon) has a great interest at stake in the success of the British Arms. That Island and all the neighbouring Continent has long been kept in a state of constant alarm from the Burmahs, so as to have entirely prevented the settling of Inhabitants there, and no advantage has hitherto resulted from its occupation. The successes of the British Arms on the Coast of Tenasserim, and the interposition of a British Force at Mergui afford him a degree of security never before enjoyed. As regards the occupation of Mergui and Tavoy by the British as Military Posts, with a sufficient boundary, we have already stated our opinion of the advantages, Political and Commercial, to be derived from such occupation. The cession of the rest of the Coast to the Siamese may be tendered as the equivalent for the attainment of the main object in this quarter. As a communication must be received from Bengal before further steps can be taken ; it appears to me most advisable that Captain Burney should proceed thither himself, to lay before the Supreme Government the valuable information he has procured, and be guided by the further Instructions he may receive.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

7: April 1825.

MINUTE by MR. CLUBLEY.

Minute by
Mr. Clubley 7
April 1825.

I quite agree with the Honorable the President, that nothing further which this Government can attempt, in the way of negotiation with the Siamese Chieftains, can be effectual to the attainment of any public objects which we may desire to promote, and that a direct communication with the Court of Siam, offers the only prospect of successful realization. The President in his present and former Minutes has very justly viewed the interests which this Government must be desirous of establishing. The restoration of the Malay Government appears to be a matter of primary importance, and a guarantee for their future support must be equally essential.

Such objects can only now, I fear, be realized through negotiation with Siam, and political circumstances at present connected with our occupation of the former Possessions of Siam on the Coast of Tenasserim, seem to promise the best means of realizing them. I am disposed however to think that a great deal too much stress is laid on the supposed influence of the Chief of Poongah, at his Master's Court. He may vaunt, as all these petty Chiefs will do, the consequence they are inclined to assume, and exaggerated representations and fallacious promises may only lead to ultimate delusion, and to the defeat perhaps of the best and most reasonable expectations.

(Signed) W. A. CLUBLEY.

7 April 1825.

ORDERED that Copies of the above Minutes be forwarded to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, with the following letter, enclosing Captain Burney's former and present Reports, and that Captain Burney be directed to proceed to Bengal to receive further instructions from the Supreme Government.

To the Governor General in Council 7 April 1825.

TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

No. 359.

To

The Right Honorable
William Pitt Lord Amherst
Governor General in Council
Fort William.

My Lord,

* See Vol. 99.

Adverting to our Dispatch to your Lordship in Council under date the 18 January last,* we have now the honor to forward for your information, the Reports that our Political Agent, Captain Burney, has laid before us, both on his first Mission to Kedah and those he has drawn up after visiting the Coast between this Island and Poongah, and communicating with the Son and officers of the Chief of Ligore, and with the Chief of Salang and other Siamese Officers on the Isthmus of Kraw.

We have also the honor to forward a Minute that our President has this day recorded in Council, detailing the conclusions to which he has arrived after an attentive perusal of Captain Burney's Reports.

Concurring with our President that no further measures can be adopted by this Government until apprized of the views and sentiments to which the present state of the War, and the additional facts brought before you, may incline your Lordship in Council, we have deemed it advisable to direct Capt. Burney to proceed himself to Bengal by the present opportunity, in order to receive such immediate instructions as the valuable information which he has procured, and his perfect acquaintance with the general motives and views of this Government may induce your Lordship in Council to give to that Officer.

We have &c. &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
W. A. CLUBLEY
R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis
The 7 April 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 100,
pp. 859-66.

FORT CORNWALLIS. The 7: April 1825.

Lieutenant Low
at Tavoy 16
March 1825.

LIEUTENANT LOW at TAVOY.

To

The Secretary to Government

Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, that since my last letter to your address, which was dispatched by the Brig Minerva, Captain Wyatt, Commander, I have succeeded in penetrating to the Siamese frontier.

When sufficient leisure admits, I will have the pleasure of transmitting to the Government a Plan and detail of the route pursued by me. It is that one which has been marked out in my Map of Siam as the most eligible in proceeding from Tavoy to Bangkok. It has been termed a Military Road, but its present impracticability to Troops, requiring a train of artillery and numerous Stores may be judged of from the circumstance that although provided with an Elephant and a Horse, I was forced to send both back to Tavoy when only five miles distant from it, and to perform the rest of the journey of twelve days * entirely on foot, while Men carried the Camp Equipage and Baggage.

* going and
returning.

The route beyond the above distance lies across a rugged and mountainous Country, covered in most parts with a dense forest. From the end of the first stage to the frontier, there is not a village or the least sign of population, and from the path having been little frequented for several years, the natural obstacles to a traveller's progress have been increased.

The Pass into the Siamese Dominions lies on the summit of a Mountain called *Naye daung* which I

calculated to be about 3000 feet at least above the level of the Sea—from this commanding spot I was gratified by an extensive view of the surrounding Country.

Here the mutual Boundary of the Siamese and Tavoyan Territories is marked by two loose piles of Stones, sixty yards asunder. Betwixt these I had the honor to plant the British Flag, and to salute it with three Vollies of Musketry from a Party of one Havildar, one Naick, and seven Sepoys of the Prince of Wales Island Local Corps who escorted me. The Flag was then hauled down, and a common one substituted.

Having been disappointed in not meeting with any Siamese either on the route or at this place, and considering that it would be imprudent to gratify further curiosity at the risk of exciting the watchful jealousy and suspicious temper of that people, I abstained from advancing into their Country. That they might, however, know that a British Officer had been there, and had ascertained the line of their frontier, I wrote a short Memorandum in the Siamese language to that effect. This was left sealed up in a bottle, and I learned after my return that it had been found and carried off by some Siamese scouts. The letters B. E. I. C. were also engraved in the best manner that the rude implements at hand would admit of upon a stone which was buried on the Tavoy side.

A Copy of the Memorandum is herewith enclosed.

The Siamese have not any Military Post of importance within thirty Miles of the *Naye Daung Pass*. Their nearest stations to it are therefore nearly one hundred Miles from Tavoy. It appears to me that they will not advance a Post nearer to, or infringe the boundary. Their present conduct is certainly of a friendly complexion, although backed by no direct acts in favor of our arms against Ava,

During my journey I discovered a copious fountain of Mineral Water, having a temperature of 144° Fahrenheit. It is my intention to send some of this water, together with specimens of the strata through which it flows, to the Asiatic Society of Calcutta.

I had an opportunity of visting the Tin Mines lying four Miles off the direct Road, in the midst of a deep Forest. These will be described hereafter.

Several days after my return to Tavoy I made another journey on foot to the Southward and Eastward. Lieutenant Sherman of the 3d. M. N. Infantry at my request, favored me with his Company. Having reached a point about forty Miles south from Tavoy, and about thirty inland, we dropped down a river to the Sea, and sailed up to Tavoy. The greatest part of the route lies through a diversified and hilly, but cultivated Country. The Villages are beginning to be repeopled, and the effects of British Government, although that has not as yet been *fully* secured to them, are apparent in the daily influx of Cultivators, and the cheerfulness expressed in their countenances. The Tavoyers seem to me to be a people who might be moulded with ease to the best purposes of Society.

I have just received a confidential communication from Colonel Smith, soliciting and urging me if possible to meet him speedily at Martaban, where the proximity of a Siamese Army (avowedly by them stationed there to be ready in case their aid shall be required against the Burmans) induces him to suppose that he will, in his Situation as Commanding the Southern Provinces have important conferences with its Chiefs.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES LOW—Lieut.

Agent for P. W. Island Govt.

TAVOY

16 March 1825.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 7 April 1825.

COPY of a PAPER left on NAYE DAUNG
MOUNTAIN.

Be it known that Lieutenant Low, a British Officer, having reached this place Naye Daung, regrets that he has not met with any Officer of the Siamese Government with whom he might have had an amicable conference.

Lieutenant Low has happily ascertained this long acknowledged mutual boundary between the Siamese and Tavoyers, which latter people are now British Subjects. The boundary being thus so distinctly defined and known, mutual misunderstandings will be obviated, and the terms of amity hitherto happily existing betwixt the British and Siamese will be preserved unbroken.

Lieutt. Low has this day hoisted the British Flag on Naye Daung on the Tavoy side, and has saluted it with Musketry. The Siamese already know that Tavoy has become a British Possession.

(Signed) JAMES LOW—Lieutt.

(Dated) NAYE DAUNG
20 February 1825.

A True Copy

(Signed) JAMES LOW—Lieutt.

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 21 April 1825.

DRAFT, by Captain H. Burney, Political Agent to the
Siamese States

of a letter from the Honorable the Governor of Prince
of Wales Island to the Pya of Salang.

The Governor of Prince of Wales Island has received the letter which the Pya of Salang transmitted to him by Captain Burney, and he is most happy to find that the Pya of Salang and the Prahs of Tuccotong and Tuccopa have fully understood the satisfactory information which Captain Burney was deputed to communicate to them. The Governor of Prince of Wales Island returns the Pya of Salang his cordial acknowledgements for the kind and truly hospitable manner in which he received and treated Captain Burney, who has returned full of the praises of the Pya of Salang and all his Officers.

As the letter from the Right Honorable the Governor General, respecting a Mission to Siam has not yet arrived, the Governor of Prince of Wales Island has sent Captain Burney himself to Bengal, for the purpose of fully detailing there the friendly conduct of the Pya of Salang, and of receiving without any delay, such further orders, as the Right Honorable the Governor General may give Captain Burney, after hearing the pleasing accounts which that Officer will communicate to His Lordship respecting Pungah, and everybody under the Pya of Salang's authority.

It is evident to the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, that the Pya of Salang is a wise and liberal Chief, worthy of the high situation which he fills under the great King of Siam, and the Governor of Prince of Wales Island requests to transmit to the Pya of

Salang, by the present opportunity, as tokens of the friendship with which the Pya has inspired the Governor 2 large Sugar Jars, 2 Pair large Chrystal Decanters, 2 do. small Decanters, 2 Water Crofts, 6 Chrystal Cups, and 1 Gold Chain.

If there is any matter in which the Governor of Prince of Wales Island can render himself serviceable to the Pya of Salang, now or hereafter, the Governor trusts the Pya will not omit to apprise him thereof without hesitation.

The Governor of Prince of Wales Island hopes that Pungah and Penang will now be much better known to each other, and that a lasting friendship and profitable trade will now be continued between them. Every person coming to Penang from Salang, Pungah, Tuecatong and Tuccopa, as well as every other subject of Siam, may be henceforth always confident of receiving every assistance and protection from the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

Penang, 9th April 1825.

Translated by

(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

DRAFT

of a letter to the King of Salangore from the Malay Translator to Government.

I am directed by the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Penang to acquaint my friend in reply to his letter requesting some Pice, to inform him that at present that Coin is very scarce at this Island; and I am desired to assure my friend, at the same time, that the Honorable the Governor would have had much satisfaction in complying with my friend's wishes in this respect, had it been in his power.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

the 13 April 1825.

To the Rajah of
Ligor's Son at
Quedah 20: April
1825.

To the RAJAH of LIGOR'S SON at QUEDAH.

Draft

of a letter from the Malay Translator to Government
to the Son of the Rajah of Ligore at Quedah.

I am directed by the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Penang to acquaint your Highness, that it is currently reported at this Settlement, an Order has lately been issued at Quedah, strictly prohibiting the Export of Grain. The Honorable the Governor has been much astonished to hear this report, and considering the friendly relations subsisting between Pulo Penang and Quedah, together with the amicable professions of your Highness, and the Chow Pya of Ligore, of a desire to cultivate the good will of the British Government, the Honorable the Governor is rather disposed to discredit the report.

He directs me, however, to inform your Highness, that if such be the case he expects that the restriction will be immediately withdrawn, and that your Highness will permit the free export of Grain and other Provisions from the several Ports of Quedah, as heretofore, by which you will evince the sincerity of your professed friendly disposition towards this Government, and give an earnest of your desire to cultivate a good understanding and promote the Commercial intercourse between Quedah and Pulo Penang.

In communicating the report which prevails here, and requiring from your Highness an explanation of a proceeding apparently so inconsistent with the existing relations between the two States, I am desired to remind your Highness of the frequent complaints of acts of Piracy which you have preferred, in the suppression of which this Government has always testified the most prompt and anxious desire to co-operate, at the same time to point out to your Highness, that any

restrictions, such as those now adverted to, to encourage Piracy, by throwing the numerous sultan traders out of employ, and preventing them obtaining an honest livelihood, by bringing Grain to this Island.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

the 20 April 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 100,
pp. 1168-9.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 26 April 1825.

To the Son of the RAJAH of LIGORE at KEDAH
at Kedah
22 April 1825.

Draft

of a letter from the Malay Translator to Government
to the Son of the Rajah of Ligore at Kedah.

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor of Pulo Penang to address your Highness upon the subject of a recent attack upon some trading Prows from this place by a fleet of Siamese Boats, and to request that you will take measures for repressing such disturbances in future, and the prevention of similar hostile proceedings. The circumstances are as follow : about 3 months ago two Prows, the one having a crew of 10 and the other of 7 men, belonging to Malayan Inhabitants of this Island, proceeded on a voyage to the Islands to the Northward, to collect Birds nests. Having collected a small quantity, they went into a small Bay on the main called Teluk Bagis, near Junk Ceylon for water about 20 days ago, when they were attacked by five Siamese Prows, which without hailing, or making any enquiries commenced firing upon them ; they fled and were pursued—the small Malay Prow was sunk, the two Nakodas and one of the Crew were killed and two more of the Crew wounded in the action. The largest Prow has returned into this harbour, and Depositions have been made to the above effect by the Crew.

The Honorable the Governor of Pulo Penang trusts that your Highness will cause some enquiries to be instituted into this affair, and that there will be no recurrence of such an act of hostility against subjects

of this Island, seeking a livelihood by trade amongst
the Islands to the Northward.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt

Penang

the 22nd April 1825.

**To the Pya of
Pungah.**

A similar Letter addressed to

THE PYA OF PUNGAH.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 3 May 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1229-34.

AT A SPECIAL COUNCIL—Present
THE HONORABLE ROBERT FULLERTON

Governor President

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG CLUBLEY Esquire

and

ROBERT IBBETSON Esquire.

APPROVED THE PROCEEDINGS of the 26th Ultimo.

PUBLIC.

IN CONSEQUENCE of the intelligence which has been received at this Settlement within the last few days of the advanced state of preparation of an extensive Armament by the Rajah of Ligore at Traang and the Ports to the Northward, this special Council was called, for the purpose of considering the expediency of adopting further measures of precaution for guarding against any sudden attack, and for tranquillizing the alarms of the Native Community of the Island.

THE following Minute by the Honorable the President with Drafts of two letters to the Rajah of Ligore is recorded.

MINUTE BY THE PRESIDENT.

Minute by the
President 29
April 1825.

Mr. Maingy is already acquainted with the various rumours prevailing respecting the outfit of an armament at Traang, Setool, Quedah &c. by the Rajah of Ligore, these rumours have now attained such a degree of credit as to require immediate precautionary measures. The object of the armament is understood

to be an attack on Perak and Salengore. Our inhabitants are not without some degree of alarm in respect to their own safety particularly those in Wellesley Province. In respect to Perak and Salengore we stand thus. We have now taken possession of Malacca—both these States were in alliance with the Dutch of Malacca, in fact considered as Dependencies. The Dutch had a factory at Perak previous to the late negotiations. The Dutch had intimated the intention of renewing the ancient connections with those States. Anticipating probably that the cession of Malacca would be the result of the negotiations, they have abstained from the express renewal of the Treaties, one of which stipulates for the defence of the Countries; so long as these Treaties were in force, they formed a barrier against the extension of Siamese conquests to the Southern parts the Peninsula. The Dutch having now withdrawn and the British taken their place—it becomes a question how far it may be deemed good policy to renew with the States of Perak and Salengore those relations in which they formerly stood with the Dutch as the means of preventing the Siamese authorities of Ligore from extending their dominions in that direction, placing themselves in contact with us down even to Johore and Singapore and entirely shutting us out from the valuable Tin Trade of the Interior which might otherwise flow entirely into our Eastern Settlements of Penang, Malacca and Singapore: The Question has been submitted to the Supreme Government and it is highly necessary to prevent, if possible, but without actual hostilities, the subjugation of those States by the Rajah of Ligore before we know the determination of the Supreme Government. Captain Burney having proceeded to Bengal to communicate to the Supreme Government the result of the late Mission and receive final instructions, it becomes necessary that some other person should be deputed to make the

communications now required, and Mr. Maingy has been selected for that purpose. The first object must be to ascertain, whether the Armament alluded to is in that stage of preparation represented. If it should be found not to be so, the visit to the Rajah must be entirely complimentary. It must be represented that Mr. Maingy has come to meet the Rajah, in consequence of the intimation given, and the absence of Captain Burney preventing his attendance. Mr. Maingy will in that case confine himself to general professions, to a repetition of all that has been urged by Captain Burney, the necessity of avoiding every measure calculated to disturb the harmony subsisting [between] the two States, and repeating that an attack on Salangore would probably produce that effect. Should Mr. Maingy however find that an immediate expedition against Salangore is in process, he will then deliver the letter No. 2 and intimate that the Armament will not be allowed to pass near or within the Island, and it will become necessary to guard ourselves and save our population [from] the terror and alarm and consequent confusion which must result from so near an approach of such an Armament to this Island or Province Wellesley.

The Brig Jessy will be placed under the orders of Mr. Maingy, also the Armed Boat and the Commerce, if she should return in time. These Vessels should continue to cruise off Traŋg &c. It may be hoped that their appearance will prevent the Armament from sailing, but if such should not be the case, these vessels must accompany the armament and keep between them and the Island, not allowing them to come near the channel between us and the Main land, or approaching within ten Miles of any part of the Island. Although I consider it advisable to discourage by every possible means the projected attack on Salangore and to retard its completion by every means short of actual hostilities

pending reference to Bengal, yet however its success may be regretted, it does not appear to me that we are authorized to oppose actual force against its execution.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

29th April 1825.

To the Rajah
of Ligore
29 April 1825.

To the RAJAH of LIGORE.

Draft

of a letter from the Honorable the Governor of Pulo Penang to the Rajah of Ligore.

I duly received your Highness's letter of the 3d Rajop, brought by Captain Burney's Messenger, China Achong, and as the period fixed for your Highness's coming down to Kedah, has now elapsed, I have deputed Mr. Maingy, of the Honorable Company's Civil Service on this Establishment, as my Confidential Envoy to communicate fully with your Highness and to consult with you on several important subjects, for which purpose Captain Burney was lately sent to Kedah and Traang. That officer having however, proceeded to Bengal, for a short time, for the purpose of receiving instructions from the Right Honorable the Governor General, renders it necessary for me to depute another Agent, lest your Highness should be disappointed in the expected Meeting, to which you have professed so ready an inclination. I am the more induced to expedite Mr. Maingy's departure as I have heard that your Highness has come across and been for some weeks past in the neighbourhood of Traang, at which place it will be equally convenient to Mr. Maingy to meet you as at Kedah, and he has been accordingly directed to proceed direct to that port.

Having long evinced a disposition to cultivate a cordial understanding with your Highness and to preserve those relations of friendship now happily subsisting between the Siamese and English unimpaired, by the frequent deputation of confidential Officers of this Government as a return for your Highness's frequent deputations of confidential Officers to myself and my predecessor in this Government, I have only to request that your Highness will receive Mr. Maingy with

respect and confidence as an accredited British Agent
with full powers.

Mr. Maingy will deliver some presents to Your
Highness as a mark of my regard.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

The 29 April 1825.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

To The Rajah
of Ligore
28 April 1825.

To the RAJAH of LIGORE.

Letter

from the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esquire Governor of Pulo Penang to the Rajah of Ligore.

It is my duty to acquaint your Highness that the report of your Hostile intentions against the independent Malayan State of Salengore and your extensive armaments equipping at Traang, Sitool and other places to the Northward are daily becoming more notorious, and there seems to be now no room left to question the truth of them, notwithstanding your frequent professions of pacific intentions and oft repeated expressions of your anxiety that I should not give credence to any rumours at variance with such professions.

I have already more than once addressed your Highness upon this subject but have not lately received replies to my communications, nor did my Agent, Captain Barney, succeed in obtaining an interview with you, by which means you would have gained a complete knowledge of the intentions of the British Government in several important matters.

It now becomes my duty to remind you Highness that the Settlement of Malacca has been taken possession of by virtue of a treaty with the Dutch Government, by which that Nation ceded all its possessions and privileges acquired by Treaty with Native States on the Peninsula of Malacca. The Dutch Government as well as the British have long been on friendly terms with the States of Perak and Salengore, especially the close vicinity of Salengore to our present Settlement of Malacca and long intimate connexion with that State naturally disposed the Government to prevent any hostile attempts against it by any other power, and as there is every reason to infer

that the Supreme British Authorities in Bengal will uphold the existing treaties with the Malayan States to the Southward. I am bound once more to caution your Highness against proceeding to carry your threats into effect, of subjugating Salengore.

That State is not, nor has ever been in the remotest degree, connected with the Siamese Dominions, and I am in daily expectation of important intelligence from Bengal upon the subject.

Should your Highness disregard this caution and remonstrance, the result may possibly be a very serious misunderstanding between the Siamese and English. I therefore with an anxious desire to preserve a good understanding with the Siamese Nation, and yourself, consistently with the dignity of the high power of which I am here a local representative, call upon your Highness to abstain from the prosecution of such hostile measures, which cannot reflect any credit upon yourself or the power you represent and may and most probably will involve you in much trouble and difficulty.

The bearer of this letter is Mr. Maingy, a Senior Civil Servant on this Establishment, to whom I have fully explained my wishes. If your Highness will grant that Gentleman an interview I have no doubt he will be able to dissuade your Highness from an enterprize so obnoxious to the British Government and likely to prove so injurious to yourself. I trust therefore, that Mr. Maingy may be received with respect and confidence as the Agent of the British Government and my confidential Envoy.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

Penang 28 April 1825.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

THE SECRETARY reports that in conformity to the above Minute, the following Instructions were circulated for the approval of the Members of the Board, and addressed to the Superintendent of Point Wellesley.

To

A. D. MAINGY Esquire

Superintendent of Point Wellesley.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acquaint you that relying upon your experience, ability and discretion, he has been pleased to entrust to your management a service of a peculiar delicate and important nature.

2. You are already fully acquainted with the various rumours prevailing respecting the outfit of an extensive Armament at Traang, Setool, Kedah and other ports to the Northward, by the Rajah of Ligore. These rumours have now attained such a degree of credit as to require immediate precautionary measures.

3. The object of these extensive preparations, as you are also aware, is understood to be an attack on Perak and Salangore, and the inhabitants of this island, as well as those on Wellesley Province, particularly the last, are in a considerable degree of alarm in respect to their own safety.

4. In respect to Perak and Salangore I am directed to submit for your guidance the view which this Government has taken of the policy which ought to be pursued at the present crisis, and pending further instructions from the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council.

5. The British Government has now taken possession of Malacca, with which Settlement, during

the Dutch Administration, the States of Perak and Salengore were in close Alliance, in fact they were considered as dependencies of Malacca. The Dutch formerly had a factory at Perak, and intimated their intention of renewing the ancient connexions with both the States in question; anticipating however, most probably the cession of Malacca, they abstained from the express renewal of the treaties, one of which stipulated for the defence of these Countries.

6. So long as these treaties were in force, they formed a barrier against the extension of Siamese conquests to the Southern parts of the Peninsula. The Dutch having now withdrawn and the British taken their place, it becomes necessary to consider how far it may be deemed good policy to renew, with the States of Perak and Salengore, those relations in which they formerly stood with the Dutch, as the means of preventing the Siamese Authorities of Ligore from extending their dominions in that direction, placing themselves in contact with us down even to Johor and Singapore and entirely shutting us out from the valuable Tin trade of the interior, which might otherwise flow entirely into our Eastern Settlements of Penang, Malacca and Singapore.

7. This important question has been submitted to the Supreme Government and it is highly necessary to prevent, if possible, but *without actual hostilities*, the subjugation of these States by the Rajah of Ligore, before the determination of the Supreme Government is known. Captain Burney having proceeded to Bengal to communicate to the Supreme Government the result of the late Mission, and to receive final instructions, it becomes necessary to depute another confidential Officer to communicate with the Rajah of Ligore at Kedah or Traâng, if he has arrived at either of these places.

8. Your first object will be to ascertain by the

most accurate and careful enquiries (avoiding as much as possible the excitement of any alarm or suspicions) whether the armament reported to be nearly equipped and ready for departure, is in that stage of preparation represented. If it should be found not to be so, your visit to the Rajah of Ligore must be understood as merely complimentary. You will then deliver to him the letter marked No. 1. You will represent to his confidential Officers and to himself, if he gives you an interview, that in consequence of the intimation of his intention to come to Kedah and the absence of Captain Burney on duty in Bengal preventing his attendance, you have been deputed to make his Highness acquainted with the progress of the War against the Burmahs, to represent the necessity of his Highness's avoiding every measure calculated to disturb the harmony subsisting between the two States, and particularly remind him that an attack on Salengore would probably produce that effect.

9. Should you however find that an immediate expedition against Salengore is in progress, you will then deliver the letter No. 2, and intimate that the Armament will not be allowed to pass near or within this Island, and that precautions have been taken to secure the tranquillity of this Settlement and allay the apprehensions of the inhabitants in Province Wellesley.

10. To enable you to proceed on the immediate execution of this duty, orders have been issued to the Master Attendant to prepare the Honble. Company's Brig *Jessy* for your accommodation. The hired Schooners *Commerce* and *John de Brias* will also be placed under your orders. You will make such arrangements relative to the disposal of the vessels in keeping a vigilant watch over the movements of the Siamese fleet, in the neighbourhood of Traäng and Setool, as you may consider best.

11. It may be expected that these demonstra-

tions will prevent the Armament from sailing, but should such not be the case, it will be your duty to issue directions to the Commanders of the Vessels under your orders to accompany the Siamese Armament and keep between them and this Island, not permitting them to come near the channel between this Island and the main land or to approach within ten miles of any part of this Island.

12. Although it is considered by Government to be extremely advisable to discourage by every possible means, the projected attack upon Salengore, and to retard its completion by every means short of actual hostilities, pending reference to Bengal, yet it is not intended that actual force should at present be opposed against its execution.

13. You will put yourself in communication with the Malay Translator who will furnish you with the necessary letters and credentials and consult with him generally upon the objects of your Mission. The Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased also to direct that you shall have free access to the documents in the Secretary's Office, bearing upon this question, and I am particularly desired to refer you to the instructions to Captain Burney, and his late reports.

14. I am desired to add, that orders will be issued to the Storekeeper to furnish the necessary provisions and supplies upon your Indent and to the Master Attendant to afford you every assistance in equipping the vessel.

15. You will submit a Bill for such advance of Money as may be necessary and prepare Indents for such Military Stores as may, in your judgment, be essential for the protection of the Vessel.

16. As there is a scarcity of disposable Troops for foreign service, the Honorable the Governor in Council would prefer that you engage a small party of

able bodied Malays from Province Wellesley, for whom you may cause an uniform to be made up for the occasion and they will be provided with Musquets from the Arsenal upon your Indent. The Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that a party of 12 or 15 such Men would suffice for the present duty.

17. You are authorized also to engage such Interpreters and other Attendants as may be necessary and you will purchase some Articles of British Manufacture, as presents to the Chiefs, in the event of circumstances admitting of the delivery of letter No. 1.

18. In conclusion I am directed to impress upon you the necessity of the greatest circumspection in the conduct of this Mission, which, if executed as the Honorable the Governor in Council has every just reason to expect it will be, cannot fail to be beneficial to the interests of this Settlement and gain you the approbation of your employers.

I am &c.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON
Actg. Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis
The 29 April 1825.

The necessary Orders for giving effect to these arrangements were also issued to the several Departments, and the following letter addressed to the Master Attendant.

To the Master
Attendant
2 May 1825.

To
C. W. H. WRIGHT Esquire
Master Attendant.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to desire that you will prepare the Honorable Company's Brig Jessy, without delay, to convey Mr. Maingy upon a special Mission to the Northward, and to desire that you will afford that Gentleman every possible assistance from your Department, in order that he may quit the harbour, if possible, on Thursday Morning the 5th Instant.

I am &c.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON.
Actg. Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis
The 2: May 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1257-68.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 3 May 1825.

Malay Trans-
lator to
Government
1: May 1825.

To,

THE HONORABLE

ROBERT FULLERTON Esquire
Governor &c. &c. &c.

Honorable Sir,

I deem it my duty to acquaint you that the reports of the extensive armaments by the Siamese at Traâng, Setool, Lingou, Kedah and the other ports to the Northward, are daily becoming more numerous, and the alarms of the Native population of this Island greatly increasing.

2. I have examined several persons who have arrived here during the few last days, from some of these places, and have particularly interrogated them. Their statements appear very consistent and circumstantial in several particulars.

3. One Man, the Commander of a small prow, who arrived here on the 30: Ultimo stated that he left Purlis on the 28th and that there was there lying near the village of Kangar, 30 Prows of the burthen of from 3 to 6 Coyans. They were fitted with strong breastwork for the reception of Guns and were to proceed in a few days for Kontanni some distance up the Traâng river, which is the general rendezvous of the Siamese fleet and where these boats were to take in their guns.

4. My informant mentions that the Siamese were pressing all the adult Malays into their Service, and that each boat was to be manned with an equal proportion of Siamese and Malays. He reports that there are 60 similar prahus at Setool and upwards of 100 still larger at Kontanni, that they will mount

from 2 to 4 guns each and that most of the boats have a double set of oars. The largest will contain from 40 to 50 men each.

5. The same person reports that the Rajah of Ligore has lately arrived at Traâng (this however he only heard mentioned) that it is publicly given out—the Armament is destined for Salengore; that it is intended to quit upon the change of the Moon, that they have fixed upon a lucky day for their departure, that he has heard from the Women living under the protection of the Siamese, that the Rajah of Ligore is determined to have the Rajah of Kedah dead or alive, that they have often demanded him and this Government has refused to give him up, that the Armament is destined to attack Penang in a dark night, that the intended landing place is Pulo Teccoos bay, that the houses are to be set on fire and the white population put to death; that there are many Chinese on the Island in league with them and expected to join them; that the Rajah of Ligore has Agents in disguise here, who give him regular information, (the name of one principal Agent he mentioned) that the Siamese have plans of the Town and know the exact strength of our force, that the Rajah of Ligore, in fact possesses the best intelligence of all that is going on.

6. He states also, that he is confident if due precautions are taken, [and] the Rajah of Ligore hears that we are upon our guard he will hesitate in making an attack, that he is only looking out for a favorable opportunity, when he thinks we have no apprehensions and are not upon the alert.

7. This man states that he is in no way connected with the Rajah of Kedah, that he has not seen him since his arrival here nor had any communication with any of his people. He professed a readiness to depose to the truth of the above statement, upon oath.

8. Several other persons corroborate this statement in several particulars, and all agree that there is a very large assemblage of vessels and men in many of the rivers to the Northward, that it is contrary to the practice of the Siamese to give out publicly their intention of attacking any particular place.

9. So many reports have been received upon this subject and so much already recorded that I was reluctant to submit the substance of two letters which were put into my hands some days ago. One is from the brother of a Malay man residing on the opposite shore. The writer of the letter is in the employ of the Siamese, in rather a confidential situation in Setool. The person from whom I procured these letters, with some reluctance, made a stipulation that they should not go out of my hands, as his relatives would instantly be put to death, if it were known that he had communicated their contents to me. The substance of these, I have already had the honor of communicating verbally to you.

10. The first is as follows: The writer was at Setool. He states that the Malays old and young were forced into the Siamese Service, that all was confusion, he urges his relative to prepare his prow and launch her, in order that the females of his family and children might escape in case of need; he recommends him to move over to George Town during the present month, to take care of his property and provide himself with everything necessary. He says "You must not go anywhere who knows if the Siamese may not come." He adds that there are at Setool and Lingaes a hundred prahus in the water, and he concludes, "I cannot go to my house day or night; I am constantly employed upon the Siamese Boats; they give out that they are going to Salengore, and are using great expedition."

11. The other letter is from another person whose name I possess. He says that when he arrived at Setool, the Siamese were very busy preparing their prows, that they put many questions to him relative to Penang. He states that he had been ordered to Ligore and adds "be upon your guard; better get your boat ready; if trouble comes, then is no time to consider; do you, my father and Brother invoke the Almighty. I shall return to you soon." He requests some cloathes to be sent to him. The other parts of the letters relate to family matters. The originals are in my possession, and bear all the marks of authenticity and of not being fabricated for the purpose of deception.

12. While submitting this information for your consideration and expressing my conviction, from a very deliberate consideration of all the rumours now afloat and a careful enquiry into all the reports in circulation, it is proper at the same time to remark that many exaggerated and sometimes unfounded reports have been propagated here, there is reason to believe, by the friends and adherents of the Rajah of Kedah.

13. It must be recollected, however, that the Armament reported to be in such an advanced state of preparation has been equipping during the last 3 years and it has been clearly ascertained by the Envoys sent from hence and other good sources of information, that there is a large assemblage of prows and men.

14. The Siamese have lately made no secret of their intentions of attacking Salengore. The warnings of this Government to the Rajah of Ligore seem to have had the effect only of causing him to redouble his exertions to carry his schemes into effect. While he was professing the most pacific intentions; while his Envoys were here, pretending to negotiate for the return of the Rajah of Kedah, a force was marching across to attack Perak, which is now in their possession.

15. The Rajah of Ligore is not ignorant that a much smaller force than he has equipped would fully suffice to capture Salengore. The expedition which he sent 3 years ago against Perak consisted only of 15 or 20 prahus of a Middling size. It is pretty well ascertained that his present fleet consists of not less than 300 prahus, large and small.

16. Many respectable natives here firmly believe that the expedition is destined for this place, and that a desperate attempt will be made to seize and carry off the Rajah of Kedah. A general alarm in fact prevails throughout the Island, amongst the Native community.

17. Under all these circumstances, and considering the very small force at present on this Island, I feel it to be my duty, holding the situation which I do, in the intelligence department, respectfully to lay all these particulars before you, in order that you may take into consideration the expediency of adopting every available means of precaution, to obtain more precise information and to guard against any possible attack. The knowledge of such precautions being taken will tend very much to allay the apprehensions of the Native population and may and I do think will deter the Rajah of Ligore from any hostile aggression against this place for the present; tho' there is very little doubt he will endeavour to subjugate the Malay States to the Southward forthwith.

I have &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Malay Transrs. Office

P. W. Island

The 1 May 1825.

SUPTDT. POINT WELLESLEY.

To,

JOHN ANDERSON Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government.

Supt. of point
Wellesley
1 May 1825.

Sir,

I deem it my duty to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, that the rumours which have so long prevailed in Penang, and on this shore, respecting the outfit of a formidable armament at the different Ports to the Northward, by the Rajah of Ligore, are entirely confirmed by information I have lately obtained from persons employed by me for the purpose of ascertaining this point. My Informants are Men of respectability, and I firmly believe their communication viz. that 70 large Prahus carrying each from 2 to 4 Guns, with a Complement of 40 to 50 Men are collected at Khuntanee, and that more are daily arriving from Setool and Kedah to complete this force. There are also a considerable number of smaller prahus which are merely intended to convey the Siamese Troops, without being armed.

The attack of Salengore is the ostensible object of these preparations, but the Siamese have so confidently proclaimed their intention of proceeding to Salengore, a measure so contrary to the caution and cunning followed by them in conducting their mode of warfare, that it becomes a question whether some other attempt besides the conquest of that place may not be contemplated by them. The Malays firmly believe that their intention is to seize and carry away, if possible, the Rajah of Kedah.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley.

Wellesley Province
The 1 May 1825:

THE BOARD entirely concurring in the expediency and propriety of the measures which have been adopted, and those now proposed by the President

RESOLVED that the Malay Translator be authorized to engage 150 Malays under respectable Native Pungalus, to be posted in different parts of the Island, particularly the Beach between George Town and Pulo Teecoos, Teluk Kumbo, and the Western side of the Island, to keep a strict guard at night and to convey the earliest information of the approach of any assemblage of Prows to meet also at the appointed place of Rendezvous in case of alarm being given, where they will receive Arms and assist in the defence of the place.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1322-53.

FORT CORNWALLIS THE 12 May 1825.

MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

Minute by the
President 12
May 1825.

I beg to lay before the Board all the information received relative to the Siamese Armament since our last meeting; from which it does not appear advisable to relax any of the precautionary measures already taken. The hired Schooner has been dispatched to Trang and the Neighbouring Ports to watch and report preparations of the Siamese. The enquiry as to the supposed communication between the Siamese Chief of Ligore and certain of the Chinese inhabitants of this Island has been made over to the Police Department to which it properly belongs. I propose that all the information received be sent for the perusal of the Officer Commanding the Troops.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

12 May 1825.

Enclosure
one.

To

The Honorable ROBERT FULLERTON Esquire
Governor &ca. &ca. &ca.

Honorable Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you that a Malay man, named Haji, whom I dispatched in a small prow, agreeably to your orders about 8 days ago to the Northward, for the purpose of collecting intelligence, returned this morning and reports as follows.

The first place he touched at was *Jerloon*, a small river a little to the Northward of *Quedah*, where he was informed that the Rajah of Ligore was preparing to cross over land from *Traäng* to *Quedah* and was expected to arrive on the 1st of Shawal (9 days hence). At *Jerloon*, the Siamese were collecting the Malays, to convey them to *Traäng* to assist in manning the boats.

From *Jerloon*, where he remained only few hours, he proceeded to *Kwala Puju*, another small river to the Northward of *Purlis*, and the above intelligence was confirmed. There also the Siamese were pressing the Malays. He saw 15 prows at *Kangar* which were loading rice for *Traäng*, to sail in a day or two. He was informed that 15 or 16 had sailed shortly before for that place.

Haji learnt from a Malay Man at *Purlis*, named Lebby Nga, that a small boat with 4 Malays and a Siamese, were dispatched about the time he arrived at *Purlis* with a letter from the Chom Rat Minta or Chief Siamese there for some Siamese man at this Island.

From *Kwala Puju* he proceeded to *Setool*, where the preceding intelligence of the Rajah of Ligore's being at *Traäng* and expected at *Quedah* was confirmed. As he was entering *Setool* river, he met 7 large prows with Malay crews proceeding to *Traäng*.

He observed only one prow remaining at *Pangkalan Batu*, the ghaut near which the prows usually anchor. He was told that all the other prows had proceeded to *Trańg* ten days before, about from 20 to 30 in number.

He then went to *Lingow*, where he also learnt that the Rajah of Ligore was expected to cross over from *Trańg*, there also the Malays were collecting. He saw only two prows at *Lingow*, of small size, he was informed that a considerable number from that place had gone to *Trańg*.

Haji next went to *Tanjong Sittar* some distance on this side of *Trańg* river. He there met with 3 Malays, who advised him not to enter the *Trańg* as he would get into difficulty if he did, they told him that many Malay prows had been seized, they reported that there were between 4 and 500 prows of all sizes at Khontanni, but Haji thinks this is an exaggeration. He was afraid to proceed on and therefore determined on returning.

The people he met at *Trańg Sittar* acquainted him that on the 1st of Shawal (*i. e.* five days hence) the Commander in Chief of the fleet, *Nai Tap*, the Rajah of *Mardelong*, who is also at *Trańg*, with *Tantaiong*, the brother of the Rajah of Ligore, were to sail with the whole fleet collected, for *Quedah*. The Rajah of Ligore was to cross over with Elephants.

The Messenger heard that there was a very large force at *Trańg*, a great number of Siamese had come across with the Rajah of Ligore.

Of the fact of the Rajah of Ligore being at *Trańg*, there appears now to be no doubt and that a large fleet of boats is collected for some immediate hostile enterprize equally certain. Haji reports that Salengore is their avowed destination.

I have &c.

Pinang

(Signed) J. ANDERSON

The 10 May 1825.

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Enclosure
two.

To

THE HONORABLE

ROBERT FULLERTON Esquire

Governor &ca. &ca. &ca.

Honorable Sir,

Since writing my report of intelligence brought by the Malay man Haji, this morning, I have met with a Chooliah Bumboatman of this place, who left Quedah yesterday evening at 5 o'clock. He was interrogated by the Master Attendant and myself on landing and reports as follows. Two large prows (about 10 or 12 Coyans) well armed and mounting several guns had left the Quedah river for Traâng. There were 10 or 12 more up the river coming down. A large Siamese prow or Junk arrived yesterday from Traâng at Quedah and was to sail for this Island immediately. He has reason to think there are Envoys and letters. The John de Brias was seen at or near Traâng.

This person also reports that the Rajah of Ligore was at Traâng and was expected at Quedah shortly, that he had heard there were upwards of 300 prows at Traâng all new. Salengore was stated to be their destination. The Siamese were desirous that the fleet should pass through the channel here.

It will be in your recollection, Honorable Sir, that I some time ago mentioned that a letter might be expected from the Rajah of Ligore, couched in very civil terms, requesting permission for his fleet to pass the island and mentioning his intention of attacking Salengore. This information was obtained from the man named Che Etam, of whose proceedings I have already made you acquainted. If such a letter is in charge of the persons now expected, it may argue well for the correctness of the information derived from that person. I have &ca.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Pinang

Malay Transr. to Govt.

The 10 May 1825.

CHE TOAH

Enclosure 3. the principal Chinese Merchant of Pinang, examined before the Honorable the Governor, at the Secretary's Office, on Thursday, the 5 May 1825.

He stated that he rents the farms at Purlis and other places from the Rajah of Ligore. A Junk belonging to him arrived from thence a few days ago. His Agent wrote to him that the Rajah of Ligore was at Traang and was expected in a few days at Purlis on his way to Kedah. There was a large force at Traang, he was informed by his people who lately arrived, upwards of 300 boats, some of them larger than our 3 Cruizers now here. The Siamese not to be trusted, the Rajah of Ligore very ambitious—Siamese always commit hostilities by stealth—thinks they have some designs upon Pinang, but there is even more danger from the low Macao Chinese here, they have had meetings near the Rice bazar, as many as 500 to 1000 at a time. Achong is the head of a tribe and attends their meetings. The people he suspects are the Chinese Gardeners, brickmakers &c.

Che Toah is acquainted with Boomi—that man has been often at his Godowns. He is a Siamese, not a Malay. He firmly believes him to be a spy and is certainly an Agent of the Rajah of Ligore. The Rajah of Ligore has been enticing China Men, the Chinamen have knives.

Che Toah expressed his opinion that it was very necessary to take precautions just now, the Siamese were very treacherous.

LEBBY ABDUL KARIM

a very old Malay man, who has part of his family at Quedah and part here, examined by the Translator, Friday the 6 May 1825.

States that he is the Nackoda of a small prow, arrived three days ago from Quedah, brought 300 Gantons of rice for sale. There are 15 or 16 Siamese prows at Quedah preparing to start for Trang; 3 of the prows were quite ready. They are of a large size. All the Male population were collecting to go to Trang. Great many women collected to beat Paddy—a large supply of Grain sent to Trang. It is reported the Rajah of Sangora is at Trang. The Rajah of Ligore certainly there. The Siamese say they are coming to Pinang in all the month of Ramellow (this is the 17th) They say if they do not come now they cannot come for a long time as the wind will be foul. The Chom or Prime Minister boasts a great deal, how easy it would be. Does not exactly know the object the Siamese have in view in desiring to come to Penang. He is ready to attend farther examination.

 Ex-Rajah of Kedah

communicated with the Translator to Government 5th May 1825.

The Rajah had previously mentioned the reports he had received of Achong's proceedings at Ligore. He repeated them. He said a Chinaman known by the name of Baba Malacca told him Achong had been treated with great distinction at Ligore after being threatened; that he had been acting improperly, that the Rajah of Ligore promised to make him Rajah of Quedah, Purlis or any place he chose to select after he took Penang, that he was to get some Macao China-

men to create a disturbance at the same time. The Rajah said the number of Chinese so engaged were said to be about 1,500.

The Rajah gave me a letter which I retain. It is very long and relates to many matters foreign to the present enquiry. The writer in one part says "Any person who is found sending letters or intelligence to Pinang before the Rajah of Ligor arrives at Quedah will be put to death by his orders."

The Rajah stated that a prow arrived to-day [which] brought him a report of the Rajahs of Sangora and Mardelong having also come down.

About an hour after I returned home the Rajah sent a confidential Messenger to me to say that the celebrated China farmer of the Kwala Muda known by the name of Tukong Chukur (who was sent from hence in irons to Quedah with a strong letter requiring him to be severely punished—being concerned in piracy and robbery) had been with him two hours before, that he was then at the house of the head Chinese Merchant and was going to sail the same evening or yesterday morning.

CHE ALLANG

a Malay Nackoda, whose boat was observed standing into the harbour, yesterday morning, the 5 Instant, was met on landing by the Translator and interrogated. He was quite ignorant of the reports that had been circulated here and had no communication with any person from shore. He reported that he had been on a voyage to the Northward, near Junk Ceylon collecting Birds nests. On his way back a few days ago he went close to the mouth of the Trang river, he met with an old acquaintance of his, a Malay, who told him there were upwards of 300 prows in the water at

Kontanni and that preparations were going on rapidly. He did not hear whether the Rajah of Ligore was there or not. That was all he knew ; he appeared very indifferent upon the subject.

ABDUL HAMID, Native Writer, who has been 7 years the Translator in the Malay Translator's Office, examined before Council, 4 May 1825.

He states that Boomi is well known to be a Siamese disguised in Malay clothes, that all Siamese arriving at this place are received and entertained by him at his house, that he knows a Malay who was the bearer of a letter about 8 days ago, given to him by Boomi for some person at Purlis in authority there. The letter was addressed in the Siamese language. There are many other persons who have carried letters for him. Boomi is not married, he merely retains a prostitute. The house does not belong to Boomi, but is the property of that woman. It is very generally believed here that Boomi is a spy of the Siamese, in the Employ of the Rajah of Ligore.

HAJI, an inhabitant of Purlis, who was interrogated in the presence of the Honble. the Governor on the 3rd May, at the Secretary's Office, confirmed all that is stated in the report of the Malay Translator, as being derived from him.

Haji was the first person who informed against Boomi, and first communicated the intelligence to the Honorable the Governor.

ABDULRAHMAN

Head Shroff in the Treasury, whose family has long resided here, he has been about 8 or 10 years in the service of Government, has 3 brothers also in the Public Offices, examined by the Honble. the Governor 5 May 1825.

He is acquainted with Che Etam, one of the four persons who lately came from Ligore and who remained behind; recollects the Malay Translator telling him it was supposed Che Etam was a spy and left behind for no good purpose. He prevailed on Che Etam to disclose to him the designs of the Rajah of Ligore, he held out to him a promise of good employ here and reward if he would divulge all he knows. He did so and as a pledge of his intention of returning here or of sending further intelligence if he is detained on duty by the Rajah of Ligore, he left in Abdulraman's hands 200 Dollars. Che Etam stated to him as follows—he was present at Ligore about three months ago, when the Rajah, late at night, gave his final instructions to his Envoys who were last here, he heard him say he was determined to have the Rajah of Quedah, that he would never feel secure of possessing Quedah till he was removed from Penang; that all the friendly overtures, complimentary letters, presents of rice &c. were mere stratagems to get him into their possession, that the Rajah of Ligore saw it was in vain negotiating further in that way, that he had often demanded him and been refused, that he was now resolved to take him by force. A clandestine attempt was to be made. 30 prows well armed—full of men with a double set of oars to make a dash at night, seize the King and make off. The boats were filled with large Bamboos inside to prevent sinking, if hit by shot. If attacked 25 or 26 of the prows would engage in action, the prow with the King on board and 3 or 4 more would pull off with all speed, towards

Quedah; the others would maintain a running fight; when the prow with the Rajah had got well out the others were to fly also and escape as well as they could. They calculated however upon losing a considerable number of men in the action. There was a large piece of iron like a crow bar or hammer (he represented it by shewing the thickness of his arm) with which the Rajah of Quedah's doors were to be wrenched open.

Abdulrahman stated that the rice vendors in the Bazaar told him Achong was concerting with Macao Chinese, about 2000 said to be ready to revolt in the event of the Siamese coming.

Che Etam told Abdulrahman that the Rajah of Ligore had 15 Children, one of his daughters was married to the young Chief of Poongha, another to the Mardelong Chief. His sons were destined to be Rajahs of Quedah, Perak, Salengore, Purlis, Trang, &c. and he would thus have the greater part of the Peninsula under the control of his family.

The informant was ready to depose on oath to what he stated. Begged that his name might not appear, people might injure him; Any person visiting Quedah sure to be put to death if suspected of having given information.

Substance of Enquiry—5 May 1825.

The Master Attendant reports that the Master of the Brig Sophia had informed him that a great number of Prows Junks &c. were collected at Junk Ceylon. That the Siamese had taken possession of Tenasserim and carried off a number of the Inhabitants—heard this at Mergui.

Affie—Commander
of the Sophia.

States only what heard at Mergui—That numerous Siamese Prows were at Sea plundering every Vessel,

that they belonged to a Siamese Chief Southward of Mergui—That the Siamese had attacked Tenasserim—Carried off a number of Inhabitants—That the Commander at Mergui had caused them to refund 300 of them—That the conduct of the Siamese was hostile and that a reinforcement had been sent for—that the Shabunder at Mergui informed him that the Siamese were arming many boats ostensibly for Salengore but in reality to attack Penang. That while at Quedah many boats were building. This in January last.

Saturday 8th May 1825.

A Junk belonging to Che Toah arrived from Purlis, confirms the report of 30 Prows being equipped, going to Traang. The Rajah of Ligore certainly there. It is given out that the fleet is going to Salengore. One of the Chinamen of the Junk, brother to Kong Shum, wood merchant here, reported that 2 Bengalis named Jungley and Noora had been seized by the Siamese and plundered of all their property. They had gone to purchase buffaloes. The Siamese said they were spies. The informant saw a letter which was received from the Rajah of Ligore to the Chom. Immediately on reading it, orders were given to collect all the Malays. A second letter also arrived the day before he left.

Saturday 8th May 1825.

Three prows with men, women and children arrived at the Master Attendant's Office in the afternoon. They left Purlis the day before, fled in consequence of the Siamese forcing all the people into the Service, all the women to beat paddy, the men to serve in the boats; four boats more behind confirm the report of 30 prows being ready there, going to Traang.

REPORT of Mr. Roberts, Commander of the hired Schooner John de Brias, arrived Wednesday afternoon 11 May 1825, to the Master Attendant and Acting Secretary.

Touched at Quedah and delivered the letter. Was informed by the Chooliahs and others there that the exportation of rice was prohibited. The young Chief told him it was not, and to prove it several prows were allowed to take in rice for this place. There is no doubt however that it was permitted to be exported only in a very small quantity. He next went to Poongah. Did not touch at any of the intermediate ports except Purlis where he saw 12 or 15 prows.

Did not go near the Traang river's mouth. Arrived at Quedah yesterday afternoon remained $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Sailed again at 5 P. M. Saw the Young Chief and the Chom, was informed that the Rajah of Ligore was expected in a few days. The Chom of his own accord said "We have no intention of attacking Pulo Penang, if any person tells you so, shew him to me and I will let you see what I will do. We are great friends with the English."

Captain R. was told about 8 days ago, when at Quedah that they were going to attack Salengore when the Rajah of Ligore arrived. Heard at the same time from the Chooliahs at Quedah that there were 400 prows at Traang; it was believed by these people that the armament was destined for Penang. The Chooliahs expected the English would attack Quedah.

All apparently quiet at Quedah, the young Chief in fact remarked "Observe we are quite quiet here."

Captain R. met with no prows and gained no other intelligence. The Pya of Poongha and the other Chiefs had gone to Siam. He did not see the Siamese boat with Envoys from Traang mentioned by Ismael Lebby, as having arrived there.

He does not think the Siamese would attack this place, but he has never been at Traang, Setool or Lungow, or seen any of the War prows said to be prepared.

He says the young Chief told him the object of the Rajah's coming over was to see him and enquired if Captain Burney was not Governor of Malacca.

Captain R. delivered to me two letters, one from the Chief of Quedah and the other from the son of the Pya of Poongha. He made no particular enquiries respecting the prow at Traang &ca., as he had no orders to that effect, being merely sent to deliver two letters.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

The 11th May 1825.

THE BOARD entirely concur in the recommendation of the President, that the precautionary measures should not be relaxed.

ORDERED that the Papers containing the information lately received relative to the preparations of the Rajah of Ligore, be sent to the Commanding Officer of the Troops for his perusal.

THE SECRETARY reports, that the following letter having passed in circulation and been approved, was addressed to the Superintendant of Point Wellesley, directing him to dispatch the hired Schooner Commerce to the Northward, for the purpose of collecting intelligence.

To,

A. D. MAINGY Esquire

Suptdt. of Point Wellesley

In charge of the fleet of observation.

To Supt. of Point
Wellesley 9 May
1825.

Sir,

It being considered by the Honble. the Governor in Council a very desirable object to ascertain, with as little delay as possible, the exact nature, extent and probable or avowed destination of the armament stated

to be collected by the Rajah of Ligore at Traang, Setool, Lingow, Meraket, Purlis and Quedah, I am directed by His Honor in Council to desire, that you will dispatch the hired Schooner Commerce to the Northward, with all haste, to collect information upon these important points.

2. You will give such instructions to the Commander, as you may consider necessary and proper, with advertence to the line of policy and caution prescribed to you in your orders.

3. It seems to the Honorable the Governor in Council expedient that the Commerce should be dispatched in the evening, and that her destination should not be made known. The Commander should be directed to proceed direct to Traang and ascertain if the Rajah of Ligore is at Khontanni as reported.

4. I am desired therefore to urge the necessity of your impressing him with the particular anxiety of Government that he should effect this object by a discreet and conciliatory line of conduct.

5. He should be directed to state at Traang that this Government having heard a report of the Rajah of Ligore being there, is anxious to ascertain the fact in order that an Envoy may be sent to him, as agreed upon.

6. Upon his return, it will be the Commander's duty to make enquiries at Setool, Purlis, Quedah and the other places where prows are said to be equipped, relative to their number and states of preparation.

7. You will furnish him with an experienced Native pilot if procurable, and attach one of the Malay prows lately engaged to the Commerce for the purpose of entering the shallow rivers and obtaining intelligence.

8. It is expected that this duty may be accomplished within the present week, and I am desired to communicate to you the expectation of Government that the utmost expedition may be used on the occasion.

9. Should the Commander of the Commerce fall in with a fleet of prows exceeding 30 in number steering to the Northward in his progress to Traang, he should return immediately and report to you.

I am &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis
The 9 May 1825.

THE SECRETARY having taken Notes of the Examination before Council on the 4 Instant of ACHONG and BOOMI two suspected persons.

EXAMINATION of ACHONG and BOOMI.

Examination of Achong Son of Low Ammee before Council on Wednesday 4 May 1825.

Q. How many boats did you understand were prepared at the Northward ports of Quedah?

A. About 300, all new, viz at Purlis 120, at Traang a little more than 100, at Quedah 80.

Q. What did you understand to be the object of their equipment?

A. To go to Salengore.

Q. Who gave you this information?

A. The King of Ligore's Minister Choo Lee, a Chinaman.

Q. Did you enquire of the Rajah of Ligore himself?

A. Yes, at first he said no, then he acknowledged he did intend doing so.

Q. How many men fit to bear Arms did you see at Ligore?

A. About 15,000 Siamese besides about 1000 Chinese and 8000 Malays.

Q. How are they generally armed?

A. With Musquets without bayonets.

Q. Did you see armed men at Quedah?

A. No, nor at Purlis.

Q. You saw the prows at Purlis. Describe them.

A. They were about 3 or 4 Coyans burthen each.

Q. When was that?

A. In the middle of Febry. last.

Q. In what way did the Rajah of Ligore prevent your going to Traang, by force or persuasion?

A. I asked permission to go, but he said no, no you had better go the way you came.

Q. What was the Rajah's motive for preventing your going?

A. Because I was informed that he was going there himself and was sending rice across.

Q. Did you hear the object of his going to Traang then?

A. No, I did not hear what was his object in going to Traang.

Q. Did you hear that besides the quantity of rice said to be coming over, troops were also coming?

down to Traang rice, I was informed by some of the Rajah of Ligore's people that there was a famine there.

Q. Did you see any guns anywhere?

Q. Did you hear any other reports about these boats going anywhere else except to Salengore?

the old King was killed by the present King. The present Rajah of Ligore fled from Bangkok on the Massacre of his relative.

Wishing to revenge himself the Rajah is endeavouring to collect a large force of Chinese, Siamese, Malays, Bengalis and all sorts of people to be in his service but he has got no money; how can he get money enough to supply these people? He has taken Quedah and now he wishes to take Salengore, hearing that there is a great deal of money there; He prepared so many boats, not to take Salengore but to go against Bangkok. This is the information I heard.

Q. Who gave you this information?

Q. What force can he collect, do you think?

Q. How many men could he collect altogether to go to Bangkok?

Q. What would be the object of going to Bangkok?

Q. Do you think he is going to Salengore?

A. No, no. I heard that there was 1000 Men coming from Sangora to Purlis to assist in finishing prows there. When I enquired the motive for sending

A. I saw none at Purlis except one Wooden one, and only two Guns opposite the palace at Ligore.

A. Yes, going to Bangkok afterwards. There is something about that business. The King of Ligore is a relation to the old royal family of Bangkok. The

A. Choo Lee.

A. I do not know whether they will join or not.

A. I do not think he could do so for a length of time, five or six years.

A. To take his revenge for the murder of his relation.

A. He is certainly going there.

Q. Did he give out that he was going there ?

A. No.

Q. Did you hear it from his Minister ?

A. Not from his Siamese Minister, they would be afraid to mention it to me, but I heard so from his Chinese Minister Choo Lee.

Here the Translator reminded Achong of what he had told him on his arrival, that he had been told by the Rajah of Ligore, he was about to attack Salengore, and he himself said " more better, they are only a set of pirates." Achong did not deny this, nor did he deny having said, Captain Burney's coming was all a trick, that upon his suggesting to the Rajah of Ligore the probable transfer of Tavoy and Mergui, he said I want no stolen goods.

Q. Do you know the man who accompanied you here is in waiting ?

A. I have seen that man before at Purlis he was acting as Interpreter to Chom the Siamese Chief. I think he is a spy.

Q. Did he interpret for you at Purlis ?

A. Yes, he interpreted for me.

Q. How long were you at Purlis ?

A. Three days.

Q. And you did not ascertain his name ?

A. No.

Q. What language does he interpret in ?

A. Malay and Siamese.

Q. Is he in the service of the Chom of Purlis ?

A. I do not exactly know-but I suppose he is.

Achong ordered to return in charge of the Constable to town.

Examination of Boomi, a Siamese, before Council on Wednesday the 4 May 1825.

Q. What is your name ?

A. Boomi.

Q. Is that your Siamese or Malay name?

A. When I was at Telibon formerly my name was Amin, now the Malays call me Susa, and the Siamese Boomi.

Q. What is your nation?

A. Malay.

Q. Where were you born?

A. At Teliban (opposite Trang).

Q. Are you in the service of any Chief?

A. No, I have lived here two years and I have got a Wife.

Q. When did you marry?

A. About 2 years ago.

Q. How do you gain a livelihood?

A. I have a small prow which I send to Purlis to trade.

Q. Are you in the habit of going to Purlis and Quedah?

A. It is a long time since I was there. It is upwards of 6 months since I went to Purlis.

Q. What do you go there for?

A. To purchase rice to eat and sell.

Q. Where have you been residing here?

A. In Huttons lane.

Q. With whom residing?

A. With the Quedah people who fled.

Q. Are you acquainted with the Chinaman you have just seen?

A. Not acquainted with him, but I have seen him at Purlis before.

Q. What was he doing there?

A. I acted as interpreter with China Achong & the Chom.

Q. Were you acquainted at Purlis?

A. No.

Q. Where did you reside formerly?

A. At Junk Ceylon.

Q. State the place?

A. At Pungah (Pungah is on the main).

Q. When did you leave Pungah?

A. About 16 years ago.

This person was reconducted to the police by the Constable.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1411-52.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 19th May 1825.

Minute by the
President.

THE PRESIDENT records the following Minute, and enclosures containing farther information relative to the Armament preparing by the Rajah of Ligor at the Northern Ports of Quedah.

THE PRESIDENT.

I now lay before the Board the Substance of further information received relative to the Armament preparing at Trang and Quedah. The person who gave it has been on several occasions in attendance on the Envoys who came here some time ago, and has been induced to come forward by the persuasion of some of his friends here. The letter is one delivered to him for the two Envoys who were lately here, and was opened by my direction in hopes of some information being obtained relative to the meditated attack on this Island. Altho' the information contains little more than we already possess, as to the immediate objects of the armament it serves to shew in a clear light the long entertained projects of the Rajah of Ligor against this Island and may be depended on so far as to prove the expediency of our being at all times on our guard. It moreover shews the necessity of a vigilant Police in preventing and cautioning their intrigues, to which the open and unrestricted intercourse with every part of the opposite Coast has given rise and to which a certain portion of our Population seem to be unhappily addicted.

The plans said to be in view by the Rajah of Ligor are such as would naturally enough present themselves under present circumstances. The Siamese Chiefs on this part of the Peninsula have for the last fifty years been constantly menaced by the Burmese and in continual alarm of attack, their whole time, Troops and attention have been engaged in means of

resistance. The occupation of Tavoy and Mergui by a British force has released them from their fear on that score. It is evident that they consider our troops fully engaged by the War and the present period appears to them an opportunity not to be lost for extending their conquest over the Peninsula. It seems necessary therefore that some decided line of policy should be determined on, and as bearing on the question a brief reference to past transactions becomes necessary.

This Island was transferred to us by the King of Quedah, the King was at that period subject to the alternate annoyance from Ava and Siam then struggling for superiority. It is clear that one of his objects in giving us the Island, I may rather say, the sole one was to procure for himself a Powerful Ally and Protector in the English Government to defend him against both; a defensive alliance forms one of the Articles of Cession delivered by the King of Quedah to Captain Light. Under those Articles the British occupied the Island. After obtaining it indeed the defensive Article was disallowed on the ground that we ought not to entangle ourselves with the Court of Siam, but a large Annual Sum was offered and 10,000 Dollars Per Annum alternately accepted.

No great cordiality seems to have subsisted between Quedah and this Island. The King who ceded the Island and his Son and Successor continued to labor under the exactions of his neighbour the Siamese Chief of Ligor. The cession of the Island to the British seems indeed to have brought upon him the increased ill will of the Siamese, the more pressed the more anxiously he looked for our aid, and the more he felt the complete disappointment, for we allowed him to be gradually overpowered. He was compelled to attack Perak in order to enforce the tender of the Boongah Mass by that State, a mark of homage never

before paid and having weakened himself by that attack and incapacitated himself for resistance was in his turn attacked by the Rajah of Ligor and driven out of his Kingdom. He found refuge in this Island.

NOTE. For the question of right of Siam over Quedah see Minutes noted hereunder.

Mr. Cluble's Minute 28 August 1823. Cons. - - - 4 Sept.

* **Mr. Philips Minute no date** Do.

Mr. Cluble's Minute 16 Sept.

Cons. - - - - 2 Octr. 1823.

* [17] **Mr. Philip's Minute** * 27 Sept. Do.

It will be seen from the tenor of this Minute that I concur with Mr. Cluble both as to the right and policy of supporting the King.

* **These Minutes will be copied with the Records for 1823.**

Most of his family were taken and are now prisoners and many of his adherents were put to death.

We have allowed the Rajah of Ligor to assume the Government of Quedah. His power, his influence his ambition and arrogance are now much increased, he has at this moment collected a large force professed-

ly to attack Salengore, but it is believed also if a favorable opportunity offers to attack this Island. Altho' we allowed the King of Quedah to be driven out of his Kingdom we have still sheltered him here. By protecting the King after abandoning his kingdom we have ensured the lasting animosity of the Rajah of Ligor and by leaving the resources of his Kingdom at his disposal we have promoted his views of gratifying it. If the King of Quedah really was a fugitive vassal who had failed in his his allegiance, who without authority had given away an Island belonging to the superior State, it may be questioned whether we had a right to protect him or to hold the Island except on the same feudal tenure from the Siamese Empire. There are two modes of proceeding—one to consider the King as an independent Sovereign and the grant of the Island legitimate and to have supported that position, the other to have refused protection to the King as a feudal dependent, to have left him to seek a residence elsewhere, and to have settled the terms with the King of Siam, in that case the Lord Paramount, on which we were to hold the Island. One or other of the two, it seems to me, we must now pursue. We must either consider the Siamese Chiefs as undue occupants of Quedah, or acknowledging the

right, endeavour to make them our friends, and that we cannot do while the King of Quedah is established here. The King's presence here keeps up unceasing feelings of hostility, and it is naturally his object, as that of his family, to keep us on bad terms with the Siamese Authorities. They can never place unlimited confidence in us while we protect the King within a few Miles of his ancient Kingdom, keeping up a constant intrigue and communication with his Malayan Subjects. To have maintained the King as an Ally would it appears to me have been the right course, supported by every principle of Justice and good Policy, but after abandoning that course to keep him here with rank and pension attached, is only to keep alive animosity and dispute, and to hold out an unceasing provocative to attack. In the event of the second mode being pursued, that is, in the event of its being determined to relinquish all attempts at his restoration by Treaty or otherwise a more distant place must be found for him.

The interposition of the Netherlands Government of Malacca and the Treaty made by their Government with Perak and Salengore served as a barrier against the encroachments of the Siamese on this side of the Peninsula. If the Ligor Chief succeeds in subjugating those States completely, over which Siam possesses not a vestige of legitimate supremacy we shall have a long line of Coast filled with hostile Prows, always on the Watch to take us by Surprise. A very great increase of our defensive means will be required. If they subdue Perak and Salengore they border on Malacca, and there is nothing to stop them down to Johor. Both Malacca and Singapore will then be placed in the state we are in now. Any Commercial advantages to be expected from the Peninsula will be quite out of the question, the whole access to the interior will be shut up and the valuable productions of the Peninsula intercepted.

The nature and description of our population is another source of embarrassment to us and of support to our hostile Neighbours. The Chinese are generally connected with the Siamese Chiefs. They farm their revenue as they do ours, the Rajah of Ligor is himself the Son of a China Man. The Chinese are treated there with more favor than any other Nation; they pay only half of the established duty at the Siamese Ports; they are no doubt an active and industrious race, the most useful settlers we have, but they are the most cunning and intriguing. They are here under British Administration, let loose from the severe laws and control of their own Government, and out of nine thousand on this Island, three thousand at least are of a very dubious character. They have often been suspected, and on a late occasion have been directly accused of entering into a league with the Rajah of Ligor to rise in case of an attack on the Island. Altho managed with a degree of caution that eludes what may be termed Judicial Proof, enough has transpired to convince me that an understanding subsists between the Rajah of Ligor and some of our principal Chinese Inhabitants. That they did actually connect themselves with Ligor on a former occasion appears clear from the Note of the Superintendant of Police attached to the Deposition of Shim Yep in the following words:—

“ When the Rajah of Ligor was at Quedah 2 or 3 years ago he carried on a good deal of secret correspondence with the Canton or Macao Chinese of the place, got numbers of them to go in some Junks he equipped and sent them to cruize to the Northward of and about Junk Ceylon, where they were reported, and I believe with some truth to have committed atrocious Acts of Piracy.” Siamese are known to be a most treacherous and deceitful race; all that we have ever heard or read of the cunning and duplicity of the Natives of the Continent of India falls far short of the Character of the Siamese. Friendly professions form a part of their system of warfare, a common preparatory step

to throw their victim off his guard, and while unaware to destroy him, nor do I entertain the slightest doubt that any accidental diminution of our force, or even its continuance on the same reduced scale on which it is at present will ultimately produce an attack from the Rajah of Ligor.

The establishment, now composed of less than 800 men, was adapted to a state of things widely different from the present. We had then a friendly Malay State on our frontier which rather looked to us for protection than contemplated aggression; while we have now, I need not say, a State growing in power which owes its growth to our forbearance, and looks on this Island as the only bar to boundless dominion over the whole Peninsula, and we may be assured will never cease, unless repressed by strong measures, to look upon our destruction as essential to its own objects of aggrandizement. Our population is now much increased, but a certain portion of it not of a description calculated to add to our security, but rather to require increased vigilance, and means of control. When we consider the nature of that portion of our population already described, mere fugitives from China, of unsettled habits, without families in any way to attach them to the Island, connected with the most dangerous of our Neighbours, I cannot but view our tenure of this Island as much more insecure than has been hitherto supposed. It has been the policy of every one of our Indian Statesmen to keep up between them and the more powerful, the petty independent States found in existence. The Malay States stood to our Settlements in the Straits exactly in that relation between us and Siam, and I am convinced it will be a subject of regret every day the more manifest that we allowed the safe principle to be laid aside in the case of Quedah. Erroneous steps should if possible be retraced and the restoration of the King of Quedah by Treaty or on the first aggression of Ligor on justifiable grounds,

should be the course pursued. It is true that temporary measures must now for a time be pursued. We are at War with the Burmans, and the Neutrality at least of the Siamese is desirable. Excepting in self defence it would not be advisable at present to incur the risk of rupture by any Act of our own. We should assume therefore, such a defensive position as will intimidate from attack and be prepared hereafter on due provocation to adopt the line of conduct calculated to place our political interests on a sure footing. The whole Malay race are averse to the Dominion of the Siamese and every open and avowed support offered by the British Government. The setting up of a Malay Government at Quedah for example would ensure the support and co-operation of the whole of that Population on the Peninsula.

The most advisable line of Policy to be observed generally in the Malay Peninsula seems to me to be that which should have been pursued at Quedah. Treaties offensive and defensive should be made with the whole of the Petty States of Perak, Salengore, Johore, Pahang, Tranganu and Kelantan. Their independence should be maintained so as to exclude the Siamese entirely from our proximity. The formation of such Treaties cannot justly be considered as any interference with the Siamese Government which holds over them no legitimate right of superiority. Had a Treaty offensive and defensive been made with the King of Quedah it is clear to me, the Siamese would not have ventured to attack him, and such Treaties with the other States on the Peninsula would I am confident have the effect of preventing aggression; there seems indeed to be no other certain mode of preventing our coming in contact with the Siamese at our three Settlements in the Straits. To my judgment nothing but the interference of the British Government in their behalf can save these States from complete subjugation by the Siamese.

The supposed advantage of acquiring additional Territory on the opposite shore, has it appears on the records been often suggested, and such indeed forms one of the Articles of Treaty proposed by Mr. Crawford. It does not appear to me that such would be desirable in Comparison with the restoration of the Malay Government; as a secondary measure indeed, in the event of the first Arrangement not being carried into effect, it might certainly be highly beneficial in keeping the Siamese at a greater distance and preventing the formation of a large force too near the Island. Extension of Territory is certainly not desirable in this quarter the [? much] less to us [as] the completion of Treaties of the nature described would establish with the Malay States such a degree of influence as would ensure all the advantages that would result from actual possessions if freedom of Trade and unrestricted intercourse are indeed all that can be required.

The establishment and discreet exercise of British influence over those States must tend materially to the amelioration of this Government, the reformation of the People, and the repression of those piratical proceedings which arose from the unsettled and lax state of administration. The invasion of Quedah by the Siamese expelled from their country and converted many of the Chiefs of that State into Pirates, and the same cause will produce the same effect on every part of the Peninsula. In a political and commercial point of view, the support of these in independence of Siam seems a measure of unquestionable policy; Considerations of humanity no less point out the propriety of affording our protection to the numberless Inhabitants of those extensive Countries rather than submitting them for War to the merciless domination of ruthless barbarians.

The Settlements in the Straits were established for purposes purely commercial, and political arrangements were not probably intended to be carried on thro' their

medium, but it must be recollected, that if they commercially prosper a great accumulation of valuable property must be the result, affording always strong temptation for plunder. Our security hitherto has mainly consisted in the divided condition of Neighbouring Governments, no one of which could ever hazard an Attack on a British Settlement, but if a more powerful State be allowed to overwhelm them and concentrate their resources our security must be in a great measure destroyed.

The disposition already evinced by the Siamese and at so early a period, to take advantage of their relief from Burman Aggression, bears distinctly on the question of contemplated cession to that Government on the Coast of Tenasserim, and points out the expediency of making the restoration of the Malay Government at Quedah, the independence of the Malay Peninsula, and the Establishment of a strong Military Post at Mergui, indispensable accompaniments to such cession. Without such it may be a question for consideration, whether it would not be more advisable to reduce the power of the Burmese in other Quarters than where it has proved so useful a Counterpoise to the encroaching spirit of the Siamese. The Views of that Nation in respect to the Peninsula are too obvious to be mistaken, and being satisfied that the question must sooner or later come into discussion, I have thought it better to submit at once the observations that have occurred to me. I wish it however to be understood, that I do so, only for the consideration of Superior Authorities: the course of policy recommended is one of too much importance to be undertaken without their deliberation and ultimate sanction.

President's
Minute 4th July
1816.

* Letter to the
Honble. Court
8 July 1816.

Letters 22, 23, 24
& 25 Cons. 21
March 1822.

On perusing the letters noted in the margin it appears that the extent of the Military Establishment of this Island has already come under discussion; reduction has been contemplated even when the number of Troops was less than at present. Considering however the nature of our situation, a sense of

* These documents have not been copied as they are immaterial to Siam

duty compels me to record my conscientious opinion that such a force is, under change of circumstances, quite inadequate to ensure us against hostile attempts, or to command the requisite degree of influence and respect with the neighbouring States.

NOTE. See also Extract from the Town Major's letter to the Commanding Officer with reply Nos. 2 and 3. Not copied, immaterial to Siam.

By the Memorandum of the Commanding Officer delivered on a late occasion (No. 1), it does not appear that our present disposable force could

in his opinion do more than defend the Town, leaving all the rest of the property of the Island at the Mercy of an Enemy.

NOTE. Less only by the dispatch of a Garrison for Malacca and the deficiency of 50 Men of the Local Corps. The letter from Lieut. Coll. O'Halloran of 18 March 1823. The total considered sufficient by the President is stated at 892. Privates, sick included.

The total of our last return is			
Privates	-	-	- 912
Deduct at Malacca	92		
At Rangoon	-	-	27
			119
On the Island	-	-	- 793

Altho' the force on the Island is not much less than what has hitherto been considered sufficient, I confess the scale is far too low to meet the circumstances of the time. In discussing the question of the Military Establishment of this Island it must be always held in mind, First, That we are far removed from the other Presidencies from whence alone reinforcements could be drawn. If such

were required, however imperiously, it is not within the verge of possibility that they could reach us within three Months of the dispatch of the Application. Second, That we cannot here as may be done at the other Presidencies on emergencies derive any Military aid from our own population. Thirdly, it must be recollected that tho' not so frequent, this Island is liable to the same mortal and destructive diseases which prevail in the other parts of India; if the number of troops were reduced below the scale barely necessary for the relief of the Guards the occurrence of the epidemic Cholera for a Week would be fatal to the security of the Island. It must be recollected also that a Military force barely adequate to defence in case of attack can never ensure and command that respect indispensable for the maintenance of the

British interests in this quarter, and it will not escape the observation of those conversant with India Affairs, how far a respectable position by preventing attack is calculated to save the expence and inconvenience of actual hostility.

Under all these circumstances the Annexed Memorandum seems to me to contain the scale at which the regular Military Establishment for the general defence of the Island should be maintained, so as to admit of a disposable force of Six hundred Men; any immediate addition to the regular troops of the Island cannot at present be expected, but I propose that application be made to the Supreme Government for two hundred and fifty recruits to encrease the strength of the Local Corps to that contemplated in the Memorandum.

Situated as we are the Marine Establishment must be reckoned as a material part of our defence. I find that establishment before the dispatch of the Vessels to Rangoon consisted of the local Brig Jessy 6 Guns, the Bombay Cruiser "Prince of Wales" 12 Guns. On my arrival here the only Armed Vessel was the Schooner used as a Police Vessel with 2 Guns. The Jessy has since returned, but in a disabled state. It is only a more attentive consideration of all the circumstances of our situation, that has led me to regret the absence of the Bombay Cruiser, as our bareness in this respect may have given encouragement to these extensive preparations of which we hear so much. It is desirable therefore that the original state of Marine defence should be restored without loss of time, according to the Memorandum annexed

A Bombay Cruiser of 18 Guns	} One of these in the roads the other cruiz- ing off the Island.
A Brig of 14 Guns	
4 Gun Boats of 4 Guns each	

One at the North end, one at the South, one at the West side of the Island, the other in the Harbour.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

18th May 1825.

PROPOSED FORCE for the Security of the ISLAND.

7 Companies of regular of 120 each	...840
5 Companies of Local of 100 each	...500
1 Company of Golandauze100
European Artillery...60
	<hr/>
	1500 Men
	<hr/>

DISTRIBUTION

Town Lines-Regulares-2 Companies	...240
Golandauze50
In the Fort European Artillery60
	<hr/>
	350

DETACHMENTS

Burmah Town-Locals50
James Town-Ditto50
Western side of the Island Ditto50
Wellesley Province Ditto...100
Employed in Armed Vessels 440
	<hr/>
	290

CANTONMENT.

Regulares-5 Companies600
Locals210
Golandauze50
	<hr/>
	860
	<hr/>
	1500
	<hr/>

18th May 1825.

SUBSTANCE of information derived from Che Etam on Sunday the 15 May 1825.

States that Kombeng a Chenchen Chinaman who came here with Boome on his last return fled immediately on that person's apprehension. He was an intelligencer of the Rajah of Ligor. Informant knows the shop where he used to stay at in Town, near Sheak Hussain's in Beach Street, does not know the Name of the Shopkeeper. Kombeng has been long in the Rajah of Ligor's Service.

Boomi has been employed upwards of two years by the Rajah of Ligor. Boomi enticed a Chinaman to go to Quedah about 8 Months ago. That man has lately arrived from Rangoon. He was sent on to Ligor, to give News of the War, from thence forwarded to Bangkok. The Rajah gave Boomi a Pending and 3 Coyans of Rice for this Service. The Rajah of Ligor gave the Chinaman fine Cloth and sent a present of $\frac{1}{2}$ Coyan of Rice to his father who resides here by Kon Aksoon and Naei Neem.

Not long since Boomi also enticed two Burmahs to go to Quedah, who were in like manner forwarded to Ligor and the Capital. Informant says he understands some Complaints have been made at the Police by the relations of these Men.

When Informant was here some months ago with Kon Aksoon and others they endeavoured to entice away two of the Crew of the Cochin China Junk [which] had arrived a short time previously from Tavoy—they gave him Opium and spent about 40 Dollars in presents to them. The Men engaged to go with them, but disappointed them.

Boomi corresponds with some people in Authority at Purlis. His Prow arrived here 4 or 5 days ago from thence loaded with rice.

Rajah of Ligor thinks the English cannot conquer

Ava, considers all our reports of conquests false, abused Informant because he stated what he heard here, sent his people here to enquire particularly. The observation to one of his Envoys who told him of our Conquests was "tis false, what Conquer a Country so populous that their in the Morning would form a mountain and their a River." The Rajah was rather surprized however to hear of our Men of War, our Numbers were much exaggerated to him.

Informant was present when the Rajah of Ligor directed Boomi to go to Pinang and entice 2 Burmahs. This was about 5 months ago, the Rajah gave Boomi 200 Dollars for the purpose.

Informant was on his way here in the suite of the Envoys, Kon Aksoon and Nai Neem, when Achong went across to Ligor. He heard that his proceedings were very extraordinary. He told the Rajah that the objections of taking Salengore did not arise from any orders from Europe or Bengal, they were the mere wishes of the Government here, which had no authority of consequence. He advised him to take Salengore by all means; he said the Penang Government only wished to frighten him, the objections here were nothing. Achong told him he would not take Penang openly by any attack, but by stealth it might be done. The Rajah was rather distrustful of Achong, and reserved for some time, on one occasion he said "We have not got orders to take Penang, we are to take Salengore first."

The Rajah enquired how many Chinamen there were at Penang. Achong said about 7,000, he asked how many of them were wealthy, Achong replied about 50—there were about 200 more who were each possessed of small capitals from 200 to 300 Dollars, the rest were all poor labourers and Mechanics. Achong said he could get a great number to assist and join the Rajah

of Ligor. The Rajah was silent for a time and then replied "this is an after business." Achong informed him we had very few troops here, having sent some away with a Cruizer to assist at Rangoon.

The following is a list of the Prows built and equipped at Khintauni. There were built 120 large Prows from 4 to 6 Coyans besides a few of a different Construction. At Setool 50, at Ligor 19, Purlis 21, Quedah 11, all large. Of small Boats there were equipped at Setool 18, Lingow 10, Mauket 20, Kubong Boyce 20, Purlis 12, Kedah 5, making in all somewhat more than 200 of a large size and 100 small.

Of the above number 50 are filled with 2 sets of Oars (24 Oars on a side) to carry from 50 to 80 men each. They have 2 Guns at the Bow, each 6 Cubits long and 8 long Rantackas and Lelas brass. 150 and upwards have one large Gun each, with from 4 to 6 Rantackas and Lelas (Swivels). The small boats have swivels and carry about 20 men each.

In all the Prows there are Bamboos inside to make them buoyant and they carry their water in long joints of Bamboos.

The Troops assembled at Traang are as nearly as Informant can recollect 1,500 Ligoreans, 2000 from Mardelong, 1,000 from Tuccatong, 1000 from Singora, 1000 Siamese and Malays of the Traang district, 100 Chinese, besides the people from Purlis, Quedah and other places. About 7000 men will accompany the Rajah of Ligor to Quedah, the ryots will increase the number very considerably. 8 Coyans of Rice are daily beat and prepared at Quedah for the Armament. The Rajah has 100 Elephants with him.

At Purlis there are two large sheds filled with sharp pointed sticks of hard wood to put in the paths, they are of this shape * or some thing like it.

The Rajah has about 4,000 Muskets at Traang,

The Rajah has about 4,000 Muskets at Traang, part of his men will be armed with them, the rest with long swords and Knives, each Man has a Sword and a Knife. They have no Spears or Pikes with them.

The principal Chiefs at Traang are the Son of the Murdelong Rajah (the father is old and infirm) 4 Chiefs from Singora, the Brother of the Rajah of Ligor called Pounun or Tounun by others Tantaiong Nai Tap, Commander in Chief in conjunction with Chou Pia-ban, who is at Quedah and who led on the attack at that place. The other Chiefs are Chom Rong and Aluang Tewang of Ligor, also Pakdi Song Kram.

Before Informant left Quedah the Son of the Rajah had received two letters from his father, one stating that he would arrive on the 27th Ramdlam, this day, and the other that he would reach [there] on the 7th Shawal, 10 days hence. He directed his Agents who were here, a few days ago to remain 4 days and see what preparations had been made and going on, also to sound the disposition respecting Salengore—desired them not to allude to it however publicly, to return to Traang with the information, although they said they were to wait his arrival at Quedah. Informant has been directed to do the same, to ascertain also, if any correspondence had passed between the Governor and the Rajah of Salengore upon the subject of the meditated attack and if Government had supplied the Chief of Salengore with Arms and Ammunition.

The Chow Piaban, the Minister at Quedah by way of inducing the Malays to exert themselves in the Attack upon Salengore, says " if you want handsome Wives, now is your time."

The Tukang Chukur or Farmer of Kwala Mooda who has been arrested here, was sent to purchase 10 Coyans of Salt for the use of the troops and collected news. He sent his Prow on and remained at the House of the head China Merchant here.

The Rajah heard of Boomi's seizure; the son of the Rajah said to Informant a few days ago "Boomi is seized, perhaps you will be seized too if you go to Pulo Penang, if you think you can go, but you must judge whether it will be advisable." The Rajah directed him to lay out 100 Dollars or so in trying to get Boomi out. Informant said the white people do not require gold and he did not think he would succeed. The Chief said "but you will be able to get some of the Native Servants to assist you, do the best you can." The Chief is much perplexed by this business, but Informant says the Rajah is very cunning and has great command of himself. He will not appear to notice it, nor will he appear to observe the preparations here, he will write very civilly.

Orders were sent to prepare everything at Quedah, the Armament would remain only 6 or 7 days it was intended as the Rajah was afraid his people would be dispersing and that it would be difficult to keep the the Malays together.

It was the Rajah's intention to have sent, and Informant thinks he will still send a letter requesting permission for the fleet to pass through this Harbour on their way to Salengore. If refused he will go outside. When he was told it was likely the Penang Government would object to his going to Salengore, he said "what, do they command the sea, the Vessels can go outside."

The invitation to the Rajah of Quedah is only a continuation of the stratagems which he has been employing to get that Chief into his possession. He has tried these overtures some time and his patience is now nearly exhausted. There is an order from the Emperor to bring him to the Capital and he has given the Ligor Chief full power over Kedah and all the States on this side the Peninsula. If the Rajah

of Kedah is got hold of, he will be put in irons and kept for life at the Capital. There are now there and have been for some years, 3 or 4 Native Chiefs in irons.

Informant heard the Rajah of Ligor planning an attack upon Penang. This was about a year ago. There was to be a land and Sea force; 200 Prows were the number collected; they were to attack at several points simultaneously. The largest squadron was to land near at Tanjong Tokong (Pulo Teecoos), others were to advance to Teluk Ayer Rajah, that is the North Beach, a few to the back of the Island and some to Soonghi Cluan. There were to be 4000 Men in the Prows. At the same time 4000 Men were to pass over from Kwala Mooda outside the Honble. Company's Boundary and come down suddenly upon Prye, burn that place, seize all the Boats and come over in the confusion by night. All the Attap Houses were to be set fire to. The Chinese were expected to join, for the sake of plunder.

It was supposed the Europeans would escape partly on board ship and part would take to the Hills, the Ships were not intended to be attacked. The Detachment from the opposite shore were to take the Fort, the Rajah had been informed the Seapoys resided at a great distance. Parties were therefore to prevent their coming into Town while the force from Prye took the Fort and other parties were engaged setting fire to the Houses and plundering.

It was thought that if the Seapoys did get into Town they would not be able to distinguish the Siamese from other people and would therefore hesitate to attack them. This plan was mentioned and deliberated upon about the time the Burmah War commenced. The Rajah was aware that he could not hold possession above 10 or 12 days, as ships would arrive. They were however to stay in the Fort and collect the booty and ship it on board the Prows. Informant has not heard

the Rajah talking of this lately, he has not seen His Highness for several months. He has been under his Son's orders at Quedah.

Some Months ago when Informant was at Ligor he heard the Rajah say to the Envoys who were sent here at that time, in whose hut he was, that if he could not get the Rajah of Quedah by fair persuasion and stratagem, he would send a few Prows at night, when very dark. They were to carry a large Party of Select Men, armed with musquets. They were to land at the Coccoanut Tope opposite the Church Yard, as there were no Houses close to the Beach and the Trees favoured concealment. It was not intended to put the Seapoys guard to Death; but to rush upon them suddenly and tie their hands; parties were to guard the Boats while a select few dashed up, broke open the Rajah's doors with a hammer prepared for the purpose and ran off with him and as many of his Women and Valuables as they could seize.

One plan was, to have Boats intended for the Service out about the Boontings under pretence of looking for Pirates to be close at hand to dart in. This scheme was one of the first in contemplation, and that was the object of the Rajah's signifying to Governor Phillips that he intended to send down Prows to Cruize near this Island. Mr. P. told him, if more were sent at a time than 10 near the Island they would be treated as Enemies.

It was then determined to select a dark night when the wind was favourable to dispatch the Prows from Quedah at 6 o'clock in the evening, and they were expected to reach by 2 o'clock in the morning. The Rajah has had several Plans, some times to send many, sometimes a few Boats.

Informant is not certain, but he thinks that if the Rajah observes we are not on our guard, he will attack this Island. He has a very imperfect and

unfavorable idea of our power, he thinks Siam all powerful. The Rajah's idea is that if he attacks Salengore now, even against our will, and takes the King of Quedah by force, it will be overlooked, as we are too busy at present with Ava, and our Ships &c. are employed.

The Rajah has never had the least expectation of the English attacking him. His Correspondents here have kept him well informed. Besides Achong told him we could not do so without orders from Bengal or Europe. He thinks too, we have not the means of following him.

The Rajah intends remaining at Quedah till Salengore is taken. He is going to send the Perak Chiefs to Salengore and remove the Salengore Chiefs to Perak, when he conquers that place, by which he thinks his own Chiefs will be better able to preserve peace. There will be two Principal Siamese Chiefs at each place for a time. If the King of Salengore is seized, he will be conveyed to the Capital and put in irons.

The Chow Pya of Liger has two legitimate sons and six natural sons, besides several daughters, in all a family of 15 or 16. One of his legitimate sons is Rajah of Traang, another is at Bangkok, two natural sons at Quedah, one at Setool, and the others destined to be eventually Rajahs of Perak and Salengore. One of the Sons is going to marry the Daughter of the Pya of Poongha, and another, the daughter of the Mardelong Rajah (on these two last points my former information was accidentally misstated a little).

His Highness was well aware that the Governor would not accept his invitation to go to Quedah; if an Agent is sent he wishes to ask permission to pass through the Harbour to Salengore; he will even to gain his point offer to send his Son or some of his Chiefs here as a pledge of his good intentions.

There is a man named Doolien, alias Wan Abdulrahim, a half cast Hindoo, who went to Quedah a considerable time ago, when the Rajah was there. This Man agreed to seize the King and assist in getting him into the Boats, he said he had 40 or 50 Men to assist. He received Two hundred Dollars as an Advance, was promised a handsome reward. Doolien came here with the money. The Rajah offered 100 Dollars to any person who would bring him to Quedah, and vowed he would put him to death for betraying him.

Nai Sampau, who was lately here, is another Collector of intelligence for the Rajah.

Informant in conclusion states that he does not know what the Rajah of Ligor's present plans are, that the Arrangements are to be made and the orders issued upon the arrival of the armament at Quedah, that the orders will be confided principally to Nai Tap and Chom Peaban.

Informant has part of his family still at Quedah which has induced him to remain in the employ of the Rajah of Ligor. He has endeavoured to get his wife away, but cannot. He has been alarmed too at the apprehension of Boomi and being now looked upon as a suspected person himself and knowing that he cannot continue his avocations of Intelligence for the Rajah, he has resolved to declare all he knows, of which the foregoing is the substance. He introduced many anecdotes in his Narrative, tending to shew the ambitious and intriguing character of the Ligor Rajah. These I have not deemed it necessary to insert here.

Informant proposes returning to Quedah in a few days as directed. He has brought a small quantity of Rice for Sale, thinks his apprehension by the Police likely to be beneficial and it will avert suspicion of his

having given the information, hopes to be able to return here shortly with further intelligence. He states that he would be put to death instantly, if he were suspected of having given this information. He concluded " my life is in your hands."

The above information was given with great clearness in the presence of two Confidential Malay Writers. Informant several times hesitated and reminded me that he had a Wife and Child at Quedah and that his life was at stake.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Malay Tr. to Govt.

PENANG
15 May 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1453-76.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 19th May 1825.

MINUTE by MR. CLUBLEY.

Minute by Mr.
Clubley 19th
May 1825.

I have read the Honorable the President's Minute with much attention and have again considered the Malay Translator's Intelligence, as well as the information he has recently collected from a Malay man named Che Etam.

Whatever doubts there may however be regarding the authenticity of Che Etam's information on many points, it is certain that there are great preparations making by the Rajah of Ligor both by Sea and Land, that his Boats have been preparing in the different Rivers for the last 3 years not only without our knowledge, but with studious precautions against our becoming acquainted with their extent, and that they are now launched forth, manned and equipped, and are ready to start on some hostile project.

Looking therefore to the certainty of these equipments, to the intelligence received on the one hand that this Island is to be the destination of the Armament, and the Rajah of Kedah the object of it—and on the other, which I think the more correct, that Salengore is the object, I think they cannot be viewed with indifference, or without impressing on us the conviction that such floating expeditions ought not to be permitted to assemble exciting not only alarm at this Settlement for the moment, but rendering us continually liable to the same result.

In a Minute which I recorded under date the 16th September 1823 * I deprecated the Siamese ascendancy on the Western side of the Malay Peninsula, in the expectation that they would thus be enabled to establish as they have now done a Naval Force. I calculated then on the Employment of such Force

* To be copied
with the 1823
documents.

against their Birman Enemies; but the Effect is the same if it is to be directed against British Interests, which any invasion of Salengore or other States in the Straits of Malacca must necessarily be considered.

Regarding the general objects of policy which the President has discussed at length in his Minute, I beg to express my entire concurrence in their justice and propriety, and with reference to the Minutes which I had the honor to record on this Question two years ago. I take this opportunity of repeating my decided conviction that nothing short of the actual restoration of the Malay Government to Kedah, guaranteed by our protection, will ever be effectual to secure the tranquillity and prosperity of that Country.

(Signed) W. A. CLUBLEY

19th May 1825.

THE BOARD unanimously concurs in the necessity and propriety of continuing a vigilant superintendence over the movements of the Rajah of Ligore's Armament and of continuing unrelaxed the precautionary measures already adopted for the safety of this Settlement, for the purpose of allaying the apprehensions of the Native Inhabitants.

THE PRESIDENT lays before the Board the following Documents—Nos. 1 to 5.

RAJAH of LIGOR.

No. 1.

Translation

of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Esquire, Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

May my friend know that with respect to Captain Burney's being sent to consider upon all business, I was excessively delighted, for I am very desirous to prolong and encrease friendship: I sent a letter by China Achong stating that I was coming to Quedah to be near my friend, in order that intercourse may be easy, and that business may be conducted with facility. The cause of my delay has been an attack of fever and ague, but I am now arrived at Traang and am coming to Quedah agreeably to the letter sent by China Achong.

I have heard that some Malays and Chinese have been carrying various false intelligence in order to excite suspicion in my friend. The Country of Siam has long been on friendly terms with the English and Commerce has been conducted. The Siamese will buy many sorts of English Goods and consider how friendship may be prolonged and extended, and trade and intercourse continue.

When I sent people before, my friend received them with pleasure, and furnished them with a place to reside in. I was very happy. If my friend sends any person here, he will be received in a proper manner agreeably to the rules of friendship.

When I arrive at Quedah, I will send a letter to give notice, and any business that may be wished to

be discussed will be finally settled, that a better and more friendly understanding than formerly may be promoted. My friend and I have been conducting a correspondence, but we have not been personally acquainted or conversed together. If we could meet and converse, it would be much better, in order that friendship and regard might be established, that there might be mutual confidence for the time to come.

If consistent with the customs of the English, to come and meet me at Quedah, do my friend come and meet me, and form a durable friendship, as herein mentioned. If not agreeable to the English customs to come, my friend may send a confidential person, in order that we may consider the road of friendship and amicable intercourse.

I send my friend a piece of wearing cloth as a specimen of Siamese Manufacture, and as a token of friendship.

With respect to this letter which I send and is written in Malay as those in future will be, if the Malay Writer commits a mistake or writes contrary to the customs of the English, or in any other way errs, do not let my friend be suspicious. If my friend has any doubts upon any parts of my letters, will he send me a letter and acquaint me.

When Koon Aksorn and Solyman have arrived at Pulo Penang and delivered this letter, let my friend reply to the letter agreeably to the rules of friendship.

Dated Wednesday 11th Day of the 6th Month
Year Fowl.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

13 May 1825.

MEMORANDUM.

The following remarks on the above letter are necessary. 1st. It is written in a particularly conciliatory style. 2d. From the remarks of the Malay Writer, probably making mistakes or writing improperly, it appears to me pretty certain that His Highness has been informed of the impression excited by a former letter. It is not difficult to conjecture who his Correspondent is, doubtless a Chinese; 3rd. The Envoys when last here, hinted at the probability of the Governor's going to Kedah to meet the Rajah. They were plainly and decidedly told that was quite out of the question; the present invitation is therefore given without any expectation of its being accepted. A letter has also been received from the Son of the Rajah addressed to Captain Burney. It is very civil; but His Highness had been some time since advised that Captain Burney had proceeded to Bengal.

The intelligence of the confinement of Achong and Boomi had reached His Highness's ears although his Agents did not allude to it. This no doubt prevented the letter requesting permission for the fleet to pass through this Harbour to attack Salengore from being sent at present.

The Rajah takes no notice of the Honorable the Governor's letter of the 18 February or of the communications made to the same Envoys who brought the present letter, for the purpose of being stated to the Rajah.

The Envoys brought a piece of Silk Cloth with Compliments from the Rajah to the Malay Translator to Government, and he desired them to say he was very anxious to see him, enquired about his family &c. His Highness has, of late been profuse in his Compliments and presents to the Translator.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

The 13 May 1825.

RAJAH of LIGORE.

Rajah of Ligore
13 May.

No. 2.

 Translation

of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Honourable
Robert Fullerton, Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

With respect to the English going to attack Ava, there has never existed a good understanding between Ava and Siam. The Siamese are very glad that the English have got hold of the Burmah Countries adjoining the Siamese territory, because, as it has become an English Country, it will be very convenient to trade with facility. I am very anxious to be on very intimate terms of friendship with the English, wherefore I am about to consider of preparing some things to send to the English Chief who is in charge of Changong (Rangoon). I therefore enquire of my friend, whether my friend thinks this would be advisable. If my friend is willing I will send, if not I will wait. If he is pleased that I should send there, I request he will inform me how many great men are at Rangoon, and their names. I beg he will write to me and let me know, and send me also a Certificate which I may forward with my Prow. Every thing relating to this I have mentioned to Koon Aksorn and Che Solyman—every circumstance connected therewith, and I request my friend will give them a meeting two or three times, in order that they may give certain intelligence, so that friendship may be prolonged.

Dated Wednesday 11th of the 6th Month Year Fowl.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON,
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang
the 13 May 1825.

Rajah of Ligore
to the Rajah of
Kedah.

RAJAH of LIGORE to the RAJAH of QUEDAH.

No. 3.

Translation

of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Rajah of Quedah.

The Rajah of Quedah sent us a letter requesting us to intercede with the Emperor for his return to Quedah, and reassume his Government. We some time ago sent a reply to say we would solicit the Emperor to that effect, and whatever reply we should receive would be communicated, in order that the Rajah of Quedah might be made fully acquainted with all circumstances. In consequence of the death of my Child the reply has been delayed; but now the Emperor of his favor, has ordered his Minister to direct us to come down to Quedah for the purpose of consulting upon the business of the Rajah of Quedah, and settling it; and if the Rajah of Quedah is disposed to place confidence in the Emperor of Siam to make arrangements for his returning to Quedah to reside there.

Formerly the Rajah of Quedah said he would wait for a reply from the Capital, wherefore we send notice to him previously, and when we reach Quedah, we will take the subject into consideration. We will also consider any wishes expressed by the Rajah of Quedah, in order to give effect to the orders which the Emperor has of his favor been pleased to send to us, to enable the Rajah of Quedah to return to his Country, and continue on a friendly footing as formerly.

Wednesday 11th of the Month Year Fowl.
3rd. of May 1825.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Penang

Malay Transr. to Govt.

the 13: May 1825.

There are two Arabic words added at the end of the letter signifying "Attend to or hear these words." My writer gives it as his opinion that this is a caution, as he knows the writer of the letter to have been in the Rajah's employ, and friendly to him.

(Signed) J. A.

To the Rajah
of Ligore 12 May
1825.

TO THE RAJAH OF LIGORE.

No. 4.

Letter

from the Honorable the Governor to the Rajah of Ligore.

I have received my friend's letters brought by his Envoys Kun Aksorn and Solyman. As my friend's Envoys have nothing particular besides to communicate, I have directed them to return forthwith (as they represent that my friend was to leave Traang to-day) in order that they may convey to me the intelligence of my friend's arrival at Quedah.

It is very true that reports have been brought to me, and apparently not without foundation, that my friend has been some time at Traang, equipping an Armament, and as he did not send me any communication of such being in progress, or of the object and destination of it, nor even alludes to it in the letter now sent, it is natural that I should regard such preparations with suspicion, it being contrary to custom for States professing amity to make such preparations in the immediate vicinity of a British Port, without giving due notice thereof.

When intelligence reaches me of my friend's arrival at Quedah, I will consider about sending an Agent to meet him.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

The 12 May 1825.

(A True Copy)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

**The Son of the
Rajah of Ligore
at Quedah.**

THE SON of the RAJAH of LIGORE at QUEDAH.

No. 5.

Translation

of a letter from the Baginda Muda, Son of the Rajah of Ligore at Quedah, to the Malay Translator to Government.

(After Compliments.)

The two letters which my friend sent by the Commander of the Cruizer have reached me, and I understand their contents. I was about to reply to the letters more particularly, but the Rajah of Ligore is expected here immediately. When he arrives, I will lay these two letters before him, and whatever directions he may give on the subject, I will communicate to my friend accordingly, and settle definitely afterwards. Thursday of the 6th Month, 11th Day in the Year Fowl.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

The 13 May 1825.

Note. The letters to which the above is a reply related to the prohibition at Quedah against the Export of Grain, and an attack upon some Malay Prows by Siamese Boats to the Northward.

THE SECRETARY reports that the following letter having been circulated and approved by the Members of the Board, was addressed to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, and Copies of the above Papers, and the several reports and informations relative to the Armament prepared by the Rajah of Ligore at Traang and other places, were at the same time transmitted to the Supreme Government.

TO THE GOVR. GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

To the Governor
General in
Council 14 May
1825.

No. 523.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE

WILLIAM PITT LORD AMHERST

Governor General in Council

Political Dept.

FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord,

In our address of the 28 February last, we informed your Lordship in Council of the preparations making at Traang and other Ports by the Rajah of Ligore, avowedly for the purpose of attacking Perak and Salengore. These preparations have proceeded rapidly, and have been carried on to an extent apparently beyond their avowed object, and various reports having reached us thro' the Nakodahs of Prows and other persons arriving from those Ports, that this Island was the real object of the Armament, we deemed it necessary to institute an enquiry on the subject. The result of the information is contained in the annexed documents. The substance corresponds exactly with that submitted by the Resident of Singapore in November 1823 in respect to a then contemplated attack, namely that it was projected in communication with certain Chinese Inhabitants of

this place, and principally on the present occasion with a person of the name of Achong, who was employed by Captain Burney on a Message to Ligore. The information bearing upon that part of the subject will be found in the Enclosures No. 3A. The matter has been submitted for the investigation of the Magistrates, and would appear to be considered unfounded.

2. Under existing circumstances, it certainly appears improbable that a Siamese Authority would meditate an attack on a British Settlement, yet when we consider the daring and intriguing character of the Rajah of Ligore, the anxiety evinced to get possession of the person of the King of Quedah, added to the certainty that a very large fleet and force have been prepared; we have not considered it prudent entirely to disregard these rumours, and have accordingly made the best precautionary arrangements in our power by detaining the *Felicitas* until the return of the Hired Brig *Minerva*, which with the Hired Vessels named in the margin, establishes a line of communication from this Island to Quedah. These precautions we have deemed the more necessary from the absence of any regular Marine force, and considering that the Troops on the Island are, by the detachment of 100 men to Malacca, and the incomplete state of the Local Corps, considerably under the usual complement.

Viz.
the Commerce
Schooner
John de Brias
& Local Cruiser
Jessy.

3. We are perfectly aware of the policy of maintaining amicable relations with our Siamese neighbours as far as possible, but the establishment by a Siamese State of a fleet of 300 Prows capable of carrying from 20 to 50 men each on this side of the Malay Peninsula, must place the whole of our Settlements in the Straits in some degree of danger; and we, therefore, submit the expediency of materially strengthening the Military and Marine Establishments of this Presidency, in order that means may eventually be taken in case of actual or menaced aggression, to remove the danger

inseparable from such a force being at large in the Straits.

4. We have the honor to enclose copies of letters received from the Rajah of Ligore sent by two Envoys on the 12 Instant, but as it did not appear they had any thing particular to communicate, they were dispatched the following day with the reply. A letter was also brought to the Ex-King of Quedah, inviting him to return to his Government, to which under apprehended treachery it does not appear to be His Majesty's intention to accede. On the arrival of the Ligore Rajah at Quedah, it is our intention to depute an Agent to communicate with him, and to require explanation as to the object and intention of the Armament prepared.

We have &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

„ W. A. CLUBLEY

„ R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis

the 14 May 1825.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 19 May 1825.

To

G. SWINTON Esquire

Secry. to the Govt.

FORT WILLIAM.

Sir,

I have the honor to annex for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to the Siamese Minister. I have endeavoured to suit the language of this communication to the actual circumstances of our situation, and trust that in the statements which I have made, I shall not be considered to have overstept the limits of my Authority. With respect to the present of the brass ordnance in particular, I have been induced to transmit these from being confidentially informed that the King of Siam was particularly anxious to possess them—that we had including those lately brought from Bencoolen a number of spare brass cannon at the Settlement, but still more from a desire of following up the policy of supplying the Siamese with fire-arms, and which seems to have been attended with favorable consequences in assuring their confidence and exciting them to take an active share in the war.

I have &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore
30 April 1825.

True Copies

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

THE LETTER of J. CRAWFURD Esquire,
Resident of Singapore to His Excellency the Chao
Pya Prah-Klang Chao Kun Kosa.

Your Excellency's letters, one of which is dated the 17th of January, and the other the 18th of February, have both reached me in safety. The assurances of support and assistance to our Nation in the conduct of the war against our common enemy the Burmans, which His Majesty has been pleased to make in these communications, have been received with the most lively satisfaction and I have communicated to the Right Honorable the Governor General without loss of time, the friendly intentions of His Majesty. The Siamese and the English are now acting as one people. Their interests are the same, and they will be equal gainers by the subjugation of the Burmans. I read with pleasure in your Excellency's letter that you are in communication with the Commander in Chief of the Rangoon Army who is in the entire confidence of the Governor General and who will not fail to explain to you all the views and sentiments of His Excellency. I beg you to assist him with Elephants, with Oxen and other Cattle for Carriage, as well as with provisions; for it is these we chiefly require to transport our Army to Ummerapoora. Whatever is supplied will be paid for according to our custom, and any receipt for the same which shall be furnished by the Commander in Chief of the Rangoon Army or other British Officer under his command will if not sooner paid be discharged by me either at this place or at Bangkok as may be most agreeable to Your Excellency and in Spanish Dollars.

Besides the Army of Rangoon two other Armies have invaded the Burman territories; one through Arracan and the other through Assam, and by accounts received from Calcutta, the latter had captured Rungpore, the Chief City of the Country of Assam on the 17 February.

By the last accounts from Rangoon I hear with pleasure that the deputies of the Mon nation living under the protection of Siam had waited upon the General commanding the Rangoon Army, offering assistance and stating that they did so by command of the King, and in token of his friendship.

I have received 1,080 Piculs of Sugar as a present, and beg now to forward to His Majesty two brass cannon being 12 pounder pieces, such as the English use in the field, with a pair of Mirrors. These are presents from the Governor General to his Majesty. I beg also to send for yourself a pair of Mirrors, a Cashmere shawl and 31 strings of coral as a mark of friendship.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD,
Resident,

Singapore
30th April 1825.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 19 May 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1487-97.

To GEORGE SWINTON Esquire

Secry. to the Government

Foll. Dept.

FORT WILLIAM.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council translation of a letter received from the Siamese Minister on the 10 Instant by the Ship Caroline and along with it copy of a letter from Mr. Gillies. In reference to these documents, I do not hesitate to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council that under all the circumstances of our present situation in relation to the Court of Siam, I am disposed entirely to rely on the assurances now given of co-operation and assistance. I propose in a few days to address the Siamese Minister and to take additional measures for confirming and strengthening the confidence and good disposition at present evinced by the Government of Siam.

The three English vessels which lately visited Bangkok have all quitted the place, leaving, however, Mr. Gillies and another English Merchant there with a large stock of goods. This step which has been taken with the entire assent of the Siamese Government appears to me to be well calculated to inspire the Siamese with just views of the friendly sentiments which we entertain in regard to them.

It will be perceived by the letter of Mr. Gillies that a considerable present has been made on the part of the King of Siam in return for the fire-arms presented in the name of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council in the Month of October last.

These presents have been sold and the proceeds, about 6000 Spanish Dollars, carried to the public account, so that the whole charge to the Government will not exceed 3,500 Spanish Dollars.

I have &c., &c., &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD,

Resident.

Singapore

20 April 1825.

THE LETTER of CHAO PIA PRAH-KLANG
first Minister to HIS MAJESTY the KING of SIAM to
JOHN CRAWFURD Esquire, Resident of Singapore.

Your letter has been received wherein you mention that the English are at War with the Burmans, that Rangoon is captured, that the Burmans attacked the English at Rangoon but were defeated, that the English had taken Cheduba, Ramree, and Negrain, that Troops were sent to Martaban, Mergui and Tavoy, that the English Commanders are well aware that we intend to aid the English, and that the Governor General having sent to you 1,000 Muskets for His Majesty, you have sent them by Mr. Gillies, along with a gold watch and six Catties of Coral.

One of your letters states that if we would help your nation against the Burmans, they would be obliged to us, and I have written to you before on the subject.

The Siamese and English have been for a long time great friends with each other and Commerce seems to increase daily, but the Burmans are, and always have been our great enemies. Formerly we used to send Chao Pia Maha Yotha the Peguan General with Troops to the northern provinces to be on the look out, and to seize all the Burmans that might fall into his hand. But as we now know that the English are at war with them, we have sent him with a larger force to protect our northern frontier. His Majesty has further commanded to be levied more Troops and to send them towards the upper provinces. When Chao Pia Maha Yotha reached Martaban he found the place was conquered by the English, so he remains there. I have sent a person to Chao Pia Maha Yotha with a letter to the British Commander at Rangoon but have not received an answer. The people of Pegue and Tavoy that were here, have all gone back to those places as they heard that they were under the English.

Our scouts are all on the alert and they are trying to get every information in order to distract the Burmans. All those that wish to go back the King permits to do so, and provides them with money, clothes &c., as well as with an escort that they might reach their Country in safety.

I beg to acknowledge a gold watch and six catties of coral, and 1000 Muskets from the Governor General to His Majesty. In return we send you by the Caroline 1000 piculs of Sugar for the Governor General, and 80 piculs to yourself as a token of friendship.

Si-Yuthia
18 Feby. 1825.

A True translation

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD
Resident.

Bang-kok, Siam, March 1825.

JOHN CRAWFURD, Esquire.

My dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to address you the 16th January per Shannon, acquainting you of the safe arrival and due delivery of all your presents for the King of Siam and Prah-Klang brought by [the] Caroline to which I beg to refer you.

I now beg leave to wait upon you with Bill of Lading of 1088 Bags of Sugar received from the said King in return for your presents and shipped per Caroline, [Capt.] Johnson, to your address, weighing 1080 Piculs as per particulars herewith, 1000 of which for account of the muskets and 80 for the coral and Gold watch, all valued at $11\frac{1}{4}$ Ticals per pecul.

I beg also to enclose an account of the expenses on the same, amounting to 423 Tes. for which I have taken the liberty to value on you in favor of Messrs. Morgan Hunter & Co. in \$260—say two hundred sixty Spanish Dollars exchange at $61\frac{1}{2}$ cents per tical which please honor. The same pains having been taken to select this sugar of good quality, as with that more immediately under my charge, I hope it will give satisfaction, an average muster of which herewith.

Of the progress of the war we hear nothing which can be relied upon. On this subject there are occasional reports, and generally to the disadvantage of the English, such as the Army being blown up, part of it taken prisoners, and sent back dreadfully disfigured, and others burnt to death, and of its being completely surrounded in Rangoon without any chance of escaping; all which are firmly believed here, and are considered conclusive of the result of the war.

On the 1st February there were two letters received here dated Tavoy 16 December and 18 January, signed Alexander Balmain, the first addressed

to the Government of Siam apprising them that certain districts which were lately taken from the Burmans are now under the protection of the English and desiring them not to take any more Prisoners from these places, and requesting the immediate release of 107 persons already taken under the protection of the British flag, and in violation of the friendship existing between the two Countries; the latter acknowledging the receipt of one man with a flag from a party of Siamese. These letters not being correctly translated at first put the great people here in some fear but soon recovered on the contents of them being correctly stated to them. The Prali-Klang after communicating the above intelligence to me, said, that these prisoners were taken by mistake not knowing that the place was in possession of the English, which would be avoided in future. He said that the King had given express directions to the King of Ligore and others, to furnish the English with Boats and every other necessary they might require to prosecute the war up the country, and asked me if they would accept of them. I answered that I thought they would, and be much obliged to the King for them. He also asked me if they, the Government of Siam, could send a letter to the General Commanding the Army at Rangoon. I answered in the affirmative, and offered to give them a letter of introduction to him if they would inform me of the nature of their dispatch, but to this no answer was returned.

I am told that a letter to the following import has been written by His Majesty to Burma. "It is true we have long been at variance, but let us now forget all past injuries and join to oppose the great enemy: he is already in your Country, and we know that if he overcomes you, he will next take care of us, whether we remain his friends or not." It is also said that they have written a similar letter to the Commander in Chief of the English against the Burmans. These

reports I give you as I hear them but what credit may be due to them, I leave it to your judgment.

Within the last few days I have been informed that an expedition was sent from hence lately for the purpose of attacking Salengore and Pera, in conjunction with the King of Ligore.

We are very anxious here to know something of what is going on at the seat of war and not less so for its speedy and favorable termination. Any inaccuracies which may be found in this epistle I beg you will have the goodness to excuse.

I am with much respect

My Dear Sir &c.

(Signed) JOHN GILLIES

P.S. Since writing the preceding I have seen a pass given by Colonel Waterman to a Burman Family to protect them, but have notwithstanding been made prisoners and brought here.

(Signed) JOHN GILLIES

March 17th 1825.

I have heard it reported that accounts are this instant received of the Capture of Amarapura, which I hope will turn out true and upon which I beg to congratulate you. Remaining always

My Dear Sir &c.

(Signed) JOHN GILLIES.

(True Copies)

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD Resident.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1581-1600.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 24 May 1825.

AT A SPECIAL COUNCIL—Present

THE HONORABLE ROBERT FULLERTON

Governor—President

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG CLUBLEY Esquire

and

ROBERT IBBETSON Esquire.

Approved the Proceedings of the 19th Instant.

PUBLIC.

IN CONSEQUENCE of the receipt of reports from the Superintendant of Point Wellesley, in charge of the Squadron of Observation to the northward; and of the Arrival of Envoys with letters from the Rajah of Ligore, this SPECIAL COUNCIL was called for the purpose of deliberating upon the further measures necessary to be adopted.

READ the following letter from the Superintendant of Point Wellesley, transmitting a report from the Commander of the Hired Schooner Commerce.

Superintendent
of Point Welles-
ley in charge of
the squadron of
observation 22
May 1825.

SUPT. OF POINT WELLESLEY

To

JOHN ANDERSON Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I lost no time in transmitting for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying letter from Captain Roberts, of the Hired Schooner Commerce. The 100 Prahus alluded to in his letter are said to be at a short distance to the Northward of Purlis: I am now proceeding towards that quarter, and it shall be my duty to see them into Quedah River.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley

H. C. Brig Jessy

May the 22d

3 A.M.

Enclosure in
letter from the
Supt. of Point
Wellesley.

To A. D. MAINGY Esquire

Superintendent of Point Wellesley

&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that we anchored off Trang River late last evening after a tedious passage of 6 days, occasioned from our experiencing nothing but light airs and calms the whole time, and at day light this morning perceived about two hundred Siamese Boats, capable of containing from 80 to 90 men each at an anchor in a direct line off the Mouth of the River. At 9 A.M. three Guns were fired successively from one of the Boats, upon which the whole of them made sail to the Southward.

Supposing the object on which I was sent fully accomplished, weighed and made sail, with an intention of returning to you, to report the same with all possible dispatch.

At 11 A.M. we were boarded by a Siamese Boat having 5 head men on board who were very friendly, and wished me to write and mention that the Rajah of Ligore had been down at Trang about 10 days, but that he this morning had embarked for Quedah, having with him, as stated by them, only one hundred Prows, large and small. They expressed themselves as coming from the Rajah, and the great friendship entertained by His Highness for the English, and not to credit a report which had come to their knowledge of their intending an attack upon Penang; they also mentioned the Rajah's intention of touching at all the Ports between this and Quedah. They mentioned as a great wish of the Rajah's that the Honorable the Governor should be made acquainted of His Highness being at Quedah.

I send this by the Prow attached to the Schooner for greater dispatch, being confident of her reaching you some days previous to us, should we experience the same weather as we have hitherto.

I am &c. &c.

(Signed) H. H. ROBERTS

Commander of H. C. Hired

Schooner Commerce.

H. C. Schooner Commerce

Pulo Telibon E. $\frac{1}{4}$ N.

Wednesday 18th May 1825.

UPON WHICH The Honble. the President records the following Memorandum.

Memorandum by
the President
23 May 1825.

MEMORANDUM by the PRESIDENT.

Having received a report from the Commander of the Schooner Commerce, announcing that he had seen 200 Prows coming out of Trang River, and that he had ascertained that 100 more had accompanied the Rajah of Ligore from that place for Quedah, I now submit to the Board the outline of the measures I propose to pursue. Mr. Maingy will proceed to Quedah and deliver the letter already prepared, remonstrating in the first instance, against the attack on Salengore; demanding explanation in respect to the Armament prepared; and distinctly announcing that it cannot be allowed to approach this Island. On Mr. Maingy leaving Quedah, he will give the requisite instructions to the persons Commanding the Armed Vessels. The Minerva having arrived will be added to the number, and every means taken to make them as strong as possible. Should the fleet remain at Quedah it must be obvious the constant danger of attack will prove harrassing to our Troops, and may at last affect the security of the Island.

Should the Rajah delay the distinct manifestation of his object, it will be necessary as a measure of self defence to concert with the Commanding Officer the best mode of attacking the Prows, and if possible, disabling them, for the present at least, from the power of doing further mischief.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

23d May 1825.

THE SECRETARY reports that the necessary orders were issued in conformity to the above Memorandum; to the Master Attendant to prepare and dispatch the H. C. Hired Brig Minerva to the entrance of the Harbour, and to the Storekeeper to ship 10 days Provisions and Water on board that Vessel for 210 Native Soldiers, half Musselmans and half Hindoos; also for 10 European Artillery men, to be hereafter distributed amongst the several Vessels if required.

Supt. of Point
Wellesley, in
charge of the
Squadron of
observation—22
May 1825.

SUPT. of POINT WELLESLEY.

To,

JOHN ANDERSON Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I had this morning the honor to transmit to you, for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, a dispatch from Captain Roberts, the Commander of the Hired Schooner Commerce, dated off Trang, the 18th instant. The Commerce has just joined the Honble. Company's Brig Jessy, and I now forward a copy of Captain Roberts's letter, lest any accident or detention should have attended the Prow by which the original was sent.

I have not been able to collect any additional information from Captain Roberts ; he, however, assures me, that the number of Prows seen by him off Trang must have amounted to two hundred, that they all appeared large, many of them about the size of the Commerce.

The Rajah of Ligore's object for touching at the different places between Trang and Quedah, is, to collect such Prows as are already equipped at these Ports.

Under the uncertainty, therefore, of what the Rajah's intentions may be, and the strong Armament he is bringing with him, I have deemed it most advisable to stand to the Southward with the Honble. Company's Brig Jessy, the two Hired Schooners and Row Boat. It is not my intention to proceed beyond Purlis, but to cruize in that quarter until we fall in with the Siamese fleet, which we are very certain of doing ; it shall then be my object to attend to all their

movements and in the event of their proceeding further to the Southward than Quedah, I shall not fail to afford the Honorable the Governor in Council the earliest information of such being the case, but strictly attend to the orders conveyed in your letter of the 3d. May.

I have &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley.

H. C. Brig Jessy

May the 22d 1825.

Superintendant
of Point Welles-
ley in charge of
the Squadron
of observation
23 May 1825.

SUPT. of POINT WELLESLEY.

To,

JOHN ANDERSON Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

My letters of yesterday will have made the Honorable the Governor in Council acquainted with the departure of the Siamese Fleet from Trang, and of its approach towards Quedah. I have now the honor to report, that at least 100 Prows belonging to the Rajah of Ligore yesterday entered Quedah River, 79 of them were seen by the Commander of the Hired Schooner "John de Brias"—and we reckoned fourteen more of them. The size of those we had an opportunity of judging of might be from 15 to 20 Tons, and I am given to understand they are mostly about this measurement.

Having stood close towards the Town of Quedah, and the wind becoming light, the Squadron came to an anchor, and shortly afterwards we were boarded by a large Siamese Boat containing some principal Siamese: One of them Chum Cha Pulo Pak stated that he had been sent by the Rajah of Ligore, who had that morning arrived at Quedah, to ascertain the cause of our visit, and whether we had been sent by the Governor of Penang. Captain Poynton in reply, informed them that he was cruizing in search of Pirates, and that having heard of the Rajah's arrival at Quedah, he was anxious to pay him a visit.

A great deal of general conversation took place, which principally had reference to the progress of the War against the Burmahs. The Siamese enquired very minutely of Captain Poynton respecting what he had seen and done when at Rangoon. They were also anxious to know what had taken Captain Burney to Calcutta, and mentioned that the Rajah regretted his absence.

We now alluded to the object of the Rajah's visit to Quedah, and of his bringing so large a force with him; to this Chum Cha Pulo Pak replied that it was usual for such great men as the Rajah of Ligoré to be attended with many followers, and that he and every one else were ignorant what might be the Rajah's future intentions, as they were as yet unknown. After having made this remark, he immediately observed that there were a number of wicked and bad people who spread false reports regarding the Rajah of Ligoré, and that the Rajah's object for coming to Quedah was to obtain, if possible, a meeting with the Governor of Penang, or with one of the Governor's Confidential Agents, in order to arrange some matters regarding the trade between Penang and Quedah, and to assure the Governor of his great esteem and regard for him, and that after having done this, the Rajah would return to Ligoré.

Captain Poynton then stated that he would wait upon the Rajah the following morning and that Mr. Maingy who was on board the vessel in search of health and amusement, would accompany him. A wish was expressed by the Siamese that the Commanders of the different Vessels should attend, but this invitation was politely declined.

I trust that my landing at Quedah will meet with the approval of the Honorable the Governor in Council, my visit will most probably be attended with some advantage: I shall at least be able to form a correct idea of the strength of the Armament now in Quedah River, and possibly discover its future destination.

I have &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley

H. C. Brig Jessy

Quedah Roads

May the 23d. 7 A.M.

Supt. of Point
Wellesley in
charge of the
squadron of
observation
24 May 1825.

SUPT. of POINT WELLESLEY.

To

JOHN ANDERSON Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government

Sir,

With reference to my letter of yesterday I have now the honor to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council that Captain Poynton and myself landed at Quedah yesterday morning at about 9 o'clock, and that we were received on quitting our Boat with much apparent ceremony and attention by several of the principal Siamese, with a large retinue of followers all dressed in Red Jackets, who escorted us into the Fort, where we found the Rajah of Ligore prepared to meet us. His Highness at once recognized Captain Poynton and expressed great satisfaction at his having come on shore to visit him.

The conversation was at first very much constrained and confined to some commonplace observations, but upon the Rajah perceiving that we were quite disposed to converse as friends, that we had not come to him as Agents from the Governor of Penang, but merely with an intention of paying him a complimentary visit, he laid aside all his reserve, and requested us to seat ourselves close to him. His enquiries were most particular respecting the progress of the War against the Burmahs, and he took particular pains to assure us that it was a source of the greatest satisfaction to the Siamese that the British Government had been able to punish so insolent and arrogant a Monarch as the King of Ava, who had always been an Enemy of the Siamese, and with whom it was impossible to live on friendly terms.

The Rajah made Captain Poynton describe to him a great many times, the mode of attack adopted by the British Army in taking the Burmah Forts, and

evinced not only some surprize, but something almost amounting to mortification, that Captain Poynton should express himself with so much contempt regarding a Nation, that had so frequently overcome the Siamese Armies.

The Rajah was most anxious to know what had become of Captain Burney, and expressed great regret that he had not had an opportunity of seeing him, as he entertained the greatest esteem for that officer ; but he stated that when he received Captain Burney's letter from Traang, he was in the deepest distress on account of the loss of one of his Children, and that had Captain Burney called at Traang on his return from Pungah, he would have found Elephants and an Escort waiting to convey him to Ligore. I then acquainted His Highness that I was a very intimate friend of Captain Burney's, that I had always understood His Highness had been unwilling to allow that Officer to proceed to Ligore, and that the letters His Highness had addressed to the Honorable the Governor stated that he would give Captain Burney a meeting at Quedah only. His Highness said this was very true, but that he had nevertheless sent Elephants and an Escort to Traang for Captain Burney, and further stated that when that Gentleman returned from Calcutta, if the Governor should be desirous of sending him to Bangkok, he would be most happy to get him conveyed there, which would be attended with no difficulty.

His Highness expressed great apprehension that the false and idle reports which he well knew were circulated in Penang by his enemies, and by the timid Chuliahs and Malays might tend to prevent the Honorable the Governor from considering him as his friend, and from placing confidence in his assurances ; he also added he was aware it was supposed he intended to attack Penang ; that such an idea was absurd. In the first place, he had no force equal to make such an

attempt, and he was not so ignorant as to be unacquainted with our great superiority, an observation Captain Poynton confirmed by describing how easily the largest Birmah War Boats were destroyed at Rangoon, and which were in every respect better manned and equipped than the Prows belonging to His Highness: besides, His Highness stated that he had received from the King of Siam, who had sent one of his principal men to accompany him, and who was then seated on the Rajah's left hand, the most positive and strict orders to be most guarded in his conduct towards the British Government, and to avoid by every means in his power giving the Government of Penang any cause for complaint, lest it should tend to interrupt the friendship and good understanding that now so happily subsisted between the British and Siamese. His Highness particularly requested me to assure the Governor that he should ever find his conduct towards him most friendly and sincere; and on my assuring His Highness that I would do so, I remarked that the Governor of Penang would most probably ask me several questions which as yet I was unable to answer, and would therefore take the liberty of putting them to him. The first was the object of his visit to Quedah. In reply to this, he declared, that his only motive for coming there was in the hopes of seeing the Governor, but, as he found this, from what I had mentioned to him to be impracticable, he would hereafter ask the Governor to send a confidential Agent to meet him, but that, at present, he was not anxious that one should be sent, as he was likely to make some stay at Quedah, and that when he conveyed such a request, he was desirous that *I* should be employed on the occasion, and that no one else should be deputed. My second question was the cause of His Highness bringing so great a number of Prows with him. In reply, His Highness stated, that he required a large fleet to protect his line of Coast, and that many of the Prows were constructed

before the English went to war with the Birmahs, when a strong force was required to guard Junk Ceylon. I observed, that these precautions were no longer necessary, which he admitted, but replied that it was an established custom with great Chiefs, not to move without a large retinue. I however remarked that so large an assemblage of Prows in the immediate neighbourhood of a British Settlement would most probably call for explanation, that unless the explanation given proved satisfactory that cordiality which His Highness professed himself so desirous of maintaining with the English might be interrupted. Upon this His Highness renewed his former protestations and declared that I was at perfect liberty to inspect his Fort, and examine his Fleet, and several times repeated that I might assure the Governor of Penang, so desirous was His Highness of continuing on the most friendly terms with him, that none of his Prows should ever proceed to the Southward of Quedah, without his previously apprizing the Governor of the number that were about to be sent, and of the purport of their voyage: His Highness also added, that whenever he might have occasion to dispatch two or three Prows to purchase Merchandize at Penang, he would even then not fail to communicate his intention. As this declaration appeared to me to be of considerable importance, I repeated his own words and requested His Highness to state whether I understood him correctly; he replied that I did, and that such a line of conduct was the strongest proof he could evince of his friendly disposition towards the Government of Penang.

I took an opportunity of informing His Highness that the British Government had taken possession of Malacca and its Dependencies, and that amongst other reports that had reached Penang, it was said that the Armament His Highness had lately collected was destined to attack Salengore: this observation was purposely allowed to pass unnoticed and as my visit was merely complimentary, I was unwilling to repeat it.

Having now been with the Rajah of Ligore upwards of four hours, we took our departure, and availed ourselves of the permission he had granted us to visit his fleet; we rowed upwards of a mile up the River and reckoned no less than 106 large Armed Prows afloat, besides 12 of a smaller size, and there were 8 hauled on shore, but not ready for Sea. The Prows are mostly about 20 Tons burthen, have a strong stockade built in their Bows and all carry a long nine or twelve pounder, and some few were provided with Rantackers, but not above eight of them, and these had a double tier of oars. I should suppose that the Crew of each Boat must amount to about forty men, and I particularly observed that all the Prows were well found in muskets, which appeared to be of English manufacture.

I do not imagine that we saw above a thousand or 1200 Siamese on shore, and many of these composed a part of the Crews of the Prows. In conclusion, I do not consider that my visit afforded me much additional information regarding the destination of the Armament; but my opinion most unquestionably is, that it is intended to assist in the attack on Salengore, and that the conduct of the Rajah of Ligore towards me, was principally influenced by a desire to prevent my discovering the real object of his intentions, and also that the appearance of the Squadron anchored off the Mouth of the River, consisting of the vessels named in the Margin, tended to ensure attention and civility.

H. C. Brig Jessy
H. Schooner Commerce.

Do. John de
Brias
and Row Boat.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY
Supt. of Point Wellesley
In charge of the Squadron
of Observation.

H. C. Brig Jessy
May the 24: 1825.
off Port Cornwallis.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1605-23.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 24 May 1825.

THE PRESIDENT lays before the Board the following translation of a letter received this morning from the Rajah of Ligore.

Rajah of Ligore
18 May 1825.

RAJAH OF LIGORE.

Translation

of a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore to the Honorable Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

May my friend be informed that I received the reply which he sent me by Koon Aksorn and Che Solyman, who returned and met me at Kwala Traang. I received the letter agreeably to the rules of friendship. It is mentioned in my friend's letter that when I arrive at Quedah, I am desired to acquaint my friend. All the other points referred to in that letter I fully comprehend.

At the time I descended the River and was about to make sail, I observed the Cruizer which was at anchor near Tanjong Puh, Pulo Tellibong, and I sent some Chiefs to wait upon the Commander and request him to come and meet me; but the Captain of the vessel said he was going on a cruize. I should be concerned if people convey any intelligence calculated to excite suspicion in the mind of my friend.

The cause of my being rather long on my journey is, that I am not accustomed to sailing in Prows, and I wish to see all the places as I pass. I therefore send Koon Aksorn and Che Solyman with a letter to my friend to let him know. I request that they may be permitted to have an interview with my friend.

If my friend could meet me, I should be extremely happy, and I am sure my friend has a favorable disposition towards me.

I beg that the letter which Koon Aksorn and Che Solyman now convey, may be replied to with dispatch, that they may return to Quedah and I will send the news again to my friend when they come back.

I am exceedingly desirous of meeting my friend, and to establish friendship much more than formerly ; also, to take into consideration the welfare of both States, which may extend to Bengal and to form a permanent friendship between the Siamese and English Nation.

Dated Wednesday, 7th Month, Year Fowl, or 18th May 1825.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang
the 23d May 1825.

Malay Trans-
lator.

READ the following letter from the Malay Translator submitting Translation of a letter received this morning from the Rajah of Ligore to his address.

Rajah of Ligore
to Malay
Translator.

MALAY TRANSLATOR.

To

The Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

In submitting for the perusal of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying Translation of a complimentary letter received this afternoon from the Chow Pya of Ligore to my address, and delivered to me by the Envoys Koon Aksorn and Che Solyman, I beg to remark that His Highness has never before condescended to address me or my predecessor, and even his Son has usually replied to my letters addressed to him by orders of Government through his Prime Minister. All letters from the Embassadors from this Government, vizt. Captains Lowe, Burney, &c. to His Highness have been replied to through his Sons. I have never addressed the Chow Pya.

His Highness has of late evinced a very marked inclination to pay me Compliments, by sending presents and desiring his Envoys to convey his good wishes to me, and desire to see me. It has been my anxious endeavour, during all the negotiations to manifest personally a conciliatory disposition, to receive his Envoys with respect and courtesy, and to encourage confidence and good will towards the British Government, notwithstanding my persuasion of the insincerity of His Highness, and my private opinions of his views and policy, which I have never failed to state to Government.

Of this course of procedure towards his Envoys I have found the advantage, in acquiring their confidence in some degree, and thereby gaining a clearer insight into their motives and actions; while by as

cautious and circumspect a line of conduct as my humble judgment has enabled me to observe towards them, I have, during the warm discussions which took place in the late Governor's time, in conveying his remonstrances and demands for redress, in refusing interviews, and in dismissing the Envoys as directed, I have endeavoured to convey the orders with firmness, unaccompanied by harshness, and left an opening for amicable negotiation.

Under these circumstances whatever may be my impression of the views of His Highness, I should not feel any apprehension in accepting His Highness's invitation, either attended or unattended by an Escort: from the consideration of Mr Maingy's deputation however (who will no doubt attain every object that is attainable) the tender of my gratuitous services on this occasion (if my public duties here could even admit of my absence) is unnecessary ; although, at the same time, I trust, that should Government consider my services likely to be useful, I shall always be prepared at the shortest notice, to obey any commands that may be given to me.

I have &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator to Govt.

PENANG

23d. May 1825.

Translation

of a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore to John Anderson Esquire, Translator to Government.

(After Compliments.)

May my friend be informed that I am on my way to Quedah, and I dispatch this letter to acquaint him that I am coming to Quedah, where I expect to arrive certainly on the 5th day of the 7th Month. I am extremely anxious to meet the Governor of Pulo Penang, if he cannot come to meet me, let Anderson come and meet me by all means.

As to any person being sent, I should not like to see any others, because they are not accustomed to going and coming. Let Anderson come if possible, and we will consult upon business, which will tend to promote the welfare of the English and Siamese Countries, and establish friendship greater than formerly.

Dated Wednesday, 7th Month—the 18th May 1825.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

THE TWO ENVOYS from the Rajah of Ligore being in attendance, were called into the Council Room and interrogated. They said they had nothing to communicate further than to repeat the anxiety of the Rajah to see the Honble. the Governor at Quedah, and to enquire whether there were any objections to His Highness sending people to purchase Goods at Bengal, with a letter to the Governor General, and also to his sending a letter to the Commander in Chief at Rangoon.

UPON the Envoys retiring, The President laid before the Board the following proposed reply to the letter just received from the Rajah of Ligore.

To the Rajah of
Ligore 24 May
1825.

TO THE RAJAH OF LIGORE.

Letter from

the Honorable the Governor to the Rajah of Ligore.

I have received your Highness's letter brought by Koon Aksorn and Che Solyman, and they have had an interview with me; but they had nothing to communicate further than that your Highness wished to send a letter to Bengal and Rangoon. I informed them that your Highness was at perfect liberty to send letters to Bengal or Rangoon, and to purchase Goods there as you please.

I enquired if the Messengers had any thing more to communicate, and they replied no: and as your Highness requests they may return to Quedah, I have directed Koon Aksorn and Solyman to return with all haste, to convey to your Highness the intelligence of my being about to dispatch a confidential Agent, with full powers, vizt. Mr. Maingy, and he will reach Quedah to-morrow or next day. I therefore request your Highness to receive this my Agent with respect and friendship.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON,

Penang

Governor.

24 May 1825.

ON an attentive consideration of the reports and correspondence above referred to, and all the proceedings between this Government and the Rajah of Ligore,

THE BOARD unanimously resolved that the following letters should be substituted for those proposed to be addressed to the Rajah of Ligore and alluded to in the Instructions to the Superintendent of Point Wellesley, under date the 29th April, and that the following additional orders be addressed to the Superintendent of Point Wellesley, who was verbally directed to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Kedah to-morrow evening.

THE SECRETARY is directed to furnish Mr. Maingy with Copies of such Documents as he may require for his guidance.

To the Rajah of
Ligore.

TO THE RAJAH OF LIGORE.

No. 1.

DRAFT

of a letter from the Honorable the Governor of Pulo Penang to the Rajah of Ligore.

I duly received your Highness's letter of the 3d. Rajap, brought by Captain Burney's messenger China Achong, and as the period fixed for your Highness's coming down to Kedah has now elapsed, I have deputed Mr. Maingy of the Honorable Company's Civil Service on this Establishment, as my confidential Envoy to communicate fully with your Highness, and to consult with you on several important subjects, for which purpose Captain Burney was lately sent to Kedah and Traang. That Officer having however proceeded to Bengal for a short time, for the purpose of receiving instructions from the Right Honorable the Governor General, renders it necessary for me to depute another Agent, lest your Highness should be disappointed in the expected meeting, to which you have professed so ready an inclination.

Having long evinced a disposition to cultivate a cordial understanding with your Highness, and to preserve those relations of friendship now happily subsisting between the Siamese and English unimpaired by the frequent deputation of confidential Officers of this Government as a return for your Highness's frequent deputation of confidential Officers to myself and my predecessor in this Government, I have only to request that your Highness will receive Mr. Maingy with respect and confidence as an accredited British Agent with full powers.

Mr. Maingy will deliver some presents to your Highness.

The 29 April 1825. (Signed) R. FULLERTON
(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON Governor.

Malay Transr. to Govt.

To the Rajah of
Ligore.

TO THE RAJAH OF LIGORE.

No. 2.

Letter from the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esquire
Governor of Pulo Penang to the Rajah of Ligore.

It is my duty to acquaint your Highness that the reports of your hostile intentions against the independent Malayan State of Salengore, and your extensive Armaments equipping at Traang, Setool and other places to the Northward, are daily becoming more notorious, and there seems to be now no room left to question the truth of them, notwithstanding your frequent professions of pacific intentions, and oft repeated expressions of your anxiety that I should not give credence to any rumours at variance with your letters.

I am bound to remind your Highness that the Settlement of Malacca has been taken possession of by virtue of a Treaty with the Dutch Government, by which that Nation ceded all its possessions and privileges acquired by Treaty with Malay States near Malacca. The Dutch Government as well as the British have long been on friendly terms with the States of Perak, and sepecially with Salengore. I am forced once more to caution your Highness not to attack Salengore.

That State is not, nor has ever been in the remotest degree, connected with the Siamese Dominions, and I am in daily expectation of important intelligence from Bengal upon the subject.

Should your Highness disregard this caution, possibly a very serious misunderstanding between the Siamese and English may take place. I therefore, with an anxious desire to preserve a good understanding with the Siamese Nation, consistently with what is

due to the English Government, call upon your Highness to abstain from such hostile measures, which most probably will involve you in much trouble and difficulty.

In conclusion, it is my duty to warn your Highness that this Government cannot permit a fleet, such as your Highness's is reported to be, to approach this Island, or pass through the Straits, and after this notification, any attempt on your part will be considered as a direct act of hostility. Wherefore do your Highness deliberate well.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

PENANG

28 April 1825.

(Sd.) JOHN ANERSON

Malay Transr, to Govt.

Instructions
to the Superin-
tendant of Point
Wellesley 25
May 1825.

TO THE SUPT. OF POINT WELLESLEY.

To A. D. MAINGY Esquire
Superintendent of Point Wellesley
In charge of the Squadron of Observation.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge your several letters of the 22d Instant, transmitting the report of Captain Roberts Commander of the Honble. Company's Hired Schooner Commerce, relative to the Armament of the Rajah of Ligore. I am also desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, reporting your proceedings at Quedah, and the result of an interview with the Chow Pya of Ligore.

2. The Honorable the Governor in Council gives you due credit for the efficacy and prudence of your arrangements, and entirely approves of the proceedings which you have reported.

3. Although there appears some difference in the number of Prows stated to be observed off the Mouth of the Traang River by Captain Roberts, and those which were seen by you and Mr. Poynton in the Quedah river, and although there is much reason to infer, that part of the Armament still remains at Traang, Purlis, and other Rivers to the Northward, still the nature and extent of the Armament inspected by you and the Commander of the H. C. Brig Jessy is sufficiently formidable to require the continuance of the utmost vigilance on the part of the Commanders under your orders, in watching the movements of so large a force.

4. The time has now arrived when it would seem to be absolutely indispensable that the views and intentions of the Ligore Chief should be explicitly and fully made known to this Government. The collection of so large a force in the immediate vicinity of this

Settlement, the length of time engaged in its preparation, the secrecy with which the equipment has been effected, the opposition on all occasions to the admission of Envoys or Commanders of Cruizers to the place where the Armament was equipping, and the general belief at this Settlement amongst some classes of the inhabitants here, that hostilities are meditated against this Island; require that no delay should take place in making the Rajah fully acquainted with the determination of this Government.

5. In addition to and in modification of the instructions contained in my letter of the 29 Ultimo, you will be guided by the following orders. The first and main object is to demand from the Rajah of Ligore, an explicit avowal of his motives for having equipped so large a force, which must be regarded as destined for some hostile enterprise. You will intimate, that the plea of his having equipped them, for the purpose of protecting the Coast against a few small Pirate Boats, or for defending his Country against the Burmahs, cannot be admitted by this Government. You will therefore, if in your judgment necessary, deliver to him the letter No. 2, and acquaint His Highness in addition to what is therein stated, that any attempt to move his force Southward of where it now is, will be regarded as a direct defiance, and an act of hostility. You will explain to him the circumstances under which the British Government has resumed Malacca, disavow the right of Siam to attack Salengore, and represent the long amicable connexion which has subsisted between the respective European Governments and that State.

6. It is not probable, under present circumstances, that the Rajah of Ligore will be disposed to enter with any sincerity, upon the negotiations, or engage in the Treaty proposed to him by Governor Phillips, to which communication he has never made any reply.

7. You are however furnished herewith with a Copy of the instructions to Captain Burney, and the Draft of the Treaty. These instructions will put you in full possession of the views of this Government, and you will be guided by your own discretion in all points not provided for in these instructions.

8. It is the wish of the Honorable the Governor in Council, that you should proceed without delay, direct to Quedah, and you will remain there as long as you may deem it expedient for the public service. You should, however, endeavour to forward a daily report of your proceedings, by an Express Prow, of which you may engage such number as may be necessary,

I am &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Acting Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis
the 25 May 1825.

RESOLVED further, that in consequence of the Hired Brig Minerva being reported fully equipped and ready for service, the longer detention of the Hired Ship Felicitas may be dispensed with.

ORDERED accordingly, that directions be given to the Master Attendant to station the Minerva at the Northern entrance of the Harbour, in lieu of the Felicitas.

RESOLVED that the Residents of Singapore and Malacca be advised of the hostile preparations of the Rajah of Ligore, and that the following letter be addressed to them.

To the Resident To
at Singapore.

J. CRAWFURD Esquire
Resident at
SINGAPORE.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit, for your information, Copy of a letter addressed to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council dated 14th Instant, together with Copies of the following reports and instructions.

1. Letter from the Malay Translator to Government the 1st May 1825.

2. Report of Captain Roberts Commander of the Honorable Company's Hired Schooner Commerce dated the 18th May 1825.

3. Report from the Superintendant of Point Wellesley, in charge of the Squadron of Observation, of the result of an unofficial visit to the Rajah of Ligore at Quedah dated the 24 May 1825.

4. Instructions to Mr. Maingy, 25 May 1825.

I am desired at the same time to acquaint you that no intimation has yet been received by this Government from the Rajah of Ligore; who has lately arrived at Quedah, of the object and destination of the large Armament which is equipped; but Mr. Maingy was dispatched yesterday to Quedah for the purpose of requiring an explanation upon these points; the result will be communicated to you by an early opportunity.

Copies of the various reports received by this Government relative to the preparations and hostile intentions of the Rajah of Ligore, alluded to in the dispatch to the Supreme Government, will be hereafter forwarded to you.

I have &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Acting Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis
The 24 May 1825.

The same letter addressed TO THE ACTING
RESIDENT at MALACCA.

ADJOURNED.

R. FULLERTON
W. A. CLUBLEY
R. IBBETSON

FORT CORNWALLIS
The 24 May 1825.

JOHN ANDERSON
Actg. Secy. to Govt.

FORT WILLIAM 3d June 1825.

No. 24.

To A. Stirling Esqr.

Secretary to the Govt. in the Persian Dept.

Sir,

Conformably with a communication received from the Secretary to Govt. in the Secret and Political Department I do myself the honor to enclose a List of the Presents which I would beg to suggest may be sent to Prince of Wales's Island on account of the proposed Mission to the Court of Siam.

When submitting this List to the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council I request you will have the goodness to state at the same time that my conviction that by means of presents only the Siamese Ministers can be persuaded to hear rational counsels, added to my knowledge that Mr. Crawford experienced many mortifications whilst at Bangkok in 1822 from his store of gifts being soon exhausted has concurred in making me draw up an extensive List. I have not however been unmindful that my deputation to Siam is eventual only as will be seen on reference to the accompanying Letter from Messrs. Twentyman & Co. who engage to receive back at any time hereafter the whole or any portion of the Jewellery, the most expensive Articles in the List of Presents and to refund the Purchase Money with a deduction of 10 Per Cent on the prime cost. Of the remaining articles if the Mission do not take place many could be brought to use by the Govt. of Prince of Wales's Island as Presents to be sent to the Native Chiefs with whom it corresponds whilst the remainder could I hope be sold at that Island for whatever may be here paid—at all events it would not be my policy at Bangkok to produce the whole of these Presents at once but to distribute them gradually and according as I saw success opening in favour of my negotiations.

I beg leave to add it is my intention to quit Calcutta on the 1st Proximo on the Ship Stanmore and to leave the heavier Articles of Presents to follow me on the Sherburne or such other Vessel as His Lordship in Council may be pleased to direct.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Burney Captn.
Poll. Agent to the Siamese States.

Fort William
26th May 1825.

True Copy

(Signed) A. Stirling
Per. Secy. to Govt.

FORT WILLIAM 3d June 1835.

The Honble. E. I. Company

by order of Captn. H. Burney

Bt. of Twentyman & Co.

Gold Smiths & Jewellers

Calcutta.

No. 1	One Handsome Diamond and Emerald Broach with a pair of Earrings to match	1,350
2	One handsome very large single Stone Diamond Ring with Embossed Shank	2,000
3	One Do. Do.	1,300
4	One Do. Do.	650
5	One handsome cluster Diamond Ring	600
6	One Do. Butterfly Ring Set with Diamond Emerald Rubies &c. ...	350
7	One handsome Diamond and Emerald cluster Ring	235
8	One Do. Do.	260
9	One Do. Diamond and Ruby Do.	220
10	One Handsome Diamond Ring set in fine Gold with an Emerald in centre	800
11	One pair of handsome large Emerald and Pearl lop and drop Earrings with a Broach to match	700
12	One set of handsome Pink Topaz Ornaments consisting of a Necklace Bracelets Earrings cross Broach and Ring	800
13	One Set of handsome Pink Topaz and Pearl Do. consisting of a Necklace Bracelets Earrings and Broach ...	1,000
14	One set of Do. Emerald and Ruby and Pearl Do. consisting of a Necklace Bracelets Earrings and Broach ...	1,300
15	One handsome filigree Gold Head Ornament set with Amethyst Turquoise Pink Topaz &c. &c.	300

16	One handsome thick Cable Pattern Gold Chain with Turquoise clasp ...	390
17	One handsome two yard frosted link chain with Turquoise clasp	360
18	One Do. one yard Do. with Bracelets	300
19	One Do. fancy worked French curb chain	200
20	One Do. one yard cable pattern chain	130
21	One Do. Do.	85
22	One Do. frosted Link chain ...	145
23	Six Pair of handsome Gold Spectacles with double white Glasses	510
24	Six Pair of Do. with double Green Glasses	510

Sa. Rupees 14,495

FORT WILLIAM 3d June 1825.

To Captn. H. Burney

&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter dated 26th Instant submitting a List of Presents which you recommended should be provided for eventual use on account of the proposed Mission to the Court of Siam and in reply to inform you that the Statement has been approved and sanctioned by the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council. The Broad Cloth will be furnished to you from the Import Warehouse and you are authorized to incur an outlay not exceeding Sicca Rupees 27,501 in the purchase of the other articles, transmitting the Bills countersigned by yourself, to this office, to be included in the Durbar account.

The Governor General in Council approves the Engagement entered into by Messrs. Twentyman & Co. to receive back the Jewellery in the event of the articles not being made use of for a consideration of ten Per cent on the prices charged in their Bill and with respect to the remainder of the Presents if the Mission should not eventually take place you will be pleased either to dispose of them to the best advantage at Prince of Wales's Island or to make them over to the Govt. of that Settlement on the public account.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. STIRLING.

Fort William

Persian Secy. to Govt.

27th May 1825.

**Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
pp. 1655-1671.**

FORT CORNWALLIS the 2d June 1825.

To

**JOHN ANDERSON Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government.**

Sir,

**Hired Schooner
Commerce
Hired Schooner
John de Brias
and
Row Boat.**

In pursuance of directions conveyed in your letter of the 25th Inst. I have the honor to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council that I returned to the H. C. Brig Jessy with the least practicable delay which vessel with those named in the margin anchored in Kedda Roads on the evening of the 26th and shortly after our arrival there a Siamese Boat came alongside with Chun Chee Pulo Pak. His questions principally related to the object of our visit which I explained to him and stated that I should land the next morning. I also sent a messenger to announce my arrival and at about 9 o'Clock on the morning of the 27th I left the H. C. Brig Jessy and was received on reaching the shore with every mark of respect and attention. A sort of palankeen was in waiting for me and about one hundred men were drawn up to escort me into the Fort.

The letter from the Honorable the Governor was received with great form and during the time a translation of it was preparing the Rajah of Ligore did little else than repeat his former professions of friendship.

His Highness enquired most particularly whether I had made the Honorable the Governor acquainted with all that had occurred during my former visit at Kedda and especially whether I had communicated his determination of not proceeding south of Kedda river without informing the Honorable the Governor of the number of the prahus that he was about to dispatch and the object of their voyage.

A considerable time elapsed before a translation of the letter from the Honorable the Governor was ready and when it was produced the Rajah pretended that one or two passages were rather ambiguous and in spite of the immediate explanation I afforded His Highness, some time was necessary before he would comprehend the real meaning intended to be conveyed and I must confess I began to suspect His Highness was desirous of postponing the discussion and thereby gaining time of any subject I might wish to introduce.

As the main and first object of my mission was to obtain an explicit avowal of the Rajah's motives for having equipped so large a force; I reminded His Highness of his former conversation with me regarding the equipment of so great a number of prahus and expressed a hope that he would candidly explain his reason for bringing so large a fleet with him, as I was apprehensive the plea he had formerly assigned to me would not be admitted by the Government of Penang more particularly as it was known that not more than one half of his force had reached Kedah. This last remark surprised His Highness a good deal and he immediately enquired from whom I had obtained my information. This question I did not reply to, but merely observed that if I were incorrect in my statement His Highness would deny the fact which would be quite sufficient. An immediate reply was not returned and His Highness after some consideration confessed that there were 60 large prahus at Purlis besides some smaller ones at Prahus Kumbar and that these were bringing rice.

Every endeavour was made by the Rajah to avoid giving an unequivocal answer to my question, but finding that some further explanation could not be withheld His Highness adverted to his former plea that a large retinue was necessary and that no Rajah of any consequence ever moved from one Country to

another without being accompanied with a considerable and commanding force.

I now considered it my duty to assure His Highness that such a reply would be considered evasive and entreated him to be more explicit on so important a question lest his reserve should occasion an interruption of that friendship His Highness had expressed himself so desirous of cultivating and his want of confidence allow the Governor of Penang no other alternative than to conclude that the Armament he had brought with him and which was every day increasing was destined for some hostile enterprize.

I regret to add that all my endeavours to get the Rajah of Ligore to assign any other cause for collecting so large a force at Kedda than that I have already mentioned were unavailing; excepting that he somewhat pettishly observed that it was a Siamese custom with which the English were not perhaps acquainted.

His Highness now adverted to the many absurd and idle reports circulated at Penang to his prejudice and stated that he was willing to give the Governor any pledge that an attack on Penang was never intended by him and never would be attempted. His Highness also stated it was a source of much regret to learn that the Honorable the Governor had considered it necessary to employ upwards of a hundred Malays to watch the approach of any Siamese prahus; such a measure involved considerable expence and would occasion an unfavorable impression being entertained both in Calcutta and England of the sincerity of those feelings of friendship His Highness has professed towards the English.

The Rajah of Ligore is so fully informed of every occurrence that takes place in the Island that I considered it right to admit that a few of the more timid Malays Chuliahs and Chinese might have entertained

such an idea but that the better informed natives were under no apprehension of this kind, on the contrary they were too well acquainted with the resources and strength of the English not to be satisfied that an attack made by any Native power would with facility be repulsed.

I now observed that it was universally reported and generally believed that His Highness meditated an attack on Salengore and that I had been directed by the Honorable the Governor to ascertain whether such was the case. This question was of course conveyed in the most mild and conciliatory manner and I fully explained to His Highness the motive for making the enquiry. That it emanated from the long amicable connexion which has subsisted between the respective European Governments and that State; the Commercial Treaties which have been entered into between the English and the Rajah of Salengore; and the circumstance of the British Government having lately taken possession of Malacca and its dependencies. His Highness's reply on this subject was so evasive that I was obliged to repeat the question, which only produced an answer equally unsatisfactory. His Highness was uncertain whether he would attack Salengore, it would depend upon circumstances, and stated that it was unnecessary to discuss this subject. He had already assured the Governor through me that his fleet should not proceed to the southward of Kedda without his reporting the circumstance and that this information must be sufficient, but that if any further pledge was required, he would at once place at the disposal of the Governor 50 of his largest prahus, which might be sent to Rangoon. I informed His Highness that the time was past for making this offer and that it was to be regretted that they had not been furnished when Captain Low applied to him for them. I attempted to renew the former subject of conversation but was prevented by the rapidity with which His Highness put several questions

to me. One had reference to the power vested in the Governor of Penang which I made him fully acquainted with, which appeared greatly to surprize him, as he several times renewed his enquiry if the Governor of Penang could carry any measure of importance into effect without reference to the Supreme Government.

As a more direct answer was desirable to the last and more especially to the foregoing question I reminded His Highness that he had obtained from me unqualified replies to all his interrogations and that if he were desirous of establishing the sincerity of his professions he should at least evince the same degree of candour on his part. I would therefore again repeat my enquiry and ask His Highness for the last time his intentions for bringing so extensive an armament to Kedda and whether he meditated and attack on Salengore. I remarked that the first question was of much importance and I was bound to state unless I obtained an answer more conclusive than that already afforded me I should be obliged to return to Penang and acquaint the Governor that His Highness had refused to afford the information he required and that I was apprehensive such conduct would be viewed as almost equivalent to an act of defiance. With respect to the second question, the attack of Salengore, I warned His Highness that after the explanation I had afforded him regarding that independent State any attack would most probably involve him in much trouble and difficulty. After an elapse of 10 minutes His Highness stated that he had already assigned a sufficient reason for bringing so great a number of prahus with him, and with regard to the attack of Salengore he observed that the King of Siam had directed him to punish the people of that Country for having attacked some of his prows three years since. Upon my questioning the Rajah however more closely regarding the orders he had received from the Court of Siam he disavowed having been furnished with any that had particular reference

to Salengore, but that he was vested with unlimited discretion to punish any of the neighbouring Malayan States and particularly Salengore that had given so much cause for complaint, having most unprovokedly attacked and plundered at Perak upwards of 40 of his largest prahus.

As I was now fully convinced the Rajah of Ligore was determined to conceal his future intentions from me and that any further delay at Kedda was not likely to be attended with advantage, the whole tenor of the Rajah's conduct having in my opinion been such as to render it unavoidable that I should present the second letter from the Honorable the Governor to him, I produced the letter in question (on the receipt of which he seemed much agitated) and I expressed the deep regret the Honorable the Governor would feel when informed that the Rajah's unwillingness to afford any explanation as to the object of His Highness's visit to Kedda and the cause of his bringing so large an armament with him had rendered this measure absolutely necessary.

I now wished to take my departure but was prevailed upon to lengthen my stay with His Highness, and also to promise that I would land the following morning and take charge of the letters intended to be sent to the Honorable the Governor. Our conversation during the time I continued with the Rajah had reference to our success against the Burmahs and he certainly seemed to entertain an idea that our reports respecting the conquest of Ava had been much exaggerated.

I again landed on the morning of the 28th and must confess that I fully anticipated the perusal of Letter No. 2 would have induced His Highness to have been more communicative regarding his future plans but I regret to state such was not the case. Professions of friendship were tendered in abundance but no additional explanation afforded excepting that His Highness said that he should be most happy if the Governor

of Penang would undertake to settle the quarrel between the Rajah of Salengore and himself. I informed him that I was certain the Governor of Penang would willingly listen to any such proposal and expressed a hope that he had alluded to this subject in the letters he was about to deliver to me and I was a good deal surprised on being informed that no reply could be given to Letter No. 2 owing to Pya Chy Song Kraam (the person sent by the King of Siam to attend the Rajah of Ligore) having been taken unwell and that it was absolutely necessary to consult him before any reply could be forwarded or any proposal made to the Honorable the Governor to adjust the quarrel between the Rajahs of Salengore and Perak. The Rajah however assured me that the Honorable the Governor might expect an answer to Letter No. 2 in the course of four or five days though, as his prows did not sail very fast, it might happen that the letter would not reach the Honorable the Governor quite so soon as he could wish.

His Highness apologized for not sending any presents in return for those I had delivered but said that they should be forwarded in a few days.

I now returned to the H. C. Brig Jessy and arrived off Port Cornwallis early this morning and transmitted without delay to the Malay Translator to Government the letter from the Rajah of Ligore addressed to the Honorable the Governor.

I found that the number of the prahus in Kedda river had increased from 106 to 126. The 60 large War prahus acknowledged by the Rajah to be at Purlis are shortly expected to arrive there. I consider the forces of the Rajah of Ligore now collected at Kedda to amount to about Four thousand men, of these 1200 are from Sunggora, 700 from Merdilon, 1000 from Chya, 500 from Settool, Purlis

and Traang, and the remainder from Ligore. They are all supplied with English muskets, the most of which have been obtained from Bangkok.

I have no hesitation in stating that the Rajah of Ligore is fully determined to attack Salengore. On this subject I had the means of obtaining very correct information and I know that each Prah in Kedda river was receiving rice during the night, about 3 Coyans to each vessel.

An idea prevails at Kedda that the Rajah of Ligore is in disgrace with the Court of Siam and that he is likely to settle on this side of the peninsula unless he conquers Salengore, and obliges the Rajah of that State to present the Boonga Mas to the King of Siam.

I have &c.

(Sd.) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley
in charge of the Squadron
of observation.

Fort Cornwallis
the 29th May 1825.

Translation

of a Letter from Chow Piya of Ligore to the Honble.
Robert Fullerton Esq. Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After the usual Compliments.)

May my friend be informed that Mr. Maingy who was sent as the Agent and representative of my friend's person and who brought letters from my friend arrived at Quedah and I received him agreeably to the rules of friendship and conversed with Mr. Maingy conformably to the custom of real Amity.

Now the most gracious King of Siam has been pleased to send down Piya Pichi Songkram a Siamese from the Capital to accompany me. On the day that Mr. Maingy arrived he was sick and could not come and sit down with us. If it had been desired that Mr. Maingy should remain all the business would have been delayed, and I wish to consider and consult with Piya Pichi Songkram the Siamese who has come down from the Capital, afterwards I will prepare a letter and send it by Koon Aksorn which will follow after and which will make known all circumstances agreeable to the wish of my friend which may be conformable to the rules of peace or propriety not to excite any difference and to follow the road of permanent friendship. This letter written on Saturday 10th of the Month Shawal, year Jirn and in the year of the Hegira 1240 or 28 May 1825.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

the 29 May 1825.

RESOLVED unanimously that pending the receipt of the promised Letter from the Rajah of Ligore, the precautionary measures adopted be continued unrelaxed, and the Superintendent of Point Wellesley be directed to keep a strict and vigilant watch to the Northward with the armed vessels under his orders.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
(unpaged).

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 10 June 1825.

SUPERINTENDENT of POINT WELLESLEY.

Superintendent
of Point Wellesley
6 June 1825. To

JOHN ANDERSON Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I deem it my duty to transmit without delay, for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the enclosed letter in the Malay language, received yesterday by one of the most respectable Inhabitants of Wellesley Province, from his brother, a Native Chief, in the Service of the Rajah of Ligore, Syed Jaffar from whom I obtained it, has for some time past been in my Pay, and has frequently afforded me information I have afterwards found to be correct; and I have reason to know that the writer of the letter in question possesses some influence with the Rajah of Ligore, and had succeeded in securing for his brother, Syed Jaffar, the promise of becoming the Renter of the Farm in the Muda River, and had not Syed Jaffar been suspected of being friendly disposed towards the English, he would at this moment have been holding that situation. I have forwarded a translation of the letter, but as this has been done in a great hurry, I would respectfully recommend that another should be furnished by the Malay Translator to Government.

I have &c, &c. &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley.

Point Wellesley
the 6th June 1825.

Enclosure in
letter from
Supt. of Point
Wellesley.

* [June] 1825.

LETTER from CHOU TEANG, a Native Chief in the Service of the Rajah of Ligore, to his brother Syed Jaffar, one of the most respectable Inhabitants in Wellesley Province, dated the 24th Ramlan 1240.*

(After Compliments.)

Respecting your letter sent by Lâhim, regarding the business of Qualla Mooda, which was granted to you by the Son of the Rajah of Ligore when you came here, I have shewn the letter now sent by you respecting the Farm to the young King, but he declares that you shall not have the Farm on account of some Chinese having informed him that you have combined with the English who live at Qualla Buka : in consequence of this the young King says that he must wait a little and ascertain whether this is true or false. Moreover as you reside at Qualla Muda be on your guard respecting the Siamese, for they to a certainty, and beyond all doubt will attack Pulo Penang, they are now preparing, and only waiting until the (white men) English, are off their guard, so that they may attack them by stealth ; also, they are now preparing to march to Pulie, and will pretend that they are going to Perak. They are not going there, but will descend the Kreean, they are now endeavouring to hire 200 men in Penang in order to set it on fire, so that when the forces have arrived at Kreean, then, these 200 men who have been hired in Penang will be ordered to set it on fire in about 20 places, so that when all is confusion they may attack the place. At present they are waiting until the English are off their guard. This I have to communicate respecting the Rajah of Ligore, as soon as my brother has read this letter, let him destroy, and not retain it.

(True Translation)

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley.

I have agreeably to Mr. Maingy's suggestion, perused the original letter transmitted by him, and find the Translation perfectly correct.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

THE PRESIDENT records the following Minute, with Translations of letters from the Rajah of Ligore, and Draft of Reply, together with a Conversation held with the Principal Chinese Merchants.

Minute by the
President 10
June 1825.

MINUTE BY THE PRESIDENT.

I now lay before the Board a Paper of Information received from Mr. Maingy. I beg leave at the same time to submit copies of letters received from the Rajah of Ligore, with Draft of my Reply thereto. These letters were delivered by four Envoys, with whom I have had a conversation, the substance of which corresponded entirely with the letters and reply.

The Board will perceive a striking coincidence between the Information of Mr. Maingy, and the subject of the letters. The Information states it to be the intention to sent Troops on pretence of going to Perak, to halt on the Kreean River, and wait a favorable opportunity for attacking the Island. The main drift of these letters goes to shew the necessity of sending Troops to Perak, a fabricated letter said to be from Perak requiring assistance is produced, the object is evidently to blind us as to the true object of sending Troops to the Kreean. I trust that the Board will be satisfied that the hostile intention of the Rajah towards this Island is now sufficiently manifest to authorize our acting against him, should a favorable occasion present itself for the destruction of his means of aggression.

The Board will perceive the employment of persons to set fire to the town again alluded to ; on this point I confess I am not so well informed as on external proceedings, having relied principally on the Police for discovery of internal enemies. From a conversation held by me with the principal Chinese Inhabitants, substance of which I annex hereto, there seems not a vestige of doubt, notwithstanding the depositions of the asserted heads of the Kongsee, or Clubs, that Low Achong is at the head of one of them, the " Hysan Kongsee ;" the information

may, if necessary, be supported on oath. His being so is indeed as notorious as the sun at noon day, and I have obtained the same information from a variety of channels. If any persons are engaged to aid the views of the Rajah on the Island, we may be assured the Members of these Kongsees are they and it would be most desirable to obtain, if possible, by a seizure of Papers or otherwise, the names of those belonging to it. I must at the same time confess my firm belief that had an immediate search taken place at the House where they are known to assemble, instead of trusting to the asseveration of the reported heads, we should have got at the names as well as the object of these meetings. Having furnished the Superintendent of Police with the late information from Mr. Maingy, I still hope he will succeed in obtaining a clue to the discovery of those employed on account of the Rajah. In the mean time a due regard to the preservation of order requires that Achong should be kept for the present in close custody, and not allowed to hold communication with any person whatever.

The great object and purpose of Police is to watch and discover such machinations of the evil disposed, and it is impossible for me to conceal my regret that on the present occasion the Police has shewn itself to be so deficient; as to those Clubs, I can only express my surprize that they have ever been allowed to exist, composed of the very lowest and most worthless of our population, a class of people without tie or connexion on the Island, ready for any mischief, holding such meetings with closed doors, administering Oaths of Secrecy. I can hardly conceive an Instrument better fitted for the subversion of any regular Government; and I am only withheld from submitting a Proclamation for their immediate suppression, in the hopes that the important object of the discovery of persons may still be attainable.

Connected with this, there is another subject on which it seems desirable that information should be

obtained and recorded. I allude to the manner in which the Macao Chinese obtain footing on the Island. I have been informed, and by respectable authority, that they are brought here from China on speculation by Captains of Ships, and sold as Slave Debtors to the highest bidders, the purchase money being repayable to the purchasers by a given portion of their labour. This practice seems to me to have rather close affinity to actual Slave Trade, and I propose that a full and complete Statement of the mode and manner of carrying on the transaction be obtained from the best authority, in order that we may judge of the expediency of allowing or preventing the continuance of the practice.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

10 June 1825.

Enclosure I in
the President's
Minute.

Translation

of a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore to the
Honorable the Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

May my friend be informed that the letter which he sent me by Mr. Maingy respecting Salengore, reached me. I replied to it and gave a letter to Mr. Maingy to convey to my friend. I therein mentioned that the great King of Siam has been pleased to send a Chief Pia Pichie Sungkram from the Capital to assist me in conducting business, and that on the day Mr. Maingy was here, that person was sick, and could not come and sit down with us. I wished to consult with Pia Pichie Songkram, the person who has been sent from the Capital upon all the business and promised to reply according to the letter which Mr. Maingy brought.

Formerly the Rajah of Perak, Rajah Mooda and Rajah Bindahara, the Chiefs of Perak sent a letter to Perak and represented that the Rajah of Salengore had come and excited a disturbance in Perak, and several times requested a force to be sent. Again on the 29 Day of the 5th Month, the Rajah of Perak, Rajah Mooda, and the Rajah Bindahara sent the Rajah Kechil Mooda, the Orang Kaya besar, Sri Lela Paduka, Maharajah Sitea and Paduka Sri Nara with a letter to Ligore, entreating assistance against the Rajah of Salengore, who had created a commotion in Perak.

I accordingly consulted with the Pya Pichie Songkram, the abovementioned Chief, who came from the Capital, and I now send Aluang Wat Akani, a Chief from the Capital, Aluang Pechie Peluppo, Koon Aksorn, Che Hat, and Che Solyman to convey the letters from the Rajah of Perak and the representations from the Chiefs of Perak, relative to the proceedings of the Rajah of Salengore, which the Rajah Kechil Mooda, the Orang Kaya besar and the other Chiefs

from Perak brought to Ligore, in order that my friend may be fully acquainted.

The Country of Perak has become tributary to Siam, and sends a Flower of Gold and Silver (Boonga Mas dan Perak) to the most exalted King of Siam. The Rajah of Salengore went with a force and committed hostilities against Perak, he seized and plundered the Prows with Guns large and small, which I sent with Che Hat to Quedah, and the Tin and Presents which the Rajah of Perak was transmitting to me also fell into his possession. All these things are stated in the letter from the Rajah of Perak, and in the other letter which are now sent for my friend's inspection.

With respect to my intention of sending an Armament, according to the request expressed in the letter from the Rajah of Perak, if it can be settled that Salengore is not to meddle with Perak, and the Rajah of Salengore will not commit hostilities against Perak, or excite a disturbance there, I will stop the Armament, and will not send it at present, agreeably to what was communicated to me by Mr. Maingy, by my friend's directions, and what was settled between us.

With respect to my friend's desire to stop the Armament, and not to permit it to proceed, as there is fighting and quarrelling between Perak and Salengore, and the Ryots of the Perak Country are in great difficulty and the Country in commotion as mentioned in this letter, how does my friend intend to consider or settle? I am anxious to know, and I request he will send a letter to inform me.

Moreover, in the letter from the Rajah of Perak, which the Rajah Kechil Mooda, the Orang Kaya besar, and the other Chiefs of Perak brought, it is stated that this year the time has arrived when they intend sending the Boongah Mas dan Perak to Siam, but they are much in want of Prows to bring it, and requesting that

when the five above mentioned Chiefs return to Perak, some Prows may be sent to receive the Boonga Mas dan Perak, and the other offerings and presents for the great King, to be brought to Quedah, and they have solicited me to forward the same to the Capital.

When I formerly sent Che Hat and many Pangulus with 40 Prows to return the Rajah Bindahara to Quedah, I requested permission to pass through the Straits of Pulo Penang, and the former Governor of Pulo Penang let my vessels pass through as every body knows.

On this occasion, I wish to request that 40 or 50 Prows may be permitted to pass to convey the Rajah Kecil Mooda to Perak as before, and they will afterwards receive the Boonga Mas Perak, and the other offerings and presents for the great King of Siam, and will return, conducting the business properly according to the custom of Countries that are tributary.

If a few Prows were to be sent, perhaps the Rajah of Salengore would attack and plunder them as he did with Che Hat before, if people do not believe, send Cruizers to follow and look out.

Relative to these two matters, I send Aluang Wat Akani, a person from the Capital, Aluang Pechie Peluppo, Koon Aksorn, Che Hat and Che Solyman to consult with my friend. The Siamese and English Countries have been on friendly terms from the most remote times, and my friend should settle how the friendship with Siam may not be destroyed and how a good understanding may be promoted.

Whatever may be my friend's determination, he will send a letter to inform me.

Moreover, if there are any evil disposed Malays who bring false intelligence, in order to create distrust on the part of the English against the Siamese (the Siamese and English have been long on friendly

terms, and trade has been conducted between them, and the Siamese use many Goods of the English, and I am desirous to promote greater friendship even than formerly), the Siamese have no bad intentions towards the English, and if any Malays come and give reports tending to excite suspicion, will my friend inform me by letter, in order that I may point out the proper road and let my friend know.

Dated Thursday 17th of 7th Month Year Fowl,
or 2d June.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt

Penang

6th June 1825.

NOTE. In the first part of the last paragraph, there is evidently a word or two omitted. The translation is as literal as possible.

(Sd.) J. A.

Enclosure 2 in
the President's
Minute.

Translation

of a letter from the Rajah of Perak to Aluang Packli
Juta Minister of the Chow Pya of Ligore.

(After many Compliments.)

With respect to the Country of Perak which has, for many years past, been tributary to Siam, and has sent the Boonga Mas dan Perak (Gold and Silver Flower) the great King of Siam has been pleased, of his favor, to place it under the superintendence of the Chow Pya of Ligore, and myself, the Rajah Mooda, Rajah Bandahara and all the Ministers in Perak are very happy that the Country is under the control of the Chow Pya of Ligore, we retaining the executive administration of the Country.

Perak is quite unconnected with Salengore, but when the Chow Pya of Ligore sent Che Hat with prows to return the Rajah Bandahara, and to convey the Tin which accompanied the Boonga Mas, and some other Tin as an offering from us all, which was to be forwarded to the Chow Pya of Ligore, together with a small quantity of Tin belonging to the different Pangulus of * Prows, which they had themselves purchased, as my brother the Rajah Kechil Mooda and the Orang Kaya besar well knows; just as Che Hat was about to quit Perak, and return to Quedah, the Rajah of Salengore arrived, accompanied by the Rajah Mooda and Rajah Hussein, with a force of Armed Prows, and attacked the Prows belonging to Che Hat and the other Pangulus who were on the point of returning to Quedah.

I and all my family and attendants fled and went to reside up the River, and Che Hat with all his people also fled and escaped across the Country to Quedah. Afterwards the Rajah of Salengore by force established Rajah Hassan at Kwala Bedor, and the Perak people who wished to go and purchase Salt and other Articles, he would not permit to pass.

Rajah Hassan has committed many acts of oppression upon the Ryots of the Perak Country who are in very great distress. I have frequently entreated an Armament, but it has not yet pleased the Chow Pya to send it. I now send my Brother the Rajah Kechil Mooda, the Orang Kaya besar, Sri Paduka and, Maharajah Selea to present themselves before the Chow Pya of Ligore, for the purpose of communicating to him every thing relating to the Government of the Perak Country, to explain all circumstances, and also to request a Siamese Armament to be sent here for the purpose of settling every thing decidedly in order that the Ryots may enjoy tranquillity and comfort.

Further, this year, at the proper season, the Boonga Mas dan Perak must be sent to the Capital; but there is a great want of Prows to convey it. When my brother Rajah Mooda Kechil and the Orang Kaya besar are about to return, I request that Prows may be sent to receive the Boonga Mas dan Perak, and the offerings to be sent to the Capital.

Dated 27th of Jeniad-ul-awal (Janry.) Monday 1240.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

the 6 June 1825.

Enclosure 3 in
the President's
Minute.

Translation

of a Statement purporting to be from the Rajah Kechil Mooda, Orang Kaya besar, Sri Lela Paduka, Maharaja Selia and Paduka Sri Nara, Chiefs of the Perak Country, to Aluang Packdi Juta, Minister of the Chow Pya of Ligore.

We the Rajah Kechil Mooda, Orang Kaya besar, Sri Lela Paduka, Maharajah Selia, and Paduka Sri Nara, Chiefs of Perak, beg to acquaint Aluang Packdi Juta, and respectfully request him to inform the Chow Pya of Ligore, that we have been directed to present ourselves before the Chow Pya, for the purpose of communicating all circumstances respecting Perak and Salengore, and the former differences.

The boundary between Perak and Salengore is the River Burnam. In the time of * *Morhum Bongsu*, the Grandfather of the King who now governs the Perak Country, the place called Rantan Panjang (Long reach) was established. When the present Rajah of Salengore came and attacked the Country formerly, the Morhum Bongsu and all the Chiefs fled, and took up their residence further up the River, establishing themselves at Kwala Trus, a little beyond Rantan Panjang.

The Salengore Armament attempted to push up, but was prevented, and the Rajah of Salengore was not permitted to have an interview with the King of Perak and Chiefs of the Country. The Rajah of Salengore returned to his own Country. About a year after this, Morhum Bongsu died, and all the Chiefs assembled and raised his Son to the throne. This was † *Morhum Jemalula*; about 3 months after his accession, a letter was received from the Rajah of Salengore, requesting some territory in Perak, from Kwala Trus as far as the River Perak, saying it belonged to him, and that he had taken it by force of arms.

* This was Sultan Mahomed Tawse Udeen or Tujudin.
Morhum Bongsu is his designation after death.

† This was Sultan Mansur Shah.

The Morhum Jemalula replied to the letter that nobody had given that territory to the Rajah of Salengore, nor had the Rajah of Salengore met and consulted with the Chiefs of Perak upon the subject. The Rajah of Salengore was very angry, and prepared an armament to attack Perak again. Morhum Jemalula fortified at Kota Lumut, and when the Salengore fleet arrived and attacked Kota Lumut, they did not gain any advantage.

The Salengore armament having been beaten off for a time, retreated to Kwala Bidor, and they several times returned and renewed the attack on Kota Lumut, but never succeeded in their attempts. While these proceedings were going on, the Rajah of Salengore made overtures of settling the matter by negociation. At last he said "do not let us fight any more, the territory from Kwala Bidor to Kwala Perak is enough for me." Morhum Jemalula replied that the Ministers of Perak were not even disposed to give him the limited territory requested by the Rajah of Salengore, who again replied to the Rajah of Perak, "if you are not satisfied, let us enquire the custom amongst the Chiefs of some other Countries, and how matters of this sort are adjusted, in order that we may conform to the same usage:" They accordingly exchanged Engagements to this effect, and promised that in the course of 3 months they would ascertain from some other Rajahs the custom as before noticed. The Salengore Armament then quitted the Perak Country. Two Guns were given to the Rajah of Perak at the same time.

Many years afterwards, orders were received from the great King of Siam, directing the Rajah of Quedah to prepare an armament and attack Perak, and Perak was conquered. After this, the Rajah of Salengore sent a demand to the Rajah of Perak for the price of the two Guns (500 Dollars) and His Majesty paid the sum in question, and settled the price in the presence

of the Datu Bandahara, the Datu Laxamana, and the Chiefs of the Quedah Country who were there at the time; the discussion relative to the territory was dropped.

Not long after this Morhum Jemalula died, and Rajah Abdullah his Son ascended the throne and took charge of the affairs of Government. About a year after his accession, the Rajah Mooda Son of the Rajah of Salengore entered Perak, and had a meeting with Rajah Abdullah, who had become King of Perak. He had nothing to communicate, but remained about a month at Perak, when there arrived four Chiefs from Salengore, named To Aran, To Pengawa, To Jeram and Panglima Burnam, bringing a letter demanding the territory as before mentioned.

The Rajah of Perak replied "when the Quedah armament was formerly here, why did you not claim the territory then; now the Perak Country has become tributary to the great King of Siam, and if you have any claims, let us go to Siam and refer it." The four Chiefs of Salengore above named replied "the Rajahs of Perak and Salengore are like brothers, if we proceed to Siam, it will look as if they were disputing, and such a Mission would be attended with much difficulty and loss; it would also tend to destroy confidence and excite jealousy between the Rajahs of Perak and Salengore. If the Rajah of Perak is disposed to listen to our advice, let him pay 30 Bahars of Tin." The Rajah Mooda of Salengore sanctioned this proposal. Upon consideration, the Rajah of Perak also consented to it; because it was not worth while to excite a difference between Brothers for a little. He accordingly paid 30 Bahars of Tin, which was received by the Rajah Mooda of Salengore and the 4 Chiefs above named, and the matter was settled; upon which the Rajah Mooda and the 4 Chiefs returned to Salengore.

It was not long subsequent to this, that accounts

were received of the Chow Pya's armanent having come to Quedah, and of the Rajah of Quedah's having fled to Pulo Penang, to reside there. At the same time the Rajah of Perak received a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore, directing the transmission of the Boonga Mas dan Perak. The Rajah of Perak prepared it, and ordered the Rajah Bandahara, Tuanko Ja-hiya, Sri Adeku Rajah To Peggah, Maharaja Addenda, and Rajah Ahmut to convey it across the Country to embark in prows at Trong, and from thence to Quedah to the Chow Pya of Ligore. The Chow Pya of Ligore received the Boonga Mas dan Perak, but the presents and offerings which should have accompanied it could not be brought.

The Chow Pya of Ligore prepared the Boonga Mas dan Perak with suitable accompaniments of presents instead of those which should have been brought from Perak, and transmitted them to the Capital. When the Rajah Bandahara and the Datus and Chiefs of Perak, who conveyed the Boonga Mas dan Perak, were ready to return from Quedah, the Chow Pya of Ligore sent 40 Prows with Arms large and small, and otherwise properly equipped, in order to convey the Rajah Bandahara to Perak, and he requested permission to pass through the Straits of Pulo Penang; the former Governor of Pulo Penang granted permission and sent two Cruizers to the Kwala Mooda to receive the Prows, and accompany them as far as Pulo Kra.

When the Rajah Bandahara and all the Chiefs in Perak prepared Tin as an offering to the extent of 52 Bahars; a further quantity of 75 Bahars in lieu of the presents which should have accompanied the Boonga Mas, (and which were supplied by the Rajah of Ligore,) also a quantity of Tin belonging to the Nackodahs of the vessels, which they had purchased at Perak, to the extent of 78 Bahars—in all 205 Bahars, and the Prows were about to return to Quedah, the Rajah of Salengore,

Rajah Mooda, and Rajah Hassan with a fleet of Prows came and attacked and plundered the Prows brought by Che Hat, and the Panglimas of distinction, who were sent to accompany the Rajah Bandahara on his return, without any cause, and all the Prows, &c. fell into the hands of the Rajah of Salengore.

The Rajah of Perak and the Rajah Bandahara ascended the River, and all the people who accompanied the Rajah Bandahara returned across the Country to Quedah. The Rajah of Salengore then stationed his Nephew Rajah Hassan at Kwala Bidor in the Perak Country who exacts all the duties by force, for his own benefit, and prohibits trading vessels and the people of the Country from passing up and down to buy and sell at the Town where the Rajah of Perak resides, by which all the Ryots are involved in much distress.

Wherefore the Rajah of Perak has sent us the Rajah Kechil Mooda, Orang Kaya besar, Sri Lela Paduka, Maharaja Selia, and Paduka Sri Nara, Chiefs of Perak to represent to the Chow Pyna of Ligore, the distresses of the Perak Country, and to request a Siamese Armament to be sent to settle everything at Perak, according to the custom of countries that are tributary, so that we and all the Ryots of the Perak Country may live with ease and tranquillity. Such is our representation. Dated 29 Shaban, April.

Chop
of
Rajah Kechil
Mooda.

Chop
of
Orang Kaya
besar.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.

Malay Transr. to Govt,

The 6 June 1825.

NOTE.

The Paper, of which the foregoing is a translation, bears the Chops of only two of the 5 Perak Chiefs named. It is evidently fabricated by the Siamese, with the aid of some of the Perak Chiefs mentioned, who are still at Quedah. There are several words in the letter which are scarcely known to the generality of Malays, and it is easy to discover from the style altogether that the Paper is not the genuine production of the Perak Chiefs. The hand writing is familiar to me, and my Native Writer says it is that of Che Hat, the person alluded to in this paper, and who is one of the Envoys now here. In the course of conversation at Government House yesterday, he admitted that the representation had been written by the Perak Chiefs at Ligore.

(Signed) J. A.

Enclosure 4 in
the President's
Minute.

Translation

of a letter from Chow Pya of Ligore to the Honorable
the Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

With respect to the English having attacked
Ava, the great King of Siam is extremely delighted, for
there has never, from the remotest times, been a good
understanding between Ava and Siam; he is anxious
to hear the news, and to be informed of all particulars
with respect to the War, how matters stand, how
many Towns in Ava have been taken &c. I there-
fore request my friend to write and inform me of
these particulars, in order that I may forward the
intelligence to the Capital.

Further, I send Aluang Wat Akani, a Siamese
from the Capital, Aluang Pichei Peluppo, Koon Aksorn,
Che Hat, and Che Solyman, to look for muskets for
my children to play with. I spoke to Mr. Maingy
about these Muskets. They also wish to purchase
some other goods which are required to some extent.
I therefore request that my friend will permit them to
make purchases agreeably to what is mentioned in
this letter; do not let them experience any difficulty.

Further, I wish the people who are now sent to
be acquainted with my friend; I therefore request
that Aluang Wat Akani, Aluang Pichei Peluppo, Koon
Aksorn, Che Hat and Che Solyman may have an
interview with my friend, in order that intercourse
may be easy, and that friendship may be maintained.

Dated Thursday 14th Shawal 1240 or 2d. June
1825.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

6th June 1825.

**Enclosure 5 in
the President's
Minute.**

Translation

of a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore to the Malay
Translator to Government.

(After Compliments,)

(This letter is practically a duplicate of Enclosure
No. 4, addressed to the Governor of Pulo Penang. It
is therefore not copied here.)

Enclosure 6 in
the President's
Minute.

TO THE RAJAH OF LIGORE.

I have received your Highness's letter dated 17th of 7th Month Year Fowl sent by the hands of your Envoys Aluang Wat Akani, Aluang Pichei Peluppo, Koon Aksorn, Che Hat and Che Solyman, and it becomes my duty to reply to these letters in the plain and simple language of truth, rather than of useless courtesy and idle compliment.

For the last four years, ever since you took possession of Quedah, your professions of friendship to Mr. Phillips my Predecessor and myself have been unbounded. Those professions have been met by us both with sincerity. The War between the British and the Burmese, the natural and long continued enemies of the Siamese, led me to cultivate with redoubled anxiety the friendship of the Siamese Chiefs in this neighbourhood, and of whom your Highness is the principal. It was my desire to open with you such an intercourse as would enable me to communicate occasionally the progress of the War and to explain all matters connected with the mutual interests of the British and Siamese on this side of the Peninsula, and to obtain from you such assistance in respect to Boats and Carriage as your Highness might be disposed to give in prosecution of the War.

It was with this view that Lieutt. Low was sent to you by my predecessor, and Captain Burney by myself. Instead of receiving those Gentlemen, as your Envoys were received here, you refused them permission to cross the Country to Ligore. You promised indeed to meet the latter Gentleman at Quedah, and sure enough you have arrived there, but in what a guise, not as a Chief come on friendly terms with a retinue only adequate to your rank and station, but accompanied by 300 Prows, the most of them armed with Guns, by many thousand men accompanied

by Chiefs from Mardelong Sangora and other places each with their quota of Troops. You are come at the head of an Armament which can leave no doubt on the minds of any reasonable man that some hostile Enterprize is in your view. You have professed your readiness and desire to cooperate with the British against the Burmahs; the Emperor of Siam has made the same professions. The Prah Klang has stated that an Army has been sent to aid the British force. We must judge of men's minds by their actions, and not by their words, and how am I to reconcile your actions and professions? The Burmahs have been in possession of the Coast of Tenasserim for fifty years, they plundered Junk Ceylon only in 1810, they carried on their plunder and devastation down to the neighbourhood of Poongah. The British Troops have taken Mergui, Tavoy and Tenasserim, they have placed themselves between you and the Burmahs, relieved the States of Rindong Poongah and your own from all alarm, and instead of assisting the British according to your professions, your first act is to collect the Military resources of those very States, and come down in hostile array against a British Settlement, to the Governor of which you are making daily protestations of friendship and regard. What has my friend to answer to this?

In respect to what your Highness writes of the affairs of Perak and Salengore, it is necessary to bring past circumstances to the recollection of your Highness. The British Government occupied this Island for the purposes of trade, extension of their territory has never been their object, nor have they wished or desired to intermeddle with the disputes of their neighbours. It is not their wish to do so now, further than indispensably necessary for their own security. Following this forbearing course, you have been allowed to expel the King of Quedah, an old friend of the English, and to occupy his country. You have

been allowed to impose upon Perak feudatory vassalage and to cause them to transmit the Boonga Mas which was never done before. Those were not Siamese but ancient independent Malay States, and now you intimate a desire to send Prows to Salengore. My friend where is this to end? The British Government have Settlements South of Salengore, and it is not considered consistent with their security to allow an Armed force to possess themselves of that Country and therefore I must caution you against any attempt of that kind, because it may probably create dissention between the British and the Siamese Government. As to my allowing any Armed Prows to pass between this Island and the main land, the thing cannot be done. If one State allows a free passage of hostile Armaments through its Territory to attack a third State it is always considered an act of hostility. We are on friendly terms with the Rajah of Salengore. I cannot grant a passage and facilitate an attack upon a friend. With respect to all disputes, I will write to the Rajah of Salengore and obtain his explanation on the subject, and let you know the result. When disputes arise between neighbouring States, they are best settled by the mediation of a common friend.

Your Highness writes me not to attend to the reports brought by Malays, Chinese and other ill disposed persons. I tell your Highness in reply, as I have said already, that I judge not from words which are deceitful things, but from facts known to myself. I know very well you have at least 300 Armed Prows at Quedah. I know also that Prows with Guns and Armed men in them are not required for the peaceable purposes of trade; it is only for that purpose that your Prows can have any business here, and if any such come towards this Island armed as above, I must consider they come with hostile intent, and shall treat them accordingly.

Your Highness says you will send no Prows South

of Quedah without informing me, so far your promise is satisfactory ; but I expect also that you will send no Troops near the Company's Territory, where they have never been posted before, they cannot be wanted there, as you know very well we have never had any intention of attacking you, and if Troops appear in that direction, I conclude they come with hostile intent and shall act accordingly.

I beg your Highness to recollect that the first aggressor is not he that strikes in his own defence, but he that comes to make the attack, and your Highness will keep in mind, that it is you that have fitted out and armed 300 Prows, and brought them near us we did not come to you. This is but a small Island but it is a part of a great Empire, and Ligore belongs to the Emperor of Siam. It is not here therefore, it is not between the Governor of Penang and the Rajah of Ligore, but in another place that the battle must be fought. As Dependents of great Kingdoms, it is your duty, as well as mine, to avoid giving just cause of hostility.

Your professions of peace and friendship are strong, if you wish them to be believed, your mode of proceeding is very plain ; it is as clear as the sun at noon day—send away your Boats, dismiss the Malays whom you have pressed, dismiss the Troops you have collected, let your actions be in conformity with your words, and when you have done all this, but not before, I will believe your professions ; until that is done no faith can be reposed in any protestation, and the sending of Envoys to repeat them will be in vain.

This letter contains many things which will not be pleasing to your Highness. It is not such a letter as I have been accustomed to write to you, but in serious affairs it is our custom to write seriously and with sincerity and truth. In writing this letter I have performed a painful duty and I conclude by assuring

you, that there is nothing I so earnestly desire as to remain at peace with your Highness, and that nothing but necessity will induce me to act with hostility, and if by persevering in your present line of conduct you render such inevitable, I have done my duty, and be the consequences on your own head.

Respecting the war with the Burmahs, I have to acquaint your Highness that General Campbell has marched from Rangoon to Prome with 8,000 men; that the Country of Bassein has been taken possession of; that General Morrison having subdued Arracan has proceeded with his Army of 12,000 men to join General Campbell at Prome. Ten thousand men (European Soldiers) are arrived at Rangoon, and will join the rest to go against Ummerapoora, and the great Powers in England having heard of the War with the Burmahs, has directed 20,000 select European Troops to be sent out, which may be expected by the Ships which arrive from England at this season of the year at Bengal Madras and Bombay. Other minor particulars relative to the War have been made known to your Envoys.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

9th June 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
(unpaged.)

FORT CORNWALLIS The 10 June 1825.

"READ the following Information of a Malay man, relative to the Proceedings of the Siamese at Quedah, submitted by the Malay Translator to Government.

Information of
Santu, a Malay
man, 4 June
1825.

INFORMATION of SANTU, a Malay lad, inhabitant of Province Wellesley, his family residing at Sungei Tumbus.

Went to Quedah about two months ago to purchase Rice: on the arrival of the Rajah of Ligore he was forced to enter into His Highness's service as a Soldier. He was afraid, and not liking the duty, he got a small Canoe from a friend of his, and escaped at night. On his way here he fell in with one of Mr. Maingy's row boats, which brought him up to Town this morning to the Malay Translator.

Santu reports that there were about 140 Prows in the Quedah River, on Friday night last he saw a great number more Prows enter the River, at least 200 in his opinion. These Prows proceeded at once up the River to Allustar. He understood that 300 Elephants had arrived from Ligore, and remained some distance above Quedah. The Siamese were daily collecting all the Malays from all parts of the Country.

The Siamese are constructing a very large Stockade at a place called Guroon, at the source of the small river *Jan* on the Northern side of the Mountain Jerei, or nearly half distance between Quedah and Penang. There are 800 men busily employed on this stockade.

They are constructing another Stockade up the Kwala Mooda about a day's journey from the Mouth of the River. Here there are only about 200 men employed.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator.

4th June 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 101,
(unpaged).
Rajah of Perak
1 June 1825.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 10 June 1825.

RAJAH of PERAK.

Translation

of a Letter from the King of Perak to the Honble.
Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

I duly received the letter which my friend sent by Sovelin, with great respect and pleasure. I perused it and fully comprehend the contents. My friend acquaints me of his having assumed charge of the Government of Pulo Penang and its Dependencies. This is extremely satisfactory.

My friend expresses his desire to preserve a good understanding between the two Countries, and to continue the friendly intercourse which has long subsisted. I am very much pleased with this; formerly it was as stated by my friend, but at present Perak is under the Government of the Siamese which prevents me daring to express any wish of my heart to my friend, for it might possibly give offence to the King of Siam.

I am therefore afraid to propose anything upon any subject at present, for I am a poor man; my friend's better understanding will enable him to consider how a friendly intercourse between Perak and Pulo Penang may best be promoted, and how friendship may be increased. Dated 11th Rajap.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

1st June 1825.

NOTE. The letter to which this is a reply was a Circular from the Honble. the Governor announcing his arrival.

FORT WILLIAM 10th June 1825,

No. 6. To the Resident at Singapore.

To J. CRAWFURD Esqr.

Resident at Singapore.

Sec. Dep. Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated 20th and 30th April, forwarding Copies of your correspondence with the Siamese Minister on the subject of the promised co-operation of that nation with the British Government in the war against the state of Ava.

* See Factory
Records, Straits
Settlements
Vol. 101, 102.

2. The Governor General in Council desires me to state that experience has shewn the Siamese promises of co-operation, to be wholly delusive. The only Armaments which they have prepared have acted in an unfriendly manner and proved a source of embarrassment to us, as the accompanying Copies of dispatches * from the Officers commanding at Mergui and Tavoy will fully apprise you. An Army made its appearance for a short time in the Martaban district (after it had been conquered by our Arms) commanded by some of the Talien Chiefs ; but events clearly evinced that those Chiefs were intent only on the prosecution of their own personal views, and finding these were not likely to be gained through our interposition, they suddenly retired in March last.

3. His Lordship in Council farther observes that the time has long passed when Siamese co-operation could have been of any value to us, even had that Government been disposed to exert itself cordially against the common Enemy. It is desirable, therefore, that all solicitations for the assistance of the Court of Siam in the Burman War, should cease, but Government of course sanctions the steps which you have

already taken for that purpose, under your former instructions including the present of brass Ordnance now reported.

4. I am directed to take this opportunity of transmitting to you, Copy of an important dispatch from the Governor General in Council, to the Government of Prince of Wales Island, dated 13th May * and of the provisional instructions * and letters * furnished to Captain Burney, in contemplation of his proceeding as an Envoy from the Right Honorable the Governor General to His Majesty the King of Siam.

* See Factory
Records Straits,
Settlements.
Vol. 102.

I have &c

(Signed) G. SWINTON
Secretary to Govt.

FORT WILLIAM
10th June 1825.

FORT WILLIAM 17th June 1825.

Information of Shimyep or Sihimyen a Chinese man of the Tribe Chouk, Prisoner in the House of Correction.

Informant is by Trade a Goldsmith, and has been for some time employed of a master Goldsmith, a Macao Chinese named Hinneoo of the Tribe Cheong, who lives near the market place in George Town. Whilst in this man's employ about eight (8) months ago, Informant was invited to join a Hungsee or Club to which his Master belonged, the head man or manager of which is the Chinese Watchmaker Appoo. All persons joining the Club were obliged to do so under an oath that they would when required, or in any public commotion join the members thereof. This Club is termed the Ghe chin, and is very numerous. Informant understood that they had stores of spears and other Weapons which were deposited in different places—some he heard were kept in the House or Premises of the Arrack Farmer. On joining each member pays five (5) Dollars entrance money, and takes the aforesaid oath.

Not having the means of paying the entrance Money, and not wishing to take the oath prescribed Informant never joined the Club.

The Macao Chinese have two (2) other Clubs of this kind in George Town, one of which is called the Hoo Sing, and the other the Hy San—and held one near Ujong Passir, and the other in the Prangin Roads. Following is a List of the Head men, or managers of these Clubs and places they are held in.

	Places	Managers	Occupation.
Ghe chin	Church }	Boon }	Watch }
	Street }	Appoo }	Maker }
Hoo }	Ujong }	Hoh }	Shop }
Sing }	Passer }	Hew }	Keeper }
Hy }	Praugin }	Loh }	Shop }
San }	Roads }	Allak }	Keeper }

Informant has heard that Achong Lowe Ammee's Son is a member of both the Hy Sing and Hy San Clubs, and that when he lately went from here to Ligore, he was desired to communicate to the Siamese, that there were but few People now at Penang, and that it was a good opportunity for attacking it if the Siamese were inclined to do so—upon being asked who informed this? he gives no direct answer and only says he heard so.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER.

There are seven (7) or eight (8) Chinese Clubs (or Hooeys) in this Island, some of which have been established several years. The avowed object of these institutions is the relief of indigent Brethren, and particularly to defray in a decent manner the funeral expences of members dying without that means. Owing to the propensity of the Chinese to conspiracies, these Hooeys are I understand strictly forbidden in China. Here they are formed chiefly, if not solely, among what are termed the Canton or Macao Chinese, of whom there may be about three thousand (3,000) in this Island. The Chinchoo Chinese may, if they please, become members of these associations, and some of the Chinchoos are said to belong to them, but they are chiefly composed of the Canton Chinese, between whom and the Chinchoos great jealousy and often hostility prevails.

When the Rajah of Ligore was at Kedah about Two and a half ($2\frac{1}{2}$) or three (3) years ago, he carried on a good deal of secret correspondence with the Canton or Macao Chinese of this Place, got numbers of them to go in some Junks he equipped, and sent them to cruize to the Northward of and about Junk Ceylon where they were reported, and I believe with some truth, to have committed atrocious acts of Piracy.

The Informant Choah Shimyep is a Chinchoo Chinese.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER.

Printed for private circulation.

THE
BURNNEY PAPERS

Vol. II.

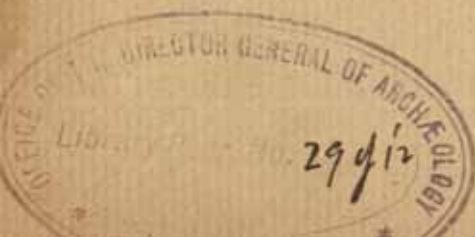
PART II.

(May 1824 to July 1826.)

Printed by order of the Vajirañāṇa National Library.

BANGKOK

1911.



TO THE HONORABLE

W. E. PHILLIPS, Esq.

Governor in Council

Prince of Wales Island.

Honorable Sir,

Sect. Dept.

5. Should the difficulty of procuring boats in sufficient number for the conveyance of the troops to the capital prove insurmountable, it will be left to the discretion of the officer commanding the expedition, and the Political Agent to determine in what manner we may best distress the Enemy by the capture of his maritime possessions on the coast of Tenasserim and Martaban. It is not unlikely therefore, that we may take Tavoy, Merghui, and Junk Ceylon. In such an event it has occurred to us, that the occupation of these places may afford an opportunity of making a desirable arrangement with the Government of Siam, by our offering to give His Siamese Majesty possession of one or more of them, on the condition of his restoring to the Rajah of Queda his Country, and relinquishing for ever, all claims of supremacy over that petty State. We should of course stipulate at the same time with the Rajah that in return for our good offices, he relinquishes all claim to the annual quit rent for Prince of Wales' Island. We shall be happy to be favored with a communication of your sentiments on these points.

6. We desire also to leave to your discretion the time and mode of communicating to the Government of Siam, the fact of our being actually at war with the Burmese, and the extent of encouragement to be held out to the former, to avail themselves of this opportunity, of recovering the possessions which have

been wrested from them. We shall direct a copy of this letter to be transmitted to the Resident at Singapore, who will also be instructed to make such communication to the Siamese, as may appear expedient, regulating his conduct in that respect by the views and sentiments which you may entertain on this point, and which we request you will be pleased to intimate to him as soon as may be convenient.

We have &c.

(Signed) AMHERST

(„) J. FENDALL

Fort William

12th March 1824.

A true Copy

Geo. Swinton

Secy. to the Govt.

FORT WILLIAM 21st May 1824.

(Extracts)

No. 8.

To G. Swinton Esq.

Secy. to the Govt. FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

* * * * *

The objects of the Burman Embassy to the Court of Cochin China, was to form an Offensive Alliance for the Conquest and entire subjugation of the kingdom of Siam which is called by the Burman Court without hesitation a rebel Province. In this View a total failure has attended the Mission. The Members of it were not permitted to come to the Court at all and never proceeded further than Saigon where they appear to have been detained above nine months.

The Court of Cochin China on this occasion, not only declined to enter into an offensive Alliance against the Siamese, but shewed a strong reluctance to maintain any close intercourse whatever with the Burman nation deeming the connexion to be one which promised no benefit to either party.

* * * * *

The English Vessel Marianna returned from Siam on the 31st of last month making a successful adventure and receiving on the part of the Siamese Government a treatment more fair and liberal than had hitherto been experienced by an European or American vessel. The adventurers are in consequence of this favorable disposition now preparing for a second voyage.

By this opportunity, I have had the honor to receive favorable replies to the letters addressed to his Highness the Prince Krom Chiat, and the Siamese Minister on the 9th of Septr. last. No observation has been made upon the letter of Govt. transmitted at the same time, but its receipt is acknowledged by a present of Eagle Wood for the Right Honble. the Govr. Genl. in return for the gifts which were transmitted from this place. And the silence of the Siamese Court may fairly be viewed as an acquiescence in the remonstrance which it contained.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Rest.

Singapore

22d April 1824.

FORT WILLIAM 21st May 1824.

{Extracts}.

An Account of the late Mission from the Court of Ava to that of Cochin China. Extracted from the Notes of One of the Members of the Mission. 22 April 1824.

° ° ° ° °

No. 9.

They (the Ambassadors) observed that they did not consider the intercourse between the Burmans and Cochin Chinese a matter of any difficulty since the one was in possession of the Northern and the other of the Southern extremity of the great River of Camboja and if the Siamese who occupied the centre, were conquered every difficulty would be removed and an easy intercourse carried on.....

The Ambassadors insisted that the Siamese were rebels, having been frequently conquered by the Burmans and that their subjugation was a point on which His present Burman's Majesty was resolved.

° ° ° ° °

June 20th [1823]. The Cambojians on this occasion expressed much dislike of the Siamese, but the Burman Ambassadors tho' thro' dislike feigned to please the Cochin Chinese as he was convinced that the Cambojians are at present much more oppressed than they were under the Siamese Govt.

June 30th.....The Govr. Genl. asked the Burmans whether they were in earnest when they said they intended to make war on the Siamese and he added that in his opinion there must also be a war between the English and Siamese on account of the Raja of Queda and the Seizure of his Country. The first Member of the Mission replied that he had heard nothing of a

war between the Siamese and English during his residence at Prince Wales Island.

* ° ° ° °

July 10th.....The ambassadors also dwelt on the circumstance of having the King of Queda as an ally and the facilities which the King of Ava had for raising a Naval force for the purpose of laying waste the Sea Coast of the Siamese Territory on account of the number of Seafaring Strangers residing in his Territories. The Secretary replied with Candour. He said that His Excellency the Govr. Genl. was well acquainted with the Members of the Siamese forces, their discipline and the Siamese mode of conducting war but he was perfectly ignorant of the nature of the Burman Army and their habits of warfare.

° ° ° ° °

His Excellency asked whether it was probable there would be war between the English and Siamese on account of the protection which the former gave to the King of Queda under pretence that he was their ally, while in fact he was a Subject and Tributary of Siam. The 1st Minister replied that the English were too powerful a people for the Siamese to attempt any thing against. His Excellency said that he supposed the English had an eye on Junk Ceylon, Pulo Sada, Queda, and Perak, which would render Penang the centre of a large trade and that the Malay Peninsula was now necessary to support Penang as she had lost the trade of the Eastern Countries thro' the means of Singapore. The 1st Member of the Mission answered that thro' * might probably be the case for that the English were great Politicians that they did nothing without a reason and would never make war on the Siamese unless the latter were aggressors but that they never put up with insults . . . Today they were informed of the arrival of the Aunt of the King of Camboja. This Lady was the wife of a Siamese Prince

* ? this.

who after his death and having no Children by him retired to her own Country.

She expressed a wish to have some conversation with the Siamese Interpreter to the Burman Mission and he went accordingly: this affair was misrepresented to the Govr. and in consequence Ong Bok the Guardian of the Mission was severely reprimanded. An old Mandarin of inferior rank attached to the Mission was punished by the Wooden Collar, and Antonio the Portuguese Interpreter received blows.

* * * * *

Octr. 31st - - - The Mission about this time received Intelligence that the Siamese Govt. having come to the knowledge of the Correspondence which is carrying on between Ava and Cochin China had begun to fortify the City of Bangkok and had doubled the chain or bomb which crosses the river Menam. Even the Chinese inhabitants who are not usually called upon on such occasions were employed upon this work.

* * * * *

FORT WILLIAM 21st May 1824.

Bengal Secret
and Political
Consultations,
Vol. 322.
No. 10.

Notes respecting the Conquest of the Burman
Province of Tavoy and Mergui. 19 April 1824.

° ° ° ° °

(Extracts.)

The Provinces of Tavoy and Mergui formed a portion of the Siamese Territory until conquered between 40 or 50 years ago by the Burmans. The inhabitants are however neither Burmans nor Siamese but a peculiar race with a language of their own. They are called by the Siamese Meng - - -

It is with much difficulty that the Burmans are able to maintain these 2 Provinces, even against the feeble attacks of the Siamese. In fact they are removed from the strength and resources of both Nations. They could only be easily conquered, or effectually protected by a Maritime force which neither nation can supply. On the land side they are everywhere rendered difficult to approach by ranges of mountains and extensive forests thro' which a Burman or Siamese Army cannot be led to any effectual purpose owing to the difficulty or impossibility of provisioning and keeping them together which is incident to their barbarous modes of warfare.

° ° ° ° °

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 1.

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE. LORD AMHERST

Governor General in Council

FORT WILLIAM

My Lord,

* Copied from
Home Series Misc
Vol. 682.

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the several Dispatches of Your Lordship in Council dated 27th Jany. and 12th March^o and we lose no time in reporting the proceedings which we have adopted and are about to adopt thereupon.

Previous to the receipt of the first of these Dispatches, our President had opened a Negotiation with the Rajah of Ligor under the following Circumstances. The Court of Ava having deputed some Envoys with letters and presents to the King of Kedda at this Settlement, in return for an application which His Highness had secretly, and very imprudently made for assistance against the Siamese Govt., The Governor took advantage of the presence of these Envoys to work on the fear of the Rajah of Ligure by forwarding a letter to him notifying their arrival and object here, and offering his mediation towards removing the existing differences between Siam and the King of Kedda.

The Rajah of Ligure fulfilled the expectations of our President by an immediate reply to his letter, expressing his readiness to acquiesce in an adjustment of the Affairs of Kedda, and unable himself to repair to Kedda he deputed two Messengers to this Settlement for the purpose of receiving and discussing our President's propositions. After several conferences, therefore, with these Messengers and the King of Kedda The Honble. the Governor drew up the terms

of an Agreement upon which he proposed the latter should be reinstated in his Kingdom, and a Copy of these terms the Messengers engaged to convey without delay to their Master at Ligore.

In this stage of the Negotiations Your Lordship's Dispatch of the 27th of Jany. and a copy of the declaration of Hostilities against the Burmese Govt. reached us whereupon our President, with the assistance of Lieutt. Low, an Officer who has acquired a thorough knowledge of the Siamese language, explained fully to the Rajah of Ligore's Messengers the Causes of our rupture with Ava, and its probable effects on our relations with Siam, and furnished them with a Correct Siamese Translation of your Lordship's Proclamation of the 6th of March, with which these people hurried back to Ligore.

■ This enclosure appears to be the documents which follow.

In the Enclosure marked A * we beg to submit for the further information of Your Lordship in Council, Copies of the different Letters and Minutes that our President has recorded, fully detailing the nature and progress of his Negotiations with the Rajah of Ligore, which he has endeavoured strictly to regulate according to the equitable and moderate line marked out in the different instructions received from the Supreme Govt.

We now beg to reply to your Lordship's important dispatch of the 12th ulto.

* * * *

(Here follow particulars of measures proposed to be adopted for aiding the attack on Ava.)

The observations of your Lordship in Council with respect to the Rajah of Ligore have further induced us to determine on deputing Lieutt. Low immediately to His Highness at Ligore, for the

purpose of enabling him more effectually to comprehend the nature of our intended operation against Ava, of inviting him to afford us his aid and co-operation, so far as to dispatch forthwith to Rangoon, either on his own account or on some fixed rate of hire to this Govt. all the Boats and small Vessels which he can Command at Trang and the different Ports of Kedda.

We feel considerable hesitation in holding out any encouragement to His Highness of Ligore to attack the Southern Possessions of Ava, until we ascertain the progress of the British Troops at Rangoon. Should these immediately obtain all the objects of the war, we might be embarrassed by the situation into which the Rajah of Ligore would find himself under an implied pledge of support or protection from us. In Enclosure B. are Copies of a letter from our Marine Department and of the Instructions with which we propose to furnish Lieutt. Low,* and we here only beg to add, that Junk Ceylon according to our latest advices, is in the possession of the Siamese.

* To be copied
later from Straits
Settlements,
Vol. 94.

We shall take an immediate opportunity of transmitting to the Resident at Singapore a copy of the present letter, as containing our views and sentiments on the subject of your Lordship's Dispatch, and we shall leave to his judgement and discretion what direct communication shall be made on this occasion to the Court of Siam. We shall only desire Lieutt. Low to request the Rajah of Ligore to transmit to that Court immediately from Ligore a Copy of the Correct Siamese Translation of your Lordship's Declaration of Hostilities. . . .

We have &c.

(Sd.) W. E. PHILLIPS
J. MACALISTER.
W. A. CLUBLEY.

Fort Cornwallis
the 26th April 1824.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

The President.

No. 2.

* No. 1 Letter from the
Minister of the King of Ava
to the King of Kedda.

No. 2 Letter from the
Rajah Tavoy to the King of
Kedda.

No. 3 Letter from the
Rajah of Tavoy to the Govr.
of Prince of Wales' Island.

These letters
follow this
document.

My Colleagues are of course aware of the arrival at the settlement of some Messengers of rank from the Birman Dominions; and I have now the honor to lay before them translations of letters* which they have brought for the King of Kedda and myself, accompanied by several Presents from the King of Ava, as well as for His Majesty of Kedda as for the Chiefs of Perak Salangore and Patani.

From these Documents we may learn that our Guest of Kedda has, notwithstanding our repeated and positive injunctions to the contrary, opened a correspondence with the Court of Ava, which has received most favorably his Application for aid and support against the Siamese, evincing in its reply, not only a willingness to interfere on his behalf, but an anxiety to render His Highness *tributary to itself in future*.

However displeased we may be with the Conduct of the King of Kedda for invoking the assistance of Ava without our knowledge and contrary to our desire, the mischief is now done; and as we cannot dismiss His Highness without throwing him into the Arms of Ava, it becomes our duty to consider what line of policy is most expedient for this Govt. to adopt on the present conjuncture.

The extension of the Birman power to this vicinity appears to me much more undesirable than that of the Siamese, in as much as the Court of Ava, with an equal portion of jealousy and prejudice towards the European character, possesses greater power and from its contact with our Eastern Continental Frontiers, is much more like to come into collision with the British

Govt. . It is our first duty however, and we owe it ourselves, and to our repeated earnest declarations of preserving a strict neutrality between the Siamese and the King of Kedda, to apprize the Rajah of Ligore of the arrival of these Ambassadors from the King of Ava and of the specific object for which they have been deputed without our concurrence or previous knowledge. Such a course of action is the more expedient because in making the communication to the Chief of Ligor we may perhaps render his fear of the Birman subservient to the accomplishment of our great object of restoring the King of Kedda to his ancient Dominions, and securing again the interposition of a friendly Malay Chief and State between us and the neighbouring haughty and barbarous Govt.

* These
 Dispatches will
 be copied later
 if found
 necessary.

Referring therefore to the sentiments expressed in the Dispatches of the Supreme Govt. under date the 25th Feby. 1824, 11th Jany. 1822 and the 20th Feby. 1823,^a wherein under certain circumstances this Govt. is authorized to offer its mediation for the adjustment of all disputes between Siam and Kedda, on the basis of the Rajah's holding his territory either on the Conditions which it may be shown by the Siamese he is bound to perform, regulated on principles of equity with reference to the resources of his state, or if more agreeable to the Siamese, under an engagement to pay a tribute in money in commutation of all other demands, for the punctual discharge of which we will be answerable; I beg to acquaint the Board that I have transmitted a Secret and Confidential Letter,^b of which the enclosed is a Copy, to the Rajah of Ligor, inviting him to repair to Kedda, and offering on his arrival there, to depute an Agent to him for the purpose of negotiating a fair and equitable adjustment of the subsisting differences between him and His Highness of Kedda.

* No. 4.

My Colleagues will I hope, observe in my letter, that at the same time that I have endeavoured to alarm

the Rajah of Ligor into an acceptance of my proferred mediation by holding out to him the prospect of an interference on the part of Ava, I have taken especial care to prevent any discredit resulting to the British Govt. from a refusal on his part, by distinctly marking that my offer proceeds solely from sentiments of general good will to neighbouring and friendly states. Should His Highness accept my communication in the spirit in which it has been made and repair to Kedda, I shall lose no time in soliciting the aid of the Board towards enabling me to open and conclude with him such a negotiation as may be conformable to the instructions of our Superiors, beneficial to our Ally of Kedda, and permanently advantageous to the Interests of our Honble. Employers.

(Signed) W. E. PHILLIPS.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 1.

No. 2, contd. TRANSLATION of a letter from the Ministers of the King of Ava to the Rajah of Quedah.

After much praise of the Power, greatness and exalted Character of the mighty King of Ava, they proceed,—

“The King of Quedah sent Che Lunang and Mahomed Ally with a letter and presents which were brought to one of the southern Ports of the Kingdom, and the Rajah of Tawei forwards them to Changong. Intelligence having reached Pegue, measures were taken for forwarding the letter and Messengers to the Golden Palace. The race of the present mighty King were the first of mankind who arose after the formation of the world, and the Titles of His Majesty are Maha Sem-dak and Sema Semak. Whoever requires assistance this mighty King lends his support to, for it is his custom to render aid. The Rajah of Quedah solicits assistance and he will assuredly obtain it, in reference to the communications of Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally.

These Messengers reported that Quedah, Purlis, Perak, Salangore and Patani, five States were concerting to send a Complimentary offering hither. The King of Quedah being thoughtless or off his guard, the Siamese came suddenly upon him and secured his Country, and he removed to Pulo Penang, where he at present resides. They also reported that there are three States who were concerting to attack the Siamese at Quedah and expel them from the Country. It was also mentioned by the messengers that they were ordered to present themselves before the King without delay, and that they were expected to go and come in four months; and finally, that if they did not return in four months, the people of

these three Countries before alluded to would proceed to attack the Siamese at Quedah.

The great King enquired whether there were any other States besides these interested, and the Envoys replied there was Rumbow, Rhio, Dungon, Marong, Pahang, Callantan and Tringano. The King then demanded if, in the event of the five States before mentioned being united and determined to attack the Siamese, how would the Kings of the seven last mentioned Countries be disposed to act. Would they join also? He further enquired if there were any more Countries, besides those already enumerated, and the Messengers replied that there was a King at Acheen, and that if all the other States were unanimous, he would join also.

Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally came here at the unfavorable Monsoon, and when they arrived on the Coast, the weather was very boisterous. They did not therefore reach the Golden Palace till the Month of Shaban, and in the month of Jamidalawal ten months will have expired. The King of Quedah has solicited assistance; so has the King of Cochin China (Cochee) begged aid. To Cochin-China people have already been sent, for the application from that Country was made first; the King of Quedah's subsequently, and besides the intelligence regarding the King of Quedah is not precise. When positive and circumstantial accounts are received, he certainly shall be assisted and an armament shall be sent fully prepared and equipped to attack the Siamese; and the King of Quedah shall be restored to his Country; the five States will then become like Ornaments of the Golden Palace.

Titles of distinction have been conferred upon the Chiefs of the five States; a Golden Umbrella and a complete equipment for a horse has also been sent for each. The King of Quedah is requested to enquire if the Rumbow, Rhio, Dungon, Marang, Callantan, Pahang, and Tringano and the seven states of Acheen

will join or not. The King of Quedah will sent Intelligence of such as refuse to join to the Golden Palace, and return the people who convey this without any long delay.

The presents have been given in Charge to Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally to be carried to the King of Kedda, and the great King has ordered people to be sent in Company to prevent the Messengers suffering any trouble in the way. When they arrive he will receive them and obtain intelligence from Cochin China. As the King of Quedah has begged assistance from the King of the Golden Palace, let him not be mistrustful or suspicious. As to the Titles and the Horse Equipment the King orders them to to be preserved and taken care of or respected, for according to the Custom of the great King of the Golden Palace, is the greatest favour that can be bestowed.

Th King of Quedah will make known all circumstances that may have transpired since the Dispatch of his Envoys Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally to Ava, that every thing may be known, as well as all intelligence relating to the King of the Seven States—and he will address his communications to the Rajah of Tawei.

No date.

(The letter written in the Burmah character was rendered into Malays of which the above is

A true Translation.)

(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON,

Malay Translr. to Govt.

Penang 22d. Jany. 1824.

FORT WILLIAM, 11th June 1824.

No. 2.

No. 2, contd.

Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Tawei or Tavoy to the Honble. William Edward Phillips Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

The King of Ava is Supreme over all the Burman Countries, and of the ten different Species of Elephants in his possession the white one is the largest and most powerful. He has also the Supernatural Horse and Carriage and the Spear and the Sword, these five things appertain to the great and Mighty King. His gracious Majesty was pleased to confer on me the Govt. of Tawei with 80 Towns or Provinces under it and all its Dependencies, Coasts, Bays and Creeks. This I make known that in the same manner as the King of Europe has exalted the Governor of Penang so have I received authority and rank from the King of Ava. Like the first men who were created after the formation of the world, the great King of Ava is just and equitable, and the ancestors of the present King from former generations have preserved friendly relations with the King of Europe, so has the present King maintained a friendly understanding and Traders have gone and come, both Countries have become one and are reciprocally friendly.

The Siamese have come and created a disturbance in the Quedah Country and destroyed it, and the King of Quedah went to reside at Penang. The King of Quedah sent people to represent this to the great King, who felt compassion or kindness towards him, and gave him a Supply of Rice and complete equipment of Royal Clothing. The Mighty King sent a letter to me desiring me to take care of the King of Quedah's Envoys, and give them safe Convoy

with 5 Prows and upwards of 100 Men, that they might return to their Master in safety. The names of the Chiefs who accompany this letter are Sikie Dogi Nei Mir Ze Jaksa, Sejee Jagoom Surakin, Jagoom Ze Yakin-da Jak Kin Soo, and Nei Mion Si Siouk Noita. Of these five Chiefs the first named is the highest in rank. When he arrives at Penang, I beg he may be allowed to return with ease. Pulo Penang is an extremity of the King of Europe's Dominions and Tawai is an extremity of the King of Ava's Empire. These two Countries are like one. If the Govr. of Pulo Penang requires any thing, he will be pleased to let me know, and if we want any thing, we will acquaint him.

Dated in the year 1185, 15th of the Month Nato
corresponding with the 18th of Decr. 1823.

(A True Translation)

(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON,

Malay Translr. of Govt.

Pulo Penang

the 13th Janry. 1824.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 3.

No. 6, contd.
(Qy. 2.)TRANSLATION of a letter from the Rajah of Tawei
or Tavoy to the Rajah of Quedah at Pulo Penang.—

After a lengthened panegyric of the King of the
Golden Palace (Ava) he proceeds,—

“The Rajah of Quedah who governs 118 Towns
is informed that the Rajah of Tawei received intelligence
that the Siamese had oppressed Quedah, and
the Rajah of Tawei assisted in communicating the
same to the King of the Golden Palace, forwarding at
the same time Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally with
the presents to the mighty King. The King of the
Golden Palace on hearing this was impressed with
feelings of compassion for the Rajah of Quedah, for
it is the peculiar Character of the King that when he
hears of the distress of any one he instantly feels a
disposition to relieve.

Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally came and pre-
sented themselves before the great King and represented
the circumstances of the King of Quedah, Purlis,
Patani, Perak and Salingore, but he is anxious to hear
again all particulars of the present state of Affairs in
these Countries and when these five states have finally
settled and their fidelity is assured an Armament will
be prepared and sent to attack and retake the Country
of Quedah and restore it to the King of Quedah. As
to the four Countries they will never be exposed to
difficulty for the time to come, nor will the Siamese
be able to disturb them again. As the great King
protects the States dependent upon him, so will he
guard the King of Quedah and the four other States
above mentioned ; wherefore, of his favor, he has been

pleased to confer Titles with a magnificent equipment* to each.

Che Lanang, Mahomed Ally, Chang Buk, Buan and Jehnan have also been invested with titles and a dress, the King showed them the same attention and kindness that he would to his own subjects. The Chiefs of Quedah, Purlis, Perak, Salingore and Patani have now been invested with titles of distinction and have had each a splendid present granted to them. The King requests that enquiries may be made relative to the other States, and that such information as may be obtained may be sent according to the desire expressed in the large letter from the great King, which accompanies this.

Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally returned to Tawei on the 12th day of the Month Neon in the year 1185, and the ship with Pungulee Seree and Noquedah Senahuang arrived about a month after. Inquiries were made of the two messengers relative to the King of Quedah, how he was situated at present, and the purport of their deputation, and they replied that they had been sent by the Rajah of Quedah with a complimentary present of a Clock which was received at Tawei; a letter explanatory of all the circumstances relating to the King of Quedah was prepared by the Rajah of Tawei, and forwarded with the Clock to the King of the Golden Palace. Noquedah Limbuang remained at Tawei to await the orders that might be received in reply, by the persons who were deputed to wait on the great King.

The Messengers Pangula Seree Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally with the letter, titles of distinction and presents are now returning, and in order that they may meet with no interruption in the way the accompanying five chiefs of consequence of Tawei vizt.

* Literally a magnificent dress; and the present consists of a long gilt umbrella, a set of furniture for a Horse, and lackered Stand for Dinner Service.

Sehei Doje Nei Min Ze Jaksa Sejee Jagoom Surakeri, Jagoom Ze Yakeri, Jo Jak Kire Soo and Hei Meoie Si Seouk Naita were directed to escort them in safety to Pulo Penang. When they arrive the Rajah of Quedah will acquaint them with all circumstances which may have transpired since the dispatch of his Envoys Che Lanang and Mahomed Ally, and also communicate the same by letter, which may be given in Charge to these five persons.

As to the Rice and Paddy which the Rajah of Quedah requested, it has been given according to his desire, and permission was given also to load the ship according to the pleasure of the persons in Charge. The quantity is 44 Coyans.

The King of the Golden Palace requires some Tin for the Roof of the Palace and sends 30 Coyans of Rice which he begs may be sold, and the proceeds invested in Tin, which may be delivered to the five Chiefs. The whole quantity of Rice shipped therefore is 74 Coyans. Now the King of Quedah with a candid heart wishes to *become tributary* to the Golden Palace, and the great King will protect him and Cherish his Children and Children's Children, even his remotest descendants and promote their prosperity and welfare. It is requested the Rajah of Quedah will assist in selling the Rice according to the Market Price of Penang, and Purchase the Tin at the value of the day, sending a letter also containing all particulars.

No date.

This letter was rendered from Burmahs into the Malayan language of which this is -

(A true Translation)

(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON,

Malay Translr. to Govt.

Penang

23rd. Jany 1824.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 4.

No. 6, contd.
(Qy. 2.)

To the Rajah of Ligore.

[2 Jan. 1824.]

I lose no time in making to the Rajah of Ligore an important communication which I desire he will for the present consider Secret and Confidential. An Ambassador has been deputed by the Emperor of Ava to the King of Kedda at Penang, and it is known to me that not only the Birman but several other states in the neighbourhood have made overtures to the Rajah of Kedda to restore him to the throne. True however to the principles of neutrality which the British Govt. has ever declared it would preserve between Siam and Kedda, and willing to convince you of my sincere desire of always maintaining towards your Highness a friendly and candid line of Conduct, I now write to communicate the above important intelligence to you, and further to acquaint you, that if you will immediately repair to Kedda, I shall have no objection to depute a confidential agent to your Highness for the purpose of making some fair and equitable arrangements towards restoring the Rajah of Kedda to his ancient Dominions, and precluding the interference of other States. The British Government offers this mediation between Siam and the Rajah of Kedda from the most disinterested and benevolent Motives, and my friend must have too much wisdom and good sense not to discover that an immediate acceptance of this mediation on his part may relieve him from a load of anxiety and difficulty, and save his Imperial Master much eventual expense and embarrassment. It is absolutely necessary that my friend should not delay an hour in coming to Kedda and the moment he apprizes me of his arrival there my Agent shall be dispatched to him.

(Signed) W. E. PHILLIPS—Governor.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

THE PRESIDENT.

No. 6. contd.
(Qy. 2.)

In requesting the Board to refer to the Proceedings recorded in my Minute of the 5th of Feby. I have now great pleasure in notifying that the Rajah of Ligor has realized my expectations and although unable to come down to Kedah himself, has lost no time in deputing two Envoys with the annexed satisfactory reply (No. 1) and with expressions of his readiness to accept the mediation which I had offered between him and the King of Kedah.

After several interviews A. & B. with these Envoys in order to ascertain the Rajah of Ligor's views, and with the King of Kedah, in view to learn what sacrifice he was prepared to make, I have drawn out the accompanying Letter (No. 2) for the Rajah of Ligor, with the terms of an Agreement (No. 3) proposed to be concluded between him and the King of Kedah. The Envoys not possessing full powers to form a conclusive engagement with the King of Kedah they propose to depart in a day or two with my propositions, and to return with the Rajah of Ligor's Answer as soon as possible.

In the first instance they entirely and readily admitted the propriety and fairness of every article of my proposed agreement, but at the last interview they began to express some doubts whether their Master would be satisfied with the equivalent which I offer for the Boongha Mas and former services of Vassalage required from Kedah. On the other hand, the King of Kedah is so pleased and delighted with the whole of my proposed arrangement, that should the Rajah of Ligor require a larger Sum of Money than what I now offer, I am convinced he will willingly agree to yield annually to Siam a greater portion of the stipend he receives from us; in order

to obtain so satisfactory an adjustment of the differences and future relations between Siam and Kedah. In the whole of my correspondence and discussions with the Ligore Envoys, I have received the greatest Assistance from Lieutt. Low, whose complete knowledge of the Siamese language enabled him to interpret freely between us and to translate directly into that tongue my proposed letter and terms of agreement, so that the Envoys immediately understood their whole spirit and tenor.

These Envoys brought to me also another letter (No. 4) from the Rajah of Ligor in reply to my repeated Communications respecting the Murder of Libby Ghaney at Kedah in the month of June last. It states, and the Envoys have solemnly confirmed the truth of his statement, that the Rajah has made great exertion to discover the perpetrators of that atrocious murder, and that he has seized and put to the torture several suspected persons whom he has still in confinement. I hope therefore my Colleague Mr. Clubleby will be perfectly satisfied with this information, and will not think that the accompanying reply (No. 5) which I propose to send to the Rajah of Ligor, expressing myself perfectly satisfied with the Conduct of His Highness and requesting him to release the suspected persons, should their guilt not be substantiated by the Evidence of two or more witnesses, and to bury in oblivion the discussion relative to Libby Ghaney, is dictated in too forbearing and moderate a tone.

Since adopting the measures above reported, I have received the accompanying dispatch from the Supreme Govt. of 29th Jany. replying to our letter of the 25 October, and to various other communications respecting the affairs of Kedah. Whilst I rejoice at obtaining the Concurrence of His Lordship in Council to the views and sentiments which I expressed on this important subject, I do not think

the Dispatch now received requires any alteration in the line of conduct which I have pursued towards the Rajah of Ligor's Envoys, except that I should add a paragraph in my Letter to His Highness, notifying the important intelligence which has been just received at this settlement, of the Supreme Govt. of Ava.

(Signed) W. E. PHILLIPS,

15th April 1824.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 1.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Honble. W. E. Phillips Governor of Pulo Penang.

After Compliments.

I have to acquaint my friend that the letter which he sent to Quedah was forwarded to me at Ligore, and I received it on Friday the sixth day of the Moon's descent in the third Month. It was translated into Siamese and I fully understood the contents. It is said the Ava people have brought a letter to the Rajah of Quedah, who is residing at Pulo Penang; that the Burmahs have concerted with two or three Malayan Countries and that they intend to restore the Quedah Country to the King.

Now I wish to communicate with my friend with real sincerity that he may not entertain any suspicion, in order that every thing may be conducted with propriety and friendship and good understanding established. As the Ryots and Warriors of the King of Siam are extremely numerous we are not afraid of being much perplexed by the attempts of Ava which wishes to join the Malayan Countries and take by force the Quedah Country which has long been a state tributary to Siam; there will not many Burmahs and Malays come and a Siamese Armament shall be sent which will reduce them to Atoms. Ava and Siam have long been accustomed to fight.

When the Burmahs formerly came to attack Salang (Junk Ceylon) and they wished to settle there, they were unable to do so and the number of Burmahs who died was immense, which was a good

sample to them for once. Quedah is far from Ava, but near to Siam; the Burmahs and Malays wish to take Quedah by force and to reside there; but the Siamese will not permit them and speedily expel them; if Ava wishes to send assistance, he cannot, for that Country is distant.

If the Rajah of Quedah thinks to effect this by force, he is mistaken, and a Siamese armament shall be sent to reduce him and he shall not be permitted to remain there, but if he is disposed to adopt a conciliatory course or pursue a good road and solicit my assistance, I will use my influence with the King of Siam to effect his return to his former Kampong in his own Country.

My friend who lives under the Govt. of the English says he is of sincere heart and as his heart is upright such is ours, he says he will not interfere on either side, but preserve neutrality and for his letter to this effect which he has sent me I return many thanks.

As to what is said respecting my coming to Quedah with my force to consult and settle respecting the Rajah of Quedah; if I were to proceed there at present there would be some difficulty in procuring Paddy, my people would not only be in distress but the Ryots of the Country would also suffer. If however there are any hostilities, I shall come with a large armament at once.

With respect to the desire to consult relative to returning the King of Quedah to his Country to govern according to former Custom, it appears to me also proper. If the Rajah of Quedah will consider and act with propriety, I will assist him, and I will be his security (or support him) but I am apprehensive he does not yet place confidence in me; wherefore, I now send Koon Aksorn and Kie Nimore to wait upon my friend and consult with him upon

the Rajah of Quedah's business agreeably to what is mentioned in my friend's letter, and to ascertain, with certainty his wishes ; my friend will write to me by Koon Aksorn and Kie Nimor, that I may fully comprehend.

When I am informed of his intentions, I will devise means in some way or other to settle this ; that there may be no disagreement in the road of friendship ; and Koon Aksorn and Kie Nimor who are now sent on this occasion will, with my friend's permission, have a meeting with the Rajah of Quedah.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transl. to Govt.

Penang

1st April 1824.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 2.

Memorandum.

Letter from the Honble. W. E. PHILLIPS, Esqre.
Govr. of Prince of Wales Island to the Rajah of
Ligore.

The Governor of Penang has received the reply, which the Rajah of Ligore has sent to his Letter of the 10 day of the Moon's decrease, in the Month of January, and which was delivered to him by the two Envoys, Koon Aksorn and Nai Nee ring. Although the Govr. of Penang laments that his Highness could not come to Kedda in as much as his being on the spot would have saved much trouble and delay, yet to prove his sincerity and good will towards the Rajah of Ligore, he has treated his two Envoys with every kindness and consideration, and has fully discussed with them the different points at issue between the King of Kedda and Siam, and the views and wishes of the British Govt. concerning the same.

The Governor of Penang must premise by repeating what has been often communicated to the Rajah of Ligore, that the British Government in offering its mediation in favor of the King of Kedda, is influenced by the most liberal and disinterested motives. It seeks, and naturally seeks, to afford every friendly assistance and protection to its ancient ally, and it is anxious to promote and secure the quiet and welfare of the small surrounding states, and to prevent quarrels and wars between the more powerful states. But to attain such objects, it does not look for any gain or territorial aggrandisement, and, unless provoked, it has resolved not to interfere in the affairs of Kedda, as far as regards Siam and its dependencies, in any other

manner than by giving temperate counsel and advice, and by offering its good offices and mediation in favor of the Rajah of Kedda.

There is no doubt that the Rajah of Ligore has derived no benefit or advantage from invading Kedda, and that the difference of Religion, Language and Custom, between its inhabitants and those of his Highnesses Country, cannot justify any opinion, that the Rajah of Ligore will hereafter be able to derive any benefit or advantage from a continued occupation of the territories of Kedda. His Highness will not only be constantly troubled with the rebellions and machinations of the Malayan Inhabitants, until Kedda becomes a perfect desert, but he may also bring down upon himself and upon the Court of Siam, all the evils and inconveniences of an extensive hostile enterprize on the part of the surrounding states.

It is therefore clear to the Governor of Penang and must be equally so to the Rajah of Ligore, that the most prudent and judicious course will be for the Rajah of Kedda to be allowed to return to his Country, and to rule it again according to its ancient Laws and usages.

How so desirable an arrangement may be most effectually adopted has been the subject of long and anxious meditation to the Governor of Penang, but after consulting very fully with the King of Kedda and the Rajah of Ligore's Envoys he is decidedly of opinion, that the enclosed propositions for settling the disputes between Kedda and Siam, and for restoring an honorable pacification between the Rajah of Ligore and the King of Kedda are moderate, just and necessary.

The King of Kedda has entirely agreed to them, and if the Rajah of Ligore is sincere in his desire of securing the good will and friendship

of the British Government, and in his expressions of readiness to accept the offered mediation of the Governor of Penang, he cannot hesitate a moment, in acceding also to these terms, and in giving an immediate and unequivocal proof, (and no proof could possibly be more honorable to his own Character, as well as gratifying to the Governor of Penang) of his determination to confirm what he has so often written, and what he has more particularly instructed his Envoys to come and declare to the Governor of Penang, by fulfilling at once the 3d. of the enclosed articles of agreement, proposed to be entered into between His Highness and the King of Kedda.

The Rajah of Ligore, as well as the King of Kedda, has expressed himself willing to abide by the arbitration of the Governor of Penang who has no desire but to reconcile these Chiefs on a basis that may be honorable to themselves as well as calculated to secure and promote the peace and welfare of the surrounding states. The King of Kedda will address an appropriate Letter to the Rajah of Ligore, soliciting his friendship, and good offices, and the Governor of Penang has only to beg that if the Rajah of Ligore is not satisfied with the terms which are now proposed to him for adjusting the affairs of Kedda, he will come down to Kedda himself, or depute some Envoys with full Powers to form a conclusive engagement, and then instead of the present tedious and unprofitable mode of negotiation, the Governor of Penang will have it in his power to ascertain more correctly the precise views and feelings of the Rajah of Ligore, and to explain to His Highness more fully and satisfactorily the different important considerations, which recommend an early settlement of the existing disputes between Kedda and Siam, and in fact, an immediate acceptance of the accompanying terms of agreement, on the part of the Rajah of Ligore.

Lastly, the Governor of Penang thinks it right to give the best proof to the Rajah of Ligore, that the English are friendly to the Siamese, by acquainting His Highness, that the British Government has declared war against the Burmese, and are about to attack the Country of Ava on an extensive scale.

(Signed) W. E. PHILLIPS.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 3.

[April 1824.]

MEMORANDUM for Negotiation with the
Rajah of Ligor.

1. The Rajah of Kedda in lieu of the heretofore unprofitable and irregularly sent "Bunga Mass" will pay to the Court of Siam an annual sum of Spanish Dollars 2,000 on condition that such sum shall ensure inviolate the Territory of Kedda, and exempt it from all other Claims in Money, Men, armed Prows or Provisions by Siam or its Dependencies.

2. The Rajah of Kedda to be guaranteed the free navigation and transition of all produce and Merchandize up and down the rivers which enter into his Territories through any Country subject to the Siamese authority or Government.

3. Every member or Dependant of the Kedda Family forcibly taken from the Country of Kedda and now retained either at Siam or Ligor to be immediately released and returned to Kedda together with their Property.

4. Every Siamese to be withdrawn from the Kedda Territory and care to be taken that the Malays are not molested nor their Property plundered by the Siamese while effecting their retreat. Any violation of this compact to be deemed to annul what has preceeded.

5. The Rajah of Ligor shall pledge himself to obtain to this agreement the Confirmation of the Emperor of Siam, whilst the Government of Penang will obtain the guarantee of the British Government to a punctual payment of the sum agreed to be given by the Rajah of Kedda.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 4.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Rajah of Ligor to the Honble. W. E. PHILLIPS, Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments)

May my friend be informed that I received his two letters one of which was brought by Koon Aksorn and the other by Nei Sigou which were translated into Siamese and fully understood by me. With respect to Lebby Ghany, all the suspected persons have been brought to Ligor in Chains, they have been bound to the stake with extended arms and beat in order to extort a confession according to the laws of Siam, that we may obtain a certain declaration, but none of them have yet confessed and they have all been confined in prison.

There is another subject. Tok Johan, Wan Long Kechil Panglima Saib, Che Naho Putill, Che Allang Che Akeel, Che Musa, and Che Jaya who fled and took up their abode under the Government of the white People have concerted together, collected Prows and become Pirates, attacking the vessels of people who are seeking a livelihood at Sea, and they plunder the Birds nests which form a part of the Revenue of Siam. I have therefore sent Prows to guard and to give assistance and protection to all the villages in the Country as well as to restore tranquillity.

Such Malays as have become Pirates and who may be found residing under the Siamese Government, I shall cause to be seized and my friend should seize and punish such Malays as reside in the Territories of the white People, like those abovementioned, who may

be guilty of such Crimes, do not let them find protection under the Government of the white people nor become Pirates, and then all persons will be able to go and come and trade without difficulty.

* Literally
ornaments or
trappings.

There is one more point. It is stated in my friends letter that it is reported an armament by land and Sea (or naval and Military) is equipped, and if I wish to maintain a sincere friendship, I will give permission for my friend's confidential people to go and inspect them. I declare with real sincerity of heart that I do not entertain a thought injurious to Pulo Penang, and the Prows are prepared as ornaments* for the aid of the Country. I am aware that what is mentioned in the letter is proper; but the desire to send people to inspect evinces the appearance of a want of confidence. Let not my friend therefore longer entertain any suspicion. Were he to send People to examine, it would not be like a true heart, I have no desire to tell a falsehood and my sincerity will hereafter be made manifest. I consider how friendship may be established and prolonged with my friend, and every thing relating to this business I have communicated to Koon Aksorn and Nei Neinor who proceed to wait upon my friend in order that he may fully understand, Dated Wednesday the 11th of the Moon's rise 4th Month in the year Goat.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Tr. to Govt.

Penang

2d. April 1824.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

No. 5.

The Governor of Penang has received the reply of the Rajah of Ligor to his two letters under date the 15th of December last and as His Highness has now fully evinced his desire of discountenancing and punishing all such proceedings as those relating to the unfortunate murder of Lebby Ganny the Governor has no hesitation in assuring him, that His Highness's letter and also the reports made by his two Envoys (Koon Aksorn and Nei Neior) are perfectly satisfactory. The Governor of Penang had no other object in pressing the affair of Lebby Ganny so strongly than to prove to the Rajah of Ligor, that the British Government would always notice the Conduct of those who might shew themselves regardless of the lives and property of its subjects, and to persuade His Highness to join in the exertions which the Governor of Penang is unceasingly making for suppressing Piracy and for protecting the poor Native Traders. The Rajah of Ligor's Envoys have themselves seen the two British Cruizers which are constantly employed in protecting the navigation of the surrounding seas.

The Governor of Penang hopes that the future Correspondence between himself and the Rajah of Ligor will be in a more friendly and satisfactory tone and as a proof of his entire satisfaction with the exertions, which the Rajah of Ligor has made to discover the Murderers of Lebby Ganny, the Governor begs, that if the crime cannot be substantiated by the Evidence of two or more witnesses against the suspected persons now under confinement the Rajah of Ligor will liberate them, and bury this discussion in oblivion.

14 April 1824.

(Signed) W. E. PHILLIPS.

(True Copies)

(Signed) R. IBBETSON

Secretary to Govt.

Bengal Secret
and Political
Consultations,
Vol. 323.

FORT WILLIAM 11th June 1824.

TO G. SWINTON Esqre.

Secry. to the Govt.

FORT WILLIAM

(Poll. Dept.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honble. the Govr. Genl., that upon receiving authentic accounts of the declaration of war against the Burmans I lost no time in making a confidential communication to the Siamese Minister upon the subject.

* To be copied
later.

I have now further the honor to state that in obedience to the instructions contained in your letter of the 30th of Jany.* I shall embrace the opportunity of a junk which is to sail tomorrow or the following day for Siam to make an official communication.

I have &c.

(Sd.) J. CRAWFURD, Resident.

SINGAPORE

11th May 1824.

FORT WILLIAM 19th Novr. 1824.

Bengal Secret
and Political
Consultations,
Vol. 325.

No. 28.

Poll. Dept.

To G. SWINTON Esqr.

&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

In obedience to the instructions contained in your letters of the 30th Jaary. and 14th of March I have the honor to report that I have made an official communication to the Siamese Government of the war in which we are engaged with the State of Ava. A copy of the letter which I have addressed to the Siamese Minister on this Subject, and which was accompanied by an accurate Malay translation effected under my own inspection, is annexed to this dispatch for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council.

Government have had the goodness to observe that in this document I have confined myself to such a general declaration of our objects and sentiments as seemed best suited to the genius and character of the Siamese Court, and that I have abstained from proposing any specific measure. This line of communication has been preferred not less with a view to prevent embarrassment to the ultimate and more mature operations of our own Government, than from a due consideration of the well known timidity and jealousy of the foreign policy of the Siamese Court, which notwithstanding its bitter hostility to the Burmans will naturally view with some apprehension the near approach of the British armies.

In reference to this material subject, I am distinctly of opinion that the war with the Burmans will be most efficiently conducted without attempting any concerted plan of cooperation with the Siamese. This power I make no doubt will of its own accord, and after its own manner, seize the fortunate opportunity which now presents itself for harassing the Burmans

in the most effectual manner of which it is capable, while by attempting to combine their military operations with ours, we should only be shackled and embarrassed by their ignorance and indocility, and most probably disgraced by their cruelties and excesses.

In one manner our direct assistance to the Siamese will materially promote the general objects of the war. This is by furnishing them with supplies of arms, and I am happy to be enabled to report that this essential object will be effected without delay and without subjecting the Government to any unnecessary expense, as a small vessel is daily expected at this port from England on her way to Siam with about eight thousand stand of fire arms. These, with 20 pieces of iron ordnance, will without any interference on the part of Government, be transmitted to Siam in the common course of commercial business. The expediency however of presenting the Siamese Court with a certain quantity of fire arms as a token of our friendship and confidence may be suggested, and indeed I am so much impressed with the utility of this measure that I respectfully submit, that I have it in view, should the war continue, or assume a more serious aspect than seems at present probable, to purchase a thousand stand of arms, and send them to Siam in the name of the Right Honble. The Governor General; a proceeding which will certainly involve the Government in an expense of 4 or 5000 Spanish Dollars, but for which I trust for their approbation, should it be considered to promote the public service.

I have now respectfully to advert to the important question of the exchanges and agreements which it may be advisable to make with the Siamese, and on which I am directed to submit my opinion in your letter of the 12th of March.

With the desire of placing before Government

all the information which I have been able to collect, bearing not only upon this particular question, but upon our general interests and relations with the nations of India beyond the Ganges, I have prepared the rough sketch of a chart of those countries with a series of explanatory notes, and I now transmit them along with this dispatch, trusting that notwithstanding the hurried manner in which they have been unavoidably got up, they may be found of some assistance in the important deliberations which now occupy the Government.

In discussing the question of our agreements and exchanges with the Siamese Court, I shall take it for granted that the maritime possessions of the Burmans from Martaban to Mergui are conquered and occupied by a British force, and that we are to negotiate with this advantage. Under such a state of things, I have no scruple in considering that the moment is at length arrived when it is within our reach to arrange all our differences with the Siamese—to place our commercial intercourse both with that nation and with Ava upon a liberal footing, calculated to open a new and extensive channel to British industry, and finally to place us in an attitude which will afford us, at little risk or expense, ample security against the future aggressions and arrogance of either power.

This valuable object, as it appears to me, may be attained by the measure of retaining permanent possession of the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy, or even by the more limited one of permanently occupying the ports of Tavoy and Mergui, with perhaps a small portion of the territory adjacent to each. This last restricted occupation, as it can scarcely be deemed a territorial extension, and is in justice no more than a measure of precaution and security may probably deserve a preference, and I shall therefore assume it with a view to the arrangement which I have to offer to the consideration of Government.

I venture therefore respectfully to propose that the ports of Mergui and Tavoy, but especially the latter, should be retained as British possessions; that they should be fortified, and declared free ports on the principle so successfully pursued in regard to Singapore and that the maritime possessions of the Burmans from Martaban downwards should be given over to the Siamese in consideration of a favorable commercial treaty, and certain securities connected with Prince of Wales Island and its local relations,

With a view to explain the advantages contemplated by this arrangement, a brief account of those two ports may be necessary. Tavoy lies between the 13° and 14° degrees of N. Latitude, and the mouth of the river may be considered as the proper port. The river of Tavoy to a considerable distance in the interior is fit for *native* navigation. The town is about 8 leagues up the river situated in a fertile country abounding in the ordinary necessities of life. It is but 7 ordinary miles* from Bang-kok, the capital of Siam, and apparently not above 2 or 3 days easy sail at any season of the year from Martaban and Rangoon.

* "marches" in
dup. copy.

Mergui lies between the 12 and 13 degrees of Latitude and is situated upon an island at the mouth of the river of Tenasserim. It is described as in every respect one of the most commodious ports in India, admitting the ingress and egress of ships of any burthen in both monsoons, being perfectly safe when entered, and admitting of communication with the British ports to the North and South of it, but particularly with Calcutta, throughout the whole year. The neighbouring country is naturally fertile, and even at present, and after the long misrule of the Burmans, abounding in the necessities of life. Many of these advantages will be apparent from the inspection of an ordinary chart of the Bay of Bengal. This was the port given over to Louis the 14th in the year 1688 by Treaty as one of the two Keys to the

Kingdom of Siam. It was actually occupied by a French Force for a considerable time as well as Bang-kok the modern Capital.

* 7 ports.

The first great advantage which may be contemplated from the occupation of Tavoy and Mergui will be the main security which they will afford us against the future insolences and aggressions of the Burmans or even of the Siamese. By the occupation of these posts* we shall at once be placed in an attitude to command in no inconsiderable degree the destinies of both powers without subjecting ourselves to any risk, probably to little expense, and without the necessity of intermeddling in the politics of either Ceurt, or incurring the hazard of extending our territorial possessions as a necessary measure of indemnity or retaliation for new provocations. Tavoy, as just mentioned, lies upon the immediate confines of the most assailable and vulnerable portion of the Burman dominions, the subjugated and discontented Kingdom of Pegu, and is within a few marches of the Siamese capital. It may be safely expected therefore that the bare conscience of our existence in this strong position will produce a silent and salutary influence on the native counsels which shall render direct interference needless. Our own situation at the same time both at Mergui and Tavoy will given us entire security from the attacks or inroads of both of these States. These

* 7 ports. Posts* are assailable only by Sea, a mode of attack of which they are incapable, for, by land they are secured by the natural barriers of mountains and forests against the barbarous and unskilful tactics of these Nations, the sufficient and conclusive proof of which is the incapacity of the Siamese after frequent attempts to reconquer them, notwithstanding their vicinity to their capital, and the feeble opposition of the Burmans.

The next great benefit which may be contemplated from the possession of the Ports of Mergui and Tavoy

* 7 ports.

is immediately connected with the higher and more general interests of our Indian Empire at large. The central and convenient positions of these Posts* as well as the natural resources of their neighbourhoods point them out as stations of the utmost importance for the refuge, the refreshment, the repair, or even the construction both of our Military and Commercial Navy in a period of European hostilities; an advantage which is not now for the first time brought to the notice of the Supreme Government. My own individual conviction indeed of their utility in this point of view is such that I venture respectfully to submit it as my opinion that our Indian Commerce and even our possessions will be scarcely secure from an European enemy until the Ports of Mergui and Tavoy be in our occupation. When on the other hand this shall be the case, we are at once undisputed Masters of the Commerce, the Navigation and the Military Positions, not only of the Bay of Bengal, and the Western Coast of Hindustan, but even of the whole Straits of Malacca down to the China Sea, the most important avenue to which is also under our control as long as we maintain possession of Singapore.

* 7 ports.

The remaining advantage which may be expected from the maintenance of these important Posts* on the Coast of Tenasserim refer to the extension and security of our Commerce. The safety and accessibility of these Harbours, but especially of that of Mergui have already been adverted to, and in addition to these qualities, their central and convenient geographical position for trade, with the natural resources of the territories which surround them, especially recommend them as fit stations for Commercial Emporia. In reference to the first of these advantages it is only necessary to refer to their easy and not very distant communication with Bengal on the one hand, and with the Straits of Malacca and thus intermediately with China on the other, as well as the easy access which they will afford us internally

to several millions of new customers among the Burmans and Siamese, a people proved by recent experience to have a taste and capacity for consuming our manufactures.

The natural resources of the Provinces immediately connected with the Ports of Mergui and Tavoy are from every account very considerable. I shall confine myself here to an enumeration of a few of their principal productions. These independent of a cheap supply of corn consist of Tin, Sapan-wood, Sticlac and Timber.

Tin exists in all the Countries of the Coast of Tenasserim up to Tavoy inclusive, and the mines of this metal which at present are in a state of great depression, will soon become productive under British protection, and with the skill and industry of the Chinese Emigrants, who will soon be attracted to them by the encouragement of our presence.

The ranges of mountains in the interior of these Provinces afford the largest supply of *Sapan wood* in the world, at present available only to Siam, from the want of all market for it on the Western Coast. Of this commodity it may be necessary to remark that it is at present in high request as a dying material among British Manufacturers, and that there is an extensive demand for it in the British market where it brings more than double the price of Logwood, a commodity the very privilege of cutting which has been heretofore made the subject of conventions in the Diplomacy of Europe.

The third Article of produce, Stic-lac, is one which it is sufficiently known has under its different modifications become of late years of great importance in Commerce, promising in time to vie in value and extent of consumption with Indigo itself. Of the description produced in the Tenasserim Provinces it is

sufficient to state that it is of the same kind and quality with that of Siam which by recent trials in the Calcutta market is proved to be much superior to that of Pegue and three times as valuable as that of Bengal.

* 7 Marbao.

The neighbourhood of Mergui produces abundance of the wood called *Murboo*², which is well suited for ship-building and among Indian Woods the next in value to Teak. Neither this place nor Tavoy indeed afford Teakwood itself which however is readily floated down the river of Martaban at no inconvenient distance, this stream being said to pass thro' some of the principal Teak forests of Pegue. From thence it might easily be conveyed even to Mergui by a voyage of about one third the length of that for a similar purpose from Rangoon to Calcutta.

As immediately connected with the subject I may for a moment advert to the probability of rendering the proposed British Settlements available for Naval Depots, Arsenal, and Docks, and it may be conjectured that Mergui especially is peculiarly well fitted for the formation of such establishments, as independent of the other advantages already referred to, the Tide instead of rising as at other European establishments near the Equator to 6 and 8 feet rises here to 14 and 15 feet; an elevation considered by professional men as necessary to the construction of wet docks.

In relation to the question of occupying Mergui and Tavoy I shall only further respectfully add that should this important measure be carried into effect a pleasing prospect of industry will be developed, and the trade of the Eastern Coast of the Bay of Bengal, which was in early periods of the European connexion one of the most considerable, but which the tyranny and jealous policy of the Court of Ava have, for at least half a century, nearly blotted out from the commercial map of Asia, will under British protection be speedily restored to a share of prosperity much

beyond what it enjoyed in any former period of its history.

The next point upon which I have the honor to submit my sentiments is the nature of the arrangements which it may be useful or convenient to make with the Siamese Government respecting the local interests of P. W. Island. Before entering upon this topic, I feel it to be my duty to offer it respectfully as my clear and distinct conviction that the interests, however valuable otherwise, are of secondary importance to those which have just been considered, while in fact the most essential of them are virtually secured by the establishment of the former.

For facility of reference I beg to submit the following brief sketch of the Malay State of Queda, and its relations so immediately connected with the present question. It extends above a hundred miles along the shore from the Latitude of $6^{\circ} 50'$ to 5° and embraces about one half the breadth of the Peninsula, or from 40 to 60 miles. Besides this the numerous islands on the coast belong to it; some of which are of considerable size, but most of them desert and uninhabited. To the south it is bounded by Perak, a principality as large as itself and to the N. E. by Patani which is much larger. Both of these are, like itself, unquestionable tributaries of Siam.

Queda, before its occupation by the Siamese, contained from 40 to 50,000 inhabitants, and the Rajah, by creating monopolies and by other means little short of extortion, realized an annual revenue of about 30,000 Dollars, exclusive of the stipend of 10,000 paid by the British Government. The demand for grain by the population of P. W. Island was the cause of a considerable cultivation of rice in a few favored spots along the banks of the rivers, but in general the country is covered with an extensive forest, and to such an extent that the population can scarcely be

computed to exceed 8 inhabitants to a square mile. Queda is generally destitute of all those commodities which give some commercial consequence to the other states of the Peninsula; such as tin, gold, pepper and other ordinary Malayan products.

It is almost superfluous to mention that P. W. Island, with a strip of territory 20 miles long and 3 broad, are portions of the Queda principality, and that they owe their present culture and population exclusively to British protection, being one dreary and uninhabited forest when we obtained possession. It is of importance here to remark that since the Siamese occupation, a vast number of the Malays of Queda have emigrated into the British territories, transferring thither under more favorable auspices the culture of grain which was formerly carried on within the native districts for the supply of P. W. Island; thus contributing already to render any connection with that country less necessary to us.

From this rapid sketch, it will perhaps appear to the Government that the acquisition of the Supremacy of Queda is not a matter of the first moment to us, nor perhaps one calculated to insure us any object of material value—that it may entail upon us on the contrary future inconvenience and embarrassment, and that while its relinquishment by the Siamese may be a matter of considerable difficulty, to contend for it on ours may involve the sacrifice of objects of far greater moment and utility.

These different points demand respectively some explanation. The great inconvenience which has been felt at P. W. Island for the last 15 years, and since the recovery of the Siamese power, has arisen simply and solely, according to my conception, from the British power having come into accidental collision with the Siamese Government at this weak and detached point of our Empire, and therefore in a situation not calculated to impress the proud and ignorant Court of Siam

with the necessary respect for our strength and resources. This delusion will be at once dissipated by our permanent occupation of Tavoy and Mergui, and by the great lesson of our strength which the results of the Burman war will have taught the nations beyond the Ganges, and which by commanding their respect will in future render all palliative and corrective expedients unnecessary.

In the reports which I had the honor to lay before Government respecting the Mission to Siam, I offered it as my opinion that more advantage was likely to accrue to us from a direct intercourse with the Siamese than with the more uncivilized and less industrious Malays, whose connection, although it had lasted for near 40 years, had been productive of no beneficial change in their own manners, and no sensible advantage to us, and I still continue to entertain these sentiments.

It is, however, to be remarked that the acquisition of the supremacy of Queda, even could it be obtained without difficulty and without sacrifice, by no means removes from us the vicinage of the Siamese or their political influence. They would still in such a case possess the Superiority of Perak reaching far to the South of us, and of Patani to the East, while their own immediate territory would bound us to the north, so that they would thus in a great measure continue nearly to surround ourselves and our feeble ally.

The inconveniences which I am led to apprehend by our acquiring the Supremacy over Queda arise from the certainty of its becoming sooner or later necessary for us to interfere in the affairs of the Native Government. This principality is under our immediate eye—the national character will be implicated in its good or bad government, and that it will be ill governed and our powerful support to the sovereign employed as an instrument for the oppression of his subjects, is what may reasonably be expected, not only

from the example of all former cases of a similar nature, but from the barbarous character of the people and the evil habits of their rulers. Such a state of things might ultimately lead to the necessity of assuming the direct management of the Country, and thus involve the question of territorial extension over a Country destitute of natural resources, of singular poverty, and of which the sovereignty would serve no purpose, but to involve us in a needless and heavy expence.

Even in the personal character of the present Raja of Queda we have nothing to hope for should he be restored, for it is admitted by his own friends that his oppressive and rapacious conduct had long lost him the affections of his subjects, that this encouraged the invasion of the Siamese, and that it was in short the principal cause which led to the loss of his throne.

I have respectfully to submit that according to my conception of the local interests of P. W. Island every useful advantage will be adequately secured by a cession to us in full sovereignty of all that portion of the Queda territory not already in our occupation which extends from the river Crean to that of Marbao, and backwards the whole way to the mountains of Patani, and by a complete renunciation of the right of sovereignty and supremacy over P. W. Island, necessarily implying also a renunciation of the stipend paid to the Rajas of Queda.

Over a tract of country of this limited extent, British administration and legislation may be brought to operate at once with advantage and efficiency, and provision is already made for such an accession of territory by the existing charter of Justice for the Island. A well defined boundary such as now described will, at the same time, I presume to believe, secure us more effectually from collision with the Siamese authority than the feeble remedy of interposing a

weak and tributary state, for in that situation we shall be in direct contact with the comparatively strong and responsible Government of Siam, then as I trust bound to us by treaties, and awed into respect and moderation as well by the commanding attitude of our position on the Coast of Tenasserim as by the reputation of our arms, and united to us at the same time by the common ties of a commercial intercourse which is daily growing in magnitude and consequence.

A mature consideration of the character of the new relation in which the Raja of Queda would stand in the event of his becoming our tributary will undoubtedly add force to this argument. When restored he must for ever be the secret enemy of the Siamese, and with such sentiments, a conduct of much forbearance is scarcely to be expected from him. The Siamese on their part again with the known pride of that people, can hardly be supposed to submit very tamely to the sudden loss of a tributary and dependant [state] of whole centuries standing: Provocations and insults will follow, and we may be readily involved in the unprofitable quarrel of our ally.

The Raja of Queda while he was in authority can scarcely be said to have established upon us any very strong claims. He was placed indeed under circumstances of some temptation and some difficulty, but he readily gave way to them, and his behaviour was usually vacillating and uncandid, while there existed strong reasons for complaining even of some positive evasions of his connection with us. Whatever indemnity therefore he receives, should the Siamese not voluntarily restore him to his throne, he will owe rather to our sense of justice, and to our compassion, than to any claim of a political nature. I must respectfully suggest therefore that the stipend of 10,000 Spanish Dollars heretofore paid to him for P. W. Island should now be paid to him as a Pension for life. In such an event we shall amply have

acquitted ourselves of any obligation which we may be supposed to lie under to him, and his own condition after all will not be worse than that of the titular sultans of Johore who boast a much higher rank, or if he should be inclined to take a different view of his destiny, he must charge his misfortunes to the Siamese Government who are the only authors of it.

The last question which I have the honor to bring under the notice of Government is the commercial arrangements which it may be expedient to form with the Court of Siam. Upon this important subject, I have already had the honor of submitting my views at considerable length, and the period has now arrived when I trust it will be in the power of Government to obtain a considerable share of freedom and security for our commercial interests with that Kingdom.

It is scarcely necessary to insist at any length in this place upon the extent and value of the trade which Siam is capable of conducting with the British Dominions and I shall only shortly observe that it is the persuasion of those who have had the greatest experience of it, and who are most interested in its results that there is no Asiatic Country where so decided a taste prevails for the consumption of European and Indian manufactures, and few capable of affording such rich and varied products in return.

That I may present to the Government however at a single view a picture of the capabilities of this branch of commerce, I beg leave to state the few following facts. The modern intercourse between Siam and the British possessions had its first origin about 12 years ago. The first year of the Establishment of Singapore 4 junks from Siam visited the place. This season there have visited it 35 junks which have imported Siamese produce to the extent of between 4 and 5000 tons, and exported British and Indian

manufactures to the value of little less than 250,000 Spanish Dollars, or half a million of Calcutta Sicca Rupees.

The statement now made does not include the less considerable trade carried on at the same time directly under the British flag, yet it is this branch which more immediately requires and demands protection and security, because it is in this department, on account of the superior capital, skill and essential economy with which it is conducted, that there is reason to look for the widest and most rapid extensions.

The principal obstacle which the European trade has to contend with in Siam exists in the monopolies and claims of pre-emption exercised by the officers of the Siamese Government, and in general in their vexatious and ignorant interference in the details of a cargo. These restraints and vexations which are nearly confined to it have during the two last years almost entirely driven away European Shipping, and having thus failed to produce to the Siamese officers the emoluments upon which they were reckoning, there is ground to hope, considering the favorable auspices under which the negotiations will be opened, that they will be induced to relinquish their pernicious and useless privileges without any serious difficulty.

The trade of the Chinese in Siam is upon the whole on a fair footing, advantageous both to themselves and to the Siamese Government, and this equitable and not invidious precedent for the establishment of our own commercial interests may be kept in mind. The terms of it however imply a considerable knowledge of native details which would render it less suitable to us, and upon the whole I am of opinion, that the most convenient possible arrangement for the British trade would be the payment at once of a handsome and determinate sum for each ship

rated according to her tonnage or measurement—implying of course an entire exemption from all export and import duties.

The presents and perquisites of office now paid should I am of opinion remain untouched. These are neither oppressive nor heavy in amount, and their continuance will at once gratify the vanity of the Siamese, and secure their attention and good offices.

I may take leave of this question by respectfully suggesting it as my humble conviction, that should our trade with Siam be finally established on the terms and conditions now submitted to the Right Honble. the Governor General, [he] will, by carrying such a measure into effect, confer an inestimable boon upon the commercial interests of the Empire at large, which must be appreciated with gratitude.

I shall bring this dispatch to a conclusion by offering to the consideration of the Right Honble. the Governor General a few observations upon the most expedient time and circumstances for conducting our negotiations with the Court of Siam. It is my distinct conviction on these points that the negotiation should be conducted by the Political Agent of the Governor General only—that it should be conducted on the spot where our Armies are acting, and before they are withdrawn ; but above all, that no haste should be evinced in making territorial concessions to the Siamese. Unless the character of the Siamese Court has been greatly misunderstood, the display of our military power which is now making in their immediate neighbourhood will produce a decided and a salutary change in its sentiments and policy, and such a moment must not be lost. It will be obvious that the Agent to the Governor General will under these circumstances negotiate with an authority and efficiency which cannot be looked for from any other quarter. He will also obtain from his situation an accurate knowledge

of all those local details which are at present wanting and which are so essential to the success of the negotiation. The conquests made on the Coast of Tenasserim should be retained for a time sufficiently long to convince the Siamese Court that we are not unacquainted with the value of what we propose to exchange with them, and in general it should be made to appear that the negotiation is rather sought for on their part than tendered on ours.

I have the honor to submit for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council the outlines of such a convention with the Siamese Government* as it appears to me would place our relations with that power on a convenient and advantageous footing. Each article is accompanied by a few necessary explanations.

* See Notes
towards a Treaty
already printed.
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore

31st May 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 95,
pp. 39-44 (2nd
set of Paging).

FORT CORNWALLIS The 22 July 1824.

CAPTAIN CANNING at RANGOON.

Captn. Canning
at Rangoon 10:
June, 1824.

To R. IBBETSON Esquire

Secretary to Government

FORT CORNWALLIS

Sir,

5. With reference to the communications pending between the Government of Fort Cornwallis and the Siamese power, and more particularly to the deputation of Lieutenant Low to the Rajah of Ligor, it appears to me that this latter measure can hardly fail of being productive of the most important results with respect to the contest in which we are now engaged with the Burmese. The King of Siam, possessed of authority and official information of our being at war with that nation, will in all probability advance his forces and thus further distract their councils and operations to the Southward. It would no doubt be highly desirable for a detached force from this place to occupy Tavoy and Mergui, but the unfavorable season of the year appears to afford little chance of such an attempt being made with success.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. CANNING Captn.
Political Agent.

Rangoon

10: June 1824.

FORT WILLIAM, 11th June 1824.

TO THE HONORABLE

WM. EDWARD PHILLIPS, Esqre.

Governor in Council of

Prince of Wales' Island.

Sect. Dept.

Honble. Sir,

* See ante, in
this Vol.

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch dated 26th April last*, the perusal of which has afforded us much satisfaction.

2. We regard as highly culpable the conduct of the Rajah of Queda in opening a clandestine correspondence with the Court of Ava, whilst living under British protection. The consequences of that improper and unjustifiable step could scarcely have failed of entailing serious embarrassment under almost any other circumstances than those of the present moment; we nevertheless rejoice at the prospect which now exists of the restoration of our antient Ally to his hereditary dominions, on terms so fair and reasonable as those stated in your President's Minute; and it will be very satisfactory to us to find that the Government of Siam receives your proposition to the above effect, in as favorable a manner, as the Rajah of Ligore has done. In the mean time the Ex-Rajah of Queda will of course be on his guard against any treachery which the Siamese may meditate the execution of, under the cloak of friendly and pacific intentions. We will only add further on this point, that both the manner in which the Honble. the Governor opened his Communications with the Rajah of Ligore on the subject of Quedah, and the tenor of his several addresses to that Chief have our entire approbation.

3. The Correspondence of the Court of Ava in the Queda affair is extremely curious and interesting, and demonstrates in a remarkable manner the grasping and ambitious spirit which influences the Councils of that State.

4. The cordial disposition manifested by your Govt. to co-operate to the extent of your means in our projected attack on the capital of the enemy's dominions, demands our sincere acknowledgements, and we doubt not that the Vessels and craft which you have so promptly dispatched to the Rangoon River, will prove of essential service. We trust to hear shortly of their safe arrival, and shall be prepared to sanction any expenses which you may have found it necessary to incur in making arrangements for the hire or purchase of these and other Boats. Your suggestion regarding descents, Tavoy &c, with the view to collect a quantity of the large Burmah Boats, will doubtless meet with due attention from the Brigr. Genl. Sir A. Campbell, to whom the conduct and regulation of all military operations on the coasts of Pegue and Tenasserim has been entrusted.

5. We have the honor to express our concurrence in the measure of deputing Lieutt. Low on a Mission to the Rajah of Ligore for the purpose of affording explanation regarding the existing War between the British Govt. and the State of Ava, and of urging a speedy settlement of the Quedah question, and shall look forward with particular interest to the receipt of accounts of his reception and conferences.

6. We are of opinion that the active exertions of the Siamese against the Burmahs should be invited and encouraged to the utmost extent, though it will evidently be desirable to let them prosecute hostilities entirely in their own way, and to select their own points of attack, and you will of course abstain from committing

the British Government by any specific engagements to support their future operations. From the determined spirit of defiance and hostility evinced by the Burmese no less than from their bravery and conduct on several occasions, and the success which they have obtained on our own frontier, it seems probable that the contest will be obstinately prolonged by that people, and hence there will doubtless be abundance of leisure for the Siamese Govt. to second our measures and at the same time recover any places which they may desire to wrest from the common enemy, by creating a powerful diversion on the Eastern frontier of Ava.

7. We are apprized by a letter just received from the Resident at Singapore (Copy of which is herewith transmitted) that that officer has communicated officially to the Court of Siam the occurrence of war between the British and Burmah Government.

8. Previous to the receipt of your present dispatch we had discovered and corrected our former oversight in stating Junk Ceylon to be temporarily in the possession of the Burmahs.

We have &c.

(Signed) AMHERST

„ E. PAGET

„ J. FENDALL

FORT WILLIAM

11th June 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 95,
p. 806-8.

FORT CORNWALLIS the 24 June 1824.

To the Rajah of
Ligore 15 June
1824.

Letter from the Honble. W. E. PHILLIPS
Governor of Pulo Penang to the Rajah of Ligore.

The Governor of Pulo Penang has now the satisfaction to communicate to His Highness the Rajah of Ligore the success of the British Arms against the Burmahs. The Port of Rangoon was taken in a few hours and is now in possession of the British troops, and Negrais, Cheduba and Bassein have also been taken. Several large expeditions from Bengal, Madras and Bombay have already proceeded to Rangoon and others are to follow. If the Rajah of Ligore is disposed to accede to the proposals lately made to him, the Governor of Pulo Penang requests he will immediately dispatch his fleets of Prows which are equipped at the Northern Ports of Quedah to cooperate with the British troops at Rangoon, by which His Highness will participate in the glory of having subdued the haughty power of Ava, which State has been no less an enemy to the Siamese than it is to the British Government.

The Governor again expresses a hope that the Rajah of Ligore will not delay dispatching his Boats to attack the Burmahs and expedite the conquest of the Kingdom,

(Signed) W. E. PHILLIPS Governor.

Penang
15 June 1824.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 8 July 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 95,
p. 847-851.

RESIDENT at SINGAPORE.

Resident at
Singapore
21 June 1824.

To,

R. IBBETSON Esquire

Secretary to the Government

Prince Wales Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10 : of May transmitting agreeably to the wish expressed by the Supreme Government, various papers and documents connected with the subject of the war in which we are engaged with the state of Ava.

I beg respectfully to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council copy of a letter which, in obedience to instructions contained in a dispatch from the Secretary to Government in the Political Department dated 30 : January, I have addressed to the Siamese Minister.

I shall have the honor of submitting to the Honorable the Governor in Council without delay, and from time to time such information from Siam bearing upon the question of Burman war as may be received at this place.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore

21 June 1824.

Enclosure.

The letter of John Crawford Esquire Resident of Singapore to His Excellency the Chao Pia Prah-Klang, Chao Kun-Kosa &c.

I am commanded by the Governor General of India to communicate to your Excellency for the information of His Majesty the King of Siam, that he has declared war against the Burmans, and shortly to state the causes which have led to that event. The Siamese Court sufficiently knows the faithless character of the Burman Government, and the restless ambition with which they are constantly disturbing the peace of their neighbours. Last year intent upon the conquest and destruction of your nation, they sent an embassy to the King of Cochin China praying him to join them in an offensive league for your overthrow, but that prudent and just Prince has declined all connexion with so dangerous a people. That your Excellency may entertain no doubt respecting the wicked purposes of this Mission, I send you a translation of the letter with which the Burman Embassadors were charged.

Our nation, which are the neighbours of the Burmans to the West have not been able to escape by a conduct of the most guarded forbearance, the effects of their unprincipled ambition and vanity. For years together they continued to harass us by seizing and enslaving our subjects, and by addressing our Government in the arrogant language of a people unacquainted with their own essential weakness and ignorant of the forms of intercourse between great nations. This insolence has at length been carried to the last extremity by the seizure of one portion of our territory, and the invasion of another. War has in consequence been declared. A great fleet and army has sailed from Bengal and Madras to seize upon Rangoon, Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui, and the Governor General has declared that he will not lay down his

arms until ample reparation shall have been made. Conquest is not his object but your Excellency will have the satisfaction of seeing, as the result of this war, the Burman nation deprived for ever of the power of disturbing the peace of their neighbours.

The Merchants of Calcutta, Penang and Singapore have been directed to furnish you with every description of arms and ammunition which you may require, and I request you will be pleased to communicate to the Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island or inform me in what manner we can be useful to you in prosecuting the war against the common enemy.

I have the commands of the Governor General to make to his Majesty the strongest assurances of friendship and good will, and I beg to offer you a small present as a token of my respect.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD.

Resident.

Singapore
13 May 1824.

A True Copy

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD,

Resident.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 95,
p. 861-875.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 8: July 1824.

LIEUTT. LOW at TRANG.

Lieutt. Low at
Trang dated 21:
June 1824.

To,

R. IBBETSON Esquire
Secretary to Government
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council that after meeting with many vexatious obstacles to the prosecution of the objects of the Mission on which I have been deputed, and which have arisen out of the extremely cautious disposition of the Siamese authorities here and elsewhere—And after a tedious correspondence with the Rajah of Ligor, which has only served the more to excite instead of gratifying his desire to become acquainted with particulars, His Highness has at length adopted the singular resolution of holding a conference with me here at Trang in place of receiving me at Ligor.

This resolution of the Rajah, contained in a letter to my address only reached me last night, and I have lost no time in directing Captain Chevers to proceed with this dispatch to Penang in order that the Honorable the Governor in Council may be apprized as early as possible of the intentions of the Raja.

I have taken advantage of this fortunate determination of His Highness, and in my reply to his last letter, which will probably reach him about the middle of his journey, have given him fairly to understand that however happy I will be to meet him here, still that in not receiving the Mission at his capital he has departed from the established customs of independent nations in their treatment of embassies.

Although my endeavours to gain an overland passage to Ligor have thus proved vain, yet it will I hope be evident that this minor object, (in so far as regards the main purposes of the Mission) however desirable in itself, could not have been attained without foregoing the only chance remaining of procuring a seasonable supply of boats.

His Highness may be expected here in the course of five or six days, but not sooner.

As the time seems to me, from a perusal of my instructions, to have passed, within which a supply of boats might have proved of advantage to the public Service, I am therefore very anxious to learn, before conferring on the subject with the Rajah, whether the Honorable the Governor in Council is still desirous that an engagement be entered into with His Highness on this head.

Should the Rajah arrive before a reply returns to this dispatch the subject can be postponed for a couple of days. If boats are not now required and notice shall reach me in time, a fair occasion will then present itself for representing to His Highness the excellent opportunity which his dilatory conduct has lost him for displaying his friendly disposition towards the British Government and of realizing his former numerous professions of the existence of amicable feelings in his mind.

It seems to me however requisite in order to account in some measure for His Highness's conduct, to notice that from the general tone adopted by him in his correspondence with me, and that used by his officers of rank in the various conferences I have had with them, it would appear that His Highness stands much more in awe, and lies more under the immediate control, of the Court of Bangkok than he is willing to admit, or allow others to suspect.

The consideration that such might really be the case has prevented me from hitherto alluding, except in a very casual way to the subject of boats. My instructions did not warrant any other mode of procedure. I have also every reason to believe that had any direct application for boats been made by me, the Rajah would immediately have supposed that the Mission had been sent for the sole purpose of asking for them, and he might have been thereby induced to slight the Mission instead of directing it to be treated with the marked respect and attention it has met with, and he would most probably in that case have left the matter to the decision of the vain and presumptuous Court of Siam, which would have readily and gladly seized so inviting an occasion of holding up the English to the world as a people who were urged by necessity and not induced by mere motives of expediency to seek its aid. Much more therefore under this view of the case would have been lost in real dignity at a juncture when, if I mistake not, the chief aim seemed, as it now seems, to be to impress the nations in our neighbourhood with a just sense of the power and humanity of the British, than could have been counterbalanced by any aid in point of boats which the Siamese might have been willing to grant.

It was only by a personal conference with the Rajah that I could hope to effect the object in view, and at the same time prevent His Highness presuming too much on what he might feel disposed to grant.

From all the enquiries I have made and my own observation, it does not appear to me that the Rajah is in possession of more than twenty boats capable of performing a voyage to Rangoon, and even these could not venture to sea without considerable preparation. They have no decks and are indifferently rigged, and they are for the most part so low in the gunwale that the least sea must wash over them.

I have seen some of those which were employed in the invasion of Kedda, but they are nearly worn out and quite unfit for the purpose required.

It shall be my duty (in the event of my not receiving a reply to this letter in sufficient time) to conclude a provisional agreement only with the Rajah, provided he has power to give boats without a previous reference to Bangkok.

After having fully conferred with His Highness, I will dispatch a native boat to Penang with such information as it may appear of importance should be communicated to the Government.

I regret the necessity I have lain under of detaining the Brig Commerce until this time. The uncertainty regarding the real intentions of the Rajah prevented me from landing the party at Trang, and I was aware that a haste to do so would only have added to the apprehensions of our real views manifested by the authorities there, and have proved detrimental to the Mission.

Whilst waiting the decision of the Rajah of Ligor, the Commerce cruized for fifteen days to the Northward. This measure enabled me personally to ascertain the condition and resources of the Siamese Governments in that direction.

The observations which were made during that period will be included in the Public Report of my Proceedings which I will have the honor hereafter to submit to Government.

But in the present posture of the British in respect to Ava the following fact may seem worthy of notice.

The mutual boundary of the Burman and Siamese possessions on this Coast of the Peninsula lies a little to the Northward of a Siamese Post or Dependency called *Rindong*, on the south of which, and next

in order is a small government called *Takoa Pää*. These lie to the Northward of Junkceylon or Salang. I believe this boundary has been laid down with tolerable precision in my map of Siam.

In so far as my experience and enquiries enable me to judge, there exists not the least foundation for the various reports spread abroad at Penang regarding the force in men and fleets of prowes belonging to the Siamese on this Coast.

I beg further to report that the Escort and other persons accompanying the Mission are in the most healthy state, although they have been till within the last three days crowded in the small Brig and constantly exposed to rain and sun.

I have much pleasure in observing that Captain Chevers Commanding the Brig and Mr. Freeman its Supracargo, have cheerfully afforded me every assistance which lay within their power.

I have &c.

(Signed) JAMES LOW

Agent.

Trang

21 June 1824.

THE SECRETARY reports, that the following reply to Lieutenant Low, having been circulated and approved, was delivered to the Master Attendant with directions to dispatch the same forthwith per Brig Commerce.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 95,
pp. 66-71.

(2d set of paging)

FORT CORNWALLIS The 22 July 1824.

LIEUTENANT LOW at TRÁNG.

Lieutt. Low at
Tráng 25 June
1824.

To

R. IBBETSON Esquire
Secretary to Government
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

With reference to my letter to your address dated on the 21 Instant and forwarded by the Brig Commerce I have now the honor to report for the information of the honorable the Governor in Council that a Son of the Rajah of Ligor arrived here yesterday with a retinue of three hundred soldiers. He delivered to me a letter from the Rajah in which His Highness expresses his extreme regret that a severe indisposition, which attacked him two days before his intended departure from Ligor, has prevented him from immediately fulfilling his promise to meet and confer with me at Tráng. And also a hope that the circumstance of his having sent down one of his sons who possesses his entire confidence to visit me, will remove from my mind any doubts which may then have arisen of the sincerity of his professions of amity towards the British Government at Penang, and may induce me to prolong my stay in his country until I shall be enabled fully to explain to him the nature and extent of the subjects on which I have been deputed.

The young Prince has returned to Ligor with my reply to his father's letter. He will return *here* again in a few days.

I beg to be favored with such accounts regarding the operations in the Burman Country as may have reached Penang since the Mission left it, and as

the Honorable the Governor in Council may deem of sufficient importance to be communicated by me to the Rajah.

As it is impossible at present for me to say that accidents may not happen to preclude a personal interview with His Highness, I therefore beg to be favored with further instructions whether in such an extreme case I shall be authorized to explain by letter or otherwise to him the whole or any part of the subjects connected with my Mission.

It seems to me material at this juncture to notice that my former suspicions, expressed in my last letter to your address, of the inability of the Rajah to conduct agreeably to his own inclinations or to decide on affairs connected with the policy of other states in respect to Siam or Ligor, have been fully justified by the sequel.

I have apprized His Highness that had he, at the period of my arrival in his Country, made a fair and open avowal of the now very circumscribed nature of his power, it might have saved much vexatious correspondence and would have prevented all the unnecessary delay which has ensued.

It is evident however that as His Highness had led the Honorable the Governor in Council to believe what was then perhaps actually the case, that he possessed a certain share of separate authority, or had such vested in him by the Court of Siam, in matters not involving serious discussion betwixt it and foreign Courts His Highness therefore naturally shrunk as long as he could from the mortifying confession that his public actions must "now be implicitly regulated" by a Council of Ministers who have lately been sent "to Ligor from Bangkok."

I have without any formal notification on my part clearly ascertained that the Rajah of Ligor could not

have sent a single boat to Rangoon without a previous reference to Siam. A direct negotiation with the Court of Siam was not I believe contemplated by the Honorable the Governor in Council. But even had such been entered on too much time must have elapsed before the decision of that Court could have been received at Ligor, and the consequent equipment and repairs which the Raja's boats would have required, could have been finished, to have admitted of a *seasonable* supply being procured.

It is probable that the Mission may be detained in the Raja's Country until the latter part of July. For many reasons I am very anxious that the Honorable the Governor in Council may be pleased to order the Brig Commerce or some other vessel to proceed from Penang so as to reach Trang about the 15 of July, and as the distance from the Harbour to where the Mission will be encamped is considerable, to intimate its arrival by firing two guns.

My messengers Khoon Aksorn and Nai Neim, Siamese officers of rank, will deliver these dispatches, and I request they may be sent back with all convenient expedition, as they are not empowered by the Raja to make any communications and have been placed solely at my disposal.

I beg that the Naick and four Sepoys who accompany these officers may be allowed to return with them. Ten days rations have been put on board the prows, which it is to be expected will be sufficient for the whole voyage.

I am happy to be able to report that all my party are in perfect health.

I have &c.

(Signed) JAMES LOW

Agent.

Trang

25 June 1824.

To LIEUTT. LOW.

To Lieutt. Low
9 July 1824.

To LIEUTENANT LOW

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 21 ultimo from Trang and to convey to you the following reply.

The Honorable the Governor in Council, concurring entirely in your view as to the time having passed when a supply of boats from the Rajah of Ligore would have proved of advantage to the public service, desires that you will now enter into no engagements for obtaining such, but content yourself with apprizing His Highness, that the British Expedition against Ava has captured Cheduba, Negrais and Rangoon, and that should His Highness or the Siamese Court desire to share in the glory of subduing the pride of the Burmans, they cannot be too prompt and active in detaching to the British Army all the Boats, and land and water carriage, as well as other means of co-operation they can command.

The Governor in Council further desires that after making the above communication to His Highness, you will use every exertion and endeavour to persuade the Rajah also to afford you his aid in procuring at Trang and any of the Ports of Kedah, as large supplies of Rice and Paddy as possible for the use of this Settlement, where these articles have become extremely scarce, and which induce the necessity of every practicable exertion being used to provide for the possible contingency of public want.

Having therefore effected all your arrangements at Trang, you will endeavour before you quit the place, finally to hold out inducements to the Rajah and People there to send here, as well from Trang

as Pungah, as much rice and paddy as possible, assuring them that until the 1st of October next a Bounty or Premium at the rate of 15 Dollars per Coyan for rice and of $7\frac{1}{2}$ Dollars per Coyan for paddy will be paid by this Government for all such supplies as may be received here from thence. You will urge this point on the Rajah of Ligor with particular force and claim from him his best aid and assistance as a testimony he can easily afford of his good disposition to our interests.

Whether Grain is procurable or not to the Northward, you will apply to the Rajah for letters to the Chiefs at all the Ports between Trang and Kedah, at which for the same purpose you will touch on your return and hold out the same inducements.

It is hoped that these inducements may be sufficient to secure a plentiful supply of grain for this place, but should such not be the case you are authorized at Purlis and also at Kedah to purchase *at once*, with the previous leave of the Rajah of Ligor, as much grain as can be procurable and to draw bills on this Government for the amount thereof, taking all possible and secure means for the dispatch thereof to this Port.

From the foregoing detail you will observe how important an early supply of grain will prove. It will be for you to provide as much of this article as possible, and so to shape your communications as not to appear more urgent on the occasion, than with reference to the peculiar character of that Chieftain will be actually desirable to effect the object.

The Charterparty of the Commerce will be out on the 31 : instant, and if you can return, having effected these arrangements within that period, it will be satisfactory, but you must consider the fulfilment of the

wishes of Government in respect to grain as of the first and primary importance.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. IBBETSON

Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis

9 July 1824.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 22 July 1824.

RAJAH of LIGOR.

Rajah of Ligore Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the
9 July 1824. Honorable W. E. Phillips, Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

I have heard it mentioned lately that inland of Prye and at the River Mooda, the people who reside under my friend's Government have taken possession of more land than is specified in the Treaty which has long been in existence. In that Treaty the territory which belongs to Pulo Penang and what appertains to Quedah is distinctly specified, and this intelligence having reached me I cannot be silent upon the subject, for the Country of Quedah has been entirely transferred to me by His Most Excellent Majesty of Siam. I therefore request that my friend will adhere to the treaty with justice, for my friend and I are desirous of being upon amicable terms, and to prolong a good understanding.

Moreover, Sri Johan Perkasu, a Malayan Chief, who has long been a pirate, I have already represented to my friend. He sent his people to steal the Birds' Nests, which are part of the Revenues of the King of Siam, and where he could not succeed in carrying them all away he caused fires to be kindled in the caves to destroy them. He afterwards attacked Chinese trading prows and the people who wish to go and trade find it very hazardous to do so. Sri Johan Perkasu is guilty of a variety of such like acts. I sent prows to endeavour to seize him, but he fled and now resides at Pulo Penang. Will my friend therefore seize Sri Johan Perkasu and his fellows who have been

committing such offences and follow the customs in respect to their punishment.

Further, my friend sent a letter to Quedah, which was forwarded to Ligore, stating that two Chinese named Oosooye and Achuan, inhabitants of Pulo Penang, had fled to Quedah, and requesting my assistance to seize and return them. I ordered a search to be made and learnt that they had gone to Singora. I ordered them to be pursued and directed that they should be seized if found: but Chinese Oosooye and Achuan made their escape in a prow from the Singora River before the arrival of the people whom I sent to seize them, and as it was not known where they had fled to, I could not send prows after them.

(A True Translation)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator to Govt.

Penang

9: July 1824.

Home Series, To
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 660, p. 199.

The Honorable the Secret Committee of the
Honorable the Court of Directors.

Sect. Dept.

Honble. Sir,

* * * * *

Consn. 11th June
No. 1 to 5. See
Extracts from
Bengal Secret
and Political
Consultations of
11 June, Vol. 323.

Para. 29. We shall in conclusion solicit the attention of Your Honorable Committee to the Dispatches from the Government of Prince of Wales Island recorded as per margin and to our reply thereto. The zealous exertions made by that Government to forward our views at Rangoon by supplying boats in the manner which we had previously pointed out, appeared to us to merit our warmest acknowledgments. Your Honorable Committee will observe that we have approved the measure adopted by the Government of Prince of Wales's Island of deputing a British Officer to Ligor to communicate personally with the Rajah on the subject of the affairs of Kedah and to afford explanation regarding the Burmah War, and that we have authorized that Government and the Resident at Singapore to invite and encourage the active co-operation of the Siamese against the common enemy, carefully abstaining however from committing the Supreme Government by any specific engagements to support their future measures.

30. Your Honorable Committee will doubtless be gratified to learn from the above Papers that there exists a prospect of effecting, by amicable negotiation with the Siamese Government, the restoration of the Rajah of Kedah to the full possession of his rights and territories, under the guarantee of the British Government, to his fulfilment of certain defined feudatory obligations. The grasping and ambitious spirit of the Court of Ava and its eagerness to seize the first opening for interference in the affairs of the Malayan

Peninsula, would probably have forced this termination of the differences between the King of Siam and his feudatory the King of Kedah even had not the present war occurred.

We have the honor &c.

AMHERST

EDWD. PAGET

JOHN FENDALL

Fort William

14th July 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 385-397.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 14 September 1824.

MAJOR CANNING at RANGOON.

Major Canning
at Rangoon 28
July 1824.

W. M. WILLIAMS Esquire

Deputy Secretary to Government
Fort Cornwallis.

Sir,

* * * * *

6. With reference to.....the co-operation of a Siamese force with our operations, I beg leave to say that Lieutenant Colonel Snow, Adjutant General of the Madras Troops in this quarter, whom severe ill health compels to make a voyage to your Presidency, is authorized to enter into the fullest explanations on this very important subject. The principal objects in view are the obtaining a Siamese army, as numerous as they may be disposed to furnish, as soon as the season shall admit of taking the field, for the invasion of the Burman territory, it being understood that such troops, if acting jointly with a British force, shall be subject to the general disposal of the Officer Commanding the latter. When Mergui, Tavoy and eventually Martaban shall have fallen into our possession it would be desirable that these places should be held by Siamese troops, under an understanding of their consenting to evacuate them if required so to do at the conclusion of peace. These conditions, particularly the latter, would I am aware be liable to much objection on the part of the Siamese Government, but at the present moment any arrangement that would involve the dismemberment of the Burmese dominions could not be entertained. If the Siamese should have to evacuate the above mentioned places, possibly some equivalent

might be devised that would prove satisfactory to them. Another object of high importance looked to in a connection with the Siamese, would be the procuring from them draft and carriage cattle and elephants to the largest extent they could supply. For particulars of place, time, &c, &c. I should beg leave to refer to Colonel Snow who is in full possession of Sir Archibald Campbell's plans. As time now begins to press, a completion of these arrangements at the earliest period would be most desirable.

* * * * *

I have &c.

(Signed) J. CANNING Major

Pol. Agt. Expdtn.

Rangoon

28th July 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 397-407.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 14 September 1824.

SIR A. CAMPBELL at RANGOON.

Sir A. Campbell
at Rangoon 28
July 1824.

To the Secretary to the Government
Political Department
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

p.398.

As I conclude the Siamese will not allow the present opportunity to escape of humbling their cruel and inveterate foe, I have sent Lieut. Colonel Snow, Deputy Adjutant General to the Madras Division of the Army, an officer of experience and possessing my confidence, to make such arrangements under the sanction and authority of the Honorable the Governor in Council, as may best tend to promote the interests of our cause, should it be determined upon by the Court of Siam to take a cordial and active part in the war. I could wish to be speedily informed what operations the Siamese troops may undertake: if a junction with the expedition under my command is contemplated, and how it may be best accomplished; should such be intended I trust the Siamese Generals may be made most clearly to understand that they must at all times act under the orders of the British Commander.

It is my intention probably in a few days hence, to detach a force to take possession of the enemy's maritime towns to the eastward, Mergui, Tavoy, &c. &c., the capture of which will, I should imagine, not fail to make a favorable impression of our power and resources, influence the Cabinet of Siam, and prompt the Government to decided exertion.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL

Head Quarters

Brigr. General

Rangoon, 28 July 1824.

THE following Minutes by the Honorable the President, on the subject of the above letters, are recorded.

MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

Minute by the
President 6
September
1824.

In submitting the accompanying letters from Sir A. Campbell and Major Canning to the Board, I think it necessary to state the result of the communication which has passed between myself and Lieutenant Colonel Snow. I learn from him that it was intended by Sir A. Campbell to detach a sufficient force to occupy Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim as soon as he had received authority from the Supreme Government for that purpose, and which he expected every day to arrive, a suggestion to that effect having been submitted some time ago. Lieutenant Colonel Snow informs me that he has the orders of Sir A. Campbell to return from this to Mergui, under the idea that the troops will previously have arrived there and taken possession; that he has instructions to open communications with the Siamese authorities in the manner that may be suggested by us, for the purpose of inducing them to assist the British force now acting against the Burman Empire in the mode described in the letters abovementioned.

My Colleagues are aware of the little success which has attended the Mission of Lieutenant Low to Ligore, the papers connected with which are under preparation for transmission to Bengal, and I should have been disposed to have deferred any further attempt at negotiation, direct or indirect, with the Siamese Government, until we could have received further instructions from the Supreme Government, the more especially as I entertain doubts whether it was intended that we should proceed to the length of a direct communication to the Court of Siam, now the only resource likely to prove effectual. The letters

now before us, require however some immediate measures to be taken, and we must adapt them to the probable state of things, according to the best of our judgment.

It appears to me that if the British Troops occupy the abovementioned places, the contiguity into which they will be brought with the Chiefs or governors under the Siamese authority will almost unavoidably produce the necessity of communication, and it seems for many reasons desirable that the officers so called upon to communicate, should carry with them (unless intermediately vested with powers from a higher authority) all the weight and respectability which this Government can confer. I propose therefore, that letters be written by me to the Siamese Chiefs in the neighbourhood of Mergui and Tenasserim and delivered to Lieutenant Colonel Snow, stating, with reference to the proclamation already issued, the objects and causes which have induced the occupation of those Countries by our Troops, and endeavouring to impress on the minds of those Chiefs, the expediency of treating them as friends, engaged against the common enemy of both nations, and of assisting the British force with supply of provisions, carriage cattle and such articles as may be required by the Officer Commanding. With respect however, to the more important and decisive measure of aiding with a body of Siamese troops to accompany our army, as suggested by Sir A. Campbell, it is not to be supposed that that object can be obtained without direct application to the Court of Siam, or even the deputation of a Confidential Agent to that Court, for the express purpose. On this last point I cannot but entertain some doubts as to our power.

Referring however to the letter addressed to this Government by the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council under date 12th March last, in which the probable occupation of Mergui, Tavoy &c.

is alluded to as affording a favorable opportunity for negotiating an arrangement with the Court of Siam, in respect to the affairs of Quedah, more immediately affecting the interests of this Island—referring also to that of the 11th June from the same high authority, in which the expediency of holding out encouragement for the co-operation of the Siamese Government is generally enjoined—and considering that the period seems at hand pointed out as the favorable opportunity for negotiation, it may be hoped we shall not be accused of exceeding the line of our duty in availing ourselves of it for the more important purpose of aiding the success of our arms in the cause in which they are engaged.

Under the emergency of the case, it appears to me advisable that means should be afforded for communicating with the Court of Siam, in the event of the Military and Political Authorities at Rangoon considering such requisite for the interests of the service. I propose therefore that Lieutenant Colonel Snow should carry a letter addressed by me to the Phra Khlang or Prime Minister at Siam or the general nature above stated, but intimating in addition, that provided the King of Siam consents or desires it, that an officer will attend at the Court to explain the nature of the assistance required. Powers to be used eventually may be given accordingly to Lieutt. Colonel Snow. As to instructions to the Lieutenant Colonel, these must of course be left with the authorities employed on the expedition, for I wish it to be distinctly understood, that the object of Colonel Snow's Mission, if resorted to, can as far as depends on us embrace only the military arrangements for the immediate support of our troops and the aid of a Siamese force, and does not extend to the negotiation of any ulterior arrangements connected with the retention or restoration of any of the conquered countries. These are points which could only be discussed by the direct

authority of the Right Honorable the Governor General, but, under existing circumstances, it may be desirable to submit to His Lordship a Memorandum of all the objects which may appear on our Records to have hitherto been considered as desirable for the interests of this Government, the attainment of which depends in any degree on negotiation with the Siamese authorities, with a marginal reference to the respective dates at which they have come into discussion. As I understand a Vessel will sail this day for Rangoon, I have directed a letter to be drafted in reply to Major Canning, with copy to Sir A. Campbell.

The Board will perceive by the draft now submitted, that I have made it to be understood that the letters and powers to be entrusted to Lieutenant Colonel Snow are to be used only in the event of Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim being occupied by our troops, and of no orders or instructions having been intermediately received from the Supreme Government, or any other circumstance intervened which would render the use of them unnecessary or improper.

Adverting to the knowledge possessed by Lieutenant Low of the Siamese language and of the habits and customs of the Siamese Chiefs with whom he has already had intercourse it has occurred to me that he might be eminently useful in any future communications with them on the frontier. I suggested to Lieutenant Colonel Snow the expediency of his accompanying him and as that officer has expressed his desire of availing himself of Lieutenant Low's services, I propose that he should return along with him. It may be proper also to send copies of the letters received from Rangoon and reply to the Resident at Singapore. Lieutenant Colonel Snow proposes leaving this about the 20: Instant.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

Fort Cornwallis
6th September 1824.

Minute by the
President II:
September 1824.

MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

Finding by further reference to the proceedings of this Government that our communications with Siam have never been carried further than the address of letters to the Pia Phra Klang, Prime Minister of State, it appears to me that the powers alluded to in my minute of the 6th Instant as eventually to be used by Lieutenant Colonel Snow, as a deputed Agent to that Court, cannot with propriety be given. Our interference must therefore be limited to the granting of letters to the three Chiefs of Ligor, Phunga and Renong, and to the Phra Klang, drafts of which I now submit to the Board.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

11th September 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 408-412.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 14 September 1824.

To the RAJAH of LIGOR.

To the Rajah of
Ligor.

My Friend,

[? Sept. 1824.]

Your Highness has already been furnished with copy of the declaration of war published by the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, explaining the causes which have led to the war between the British Government and the Burman Nation. Your Highness has also been informed thro' Lieutenant Low, sent to wait on you by my predecessor Mr. Phillips, that the British troops had taken possession of Rangoon and Cheduba. Altho' no answer has been received from your Highness to these communications, at which I am surprized and concerned, nevertheless from the friendship subsisting between your Highness's Government and that of Prince of Wales Island, I think it right to address another letter to inform my friend that the British troops pursuing their victorious career will, by the time this reaches you, be in possession of Mergui and Tavoy and the adjacent countries and that a favorable opportunity again offers for your Highness to participate in the glory of humbling the pride of the Burmans. My friend will no doubt consider that as the British Nation is now engaged in war against the common enemy of both the British and Siamese Government, the British troops should be looked upon as the friends of the latter by assisting them with supplies of provisions, of cattle and elephants to convey their stores and by directing a portion of the troops under your Highness's authority to act against the Burmans; at the same time the interests of the Siamese Government must be furnished and advanced. This letter will be sent to you by Lieu-

tenant Colonel Snow, an officer of high rank, commanding the British troops at Mergui, and should your Highness be disposed to assist the British troops as required, all particulars will be communicated by that Gentleman whom my friend will consider as fully empowered to act by the Government of Prince of Wales Island.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

To the Phra
Klang.

To THE PHRA KLANG.

[Sept. 1824.]

His Majesty the King of Siam will long before this have been informed of the war subsisting between the British and Burmese Governments, and the causes of that war will have been explained to His Majesty by the Proclamation issued by the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, copy of which was transmitted from Singapore by the Resident there. His Majesty will also have been informed by a letter addressed to you by Lieutenant Low, entrusted to the charge of the Rajah of Ligor, that the British troops had taken possession of Rangoon and Cheduba. Now this is written to apprise His Majesty of Siam that the British Troops in prosecution of the war have arrived and taken possession of Tavoy and Mergui. Another favorable opportunity is offered of participating in the glory of subduing the Burmans. The British Government being now engaged in war against a power that is the common enemy of both the British and the Siamese, it is hoped that His Majesty of Siam will see the propriety of directing the Siamese Authorities near the frontier to consider the British troops their friends engaged in a common cause and assisting them in the manner that may be pointed out by the Officer Commanding them. It is hoped that His Majesty the King will also perceive that by now employing a portion of his victorious troops in attacking the Burmahs the real interests of His Majesty cannot fail to be materially promoted.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

**Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements. Vol. 96,
pp. 414-422.**

FORT CORNWALLIS The 14 September 1824.

To MAJOR CANNING at RANGOON.

**To Major Canning at Rangoon.
6 September
1824.**

To

MAJOR CANNING

**Political Agent to the Governor General
RANGOON.**

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 28th July last, and to avail myself of an opportunity offering for communicating the result of Lieutenant Low's Mission to Ligor, as well as conveying to you the opinions and sentiments of this Government on the subject of your letter now replied to and the measures intended to be pursued in consequence, determined on after the fullest communication between our President and Lieutenant Colonel Snow who arrived here on the 4th Instant.

2. In respect to the first point, the Governor in Council has to intimate to you with much regret the failure of Lieutenant Low's Mission to Ligor in all its objects. That officer returned some weeks ago and from his report received on the 2nd. ultimo,* it appears that the Rajah of Ligor had on various pretences evaded all personal communication by declining either to receive Lieutenant Low at Ligor or meet him at Trang, where he remained upwards of three months. To that place however the Rajah deputed his son, apparently with the view of discussing the objects of the Mission, but without any powers to negotiate or enter into any Settlement or agreement on the subject at issue. The tedious and evasive communications only produced conviction on the mind of Lieutenant Low that the Rajah had no serious intention of entering into any agreement, while the information received from other quarters satisfied that officer that the Rajah did not possess the independent

* To be copied
later from
Straits Settlements, Vol. 93.

power and free action contemplated by this Government, and had no authority to conclude any definite arrangement on those points the adjustment of which formed the main objects of the Mission. Lieutenant Low therefore left Trang on the 1st Ultimo, having previously sent to the Rajah a sealed letter addressed to the Phra Klang or Chief Minister of the King of Siam,* of which a copy is enclosed and to which no reply has yet been received.

* To be copied
later from
Vol. 98.

3. Under these circumstances it now remains for this Government to consider in what manner they can best promote the immediate objects pointed out in your letter* and the one which accompanied it from Sir A. Campbell.* The following appears to be the course of proceeding best calculated for the above purpose, to be followed, however, on the presumption that the British troops are actually in possession of Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim. The occupation of those places will bring our Military Authorities in the contiguity of the Rajahs or Governors on the Western frontier of the Siamese Monarchy, and a direct communication may become unavoidable. With the view of aiding such communication it is proposed to furnish Lieutenant Colonel Snow with letters addressed by our President to the Chiefs nearest the boundary, containing in general terms (with reference to the Proclamation of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council) the causes and objects which have induced the occupation of those Countries by our troops and impressing on them the expediency of receiving them as friends and aiding by every means the proceedings of the British power acting against the Burmahs, the common enemy of both the British and Siamese Governments, by furnishing supplies of provisions and carriage as the Commander of the troops may require.

* See ante,
extracts from
this Vol. (96)
for these
documents.

4. Considering however the limited powers of the Chiefs under Siamese Authority as displayed in the case of Ligor, it is evident, that although partial

local and temporary assistance in the article of supply may possibly be afforded by them, no measure of the important and decisive nature alluded to, namely the march and co-operation of a body of Siamese troops, can be expected without express sanction and orders of the King of Siam.

5. If such co-operation continue to be considered an object essential to success a direct communication with, or even deputation to the Court of Siam may be required, as affording the only prospect of its completion. On this point I am directed to state that the Honorable the Governor in Council find themselves under some difficulty. The direct deputation of an Agent accredited by this Government has on several occasions been discouraged. It was indeed on this ground that the instructions to Lieutenant Low confined him to personal negotiation with the Rajah of Ligor and did not authorize him to proceed to Siam. Adverting however to the urgency of the case, and actuated by the consideration that the public interests may, in the judgment of yourself and of Sir A. Campbell, imperiously require such deputation, the Governor in Council proposes furnishing Lieutenant Colonel Suow with a letter to the Phra Klang or Prime Minister at Siam similar in tenor to that addressed to the subordinate Chiefs, and with power to be used eventually in order to give to that officer under the sanction of a local government the official character required to enable him to conduct the duties of such deputation.

6. In a letter received from the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council under date 12 : March last, the probable occupation of Tavoy, Mergui and Junk Ceylon by our troops is alluded to as affording a favorable opportunity of making a desirable arrangement with the Government of Siam, in respect to the affairs of Quedah, in which this Government is directly interested, and the expediency of encouraging the

Siamese to co-operation with the British troops is further enjoined in another letter of the 11th June from the same high authority. It is presumable therefore, that this Government will not be considered as having gone beyond the strict line of its duty in availing itself of the actual occurrence of the event pointed out as the most favorable period for negotiating successfully with the Siamese Government.

7. It is scarcely necessary to repeat that these powers are given to Lieutenant Colonel Snow under the contemplation that the British troops are in possession of Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim, and a communication with the Siamese Government on the subject thereby rendered advisable, and that no direct orders from the Supreme Government have been received, or other circumstance intermediately occurred of a nature rendering the use of these powers unnecessary or improper.

* Should be
"Snow".

8. Some arrangements connected with the state of the vessel on which Lieutenant Colonel Low* arrived will probably prevent his leaving this before the 20 : Instant. In the mean time the Governor in Council is not without some expectation of hearing further from Rangoon. Considering his (Low's) intimate and perfect knowledge of the Siamese language and his having been in the habit of intercourse with the Chiefs of the Siamese Government, it has occurred to our President that the presence of Lieutenant Low might be very useful in any communications required to be made to them and as Lieutenant Colonel Snow has concurred in the opinion of advantage likely to result from his assistance, it is proposed that he should accompany him on his return.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. M. WILLIAMS

Offg. Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis

The 6th September 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 452-7.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 14 September 1824.

MR. J. ANDERSON.

Mr. J. Anderson
11 September
1824.

To W. M. WILLIAMS Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

Placed as I have been for some time past in situations which have given me favorable opportunities of acquiring information respecting the neighbouring native states, while commercial agent to this Government and more recently conducting the correspondence between the late Governor and the Authorities at Ligore and Quedah, I take the liberty of respectfully submitting to the Honorable the Governor in Council the result of my enquiries upon a subject which has during the last few years engaged the attention of this Government, and a consideration of which is daily becoming more momentous, in consequence not only of the late commencement of hostilities against the Burmahs, the meditated expedition against the Southern Ports of that Empire, the very unsatisfactory footing upon which the British Government at present stands with Siam, more especially with the minor state of Ligore and its present dependency of Quedah, but also the unsuccessful issue of the late Governor's negotiations in view to effect the restoration of the King of Quedah, the deceit and cunning evinced by the Ligore Chief and his Agents during the whole progress of these negotiations and the development of his real intentions, by the uncourteous reception of the Agent who was lately deputed to Trang.

* This Document has not yet been traced. If found, it shall be copied.

The first part of the accompanying paper* contains some reflections upon the conquest of Perak and Quedah, a brief account of the early Malayan Establishments on the Peninsula and the relative connection of the Quedah state with Siam and Prince of Wales Island; an exposition of the advantages likely to result from declaring Quedah and the whole of the Malayan States under the protection of the British Government restoring a weak ally to the throne of his ancestors, not so much from a consideration of the claims which he has to support, however strong, as from a regard to the interests and prosperity of the British Settlements, to which is added a few suggestions relative to the policy to be pursued for the improvement of the declining commerce of this Port with these States.

The second division contains a descriptive sketch of the Tin countries on the Western side of the Malayan Peninsula from the Island of Junk Ceylon to the river Lingi, near Malacca, and the rivers on that coast, intended to shew the boundaries of the several states as defined and admitted by the best native authorities, to point out the separate rights of each, and the facilities which exist for extending the commercial intercourse with these states and drawing forth the valuable products with which the Peninsula is known to abound.

The object of my investigation has been to remove some misconceptions which have been too generally circulated respecting the tributary dependence of Quedah upon Siam, as implied from the anciently established ceremony of transmitting a Boonga Mas, or gold and silver flower, and to direct the attention of the higher authorities to a subject of deep importance to this settlement, which may possibly not be overlooked in the future negotiations with the Court of Siam. It has been my aim, by

collecting and carefully comparing different authorities to shew, not only the advantage to British interests, but the absolute necessity of immediate interference in the affairs of Quedah.

The dispersions of the Malays by the lawless oppressions of the Siamese is unquestionably giving encouragement to a very alarming system of piracy, and the decline of trade, the scarcity and enhanced price of grain and other supplies have been too sensibly felt of late to escape notice. Measures of the utmost forbearance have already experienced a trial of three years, but the prospect of a satisfactory adjustment appears as distant as ever, while the Government is obliged to comply with the selfish policy of the authorities at Quedah and pay a bounty upon the grain which used to be imported formerly at one half the price.

These observations were penned in the latter part of last year, prior to the knowledge of an intended rupture with the Burmahs, and at a time when the public mind at this Settlement was considerably agitated by the reports which daily arrived of a meditated invasion by the Siamese. These remarks are submitted therefore with the utmost deference, in the hope that the Honorable the Governor in Council will indulgently overlook any imperfections in the execution of the task in consideration of the importance of the subject to the interests of this Island.

I have &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Trans. to Govt.

Penang

11th September 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements, Vol. 96,
pp. 423-430.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 14 September 1824.

To the GOVERNOR GENERAL in
COUNCIL—Fort Wm.

To

To the Governor
General in
Council Fort
William 13 Sept.
1824.

The RIGHT HONORABLE
WILLIAM PITT LORD AMHERST
Governor General in Council
FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord,

With reference to the Dispatch from this Government to your Lordship in Council, under date the 26th April last, we have now the honor to transmit the accompanying Copy of Lieutenant Low's report of his Mission to the Rajah of Ligor.

2. We greatly regret the unsuccessful issue of the Mission in all its main objects - - -

* dated 6 Sept.
1824.

[The remainder of this letter contains merely the substance of that already copied, addressed to Major Canning.* It is not therefore considered necessary to repeat it here. The last paragraph is as follows.]

10. We beg leave, in conclusion, to express the expectation that in the several measures above detailed, your Lordship in Council will not consider this Government to have gone beyond the strict line of its duty, in availing itself of the actual occurrence of the events pointed out as the most favorable period for negotiating successfully with the Siamese Government.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
„ J. MACALISTER
„ W. A. CLUBLEY

Fort Cornwallis
The 13: September 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 433-439.

FORT CORNWALLS The 14 September 1824.

MINUTE by MR MACALISTER.

Minute by Mr.
Macalister 13:
September 1824.

It was not until this forenoon that I had the honor of perusing the President's Minute and Draft of a letter to Major Canning in reference to the important political objects for the furtherance of which Lieutenant Colonel Snow has been deputed to this Government. The Honorable Governor's papers have evidently been written under that sense of responsibility which his recent arrival at this Presidency must cause him to feel when called upon to express opinions on questions that to be fully understood, require much local experience, as well as a laborious reference to the past Proceedings of the Board. As however the Supreme Government and Major Canning must look to this Government for some more decisive opinions than what the Honorable President's papers appear to me to convey, I hope I shall not be deemed presumptuous if I venture to submit to the consideration of my superiors such views on the subject of the proposed negotiations with Siam as have occurred to me.

In the first place, I still entertain the opinion, which I verbally declared to the late Honorable Governor some months ago, that the object desired by the Supreme Government, of securing the active co-operation of the Siamese Court in our war against the state of Ava, will not only be much more difficult of attainment than what is supposed in Bengal, but even if attained will prove of very little advantage, and probably of still less credit to us.

It is true a long standing and inveterate hatred and rivalry subsist between the Siamese and

Burmans, yet it is not less true, that the Siamese not only hate but *dread us* much more than they do the Burmans; and this feeling of fear is at the present moment, when we are making such approaches towards their kingdom, too engrossing and powerful to be easily removed from the jealous and suspicious Court of Siam. Their arrogance also is so great and preposterous that I have little doubt were we to offer the Siamese Ministers restitution of their ancient possessions on the Coast of Tenasserim, they would coolly receive them as a matter of right, and deem any *return* to us quite unnecessary.

Granting however that we succeed in persuading them to detach a body of troops to co-operate with us against the Burman State, I feel confident that such an accession will be an accession of weakness, instead of strength to us. The jealousy of their military commanders, the acknowledged inferiority of their troops to those of the Burmans in discipline and conduct, their cruel and barbarous mode of warfare, and their presumption and arrogance on all occasions, would embarrass most materially the operations of our army, and would disgust the peaceable inhabitants of Ava, and render a final settlement of the country much more difficult. Whenever also we succeeded in subduing the Burman Government, the Siamese Troops would claim the whole honor and credit of the victory, and persuade their Court to be a hundred-fold more haughty and imperious and full of pretensions than what it is already. But our very application to the Siamese Court for co-operation or assistance will, I fear, lower our character, and aggravate the insolence of the King of Siam.

The only advantage we may receive from the Siamese Government at the present crisis, is some aid in elephants and provisions, but the best and I

think only *certain* mode of securing a supply of these, will be by rendering it a regular mercantile transaction, and offering to disburse the full expense thereof. There will be some difficulty however in making such supplies join our army as soon as they may be required, for the Country for many miles on each side of the Siamese and Burman boundaries is well known to be a desolate waste, through which the passage of large convoys will be a much more arduous work than what the patience or perseverance of the Siamese will perhaps be able to accomplish.

And here I would beg to notice the plan of opening a communication with the Siamese Court by the way of Tavoy as it is proposed Lieutenant Colonel Snow shall endeavour to effect. Putting aside the almost inaccessibility of such a route, I humbly conceive, with every respect for the high military reputation of Lieutenant Colonel Snow, that the selection of a person possessing more information regarding the nature and forms of the Governments in this quarter of the world than he can possibly be expected to possess, is indispensable if we desire to quiet the fears and blind the jealousy and distrust of the Siamese Court on the present occasion. I question also whether Lieutenant Low will be a fit assistant to him. That officer, I infer from his late Mission to Trang, is better acquainted with the grammatical structure of the Siamese Tongue than with their customs and forms of conducting public business. It is also well known here that the Rajah of Ligore, whose friends, as Mr. Crawford experienced, are the leading members of the Siamese Ministry, has taken personal offence at some expressions used by Lieutenant Low in the communications with the Ligorian officers.

If however it be determined that Lieutenant Colonel Snow shall proceed to Bankok, he can

require no better or fuller information regarding the affairs at Kedda and the political and commercial objects desired by this Government, than what is contained in the comprehensive paper, with its numerous enclosures, which the late Governor's Military Secretary drew up for the purpose of being given to Mr. Crawford, and which the late Honorable Governor adopted and recorded as a Minute in Council in December 1821.*

* To be copied later, with 1821 documents.

(Signed) J. MACALISTER.

The 13 Sept. 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements, Vol. 96,
pp. 500-510.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 23 September 1824.

* See ante
extracts from
this Vol. (96.)

WITH reference to the Minutes by the President recorded on the Proceedings of the 14 : Instant *

APPROVED the following letter and enclosures to Lieutenant Colonel Snow.

To Lieutt. Col.
Snow 24 : Sep-
tember 1824.

To

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SNOW.

Sir,

The general outline of the course of proceeding intended to be pursued by this Government, consequent on the letters received from Sir Archibald Campbell and Major Canning, of which you were the bearer, will have been explained in the communications which have passed between the Honorable the President and yourself. For the sake of reference, I am now directed to enclose copy of the letter lately sent to Major Canning, and to intimate at the same time that a subsequent reference to the records of this Government having led the Honorable the Governor in Council to believe that a deputation to the Court of Siam could be resorted to only under the express sanction and delegation of power from the Right Honorable the Governor General, that part of the contemplated arrangement has been abandoned.

2. The measures of this Government in support of the object and views pointed out by Sir A. Campbell will be confined therefore to the address of letters to the Siamese Chiefs and authorities to whom the occupation of Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim will bring you in contiguity, and with whom the necessity of holding communication will probably arise, to the preparation of a letter to the Phra Klang or Prime Minister at Siam, the transmission of which will be left to your discretion,

in which it is believed no difficulty will be found through the medium of any one of the Chiefs already mentioned, and lastly to the execution of powers from this Government to communicate and make such arrangements with the Chiefs for the supply of carriage &c. as you may be able to effect for the important purposes pointed out by Sir A. Campbell. The letters and powers with English translations are herewith transmitted. From the knowledge possessed by Lieutenant Low of the Siamese language and from his having been already in communication with some of the Native Chiefs it has been considered desirable that that officer should accompany you, and as it may be found expedient to depute him on the service in which you are engaged, a duplicate power has been made out in his name, to be used however only in the event of your considering such deputation necessary for the interests of the service.

1 Native Officer
1 Havildar
2 Naicks
1 Bugler
20 Sepoys

3. Adverting to the uncertainty of the period when our troops may arrive at Mergui, to the necessity that may arise of your visiting some part of the Coast for the purpose of obtaining information, and with the view of ensuring due respect, in such event, the Honorable the Governor has determined that a small Escort (as per margin) of the Local Corps of this Island under the command of Lieutenant Low should accompany you. The Board are aware that it would have been very desirable that you should have been attended by a vessel of a smaller description (than the David Malcolm Transport which conveys you) and of a draft of water so as to have admitted a communication with the shore and the rivers on the Coast. They regret exceedingly that they have found it impracticable to provide one of the proper description and capable of keeping her way with the Transport at this season of the year. A small row boat with a crew of six men will however be embarked for your use on the transport.

4. As the occasional presentation of small presents to the Chiefs with whom you will have to communicate may be useful and even necessary, the Board have directed the sum of Dollars 3,000 to be delivered to Lieutenant Low to be eventually disbursed under ^{* sic. ? "account"} your direction, and of which the amount * will be rendered on his return to this Island.

5. From the general tenor of the letter enclosed, you will perceive that in the measures now taken the Honorable the Governor in Council proceeds on the contemplation of Mergui, Tavoy and Tenasserim being actually in possession of the British troops; that it is only on that contingency that the letters and powers now entrusted to you are to be used. As it is possible the expected orders from the Supreme Government relative to the occupation of these places may be accompanied with instructions as to the mode of proceeding in respect to the Siamese Chiefs on the frontier, it must also be understood that the Powers now given are not to be made use of in case the Right Honorable the Governor General shall have delegated Powers to any other person or signified the adoption of a line of policy which would render your proceeding on them unnecessary or improper, and are moreover confined to such communication and arrangement as may be required to carry into effect the views of Sir A. Campbell in procuring carriage supplies &c. and eventually the co-operation of a body of Siamese troops, but without discussing the ulterior question of the final disposal of acquisitions made in the course of the war.

6. It may be hoped that the occupation of those Countries by our troops may dispose the Chiefs and the Government of Siam to lend their aid in the supply of carriage required for the further prosecution of the war. But it becomes necessary to state that from the little communication that has ever subsisted between

the Siamese and any European power [and] the extreme suspicion evinced in such communication, a speedy or active exertion on their part can hardly be expected. It is probable they will await some signal instance of success on our part before they can be induced to take a decided line in support of the war, but it is by no means impossible that the supply of carriage, cattle, elephants, &c. may be obtained as a common commercial transaction in the Countries immediately depending on Tavoy, Mergui, or in the adjoining Siamese Territories, in respect to which you will be guided of course by the instructions received from Sir A. Campbell.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. M. WILLIAMS.

Offg. Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis

The 24. September 1824.

ORDERED that a Copy of the above letter be transmitted for the information of Major Canning at Rangoon.

THE following letter of instructions to Lieutenant Low is also approved and recorded.

To LIEUTENANT J. LOW.

To Lieutt. J. Low

24: September

1824.

To

Lieutenant J. Low.

Sir,

Lieutenant Colonel Snow attached to the British force employed at Rangoon having been deputed here for the purpose of consulting as to the best means of inducing the Siamese authorities to assist in the supply of carriage cattle for the use of the army acting against the Burmans, and eventually to employ a portion of their troops against the common enemy; it has been judged necessary in the contemplation of the immediate occupation of Tavoy and Mergui to grant letters to Lieutenant Colonel Snow, addressed to the Chiefs in the neighbourhood of the Siamese frontier, in furtherance of the objects above stated. As a direct communication will become necessary, the Board adverting to your knowledge of the Siamese language and habits of the people with whom Lieutenant Colonel Snow will have to communicate, have determined that you should accompany him on the duty in which he is now employed.

It has further been determined that a small party of the Local Corps should attend Lieutenant Colonel Snow as an honorary escort as well as to ensure respect, in the event of its being found necessary to land on the Coast for the purpose of obtaining information; a small Boat and Crew will be sent on board the David Malcolm for that purpose. It has further been deemed advisable to advance to you the sum of dollars 3,000 for the purpose of providing such articles as may be necessary according to the usual custom to present to the Chiefs with whom it may be necessary to hold intercourse.

The Board have granted to Lieutenant Colonel Snow the necessary credentials for that purpose, but it may be judged advisable by that officer to depute you occasionally on such service. Duplicate Power is transmitted herewith to be used only in the event of Lieutenant Colonel Snow directing their use. You will in this respect and all others connected with the object of the present Mission conform to the instructions and directions you may receive from that Officer. You will endeavour, as done by you on a former occasion, to obtain every possible information in respect to the Coasts, Islands and Countries you may happen to visit.

The Board have determined to grant you the same allowance as on your last deputation, viz. 500 Dollars per Month. When Lieutenant Colonel Snow shall intimate to you that your services are no longer necessary you will make the best of your way back to this Island, along with the escort and boat's crew. Directions have been given to make the usual advance, and embark the usual supply of provisions for their use.

I am &c.

(Signed) W. M. WILLIAMS.

Offg. Secry. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis

The 24 September 1824.

Factory,
Records
Straits Settlements, Vol. 96,
pp. 633-643.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 21 October 1824.

RESIDENT at SINGAPORE.

Resident at
Singapore
5 October 1824

To

W. M. WILLIAMS Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government

Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10 : September transmitting correspondence with the Agent of the Governor-General and Commander in Chief of the Rangoon force respecting the war in which we are engaged with the state of Ava, and more particularly touching the co-operation which may be expected on the part of the Siamese Government.

An opportunity has just occurred of communicating direct with Siam of which I have availed myself, and I now beg leave to submit to the Honorable the Governor in Council copy of the letters which I have addressed to the Officers of the Siamese Government, as well as of my dispatch to the Secretary to Government in the Political Department explaining the views and motives under which these were written. In further explanation of the sentiments which I have been led from many considerations to entertain on the question of Siamese co-operation, I beg leave respectfully to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council an extract of a dispatch which I had the honor to address to the Supreme Government on the 31st of May last.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore
5 : October 1824.

THE letter of John Crawford Esquire Resident at Singapore. To His Royal Highness the Prince Kroma Meng Cheat &ca. &ca.

I have communicated to the Chao Piah Prah Klang from time to time the origin and progress of our war with the Burmans, and now have the honor to address your Royal Highness on the same subject. Your Royal Highness knows that four months ago a large army proceeded to Rangoon, captured that place, and has since repeatedly fought and beat the Burmans. Detachments from the same force have taken Cheduba, Ramree and Negrais. By the last accounts received the General in Command had given orders for the conquest of Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui. This last advance of our arms will bring us close to the Siamese frontier, and in such an event, your Royal Highness may be assured that the British Commanders will pay the utmost attention to the wishes and interests of His Majesty the King of Siam, while they trust at the same time to His Majesty's friendship for co-operation and support in vanquishing the common enemy. If your Royal Highness will be pleased to convey to the British General, to the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, or to myself the present and final views of the Court on all the topics connected with this subject, they will either be immediately attended to or conveyed to the Governor General of India, and there receive all the consideration due to the friendship which has been long professed and felt for the Siamese nation.

I have further to inform your Royal Highness that as soon as the season of the rains is over and the Country open, the army of Rangoon will march to Ummerapura, while a much larger force under His Excellency the Commander in Chief of India will move in the same direction from the frontiers of Bengal. This will put a an end to the war.

By the present opportunity I send His Majesty

the King in the name of the Right Honorable the Governor General a present of a thousand stand of fire arms in token of his confidence and friendship, and the merchants of Singapore have received full permission to furnish the Court of Siam with any number which may be desired.

I beg your Royal Highness to accept of a gold watch and 15 Catties of Coral as a mark of my high consideration and respect.

(Signed) * J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore
3 October 1824.

The letter of John Crawford Esquire, Resident of Singapore. To his Excellency the Chao Piah Prah-Klang Chao Kun Kosa.

This letter will be delivered to your Excellency by Mr. Gillies, the same respectable individual who visited Siam last year, and I have to entreat for him a continuance of your favor and protection. He takes with him a supply of fire arms for the use of the Government with the full sanction of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, and to afford a proof of his esteem and confidence,

I beg to announce to your Excellency that the Island of Singapore has become permanently a British possession, that the Dutch have forborn to make further claim upon it, and further that they have ceded to the English the town and territory of Malacca. The commerce of Singapore continues daily to encrease—there are still no duties whatsoever levied on merchandize and an extensive market is open for the produce of your country. I hope therefore this year that many junks will arrive from Siam, and that the Kings's ship may be induced again to repeat her voyage.

I beg your Excellency in token of my respect to accept a double barrelled fowling piece of a new construction, and an emerald ring.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD.

Resident.

Singapore

3: October 1824.

To

GEORGE SWINTON Esquire

Secretary to Government

Poll. Dept.

FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, that the English Ship *Caroline* proceeds without delay to Siam, and that I have taken this opportunity of again addressing the Siamese authorities on the subject of the war in which we are engaged with the State of Ava. Copies of the letters sent on this subject addressed as usual to the Chiefs of the Foreign Department are annexed. Government will have the goodness to observe that I have still continued to address the froward and suspicious Court of Siam in the same strain of caution as heretofore, avoiding the proposal of any specific measure of co-operation on the grounds stated in a former dispatch, but at the same time inviting, altho' not courting, general co-operation and assistance, while the means, as far as possible, are furnished, and in the manner least calculated to awaken jealousy, of giving us that co-operation.

I have not hitherto had the honor to receive any reply to my dispatch in the Political Department of the 31 of May, and in which I had proposed to present the Siamese Government with 1000 stand of arms in the name of the Right Honorable the Governor General, but the utility of this measure as a means of giving confidence to that suspicious people, has been constantly present to me, and the subject has within the last few days been brought more urgently to my attention by the official information transmitted to me from the Government of Prince of Wales Island, and from which it appears that Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui were upon the point of being attacked—a

matter which would bring us into direct contact with the Siamese, while the co-operation of that State is anxiously looked for by the Commander of the Rangoon force and the Agent of the Governor General.

Under these circumstances I have ventured to assume the responsibility of presenting a thousand stand of fire arms to the Siamese Court. These have been procured at this place and consist of new Tower proof muskets with bayonets complete, which I have purchased at the rate of Nine Spanish Dollars each. This price includes freight, and all other charges to Siam, security to deliver the muskets, and an engagement to bring back the return presents free of all charge whatsoever. The return presents commonly made at Siam amount to about two thirds of the value received, estimating the prices in that country, and as they are deliverable at this place free of all expence to the Government, I may reckon that the actual charge incurred by this measure will not exceed 2000 Spanish Dollars instead of four or five as estimate in my former dispatch.

With respect to the minor presents, the gold watch and fowling piece were purchased some time back with the approbation of Government, and are already sanctioned in the public accounts. The only other charges are the coral presented to the Prince Kroma Cheat, and a small emerald ring to the Minister, both of which will cost together something less than 700 Dollars.

I have the honor further to report that in accordance with the view of Siamese politics and Siamese co-operation which I have taken both in this dispatch and in that of the 31 of May, and under the sanction contained in your dispatch of the 12 of March, I have given permission for a further exportation of fire arms to Siam, and that the Ship Caroline in consequence will convey thither 2000 stand.

Government will be pleased to observe from the contents of my letter to the Siamese Minister that Mr. John Gillies, the same individual who proceeded last year to Siam, proceeds thither again upon the present occasion with commercial views, and proposes making some short stay in the country. The former visit of this gentleman to Siam afforded me satisfactory proofs of his prudence and good sense, and I have in consequence, and believing in the utility of this measure, now given him the directions for his conduct, should political matters be obtruded upon him, as is highly probable, of which I have the honor to enclose a copy.*

* This document does not appear to exist.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore

4 October 1824.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 614-625.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 21 October 1824.

Enclosure in
Fullerton to
Amherst, 19 Oct.
1824.

MEMORANDUM of the various Points which appear on the public records as desirable for the interests of this Presidency, and to be obtained through negotiation with the Court of Siam.

First. The restoration of the King of Kedah to his territories free of all tribute or at least subject only to the triennial presentation of the Boonga Mas (Golden Flower) on the payment of a certain sum in money not exceeding 4,000 Dollars annually and liable to no further demands, order or mark of subjection whatever. Should the money payment be acceded to the Government of Prince of Wales Island to guarantee the same.

REMARKS. This is a point of great political importance, directly affecting the interests as well as the credit and reputation of this Government. The Grant of this Island was given by the King of Kedah, and there seems every reason to believe that on granting it he considered himself fully authorized to make the grant, and the British Government also acknowledged that authority by receiving it and making the Treaty with him. Captain Light's correspondence also held out to him the constant hope (which was the principal inducement) of his thereby ensuring the protection of the British Government against two powerful neighbours (the Burmans and Siamese) then contending for superiority. Although such protection formed no express provision of the Treaty, and although on the grounds of the state of Vassalage in which he was supposed to stand in relation to Siam, it was not deemed advisable to afford him protection by the intervention of Military Force and defence of his Kingdom, still the restoration

of the King of Kedah, provided it can be brought about by negotiation is an object not less supported by strict justice than sound policy. While the Kedah Country was under the management of its own King we had a friendly neighbour, looking up to us for support and protection; we had ample supplies of grain and provisions; our commercial relations were in a progressive state of amelioration; we had the certainty of an amicable adjustment of all disputes likely to arise; certain co-operation in the prevention of piracy and other crimes.

We have now a powerful, haughty, arrogant and unaccommodating neighbour; we are liable to constant disputes, extremely troublesome, and though in the eyes of Government and the European population not absolutely dangerous, still destructive of the interests of the Island by the constant alarm under which the native inhabitants are kept, and the unsettled state of mind produced on them by the fear of such neighbours. Our supplies are completely cut off. From the opposition of the Malay inhabitants, and extreme aversion to Siamese Government, insurrections are frequent, cultivation is abandoned, and general confusion prevails, while many of the Malay inhabitants driven out from their homes have taken to piracy and plunder for subsistence, which renders the navigation of the neighbouring seas unsecure.

SECOND. The disavowal by the Siamese Government of all claims of superiority over any of the Malay States on the Peninsula South of Patani.

This is another point of a political nature of great importance not less to this Presidency than the general trade of the Straits of Malacca. The admission of their independence and the certainty of security against Siamese encroachment is indispensable to the future peace and tranquillity of the Malayan Peninsula. Without entering minutely into the discussion of

the degree of dependence on which those states are said to have been once placed in relation to Siam and of the extent of control said to have been exerted over them, on which very discordant opinions are entertained, it is enough to remark it is very clear, that no act of superiority whatever has been exerted over any state South East of Kedah within the memory of man. The triennial presentation of the Boonga Mas was indeed the only mark of homage required from the latter up to the year 1808, between which period and 1818 constant demands were made and that state was compelled to assist Siam with supplies of grain, armed prows, &c. and in the end to attack its Southerly neighbour, the Rajah of Perak, in order to compel him also to present the Boonga Mas, a mark of subjection, clearly proved never to have been before demanded, or complied with. The Rajah of Kedah having succeeded in subjugating Perak, and having entirely destroyed his military means thereby, was himself attacked and driven out of his Kingdom. It is generally rumoured that the same process is even now in contemplation in respect to Perak and Salengore, that is, to compel the former to attack the latter and itself to fall an easy prey. We have a decided interest in preventing further aggression and subjugation by the Siamese Government. All the petty states now menaced have long been on friendly terms with us. We have made Commercial Treaties with them providing for a free intercourse, and though these Treaties are purely commercial, stipulating only for free communication and a reciprocity in point of duties &c. and containing no political pledge of defence, still it must be observed that their falling under the overwhelming power of such a Government as the Siamese must entirely destroy all commercial intercourse and throw the whole Peninsula in disorder and confusion; even the dangers to which these States are now subjected by the threatening measures of the Siamese tends to unsettle the minds of the inhabitants.

It is only under a settled and peaceable state of things that trade can flourish, that the rich productions of the country can be brought forth. We have an interest therefore in protecting them as far as we can, as well against foreign aggressions as internal disputes with each other. The influence of this Government over them is considerable, and if exerted by friendly intercourse and communication will long be sufficient without the use of arms to maintain all in these places. It is only through that intercourse which trade, the supply of each others wants produces, that the yet uncivilized inhabitants can by degrees be brought to understand the blessings of settled life, and it is not unreasonable to expect that such will be the result of our intercourse with these states; but it is clear that all the immediate commercial advantages, as well as the well grounded hopes of future amelioration must be lost, if the long exploded or rather imaginary rights of supremacy of the Siamese are to be received and admitted, and allowed to be practically enforced. The insurance of protection to the Malay States against unauthorized aggressions, if attainable by the course of negotiation, and without recourse to arms, invariably discouraged by superior authority, is an object that needs but to be stated in order to obtain attention. It is one which on principles of humanity alone might even warrant stronger measures than amicable negotiation.

THIRD. The free navigation of the rivers between the Trang and the Karian from their mouths to their sources, as well as the free and unimpeded intercourse over land with Patani and the Tin Countries in the interior, and with Ligor, Singora and the other ports on the eastern coast of the Malayan Peninsula on fair and moderate duties on the articles on* transit or exportation by either sea.

* sic. ? "of"

This is a point of commercial policy important to the general trade, but of more particular advantage to

Siam itself, by opening a channel for the produce of the eastern part of the Kingdom direct to the Bay of Bengal, thus saving the circumnavigation of the whole Malay Peninsula. The distance is said not to exceed 20 Leagues and between Lagore and Trang the journey is performed in seven days, for the greater part there is water communication and the portorage is easily provided for by the use of elephants which abound, are easily caught and trained in two months.

FOURTH. The free exportation from all the Siam ports on the western side of the Peninsula of all articles of provision required for the use of Prince of Wales Island.

This requires no remark.

FIFTH. The cession of the Island of Salang or Jnnk Ceylon to the British Government.

* To be copied
later from
Vols. 72 and 81.

The advantages that would result from the possession of the Island are pointed out in the Minutes of the Governor of this Presidency of 16th October 1819* and 27 December 1821*, the latter accompanied by fourteen documents, in No. 11 of which all previous information is concentrated, the principal being contained in a letter from Captain Francis Light addressed to the Governor General on the 18 June 1787. They may be stated thus. The great fertility of the soil producing pepper, indigo, cotton, sugar, coffee and rice in great abundance, the richness of its tin mines, the protection it affords to shipping at all seasons, and its convenient situation in respect to the navigation of the Bay of Bengal, to which may be added its commanding situation as a military station, with the view of keeping in check both the Burman and Siamese Governments in the event of an insular being preferred to a continental position. Should a free intercourse across the Isthmus, as contemplated in article 3d, ever take place, this island would probably become the emporium of all the Siamese trade with India and Europe.

The Island it appears was offered to the British Government in the year 1785 by its Siamese Chief, and the persons employed in looking out for a convenient commercial port at the mouth of the Malacca Straits seem to have hesitated between it and the Island of Penang, at last preferred. The importance of its possession was again pointed out to the Supreme Government by that of Prince of Wales Island in the year 1820, and an Embassy to Siam strongly recommended, for the express purpose of obtaining it, but the prospect of success was not then considered sufficient to warrant the measure. The Island is now of little use to the Siamese, its present possessors. Only in 1810 it was attacked and completely taken possession of by the Birmans, who carried off to slavery many of the inhabitants. After remaining some time they were frightened into a re-embarkation, since which the only inhabitants are about 200 Siamese generally in too great a state of alarm to settle and turn the Island to any account.

Should the result of the present war with the Burmans place, as expected, Mergui, Tavoy and Tenasserim in our possession, there can be no doubt, considering the value attached by the Siamese to these countries, their old possession, that Junk Ceylon and even one or two more Islands of the Mergui Archipelago might be obtained in addition to the other points stated in this Memorandum.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 816-8.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 25 November 1824.

To

G. SWINTON Esquire

Pol. Dept.

Secretary to the Government

FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, that there have arrived within the last days from Siam a ship belonging to the King and nine junks. By these opportunities I have received a reply to the letter which I addressed to the Siamese Minister on the 13th May, and two other communications, of all of which translations or extracts are annexed.

The letter of the Minister expresses all that suspicion and distrust which there was reason to anticipate, and which is so characteristic of the Siamese Government. From personal communications received by the same opportunities it would appear that as soon as the Siamese had received the first reports of our war with the Burmans, they sent a strong detachment from Bangkok to Tavoy, to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the report in question. This detachment on approaching Tavoy, and finding no British troops there, but on the contrary the Burmans in full possession of the country, made a hasty retreat. This circumstance will account in some measure for the Siamese Ministers incredulity respecting the war.

By the accounts now laid before Government, as well as by private reports received at the same time, it would appear that the King of Siam died on the 20 July after an illness of six days continuance, having been carried off by a strangury. His eldest,

but illegitimate son, the Prince Kroma Chiat ascended the throne the next day without experiencing any opposition whatever, and apparently with the general consent and approbation of the Siamese Chiefs. This change in the Government, as the Prince is unquestionably the most intelligent and enlightened individual of his nation, will possibly infuse some portion of activity, and even liberality into the Siamese Government. The Prah Klang, the individual through whom we have hitherto conducted all our intercourse, has been raised to the highest rank in the kingdom, and continues to enjoy the entire confidence of the new King.

It deserves to be noticed that contrary to the customary order of events in Siam, the present succession to the throne has not been accompanied by any disturbances, or by any of those executions or proscriptions which in that country have usually marked the commencement of a new reign.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD.

Resident.

Singapore

30 October 1824.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 25 November 1824.

THE LETTER of Chao Piah Prah-Klang Chao Kun Kosa to John Crawford Esquire, Resident of Singapore.

I have received your letter which states that the Burmans have often deceived the English, and transgressed against them, that war has in consequence been declared, that the Governor General of India has sent an army from Bengal and Madras to attack Rangoon, Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui, and further that he has given orders to the English merchants to supply our nation with whatever merchandize we require, on account of the esteem and friendship he entertains for the Siamese.

You have informed me that the Burmans have sent an Embassy to Cochin China, and the copy which you have transmitted of the Burman King's letter to the King of Cochin China has been well understood, and given His Majesty much satisfaction. In sending it you have done the King an acceptable service.

The Siamese scouts are always vigilant and have recently taken some Burman prisoners. One of the scouts reports that the Burman Mission was well received in Cochin China, but that it is not ascertained whether the presents were accepted or otherwise.

I have communicated to the King such parts of the contents of Mr. Crawford's letter as it was proper His Majesty should know. His Majesty is thankful to the Governor General of India for the permission he has given to the English Merchants to sell fire arms and ammunition to the Siamese.

You say that the English are at war with the Burmans. Our scouts in scouring the Burman frontier have taken some prisoners, who state that they know

nothing of any war between the English and their own nation. Also when the Burman Ambassadors returned from Cochin China you were at war with the King of Ava, yet Mr. Crawford, it is reported, received the ambassadors at Singapore on their return from Cochin China with civility and much friendship. It is further reported that Burman merchants still continue to carry on trade at P. W. Island. Under such circumstances can your nation be at war with the Burmans? These statements have induced me to refrain from communicating to the King what was stated in your letter respecting the war.

You will do an acceptable service to His Majesty the King if you will afford protection to such Siamese merchants as visit Singapore to purchase arms and ammunition, or recommend our merchants to the Governor of P. W. Island, should they desire to visit that place for the same purpose.

His Majesty has directed the Intendant of the warehouse to prepare his ship named Kera Kansumut for sea, appointing Kungsi Phasa to be her Commander. He has directed this person to purchase a few articles which he requires. He wishes you to take some notice of her, and that her Commander may be allowed to buy and sell without molestation. His Majesty desires, if practicable, some cannon, some muskets, and a quantity of glassware, according to a list with which the Commander has been furnished. Let the ship, if possible, return with the present monsoon.

The glassware which you sent has been duly received, and in return I send you 30 Peculs of white sugar as a token of my friendship. The King also has directed the Storekeeper to send you 2 Peculs of Ivory, 10 Peculs of Tin, and 2 Peculs of Gamboge, which the Commander of the ship will duly deliver to you.

Written on Friday the 6th day of the Dark Half of the 8th Month of the year of the Monkey.

TRANSLATION of a PORTUGUESE LETTER.

To

JOHN CRAWFURD Esquire

Resident,

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the King of Siam died on the 20: instant, and the next day with general consent the Prince Kroma Chiat was proclaimed King. The Prince Vangna Kromasak was disgraced by the present Monarch. As soon as Prince Kroma Chiat ascended the throne, he gave orders to allow all nations that visited Siam to buy and sell, export and import, with any inhabitant they thought proper, without hindrance, they paying only the duties. This was done without any altercation with the Chiefs.

I expect to go as an officer of a vessel. She sails for China in the ensuing season. I have to beg you will not mention to the Siamese the contents of my letter to your address complaining of the Prah Klang, as I have been fortunate enough to gain his favour. I beg you will answer my letters, but I suppose you have heard what I now communicate by Francis Domingos Lopes, who is gone as a passenger in the King's ship to Singapore.

I beg to say that you must wait until my arrival at Singapore to explain a great injustice done to you, as well as the predicament I was in with the Siamese Government some time ago; for the Chiefs actually do not credit any foreign intelligence they receive.

Your letters reached here in the month of June. They were translated in the Siamese language, and excited some mirth. The Minister in a sportive manner said "The English have no time to rest, on account of the writing and other business they have to go through."

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) J. F. L.

Siam

25 July 1824.

EXTRACT of a letter from the Supra Cargo of the Brig Shannon to his Commercial Correspondent at Singapore.

I was called before him (the Prah Klang) at 8 o'clock next morning, when I delivered all the letters from you. After perusing them he asked me several questions relative to Mr.....such as what kind of a ship did we come in, one mast or two &c. Then they began about the Burmah war, and asked thousands of questions over and over again, some of them very foolish indeed, all of which I answered to the best of my knowledge. The Prah Klang said he must go and tell the King, and I was to go home, but not to go any where, nor see any person. They took very good care that I should not go out at all events, as they always took away the boat. I was called again in the afternoon, but I took care to take all the musters of the cargo with me to get them sent in with the prices and quantity of each kind. The Prah Klang said that it was time enough to shew them in the evening, and in the mean time to tell to the interpreters all I knew of the war, and they would write it down. I told all that I had told them in the morning. I then produced the musters, and told them the price and quantity of each, which they marked on them in their own writing, and said they would undergo due consideration. I yesterday was called two or three times about the war, and the very same questions put over and over again. These are the people to try a person's *patience* !! At last they got the Portuguese Consul to interpret for me, and by his assistance I made them comprehend all about the war, and shewed them on a chart the Countries the English had taken from the Burmahs. However the Prah Klang has been very attentive, and sends us every day our breakfast, dinner and supper ; to-day he sent us lots of fruit of all sorts as a present, and seems very well pleased. I had a letter for Prince Kromachet from you, and I am

told from very good authority that he is going to improve the trade very much, by allowing every person to trade free, that is to say, by paying the duties which are to be 8 per Cent, you can buy and sell to whom you please. This will be a great advantage to us, for, as the trade is just now, we *must buy* from Government, and their goods are nearly 100 per cent higher than you can purchase the same kind in the Bazar.

There is very great quantity of all kinds of Europe Goods in this place just now. They are imported by the junks from Singapore and Penang. I expect the Shannon will be up here in two days.

Bangkok

4 September 1824.

(True Copies)

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD.

Resident.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 735-9.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 11th November 1824.

To

W. S. CRACROFT Esqr.

Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th October direct[ing] me to submit for the consideration of the Honble. the Governor in Council my opinion, which is the most feasible of two modes of procedure for the removal of the restrictions on the commerce carried on by the Muda River with the countries in the interior of Wellesley Province; whether by application to the Kedah authorities, or by making some arrangement with the present renter of the farm; and further to state whether any communication with the Rajah of Ligor or his representatives would be advisable under existing circumstances.

I have given my utmost attention to subjects of so much interest and importance and now beg to offer the following observations.

The question of opening any direct communication between the Government and the Rajah of Ligor or his representatives involves that of proposing to pay a sum of money to the Kedah authorities for the privilege desired to be obtained.

The aggrandizing spirit of the Siamese evinced in the conquest of the Kedah Territories would I fear receive much encouragement from the opening of any such correspondence with them on the part of the British Government. I believe the present system of Military Government established over the Malays of that Country by their oppressors has never yet been recognized, and there is one very obvious reason for

its not being so. As soon as they are acknowledged to be the "Jang deper Tuan" or Ruling Power according to the Treaty concluded by Sir G. Leith, they will immediately demand payment of the annual 10,000 Spanish Dollars stipulated to be paid in perpetuity or during the possession of Pulo Penang and the territory of Province Wellesley by the Company, and I should imagine it not to be the intention of Government to do any act which will give ground for such a claim.

The jealousy and suspicion of the English which prevails in the mind of the Rajah of Ligor and his adherents is another reason for not opening a communication with him. They would not be persuaded that our views in obtaining a free navigation of the Muda were commercial, but would rather fear some political negotiation with the Chiefs in the interior for the purpose of preventing their future progress to the southern parts of the Malay Peninsula, and the result would be a stricter check either to the transit of merchandize or the journeys of individuals than at present prevails.

Little prospect of success is therefore left excepting by the adoption of the second plan, viz. an agreement with the present or future renters of the farm. If the Honble. the Governor in Council will permit me, I will make an attempt to do this without pretending any express authority, but merely on the ground of the great and increasing number of inhabitants on this shore for whom I am desirous of opening channels of employment, and I hope that by holding out a prospect of mutual advantage much [may] be effected to open and increase the trade. Until I commence an arrangement with the farmers I cannot tell whether a regular payment to them or an agreement for certain fixed duties on the goods passed up and down the river will be the best and easiest plan

and on this subject also I request a discretionary power may be granted me.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINY

Supdt. of Point Wellesley.

Point Wellesley

the 2d. Novr. [1824.]

AGREED that the plans proposed by the Superintendent be approved and the discretionary power solicited by him granted.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 660, p. 271. To

Secret Department

The Honble. The Secret Committee of the
Honble. the Court of Directors.
Honble. Sirs.

Para. 5. The question of the future disposal of Tavoy and Mergui, is now under our consideration, and the result of our deliberations will be communicated to Your Honorable Committee in a subsequent address. Our present impression is, that the most advisable course would be to restore those places to the Siamese, from whom they were forcibly wrested by the Burmese about 60 or 70 years ago ; but it may be necessary to retain them for a short time in our own hands, both with reference to the advantage, which their possession will give us in any negotiations which the Burmese Government may be desirous of opening with us, should a revolution, such as above adverted to, have really taken place, and to the embarrassment in which we should be placed by precipitately making them over to the Siamese, when their restoration to the new Government of Ava, might facilitate the conclusion of terms of peace. Besides, we have just received accounts from the Resident at Singapore, so circumstantial, as in his estimation to be entitled to some credit, that the King of Siam is dead, and the Government has been seized by an illegitimate son. In such a state of confusion, it might not be easy or prudent to treat with one of the conflicting parties for the throne, for the cession to the Siamese State of the Provinces of Tavoy and Mergui.

We have &c.

AMHERST

Fort William

EDWD. PAGET

The 12th November 1824.

JOHN FENDALL.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements. Vol. 95,
pp. 827-830.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 25 November 1824.

Poll. Departt.

To G. SWINTON Esquire
Secretary to the Government.
FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

I have the honor to lay respectfully before the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Siamese Minister, and which was transmitted on a ship belonging to the King of Siam that sailed last night for Bangkok.

I entertain sanguine hopes that as soon as the capture of Tavoy and Mergui shall have been duly made known to the Siamese Government, they will be induced to take some active steps in prosecution of their annual hostilities against the Burmans. According to the information which I have received at this place, the countries which are the usual scenes of military operations between the two nations are totally impassable from June to November. On the 20 of the latter month according to old usage, the Siamese troops which guard the frontiers take the field, and are stationed during the whole of the dry season at the usual posts of observation, viz: on the principal routes which lead to the Burman country, and which are those of Mergui, Tavoy, Martaban and Chaingmai. About 1,000 men are said to be stationed at the three first mentioned posts, and from 5 to 6,000 at the latter. This is stated to be the usual amount of the Guards, and more numerous forces are assembled when any enterprize beyond the mere protection of the frontier is contemplated.

There is every reason to hope that the present crisis will stimulate the Siamese to an active prosecution of hostilities, and that thus an important diversion

will be effected in our favor; but even should this not take place, I am of opinion that their entire neutrality may be safely reckoned upon.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Singapore

12 November 1824.

N.B.—A Copy of this dispatch, and generally of all documents which relate to Siamese politics, is transmitted to the Government of P. W. Island.

THE LETTER of JOHN CRAWFURD Esquire,
Resident of Singapore, to His Excellency the Chao
Piah Prah-Klang Chao Kun Kosa.

I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter written on Friday the 6th day of the Dark Half of the 8th Month of the present Year. I have communicated from time to time the events of the war with the Burmans; and beg now to state that on the 9th day of September the Fortress of Tavoy was captured by the British arms, and on the 6th of October that of Mergui. An official paper in the English and Portuguese languages, which I have the honor to enclose, gives the details of the transactions in question*. In connection with this subject, I beg to express my earnest hope that a friendly intercourse will be immediately established between your Excellency and the British Commander at Tavoy and Mergui.

* not copied.

I have used every effort to expedite the departure of the King's ship, which has been delayed in all no more than 25 days.

I have received the Present of 30 Peculs of Sugar sent to me by your Excellency, and have to offer my acknowledgments for a gift of 2 Peculs of Ivory, 10 Peculs of Tin and 2 Peculs of Gamboge from His Majesty.

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD,

Singapore

11 November 1824.

True Copies

(Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Resident.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
pp. 839-40.

Rajah of Ligor
20 November
1824.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 25 November 1824.

RAJAH of LIGOR.

Translation

of a letter from the Rajah of Ligor to the Honble.
Robt. Fullerton Esqr. Governor of Pulo Penang.

After Compliments.

May my friend be informed that his letter (which
was sent to Quedah and forwarded from thence to
Ligor) announcing his arrival at Pulo Penang, and
having assumed charge of the Government, reached me
in safety. My friend expresses a desire to maintain a
friendly understanding between the two Governments,
and that the intercourse which has long subsisted
between Pulo Penang and Quedah may remain un-
interrupted. This friendly expression of my friend's
sentiments has been received by me with correspond-
ing good will, and I shall be very anxious to encourage
an extensive intercourse between the two Governments.
I now send Aluang Ram Dijo, Koon Aksorn and Nai
Neem to wait upon my friend according to custom to
promote a good understanding.

Dated the 1st of the Moon's Descent, Year Kra.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

the 20 : Novr. 1824.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 660, p. 285a.

Secret Department.

To the HONORABLE the SECRET COMMITTEE
of the HONORABLE the COURT of DIRECTORS.

Honorable Sirs,

• • • • •

Para. 3. We have now the honor to transmit copies of our instructions to Sir Archibald Campbell and letters to the Government of Prince of Wales's Island and the Resident at Singapore, regarding the disposal of Tavoy and Mergui, and the policy to be pursued towards the Court of Siam, consequent upon our occupation of those places, which questions were under our consideration at the date of our last address. We entertain a confident persuasion, that our desire to avoid retaining permanent possession of Tavoy and Mergui, and our determination not to entangle ourselves in extensive and complicated relations with the Siamese Government, will be approved by your Honorable Committee. Of the death of the Siamese Monarch, (adverted to in our former address), we have now received authentic accounts from the Resident at Singapore, a copy of whose dispatch on the subject is enclosed a number in the packet. It appears from Mr. Crawford's report, that the King died on the 20th of July last, and that his son, the Prince Kroma Chiak, was next day proclaimed King without opposition. The new King is said to have issued an ordinance very favorable to the enlargement and prosperity of the external commerce of Siam.

• • • • •

We have &c.

AMHERST

EDWD. PAGET

JOHN FENDALL.

Fort William

7 December 1824.

**Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 96,
unpaged.**

FORT CORNWALLIS The 16 December 1824.

To the RAJAH of LIGOR.

**To the Rajah
of Ligor 13
December 1824.**

Letter

from the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esq: Governor
of Prince of Wales Island, to the Rajah of Ligor.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Highness' letter brought by Aluang Ram Dicho, Kou Aksorn and Nie Niem, and am happy to observe your Highness professes a disposition to cultivate the good will of the British Government. Your Highness's Envoys have received every proper attention from this Government, and have been permitted freely to communicate with the Rajah of Quedah, as well as to procure such articles of Merchandize as they required.

It is my duty again to bring to your Highness' notice the conduct of some persons who have lately been carrying on a system of lawless plunder on the borders of the Honble. Company's territory, and to request your Highness' co-operation in checking such offences.

It has been reported to this Government, that during the last two months extensive robberies have been committed in the Province of Point Wellesley and South part of this Island, by gangs of Malays who after plundering houses, carry their bounty into the adjoining Kedah territory.

On the night of the 1st Instant a gang to the number of 15 or 16 landed from Boats at the village of Sungei Nipah District of Sungei Kluang, plundere two houses, and carried off the property across the water. They are supposed to have come from the

Krean River. The Rivers and Villages of Kwalla Mooda and Karian are the places these plunderers resort to, and where they find a ready market for their booty.

I am therefore induced to suggest to your Highness, as the means of affording protection to the inhabitants, that all persons, subjects of this Government, detected in his territories, selling stolen goods, or in any way concerned in these robberies, be forwarded to this Government, where they will be punished as the law directs; and I shall not fail to forward to Kedah all such persons, subjects of your Highness, as may be found so offending here, in order that they may be brought to punishment.

The principal piracies lately committed are supposed to have been perpetrated by Pakir Saib, Nga Manid, Rajah Antar, Rajah Oosman and Rajah Kahar.

As your Highness' messengers are now returning, I can only repeat the satisfaction with which I shall view an encreased Commercial intercourse between the subjects of Penang and Ligor, and the suppression of Piracy will much facilitate such intercourse. I have ordered a cruizer to give safe convoy to your Highness' Messengers to Kedah.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

Penang

13 December 1824.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

To

Major Alex. Balmain
Commanding Tavoy.

[Undated—
? Feb. 1825.]

Sir,

Under the impression that it will prove satisfactory to you, as the officer in command of this province, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that I have just returned from a journey to the Siamese frontier, personally undertaken by me with a view to obtaining Geographical information, and that during the whole route and while in the boundary, I did not meet with a single Siamese.

I am from this latter and other circumstances of opinion that the Siamese have not a post of any consequence within 30 miles of the Tavoy frontier. The country I have passed through is in so quiet a state, that I would not have the least hesitation (did a necessity exist) in travelling all over it with a naique and four sepoys only to look after stores and provisions. I performed the whole journey of eleven days on foot, the road being impracticable to a horse or to cattle. We fell in with one Stockade at Chok Phreesa, about 17 miles from Tavoy. It is about 120 yards square, and is constructed of bamboos, in the usual Burman manner, having been formerly a Tavoyer post.

I had the honor to hoist the British flag on the summit of the mountainous ridge, along which the line mutually bounding Siam and Tavoy lies, and to salute it with 3 volleys of musquetry from a Havildar's party of 1 naique and 7 sepoys of the Prince of Wales Island local Corps who escorted me, and in order to give the Siamese (whose boats I have no doubt frequently visit the spot) a chance of learning that a British Officer had been there, I enclosed, sealed up, and left in an open but secure place, in a bottle, a memorandum explanatory of the nature of my visit: a copy of this document I herewith transmit.

About sixteen miles from Tavoy I discovered a Mineral Spring of the high temperature of 144° of Fahrenheit's scale, an account of which as well as the details of my route, will be transmitted by me to the Prince of Wales Island Government, under whose written instructions I am acting.

I have &c.

(Signed) JAMES LOW Lt
Acting under the orders of the
Honble. the Govr. in Council
of Prince of Wales Island.

A true Copy

(Signed) Alex. Balmain

Major Commg. Tavoy &c. &c. &c.

Home Series
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

(Secret No. 34.)

To GEORGE SWINTON Esqr.

Secretary to Government

Secret and Political Department

&ca. &ca. &ca.

FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

* * * * *

The Siamese, I have reason to think, will now take a hearty and decided part in the war. A Mission from some leaders of that Nation is now on its passage from Martaban to this place. The enclosed document forwarded to me gives an outline of their views and sentiments couched, as you will observe, in very artful terms, probably intended as an excuse for not having declared themselves at an earlier period giving the fullest attention to the general object of the Mission, I will urge the immediate advance of their force, upon the frontier of the conquered provinces, through Martaban upon Pegu, and from thence, by the main road to Thongoo, trusting to induce them to supply my Columns moving forward on their left with Carriage and Slaughter Cattle.

* * * * *

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL

Brigadier General.

Head Quarters

Rangoon, 3rd

February 1825.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

A Letter from Three Taliens, Siamese Chieftains, to the English Commander in Chief. Intimates their arrival with ten thousand men in Caryapooree, and that they have received information of the English being in possession of Martaban, as also, that frequent battles continue to take place between them and the Burmans. Should such be the case, and their services be acceptable as allies, they will be happy to advance and join the English with five thousand men, whom they have already dispatched to Mikhasath (this is close to Martaban). State that they have done this in consideration of the ancient friendship subsisting between the two nations and which they are most anxious to preserve, as well as to carry on friendly and commercial intercourse, and hope therefore that the British will as heretofore, respect their Talien Gods and Temples and Priests, and take into their particular care the Abasses, now living at Martaban, who are their own brothers, as it were, in caste and country. The Burmans having for a series of years oppressed and tyrannized over us, we became the humblest of nations, and at last took flight and found refuge in Siam. The King of that country being a lover of justice, the Protector of the distressed and a true servant of God, took pity on our misfortunes, and under his authority we received and continue to receive happiness, honour, promotion and subsistence.

The orders of this King, in former years, have always been, that during the months of Natosh and Peeagoo (December and January) we should, with our forces, advance into the Burman Territories and carry off as many Burmans, Abasses and Tavoy people as we could secure, but now, the country being under protection of the English, we, considering our long friendship, have refrained from so doing this year, and have not established as usual Chokies and Posts for the purpose. We also hope that the English will not molest any people, or confine

them, provided they should resort into the Martaban district for purposes of traffic, which they are very anxious to do if sure there would be no obstructions opposed to free and open communication. Be assured that this is the real wish of our hearts, and in this is nothing of falsehood or deceit. Further, we hope that if the inhabitants of Martaban or Tavoy or Mergui wish to come to us for purposes of traffic that they may not be prevented, as we also promise not to prevent any of the people under our authority from resorting to the British Posts, so that constant friendly intercourse may be kept up, as should always be the case between two nations so long connected by friendship, and that friendship daily be made more firm (by the English cheerfully assenting to this proposal) even than it ever has been before. Further, we have not yet any certain or correct information whether or not the English have taken Rangoon, and still hold it, which we have casually heard to be the case, therefore beg to be favoured with information on the present state of affairs at that place, and also to be told whether it is the intention of the English, after gaining victories as we hear they have done, to advance to Ava. Let this information be sent quickly by the Bearers of this letter, and on receiving it a communication will be made to the King of Siam, and then let the two nations go hand in hand together to complete the business.

Dated Peeazoo 27th 1186, or about the 15th of January 1825. Names and Titles of the writers of the above as written—Mynghee jo Bingeeah—Maha Zoka-Ka-ma (Zazah Deeh Buddhee Seeree Zaiah—(Unagoon).

(Signed) J. A. JACKSON

Major and Deputy Quarter Master General.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

From the General Commanding the Siamese Detachment, to the British Officer Commanding at Tavoy.

The Commander of the British Forces at Tavoy has forwarded a letter signifying that certain people, to the number of one hundred at least, had been carried off by our people and taken to Siam from the Provinces of Tavoy and Mergui.

The Siamese at the frontier posts have heretofore been accustomed to make inroads into these Provinces, and to carry off the inhabitants, and the late act of this description was done inadvertently, as the Siamese were not aware that the British had fully occupied Tavoy and Mergui. About fifteen men, who were seized, have arrived at Bankock, the capital.

They have been treated with kindness, and had all their wants supplied. These men, and all Tavoyers have been told that they are at liberty to return to their own country. The head of the party of Tavoyers has been sent with his people to Tavoy, as the Siamese now know that the English have taken possession of the Countries of Mergui and Tavoy.

The Siamese are desirous of keeping on friendly terms with the British (Here follows a list of ten names of Tavoyers, who have returned). These people report that all their relations reside in Tavoy.

* I suspect the translation should be "This letter" instead of "A letter" (Sd.) A. B.

* A letter has been entrusted to Nace Sa, who accompanies the party, who knows the road.

May the British and Siamese remain on terms of amity.

Sealed on the 23d Day of February 1825.

A true translation

(Sd.) ALEX: BALMAIN

Major Commanding 7 Regt. N: I:

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

To
Captain Snodgrass
Military Secretary to Brigadier
General Sir A. Campbell, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

Sir.

I have the honor to forward for the information of Brigadier General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B., Commanding the Forces, a letter received on the 1st instant from an officer of the Siamese Government (who is now with 5,000 at Paumzee) and also an English translation.

This forenoon I had an interview with the ten Tavoyers who are alluded to in the letter, but they only desired to have three days' leave to see their relations here and to return to Siam, as their families were there and of some, the fathers and mothers, having been carried away at an early period of life from this place.

I likewise beg leave to transmit copy of a letter I received from Lieutenant Low, of the Prince of Wales Island Establishment, and copy of a notice which he left in a bottle on the boundary between the Siamese Territory and the Province of Tavoy when on an excursion to the frontiers.

I have &c.

(Signed) ALEX: BALMAIN

Major Comg. the Provinces of
Tavoy &c. &c. &c.

Tavoy

3d March 1825.

Home Series, To Brigadier General
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

Sir A. CAMPBELL, K. C. B.

Commander of the Forces

Rangoon.

Sir,

On the 29th Ultimo, information having been brought me that a Siamese flotilla had made its appearance within a short distance of this town, committing several acts of depredation on the villages, I dispatched Lieutenant Drever with 50 Sepoys in Country Boats in search of them.

He found them as described about 3 hours row from this, amounting to near 30 sail of large boats, well armed, pulling from 60 to 80 oars each. He made towards them under English colours, and on hoisting a white flag it was immediately answered. A conference ensued, in which the Siamese Chief regretted that his ignorance of our conquests in this quarter had led him into acts of aggression on a Country now under the British protection, and promised to come the following day to Mergui and release all the prisoners he had taken.

On the following day he made his appearance with only nine boats, the rest he stated would be here on the morrow, when all the prisoners he had taken should be released, and again renewed his protestations respecting our conquests in this quarter, at the same time requesting of me a paper for the King explanatory of the causes of his sudden return without accomplishing his orders respecting the intended hostilities in this quarter. This I promised to give him on the release of all the prisoners he had taken in this neighbourhood.

He remained here till the 2d, when three boats came in and he released 90 prisoners. But being informed that we were dissatisfied at the rest not arriving as

promised, on the evening of the same day, taking advantage of the flood tide he weighed anchor and went off apparently in great alarm with the whole of his fleet, at the very hour fixed for paying me a third visit.

The boats of the Honourable Company's Cruizer *Thetis*, which arrived on the 31 January, and some country boats with sepoys, were immediately sent after them, but night coming on could not ascertain their Course.

It is with regret I have to inform you that I have just heard of the Town of Tenasserim and several other villages having been plundered, and a considerable number of the inhabitants carried off on the following day by this party. The Chief states himself to be high in rank in the employ of the King of Siam, and the inhabitants of all the surrounding country, as well as those of this town, are in the greatest state of alarm and trepidation.

I have the honor to enclose the name and titles of the Chief and some of those who accompanied him in the Siamese and English languages, and also a list of losses sustained with the exception of what occurred at Tenasserim on the 3d, and which not having yet arrived, I do not think it of sufficient importance to detain the boat. The number of the inhabitants carried away are estimated at about 500 Souls.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. FRITH

Major Comg. Mergui.

Mergui

7 Feby, 1825.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

(Copy)

To Brigadier General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B.,

&c. &c. Commanding British Forces.

Sir,

Agreeably to your instructions I remained at Rangoon until the arrival of the deputies from the Siamese Camp, whom I accompanied back to Martaban on the 20th ulto., but owing to the intricacy of the navigation of its river at this season of the year, I regret to say we did not land until the 5th instant. On the following day I wrote to the Chief the substance of the subjoined letter No. 1, in answer to the one forwarded to you at Rangoon prior to your march from thence, and dispatched it along with the deputies, who personally expressed their gratitude for the attentions and civilities they had experienced both at Rangoon and at this place.

On the 7th I received intimation that another deputation, headed by the Chief's son, and a Sirdar of consequence, was on the opposite side of the river, waiting our permission and assistance to cross. Boats were immediately ordered to convey them over, and at the same time I directed suitable accommodations to be prepared for their reception in the town.

In the course of the ensuing forenoon the visitors arrived and were received with due honors; they brought me a letter of which No. 2 is a translation. On the succeeding day, I had a personal conference with them on the subject of the correspondence that had already passed, and on their ultimate views and intentions, when it was clearly and unequivocally stated that the Tallyen Chiefs with their followers were ready and willing to aid us in any measures that might lead to the overthrow of their inveterate enemies, the Burmese; that they were in fact at our entire disposal, and only waited our orders to advance with their forces and act as we might think

proper to direct. The son, however, added, that as his father was on the eve of paying us a visit, he begged I would suspend the discussion of our future plans and operations until he arrived : to this of course I assented.

It is not unworthy of remark that on the first arrival of the deputies, their general conduct and demeanour exhibited a considerable degree of alarm and agitation, which however soon subsided, and before they took their departure, which almost immediately succeeded the interview, they became familiar and unembarrassed, and had altogether acquired a confidence in our character, which promised an advantageous result.

I had nearly omitted to state that in the course of conversation, I was led to understand that our assistance would be essentially requisite to enable their army to cross to our side the water, and that its subsistence depended also upon our means of supply. As the Prize Stores of Martaban were capable of furnishing them with abundance of Grain I offered our assistance to alleviate this difficulty and immediately issued instructions for placing every boat procurable in the vicinity of this place at their disposal, and allotted ground and villages contiguous to the town for their encampment, and every measure was adopted to bring their forces into prompt co-operation with your ? [army] marching upon Prome. Such was the state of affairs here until the 12th inst. when rumours were in circulation that differences of opinion and some altercations had taken place among the Chieftains *over the water*, and that they were breaking up their camp and retiring upon their own country—that a Minister of the King of Siam had arrived on or about the 10th with peremptory orders for their recall and that the Chief, with whom we had principally been in communication had expressed a disinclination to abandon our interests, alleging that by such a proceeding at this crisis he would justly incur the imputation of treachery towards us.

On the 13th I received a letter from the Commander of the Tallyen Army of which No. 3 is a translation, and on the succeeding day the paper No. 4, to both of which I replied, expressing my regret that circumstances had occurred to counteract our wishes, and their friendly intentions to take part with us in the further prosecution of the war. My informer also reported that their army had actually retired.

It is difficult for me to define the true reasons for this apparently inconsistent line of policy on the part of those Chieftains, but have no doubt, that on further enquiry I shall be enabled to ascertain the actual state of the case, which I will take the earliest opportunity of communicating to you.

That such flattering prospects of a favourable issue to the negotiation you intrusted to my management should have been so suddenly defeated, is to me a subject of the sincerest regret, but that you will believe that the objects of the Mission were pursued with all the industry and zeal of which I am capable I entertain the fullest assurance.

The Diamond ring and other presents I shall make over to the Commissariat Officer, to be disposed of on account of Government agreeably to the usages of the Service.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. T. SMITH—Lt. Coll.

Martaban

Commanding at Martaban.

17 March 1825.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 665.

Addressed to the Chiefs Ron Ron &c. &c.

Commander of the Army of Dooa na muddee.

The Commander of the British Forces, General Sir Archibald Campbell, Knight Commander of the Bath &c. &c. &c. having received a letter from the principal Siamese Chiefs, exercising power and authority over a body of 5,000 Abassee and Tillian warriors, encamped in the vicinity of Martaban, the same is hereby acknowledged and the contents thereof understood.

The British General takes this occasion through me to express the satisfaction he feels in recognizing the friendship and amity which has so long subsisted between the English, Siamese and Abassee Nations, and which it now becomes the interest and policy of all parties to cement more firmly than ever.

The Supreme British Government of India has at all times manifested an invariable desire to be at Peace and upon the most friendly and amicable footing with the neighbouring States, but the aggressions, cruelty and violence so often exhibited by the Burmans, without provocation, upon British subjects for some time past, could no longer be tolerated and the English Government was at length compelled to vindicate its honour by an appeal to arms; numerous armies were accordingly directed to proceed into the dominions of the King of Ava, not with a view of aggrandizing the present extensive British territorial possessions, but for the sole and only purpose of retaliating upon the offenders and chastising and humbling the arrogant pride and insolence of the rulers of the Burman Empire. This object has been partly accomplished by the destruction of their armies in the vicinity of Rangoon, the capture of all their sea port towns and the demolition of their numerous stockades and fastnesses, and the British forces are now advancing from different quarters by land and water to carry

punishment and dismay into the very capital of his dominions.

The injuries and indignities to which the Tallien nation has been exposed for a series of years from their enemies, the Burmans, has been a source of unceasing concern to your ancient friends the English. In the present crisis of affairs it is by no means improbable that opportunities may be offered them for retaliating upon their oppressors and of re-establishing at no distant period their ancient independence and Sovereignty. In order however to ascertain the further views and wishes of the Chiefs now encamped in this province, acting by authority and in conjunction with the wishes of the dignified King of Siam, as well as to evince the high estimation in which his Majesty is held by the several British authorities, the English general Sir Archibald Campbell has deputed me (a Colonel in the army serving under his command) to proceed to Martaban for the purpose of conferring with the said Chiefs upon the most eligible means of attacking, distressing and destroying their common enemy the Burmans, and the Colonel has accordingly arrived at Martaban in charge of the deputies sent by the Siamese Chieftains who are consequently invited to a friendly personal interview with the said Colonel Smith at the earliest practicable period, which will no doubt tend to facilitate arrangements for the mutual benefit of both Nations and should any matters come under discussion that may require specific instructions from the Governor General in Council, the Colonel will lose no time in laying them before his Government, for the ultimate decision of that high and supreme authority.

Colonel Smith begs to offer his prayers for the health of His Majesty the King of Siam, and for the prosperity and stability of Government, as also for the ultimate restoration of the ancient dynasty of Pegue, and the Colonel in conclusion assures the Chiefs to

whom this letter will be presented, that he will avail himself with cordial satisfaction (as far as his authority may extend) of any events in the future operations of the war, which may enable him to afford assistance for the attainment of that desirable object.

(Signed) H. T. SMITH—Lt. Coll.
Commg. Province of Martaban.

Martaban
6th March 1825

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

LOW pra, muha, eea, tha, yem maa ee e raza, eq,
ga, muha, the, nuddee, pud, dee, thee, ree, zee, zee a
Ron Ron Commander of the Army of Dooa, ra muddee
represents :

[March 1825.]

That he was exceedingly gratified with the purport of Coll. Smith's letter, which he no sooner perused than he dispatched to the King of Siam's principal minister for the purpose of being submitted to his majesty by whose commands the Army of Dooa, ra, muddee is encamped in these Territories.

The Commander of the army of Dooa, ra muddee is fully aware of the cordial friendship which has subsisted between the English nation and the Tullyens from the earliest period of prosperity of their ancient kingdom of Pegue, and which he trusts, please God, if again recovered by conquest from their enemies will, under more happy auspices, expand like the opening bud into blossoms of future greatness and prosperity, and afford occasion to their latest posterity to remember with thankfulness the friendly concern of Colonel Smith for the Tully-en nation, who are never ungrateful for the favors they receive from their allies.

As uttee an, the present place of encampment of the Commander of the Dooa, ra, muddee army is too far distant to enable him to obtain with facility the honor of the consultation and interview intended him by Colonel Smith, it is his intention to advance to Village of Tur ra na. In the mean time, Tha Myen, dino mattee and Binnee bar, um the Son and Faujdar of the Commander of the Army of Dooa, ra, muddee will wait on Colonel Smith with this letter, and know his intentions with respect to the time in which the movement of the Dooa, ra muddee forces may be required.

(Signed) G. NORMAN—Captn.

Persian Translator.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

Low, pra, muha, eea, eea, tha, yem ma ee, e raza,
egga, muha, the nuddee, puddee, thee, ree, zee, zee,
Ron Ron Commander of the Army of Dooa, ra muddee
represents :

[March 1825.]

That he sensibly feels the kindness and hospitality which Colonel Smith manifested towards his Son and Faujdar, whom he deputed to wait on the Colonel and begs to acknowledge the favor shown himself by the loan of his boats and the offer of corn to aid the subsistence of his troops.

That he had it in contemplation to visit Colonel Smith on the 11th of the present (Siamese) month for the purpose of consultation and advice, but in the interim his Majesty's minister having arrived from Dooa ra muddee with a dispatch stating that " the season " of the rains was approaching, when it would be no " longer practicable for the troops to return either by " land or water and that it was moreover desirable that " the lands should be cultivated at their proper season," it is now become necessary that he should in obedience to his Majesty's commands return with his army to his country.

But should any event occur to Coll. Smith, or any business intervene which he may wish to communicate, he will please to dispatch a messenger with a letter to the Commander of the Army of Dooa, ra, muddee at Chyke, sath Kuddyu Sing or Meena, moo, ee (contiguous places) where his troops will be stationed.

That in the event of any of the Abassee or Siam subjects having occasion to visit the Country of Martaban it is hoped they will be admitted in the same manner as the subjects of the English Government will be received in our dominions of Dooa ra muddee, as it is desirable that the friendship now subsisting between the two nations should be preserved and encreased.

As a token of his friendship the Commander of the Dooa, ra, muddee army has sent to Colonel Smith a pair of elephants' teeth and some bees' wax, and begs to subjoin his prayers for his welfare.

(Signed) G. NORMAN—Captn.

Persian Translator.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

Been, ya Laghoon, Khoom Khan, brother of the great Chief, represents to Colonel Smith, Commander of the Country of Martaban :

(March 1825.)

That he has been exceedingly delighted with the assurance given him by the interpreters, of the friendship he bears towards the Siam and Abassee people, as also with the hospitality and kindness with which Colonel Smith received his nephew.

That he has sent by the interpreters a horse and a ring which he will receive from their hands, and keep as a memorial of his esteem and regard, and begs to subscribe his prayers for Colonel Smith's welfare.

(Signed) G. NORMAN—Captn.

Persian Translator.

(True Copies)

GEO: SWINTON

Secy. to Government.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 665.

To

Brigadier General

Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B., &c. &c.

Comg. British Forces

Camp.

Sir,

Since I had the honor of addressing you on the 17th Instant, a dependant of Ron Ron, the Tullyin Commander of the Siamese army lately encamped in the Province of Martaban has made his appearance in this town, and spontaneously tendered the information contained in the accompanying deposition. From the open and unequivocal manner in which the statement was made I am disposed to give it due credit, and more so for its corresponding in some instances with the information I received from one of our own people, who was for two or three days in the Camp of Ron Ron prior to his departure, the purport of which is already detailed in my first report.

The motives which actuated the Tullyen Chief in receding from his engagements are now too obvious to require any further explanation from me. I consider it however equally my duty to state the substance of another report, which was brought in by one of the Zemindars of the district, who had followed Ron Ron one or two marches on his return back to Siam, namely, that he had been privately informed, that a younger brother had succeeded to the throne of Siam, in consequence of the elder having been educated and initiated as a Poongee or priest, which by the laws disqualified a Prince of the blood from succeeding to the reins of Government; that the mother of the elder son at the head of a faction had prevailed upon him to cast off his clerical garb and assume the Sovereignty of the Kingdom. A plan for a revolt was accordingly laid and well digested; that the Palace was assailed,

and that the younger brother was driven from the throne with little or no bloodshed, and is now supposed to be a wanderer in the dominions he so recently ruled ; that in order to secure the fidelity and homage of Ron Ron's army, the newly-created King had seized upon all their families and property, upon the knowledge of which he suddenly broke up his camp and retrograded.

The Zemindars of Martaban do not disavow having been in communication with Ron Ron shortly after his arrival on the borders of the province, and of thus having urged him to appeal to the justice and clemency of the British Government for ultimately placing him in authority at Martaban, and constituting him Chief of the Tullyen people.

Ron Ron unquestionably possessed the affections of the people and the zealous support and attachment of all the zemindars throughout the ancient Tullyen dominions, and their object in desiring to place him at their head in the present unsettled state of affairs, was, they said, to prevent civil war and anarchy in the country on our relinquishing the conquests we had made in this quarter, and that through his abilities and influence they might become the means of resisting the future views and attempts of the Burmese to reestablish themselves in power and authority, which if they succeed in doing, would subject them to the most despotic fines and exactions, and even to a confiscation of property and loss of life.

On my first arrival at Martaban I deemed it advisable, with a view to ascertain the fidelity of the people and the feeling which existed amongst them towards our Government, to send round a notification desiring to see the whole of the Zemindars of the districts and the principal Kureens or people inhabiting the hills and jungles, and who may in fact be consider-

ed the principal ryots of the country. This summons I am glad to say was cheerfully obeyed, and I had the satisfaction of seeing them return well pleased with their reception.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. T. SMITH Lt. Col.

Comg. at Martaban.

Martaban

27 March 1825.

(Statement)

[March 1825.]

Shone Mong, a native of Martaban, who fled his country about eleven years since, and after being employed during that period alternately in the service of Ron Ron, Commander of the Army of Dooara, wuddee and his brother Beenya Lajoon Khan, seized the opportunity of the decampment of these Chieftains' troops from the territories of Martaban to return to his own village, relates :

That about a twelve month since he was in attendance on Ron Ron's brother at the Court of Siam, when a European Gentleman was introduced to the King, to whom he presented in the name of his master a diamond ring and 500 musquets ; on the receipt of this present he heard his Majesty observe to his ministers, I acquiesce with their request of intercourse, and shortly after the Court was dismissed.

That after the departure of the European Gentleman, on his Majesty's receiving intelligence of the capture by the English of the Provinces of Martaban, Tavoy and Mergui, he expressed his admiration of their valour and prowess.

At this period Ron Ron was on the eve of departure from the Capital with the Dooara wuddee army to the frontiers of the Burma dominions, on which occasion his Majesty gave him an audience and told him that as the Burma dominions were now likely to fall an easy prey to the arms of the English, whose newly acquired territories were now blended with those of Siam, it would be politic to cultivate the friendship of that nation, whose power was becoming more extensive than ever, and desired him to forbear making captives as hitherto of the Burma Tullyen subjects, but to destroy without distinction every Burmese, and that he was at liberty moreover to use every gentle means to attach to his interests and service whatever fugitive Tullyens chance might throw in his way,

which his Majesty observed would not be difficult to effect at the present juncture, when the fear of the enemy would compel them to become wanderers from their native homes.

That Ron Ron in prosecution of the views of his Majesty left the Capital about six months ago with his army, consisting of 3,000 Tullyens and 2,000 Siamese, and after a march of 26 days arrived at Mykesath, a town situated on the eastern borders of the Martaban territories, and distant about 6 days' march from Martaban.

Here Ron Ron began to meditate schemes of personal aggrandizement, in furtherance of which he opened a communication with the English authorities at Martaban and Rangoon, for which his Majesty's known friendly sentiments towards them furnished him with a good pretext. He thought it however prudent, previously to the dispatch of his letters to Martaban and Rangoon, to sound the inclinations of the Tullyen Zemindars of those places, as also those of Taik Kulla and Pegue, to whom he immediately on his arrival at Mykesath sent emissaries for the purpose. They were no sooner informed of the designs of this Chieftain, than they unanimously promised him their aid and support, recommending at the same time his acting in concert, and with the advice of the English, who they observed appeared to be indifferent as to the Sovereign who should hereafter be placed on the throne of their antient kingdom of Pegue.

Ron Ron encouraged by these assurances now dispatched 4 of his subordinate Officers to the Commanding Officer of Martaban with a request that he would direct them to be escorted to the General Commanding the troops at Rangoon, for whom they were intrusted with a letter: at the same time to give this measure the appearance of being conducted with his Majesty's sanction, he dispatched a Messenger with a letter to the Court of Siam, the purport of which he carefully concealed from those around him.

But the Siamese Ministers who were, from prudential reasons, associated with him in authority, soon discovered the nature of his connection with the Tullyen Zemindars and Chieftains, and moreover suspecting the motive of his negotiations with the English, instantly made known the circumstance, with every exaggeration, to the Court of Siam.

Incensed at the presumption of a man, whom he had raised from obscurity to the dignity of command of the Doora, wuddee army, his Majesty instantly dispatched one of his principal ministers with peremptory orders for his recall.

Ron Ron, from this unexpected summons at the critical moment he was strengthening his interest with the local authorities of Rangoon and Martaban, was thrown into the utmost consternation: he bewailed his fate with tears, and retiring into his apartment refused to see any one for several hours, and on the return of Colonel Smith's men entrusted with the care of the boats, he repeatedly expressed his wish rather to die than to suffer the reproach of duplicity and treachery, which he said he feared Colonel Smith would with too much appearance of justice impute to him.

(Signed) G. NORMAN Captn.

Pern. Translator.

(True Copies)

GEO: SWINTON

Secy. to the Govt.

FORT WILLIAM 13th May 1825.

CAPTAIN BURNEY

No. 22.

Fort William 3rd. of May 1825.

To George Swinton Esqr.

Secretary to Govt. in the Secret and Poll Dept.

SIR,

Having been directed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island, on my return from a Mission to the Siamese States, to repair to Fort William and place myself under the immediate orders of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, I do myself the honor to report my arrival, and to beg you will have the goodness to take an opportunity of laying before His Lordship in Council, the enclosed Memoir, and accompanying Geographical Sketch of the Siamese States lying between Bangkok and Prince of Wales Island. During my passage to Bengal I have endeavoured to apply an intimate acquaintance with the views and records of the Penang Government and some researches into, and personal observation of the genius and character of the Malayan and Siamese Nations, in compiling this review of the different objects which have been proposed to the British Government to be pursued in its negotiations with the Court of Siam.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt. 25th

B. N. I.

Poll. Agent to the Siamese States
from the Govt. of P. W. I.

No. 23.

MEMOIR on the different objects which have been proposed to the British Government to be pursued in its negotiations with Siam respectfully submitted to the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, by Captain H. Burney, 25th Regt., Political Agent to the Siamese States from the Government of Prince of Wales Island.

Fort William 3rd. May 1825.

In the year 1821, when Mr. Crawford was proceeding on his Mission to Siam, the late Honble. Govr. of Penang recapitulated from a memorandum which I had the honor to compile, the various objects for the attainment of which an Embassy to Siam had long been recommended by the Govt. of Prince of Wales Island.

Govr. Phillips's
Minute in Council
dated 27th
Decr. 1821.

Three Commercial and five Political objects were pointed out to Mr. Crawford with explanatory details.

* (this will be
copied later on)

Of the commercial points the first was, the continuance of a free importation of provisions from the Kedah territories into Penang; and an extension of such privilege with respect to all the other contiguous Siamese States. The 2d was to improve and secure the trade and commerce between these States and Penang by stipulating for a fixed rate of duties, a prohibition of exclusive farms, a free navigation of the numerous rivers which flow into the sea between the Trang and Crean and an unimpeded intercourse by means of those rivers and overland with the tin countries in the interior, and the different ports on the Eastern shore of the Malayan Peninsula. The 3d was to encourage the Siamese to make Penang a great tin mart, and an emporium for all the tin produce of Junkceylon, Patani, &c.

The Political objects were divided into two classes. The most important were, 1st. The restoration by

Siam of its Tributary, the King of Kedah, on certain defined terms, for the due performance of which the Penang Government alone should be guarantee, without any future interference with our old ally on the part of the Chiefs of Ligor, Singora, &c. and 2ndly. the establishment of an undisputed title to our occupation of Penang on terms that might at the same time improve our future relations with the contiguous Siamese States, comprising a mutual surrender of criminals, and a permission for us, as the Guardian of the sea and coasts around Penang, to occupy at any time any of the islands between the Lancava Groupe and Salengore.

The Second Class of Political objects were these. The 1st was permission for us to place a small British Establishment on Junkceylon, in view to the security and improvement of our trade with that Island. The 2nd. was the cession to us of the small island of Pankour on the Coast of Perak, in order that the establishment of a British Post on it might facilitate the trade in tin and the extirpation of piracy. The 3d. was a cession of additional territory to us on the Kedah Coast opposite Penang, from our present boundary, the south bank of the Muda River, to ten orlongs or $13 \frac{1}{3}$ were* beyond the north bank of the Murboo River, and failing in this, a permission for us to form two small establishments at the Mouth of Murboo and Muda Rivers for the purpose of facilitating our intercourse with the interior countries, and of effectually precluding pirates from taking shelter, which they have ever done within those rivers.

* sic.

Of the whole of the above points of negotiation Mr. Crawford was able to gain *one* only at Bangkok the virtual establishment of our right of sovereignty in Prince of Wales Island and its territories on the Peninsula.

Dispatch from
Mr. Crawford to
Mr. Swinton Secy.
to Govt. in the
Poll. Dept. dated
Bangkok 12th
July 1822.

**This Dispatch
will be
copied later.**

In the latter end of last year, the present Honble. Governor of Penang comprised the whole of what appeared to him as objects in which the immediate interests of his Government were involved, and which could be attainable only by negotiation with the Siamese Government within five points, each of which was accompanied with a full exposition of the grounds and motives upon which its expediency rested.

The 1st. was similar to the late Honble. Governor's first Political object of importance; the restoration of the King of Kedah on payment of a certain sum in money, not exceeding 4,000 Dollars annually, for the due payment of which the Penang Government to be guarantee, and our ally to be liable to no further demands, order or mark of subjection, unless perhaps to the triennial presentation of the *Boongha* Mas or Golden Flower. The 2nd. was, The disavowal by Siam of all claims of superiority over any of the Malay States on the Peninsula South of Patani. The 3rd. was the same as the late Honble. Governor's Second Commercial object; the free navigation of the rivers between the Trang and Creean, and unimpeded intercourse with the Tin Countries and the interior and Eastern side of the Malay Peninsula. The 4th was the same as the late Honble. Governor's first Commercial object. The free exportation from all the Siamese ports on the Western side of the Peninsula of all articles of provision required for the use of Penang. The 5 and last was, the cession of Junkceylon or Salang to the British Government.

* Memorandum
enclosed in the
Dispatch to the
Supreme Govt.
from the Govr.
in Council at P.W.
Island, dated
19th Octr. 1824.

* (This Memo.
will be
copied later).

Of the above points the Supreme Government withheld its acquiescence from two, the 2nd. and 5th. It doubted the practicability of inducing the arrogant and haughty Court of Siam to wave pretensions so intimately affecting its pride and consequence as its claims of superiority over the Malayan States on the Peninsula, and it was decidedly adverse to any proposition for the cession of Junkceylon, as such a

Para. 9 & 10 of
the Dispatch*
from the Sup-
reme to the
Penang Govt.
dated 19th
Novr. 1824.

measure would bring a weak and detached British position into immediate contact with the ancient Siamese territory itself, and thus infallibly augment and multiply the existing chance and hazard of national collision and disputes.

The Penang Government in its reply admitted, that the object for which it had recommended obtaining possession of Junkceylon would be fully attained by the retention of Mergui and its Islands as British possessions, and that the importance of any stipulation for arresting the extension of Siamese Dominion over the Malayan Peninsula was in some degree affected by the changes about to take place on the Peninsula in consequence of the Treaty lately concluded with the Netherlands Government for the permanent establishment of British authority at Malacca. The intercourse that will naturally arise between the Government and the Malay States, the general dislike entertained against the Siamese rule, added to their own means of defence will probably arrest the course of conquest in that quarter without any specific Treaty.

Para. 7 & 10 of
the Dispatch*
from the Penang
to the Supreme
Govt. dated 18th
January 1825.

[* These
Dispatches have
been printed.
See
Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99.]

During my late Mission to the Siamese States I ascertained that the Siamese are fully sensible of the great value of Junkceylon and that there is not the smallest chance of that Island being ever ceded to us. The Pya of "Salang" prides himself on his title, and he took pains to correct the address of the letters which I conveyed to him from the Honble. the Governor of Penang, and in which he was styled Pya of "Pungah." The very first consequence also of our Burmese War has been to induce the Siamese to turn their views towards improving Junkceylon, their establishment on which is to be restored the moment the Pya of Salang returns from Bangkok, when his eldest son is to be appointed Governor of that Island. It is satisfactory however to know, that a much more liberal arrangement exists with respect to the Tin produced

in that quarter than what has hitherto been reported, that the Chief of Salang and his officers are very favorably disposed towards us, and that our ships and commerce are sure of being hospitably and kindly received at Pungah and Junkceylon.

I had every reason to believe, during my late Mission also that the British Government will not succeed in persuading the Court of Siam to consent by regular treaty to the future independence of the Malay States South of Patani, but that if such a principle be at once assumed by us we shall be allowed to act upon it without any serious demur or opposition. The extension of the Siamese dominion over Kedah and the Malayan States being more an object of ambition with the Chief of Ligore, than with the Court of Siam, the members of which, with the exception of that Chief's Nephew, the Wang-na, being little interested in the subject, I am satisfied that by means of the British Government at Malacca the operations of the Chief of Ligore may be arrested without the chance of any break with the Court of Siam. The Penang Government, by making use only of the name of the Government of Malacca, and of the treaties which subsisted between the Netherlands Government and the States of Perak and Salengore may so intimate to the Chief of Ligore a request to withdraw from the former and a prohibition against attacking the latter State as to relieve itself from all hazard of a rupture with that Chief.

The Memorandum of the present Honble. Governor of Penang does not include four of the objects recommended by the late Honble. Governor for negotiation at Siam, namely, his 3rd Commercial, 2nd. Political, and 2nd. and 3rd. minor Political points. I presume it is considered that the commerce in Tin had better be allowed to take its own course without endeavouring to support it, or direct it to Penang or to any particular emporium by means of conventional engagements, and that the possession of Pulo Pankour

if such be desirable, may now be more easily obtained by the Government of Malacca opening a negotiation for that purpose with its old ally the Rajah of Perak.

Doubts as to our rights of Sovereignty in Prince of Wales Island were, I believe, first suggested to the late Honble. Governor by Mr. Crawford. The fact of an undisturbed occupation of the Island for 39 years, and of its having been considered as a British possession in numerous Acts of the British Parliament, and in a charter of Justice from our Sovereign, ought, I think, to be set against such doubts, and Mr. Crawford himself reported from Bangkok, that he "had gained this point, the virtual establishment of our right of Sovereignty in Prince of Wales Island and its territory on the Peninsula; that the frequent and distinct references made to Prince of Wales Island throughout his conference with the Siamese negotiators as a British possession, left no doubt whatever upon his mind that the Siamese looked upon our right of sovereignty in Penang and the territory opposite to it as not to be questioned, and that the right of the Malay Prince to alienate a portion of his fief being once admitted by the Siamese Court, and a total silence of 36 years, must be looked upon as a valid and substantial admission of it."

Dispatch to Mr.
Secy. Swinton
dated 18th July
1822.

* ? 12 July
To be copied
later.

7th Article of
Mr. Crawford's
Notes * towards
a Treaty with
the Siamese.
* (copied.
See Factory
Records, Straits
Settlements.
Vol. 99]

These doubts however having lately appeared again, the Penang Government observed "At all events we cannot consider it advisable to discuss any article implying a doubt as to our right of possession of this Island. The state of dependence to which Kedah had been reduced prior to the expulsion of the King is well known, but it is equally notorious that at the time the island was ceded to us by the former King, the triennial presentation of the Boongha Mas, and that made to Ava as well as Siam, was the only mark of homage, and which certainly does not convey to the receiver any portion of the Sovereign Rights of the other. As this Island and dependencies have long

Para. 11 of the
 * Dispatch from
 the Penang to
 the Supreme
 Govt. dated 18
 Jany. 1825.
 * Ibid.

* This was the
 chief with whom
 Sir George
 Leith's Treaty
 was executed,
 who ceded the
 territory op-
 posite Penang
 & afterwards
 resigned the
 throne to the
 present King
 of Kedah. He
 died very lately.

Para. 11th of the
 * Dispatch to
 the Supreme
 Govt. dated 18th
 Jany. 1825.

Para. 7th of the
 * Dispatch to the
 Penang Govt.
 dated 18th Novr.
 1824.

*Copied.
 see Factory
 Records, Straits
 Settlements,
 Vol. 99.

been considered an integral part of the British Dom-
 nions of India, it seem to us to be too late to allow the
 question of right to be raised in any shape whatever." On this point also the following observations were
 supplied to me by Mr. Anderson the Malay Translator
 to the Penang Government. "It will be recollected
 that shortly after the Conquest of Kedah, the Rajah of
 Ligor ostensibly transferred the Government to the
 old Uncle to the present Ex-King, evidently for no
 other purpose than to make a demand of the annual
 subsidy heretofore paid to the King. The claim was
 then distinctly disavowed by the Governor of Penang
 since which we have heard no more of Sultau
 Henooden* or any other Malay authority at Kedah.
 Neither the Rajah of Ligor nor the Court of Siam has
 ever made any similar application since, nor have they
 presumed to advance any pretension to supremacy over
 Prince of Wales Island and the territory attached. In
 all the Rajah's correspondence there has never been
 any mention of such a claim, and why should we study
 to increase the arrogance of the Siamese by agitating
 such a question and requiring the cession of a territory
 which we have so long possessed without the sem-
 blance of opposition or objection, and which must be
 considered as ours from long and unopposed possession?

With respect to an accession of territory on the
 Coast of Kedah the Penang Government now considers
 if such an object be desirable it will in all probability
 be much easier to attain it through the medium of the
 King of Kedah when restored to his throne, than
 by direct negotiation with the Court of Siam;
 and the Supreme Government has determined that
 the Political considerations which suggest an attempt
 to effect a restoration of the Malay Government in
 Kedah resolve themselves into the following. The
 British Government would unquestionably gain by
 the measure in reputation among the Eastern States.
 It would remove from the immediate vicinity of

Penang and from a state of actual contact with its Continental Territory, a most troublesome and unaccommodating neighbour, between whom and our Government at Penang, disputes are at all times liable to break out. It would restore to Penang those necessary supplies of grain &c. from which it is now completely cut off, and finally, it would put a stop to the alarming increase of piracy which has taken place in consequence of the flight of the Malay population through dread of the Siamese, and their addiction to predatory courses from wanting the means of subsistence. Mr. Crawford however proposes to require Siam to cede to us a portion of the territory of Kedah without attempting to obtain any stipulation in favor of its King. But on this point I presume the following observations by the present Honble. Governor of Penang will be considered conclusive. "The 7th article seems to abandon the interests of the King of Kedah and to stipulate instead of them an increase of territory for ourselves. It appears to me that our true policy is 1st to keep up the petty States now standing between us and the Siamese territory, and 2ndly to endeavour to restore those which have been subverted, so as to prevent our coming in contact with that power in this neighbourhood. The restitution of the King of Kedah is a point I consider no less consistent with true policy than essential to the credit and reputation of our Government. As far as Political considerations are concerned the same arguments apply to Perak, it being understood that the Siamese from Ligor are actually in possession. Should the restoration of the King of Kedah prove impracticable, then I am willing to admit that a cession of the territory stated by Mr. Crawford might be advantageous, by interposing a great portion of hill and forest between us. The object of holding territory on the Continent opposite to the Island was, that we might command the Straits

**7th Article of his
Notes towards
a Treaty with
the Siamese.**

**Governor Fullerton's Minute
in Council dated
9th April 1825.**

**7 7th April—See
Straits Settlements
Vol. 100.**

between the main land and the Island, and counteract the tendency to plunder and piracy open from the proximity to an unsettled Country. I admit fully that the belt of land so occupied is too narrow, being comprised within 3 miles of the shore, and therefore terminating just as the land emerges from Mangrove and swamps, and becomes fit for cultivation. Great no doubt would be the advantage of some extension, but certainly not of such consideration as to be an argument against the more essential object of re-establishing, if possible, the Malay Chiefship on defined terms, that is to say, subject to the payment of a fixed sum to be guaranteed by us, and no other mark of homage or subjection."

In the restoration of the King of Kedah also is involved the attainment of those subordinate points, the free importation of Provisions from Kedah into Penang, mutual surrender of criminals, and permission for us to occupy at any time any of the Islands lying between the Lancava group and Pulo Pankour. As regards also the more Southern States and Islands, stipulations on such points may not be easily executed between our Government at Malacca and the Chiefs of Perak and Salengore. Thus then, as far as the local interests of Penang are concerned, the whole of the objects for negotiation with Siam come to be resolved into the two points laid down by the Supreme Government in its last dispatch. 1st. To attempt to effect a restoration of the Malay Government in Kedah, and its establishment on an independent or at least improved footing—and 2ndly. To stipulate for an unrestricted trade with the interior and eastern coast of the Malay Peninsula, by means of the overland routes, and rivers flowing into the sea in the neighbourhood of Penang.

Para. 6 & 7 of
the Dispatch *
to the Penang
Govt. dated 19
Novr. 1824.

* Copied and
sent. See Vol.
99 as before.

It appears to me that the best mode of attaining these objects will be, to secure to our negotiations at Bangkok the friendly assistance

of some of the Siamese Chiefs in the neighbourhood of Kedah, on whose reports only the Court of Siam will be disposed to act, and to make the general advantages to be derived by Siam in other quarters outweigh the particular views of the Chief of Ligor, who has entire possession of the Kingdom of Kedah, and of the Western Coast of the Malayan Peninsula, from Lat. 4° to $8^{\circ} 20''$, and exercises full control over the States of Singora, Merdelong and Patani. I fear the time is past when we might have rendered this Chief instrumental to the accomplishment of our wishes, not only because his fears and suspicions have been much excited against us, but because he has not [? now] made arrangements for availing himself of the whole of the resources of Kedah, and is therefore deeply interested against the restoration of the Kingdom to our old ally. The son at Kedah is appropriating for his father the principal staples, tin, paddy and timber, to the southward of Settool, while the two sons at Meraket are appropriating the staples of birds' nests, tripang and timber for boat building, from the northern portion of the Kingdom of Kedah. The principal person, I was told at Pungah, who feels interested in the affairs of Kedah at the Court of Siam, is the Chief of Ligore's Nephew, the Wang-na or Heir apparent, to whom a portion of the profits arising from the occupation of Kedah is transmitted, and whose powerful influence the British negotiator will have to counteract. Our best chance therefore of securing the restoration of the Malay Government in Kedah is to accept the assistance, which the Chief of Salang and the other Chiefs on the Isthmus of Kra have tendered and which their present friendly disposition towards the British Government, their good will towards the Ex-King, to whose exertions principally they ascribe the repulse of the Burmese from Junkceylon in 1810, and their jealousy of the Chief of Ligore's

See report of
my mission to
Kedah * ad-
dressed to E. A.
Blundell Esqr.
actg. secy. to the
Penang Govt.
dated 2d. April
last.

* See ante, No.
In this Vol.

growing power, will lead them to grant us with zeal and cordiality. Through the exertions of these Chiefs, our negotiator at Bangkok may persuade the Wang-na and his party, by the offer of other advantages to Siam on the Coast of Tenasserim, to agree to divide with his uncle of Ligor some annual compensation in money from the King of Kedah, and to obtain his uncle's consent to the arrangement by means of a peremptory order, or proviso of other benefits from the Court.

Yet we shall not, I think, be able to secure an unrestricted trade with the whole of the Eastern Coast of the Malayan Peninsula until we remove the distrust and suspicion with which the Chief of Ligor has been filled against us, by mischievous tales and misrepresentations taken to him from Penang. Formerly, it is well known, that the greatest obstructions to this trade, proceeded from our own ally of Kedah, and in the event of his restoration we ought at least to secure the use of some of the best overland routes and navigable rivers, that is to say, the free communication with Merdelong through Lungu, with Singora, through Kangar and the Purlis river, as well as through the Kubong Boya River, and with Kota Bharu, Kroh and the other tin districts through Pulai and the Murboo Muda Prye and Creean rivers. The passage to Ligor through Kedah and Cassai, and by the Trang rivers through Khuatunnee, and the passage to Merdelong from the Plean river, will depend entirely on the relations which the Government of Penang may succeed in establishing with the Chief of Ligor.

See accompanying Geographical Sketch of the Siamese States lying between Bangkok and P. W. Island.

There is another object which it would be highly desirable to attain on the restoration of the King of Kedah, namely, to release ourselves from the obligation to pay to His Highness the quit rent of 10,000 Dollars per annum for possession of Penang and the Country on the

opposite coast. But referring to the poverty of the Kingdom of Kedah, and the present miserable condition of its inhabitants, I conceive that on the resource of this quit rent from us our ally must entirely depend for some years after his restoration. The Government of Prince of Wales Island may however make it an article of the new Treaty which it will become necessary to conclude with him, to reduce this quit rent to a moiety, and to stipulate that it shall be paid for a definite number of years only.

Besides the objects above noticed, and in which the local relations of Prince of Wales Island are principally involved, there are others of great importance depending on negotiations with the Siamese Government and bearing on the general interests of the British Empire in India. These may be divided into three points.

1st. To induce the Siamese nation to co-operate with us in the present war against Ava.

2nd. To secure ourselves at as little risk and expence as possible against the future aggressions of either Siam or Ava.

3rd. To improve our commercial relations with the kingdom of Siam and obtain for British subjects some share of its very valuable Commerce.

On the first point the Supreme Government has explained to Brigadier General Sir Archd. Campbell, that the sort of co-operation which would be considered desirable from Siam, is not that it should send its barbarous and undisciplined troops to act in conjunction with our force, or even to approach any quarter where it is likely to be employed, but it is conceived that the Siamese Government might materially assist us, by moving an army from some part of its N. W. frontiers in the direction

Para. 7th of Mr.
Secy. Swinton's
Dispatch * to
Sir A. Campbell
dated 19 Novr.
1824.

* Copied. See
Vol. 99 as before.

of the Capital of Ava, operating of course independently and thus creating a powerful and perhaps a very effectual diversion in our favor. Acting upon this information I pressed the Chief of Ligor by letter, as well as the Chiefs on the Isthmus of Kraw, to urge the Court of Siam to push an army from Zamee towards Mona and the capital of Ava, by which movement the Siamese would be placed between our forces and the Chinese frontier. But I have since learnt from the newspapers that Sir Archibald Campbell advised the Siamese Envoys who visited his camp, to move their troops in a more westerly direction, against Toongho the strongest fort in the Burmese Empire, and this movement is certainly preferable to the other, if by adopting the former the Siamese have any chance of penetrating into the Capital of Ava before us. For no one object however is the immediate deputation of a British Agent to Bangkok more necessary than this of endeavouring to direct and regulate the force which Siam may send against Ava, and to prevent its interfering with our line of operations, or becoming burthensome and mischievous, when we desire to accept any overtures for peace, which we may drive the Burmese Government to offer.

In my opinion, the best co-operation which we can receive from the Siamese, is for them to afford us supplies of carriage cattle and provisions and to open as many points of communication as possible between our relative posts. It was from this consideration that I prevailed upon the Pya of Salang to join with me in writing the Siamese Government of Tuccopa, Chaiya, Chimpohun, Puchpuri and Rachpuri, to establish a free intercourse as soon as possible between their posts and the British Garrisons at Tenasserim, Mergui, Tavoy, Ye and Martaban.

See Enclosures
D. E. & F. in Capt.
Burney's reports
to E. A. Blundell
Actg. Secy. to the
Penang Govt.
dated 2d. April
1825.

See ante, ex-
tracts from this
Vol. (330.)

The 2nd. and 3d. of the abovementioned points

Mr. Crawford's
* Dispatch to
Mr. Secy. Swin-
ton dated Singa-
pore 31st May
1824.

* To be copied
later from Bengal
Secret & Pol.
Cons., Vol. 325.

for negotiation with Siam Mr. Crawford represented to the Supreme Govt. may be attained by the measure of retaining permanent possession of the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy, or even by the more limited one of permanently occupying the Ports of Mergui and Tavoy, but especially the latter with perhaps a small portion of the Territory adjacent to each, and by ceding to the Siamese the maritime possessions of the Burmese from Martaban downwards.

The Supreme Government however were disinclined to adopt the whole of Mr. Crawford's suggestions on the ground that as a general maxim all extension of our territorial possessions and Political relations on the side of the Indo-Chinese Nations is, with reference to the peculiar character of those States, to their decided jealousy of our power and ambition, and to their proximity to China, earnestly to be deprecated and declined as far as the course of events and the force of circumstances will

* I learn from the French Catholic Missionaries at Penang that since our war with Ava, the King of Cochin China has ordered every European and even the French Mandarins to quit his Kingdom.

permit.* Sir Archibald Campbell was authorized to withdraw altogether from Mergui, and to concentrate the whole detachment of Native troops at Tavoy, and either to deliver charge of Mergui

to the Son of the Rajah of Tavoy, or give it up to any of the adjoining Siamese Chiefs, as a practical proof of the friendly sentiments which the British Government cherishes towards His Majesty of Siam, and as an earnest of the advantage which will accrue to the Siamese Nation from co-operating with us in our war against the common enemy of both states.

Para. 4 and 6 of the Dispatch * to the Penang from the Supreme Govt. dated 19 Novr. 1824. and para. 4 and 6 of Mr. Secy. Swinton's Dispatch to Sir Archd. Campbell of the same date.

The Supreme Government added, that on the whole it was of opinion that sooner or later we must withdraw from Tavoy as well as Mergui, and that if we relinquish them in any other mode

* Copied from
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 99.

than restoring them to Ava as an article in a future treaty of Peace, it is desirable that we should endeavour to transfer possession to the Siamese, making

at the same time the best bargain Circumstances will admit.

The Supreme Government having signified that the above was only the present inclination of their opinions, and that their minds were by no means wholly resolved on these questions, and Brigr. Genl. Sir Archibald Campbell not having judged it necessary to avail himself of the permission which he had received to withdraw our force from Mergui, I beg to submit the considerations which appear to me to render the policy of such a measure very doubtful, if not injudicious.

Paras. 3, 4, 5, 7 &
8 of the Dis-
patch * to the
Supreme Govt.,
dated 18th Jany.
1825.

* Copied
from Straits
Settlements,
Vol 99.

The Penang Government has observed on this subject, that the motives actuating the British Government in the relinquishment of any part of our acquisitions on the Coast of Tenasserim at present will not be fairly appreciated or even understood by the Siamese—that their cession without some equivalent, or at least, or without some communication or urgent solicitation on the part of the Siamese, will be attributed to a wrong cause, and rather tend to encourage pretensions which might not otherwise be entertained and that the resources of these Countries in our possession during the war will materially facilitate the provision of carriage cattle and supplies for our army, and thus contribute in a great degree to the prosecution of the war. That the inconvenience of being in contact with the Siamese authorities no arrangement can now prevent, that as the British interests in respect to the States of Ava and Siam can be maintained only by the strength of our position, and the known respectability of the British Government, we must place more reliance on their fears than on their good faith for the prevention of aggression, and assume the most commanding situation which the progress of a just and necessary war has placed within our reach,, and that the permanent retention of Tavoy and Mergui in the

manner suggested by Mr. Crawford and their occupation by British Troops will, by establishing a secure footing and firm entrance into their territory in case of need, overawe both Burmans and Siamese, and thus oppose a check against the future aggression of either of these States. The Penang Government further represented that the above observations were intended to apply to all the late acquisitions on the Coast of Tenasserim but that in respect to one of them, Mergui, their records enable them to speak with more certainty and confidence. In the letter of Instructions from the Honble. Court of Directors on the first establishment of the Govt. of Prince of Wales Island the occupation of a convenient harbour on the Eastern side of the Bay of Bengal was pointed out as an object of primary importance. Acheen was contemplated in the first instance, failing in that Mergui was pointed out as the next convenient position. The objects in view were 1st The establishment of a place of refit and security for our own shipping in the time of war, and 2ndly The exclusion of a foreign European enemy from a position which afforded him extensive means of annoyance to our trade. The result of all attempts to establish a Port at Acheen will be found on the records of the Supreme Government. Any further measures for that end are now precluded by the late treaty with the Netherlands Government and the objects are now only attainable at Mergui. It is well known that during the whole of the last war, French Privateers and seven regular ships of war made Mergui a place of constant resort, principally during the severity of the S. W. Monsoon. They found means of outfit and supply, and were enabled at the opening of the fair season to commence their depredations in any part of the Bay of Bengal. So long as Mergui and the adjacent islands remain in the possession of a Native Power, our Trade must be subjected to the same risk in case of war with a foreign European or

Paras, 7, 8 and 9
of Letter from
the Honble.
Court to the Pen-
ang Govt. dated
18th April 1825, *

* 1805. This
letter has not
been copied as
it does not refer
to Slam.

American power. On the other hand, if in our possession, a secure harbour is afforded to our shipping in the most convenient position for the navigation of the Bay, whenever the danger of the seas, or an enemy may render shelter advisable. However convenient Penang may be for concentrating the trade of the Northern Ports of the island of Sumatra, of the Malay Peninsula, and the adjacent islands, it is too far to the South East to be used as a place of resort for any ships except such as may be bound through the Straits of Malacca. These considerations therefore mainly induced the former recommendation of the Penang Government for obtaining possession of Junkceylon, the object of which would be fully obtained by the retention of Mergui and its Islands as British possessions. In a commercial point of view much may be said in favor of the retention of Mergui. The river is understood to be navigable to a considerable distance up the country and through that channel a great portion of the productions of Siam once found their outlet on the Bay of Bengal.

Paras. 3, 4, 5, 7
& 8 of the Dis-
patch to the
Supreme Govt.
dated 18th Jany.
1825.

The Penang Government concluded by tendering its services to the Supreme Government to take charge at once of Mergui, on the arrival of the Bencoolen Local Corps, or of a reinforcement of recruits from Bengal for the Penang Local Corps.

Para. 5 of Mr.
Secy. Swinton's
Dispatch to
Sir Archd. Camp-
bell dated 19
Novr. 1824.

The Supreme Government has of course received by this time, agreeably to its requisition, the most accurate information which could be collected through the officers on the spot regarding the geography, resources and population of the Countries on the Coast of Tenasserim and the disposition of the inhabitants towards the Siamese Government.

Sent. See
Straits Settle-
ments, Vol. 99

The only authentic information which I could obtain during my late mission regarding the former state of these countries was contained in apparently

Enclosure B in
Capt. Burney's
reports to E. A.
Blundell Esqr.
Actg. Secy. to the
Penang Govt.
dated 2d April
last. *
See ante, ex-
tracts from this
Vol. (330.)

an old book, in which I was shewn at Pungah a Code of the Harbour and Custom House duties and regulations in force at Mergui and Tenasserim whilst under the Siamese Government, and I procured a copy of this document, as from its perusal we shall be able to estimate what advantage our commerce may derive from the measure of transferring the Ports to the Siamese. I learnt much however in favor of the advantageous commercial situation of Mergui, and even the Native Commander of one of the brigs, which were loading tin and rice at Pungah for the Coast of Coromandel, solicited me to submit to our Government the importance of retaining such a Port on the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal as Mergui, whence not only a valuable trade could always be conducted, but large supplies of rice in times of scarcity on the Coast of Coromandel, could be so easily shipped and taken for the relief of the sufferers.

* sic. A line
has apparently
been omitted.

See accompany-
ing Geographical
Sketch of the
Siamese States
lying between
Bangkok and
P. W. Island.

The journey from Mergui to Puchpuri, which is two or three days distance only from Bangkok routes * from Mergui to Chimpohun on the Eastern side of the Isthmus of Krah, the one directly across the country takes three days, and the other only two days, being by sea to the Pak-chan or the Rinnong river, which last is separated from the Chimpohun river by a space of land that may be traversed in 4 hours, but through which I was assured by several persons who have been there, as it lies between two mountains, a canal might be easily made, and thus a good passage by water might be secured quite across the Isthmus of Krah. The importance of establishing such a safe and easy communication as this would prove between the Gulfs of Bengal and Siam, need not be discussed, and this project ought, I submit, to form one of our objects of negotiation with the Siamese Government. The shortest route from the Gulf of Siam to Tavoy as well as to Mergui, I was told, is that from Chimpohun, where the Siamese forces

destined to attack those places always assembled. The Siamese Dominions on both sides of the Isthmus of Krai are very thinly inhabited, the population of the whole Government of Salang including that island does not exceed 6000 Souls, and the coast between Mergui and Junkceylon has for several years been in a state of desolation. The Governor of Chimpohun was always entrusted by the Court of Siam with the especial duty of watching the Burmese on the Coast of Tenasserim, and he was not allowed to trade as all other Siamese Chiefs do. Chimpohun, in fact, since the conquest of Tavoy and Mergui by the Burmese, appears to have been converted into a purely Military post or Garrison, and this circumstance accounts for the entire cessation of that valuable trade which formerly passed between Mergui and the Gulf of Siam.

Dispatch * to
Mr. Secy. Swin-
ton of 31st May
1824.

* To be copied
later with 1824
documents.

Mr. Crawford appears to have given the preference to Tavoy over Mergui for a British Establishment, because he had been informed that the former town is but seven ordinary marches from Bangkok, the Capital of Siam. But that this information was incorrect I think may be seen by a mere examination of the chart, which places Tavoy 2 degrees and 45 minutes, or 191 statute miles in a direct line, and without reference to the intervening mountains, streams and forests, from Bangkok, a distance far too great to be crossed in seven ordinary marches. Captn. Low also has just proved by a report to the Penang Government that it takes six days, and over roads impassable even for an elephant, to reach the Siamese boundary only from Tavoy.

Mr. Secy. Swin-
ton's Dispatch *
to Sir Archd.
Campbell of 19
Novr. 1824.

The Supreme Government appears to have given the preference to Tavoy over Mergui, because the townsmen of the former place may be considered to have established a claim to our protection by their conduct in the surrender of it, and because Tavoy was

* Copied. See
Straits
Settlements,
Vol. 99.

stated to furnish a naturally strong and defensible position. As to the capability however of defending Mergui there can be now no doubt. Captn. Poynton, who assisted at its capture, assures me that the place not only possesses a noble harbour, but that it is naturally of great strength, and that no vessel could have approached it had it been properly garrisoned. The Fort is placed upon a hill which completely commands the harbour, and to fire at which he was obliged to elevate the guns of his vessel at an angle of nearly 45 degrees.

The permanent occupation of both Tavoy and Mergui would be more open to the objection so strongly urged by the Supreme Government against the extension of our territorial possessions and political relations than the retention of one of those places only, to serve principally as a free port whence British subjects may be secured a fair share in the valuable commerce of Siam, while the intricate navigation of the Tavoy River and the distance of the town from the usual place of anchorage for vessels of any burthen, are unquestionably disadvantages, when compared with the commodious harbour of Mergui and the circumstance of the latter being an island and hence more defensible.

That the Siamese attach a great value to the Coast of Tenasserim there is no question. The Pya of Salang and his Ministers gave me every reason to believe that their Sovereign would rejoice to recover his ancient dominions on that coast, and they strove to prevail upon me to pledge the restitution of a portion of them. Very few of the present inhabitants of that Coast however can recollect the time when Siam ruled over them, or feel any partiality in favor of a state, the troops and subjects of which they have never seen but when destroying them, or being destroyed by them. The Siamese do not appear to me to consider themselves to possess such a title or claim to our

conquests as not to receive any portion, which we may be disposed to deliver to them, with great satisfaction, and even with some concessions in our favor, the latter particularly if the cession be made by us with a pledge of support. Adverting to the scanty population of the Siamese States to the Southward of Bangkok, to their long standing dread of the Burmese and to their inferiority in courage and martial pursuits, I feel confident that unless we retain a commanding situation on the Coast of Tenasserim, or unless we reduce the strength of the Burmese Government compared with that of its Eastern neighbours more than what will be considered our true policy, the Siamese will have very little chance of keeping any cession which we make to them in this quarter.

But the great consideration is, what is to become of the inhabitants of the territory which we may cede to the Siamese? for the probable effects of the Siamese Government over them may be judged of by the declaration of one of its own subjects, a Native Catholic Missionary at Pungah, who observed to me that if the British Government surrender the Coast of Tenasserim to the Siamese, it will be taking the prey from the jaws of the lion to deliver it into those of the tiger. Independent then of all other arguments, I submit that this one, the cause of humanity, urges us to retain possession of some spot on the Coast of Tenasserim that may serve as an asylum for those inhabitants who may be unwilling to live under the Siamese yoke, or who may have forfeited, by their friendly conduct to us during the present war, the protection of the Burmese Government. To this spot, in the event of our ceding a portion of our conquests to the Siamese, thousands of the poor inhabitants will fly, and by retaining such a spot we shall certainly feel less reluctance or difficulty in transferring some of these provinces to the Siamese.

But the more territory we cede to the Siamese, the more of human misery I fear we shall unavoidably

* Dispatch to
Mr. Secy. Swinton
of 31st May 1824.

* To be copied
later from Bengal
Secret and
Political Consul-
tations Vol. 325.

create. Mr. Crawford proposes to cede to them the whole of the maritime possessions of the Burmese from Martaban downwards, and he enumerates them as comprising two Provinces only, Tavoy and Mergui. Mr. Gibson informed me that these possessions of the Burmese are divided into four Provinces, that of Martaban, Ye, Tavoy and Tenasserim, which last extends from Lat. $10^{\circ} 50''$ long the rear of Tavoy and Ye to Lat. $15^{\circ} 50'$. It will most probably be our policy to circumscribe the power of Ava to the Northward and Westward, by emancipating Assam and Munipoor, and by retaining perhaps the town and river of Arracan, as points forming a convenient natural boundary to the British territories, and much more healthy and easy of defence than the jungles near the Naaf. The Siamese also, if they are sincere in their intentions of co-operating with us in the present war, will probably take possession of, and desire to retain, some tracts of territory on the eastern frontiers of Ava, along the river Thalneu. I would therefore beg to recommend that the Provinces of Martaban and Ye, but especially the former, should be reserved to be restored to the Burmese at the close of the war, and that the remainder only including the Forts of Tavoy, Engram and Zemih, should be ceded to the Siamese, with the exception of Mergui, its contiguous islands, and a convenient portion of territory on the main, of all which the British Government should retain permanent possession. The interposition of the Siamese between the Burmese and our post at Mergui would be convenient, whilst our presence there would enable the former to strengthen themselves at Tavoy, Engram and Zemih, which two last are said to command the pass into the Siamese Territories, and by means of good garrisons at these places they ought to keep their acquisitions, which would then be well protected on the side of Ava. It would be advisable for us to retain possession of Tenasserim, which was formerly the great port for

trade, and might, if left with the Siamese, interfere with the prosperity of Mergui, and we should reserve to ourselves the sovereignty of the whole of the islands from Tavoy Island to St. Mathews; almost all of them produce birds' nests and tripang, and some

* See Horsburgh's Directory Vol. 2 Page 18, 27 Tavoy Island is described by him "as The northernmost large Island of that extensive chain which fronts the coast generally called the Mergui or Tenasserim Archipelago; which with the whole of this coast have never been regularly surveyed, consequently very imperfectly known."

of them, particularly Domel Island, have Pearl Banks, and they all lie in the track of vessels navigating the coast of Tenasserim.* The Establishment of our sovereignty over these isles will preclude any other power from occupying any of them, will secure to our traders the valuable objects in which they abound, and will prevent any of them from becoming the resort of piratical boats. The river Tinnau, which comes from the north and discharges itself into the Bay of Bengal in three channels on each side of Mergui and Neclair Islands, would form a good natural boundary to the east and south of the territory we may retain, and its left bank should be reserved by us in order to secure the Town of Tenasserim and prevent the Siamese from interfering with the navigation of the river, by forming any establishments on that bank. The boundary to the north might be hereafter adjusted by Commissioners to be appointed by the Siamese and by our Government.

If the views which I have above ventured to submit receive the approbation of the Supreme Government they can be immediately carried into effect, by the Provinces of Tavoy and Tenasserim being placed under the direction of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, who has already been pleased to tender his services, on the great value and importance of which it would be impertinent in me to say a word. Commissioners from Penang could with ease proceed to Tavoy and Mergui, examine and report upon those places at the same time that our Negotiator at Bangkok might invite the Siamese Government to send Com-

* The arrival of the three Companies of the 25th Regt. from Natal, as well as of the Bencoolen Local Corps will shortly place a disposable Military Force at Penang and the communication between that place and Mergui, which during the North East Monsoon seldom takes more than 8 or 10 days, could be much facilitated during the South West Monsoon or boisterous weather, by means of the Pya of Salang. Until a good road be opened from Mergui to Pungah boats could at any season imagine pass between those places, or at all events between Mergui and Tuccopa by keeping within the islands and close to the shore, while the passage between Penang and Pungah is open at all times of the year. Between Tavoy and Penang a considerable trade has always been conducted with the Capital of (I by) Chinese Merchants residing at the latter place.

* Dispatch to
Mr. Secretary
Swinton of 31st
May 1824.

* Copied
See Factory
Records, Straits
Settlements,
Vol. 99.

the Resident of Singapore proposes to take the present opportunity of obtaining a fair share of freedom and security to our commerce with that Country, by persuading its Government to execute a Commercial Treaty. He has accordingly submitted the draft of such a Treaty comprised in 15 Articles. The 1st. Articles proposes,

“There shall be peace, friendship and good understanding between the British and Siamese Nations &c. &c.” To this is added a remark that there will be some difficulty in finding or even mentioning His Majesty’s Heirs and Successors, as this is a forbidden topic, and that the name and title of the Siamese officer to negotiate a treaty with is the Chow Pya Prah Klang Chao Kun Kosa. The difficulty may be very easily avoided by stating, as in many other of our engagements with Oriental Nations, that “This Treaty shall be binding as long as the Sun and Moon endure,”

missioners on its part to meet ours, and mutually settle boundaries and other points.* I may add here that there is one Gentleman of the Honble. Company’s Civil Service at Prince of Wales Island, Mr. Maingy, the Superintendent of Province Wellesley, whose zeal and intelligence, knowledge of the character and customs of the Eastern Nations, and above all, temper, and experience in the delicate and difficult duty of governing a newly settled Country eminently qualify him for the office of Commissioner at Mergui, should it be determined to retain permanent possession of that Island.

It has long been known that few Asiatic Countries are capable of conducting so extensive and valuable a Trade with the British Dominions as Siam, and

or "retain their motion and splendour," phrases in common use among the Malay and Siamese. The present Foreign Minister is a Pya and not a Prah, and being related to the Royal family is often styled Chow Pya Klang-Tha. The remaining words are titles only. The above article however makes no mention of the Honble. East India Company but I presume that if an officer serving that authority be deputed to frame the Treaty, the engagement must be made, as every other Treaty with Asiatic States, between Siam and the Honble. East India Company, and I found it by no means difficult to make the Siamese at Kedah and Pungah comprehend the nature and constitution of that Body. I would in lieu of this article therefore beg to propose the following.

The Peace and friendship now subsisting between His Majesty the King of Siam, and the Honble. English East India Company shall be perpetual; and this Treaty consisting of Articles, concluded in behalf of the Honble. Company on the one part, by , in virtue of powers delegated to him for that purpose by the Right Honble. Lord Amherst, Governor General for all affairs of the British Nation in India, and in behalf of his Majesty the King of Siam on the other part, by shall endure as long as the sun and moon retain their motion and splendour.

The 2nd. Article is,

The British Government for and on account of the considerations hereafter specified, cedes to His Majesty the King of Siam in full Sovereignty the Provinces and Districts recently conquered by the British Arms situated on the Bay of Bengal known by the names of Tavoy and Mergui and bounded by and with the exceptions specified in the next Article.

The approval of the views which I have above

submitted would render it necessary to alter this article as follows.

The Honble. English East India Company for and on account of the considerations hereinafter specified agrees to cede to His Majesty the King of Siam in full Sovereignty the Provinces of Tavoy and Tenasserim recently conquered by the British Arms, situated on the Bay of Bengal, including the Town and Fort of Tavoy and the forts of Zemih and Engran, with the exceptions however specified in the next article.

Mr. Crawford's 3rd. Article is

"The British Government hereby reserves to itself in full Sovereignty the Ports and Harbours of Tavoy and Mergui with miles of territory adjacent to each." For which might be substituted.

The Honble. English East India Company hereby reserves to itself in full sovereignty, the Ports and Harbours of Mergui and Tenasserim, all the Islands lying off the Coast of Tenasserim from Tavoy Island to St. Mathew's, and a portion of territory adjacent to Mergui on the Southward and eastward measuring six miles beyond the left bank of the Tinnan River, and on the Northward bounded by such a line, extending from the sea to that River, as shall be hereafter pointed out by British Commissioners on the spot.

To the above may be added a clause stipulating : His Majesty the King of Siam, and the Government of Prince of Wales Island on behalf of the Honble. English East India Company, shall each immediately depute two Commissioners to the Provinces of Tavoy and Tenasserim with full powers to settle the mutual boundaries and all other points connected with the execution of this and the preceding article. Mr. Crawford's three following articles would require no alteration excepting the Province of Tenasserim to be substituted for that of Mergui.

4th. "The most complete freedom of trade and intercourse shall subsist between the British and Siamese possessions within the Provinces of Tavoy and Mergui, and no monopoly shall be created or commercial restraints imposed by either of the contracting parties without the consent of the other."

5th. "The Asiatic subjects of either of the contracting parties of what ever description voluntarily withdrawing from the Territories of the one Power to that of the other within the Provinces of Tavoy and Mergui shall be permitted so to do without let or molestation and shall not afterwards be claimed by either party."

6th. "The subjects of either of the contracting parties when charged with the crimes of murder, robbery, theft, or injury accompanied by force, or when absconding on account of debt shall be amenable to the laws and jurisdiction of the power in whose territory such offender shall have been apprehended, and the contracting parties reciprocally pledge themselves to afford every necessary assistance and facility in bringing all such offenders to justice."

To the 4th article might however be added this clause: British subjects shall have full liberty at all times to repair to the forests lying within the Siamese possessions to cut and remove from thence Sapan wood and timber of every description, on payment of such moderate duties as the Contracting parties may mutually agree to establish.

Mr. Crawford's 7th article is

"His Majesty the King of Siam for himself, heirs and successors hereby cedes in full sovereignty to the British Government that portion of the territory of Kedah lying between the rivers Creean and Murboo, these streams inclusive, and bounded to the North East by the Mountains of Patani and Calantan, including the islands of whatever description on the

Coast of the said Territory to the distance of five leagues from the said Coast."

The approval of the views which I have submitted would render it necessary to substitute for the above article the following.

The Honble. the English East India Company engages that its Government at Prince of Wales Island shall guarantee an annual payment by the King of Kedah of 4000 Dollars besides the triennial presentation of the Boongha Mas, to the King of Siam, and his Majesty the King of Siam in consideration of such guarantee agrees to restore to Sultan Ahmud Tajuden Halim Shah and his heirs and successors, full possession of his Ancient Kingdom of Kedah, lying between the rivers Oopih and Creean. The above payment and presentation shall be made directly to the King of Siam at Bangkok, and shall release the King of Kedah from all other token, duty or homage, and from all future interference with his Government or country on the part of the Chow Pya of Ligore or any other Siamese Chief.

The King of Kedah has a very long Siamese title which it may be necessary to introduce into above article. Much discussion appears lately to have arisen as to the former boundaries of the Kingdom of Kedah, but I was told at Lungu and at Trang, and the King of Kedah, who ought to know, confirmed the truth of my information, that the small stream of Oopih Lat. $7^{\circ} 5''$, immediately above the river Talavase or Teluk-

* This boundary must have been established many years ago, as in an old chart published in Dalrymple's East India Pilot, and said to have been sketched by Mr. Martin Lindsay and to have been compared with a chart submitted to the Supreme Govt. by Mr. Lyth, the Northern boundary of Kedah is marked at the river Talavase or "Talaouee."

luwas was the boundary last established between the Kingdom of Kedah and the possessions of Merdelong.* The southern boundary is well known to be the Creean River in Lat. $5^{\circ} 10''$. Every exertion may be made by our Negotiator at Bangkok to fix the money payment at as low an amount as practicable for the above sum of 4000 Drs. will perhaps press hard upon

our ally. In the same manner the presentation of the Boongha Mas should be remitted altogether if possible, although I fear such a stipulation, serving as it will as a salve to the pride of the Court of Siam, will give our ally the best chance of being restored. The rent which the King of Kedah formerly paid to Siam for the use of the whole of the islands lying between Junkceylon and Kedah producing Birds' Nests may be made a separate article of Treaty if required at Bangkok, for with proper arrangements our ally ought to realize a large profit on the 6,000 Dollars per annum which he paid.

It appears to me that the best way for our Negotiator to dispose the Court of Siam to listen to his overtures of the restoration of the King of Kedah, is to throw out some hints, that in the event of his not succeeding in attaining that point for our old ally, the Supreme Government will perhaps take into consideration the expediency of establishing His Highness in some independent Principality on the Coast of Tenasserim.

Mr. Crawford's 8th Article is:

"The commercial and other intercourse between the British Territories so ceded by His Majesty the King of Siam and the adjacent Siamese Territories including the Tributary States of Perak and Patani, the Provinces of Singora, Ligore, Junkceylon and Tenasserim shall be regulated on the conditions and principle specified in the 4th, 5th and 6th Articles of the present Treaty."

The above might then be altered as follows:

The commercial and other intercourse between Prince of Wales Island and its dependencies, and the whole of the adjacent Siamese States of Ligor, Singora, Patani, Merdelong and Salang shall be regulated on the conditions and principles specified in the 4th, 5th and 6th articles of the present Treaty.

The commercial and other intercourse between us and Kedah will of course become the subject of a Separate Treaty with our ally. Patani was overrun by the Siamese so far back as 1786, but Perak appears never to have acknowledged the supremacy of Siam until forced to do it in 1818 and the British Government has not yet, I believe, admitted to Siam its right of preference to that State.

Mr. Crawford's 9th, 10th and 11th articles are :

" His Majesty the King of Siam for himself, his heirs and successors hereby engages to permit all ships and vessels under the British flag to trade to the Port of Bangkok and the kingdom of Siam, on the terms and conditions specified in the following articles."

" British ships or vessels when they arrive in the river Menam shall not be put to the inconvenience of landing their small arms and cannon, or to be in any way dismantled, but before arriving at the city of Bangkok they shall land their gunpowder alone, which shall be taken charge of by the officers of the Siamese Government and returned previous to the departure of such ship or vessel."

British Merchants resorting to the Port of Bangkok shall be permitted to sell and buy freely in the open markets and no claim of pre-emption or right of exclusive sale shall be exercised by any party to their prejudice.

Our Negotiator at Bangkok should certainly endeavour to obtain permission for our ships to visit the ports of Tung-yai and Chantibon, mentioned by Mr. Crawford, on the East Coast of the Gulf of Siam ; Chaiya also on the West coast, I was assured at Pungah would be a fine port for our trade. To the last article I would recommend the addition of the following clause. No British subject shall however be allowed to settle in any part of the King of Siam's Dominions

without such person having previously obtained permission for such purpose from the Right Honble. the Governor General of India.

* Dispatch to
Mr. Secy. Swin-
ton dated 12th
July 1822.

* To be copied
later from
Factory Records,
Straits Settle-
ments, Vol. 87.

Mr. Crawford, while at Bangkok in 1822, observed that he had no scruple in saying, that to provide for the exclusion of Foreign Europeans is altogether superfluous under the Siamese Government, the oppressive character of which affords them no encouragement whatever, and scarce the chance of a bare subsistence. But British Agents from mercantile houses at Singapore have lately been allowed to settle at Bangkok, and the circumstance related to me by the Pya of Salang of a person in the dress of an officer having last year visited Bangkok and sold muskets, proves the necessity of making some provision respecting the resort of British Subjects to Siam.

Mr. Crawford's 12th and 13th articles are :

"Every British ship or vessel visiting the Port of Bangkok for the purposes of trade shall pay a Tonnage duty (say from 40 to 50) Ticals per Ton, to be levied on her registered Tonnage, and in consideration of the said impost she shall be exempted from the payment of all Export and Import Duties whatsoever, as well as of Anchorage or Harbour Dues or Duty upon measurement."

"Pilotage and the usual Fees of Office shall be paid by British vessels resorting to the Port of Bangkok, and the said Pilotage and Fees shall not be raised beyond their present amount."

* Enclosure B
in Capt. Burney's
Reports to E. A.
Blundell Esqr.
Actg. Secy. to the
Govt. of P. W.
Island dated 2d.
April last.

* See ante, for
this extract.

To the latter article a remark is appended by Mr. Crawford, that the fees of office are very moderate. An examination of the Custom House Duties formerly in force at Mergui and Tenasserim and according to which rate they are now levied, I was assured, not only at Pungah but at all the Siamese States, will shew such fees of office must be extremely burthensome to traders. Our Negotiators have succeeded in

persuading other Oriental Nations, as wedded as the Siamese to old customs, to commute such fees for some duty easily levied, and similar exertions ought surely to be used in Siam.*

* A Schedule of all duties and fees should be appended to the treaty.

The 14th and 15th Articles are

"The Ships and Vessels of His Majesty the King of Siam shall be permitted to trade in the Ports of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Ceylon on the terms of the most favored Asiatic Nation."

"Ships and vessels of His Majesty the King of Siam shall be permitted to trade at the ports of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore, Mergui and Tavoy upon the same terms and conditions in all respects as ships and vessels under the British flag are admitted to trade at the Port of Bangkok."

Tenasserim.

Mr. Crawford is of opinion that the Siamese are not very likely to avail themselves of the stipulation of the 14th Article, but it may be mentioned that the King of Siam has several square rigged vessels which have repeatedly visited the Coast of Coromandel and occasionally Calcutta. The Chief of Ligor also has trading ships and Brigs. With the Ports enumerated in the 15th Article Malacca may now be joined.

To the above, the following articles may be added.

The Honble. English East India Company engages that all Siamese subjects found in any part of the Burmese possessions which may be conquered during the present war shall be allowed a free pass and afforded every facility to return to their own Country with their families and effects, and His Majesty the King of Siam in consideration of the happy union which is now about to be cemented between himself and the Honble. Company agrees to issue immediate orders for every aid in Carriage Cattle and Supplies and Provisions being afforded to the British Troops serving in the Dominions of Ava, and for the most

friendly intercourse being opened between the British Garrisons and Detachments and all Siamese Forts, Towns or Posts contiguous to them.

His Majesty the King of Siam further engages to co-operate with the British Government in the present war against the common enemy of both States, by attacking the Burmese possessions in the direction of Toonghoo and the Capital of Ava, and by consenting that each Division of the Siamese forces which may be sent for this purpose, shall be accompanied by a British Officer who shall be the channel of communication between the Siamese Commanders and the Commander in Chief of the British Army in Ava, under whose directions the operations of the Siamese forces shall be entirely conducted.

The first part of the preceding articles will, I have reason to know, be received with great satisfaction by the Siamese Government and no co-operation on its part will, I fear, prove eventually useful to us unless we can obtain its consent to the concluding stipulation.

I have deemed it my duty to detail the considerations which have occurred to me on a careful examination of Mr. Crawford's proposed Treaty with the Siamese Government although I fear that there is very little chance of any negotiator on our part being able to persuade that Government to execute such a Treaty, the very number even of the articles of which will immediately excite the fears and jealousy of the Court of Bangkok. In all the intercourse which I have lately had with the Siamese I found no part of the character which La Loubere sketched of them more correct than, that "they engage themselves in writing as little as they can. They will rather receive you into a fort or castle than they will agree with you to surrender them up to you by a Treaty in ample form, and sealed by their Barcelon." Besides, the Supreme Govt. has observed that the negotiation of Treaties and positive engagements with the Siamese Govt.

? 19 Nov. This
dispatch will be
copied later on

(supposing it willing to enter into them) may be regarded as open to serious objection, lest any future violation of their conditions should impose upon us the necessity of resenting such breach of Contract, and the Penang Government has added, that it is fully impressed with the belief, that no Treaties or Agreements would bind the Siamese if an opportunity were offered of deriving immediate though temporary advantage by their infringement. To Mr. Crawford's proposed Treaty also the Supreme Government has declared that two general objections present themselves; 1st, its direct tendency to involve the British Government in extensive and complicated relations with the Siamese, and 2ndly, the apparent hopelessness of persuading their arrogant and untractable Court to execute formally an instrument granting so many Concessions and Accommodations in exchange for any thing which we have to offer.

Para. 3d of Dis-
patch to the
Supreme Govt.
dated 18 Jany.
last. *

* Copied. See
Factory Records,
Straits Settle-
ments, Vol. 99.

Para. 11 of Dis-
patch to the
Penang Govt.
dated 19th *
Novr. 1824.

* See note above.

The Resident of Singapore however, than whom there certainly is no British Officer more Competent to form a Judgement, is of opinion that the moment is at length arrived when it is within our reach to persuade the Siamese Government to conclude such a Treaty with us; and there is no question that if we do not avail ourselves of the advantageous situation in which the Burmese War and our occupation of the former Siamese possessions on the Coast of Tenasserim have placed us and of the favorable disposition of the present Monarch of Siam as shewn in his late reception of some British Merchants, we shall never meet with another such an opportunity of arranging all our differences with the Siamese, and of improving our Commercial relations with their Country. The Honble. the Governor of Penang has stated, that an Embassy to Siam is indispensable, that it should proceed under direct powers from the Supreme Government and that, unless it be deemed advisable with reference to other general objects

that the deputation should proceed from the immediate Seat of the War, it appears to him that the offer and services of the Chief of Pungah should be made use of. That Chief has a great interest at stake in the Success of the British Arms. Junkceylon and all the neighbouring Continent have long been kept in a state of constant alarm from the Burmese so as to have entirely prevented the settling of Inhabitants, and no advantage has hitherto resulted from their occupation. The successes of the British Arms on the Coast of Tenasserim and the interposition of a British force at Mergui afford him a degree of security never before enjoyed. To which considerations I may add, that the Chief of Pungah is related to the Royal family and to the present Pya Klang or Foreign Minister with whom our Agent will have to negotiate any Treaty; that he is well disposed towards the King of Kedah, and jealous of the Chief of Ligor's growing power; and lastly, that he has engaged in the most frank and cordial manner to introduce a British Agent to his Sovereign and to make his Son convey such an Officer to him at Bangkok. The route from Pungah to Chaiya, if passed before the end of June would occupy only six days, and with the Chief of Pungah's subjects and 150 or 200 Elephants, there would not, I am assured, be the smallest difficulty in conveying as much baggage across the Country as the Agent might desire, while from Chaiya, where excellent accommodations can be secured in Boats and Junks of the largest description, the passage to Bangkok during the present South West Monsoon may be made in five or six days. The Agent should be accompanied only by an Escort of 30 Seapoys under a European or Native Commissioned Officer, a Surgeon, and a quiet diligent nautical Surveyor, by whom a Chart of the West Coast of the Gulf of Siam, which is entirely unknown, could be constructed, and he should be recommended to regulate his behaviour and com-

**Govr. Fullerton's
Minute in Council
dated
7th April last.**

*** Copied and
sent from Factory
Records, Straits
Settlements,
Vol. 100.**

munications according to the practice of the old Ambassadors and travellers, That is endeavour to visit the Siamese Chiefs and Ministers at their private Apartments and hours of retirement, and to interest and amuse them first by descriptions of European manners and Customs : pursuing which practice I found during my late Mission was the only way of securing the good will and confidence of this jealous race, and of removing their fears and suspicions. The best presents for the King of Siam and his Ministers as pointed out to me at Pungah, would be some of the following Articles and certainly not the least advantage in favor of accepting the Chief of Pungah's offer is that the most expensive part of a Mission proceeding in such a manner would be the presents, but by these alone unfortunately, the Siamese Courtiers can be propitiated.

2 Palankeens

A large Chandelier

- 2 Diamond Rings of some value
- 2 Rings set with Rubies or Emeralds
- 10 or 12 Ditto of inferior Value
- 2 Sets of Gold Necklaces, Bracelets and Ear-rings
of English Jewellery of some value
- 10 or 12 Sets of Do. of inferior value.
- 2 Large English or Turkey Carpets
- 4 Pieces of Scarlet Broad Cloth.
- 4 Ditto of Yellow Do.
- 4 Ditto of Green Do.
- 6 Pieces of Double Colours, of red on one side and
green or blue or yellow on the other. This descrip-
tion of cloth is in very great request at Siam.

Some English Cut Glass Ware, particularly glass boxes.

- 30 or 40 Sets of Bazars Scissors Penknives and
spectacles
- 4 Pieces of Gold and Silver Brocade
- 4 Do. of Tissue

Some India Kincobs

20 or 30 Pieces of English Muslin

30 or 40 Do. of English Cottons

2 or 3 Corges of Indian Do.

4 or 5 Cases of Fowling Pieces

Some curious Toys and Specimens of Mechanism

Some Warlike Stores—a pair of Brass 6 Pounders, 20 or 30 Blunderbusses—Several hundred Stands of Muskets and pairs of Pistols, and 2 or 300 Canister Flasks of Gunpowder.

A Collection of Scents and Essences.

I am told that the Agent must endeavour to present to the Wang-na a Duplicate of some of the Articles which are given to the King, and I found the Siamese every where passionately fond of precious stones and English Jewellery. Their taste differs in one respect from that of the Natives of Hindostan. They prefer our Jeweller's Gold (Suasa) to Manufactures of the purer Metal.

Having thus submitted in the foregoing sheet whatever reflections have occurred to me on the different objects which have been proposed to the British Government, to be pursued in its negotiations with Siam, I hope I may now, without exhibiting arrogance or improper ambition state, that if it please the Right Honble. the Govr. Genl. in Council to

See report of my Mission to Pungah Enclosures G. H. addressed to E. A. Blundell, Esq. Actg. Secy. to the Penang Govt. dated 2d. April last. *

* See ante, extracts from this Vol. (330).

confide in my discretion, perfect acquaintance with the views and motives of Government and some knowledge of the genius and character of the Siamese Nation and authorize me to accept the very cordial invitation which I have received from the Pya of Salang and his Son and Ministers, to join them at Bangkok, I shall endeavour by the most strenuous exertions to prove myself worthy of such a high distinction. The Chief of Ligor also has signified to me his readiness to convey me to Bangkok, but the strong personal interest which he feels against the restora-

tion of the King of Kedah, as well as the inconvenient and distant route by which he communicates with Bangkok, would induce me to decline that Chief's offer. From Pungah I shall be able to secure not only the friendly co-operation of the Siamese Chiefs on the Isthmus of Krah, but in addition to my own Malay and Native Christian Interpreters the very important services of Luang

* For a character of this Native of the Coast of Coromandel and officer under the Siamese Govt. see Report of my Mission to Pungah addressed to E. A. Blundell, Esq. Actg. Secy. to the Penang Govt. dated 2d April last.

Ram.* Honored then with a Commission under the Seal of the Right Honble. the Governor General, and supplied with an order to procure the presents above enumerated, and with a Dispatch to the address of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island noticing such points as may not be comprised or as may be disapproved of, in this Memoir, and signifying that the Supreme Government entrusts to his immediate guidance and direction the Settlement of our acquisitions on the Coast of Tenasserim, as well as the conduct of our negotiations at Siam, I should be ready to depart again for Penang within ten days, and strive to reach Bangkok before the Ceremony of the late King's funeral is concluded, or at least before the dispersion of all the Siamese Chiefs who are now assembling there. It appears to me that the British Agent should proceed to Siam, furnished in the first instance with instructions only to ascertain and report from thence what portion of the objects which have been proposed to the Supreme Government can be accomplished, and to endeavour to attain at least, whether by regular Treaty or otherwise, these three points—restoration of the King of Kedah, improvement of our Commercial relations, and some co-operation in the present War.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt'n. 25th Regt.
Poll. Agent to the Siamese States from
the Govt. of P. W. I.

FORT WILLIAM 16th September 1825

No. 13.

Supplement to the Memoir Submitted to the Supreme Government on the 3rd May 1825 by Captain H. Burney Political Agent to the Siamese States.

Most of the following facts and circumstances were known to me at the time I drew up my Memoir, but I forbore mentioning them, through a belief that the Supreme Government possessed much later information respecting the Geography and Resources of the Tenasserim Coast.

The old Geographers terminated the Burmese possessions to the Southward at Mergui in about Lat : 12. Dr. Hamilton extends them to a village named Mazi, in about Lat : 10, and Captain Low to Chanma, which he places still lower, in Lat : 9.30. Mr. Gibson pointed out to me that the latter places Chanma too far to the Southward and that since the time the former was at Ava, Mirza has been destroyed, and the Siamese have come up to Chanma, which he considered to be in Lat : 10^o.30. The Siamese at Pungah admitted that the present boundary is at Chanma, which they name Pak Chan, but as all who had been there stated that a boat could pass from Pak Chan to Mergui in 24 hours, I think that place cannot be quite so far to the Southward as where even Mr. Gibson lays it down and I have therefore placed it in my Geographical Sketch in about Lat : 10^o.50. Enquiry on the spot, however, will of course be the only mode of ascertaining the precise situation of Pak Chan. All between it and Mergui is well known to be a desolate waste. Mr. Gibson further stated that the Burmese Province of Tenasserim extended in the rear of Tavoy to Lat : 15.50, which * Horsburgh describes the Tenasserim Archipelago to commence at Tavoy Island in Lat : 13^o. 16' and to terminate to the Southward, at the Seyer Islands in Lat : 8. 28. The Coast of Tenasserim, as far as the

* For while
Horsburgh describes the
Tennasserim, &c.

(a) See his
Tracts.

Burmese possessions are concerned, may be said to include the Province of Tavoy. Colonel Franklin (a) learnt when in Ava "The Coast of Tenasserim is a separate Government, the seaports of Tavoy and Mergui have very little territory annexed, and are also separate Governments."

Tenasserim was in possession of the Siamese as far back as 1568 when it was taken by a Burmah King of Pegu, under which it continued until about 1603, when it was recovered by Siam. In 1613 it was again besieged by the Burmese or Peguers, but they were frustrated in their design by the Portuguese, who appear then to have been settled here. The navigation of the Tinnan or Tenasserim River is said, by one authority, to be rendered difficult by rocks and branches of Trees, with which its channel is full, and

(b) Modern Universal History Ed. 1759. Page 199 Vol. 7th from *Histoire du Royaume de Siam par Gervaise*.

(c) See his Oriental Repository Vol. 1st Page 120.

the stream is likewise so rapid that it cannot be ascended above 3 or 4 leagues a day (b). Dalrymple (c) states in 1759 the river was formerly navigable to Tenasserim where the Portuguese had a

Fort, but the communication is only open for boats at present; whether the navigation of the river was spoiled by accident or intentionally is uncertain. It is reported there is a communication with Junk Ceylon from Tenasserim for boats by the rivers within land. The River of Chantibon on the East side of the Gulf of Siam to which Mr. Crawford refers in his "Notes towards a Treaty" although not so large as some other rivers in the Kingdom of Siam, is said to carry large vessels with greater ease than any of them;

(d) Universal Modern History from *Histoire du Royaume de Siam par N. Gervaise*.

(e) D'Anville conjectured Mergui to be the ancient Borobe while M. Gosselin in his Geography of the Greeks analyzed attempts to prove, with a greater appearance of probability, that the Sou-

notwithstanding a great bank of sand at the entrance, there is always 14 or 15 feet water. (d)

Mergui, (e) with respect to its masters, may be presumed to have always followed the fate of Tenasserim which before it was destroyed, was the principal port. Until 1687, when they were driven

thern part of Pegu is Ptolemy's Aurea Chersonesus, the Bay of Martaban his Magnus Sinus Tenasserim his Sina Metropolis and Mergui his port of Catigara, the utmost boundary of navigation in ancient times.

(f) New Account of the E-
Indies Pages 430 & 468 vol
8th Pinkerton's Collection of
Voyages.

out and many of them massacred through the jealousy of the old East India Company, a good number of English Free Merchants were settled at Mergui, and drove a considerable trade here. Down to the middle of the last century there were the remains of an old English Fort at Mergui. (Dalrymple). An old author, Captain Hamilton (f), relates that in 1683 when the Jesuits persuaded the King of Siam to send an Embassy to France, the same Ambassador came also to London and settled a Treaty of Commerce for the English who should trade in Siam. One of the first objects of the French, when they established an influence at Siam in 1688, was to occupy Mergui, which and Bangkok were considered as the two chief places that open a passage into that Kingdom. A revolution at Siam led to their also being driven out of Mergui during the same year, but they did not evacuate the fortress which they had constructed there, until after they had stood a siege of 17 days with a force of apparently less than 100 Europeans against an army of 12,000 Siamese. The well in the Fort becoming suddenly dry and water failing forced the French Garrison to retire. I have not been able to ascertain in what year the French again settled at Mergui, but a respectable French Work (l'abbé de la Croix's Geographie Moderne) gives the following account of their Factory there in 1784 "La Compagnie François y a un Comptoir, qui la met en état de faire trafic des rubis, et de toutes les pierreries de Pegu et d'Ava, aussi bien que de l'étain, des bois de Charpente, et des écailles de Tortues." At the time the Burmese took possession of Tenasserim and Mergui in 1765 they appear to have been well aware of the advantages of the port. The Bishop of Tabracea writes in that year from Siam "Les Barmas après s'être rendus maitres de Merguey allerent incontinent à Tenasserim, reduiserent cette ville en cendres, et retournerent fortifier Merguey pour

ne plus l'abandonner et en faire le plus fameux port de leur royaume."

The French consider the port of Mergui as one of the best and most secure in all the Indies, lying between an island of that name and another (Bandermacan) to the west of it; and they describe the town as situated on the North west point of the island and very populous. Horsburgh relates that the distance is about two leagues from the road to the town of Mergui, and that vessels of moderate size, by taking pilots can go over the bar into the river and anchor off the Town in 5 fathoms water. "Bullocks are not sold here, but all other necessary refreshments may be obtained by making some presents and entering into a proper understanding with the Chiefs. Elephants teeth, wax, wood, oil and other articles are exported from hence in ships belonging to Merchants that reside here, who, in general, are natives of Hindostan. Water may be had in great plenty from a run in Madramacan (or Bandarmacan) Island, also in Plan-tein Island or in King's Island Bay." He further states, "King's Island and most of the others are inhabited, it is infested by tigers and snakes, and on it and on the other islands, there is plenty of large straight timber fit for masts and several parts of ship building." The principal productions of the district of Mergui, according to Dr. Hamilton (g) are ambergrease, the finest birds' nests, biche de mer, cardamums, black pepper, and betelnut; but at Mergui might further be procured from Pegu and Ava, kutch, cotton, rice, stick-lac, teak wood, hantal (species of arsenic) metals and minerals; and from Siam, tin and other metals, sapan and other woods, stick-lac, peltry, rice, sugar, elephants, elephants teeth, rhinoceros horns, benjamin, salt-petre, salt and coffee, besides most of the valuable commodities of China, of Cochin China, and even of Japan to which skins and feathers were formerly taken in large quantities from Siam by the Dutch and

Chinese. Colonel Franklin learnt that the greater part of the birds' nests found in the Mergui Archipelago are bought on the spot by the Malays, so that the King's only is brought to Rangoon and either consumed by the Royal Family &c. or exported by the way of Quantong. He also understood that most of the Salt Fish and Blachong consumed in Ava are taken from Tavoy and Mergui, while in the time of Dalrymple, the commodities in chief demand at Mergui were salt, iron, tobacco and Masulipatam chintzes. Provisions were extremely plentiful and cheap, a dozen or 20 fowls might be bought for a tical, fish were very fine and equally cheap, and rice might be had for 12 pagodas per *Gance* when its price on the Coromandel Coast was generally above 30 and sometimes even 80 pagodas per *Gance*. Turpin relates, that quantities of pearls may be fished in the Isles of Mergui where they are found of a fine water, perfectly round and the size of a pea; but that neither the Siamese nor the Burmese have ever disclosed the whole source of this wealth, fearful that their tyrants might oblige them to labour gratuitously in this troublesome fishery; that no country in the universe produces finer elephants than are to be found in Siam, the larger being as much as 12 feet high; that these animals form the greatest sources of the King of Siam's wealth, and that formerly, there was scarcely a year without at least 50 of them being sold at Mergui to the merchants who came there from the Coast of Coromandel to trade in them and who brought in exchange the finest linens and stuffs from Bengal, Surat and Persia. He further relates, that in the Province of Tenasserim, birds of Paradise are sometimes found, and at Mergui nightingales which are supposed to have been imported from Europe. (h)

(h) Turpin's history of
Siam in vol. 9th of Pinkerton's
Collection of Voyages.

My friend Captain Robert Scott of Penang has kindly communicated to me some letters and accounts belonging to the estate of that well known Eastern

trader Mr. James Scott, in which I find, that whilst Mr. S. was residing at Quedah during the year 1781, 2, 3, and 4 before our occupation of Penang, he conducted a considerable trade with both Mergui and Tavoy. The Portuguese vessels on their return from China touched at Quedah and furnished him with Raw Silk and coarse China ware, and in addition to such articles he appears to have sent to Mergui and Tavoy large quantities of Betel nut, with some Bengal opium, and Madras piece goods, exchanging them for birds' nests, tin, cardamums, elephants teeth, rhinoceros horns, dried buffalo beef (for the Malays) and deer and rhinoceros Skins. Mr. Scott had a small vessel in employ between Quedah and the Coast of Tenasserim, and I observe on one occasion, in October 1782, when the vessel was bound to Mergui, her Commander found five French vessels there and passed on to Tavoy. The great impediment to commerce at that time proceeded from the Governors of Tavoy and Mergui being the principal traders themselves and buying up the produce of those places for their own vessels. A Mr. Reeves appears then to have been Shahbunder at Mergui, to whom and to the "Reverend Father Missionary Padre Jaze Vigaria apostolica" Mr. Scott's consignments were made.

Martaban was conquered by a Burmah King of Pegu in 1545. The Siamese laid it waste in 1600, but they never appear to have held long possession of that place, for we find that it had a King of its own in 1604. In 1616 the King of Siam appears to have offered the Port of Martaban to the Portuguese, yet a King of Pegu settled his Court there in 1661, in order to have his forces near the borders of Siam. Since the last mentioned date, Martaban seems to have continued under Pegu or Ava; and with respect to Ye, as it is known to have formed a part of the ancient kingdom of Pegu, we may presume that it always followed the fate of Martaban. The proper natives of these two places, Dr. Hamilton learnt, were Talian or Mon, most

of whom have retired to Siam, and are no doubt anxious to recover the land of their Fathers.

The ancient kingdom of Pegu is described by old European authors as having extended to the Southward as far only as Lat: 14°, and Tavoy, which it conquered in 1614, was its frontier town for some time, and afterwards, until the Burmese Empire was established, the same place became the frontier town of the Siamese in this direction. Hence there is every reason to believe that at or near Tavoy it will not be difficult to ascertain the existence of an eligible boundary. The proper natives of Tavoy are well known to be of an entirely different race from those of Martaban and Ye. Jose a native Portuguese formerly Shahbunder of Bassein, whom I knew at Penang as one of the Burmese Envoys to Cochin China, and who was taken at Tavoy, informed me when I visited him at Fort William, where he is now a prisoner that the inhabitants of Martaban and Ye are Peguers, but that those of Tavoy and Mergui are a mixed race, Arracanese, Siamese and Burmese, the first being in his opinion the original stock. This information may perhaps be considered as supported by the following facts. Arracan we are told, at one time extended its conquests far to the Southward and took possession of Pegu, although how long it kept possession of that Kingdom does not appear, and Coll. Symes mentions, that the Yomas or Yas, a race occupying a district to the west of Ava, between it and Arracan, speak the language of Tavoy.

It is true that Tavoy seems to have been an independent principality in 1757 when Alompra engaged us by Treaty to give aid to the Burmese

(1) See page 223 Vol. 1st of Dalrymple's *Oriental Repository* for a Copy of the Treaty—See also page 115 of the same work for the terms on which the King of Tavoy offered the English an establishment in his Country in 1752.

against the King of that place (1). But Coll. Symes thinks that it owed its transitory independence to the Wars that raged between the greater powers. Or perhaps, we then, following the

example of the Portuguese, gave the title of King to the Siamese Governor of the place; for it is well known that they gave that title to the Governors of certain places, who hold them by hereditary right, as Tenasserim, Porselauck, Pipeh and the like; and that they conferred on the King of Siam the title of Emperor according to the notion of the Spaniards who think that Style due to Kings who have other Kings for their vassals. It may be here mentioned also, that the Kings of Siam, as the authors of the Universal History surmise, always reckon as their tributaries those States which have at any time been so. Whether Queda of late years bore that relation to her, is certainly a point of fact which ought to be proved from history rather than argument. In 1614 we found that the Portuguese destroyed the old city of Queda. Abbé Choisy in 1686 learnt that the King of Quedah was tributary to the King of Siam, and La Loubère reports the same a few years after; yet Captain Hamilton in 1720 found the Country independent, as he observes "it was many years tributary to Siam, but in the long Pegu War it threw off the yoke." At what date the yoke was replaced, I have not been able to

(k) Hamilton's new account of the East Indies page 432 Vol. 8 of Pinkerton's Collection of Voyages.

discover. (k)

To return to Tavoy. Horsburgh states that that place, in time of war is much frequented by French privateers when in want of wood and water, that the distance of the town from the usual place of anchorage is 8 or 9 leagues and that there are in the river many islands and banks, with various depths in the channel from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 fathoms. When the Burmese took possession of Siam in 1767 the Governor of Tavoy believing that the Bishop of Tabraca could be made serviceable to them in engaging the French to visit Tavoy and Mergui, made the Bishop return with him to Tavoy and the following is an account of the journey, "Après dix jours de navigation on arriva le 16 Juin à l'endroit où il fallait quitter les bateaux. L'Evêque resta là jusqu'au 23 du mois. Le

Chemin de terre fut beaucoup plus pénible, car outre qu'il n'y a pas un seul village, ce ne sont que des montagnes escarpées et boisées, des vallées pleines de boue, avec une rivière à passer et à repasser, soit

* sic. Insert "est." a gué soit sur deux bambous, quand elle* trop profonde. L'Evêque aimoit souvent mieux aller à la nage sur son cheval que de se hasarder sur les ponts de roseaux fragiles. Les animaux même mourraient de la fatigue de tant de montées et de descentes. Le chemin étoit en bien des endroit bordé des deux cotés de corps morts, et des nuées de mouches fatiguoient les voyageurs lorsqu'ils se reposaient. Le riz commençoit à manquer, lorsqu'on arriva bien fatigué aux environs de Tavoi le 6 de Juillet."

There are however two instances on record of the Journey between the capital of Siam and Mergui, when the French occupied it, having been made in 10 days (l) and on one of these occasions the party consisted of prisoners in chains escorted by a detachment of Siamese Soldiers. If Riply also, as I suspect, is another name for Puchpuri there must have been at one time a carriage road from the Gulf of Siam to Mergui, for in a letter from the Bishop of Tabraca from Siam in 1761, we find the following passage: "J'ai envoyé M. Martin (à Mergny). Il alla jusqu'à Riply où l'on a coutume de quitter les bateaux, et y attouchait* inutilement les charettes pendant trois semaines."

* sic. † attendoit.

(m) An old traveller Ralph Fitch, at the close of the 16th Century, stated, that this island of Tavoy produces great store of Tin which serveth all India.

Tavoy Island (m) the late Mr. Gibson informed me is the most productive of the Tenasserim Archipelago in Birds' nests and at Doneel Island to the Southward there is a valuable pearl bank. Dr. Hamilton acquainted us, that the tin of Tavoy is reckoned very fine; that the mines are situated in a large hill on the great central ridge of mountains, called Sakana, and four days journey by land South and East from the City of Tavoy, and that one branch of the Tinnan or Tenasserim river springs from the vicinity of these mines. If the plan of the boundary line to the north of Mergui as suggested in the foregoing Memoir, be

(n) See his
Tracts.

adopted, we may perhaps find it practicable to make that line include these mines as well as a portion of the neighbouring Forest of Sapan Wood. Dalrymple states that in Tavoy there is a gold mine also which was reported in his time to be valuable. Colonel Franklin (n) learnt that the price of tin at Tavoy was from 40 to 50 Ticals per 100 Viss, but that the metal sold at Rangoon from 100 to 120 Ticals per 100 Viss or 21 Rupees 14 as. 11 p. for Bengal Maund. He also states that the King of Ava provides for his children, supports his household and his Ministers &c. not by Tunkmahs on the Revenue, but by direct grants of Territory, privileges of markets, or of levying imposts &c.; that his Majesty's direct revenues arise from the tribute of the Chobwas, by the produce of the Crown lands, mines, exports and imports; and his unsettled revenues arise from confiscation, escheats, fines, donations &c. &c. most of the revenues are collected in Kind, stored in magazines and converted into cash according to circumstances. The tribute of the Chobwas and duties on some particular articles, as cotton, are paid in bullion. He further states, that the Collector of the land revenue at Rangoon, remitted to his Majesty annually for the whole Province of Henzawaddy about 50,000 Ticals, and the Collector of

(o) Pure Silver or Baw has four per cent alloy & is 2 per cent below Sicca Standard & 100 Ticals of it weighing 142 Sa. Rs. were coined into Sa. Rs. 134.3.6 Flowered Silver or Roucence has 10 P. Ct. & is 8 Pr. Ct. below Sicca Standard & 100 Ticals of it wg. 142 Sa. Rs. were coined into Sa. Rs. 126.5.4. 25 per Ct. Silver on Rha. Chai na Keat Khai, has 40 per Ct. alloy & is 38 pr. Ct. below Sicca Standard, & 100 Ticals of it weighing 142 St. Rs. were coined into Sa. Rs. 91. Franklin. (p) Mr. S's manuscripts. (q) Gross weight is ordinarily reckoned 365 lb. per 100 viss. Franklin.

Sea Customs 1,50,000 Ticals and that Tavoy yielded an annual Revenue of 30,000 Ticals Flowered Silver or Sa. Rs. 37 206(o), and Mergui about 40,000 Ticals, or Sa. Rs. 49,608. Mr. James Scott(p) is advised by the Commander of one of his vessels from Tavoy in January 1783, that 40 or 50,000 Viss or about 1200(q) peculs of tin could be had there annually, and that Betel nut was in very great demand and produced from 35 to 40 ticals per 100 Viss.

It may be suggested that Mergui is scarcely to be called an Island separated as it is from the main land by a river only, and that King's Island therefore would perhaps be a more eligible site for any Factory which we may desire to settle in this quarter. But there is one great objection to the latter Island. We should have to incur a very heavy expense before it could be cleared and populated to the same extent as Mergui already is.

The important object of our retaining Mergui will of course be to revive the ancient commerce which was conducted with Siam through this channel, first by the Portuguese and afterwards by the French. Opening this passage, and restoring this old and almost forgotten road into the rich kingdom of Siam, will be an enterprise of that nature of which it has been well observed, its very reputation is capable of producing advantages, of which no conception could have been formed before the event which produced them (r). There is nothing that will be so popular in England, or so likely to prove a compensation to us for all the trouble and expence of the present war, as the establishment of a Commercial Post in the vicinity of the Burman and Siamese Dominions. The Commercial and Manufacturing Community at home will hail such a measure with the greatest satisfaction. Penang and Singapore may be cited as instances of the facility, security and extraordinary stimulus and improvement which the establishment of such Emporia afford to our trade. A Port of our own will be free from all those arbitrary exactions, fees of office, privileges of pre-emption and other petty obstructions by which the Siamese and Burmese render all trade with them difficult and precarious. It will, as has been done at Penang and Singapore, concentrate and encourage the trade of the natives and afford a secure depot and mart through which the manufactures of England and British India may be dispensed among the surrounding nations whose means for making returns to us are known

(r) Modern
Universal History
Ed: 1755 from
which work many
of the Historical
facts, & from
Nouvelles Lettres
Edifiantes all the
French passages
in this Supple-
ment are cited.

* sic.

to equal the state* which they possess for our commodities. With respect to Siam it has long been said, that it is not the poverty of the soil which relaxes commercial industry there—many obstacles are opposed to the strangers making a fortune, the frequent revolutions of this kingdom overturn establishments begun with the greatest success. The Government not sufficiently acquainted with its own interests, fetter the merchants by fixing at their will the prices of merchandize. The King, the master of trade, is the only one who buys from the stranger, as he is the only one who sells him the productions of the Country. This insolent despot imposes arbitrary taxes which shut the entrance of his ports to the Vessels of India and Europe. But a trifling militia would be sufficient to extricate foreign merchants from dependence on the Monarch. It would be easy to erect a fort, which would soon become formidable by its numerous defenders, who would there take refuge from the voracity of their oppressors. The inhabitants would place their families and most precious effects in it. Neighbouring kings would seek the alliance of such a Colony, which would become useful to them, by exchanging their superfluities for articles of luxury and comfort. (s)

(s) Turpin's
History of Siam.

Captain Cox's observations also with respect to the Burmese is equally true of the Siamese. "It is a farce to talk of treaties with this people in the present state of their information, for their ignorance of their real interests is only to be equalled by their pride and presumption; and unless I can open their eyes to their own interests in the first instance and impress them with a respectful awe of the English power in the second, my remaining here (Capital of Ava) will only expose the British character to degradation and subject my Employers to unnecessary expence." (t) The only mode of ensuring the attention of the Court of Siam to such points will be by presents. You are

(t) Capt'n. Cox's
Journal.

* sic.

never welcome to any creature belonging to it without a present, and even the poor missionaries have found the necessity of complying with this established etiquette. One of them writes to Europe from Siam. 1770: "Il faut ensuite, pour nos succès, les moyens de faire quelque présent au nouveau Roi et aux Mandarins. Telle est la nécessité de ces moyens qu'un grand du pays futil* de vos intimes amis, ne feroit pas la moindre démarche pour nous obliger, si auparavant il avoit reçu quelque cadeau. Cette coutume a même passé en proverbe chez eux." What has very lately been said of the Cochin Chinese may also with little variation be applied to the Siamese. No abrupt change is to be looked for in the commercial habits of any nation. The slow and certain operation of neighbouring good example together with the immense advantage of a free communication with an adjacent English settlement are perhaps the only possible methods of improving the bigoted habits and uncourteous manners of the Siamese, and of giving a stimulus to their trade, far exceeding what can be looked for from any commercial treaties however favorable.

(Signed) H. BURNEY—Captain Poll. Agent
to the Siamese States.

Penang 8th July 1825.

Home Series.
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 667, p. 280

To

JOHN ANDERSON Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, a letter * from the Commander of the Honorable Company's Schooner Zephyr, transmitting one * from the Commander of the Hired Schooner Commerce, reporting the departure of 100 Siamese Pralus from Kedah bound to the Northward.

3 - Not copied

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Supt. of Point Wellesley

Point Wellesley
16th July 1825.

FORT WILLIAM 16th September 1825.

No. 16.

7 Aug. 1825.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the principal Minister of the King of Siam addressed to the Officer Commanding at Mergui.

Uika Muha Sena Buddee Maha Nagara Meeoo Leeneo uktur, rahus (*sic.*) addressed the following letter to the Commanding Officer Commanding at Mergui for the information of himself and the various subordinate authorities placed under him in that Province by the English Government.

It is not unknown to that distinguished officer that the Six Individuals whom he deputed with letters to the Court of Siam were intercepted in their route and conducted back to Mergui Munmuldar of Chownpown (*sic.*), who on being honored with an interview with the said officer solemnly promised that no future aggression should be committed to interrupt the friendship that has hitherto subsisted between the two nations, and that on the Munmuldars return to his district he violated the promise which he had thus made with the Commanding officer, who, to punish this misconduct, sent a force into his country, where an engagement ensuing, Six of the Munmuldar's boats together with 145 prisoners were captured and sent to Mergui, and that although it was evident that the Munmuldar acted in this matter from his own authority alone, He the Commanding Officer assured himself of the fact by enquiry of the captives whom, after hearing their statement, he ordered to be confined.

The Minister of the Siamese Court is nevertheless hopeful that in consideration of the amity and friendship which has hitherto subsisted between the two Nations the Commanding Officer at Mergui will release the Captives so detained and that altho' it be confessed that the aggression originated in the Unmuldar by his

Seizure of the Subjects of the Mergui Province, yet for the sake of perpetuating and confirming the present relations of amity, it is hoped that the wishes of the Minister will meet his consideration.

It was with infinite satisfaction that the Court of Siam heard the intelligence of the Capture by the English of the Provinces of Mergui, Tennaserim and Tavoy with which Provinces it is now hoped the door of communication will always in future be kept open.

To find the Country of a people against whom the the Siamese nation entertains an antient and inveterate hatred to be subjected to the authority of the English was of course source of exultation.

In consequence of a requisition made from
 * 7 Seekeerpoor. Seehierpoor* for the aid of His Majesty's troops a large army was organized and prepared by Muha Para for that purpose and altho' we awaited further instructions of the English Government regarding them no further communication was received.

At this juncture from the recent decease of His Majesty and the consequent ferment it has excited among the Ummaldars of these dominions, as also from the setting in of the Monsoon our troops have been prevented forming a junction with the English, but on the termination of the monsoon a numerous army will be ready for co-operation and will act conformably to the orders they may receive from the British authority, and to which no opposition will be offered in marching to whatever quarter they may be directed to proceed in aid of the complete subjugation of the Burmese dominions.

The Chowkies throughout the Siamese dominions have been enjoined to offer no interruption to the egress of all subjects of the British Government and whenever it may suit the views of the English to

request the aid of the troops of these dominions they will be pleased to dispatch an emissary for that purpose and as the most peremptory orders have been issued (to the subordinate authorities) throughout our dominions to give intimation the moment they hear of the approach of such emissary, no delay will arise in the wishes of the Brigadier General being made known to our Court.

In former times when Martaban, Tavoy, Mergui and Tennasserim were dependencies of these dominions uninterrupted intercourse was enjoyed by the Ryots of the respective Countries who were connected by the ties of kindred and friendship. But this communication has been long since prevented by the hostility and enmity of the Burmese, an impediment that will no longer exist now that these provinces are subjected to the British authorities.

In regard to the Ummildar (we hope it will be considered) that the impropriety of his conduct in ill treating the ryots of the British Government, entirely originated with himself, and indeed the Siamese Court were totally ignorant of the Circumstance.

His own attempts at justification when awakened to a sense of his misconduct were submitted to His Majesty's Ministers as follows.

That with a view of reconnoitering he proceeded with his men towards the Countries bordering on the provinces of Mergui, Tavoy and Tennasserim, that he had not proceeded far when he fell in with certain individuals belonging to the English provinces, who were desirous that he himself and his Men should return with them to their Commanding Officer, that in consequence he accompanied them to the Head Quarters of their Commanding Officer who received him with Civility and attention, that after receiving his dismissal he proceeded on his way to his own dis-

trict where he encountered several ryots who had fled the provinces of the English from terror of their Arms and that as many of them had friends and relations in Siam they willingly joined him, the rest he acknowledges were rather compelled than persuaded to follow him; that before he reached home he found himself pursued by 40 armed boats detached by the English at whose approach the people of his district were greatly alarmed, that he himself considering the amicable relations that subsisted between the two Nations was at a loss to conjecture the reason of their then approaching him. This uncertainty however soon ceased to perplex his mind for on nearer approach of the boats they commenced a heavy fire of musquetry and soon succeeded in making captives of 145 men of his Majesty's subjects. With those that remained he now sought refuge in an adjacent island, but the English still continuing their pursuit and attack he was obliged for his own defence and the preservation of his men to return their fire; that not being able to oppose any efficient resistance, he retired to his own district, when he repaired to His Majesty's Court accompanied by those whom he stated to have willingly joined his train.

On receiving this statement of the Mammildar his Majesty's Ministers made every enquiry of those whom he alleged to be his voluntary followers as to its truth or falsehood. The reply which they received to their interrogatories was that many were willing followers of the Ummildar and others were brought by compulsion.

At this period one of their vessels which have been long accustomed to carry on trade has arrived from Seehasson at this port, commanded by Captain Ewanjon who has brought a letter stating the wishes of the English that he should be furnished for their service with Horses, Elephants, Bullocks and Buffaloes to be sent to Rangoon and that grain would hereafter be required for the same purpose.

The news of the intended co-operation of our forces seemed to have given the English at Sehapor great delight.

To prevent future interruption of the amity and friendship which now happily subsists between us we have thought proper to punish the high misdemeanour of our Ummildar originating in folly and officiousness by imprisonment and removal from the Government of his district, and have strictly enjoined the person whom we have appointed his successor to permit all ryots belonging to the Provinces of Mergui, Tenasserim and Tavoy who may appear to be in the Town of Chawnpoun to depart at their own free will and pleasure and we have every confidence that this example, strengthened by the consideration of that friendship which subsists between the two nations will be followed by that distinguished officer who will be pleased to dismiss all such persons as he may have detained captives, a measure which will ensure the stability and permanency of our respective amicable relations.

In order to remove all doubt and uncertainty of the dismissal or detention of such ryots of the English Provinces as may yet remain in these dominions and whom the English may be desirous of reclaiming it would be advisable that some one be deputed to receive them and from whom a [note^o] of their delivery may be taken by the Officer of our Government. And for the past offences of the Ummildar we trust a pardon will be conceded.

* In the original the word is "use" apparently a copyist's error.

(A true Translation from the Persian)
(Signed) G. NORMAN.

FORT WILLIAM 7th October 1825.

No. 35.

Ordered that the following translations of two Siamese letters to the address of Colonel Smith, enclosed in Sir A. Campbell's private dispatches dated 6th August recorded on the proceedings of Government in this Department on the 26th of the same month No. 19 to 23 be here recorded.

Translation of a Siamese letter to Colonel Smith.
Translation of a letter from the Siamese General to the address of Colonel Smith.

Jo Prah, General of the Golden Country of See Ayoktharah Durrawuddy Maha Eah tha Eah Eah Maha Eah-Raja Ega Maha Senah dee Pudee Zeree Zaah Runnaroon (*sic*), acquaints Colonel Smith, Commander of the English Army at Martaban, that his letter has reached him by the hands of Mou Eah (Town Clerk) Cheragee (Secretary) and Jacatoon (Jemadar) with which he is quite satisfied, while deliberating on the friendship that should subsist with the English, a messenger with a letter arrived from Eaga Maha Sinah de Pudee Prime Minister of the Golden Country of See Ayoktharah Durrawuddy requesting I should repair to his presence immediately. I am now arrived. I daily think of you and by the favor of God and our King we are determined to join the English to fight and destroy the Burmese.

Jora Muthagee was ever willing to come into our dominions. He, his family with Men and Women, were apprehended by Chequa and Nacan and sent into our Country of which circumstance I had not the slightest knowledge till your letter was received; the above two persons are now arrived. I have made the Minister acquainted with these circumstances and forwarded your letter to him. When your letter was read to the Minister, he approved highly of its con-

tents, and felt very happy, and said you are truly our friend and the friendship between the two kingdoms should be cultivated.

The Minister having sent for Mou Eah Cheragee and Jacatoon they arrived at See Ayoktharah Durrawuddy in the year 1187 (1825) in the Month of Kachoom (May) on the 18 of the Moon and having replied to some desultory questions put to them by the Minister, presents of Cloth and Ungurkah were made to them and orders given that they be hospitably entertained.

Jora Muthagee having begged for permission to return to his Country at the time I received your letter and was deliberating on its contents, the Minister promulgated an order that the people brought away from Martaban had his full consent to return to their Country with their family or remain in his. A number of people that had settled in our Country long while ago, were anxious to meet their relations in Martaban and many that had settled at Martaban were as anxious to meet their relations in our Country but as the Burmese and we were at war they were apprehensive of taking any steps to gratify their longings.

When our Force was Stockaded at Atharan I sent a letter to you and the Rangoon General (Sir Archibald Campbell) Congratulating you on the successes you have met with over the Burmese and our willingness to assist you. We are very happy of these results as through them a free intercourse between the inhabitants of our Country and yours will subsist, and our friendship thereby become strongly cemented. A number of people from their inclination have settled in our Country, while in some instances the Petty Chiefs and General by imposition and force brought others over, with the expectation of being promoted by the Minister to a higher post or remunerated. Under such

circumstances, an order has been promulgated that those people wishing to remain may do so or return to their own Country as they please and such as have been inclined to return I have placed under charge of Mou Eah to see them safe to their destination, amounting in all Men and Women to 79 souls, and with Cheragee Mou Meah Chan, who with his family have lived here a long time, 26 more, making a total including old men, women, children and men 105 souls. I also send by this opportunity a letter from the Minister which contains all he would wish to convey to you. You must not make yourself uneasy on any points. We are here and ready to assist you.

Martaban is now in the possession of the English. See Ayoktharah Durrawuddy and that place must become one, a free intercourse must subsist between the two Countries, and commerce allowed to be carried on in both, without limit or reserve. Ever since my return from the Stockade of Athacan my thoughts (day and night) have always been about you. I have been thinking to join your army but we cannot avail ourselves of this wish till the month of September or October; I will make every endeavour personally accompanied by my army to join you and fight and destroy the Burmese at the time above specified. Our wishes accord with yours, and we will fight to conquer. After this the English and the Siamese will remain sincere friends and the Countries united by the bond of friendship. Formerly See Ayoktharah Durrawuddy was on terms of amity with the English but now that amity is become more strongly cemented and our intercourse therefore with each other must be more general and unrestricted

(A true Translation)

(Signed) A. ROWLAND.

Translation of a Siamese letter to Colonel Smith.

No. 36.

Translation of a letter from the Prime Minister of Siam to the address of Colonel Smith.

EGA MAHA Sina de pudee Amachee (*sic*) (prime Minister) of the Golden Country of See Ayoktharah Durrawuddy sends this letter to Colonel Smith Commander of the English Army at Martaban. In the year 1186 (1824) in the month of Natho (December) by the favor of our fortunate King whose virtues are unequalled and who has rigorously kept the 10 Commandments and at whose Golden feet I am always prostrate to attend to his commands, have ordered Jo Prah Maha Yeotha eay Mah eay Rajah Egah Maha Sina de pudee-Seeree Zaah Roonnaroon with his army to join and assist the English to fight and totally annihilate the Burmese. On his way he encamped at Camboorey and took great precaution to guard every point accessible by the enemy. He forwarded a letter to me from thence conveying the happy intelligence of the English having taken possession of Martaban and other Countries of the Burmese. The Burmese have all along been our enemy and I have derived great satisfaction from this tidings. From such a happy result Martaban and See Ayoktharah Durrawuddy must now be considered as one, we must be friendly with one another and a free intercourse should subsist between both its inhabitants. I was glad to hear also after Jo Prah had arrived at Atharan, he sent intelligence of it to Colonel Smith and communicated our willingness to assist him in joining to destroy the Burmese and that our proceedings were approved of by the Rangoon General (Sir Archibald Campbell). Whilst we were greeting on the happy tidings of your successes over the Burmese our mirth was changed into deep sorrow. We have had

the misfortune to receive the intelligence of the death of our beloved King who, tired with the cares and troubles of this world, has left it to join the Angels of Heaven. It becomes the duty of all his Ministers, Chiefs, Officers of rank, vassals &c. to pay the last obsequies to his remains, and the year 1187 (1825) and the month of Kachoon (May) has been fixed on for the funeral, at which time it is expected we will have all assembled in the Golden Country and, after taking the oath of allegiance to the newly installed King, the funeral rites will be performed. Owing to these preparations I was induced to order Jo Prah back immediately to Durrawuddy. Just as my letter reached him he was on the eve of returning with his army as he was suffering severely from indisposition. Jo Prah is arrived at Durrawuddy.

I have investigated the case of Jora Muthagee and the men and women apprehended by the Petty General and Cheque. Some of these people have their relations in our Country, but perhaps the Petty General and Cheque brought them over with the expectation of being promoted to a higher post, or remunerated by the King. Martaban formerly belonged to the Burmese and was at war with the Siamese. A number of people of the former place having relations in our Country were anxious to come over to them, but were fearful of taking the step apprehending detection, but now Martaban and Durrawuddy must be considered one, the road is clear, and nothing can impede a free intercourse with each other as the English and ourselves are on the most friendly terms. I have therefore issued orders that those who are willing to remain in my Country have my permission to do so, or retire from it, as they please. Jora Mouthagee and others who were brought over have received every attention from me with respect to their eatables and clothing.

Jo Prah our General having learnt by the way of Penang that the army at Rangoon was suffering much from illness acquainted me with the circumstance. I received the intelligence with a great deal of grief and concern, yet I did not place much credit on the report owing to the distance from which the report reached him. I sent an order however to General Jo Prah to learn whether the report was correct or not. Beenneah Yeathana Say Beenneah Suttee Sehung Beenah Seehah Rajah Thameeng like Nayeau were deputed to accompany Jora Muthagee with a letter to obtain the truth of the story

Our General Jo Prah sent me information that Mou yea had arrived with 30 followers at Manwa with a letter from Colonel Smith. Hearing of this intelligence I felt extremely happy and which letter I have since received. Having maturely deliberated on the contents of the letter I issued a promulgation that Jorah Muthagee with the men and women that were apprehended and brought over had my permission to return or remain in my country as it suited their own inclinations best, and such as have been inclined to return I have placed under charge of Mou eah to see them safe to their destination, amounting in all, men and women, to 79 souls, and with Cheeragee Moumeah Chan who with his family have lived here a long time 26 more, making a total including old men, women children and men 105 souls. All this I have done because the English and ourselves are friends and we will join you and destroy the Burmese race entirely. A number of people that have settled here for a long time from Moon Tavoy and Tenasserim, to these also have I had my orders communicated, and I have left it to their option either to remain in our Country or return to theirs. Being on such friendly terms with you, I send this letter. So soon as the rainy season is over our General Jo Prah will immediately join you to fight and disperse the Burmese as he is already

in possession of my commands to do so. When the Burmese are conquered tranquillity and peace will reign on all sides and our friendship will increase day by day. I send two letters, one written in the Siamese, the other in the Burmese language. The contents of both are the same.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) A. ROWLAND.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

No. 9.

Extracts from the Journal of an Excursion up the
Sanloon River by Lieut. James Low, August 1825.

* * * * *

There is reason to believe that plates of gold or of silver have been placed below the foundations of most of the Antient Pagodas, commemorating the period at which they were built, for I find in a Siamese History of Ligore, which was once an indefinite principality, that this practice was adhered to on the occasion of the founding of the first Buddhist temple there.

* * * * *

We returned about Nine o'clock to *Ka tha*. The Siamese occupied it seems a stockade just opposite to this village about two months previous to the period of my visit. They had however destroyed it on their departure, a few logs only remaining. The people did not complain of having been harshly treated by the Detachment which consisted of three hundred men. It was evidently the policy of the Siamese to conciliate the people from whom they should have to obtain supplies in the event of their gaining possession of the province which they have all along hoped might be evacuated for their advantage expressly by the British.

* * * * *

We cleared the *Ka loony soon* Island where the river acquires nearly its former breadth (is South of its South point) Kammoon a very rocky Island lies close above this place, we kept on its north side where is the widest channel. * * * We soon passed the next Island which is small and not so rocky as that we had just left. A large stockade here came in

view... This Stockaded Post is called the Kayet or Kiet, a name applied also to the Island lying off it. It stands on the angle formed by the junction of *Yoonzalen Khyauung* and the main river, here termed *Hooloo* by the Kareans and *Salo-en* by the Mons.

The post has been well chosen being defended on two sides by these rivers and on the others by jungle and a deep foss. It is an oblong of one hundred and Ninety Yards by eighty seven composed of upright beams ten feet high, with a bamboo stage inside for the defenders to fire from. The Siamese stormed this port on the breaking out of the late war with Ava. The garrison consisted of about three hundred Mons in the employment of the Martaban Borman Governor. It was stated to me that the Siamese swam across the river to invest it and they succeeded in capturing its defenders. I do not wonder at this last circumstance if the latter were not provided with better means of holding out than what they seemed to have had, for along the whole works inside were placed in regular order at intervals of ten and twelve paces baskets full of large stones or pebbles, evidently intended to be thrown at assailants. The Siamese burned the gateway on their evacuating the Post.

(Signed) JAMES LOW

Martaban

August 1825.

Bengal Secret
and Political
Consultations,
Vol. 333.

FORT WILLIAM 16th September 1825.

Secret Dept.
No. 10.

Secret and Confidential

Political Department.

To G. Swinton, Esqr.

Secy. to Govt. Fort William.

Sir,

The Honble. the Governor having determined upon taking up a vessel for the purpose of conveying early information to the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council of the present satisfactory state of affairs at the Settlement, I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several dispatches enumerated in the margin. I regret that in consequence

Letter in duplicate of 3d of June giving cover to Translations in the Portuguese Language of my Credentials, &c.

Letter of 6th June enclosing Copies of dispatches from the Rest. at Singapore of 20th & 30th April & from Brigr. Genl. Sir A. Campbell of 10th May.

Letter of 7th June enclosing Copy of a dispatch from Penang Govt. of 14th May.

of these dispatches having been enclosed in the Post office Mails for this Island, I did not receive them until my arrival here, or have an opportunity of replying to them whilst I was in the vicinity of Fort William.

With reference to Brigr. Genl. Sir A. Campbell's dispatch, I am happy to report to you, that I have received intelligence via Pungah, and the intelligence has been just confirmed by the Governor of Ligore, that the Pya of Chimpohun (Sanpan) by whom the depredations reported by Major Frith were committed, has been disgraced by the King of Siam, who is said to have entirely disapproved of that Pya's conduct.

On the subject of the dispatch from the Penang Government it affords me much satisfaction to have it in my power to lay before the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council the enclosed copy of a letter which I have just addressed to the Honble. the Governor of this Island. From a personal acquaintance

with the Chief of Ligore, and from having visited most parts of the Queda Territory, I was led to believe and report to this Government that His Highness was too well aware of our superior means and resources ever to meditate an attack on this Island, that his preparations were much exaggerated as to their extent, that they were directed against Salangore, that the best and most easy mode of preventing him from subduing that Malay State was by this Government at once prohibiting him and that if His Majesty could be induced to give me a meeting, I indulged every hope of being able to remove the distrust and suspicion with which he has been filled against us by certain interested Malays, who were actively employed in exciting similar unfriendly feelings on our part against His Highness. Let me then do myself the common justice to beg you will solicit His Lordship in Council to compare the enclosed report with those which I had previously the honor to submit to this Government on the 28th of January and 2d of April.

It is my desire and inclination as much as my duty, to speak with every sentiment of respect and veneration of the Honble. the Governor of this Island, from whom I have had the happiness of receiving much personal kindness and consideration. But during my absence at Calcutta the old report, which was tried in 1822, of the Chief of Ligore proposing to attack this Island, was again brought here. The Honble. the Governor had not witnessed the extravagance to which the false report of 1822 had led many Gentlemen, nor had he resided a sufficient time in this quarter of India to feel himself justified in acting entirely upon his own knowledge and judgment of the different characters of our inhabitants. Unfortunately also, local feelings and impressions so common in a small Settlement led to my reports being put aside and discredited, and to new information being received from Malay Spies and informers.

The Malays are as quick in discovering, and as ingenious in inventing, as the natives of Hindoostan, whatever their European masters would like to hear. Previous to my reports some opinions, most unfavorable towards the character and designs of the Chief of Ligore, had been given and published, and hence every tale that was now brought confirmatory of those opinions and in refutation of mine, was implicitly received and reported to the Honble. the Governor without the common precaution being taken of enquiring, how such a poor and vagabond set of informers could have learnt the secret views and Sentiments of the Governor of Ligore. The only part of my reports to which any attention was paid was that wherein I recommended the Chief of Ligore being at once prohibited against proceeding to Salangore ; and this measure, conducted as it was by my friend Mr. Maingy under the immediate direction of the Honble. the Governor, was attended with all the success that I had anticipated.

On my arrival here on the 8th of July I found so strong an excitation against the Chief of Ligore that I was obliged to reserve my opinions to myself, and to solicit only that I might be allowed to inform His Highness of my return. A principal officer, however, told me, that my visiting Quedah was quite useless, and cautioned me further to take care that His Highness did not poison me. The enclosed report details the result of my visit, and I solicit only to add to it one or two points for the particular information of the Supreme Government.

The force and number of His Highness's Boats have been much magnified, and every thing else that I saw or heard at Quedah proved to me, that our Malay spies and informers had grossly exaggerated and misrepresented. As one proof of the contemptible condition of His Highness's Squadron I will only mention, that when his state Boat came along side of the vessel on board of which I had proceeded to Quedah Roads, I found five of the

Crew which may be presumed to have consisted of select men, lying at the bottom of the Boat in a deplorable State of Sea Sickness while it was full 20 Minutes before any one of the rest could ascend the side of my vessel. It was also maintained here, that the force which the Chief of Ligore had collected was far too powerful to be intended merely against Salangore, but it was forgotten that the Rajah of Salangore had two years ago succeeded in destroying 40 of His Highness's boats at one blow, and had invited to his assistance a set of very bold and desperate pirates from the Southward, and it is worthy of remark that our own Agent, when now deputed to that quarter and in the character even of a friend, finds it necessary to proceed with two armed vessels, some gun boats and an escort of 25 Sepoys.

I have considered it my duty to bring the above particulars under the notice of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council in this manner, with no view to injure or depreciate the character of any public officer, but in order to submit to His Lordship in Council, the necessity of repeating the injunctions which were conveyed in the dispatch to this Government under date the 19th of November directing the Governor of Ligore to be treated with a becoming respect and consideration and to submit also the expediency of calling upon the officers of this Government to divest themselves of all previous prepossessions of partizanship towards the Malays and of improper animosity against the Chief of Ligore and to receive the Agreement which His Highness has now concluded in a spirit of frankness and liberality.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captain

Poll. Agent to the Siamese States
Prince of Wales Island
10th August 1825.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

No. 24.

To Captain Burney
Poll. Agent to the Siamese States.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 30th August and to apprise you that the necessary orders have been issued to the Commanding Officer of the Troops for holding in readiness an escort of one Native Officer, 2 Havaldars, 2 Naiks, 2 Drummers and 30 Sepoys from the 25th Regt. under the command of a steady and experienced officer, and for the Master Attendant to engage, in communication with you, a suitable vessel for the conveyance to Bangkok of yourself and escort and suit, for which also the commissariat has been instructed to prepare a supply of provisions and water equal to their consumption for four months.

The limited nature of the Medical Establishment of this Presidency prevents the Governor in Council acceding to your request with respect to Mr. Asst. Surgeon Henderson and it is proposed therefore that Mr. Sub Assitt Surgeon Harris [should be placed] under your orders.

The Governor in Council is not aware of any necessity of adding to the instructions with which you have already been furnished as far as the British Interests in this quarter are concerned. They may be reduced to the four following heads.

1st. The restoration of the King of Quedah.

2nd. The withdrawal of the Siamese from Perak.

3rd. The prevention of further conquests by the Siamese over the Malayan States on either side

of the Peninsula. The consequent maintenance of the independence of those states and exclusion of the Siamese powers from contact with the British Settlements in the straits and

4thly. The establishment of more free intercourse and trade with the interior and eastern side of the Malayan Peninsula by means of the overland routes and numerous rivers flowing into the sea in the neighbourhood of Penang.

For all other points, I am directed to refer you to Para. 10 to 13 of the dispatch from the Supreme Government of the 13th May with the instructions to yourself from that authority. You will be furnished from the Honble. the Governor with appropriate letters from himself to the Chow Pya Klang or Foreign Minister at Bangkok and to such other Native Chiefs whose places of residence may be in your route to Bangkok, and you are requested to provide yourself with a suitable address from the King of Quedah to the King of Siam and his minister.

Under present circumstances the probable necessity of another Campaign against Ava and the consideration of the many points of discussion likely to arise in the settlement of frontiers and actual interchange of territories with Siam seem to point out in strong terms the expediency of your proceeding to Bangkok with all possible expedition, so as to afford as a British accredited Agent at the Court an early medium of direct communication with it. You will not fail however to touch at Salingapoor* and communicate most freely and unreservedly on all points of your Mission with the Resident of that Settlement.

There is a point to which the Governor in Council desires your early attention at Bangkok, the opening of an amicable and free intercourse between

our acquisitions on the Coast of Tenasserim and the contiguous Siamese Posts by the adoption of which measure it is hoped that the depredations of the Siamese Chiefs in that neighbourhood would be precluded in future, or arrangements made for the restitution of the unfortunate Burmese captives taken away from the provinces of Mergui and Tavoy.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. R. CUPPAGE
Actg. Secy. to Government.

Fort Cornwallis
The 10th September 1825.

FORT WILLIAM 16th September 1825.

No. 11.

To Captain Burney
Political Agent to the Siamese States.

SIR,

* See ante,
preceding
document.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 10th Ultimo* submitting copies of your report to the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, of your conferences with the Rajah of Ligore and of the provisional Treaty concluded with that Chief.

* This letter
dated 2 Sept.
1825 has been
copied.
See Factory
Records, Straits
Settlements,
Vol. 104.

2. The Governor General in Council having received from the Government of Prince of Wales Island copies of the above mentioned documents and expressed his sentiments on the subject of your proceedings in his reply to the dispatch from that Government, I am directed to transmit you a Copy of His Lordship in Council's letter* for your information, and to repeat to you, in this direct form, the very high sense which Government entertains of the ability, judgment and address displayed by you on the occasion in question, and the confident expectation of His Lordship in Council that the friendly understanding which you have established with the Rajah of Ligore will contribute in an essential degree to a satisfactory arrangement of all depending questions with the Court of Siam to which you are about to proceed.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. SWINTON

Secy. to Govt.

Fort William
16th Sept. 1825.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

To

The Honorable

ROBERT FULLERTON

Governor &ca. &ca. &ca.

Honble. Sir,

* * * * *

On the day following [30th Sept. 1825] I assumed charge of the Civil and Political administration of the Province of Mergui. * * *

My attention was at once directed to the detention of the Siamese prisoners, the particulars of which have already been detailed in Major Frith's letter to Sir A. Campbell dated 27th March. I visited these unfortunate men and found them in irons, and I regret to add that the alarm which has prevailed and still prevails at Mergui regarding the Siamese prevented my having their irons struck off. This had once been done by Major Frith, but it occasioned so much apprehension, that at night all the women left their houses, and many families removed without the stockade.

It is but justice to the officers formerly commanding at Mergui to state that the irons are so light as scarcely to prove of any inconvenience. I have endeavoured to contribute to the comfort of the prisoners by directing them to be regularly supplied with fish, salt, &ca., and by allowing a certain number to enjoy exercise and to be taken every day to the Tank without the stockade for the purpose of enjoying a bath.

Captain Collinson's report of the confinement of some Siamese Envoys does not entirely prove correct. The men alluded to by the Officer belong

to the party now detained and were allowed to go to Bangkok in view of obtaining the return of the Burmese carried away by the Pia of Chimpohun and thereby their own release. They assert that the Burmese will be sent back as soon as the rains are over, and the circumstance of the return of these men, and of the Pia of Chimpohun being disgraced, leads me to hope such will be the case. I have however deemed it my duty to facilitate this measure as much as possible, convinced that it will materially tend to restore tranquillity and give confidence, and have therefore released ten of the prisoners and placed them in charge of one of the followers of the Chow Pia of Ligore who accompanied me from Kedah and with instructions to take them to Bangkok. I communicated on this subject with the Envoy to the Court of Siam, and Enclosures

Enclosures
Number 3 & 4.

Numbers 3 and 4* are Copies of letters forwarded to the Pia Klang and Chow Pia of Ligore. I have also availed myself of this opportunity to address the different Siamese Chiefs residing near our frontier, and now transmit copy of my letter.

Enclosure
Number 5.

It would be impossible to describe the distress and misery occasioned by the depredations of the Siamese since our Conquest of Mergui. Not a village a few miles distant from the stockade has escaped, and at least one thousand six hundred (1,600) of the inhabitants have been carried away. Every village in the interior is deserted, and scarcely a trading boat is seen, but this can excite no surprise when it is considered they have been deprived of their arms, and then left without protection, thus almost inviting the Siamese to repeat their incursions.

* * * * *

Moandown (a hill so called) forms the southern boundary of the Province of Tenasserim and of course that of Mergui. It is distant about sixty miles from

7 forts

Tenasserim ; the nearest inhabited Burman village to this hill is called Sinkoan in whose vicinity are two large ? the one standing without the boundary of the Burmese the other within Siamese Territories. It is stated that this boundary is well known to both parties and from all I can learn the hill of Moandown must be very nearly in the same parallel of latitude as Pakchan or Charwa, defined by Captain Burney as the boundary of the Province of Mergui.

The range of hills that divide the Isthmus and form the Eastern boundary of the Province are distant about seventy-five miles in a direct course from Tavoy. These hills are well known to both nations as forming the boundary between them, and the Siamese have stockades a few hours journey within their frontiers in this quarter.

* * * * *

The Country in the immediate neighbourhood of the Burmese and Siamese boundaries is entirely uncultivated for some days' journey on both sides, owing no doubt to the continued depredations carried on by these nations. I cannot learn that there is any communication from Mergui direct to its eastern frontier, the whole is represented as Hills covered with jungle and Forest.

* * * * *

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY.

Hired Brig Minerva
Tavoy River 13th
October 1825.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

After Compliments.

No. 14.

(Enclosure No. 3)

(Oct. 1825)

Mr. Maingy, appointed British Commissioner for the Provinces of Tavoy and Mergui, has to acquaint his Friend the Raja Klang of his arrival at Mergui.

The Tan Chow Pya of Ligore will have already informed the Pya Klang that the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy are now placed under the direction and orders of the Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island. Mr. Maingy has found no less than one hundred and twenty two Siamese in confinement here, followers of the Pya of Chimpohun who wantonly and unprovoked and forcibly carried away from the Province no less than four hundred Burmese who were then considered British Subjects, the province of Mergui being at that period in possession of the English.

Mr. Maingy however, anxious of evincing how desirous the English nation is of preserving the most intimate and friendly relations with the Siamese has lost no time in dispatching to Bangkok five of the principal Siamese with five attendants at present detained here. My Tuan, one of the followers of the Tan Chow Pya of Ligore has taken charge of them, and to him Mr. Maingy refers his friend the Pya Klang for all information. It is well known that independent of the four hundred Burmese forcibly carried away on one occasion by the Pya of Chimpohun at [least] one thousand two hundred more of the inhabitants of the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy have been taken away at different times by different Siamese Chiefs, and as these one thousand six hundred persons were actually British subjects in consequence of the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy having been conquered by the English, I beg

my friend will not delay their return but forward them to Mergui or Tavoy, and on their arrival at either of these places the Siamese now here shall be released and every assistance afforded them to return to their own Country.

Captain Henry Burney, Envoy to the Court of Siam, will no doubt have assured the Pya Klang that the return of the Siamese is certain as soon as the Burmese are restored to the English authorities either at Mergui or Tavoy. Any arrangement Captain Henry Burney may enter into regarding the Siamese at Mergui Mr. Maingy faithfully promises to fulfil.

Mr. Maingy sends his friend the Pya Klang a piece of green cloth.

(True Copy)

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Commissioner for the Pro-
vinces of Mergui and Tavoy.

After Compliments.

[Oct. 1825.]

Mr. Maingy now sends My Tuan with his followers to his friend the Tan Chow Pya of Ligore who will communicate all particulars regarding the voyage and of all that he has seen at Mergui. Mr. Maingy, anxious of evincing how desirous the English nation is of maintaining the most friendly relations with the Siamese, has lost no time in dispatching to Bankok My Tuan and with him five of the principal Siamese Chiefs with five of their attendants who have been detained here some months and who were taken at the time the Pia of Chimpohun, in defiance of the friendship existing between the English and Siamese, entered the Province of Mergui and carried away a great Number of Burmese who were at that period British subjects, owing to the conquest of the Province by the English. The Siamese now detained here admit that the Pya of Chimpohun on one occasion only carried off upwards of four hundred inhabitants of the Province of Mergui and besides these at least one thousand two hundred more of the inhabitants of the provinces of Mergui and Tavoy have been taken away by different Siamese Chiefs.

Mr. Maingy therefore most strongly requests his Friend the Tan Chow Pya of Ligore to use his utmost endeavours to obtain the immediate return of the one thousand six hundred Burmese now British subjects, all of whom are detained by different Siamese Chiefs.

My Tuan will inform the Chow Pya that Mr. Maingy has greatly contributed to the comfort of the Siamese now at Mergui, all of whom will be immediately given up the moment the Burmese now British subjects arrive at Mergui or Tavoy. If the Chow Pya really wishes to evince the sincerity of his friendship towards the English nation, he can give no better proof of it than by the release of the one

thousand six hundred Burmese, now British subjects detained in the Territories under the dominion of the King of Siam.

Mr. Maingy sends his friend the Chow Pya a piece of Green Cloth.

(True Copy)

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Commissioner for the
Provinces of Mergui
and Tavoy.

[Oct. 1825.]

Mr. Maingy, appointed British Commissioner for the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy, has to apprise and all other Siamese officers, that the English nation is at war against the King of Ava and his arrogant ministers and not against the people of Siam, and that the Right Honorable the Governor General of British India has resolved upon affording the inhabitants of Mergui and Tavoy a Civil Government under the direction of the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, who has therefor deputed Mr. Maingy to take charge of the territory in this neighbourhood lately conquered from the King of Ava by the British arms.

The English nation is particularly desirous of preserving the most friendly relations with the Siamese and Mr. Maingy has been especially instructed to respect the lives and property of all Siamese subjects with whom he may meet. Mr. Maingy has for many years lived in the Eastern Countries, is well acquainted with the manners and customs of the Siamese, Chinese and Burmans and Malays, and is on terms of friendship with the Siamese Chow Pya of Ligoré. He will therefore know how to conduct any correspondence with the Siamese Chiefs in the neighbourhood and so point out to them what means are necessary towards establishing the most friendly and intimate relations between the English and Siamese. Mr. Maingy begs to assure all Siamese Officers and subjects that so long as they treat the Burmese of Mergui and Tavoy with that consideration to which they are now entitled as British subjects, the most liberal and unrestricted trade and intercourse will be allowed and encouraged between the Provinces of Mergui and Tavoy and the contiguous Siamese Territories. But several Siamese from ignorance of the nature and extent of the British authority in these provinces have

made incursions and depredations against the Burmese. Mr. Maingy most particularly cautions all Siamese officers against the repetition of such unfriendly acts, and he warns all Siamese officers who may have taken possession of any places which belonged to the Provinces surrendered to the English to retire from such places, as they value and fear the serious displeasure of the King of Siam, to whom an Envoy is now on his way from the Right Honorable the Governor General of British India. Mr. Maingy invites the neighbouring Siamese Chiefs to open a friendly correspondence with him on all matters connected with the Burmese War, or with the affairs of these Provinces.

(True Copy)

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY Commissr.

for the Provinces of Mergui & Tavoy.

FORT WILLIAM 14th Octr. 1825.

No. 9. To

J. R. CUPPAGE Esqr.

Acting Secretary of Prince of Wales' Island.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 3rd ultimo, enclosing a Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore to the Honorable the Governor of Penang and reporting the transmission of a Box of Presents from the Rajah for the Governor General,

2. In reply I am directed to state the satisfaction which the Governor General in Council derives from these testimonies of the desire of the Rajah of Ligore to cultivate the friendship and good will of the British Government, a disposition which His Lordship in Council is assured will be met in the same spirit by the Government of Prince of Wales' Island and encouraged as much as possible.

3. The Governor General in Council will take an early opportunity of making a suitable return of presents to the Rajah which will be forwarded from the Persian Department.

I have &c.

(Signed) GEO. SWINTON

Secy. to the Govt.

Fort William
14th Octr. 1825.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1826.

A DESCRIPTION

No. 10. of the Route from Tavoy to the top of the Naye
daung Pass on the Siamese Frontier.

The proximity of the Siamese Dominions to the lately conquered Burman Province of Tavoy induced me in February last to undertake a journey to the Eastern Frontier of the latter; And as it had been affirmed that there was a Military road in the direction of *Che up poeh*, that route was preferred.

* * * * *

About a mile from the foot of this Pass stood the famous stockade of *Che up poeh* on the banks of a small stream.

The Tavoyers depended on its garrison to keep the Siamese in check in that quarter. Its site had been very injudiciously chosen, for it is in the middle of a plain, only a few hundred yards wide and quite commanded by the heights on the east [and] west. It lies now in ruins but numerous spikes were found concealed amongst the long grass.

* * * * *

At five miles two furlongs from Wa gong we came upon a spot termed *Wa-Chup-pen-ma* celebrated on account of a battle once fought there betwixt the Burmans and Siamese.

* * * * *

There is not a house near this Pass; so soon as some observations had been made and it was evident that the Siamese had no party here with which an amicable conference could be held or any Post close to the Pass, I hoisted the British Flag on the space betwixt the two piles of stones, and saluted it with three rounds of

musketry from my party, when it was hauled down and a red handkerchief hoisted in its place to shew that we had been there, and that a British Officer had ascertained the boundary betwixt Tavoy and the Siamese Dominions. Considering also the uncertainty of affairs at this Crisis, a stone on which I rudely engraved B. E. I. Coy. was buried on the spot.

As I had no authority from the Honorable the Governor in Council to *pass the frontier* it became my duty to return, but with an adequate supply of provisions we might have reached the Capital of Siam in eight days from this point.

A Paper was left in a bottle on the Siamese pile purporting that a British Officer had been there and had been disappointed in not meeting on friendly terms some Siamese Officer.

* * * * *

(Signed) JAMES LOW.

Penang

1st November 1825.

FORT WILLIAM 27th April 1825.

Mr. Maingy

No. 17.

To G. Swinton Esqre.

Secy. to the Govt. Poll. Dept.

FORT WILLIAM

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 16th Sept. the one transmitting under an open cover the duplicate of a letter to the Honorable Mr. Fallerton, the other enclosing a translation of a letter from the Chief Minister of the King of Siam.

On my arrival at Mergui my immediate attention was directed to the Siamese who are there in confinement, and I lost no time in addressing the Chief Minister of the King of Siam, the Chow Pya of Ligoro and Captain Burney regarding their release and the return of the Barmese inhabitants forcibly carried away by the Pya of Chimpohun. The letter addressed to Captain Burney and received via Rangoon shall be forwarded to that officer in the course of a few days as I am making arrangements for ensuring a regular communication between this place and Bankok.

I deem it my duty to transmit to you for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council copies of my reports from Mergui and this place addressed to the Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. D. MAINGY

Commissioner for the Provinces
of Mergui and Tavoy.

Tavoy

the 1st November 1825.

Home Series,
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 667, pp.
379-392.

(Copies)

Rangoon

30th Novr. 1825.

Geo : Swinton Esqre.

Secry. to Government

&c. &c.

Calcutta.

Sir,

I have much pleasure in forwarding for the information of the Right Honorable The Governor General in Council the enclosed Copies of highly satisfactory letters from Captain Fenwick, Commanding at Martaban, announcing the arrival of the Siamese army under the command of the Roon Roon at that place, and of their being in readiness to co-operate in any manner their services may be wished with the British army now serving in Ava.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. SMELT

Lt. Col. and Brigr.

Comg. Lower Provinces.

To

Brigadier Smelt

Commg. Lower Provinces.

Sir,

I have this day been honored with your queries of the 4th Instant.

Since my arrival here I have endeavoured to trace out any remains of the race of the Pegu Royal Family, but in vain—it is asserted that the Rown Rown is of the noblest blood of the Taliens, and that the sudden recall of the Siamese army last year was on account of a charge brought against him of wishing to establish an independent Government here. In the event of it becoming desirable to establish an independent Government, the Talien Zemindars of Martaban would furnish from three to four thousand men, and the means we possess of arming them in a superior manner would give them a decided advantage over their neighbours. The wealth they have accumulated during their connection with us, renders them much averse to the idea of returning under the Burman Government. I may add that the Zemindars are reported to have behaved well in the skirmishes they had with the followers of the Ex Governor of this place.

I have reason to think that the Ex Governor meditates a retreat from his stockade at Rangoon, in the direction of Tongho.

I have &c.

(Signed) ROBT. FENWICK

Captn. 12th Regt.

Martaban

12th Novr. 1825.

(True Copy)

(Signed) W. Smelt.

Brigadier

Brigadier Smelt

Commg. at Rangoon.

My dear Sir,

The Siamese Army have at length shewn themselves. Their advance of 200 men arrived yesterday with six officers, accompanying our Zemindars and bearing two letters of which I now enclose translations (as well as the shortness of the time will permit) and a copy of my letter to Sir A. as far as relates to the Rown Rown. Every thing seems as favorable as can be desired, and almost to anticipate the General's wishes on that score, and I have not the least doubt but any plan of the kind alluded to in your last may be carried into effect, with great ultimate advantage to our interests. I shall by paying the utmost attention to the Rown Rown prepare the way for any proposal which it may be hereafter advisable to make to him.

The messages he has sent confidentially by our Zemindars shew the confidence he is inclined to place in us and the great desire he has to settle again in his Native Country, and from comparing all circumstances, I see no reason to doubt his sincerity. I am unable to give any answer to his letter, being yet uncertain whether the war is continued or not. I shall therefore not dispatch any one to him until I can decidedly inform him how we stand with the Burman Government.

The Ex Governor I imagine will move towards Tongho when he hears of the arrival of the Siamese. I shall send out a strong party under our Zemindars to favor the escape of a number of people he detains by keeping their wives and children with him when he moves. These people have promised to come over if they can find an opportunity. I am under no

apprehension of his attacking me, as I will have notice of any movement he may attempt and I know my strength to be superior to any thing he could effect.

(Signed) R. FENWICK.

Martaban

18th Novr. 1825.

To

Brigadier General

Sir A. Campbell K. C. B.

Commanding the Forces.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward two letters from the Rown Rown received this day. Six Talien officers of the Siamese army brought them accompanied by our Zemindars, who took Lieutenant Colonel Conroy's letters to the Siamese Capital.

1st. From these letters a very large Siamese force may be expected in a few days. I am informed that the first division will be composed entirely of Taliens under the command of the Rown Rown and is estimated at 10,000. A Siamese force is reported to follow under the command of the Prince of the Royal family.

2nd. From the private letter from the Rown Rown and from the confidential message sent by our Zemindars, there can be no doubt but that the Taliens, now in Siam, would gladly embrace an opportunity of returning to their native country and asserting their independence. As the Rown Rown has been so long at the head of so large a portion of this people, it is a fortunate circumstance that his sentiments should furnish an opportunity of gaining him over to our interests at this juncture. The Taliens in the Siamese Country are estimated above 100,000 souls, and it may be presumed that the Siamese Government will not be averse to see the Pegu Government, under a friendly Power, rather than it should revert to their enemies.

3rd. I shall use my utmost exertions to conciliate the Rown Rown and afford every assistance to the Talien Division in which our Talien Zemindars are ready to assist, as they look on these people as their relations.

(A true Copy)

(Signed) R. FENWICK

17th Novr. 1825.

Translation of a letter received from the Rown Rown 17th November 1825.

After recapitulation of Colonel Conroy's [letter] and Compliments, states that a large force from Siam will soon arrive at Martaban and proceed to attack the Burmese, but he is very anxious to be assured that provisions may be supplied to his army, as being obliged to march a great distance by land, they are unable to bring a sufficient supply with them; all the surrounding country being under British protection they cannot take subsistence without permission, and as the Martaban country intervenes between the place where the Ex-Governor of Martaban now is and the army, it will be requisite to provide provisions in the event of it being necessary to attack him. The Rown Rown is very anxious on account of provisions, the Siamese army being so numerous. That he is much vexed at the delay which has taken place but should Martaban be given up to the Siamese Government there will be no difficulty and every assistance will be given in prosecuting the war; that little resistance can be made by the Burmese to the united forces. In furtherance of the above the Rown Rown was ordered to assemble an army at Camboory.

That in the event of advancing to Ava, Mergui, Tavoy and Martaban being in the hands of the English, the Siamese could apprehend no danger on that Frontier.

That an army might be sent to attack the Burmese also by the route of Temay Siam. That this letter is written by order of the Council. That if Tavoy and Martaban be given over to the Siamese Government the united forces will easily reduce the Burmese.

(Requests a speedy answer.)

Dated 11th of the Moon Tha den Kymat 1187.

Translation of the private letter from the Rown Rown and said by the Talien who delivered it, to be his true sentiments, the public letter being written by order of the Siamese Government.

After recapitulation of Colonel Conroy's letter, he states that according to his desire a very large Siamese Force will now come ; that as Martaban is the native country of the Taliens he hopes that subsistence will be given them ; that he is very anxious to leave the Siamese Country and requests that every thing may be done to further his departure from that Country ; that he will advance in any direction necessary and take care of the route by Pegue and Tongha.

Begs to have early intelligence.



L. S.

To

Brigadier Smelt

Commanding Lower Provinces.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the operations of the enemy in this vicinity. Oudinah, the Ex Governor of Martaban, detached 800 men to attack the Zemindars of Keikala and Bengyd Zurein; after some resistance these Chiefs were taken prisoners and put to death, their towns burnt and people dispersed. About 500 have sought our protection and numbers are hourly arriving. These Zemindars had never accepted our protection, but Oudinah had found out their intentions of doing so, and made this a plea for attacking them.

Oudinah now gives out his intention of moving in this direction. I have found it necessary to strengthen the Zemindar of Zengy by serving out some of the repaired arms left here by Colonel Smith, and by sending the advance of the Siamese (200) to his assistance; I shall also send 500 Siamese, who are hourly expected, in the same direction. As the Zengay people are all Taliens and are well armed, I have no doubt but they will be able to repulse any attempts Oudinah can make. I have apprehended a few Burman inhabitants of this place who were in correspondence with Oudinah and had promised to fire the town when he should approach.

You may rely that I shall neglect nothing in the defence of the district.

I have &c.

(Signed) ROBT. FENWICK

Martaban

27th Novr. 1825.

(true Copy—Sd.) W.SMELT

(True Copies)

(Signed) GEO: SWINTON

Secy. to the Govt.

Home Series
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 667, pp.
46-50. (2d. set
of paging.)

Resolutions of the Commissioners in Pegu and Ava.
Camp Munday 19th Decr. 1825.

The Senior Commissioner having laid before the Commission an original letter to his address from the Rown Rown Commanding a Talien army of 10,000 men in the service of the King of Siam, and a letter, also to his address, from the Minister of Siam accompanying the army, forwarded by Captain Fenwick in Civil charge of the Province of Martaban, it was resolved that an answer to the following effect, in the Burmese Language, be forwarded under the joint signature of the Commissioners, to the General in Chief of the Siamese Army.

“ The Commissioners of the British Government in India for the affairs of Pegu and Ava have received a friendly letter from the Minister of Siam, and they hear with great pleasure that the Rown Rown has advanced with an army of 10,000 men to co-operate with the English troops, and that a larger army is about to advance for the same purpose. The Commissioners understand from the letter under acknowledgment the wishes of the Siamese Government with respect to the Province of Mergui and Tavoy, and knowing as they do the feelings of friendship which the British Government in India entertain for the King of Siam, and their strong desire to give proof of that friendship by gratifying the wishes of his Majesty, they do not doubt but that after the conclusion of hostilities by the entire defeat of the Burmese, by the united efforts of the British and Siamese arms, the Governor General in Council will find means to afford full satisfaction to his Siamese Majesty with respect to the Provinces above mentioned.

The Commissioners further desire to notify to the Chief authorities with the Siamese army, that they have sent Captain Williamson to confer with them upon all matters mentioned in the letter hereby

acknowledged, and upon whatever subject may arise to require discussion. He will also remain with the army. Whatever agreement Captain Williamson may make, the Commissioners will confirm, and they request the Siamese Authorities will consider his words as the words of the Commissioners. Instructions have been issued to that officer upon all subjects, and if the Siamese treat him with confidence, it is certain that the friendship which now so happily exists between those two great nations, the English and the Siamese, will be continued, and so strengthened as to endure. If the Siamese Authorities, on the part of their King, will depute an officer to accompany the Head Quarters of the British Army, and communicate with the Commissioners, he will be gladly received, and treated with all due honor and respect."

The Commissioners further resolved with reference to the concluding paragraph of the above letter to the Siamese Authorities, to appoint Captain Williamson of the 3d Regiment Madras Light Infantry to be Deputy Political Agent, on the part of the British Government in India with the Authorities Commanding or accompanying the Siamese Army, that a copy of the foregoing letter should be forwarded to him for his information, together with full and explicit instructions for his guidance in his communications with the Siamese Generals or Ministers, and that he should be directed to make the most regular and detailed reports upon all political matters connected with such communications, addressing the same to the Secretary to the Commission.

The Commissioners resolved to recommend to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council that Captain Williamson's allowances, in his political capacity, should be fixed at Calcutta Sicca Rupees 500 per Mensem, with additional travelling allowances at the rate of Calcutta Sicca Rupees 300 per Mensem, to

enable him to accompany the Siamese Head Quarters with ease and certainty and to maintain such a suite and establishment as may give him weight and respectability in the eyes of the officers of that Nation with whom he will be placed in Communication.

* * * * *

By order of the Commissioners.

(Signed) ROSS D. MANGLES
Secy. Commissrs. in Pegu
and Ava.

Home Series
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 667, pp.
403-4.

(Copy)

To

BRIGADIER SMELT

&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 30th ultimo, submitting copies of letters from Captain Fenwick, commanding at Martaban.

2. The communications from that quarter are considered to be highly interesting and important, and have induced the Governor General to address special instructions to Major General Sir Archibald Campbell, a copy of which is herewith transmitted for your information.

3. You will of course be guided by the instructions which you will receive from Sir Archibald Campbell with regard to the mode and extent in which it may be deemed expedient to avail ourselves of Siamese co-operation, but in the absence of any special directions on that head, you will not fail to manifest the most friendly disposition towards the Talien Chief, and to turn him and his troops to the best account, reporting to me for the information of Government the general feeling of the Peguers towards him, and their opinion and wishes with regard to his pretensions or those of any of the ancient Talien race in his train, to the throne of Pegue.

4. You will be cautious however, how you encourage the Talien force to enter the lower parts of Pegue, as it would appear that it must depend upon us wholly for supplies. The most desirable arrangement appears to be that the force in question should march upon Thongho, keeping on the left side of the Pegu river until nearly opposite that fortress: but on so important a subject the Governor General in

Council cannot doubt that you will have received instructions from Sir Archibald Campbell, who must possess the most correct local information, and be best able to judge how and where to employ the Siamese troops to the greatest advantage.

I have &c.

(Signed) GEO : SWINTON
Secy. to Govt.

FORT WILLIAM
29th Decr. 1825.

A True Copy

(Signed) Geo : Swinton
Secy. to Govt.

(Copy)

Home Series
Miscellaneous,
Vol. 667, pp.
188-191 (2d. set
of paging.)

To,

R. D. MANGLES, Esqr.

Secretary to the Commission

in Pegue and Ava.

Sir,

I arrived here on the 11th inst. and I have now the honor to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that in consequence of the Siamese army under the Rown Rown being still at a great distance from this place, I have been under the necessity of forwarding their letter to the Siamese Authorities, seeing no prospect at present of delivering it in person for a considerable time, as the Rown Rown, it would appear, had not yet arrived on this side of the Mhin-gun-ygye-toury range of hills, which divide these provinces from Siam. I have addressed a letter to him stating I have been sent by the Commissioners to accompany his army on its march into the Pegu territory, with the view of co-operating with the British troops now there, and that I will take the earliest opportunity of joining him after I have received information of his having passed the mountains. I have also communicated to him that every exertion will be used by the officer in charge of the province of Martaban to supply his army with grain, and that it therefore becomes necessary for him to make known to me without reserve, his intended movements on that account, as well as to afford me an opportunity of reporting the progress of his force to the General Commanding the British troops in Ava.

There are at present about 200 of the Rown Rown's Division here, 100 of them at Ahtram (to which place from hence there is water communication) and 500 at Keun-beng, about 6 marches beyond Ahtran.

The main body consisting of about 5000 men is encamped at Khadung-seing (about six marches from Keun-leng) where they remain awaiting the result of the communication made by the Minister to the Commissioners through the officer Commanding this place.

Since writing the above, an official communication from Brigadier Smelt with some extracts of letter from Malone have reached this, conveying intelligence of negotiation having been commenced between the Commissioners and the Burmese Authorities there, which are likely to terminate in Peace. I have therefore dispatched another letter to the Rown Rown intimating the circumstances and requesting he will remain on his present ground until further instructions are received by me from Malone, and which will be communicated to him with the least possible delay.

On second consideration I have intimated to the Rown Rown the circumstances of the negotiations going forward and that they will most likely end in peace, and that he may either remain on his present ground or move on towards this, at an easy rate, as he thinks best.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. WILLIAMSON
Captain
D. P. Agent.

Martaban
14th Jany. 1826.

(True Copies)

(Signed) GEO. SWINTON
Secy. to Govt.

Printed for private circulation.

THE

BURNEY PAPERS

Vol. II.

PART III.

(August 1825 to March 1825.)

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BANGKOK

1911.



Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 680-690.

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 13 August 1825.

READ the following letter from the Political Agent to the Siamese States, transmitting Copies of Correspondence with the Rajah of Ligore previous to his visit to Kedah.

Political Agent
to the Siamese
States
5 August 1825.

POLITICAL AGENT to SIAMESE STATES.

To

JOHN ANDERSON Esquire

Actg. Secy. to Government.

Sir,

In conformity to the desire conveyed by you, I beg to submit to the Honorable the Governor in Council, translations of the Correspondence that passed between His Highness the Governor of Ligore and myself previous to my late visit to Queda, together with the memorandum with which the Honorable the Governor furnished me for my guidance.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Poll. Agent to the Siamese
States

P. W. Island.

5 August 1825.

Enclosure

TRANSLATION of a letter addressed to His Highness the Governor of Ligor by Captain Burney Political Agent to the Siamese States dated 13th July 1825.

After Compliments—I have to inform my friend that I have visited Bengal, where I had the honor to see the Governor General and Gentlemen in high authority—that I am now returned to Penang appointed an Agent to the Governor General and that I have heard from Mr. Maingy, that my friend desires to see me. Let my friend understand, that if he still desires to see me and will tell me so, I shall be happy to visit him. I have heard that there has lately been some difference between the inhabitants of Penang and my friend's people, and if my friend be willing, I shall be happy to relieve his mind, and assist to settle the same, by pointing out to him the road of friendship, because an intimacy of long standing subsists between my friend and myself.

A True Translation

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Poll. Agent to the Siamese States.

TRANSLATION of the Reply received to the foregoing letter from His Highness the Governor of Ligore on the 25 July 1825.

After Compliments—Let my friend understand that I have received his Letter stating that he has returned to Penang appointed an Agent to the Governor General, and that he has heard from Mr. Maingy that I desired to see my friend, which is perfectly true. Some time ago I acquainted my friend that I desired to come and see him at Quedah, but my friend unexpectedly proceeded to Bengal, and when I came I could not [see him]. Now my friend's letter is arrived in which I am informed that he is able to meet me, of which I am exceedingly glad, because I wish to consider of several matters friendly towards the Governor General. But I wish to return home quickly. Therefore I invite my friend to come soon, and meet me at Queda without delay. And further, if the Governor General desires to send Letters to Siam, let my friend bring them with him to Queda. I desire to consider of the road to friendship and to improve, prolong and establish it. I send China Loun with this letter, and when my friend has understood its contents, I request he will order China Loun to return quickly before him.

A True Translation

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Political Agent to the
Siamese States.

THE PRESIDENT lays before the Board the following Translation of a letter to the Rajah of Ligore, relative to deputing an Agent to Perak and Salangore :—

To the Rajah
of Ligor 8th
August 1825.

TO THE RAJAH OF LIGORE.

I have duly received the letter which my friend has sent to me by Captain Burney, and as my friend has now given me a real proof of his desire to cultivate friendship and alliance with the British Government I have to assure him that he will ever find me happy and ready to treat my friend with respect and kindness, and to permit his men and every other Siamese to visit Penang and to hold intercourse and to trade with its inhabitants without the least molestation. I have determined upon immediately sending an Agent and two strong Vessels to Perak and Salengore for the purpose of making such arrangements as will effectually prevent disturbances between those States according to the desire of my friend. Let my friend be under no apprehension as to Rajah Hussein being allowed to continue his depredations against Perak. The British Government entertains no desire to occupy or govern Perak or any other State near Penang, but it will make it its duty to prevent the peace of neighbouring States being disturbed from quarrels between themselves or between them and the Siamese. Peace and Commerce are all the English Nation require.

The Agreement which my friend has concluded with Captain Burney is very satisfactory to me inasmuch as it will prevent all future discussion between my friend and myself as well as all chance of dispute between the Siamese and English. I shall be most happy to forward this agreement to the governor General without delay; and to continue in the mean time to cultivate the most friendly relations with the Siamese with whom the English desire to live on the most cordial footing; I shall also from time to time dispatch full accounts to my friend of the nature and progress of the war in which the English are now engaged against the ancient enemies

of Siam, the Burmese, in order that my friend may forward the same to His Master the King of Siam. If my friend will send to me the Letter and presents which he informed Captain Burney he desires to transmit to the Governor General, I will take care and forward them myself to His Lordship by the most safe and speedy conveyance.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

8th August 1825.

THE PRESIDENT lays before the Board the following Translation of letters to the Rajah of Perak and Salengore, with Copy of the Commission granted to Mr. Anderson.

TO THE RAJAH OF SALANGORE.

To the Rajah of
Salengore 10
August 1825.

Letter

from the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esquire Governor of Pulo Penang to the Rajah of Salangore.

This letter will be delivered to my friend by Mr. John Anderson a Civil Servant of the Honorable East India Company on this Establishment, who is already acquainted with my friend and whom I have deputed as my Agent for the purpose of endeavouring to adjust upon a sure and honorable basis the differences now so unhappily subsisting between my friend the Rajah of Perak and the Chow Pya of Ligore.

Mr. Anderson will communicate with my friend upon all points and I request that he may be received with kindness and respect as an accredited Envoy of the British Government.

It will be extremely satisfactory to me to learn that my friend accedes readily to the proposals which will be made to him on the part of my Agent, by which the peace and prosperity of my friend's Country will be promoted, an end put to all misunderstandings and Commerce will flourish.

Mr. Anderson will deliver some presents to my friend as a mark of my esteem.

Dated 10 August 1825.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Governor.

Similar letter to Rajah of Perak.

COMMISSION.

Prince of Wales Island

10th August 1825.

BE IT KNOWN that I Robert Fullerton Governor of Prince of Wales Island and its Dependencies, have nominated and appointed JOHN ANDERSON Esquire of the Honorable East India Company's Civil Service on the Establishment of Pulo Penang to be my Agent to proceed to Perak and Salangore and to negotiate with the Chiefs of these States, so that the misunderstanding now so unhappily prevailing in these Countries may be settled and adjusted and peace and prosperity re-established. I request therefore that all Rajahs and Chiefs will receive this my Agent with respect and attention as an accredited Agent of the English Government.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
Governor.

READ the following Letter from Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON.

To W. E. FULLERTON Esquire.

Acting Depy. Secy. to Govt.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th Instant acquainting me that the Honorable the Governor in Council has been pleased to require my services to proceed to Perak and Salangore for the purpose of endeavouring to adjust certain differences between the Chiefs of those States and the Chow Pya of Ligore.

I beg you will inform the Honorable the Governor in Council that having now closed the dispatches for England and Bengal, the necessary arrangements are in progress for my quitting the harbour on Saturday Morning the 13 Instant in prosecution of the duty assigned to me.

I have this day delivered over charge of the Offices of Accountant and Auditor and Accountant General to the Court to Mr. Patullo.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Political Agent to Perak
and Salangore.

Factory
Records,
Straits settle-
ments, Vol. 103.
pp. 691-699.

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 13 August 1825.

READ the following letter from the Political Agent to the Siamese States, applying for an advance of 2,000 Dollars to be accounted for hereafter.

Political Agent
to the Siamese
States 8th
August 1825.

POLITICAL AGENT to the SIAMESE STATES.

P. W. Island 8 August 1825.

To

John Anderson Esquire

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

Sir,

I request you will do me the favor to solicit the Honorable the Governor in Council to grant me an advance of Spanish Dollars Two Thousand (2000) to be accounted for when I next submit a regular statement of my expenses. My late visit to Quedah, as well as my proposed visit to the Coast of Tenasserim, has put me to several charges, and I am unwilling to reduce the Amount of Cash with which the Commissicner for Mergui and Tavoy may be furnished.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captn.

Poll. Agent to the Siamese
States.

THE SECRETARY reports that Capain Burney was informed that all advances must be obtained from the Commissioner at Mergui, but that he was authorized to draw his Personal Pay for the past and present Month.

RECORDED the following dispatch to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council dated 4 Instant transmitting Copies of Captain Burney's Report of his recent proceedings at Quedah, together with the Basis of a Treaty concluded by him.

To the Governor
General in
Council 4
August 1825.

To the Right Honorable

WILLIAM PITT LORD AMHERST

Governor General in Council

FORT WILLIAM.

My Lord,

We have been extremely desirous of addressing your Lordship in Council in continuance of our Dispatch of the 10th June last and of communicating our proceedings and Negotiations with the Rajah of Ligor with reference to his Armament at Kedah which our duty led us to watch with suitable caution and corresponding preparations.

Nos. 1 to 7.

We have now the honor to transmit for your Lordship's information Copies of all the correspondence which has since that period passed with the Rajah of Ligore, and are happy to observe that the remonstrances which our President made to that Chief have had the effect of inducing him to relax in his hostile intentions and subsequently of removing from our vicinity a large portion of the Forces which he had collected there.

It would appear however from the Correspondence, that he had it in contemplation still to persevere in an endeavour to move a Force by land across the Country to attack the state of Salengore but even this point he has abandoned since the return of Captain Burney and an interview which that officer has held with him.

The efficient measures which we had taken to resist any meditated aggression and the display

of our Forces in his immediate vicinity have no doubt tended to create in the mind of the Rajah of Ligore a doubt of his means to extend his hostile views to the Southern States. While therefore our preparations added to our remonstrances have tended to this favorable result and have afforded time for the receipt of your Lordship's Instructions to us on the subject, the knowledge which he has received of an expected re-inforcement of Troops for this Presidency have tended to induce him to pursue a different line of conduct and to relinquish the contemplated enterprize to the Southward.

Captain Burney having returned to this Presidency on the 9 July with your Lordship's Commission and Instructions for a Mission to Bangkok our President considered the state of affairs with the Rajah of Ligore to admit of that officer availing himself of an invitation from the Rajah to proceed to Kedah and our President accordingly directed him to proceed there and to avail himself of any favorable opportunity of negotiating with him on the various points at Issue, more particularly in respect to our mediation for the adjustment of differences between him and the Rajah of Salengore. The Instructions to Captain Burney are enclosed with this dispatch ; and we have the honor also to submit a Copy of that Officer's Report as well as of the provisional Treaty which he has concluded with the Rajah of Ligore.

* See Minute of 3 Aug. 1825 from Factory Records, Straits Settlements, Vol. 102, already sent.

We beg leave to submit at the same time a Copy of our President's Minute* on the subject of the above-mentioned report and Treaty and to observe that the sentiments contained therein fully coincide with our united views and opinions. Consistently therewith it is our intencion immediately to dispatch an Agent to Salengore in the hope that the Rajah of that place may be at once induced to fulfil the expectations which we have a right to demand of

him, with a view to the final settlement, as far as this Government is concerned, of the points wherein our mediation and Interference may be essential. The removal of Rajah Hussein from the Perak River is a point equally important to our own Interests as it is suitable to the views of the Rajah of Ligore, as that person is known to be a leader of a Gang of Pirates whose removal would under any circumstances have become indispensable for the safe navigation of the Straits by the numerous small vessels carrying on Trade.

The payment of small sums of money demanded from the Rajah of Salengore cannot be considered as burthensome or harsh upon that Chief, if upon enquiry it should appear to us that he has been concerned in seizing and destroying the Siamese Boats as represented. The Security that will be derived by him against all future aggression will we trust induce him to comply with our requisition. If these negotiations and proceedings should have the effect of removing the Siamese Forces and Authority from Kedah and of ultimately re-establishing the Malay Government in that unfortunate Country we conceive that we shall gain a point of essential importance as confirming a State of tranquillity which those Countries have been strangers to for the last four years.

The final settlement of the matter must however we apprehend still rest with the Court of Siam and we entirely coincide with our President in the opinion that even the Preliminary Treaty now so judiciously concluded by Captain Burney will open to us the channel for introducing those political questions into the negotiations which our Envoy at Siam may have to discuss at that Capital and we trust materially contribute to their satisfactory conclusion.

Under existing circumstances and pending negotiations it would not however be prudent in our

judgment to reduce our fixed Military and Naval Establishments below the scale proposed by our President in his Minute of the ----- . When the expected reinforcement shall have arrived we shall take measures for relieving therefrom the Troops now on duty at Singapore and shall complete the detachment at Malacca to 2 Companies from the 65th Regiment returning to Bengal as opportunities may offer [at] the Head Quarters and at least one wing of the 25th Regiment now stationed in these Settlements.

We have &c.

(Signed R. FULLERTON

.. W. A. CLUBLEY

.. R. IBBETSON

Fort Cornwallis

The 4 August 1825.

Factory
Records,
straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 746-9.

FORT CORNWALLIS—The 18th August 1825.

READ the following letter from the Political Agent to the Siamese States relating to the Escort for the Embassy to Siam.

Political Agent
to the Siamese
States 8th
August 1825.

POLITICAL AGENT TO THE SIAMESE STATES.

Prince of Wales Island,
8th August 1825.

To

The Honorable ROBERT FULLERTON Esquire.
Governor, &c., &c., &c.

Honble. Sir,

In the 5th Para. of my Letter of Instructions from the Supreme Government, I am directed to apply to you, for whatever aid I may require as to an Escort of Mussulman Sepoys, Medical Officer &c. As the Agreement which has been concluded with the Chief of Ligore has now rendered my deputation to Siam certain and as after my visit to the Coast of Tenasserim there will be little time for me to make whatever arrangements may be necessary for the progress of my Mission, I hope you will now allow me to solicit you, that my Escort may consist of a Party of 1 Native Officer, 2 Havildars, 2 Naicks, 2 Drumers and 40 Sepoys from the 25th Regiment: That Captain Macfarquhar may be appointed to command it, and that Dr. William Henderson may be placed in Medical charge of the Mission.

Captain Macfarquhar has volunteered his services to proceed with me, and I feel anxious to avail myself of them for several reasons. The Governor of Ligor and his numerous followers proposing to

accompany me, I shall have occasion for more than ordinary prudence and caution to prevent any differences arising between them and my Escort and Followers; for which reason also I desire to have Sepoys of my own Company, the 25th, who are already acquainted with the language and customs of Eastern Nations and who, I flatter myself, will feel a personal interest in the success of my Mission. Captain Macfarquhar also being in the entire confidence of Mr. Maingy and myself, I shall not only be able to derive much advantage from his assistance in any difficulty that may occur at Bangkok, but be more certain of opening an early and secure communication by his means with the Commissioner of Tavoy and Mergui.

Dr. Henderson has also offered to accompany me, and I am anxious to avail myself of his knowledge in every branch of natural History, for the purpose of rendering my Mission subservient in some degree to the interests of science.

I have the honor to request your acceptance of the accompanying Maps; One being a copy of that which I presented last year to the Right Honorable the Governor General, and the other exhibiting all the information, which I have since had an opportunity of collecting, with respect to the territory lying between this Island and Rangoon and Bankok. I have taken the liberty of inscribing the latter Map to you.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captain

Pol: Agent to the Siamese
States.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 751-7.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 18th August 1825.

POLITICAL AGENT to the SIAMESE STATES.

H. C. Hired Brig Minerva
Queda Roads, the 15th August 1825.

To

The Honorable R. FULLERTON Esquire
Governor &c. &c. &c.

Honorable Sir,

I beg leave to report to you, that I landed at Queda this morning accompanied by Mr. Maingy and Mr. Blundell, and that the Governor of Ligor evinced every proof of a continuation on his part of those good feelings towards us, which actuated him to conclude the late Agreement with me. His Highness forwards to you by the Commerce a Box containing a Letter and Presents from himself to the Right Honorable the Governor General. A Copy of the Letter addressed to His Lordship was shewn to me, and its contents do not appear to me in any wise objectionable. His Highness also requested me, as he had delayed making preparations for his departure until I returned, to allow him ten or twelve days beyond the period fixed in our Agreement for quitting Queda.

I am happy to acquaint you that His Highness has not only given me four of his followers to accompany me to Tavoy and Mergui, but has furnished Mr. Maingy and myself each with an official Paper, bearing the Seal of Pya Songkraam, the Commissioner from Bangkok, as well as his own, desiring all Siamese Officers to receive us as friends, and to maintain and cultivate the most amicable intercourse with us, and with all acting under our orders on the Coast of Tenasserim.

His Highness has given me much reason to believe him sincere in his project of accompanying me to Bangkok, and among the men whom he has attached to me, he took especial care to select one, who is well acquainted with the Western shores of the Gulf of Siam, and fully qualified to pilot a vessel into the Port of Ligor.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captain
Pol. Agent to the Siamese
States.

THE PRESIDENT lays before the Board the following Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore accompanying Presents from the Right Honorable the Governor General.

RAJAH OF LIGOR,

Rajah of Ligore
17th August 1825.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Rajah of Ligor at Kedah, to the Honble. the Governor of P: W: Island, dated 1st Moharram 1241, vizt. 17th August 1825.

(After Compliments)

I beg to acquaint my friend that the Letter which he sent in charge of Captain Henry Burney, Anthony Maingy and Edmund Blundell Esquires was received by me with all those feelings of good will, due to a communication arriving in the spirit of friendly intercourse. On the subject of my intention to send certain Articles to the Governor General of Bengal, which as my friend's Letter states I communicated to Captain Burney, my friend expresses his willingness to forward them to their destination by a fast sailing Vessel. I comprehend the Contents of my Friend's Letter in every particular. The Articles which I intend for the Governor General are as follows. Two pieces of Gold flowered Cloth of Siamese Manufacture, One Bowl and Stand, One Kettle and a Tea Pot made of the composition called Chutam, inlaid with Gold, likewise of Siamese workmanship. These Articles, few indeed and trifling in value, are accompanied by a Letter expressive of my wishes for a friendly connexion, which has been seen by Captn. Burney and Messrs. Maingy and Blundell and approved of by them. These articles have been packed in a Box covered with yellow Cloth, and entrusted by Captain Burney to the charge of Captain Roberts, for the purpose of being delivered to my friend at Pulo Pinang: who, I hope, will recognize in

this, a wish on my part to cultivate friendly and amicable relations, and I beg he will be so good as to forward these articles to the Governor General as soon as possible, and when he has done so, to do me the favor to inform me thereof.

Adverting to the affairs of Perak and Salangore, what my friend mentions in his Letter regarding sending the two Vessels is proper and I request he will exert his influence to expel Rajah Hassan from Perak ; likewise to prevent the Rajah of Salangore from disturbing the tranquillity of that Country, and to define and establish the boundary between the two States according to Treaty ; in order that the Trade of the Perak People may experience no molestation.

Captain Burney and Messrs. Maingy and Blundell who were on their way to Marit (Mergui) and Tavoy, having requested from me a letter in Siamese to assure any man of rank who might arrive (at those places) from the Capital, of their friendly intentions, I have granted one to Messrs. Maingy and Blundell according to their desire ; and they have sailed.

The present confidential visit of Captain Burney argues that my friend's suspicions are done away. For my own part I shall be most happy to reciprocate these friendly dispositions. It is my earnest wish that a good understanding between the Siamese and English may spring up and ripen into the fullest friendship ; and the two nations become one.

Accompanying this (Letter) I send Akuat to purchase a few Articles which I shall require for a funeral feast. It being my intention to return this Month I acquaint my friend therewith.

(Signed) RICHARD CAUNTER
Acting Malay Translator.

P: W: ISLAND
19th August 1825.

P: S: On the 27th of Dulhajah (13th Instant) three Pirate Prahus which were cruizing off the Buntings attacked some Malays belonging to Ean, who had come to Kedah to purchase Padi for their subsistence, and captured their Prahu and Grainz, the Crew themselves but narrowly effecting their Escape. I send my friend intimation of the circumstance agreeably to the Courtesy which exists between neighbouring States in Alliance with each other and my friend can order out his Cruizers conformably to Treaty.

(Signed) R. C.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 837-847.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 1st September 1825.

The President lays before the Board the following Translation of a Letter from the Rajah of Ligore relative to Mr. Anderson's Mission to Salangore and the Rajah of Kedah.

From RAJAH of LIGORE.

TRANSLATION.

Of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore at Kedah to the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esquire Governor of Prince of Wales Island, dated 9th Moharram 1241, vizt. 24th August 1825.

After Compliments.

I write to inform my friend that as I intend returning this Month I have sent Khoon Aksoon Tong Pan Nineeam and Munreen (Siamese) my people to purchase some articles for a funeral feast ; also a few other things that I require and request that my friend will have the goodness to assist them in procuring what they want.

I persuade myself from the confidential visit of Captain Burney that a real union has been established between the English and Siamese and that the good understanding between my friend and self will be zealously promoted and experience perpetual encrease. I shall always consider my friend's people who may visit me, as my own, and trust mine will be equally favored by him and allowed to visit and see my friend.

When my friend may forward the Presents I have sent for the Governor General, I request he will write and inform me by what Vessel they are gone.

My friend having dispatched Mr. John Anderson to negotiate regarding the Rajah of Salangore and Rajah Hassan according to promise, I acquainted him that my return to Ligore is only delayed until I receive authentic information of the result, and beg when it is known my friend will write and communicate the same to me.

I have determined to return forthwith, if no answer is given to my letter to the Rajah of Kedah. He asserts that I am hostile towards him. The accompanying letter is an answer to him; in it I have stated everything fully. Khoon Aksoon has charge thereof and has been desired to make known the Contents to my friend first and request his permission to deliver the same to the Rajah of Kedah.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER

Acting Malay Translator.

Prince Wales Island

29th August 1825.

N. B. In the last letter the words " according to Treaty " should have been perhaps rendered according to promise in which sense they appear to be used in this letter. Not knowing however what previous correspondence had taken place I was not aware of their precise import. The person called Akeat in the former letter is the same with Khoon Aksoon.

(Signed) R. C.

THE FOLLOWING letter from the Chow Pia of Ligore to the Rajah of Kedah is laid before the Board by the President.

From RAJAH of LIGORE to RAJAH of QUEDAH.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Rajah or Chow Pea of Ligore to the Rajah of Kedah addressed to the latter by his Siamese title of Chow Pea of Chrai.

The Chow Pea Chrai in his answer writes and expresses his apprehensions of returning to Kedah. On a former occasion when Twwker Bisnoo who was made Pea Umpai Nurat in concert with the Pea of Singgora proceeded to the Capital with sinister purposes against the Chow Pea Crai to undermine him at Court, the letter solicited and confided in our assistance and we in consequence incurred heavy responsibility on his Account. The Chow Pea Crai then conformed to our advice. The Pea Umpai Nurat having accomplished his aims we afterwards exerted our endeavours to effect a reconciliation between the Chow Pea Chrai and his Imperial Majesty Somet Pra, and the Chow Pea Chrai is well aware that the cause of his being obliged to abandon his Country, is owing to his secession from us.

The Chow Pea Chrai having once more solicited our kind Offices, We recurring to former motives of good will towards him, feel sincerely disposed from regard to the Chow Pea Chrai to befriend him. Should he still distrust, it rests with himself, his destiny alone must have caused it, since in inviting him to return our object is not to commit injury, but to renew and cultivate for the future, the friendship which formerly subsisted between us.

If the Chow Pea Chrai be in distress for anything let him send a letter to say so.

Written the 9th of the present Month
(Moharram) 1241, vizt. 26th August 1825.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER.

Actg. My. Translr.

Prince of Wales Island

29th August 1825.

AGENT TO SIAMESE STATES.

To

The Honble. R. FULLERTON Esquire,
Governor, &c., &c., &c.

Honble. Sir, The return to this Settlement of the Honorable Company's hired Brig Minerva rendering it impossible for me now to proceed to the Coast of Tenasserim and return hither before the latter end of October, the date at which the Agreement with the Chief of Ligore engages me to be at his Capital, on the other side of the Peninsula, I beg permission to bring under your consideration the above as well as the following circumstances.

Independent of the awkwardness of my not being able to fulfil the stipulations to which the public stands forth pledged, I learn from Mr. Horseburgh's Directory and from several nautical Men here, that after the middle and in some years the beginning of October the Western side of the Gulph of Siam becomes most unsafe to approach, as a lee shore little known and beaten by a very heavy surf. A Ship may perhaps succeed in entering Ligore harbour but then there would be little chance of her getting out of it again to proceed to Bangkok until the setting in of the South west Monsoon in March.

"forth stands"
in original
? "force"

I have always thought that if I could first see the Tenasserim Country and acquire a knowledge of the present condition of the old Siamese possessions and their frontiers in that direction, I might make myself much more acceptable at Bangkok. But in a desire to secure this recommendation, I apprehend I ought not to overlook or forego the unusually favorable circumstances that would attend my proceeding to Siam accompanied by the Chief of

Ligore. If also I proceed towards Bangkok immediately I should reach it just before the ensuing Campaign commenced when a correct knowledge of the views and feelings of Siam and of her means of assisting our Army in Carriage Cattle and supplies would be most desirable. I should further be able to touch at Tringano and Calantan and report to you the actual condition of those Malay States and I might have an opportunity of visiting Chimpohun and of establishing friendly relations between the Siamese Authorities in that Neighbourhood and our Officers at Tavoy and Mergui.

I submit these considerations to you with every deference, feeling assured that I need not here declare my perfect readiness to proceed whithersoever you may be pleased to order me.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY,
Pol: Agent to the
Siamese States.

Prince of Wales Island
30th August 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 847-893.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 1st September 1825.

AGENT to SALANGORE.

To

The ACTING SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT
Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

H. C. Hired
Schooner Fattal
Garib
Do. William
Money
Malacca Boat.

Para. 1st. I have the honor to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council that in conformity to the Orders of Government I embarked on board the Honorable Company's Schooner Zephyr early on Saturday Morning the 13th Instant and proceeded with the Vessels noted in the Margin direct for Salangore.

A succession of calms and Southerly winds rendered the passage tedious, though not so much so as I had reason to expect at this season of the Year. We anchored at Salangore Roads early on the Morning of the 19th. I had a few days prior to my departure from the Presidency dispatched an express prahu with a letter to the Rajah giving him notice of my coming for the purpose of bringing to an amicable adjustment the differences subsisting between him and the Chow Pya of Ligore requesting him to make the necessary preparations for my reception and intimating that as the objects of my deputation were of weighty import it was desirable that his Chiefs should be assembled, in order that I might experience as little detention as possible.

3. On the passage down the Straits we fell in with the dispatch boat bringing me a reply in which the Rajah says: "I do not precisely comprehend what is meant by the difference with the Siamese,

" but I am desirous to be made acquainted therewith.
 " I have had no communication with them, and if
 " they wish to oppress me what can be done but
 " trust in the power of the Almighty." He requested that I would bring a few guns and some shot with me.

4. My Messenger reported that he had not seen any prow during his passage down but there were about 20 lying at Salangore when he arrived several of a pretty large size. The Rajah Mooda, Rajah Daulah, the Chiefs reported to have lately proceeded to Perak,* were also at Salangore when

* The following is an Extract from the Paper purporting to be from the Rajah and Chiefs of Perak to the Chow Pya of Ligore, copy of which accompanied Captain Surmay's report. " The Rajah " Mooda of Salangore and his " Brother Rajah Daula have " brought an Armament to " Perak and there are now at " Rautaw Pausang : 30 Prows " many more are entering the " River and they are concerning with Rajah Hassan who " resides at Sungle Eldor to " commence hostilities and " create a disturbance in " Perak."

[Rantau Panjang in a dup. copy.]

the express prow arrived. The Rajah Mooda was just proceeding to Lackat, a river a little to the Northward of Cape Rachado to deliver a quantity of Tin to a Brig which had been sent up by the Acting Resident of Malacca, the price of which had been paid to the King at Salangore. The bearer of my letter also reported that he had not observed or gained intelligence of any prow in the Perak River, [of which] he ascended a few reaches, nor at the Dindings, with the exception of two or three of a very small size which he believed to be pirates and by one of which he was chased.

5. On anchoring, a salute of 13 Guns was fired from the two Schooners, but no return was made from the Fort. I immediately sent my Malay Writer on shore with a complimentary letter to the Rajah and his Son Rajah Usuh with whom I was acquainted some years ago, announcing my arrival. The King was very inquisitive and appeared distrustful concerning the object of my visit. After some explanation by my writer however he expressed his obligations to the English for interposing between him and the Siamese, and said he esteemed the

favor the more because he had not solicited assistance. He returned a Verbal Message that he would receive me the following Morning.

6. Early in the Morning of the 20th I proceeded on shore with the whole of my Escort and attendants with all the boats (the vessels lying about 5 Miles from the shore) and was received on landing by a Salute of 9 Guns from a battery close to the Southern point of the river where I found the Rajah ready to receive me surrounded by three of his Sons, all the females of his Family, his three Ministers, the Priests and from 200 to 250 Men women and Children.

7. The Rajah received me cordially though with some degree of restraint, and I delivered the letter and some presents from the Honorable the Governor. On perusing the letter he burst out into a sudden exclamation "I do not know the Siamese at all, why mention them? What does my friend require? I will make any concession to the English, but I will not listen to any proposal in which the mention of the Siamese is included." The Old Chief evinced great warmth and shook with passion, but after a while recovered his composure. During the three days that I was engaged in communicating with the Rajah he frequently manifested similar feelings and appeared to have an inveterate antipathy to the mention of the Siamese.

8. In reply to the Rajah's enquiry as to what I had to propose, I stated that there were several objects of importance which I had to discuss, but that it would be necessary in the first place to detail to him the causes which had led to and the motives which prompted the interference of the British Government on this occasion.

9. I commenced therefore by observing agreeably to the instructions laid down in the Minutes of the Honble. the Governor that in consequence of the assembly of a large Siamese force at Kedah by

the Chow Piya of Ligore and the declaration of that Chief that his object was an attack upon Salangore, the Government of Prince of Wales Island, actuated by an earnest desire to maintain peace, tranquillity and a good understanding among the neighbouring States, had tendered its friendly mediation to compose the differences now unhappily subsisting; an offer which had been accepted by the Chow Piya of Ligore. I informed the Rajah that certain concessions were required from him, which would be conducive to the end proposed and there were some points which required explanation which it was my duty now to demand.

10. I dwelt upon the benefits which he had already derived by the friendly intervention of the English, and explained very distinctly that the British Government was prompted by the most disinterested and benevolent motives, that it had no desire to acquire Territory, to interfere in the management of his Country, to impose upon him any commercial restraint, or to require from him any engagement inconsistent with the perfect independence and permanent stability of his Government.

11. It was stated also to the Rajah that the present negotiations were only part of an enlarged and benevolent plan for restoring a good understanding amongst the neighbouring States and I expressed my Confidence that from his long experience and intimate knowledge of the character and proceedings of the British Government during a period of more than half a Century that he had been King of Salangore, he would be the last to throw any obstacles in the way of the immediate accomplishment of such a desirable result. Although, I observed, some of the points I had to propose might at first mention strike him as objectionable, I was prepared to listen to his argu-

ments, to give due consideration to them, and to discuss the whole with calmness and deliberation.

12. After a careful and attentive perusal of the last report of the Political Agent to the Siamese States and the Minute of the Honble. the Governor, I prepared the different subjects for discussion in the following order. The primary objects of my Mission appearing to be—

1st. To effect the removal of the piratical fleet said to be assembled by the Rajah Mooda and Rajah Daula of Salangore in conjunction with Rajah Hassan in the neighbourhood of the Dindings and in the Perak River.

2d. To require from the Rajah of Salangore an explanation of the causes which induced him to establish his Nephew Rajah Hassan at Perak; to effect the removal of that Chief from thence; and to throw open the free navigation of the River with a view to the prevention of further disputes, to obviate any pretence on the part of the Chow Piya of Ligore for sending an armament to Perak, and to afford the inhabitants of the Country the means of supplying themselves with grain of which there is reported to be a great Scarcity.

3d. To negotiate for the establishment of a settled boundary between the States of Perak and Salangore, and to require an engagement against further interference on the part of the Rajah of Salangore with the former State.

4th. To require explanation relative to the destruction of the Ligore fleet at Perak about three Years ago (alleged to have been effected by the Rajah of Salangore) with a view to negotiating for a compensation to the Amount of Spanish Dollars 2,000, the equivalent agreed to by the Chow Piya of Ligore, and for the purpose of enabling Government to form a

decisive opinion upon the subject after duly weighing the Statements of both Parties.

13. The discussion of these several points occupied two entire days in close communication with the Rajah, his two Sons Rajah Usuh and Daula, and his three principal Chiefs, vizt. the Datu Aru Datu Pangawa and Datu Geram.

14. With respect to the first point Vizt. the removal of the large piratical fleet alluded (to) in Captain Burney's report,^o I stated that it was

* "It is he (Rajah Hassan) and a great many Lanoon boats and Pirates, called up from the Southward by the Rajah of Salangore for the defence of his territory against the Siamese that are committing all these depredations and Piracies between us and Malacca of which we have lately heard so much." (Captn. Burney's Report.)

understood a number of Lanoon pirates and others had been called up by the Rajah to his assistance and a representation had been made against the proceedings of his two Sons the Rajah Mooda and Daula for entering the Perak River with a large fleet and disturbing the peace of the Country, that the immediate removal of this force therefore was a principal object of my mission. On the mention of the Lanoon pirates being at Perak the King and his Chiefs around him burst into a loud laugh with one accord, and declared they had not heard of a single Lanoon prow being in this quarter. With respect to his Sons going up with a fleet, that was equally devoid of truth—his son Rajah Daula—pointing to him, seated before me, having gone there some time ago with two small prahus to sell some gambier. His eldest son the Rajah Mooda, he informed me had sailed about 10 days ago to Lakat, a river within his territory, where a rich Tin mine has lately been opened for the purpose of delivering 96 Bahars to a vessel sent up by his friend Mr. Cracroft, the Acting Resident at Malacca, of whom he spoke in terms of great regard. He added you must be assured this report has been spread by Perak people to frighten the Siamese.

15. I replied that it was beyond doubt some pirates had for a long time past been lurking about the Sambalang Islands and Pankour, and had been committing great depredations on the peaceable trading prows passing up the Straits. It was now determined to take effectual measures for the suppression of such a barbarous practice and I was bound to tell him frankly that any prows hereafter found cruising about in that neighbourhood would certainly be destroyed. I was happy to receive from him, I observed, a solemn disavowal that the prows belonged to him, but with deference to the likelihood of some of his subjects being addicted to piratical pursuits without his knowledge or sanction, I cautioned him as he valued the friendship of the English and wished to preserve a good name, to establish a more vigilant Superintendence over his people and not to permit any piratical prows to resort to any of the rivers within his territory nor to obtain supplies at any of the Ports under his Government.

16. These observations I addressed very plainly to the Rajah without the aid of an interpreter so that there could be no misconceptions. He quickly interrupted me by remarking "then if, as you say, the British Government is using effectual means to suppress piracy, why do you permit pirates to resort to Singapore and its vicinity; that is their chief place of resort it is well known. Why do you not station Cruizers further down the Straits? I understand you have Cruizers guarding from Pulo Biman to Pulo Bidan close to Pinang. That is not the place for them, you should have them going constantly up and down the Straits. The Dutch used to have many vessels to guard the Coasts."

The Rajah added, "I understand a Top belonging to a Chinaman at Malacca was lately captured by Pirates in the Straits and that a Brig was attacked and nearly taken close to the

"Sambalang Islands." He continued, "these pirates seem a match for your vessels. I heard from Malacca that the Brig fired about 100 shot and escaped only by a breeze of wind springing up." I observed that was a different sort of Vessel to our regular armed Cruizers and that I understood only a few shot had hit the Minerva. "How large were the shot?" said he smartly. The introduction of this subject gave me an opportunity of again submitting the necessity of preventing prowes from resorting to the Sambalang Islands, and the Perak River and was the very best argument I could have had for urging the other points—the removal of Rajah Hassan &c.

18. Notwithstanding the Rajah's assurance, his denial in the presence of all his Chiefs of the knowledge of any assemblage of prowes, and his readiness to enter into an engagement for the suppression of piracy, my opinion is that Salangore like most of the other Malay States has been a place of resort for pirates and that the barbarous practice has been much increased in this quarter since the troubles commenced in Perak by the interference of the Siamese. The existence of such a state of things as has prevailed during the few last years and the constant state of alarm in which the inhabitants have been kept, has tended to unsettle their habits, has called the labourers from the fields and the Mines to arm for their defence and if it has not already done so would soon have had the effect of inspiring the whole population with a more martial spirit than they heretofore possessed and rendering them much more daring pirates than they have yet proved to be. I ventured to anticipate (several years ago) the result which seems to have transpired. The proceedings of the Siamese have tended to encrease piracy. I have great confidence however that the evil has not yet advanced to such a stage as to be irremediable and that the Malays are not become so desperate as they would be were some change not

to take place speedily. With the sentiments of deference which they entertain of the British Government the Malays will no doubt return to the quiet pursuits of agriculture and commerce as soon as they perceive the effects of the intervention of the British Government and the removal of the Siamese armament, which will render their longer preparations for defence unnecessary. On the Faith of the friendly intervention of the British Government and in the confidence that the Siamese have been deterred from an attack upon Salangore the inhabitants informed me that they were clearing the ground in the interior extensively for ensuring a plentiful harvest of paddy this Season.

19. On the second point the Rajah gave me the following explanation. Rajah Hassan, his

Extract from Captain Burney's report. "That Tuanku Hassan of Salangore has established himself at the mouth of the principal river and is unjustly disturbing the peace and Commerce of that Country and that the Rajah of Salangore had come up and attacked and seized the troops and boats which His Highness had sent two years ago for the protection of Perak. I then stated that I could not admit Perak was a Siamese state &c." (para. 5.)

"His Highness proceeded by asking me whether he was to receive no reparation for the insult and injury which the Rajah of Salangore had committed against him by attacking his men and seizing his Boats and property at Perak and whether Tuanku Hassan was to be allowed to tyrannize over the Government and Country of Perak." (Para. 6.)

nephew, was established at Sungie Bidor about 30 Miles up the Perak River by the express desire of the Rajah of Perak and as a proof that there was a cordial understanding between them at the time. He mentioned that the Aunt of the Rajah of Perak was married to Rajah Hassan. The nephew was placed there as his (the Rajah of Salangore's) Agent to receive half the duty on Tin exported Vizt. 6 Dollars Per Bhar, conformably to an agreement entered into between the Rajahs of the two states. My Arguments for the removal of Rajah Hassan met with great opposition during the first conference and the Rajah plainly told me on leaving late in the afternoon that he could not accede to the proposition; that Perak was his by conquest and that he could not give up the privileges he had acquired. On leaving him I told him he had better think of it during the night and I would commit to

paper what I had said to him. His last words were, "Well it is of no use thinking, I cannot consent, but you may write it down."

20. The next morning I had scarcely taken my seat when the Rajah jumped forward, seized me violently by the hand, and much agitated said, "Well what have you to say to-day?" I replied, "The same as yesterday." He argued a long time and I rejoined. At last he said, "Well, well, I do not like prolonging discussion and you always get the better of me by argument if I let you go on. Do you want the duty of 6 Dollars on the Tin, you shall have it. Do you want Perak, you shall have it. I do not care for Money." I again explained that all the Government required was peace, that the Rajah of Ligore had agreed to dismiss his armament provided Rajah Hassan was removed from Perak and that as he, the Rajah of Salangore, had Territory enough besides, this could be no sacrifice to him. The Rajah at last assented, desiring me to recollect that this was done out of pure regard to the English and he said, "I would rather die than give up five pice to the Siamese. Let the Siamese come," said he, "I will fight, and if I die they may do what they please with my goods but the object of their armament was not to take Salangore only, it is to take the Rajah of Kedah—better be upon your guard."

21. The Rajah enquired how he should receive the amount of certain debts due to him by the King of Perak and several Chinese in that Country. I offered to speak to the Perak Chief on the subject and the Rajah said he would address a letter to the Honble. the Governor. He produced several letters from the Rajah of Perak, one of which dated only 2 Months ago he gave me at my request and a translation of which is attached. This letter admits certain debts and is interesting as it contains several other observations of importance. It will be ob-

served the Rajah says the object of sending his Brother and Chiefs to Kedah was to prevent the Siamese if possible from coming to Perak. I have no doubt such is really the case, and that the Perak people are spreading reports of the Rajah of Salangore's large force and the collection of Lanoon prows purposely to alarm the Siamese and prevent their going to Perak.

22. The Guns now at Sungee Bidor with Rajah Hassan stated to be about 30 or 40 in number belong to the Rajah of Salangore and he proposed to send his Son Rajah Daula and a Chief to assist in bringing them away. I informed him that there could in my opinion be no objection to his nephew removing such articles as were bona fide his property, but advised him not to lay claim to any thing that was not clearly his or to do any thing which would tend to produce further difference. He assured me he would be particular in this respect and that his only object was to conform to the wishes of the Governor of Pulo Penang. I ascertained through the medium of my writer that on my departure after the first conference all the Chiefs and the Rajah's Sons urged him to comply with the propositions I made which he was himself rather averse to at first.

Extract from Captain Burney's report. "His Highness also wishes to introduce in the 4th Article a stipulation that we shall settle the future boundary between Perak and Salangore at a river called Soongy Nibong Angoos, which is about an hour's journey to the Southward of the Berman River. But in a conference which I had with the Young Perak Chief and his Attendants, whom the Governor of Agore called in, I learnt that

23. Relative to the 3d. point the Rajah expressed very considerable reluctance to relinquish the claims which he had acquired first by conquest and afterwards by treaty more than 20 years ago. The Rajah admitted that prior to his conquest of Perak in 1804 the boundary between the two States was the River Berman but he never heard of that mentioned in Captain Burney's report. There is no such river as Sungei Nibong Angoos I was assured by the Rajah and all the

Soongy Nibong Angoos had been the boundary 50 or 60 Years ago and that the Ber-man River as I had always heard was the last established boundary between Salangore and Perak.

Salangore people. There is a spot close to the sea shore a little to the Northward of Tanjong Karang called Nibong Angoos from some fishermen in cooking their dinner setting fire to the trees, during the dry season and burning them by accident but there were never any houses there, nor was that spot ever regarded as the boundary. As the Ber-man River is laid down in Martin Lindsay's Chart and by several authors as the established boundary, and the Rajah of Salangore at last assented, I fixed that as the limit of his territory to the Northward for the future.

24. It was not with less reluctance that the Rajah assented to refrain from all future interference with Perak. He produced to me the original treaty of defensive alliance between the late King of Perak and himself dated in 1804 copy of which I have taken and a translation of which accompanies this. By virtue of that treaty he had proceeded to Perak and remained 3 Months with the present Rajah; at his request performed the ceremony of proclaiming him as Sovereign and elevating him to the throne according to the Malayan Custom. He assured me there had been a perfect understanding between him and the Rajah of Perak and it was at the latter's express desire that he was there; that that Chief was equally averse to the Siamese as himself but is deficient in courage and power to resist and therefore affects not to oppose their coming.

25. With respect to the fourth point in discussion the Rajah betrayed great impatience whenever I adverted to it. He said that Che Hat, the Chow Piya of Ligore's Agent has sent a letter to him from Perak written in Siamese, that nobody at

Extract from Captain Burrey's report. "His Highness then observed that Perak had transmitted the Bunga Mas to

Salangore understood that language, and that being desirous of preventing the Siamese coming to Salangore and

Siam and that its Rajah had directly applied to him for assistance against Tuanku Hassan and had deputed to him at Ligore his, the Rajah's younger Brother Tuanku Kichil Mooda who is now at Kedah waiting to return to Perak with the succour solicited, and that with respect to Salangore he had not intended to interfere with it, and had two years ago when the Ligore men first went to Perak transmitted a complimentary letter and presents to the Rajah of Salangore who instead of trusting to these assurances of his friendly disposition suddenly and without any provocation came up to Perak and seized forty of His Highnesses boats which were under charge of Che Hat his Malay Interpreter to whom he pointed as he was then on duty before His Highness."

and the prows fell into the hands of the Perak people. About half the number were old and rotten and were sunk. The Rajah denied having taken any of them, and declared he had never seen Che Hat nor a single Siamese. He added also that if there were two witnesses who could prove he or the Salangore people took the Siamese prows he would pay the 2000 Dollars required. He begged me therefore to explain this fully to the Honble. the Governor. He said it was all a plan of the Perak people themselves to get rid of the Siamese.

26. As my instructions on this head did not warrant my pressing the matter but only enjoined my making enquiry, I informed the Rajah that as he had assented so readily to the other points I would communicate his explanation to the Honble. the Governor and it would rest with Government to determine after a full consideration of all the circumstances whether the application on this head should be renewed. I gave him clearly to under-

ascertaining the contents of the letter he had proceeded up with 17 small prows to meet Che Hat at Perak by the invitation also of the Rajah. Knowing the treacherous character of the Siamese, and recollecting the manner in which they had come to Kedah and Perak he was the more anxious not to admit any Envoys from the Rajah of Ligore into his Country and to prevent this he was solicitous to have a conference with Che Hat at that place. The Perak people, anxious to get rid of the Siamese, spread a report that a large force from Salangore was entering the river and advised Che Hat to make his escape even before his prows entered the river. He lost no time in doing so,

stand on parting that I did not wave the demand and that he might perhaps soon receive a further communication on the subject.

27. Under all the circumstances of the case, I venture respectfully to submit my opinion that it would be impolitic to exact the performance of this condition from the Rajah of Salangore. The Perak Country was his by prior right of conquest and if he was the means of expelling the Siamese from the Country, a justification may be found for him in the principle of self defence, for his own country was in danger. He denies however having participated in the booty. The records of the Penang Government show that Perak was under the control of Salangore as far back as 1804 and 1806. In one letter to the then Governor the present Sultan writes—"The People of Penang must not go to Perak at present, for Perak from the River Korak to Bertung Bras Basok is my Country. This Country I have taken by force of Powder and Ball, which Custom the Governor is acquainted with." This was in 1806. The Siamese practised a similar ceremony, through the Agency of the King of Quedah in 1818. No Siamese went there till the middle of 1822. They made a very short stay and the King of Salangore acquired his former ascendancy, and till this moment he retains it by means of the establishment of his nephew at Sungei Bidor. There is no doubt the Rajah of Perak has been courting the aid and protection of the Rajah of Salangore against the Siamese, although his dread of the latter power has forced him to receive the Siamese and comply with their demands. It is very certain that the Rajah of Perak and his Subjects would hail with joy an emancipation from the shackles imposed by both the Siamese and Salangore, and would repay with gratitude the friendly intervention that could effect such a wished for object. In deference to the British Government the Salangore Chief has now

consented to refrain from all interference; to respect the established boundary; and to direct the removal of his nephew.

28. As the Rajah did not require from me any formal Engagement so I did not find it necessary to say more than what is pointed out in my instructions; Vizt. that in the event of his ready compliance with the requisitions now made, the same intervention which had been manifested might be expected. He requested I would beg the Honorable the Governor to send him a few good Guns and some Shot, for which he would pay any price. I told him in reply, that this would have too much the appearance of a wish to continue warlike preparations, which it was our desire to put a stop to, and that he must not entertain any expectation of his request being complied with.

29. Having obtained the Rajah's assent to entering into arrangements to the effect above noticed, I next turned my attention to the objects which were pointed out as desirable to be attained in the event of my negotiations being favourable for their accomplishment, but which I was directed not to insist upon, if it should be found that their completion tended to delay or obstruct the more direct object of communication. I therefore proposed to the Rajah that with the view of cementing the friendship between the British Government and himself it would be desirable that he should renew the Commercial Agreement entered into by Mr. Cracroft in 1818. To this he offered no objections, but on the contrary expressed a readiness to do so. I then proposed that he should enter into an Agreement for the mutual surrender of Criminals which he readily assented to and also an obligation to use his efforts for the suppression of Piracy.

30. When we had, after two long and fatiguing discussions, come to a clear understanding as to the nature of the Engagement to be entered into, I retired

with his Son Rajah Usun and my Writer, to prepare a draft of the Agreement, which being produced to him, he attentively read over two or three times and commented upon. He then directed his Son to make a Copy for me, to which he affixed his large Chop and my Writer made a Copy for him. The Engagements were then exchanged in due form, he observed "I have made several engagements, do not let us be changing any more, let this be permanent."

31. After exchanging the engagements, the Rajah expressed a desire to see my Escort go through their exercise and with the view of making the ceremony of entering into an Engagement more formal and impressive, I proposed a salute should be fired the following day in honor of it. He quickly observed, "Very well, I know the custom of the English, and every thing shall be ready." On the 22d., agreeably to appointment, I again landed with all my escort and attendants, the sepoy's paraded near the principal Battery. A salute of 9 guns was fired from the Fort in honor of the Agreement, followed by the same number of Guns from the two vessels and 3 volleys of musquetry by the Sepoy's. The Rajah accompanied me to witness the ceremony amidst a large concourse of people and it had an imposing effect and proved more than any thing else, that a cordial understanding prevailed, and is, I trust, a pledge that the Rajah will adhere strictly to the Engagement, which I have no doubt the Honble. the Governor in Council will observe, is worded with sufficient plainness and precision.

Enclosure
No. 3.

32. I did not fail to impress upon the King's mind that any infraction of the Engagement would not be overlooked, that this was not a mere form, but that it was expected he would perform the conditions required of him in good faith and in the real spirit of of truth and sincerity.

33. I had with me the Dutch Treaty which I read over to him, and explained all the Articles relative to our future relations on the Peninsula of Malacca and the Island of Sumatra, with which he seemed much pleased.

Enclosure
No. 4.

34. On my departure the Rajah gave me a letter to the Honble. the Governor, the Contents of which I was unacquainted with, and I considered it preferable to allow him to write as he pleased. This letter I have opened and now beg to attach a translation. I have also received a present of 3 Bhar of Tin for the Honble. the Governor to whom the Old Chief on parting and shaking me cordially by the hand, desired I would present his best compliments, and requesting me to explain everything to him.

35. The Rajah made many enquiries about the King of Kedah and the probability of his restoration. On one occasion he abruptly enquired "When is the King of Kedah to be returned to his Country?" I replied, that negotiations were in progress to that end, and I was in hopes he would be restored ere long. "I will bet," said he, "5,000 Dollars he is not returned in 10 years." He said the King of Kedah was a woman for making so poor a resistance against the Siamese.

36. During the 4 days that the vessels remained at Salangore, my people were permitted to go about freely, and I ascended the Hill on which the Fort is situated. I reckoned that there are about 70 to 80 Guns of all sorts mounted on the great hill, and the Batteries on 3 smaller hills below, but they are almost all honey combed and unfit for service. The King's residence near the point is a most miserable abode for Majesty; every thing betokened decay and delapidation. The Hills however had been lately cleared of jungle and new attap sheds erected over each of the guns,

which makes the batteries present a formidable appearance at a distance. It is in my opinion quite absurd to suppose that the Siamese fitted out so large a fleet and armament for the purpose of taking such a wretchedly defended place as Salangore at present is. 10 or 20 Prows and 500 men, instead of 300 and 10,000, would have been quite sufficient. Most of the Guns now mounted would on a single discharge be precipitated down the hills, being all placed on the edge of the sloping bank and not one in the Fort. At least half of them would burst if fired twice. Captain Poynton put his thumb into the touch holes of several.

37. The King on parting requested me to furnish him with Paper to inscribe a Copy of the Koran upon, which I promised to do at Penang, and he gave a Commission to my Writer to get a handsome Copy made for which he authorized him going to an expence of 100 Dollars.

38. I quitted Salangore late in the Evening of the 22d and at day light on the morning of the 23d we were opposite the Mouth of the River Berman, which appears to be at least 2 miles wide at the entrance. We have not fallen in with a single prow during the voyage, and observed in Salangore River altogether about 25 or 30 small boats which belonged to the Chiefs and people from the villages up the River and on the Coast, who were assembled on the occasion of my visit. There were also two long Chinese Sanpan Pankats and a Top disposing of Goods and taking in Cargoes of Tin. The Vessels are now standing up past the Sambalang Islands for the Anchorage at Pulo Pankour, from whence I intend dispatching a boat up the River to request an interview with the Rajah of Perak.

39. I send the Malacca boat with this dispatch, and request that she may be returned without delay to Pulo Pankour. I expect that this boat will return from Penang before my Messenger can possibly do so

from Perak. I am informed that the King is at present residing at Beta, a distance of at least 70 or 80 Miles up the river.

40. It would, in my opinion, be advisable to give notice to the Native traders at Penang, that Rice may be exported to Perak. I am desirous, if possible, of witnessing the removal of Rajah Hassan from Sungei Bidor, prior to my return. I shall forthwith send him notice of the Engagement entered into with the Rajah of Salangore and require his immediate departure.

I have &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON,
Political Agent to Salangore and Perak.

H. C.'s Schconer Zephyr at Anchor
between the Island of Pankour
and the Dindings. The 26th
August 1825.

Enclosure No. 1.

TRANSLATION

of a letter from Sri Paduka Adenda Sultan Abdullah Ma Allum Shah, King of Perak, to Sri Paduka Kakanda Sultan Ibrahim Shah, King of Salangore.

After a profusion of Compliments and Invocations to God and the Prophet for the health and prosperity of the King of Salangore, he proceeds—

With respect to the letter bearing the Chop of my Elder Brother, which was sent by Che Ismael, it has reached me in safety. What is mentioned concerning Rajah Kechil Soolong being established at Kwala Bidor by the Authority of my Elder Brother and collecting Revenues is acceded to. As to the Agreement or understanding between myself and the Rajah Kechil Soolong, it continues the same as before. It is stated in the letter that the Revenues are not correctly accounted for. On this subject I request my Elder Brother to consider well, these are under the management of Rajah Kechil Soolong and whatever he gives me I receive. As to the duties, I retain such part of them as are prescribed in the Engagement made with my Elder Brother formerly, which was brought by the Shabundur, beyond that I know nothing, for Rajah Kechil Soolong has not given me any further information, and my Elder Brother must of course be acquainted with all the proceedings of Rajah Kechil Soolong in the Perak Country.

As to Massack and the Perak People who are indebted to my Elder Brother, and the Guns they are all under the authority and in the possession of the Rajah Kechil Soolong, and the good understanding between me and the Rajah Kechil Soolong has not been altered.

If all the people of Perak remove to Kwala Bidor, Kwala Bidor will still be a part of the Perak Country, and as to the debts due to my Elder Brother, and the guns, I will communicate with Rajah Kechil Soolong, for my Elder Brother seems to look to me for them. A part of the debts have been recovered by the Rajah Kechil Soolong, and the Guns are with him.

As to the Siamese, I have not by any means brought them hither, and the object of sending the Rajah Kechil Mooda and Orang Koya besor to Siam, was to endeavour to prevent the Siamese from coming to Perak at all.

Moreover with respect to the Agreement and Oath of fidelity which I have taken and made with my Elder Brother they cannot be broken, and I will adhere to the regulation which was given to me. I have hitherto adhered to it, and by the blessing of God and the Prophet, whether it be my fate to go to heaven or hell, I will continue to do so. If I deviate from it I shall not be entitled to the favor of the Almighty and his Prophet but shall be cursed, and if my Elder Brother does not adhere to his part of the Agreement God and the Prophet will visit him with displeasure. As to my debt to my Elder Brother, I have no wish to deny it, and I have requested the Rajah Kechil Soolong to settle it, I have given him a Memorandum and I shall again communicate with Rajah Kechil Soolong on the Subject.

Further with respect to the worship recommended to my Elder Brother, I will, with the blessing of the Almighty, while I live attend to that, for the practice is prescribed by God and his Prophet for the observance of all his disciples and true followers: such is my intention.

Dated 3d. of Dul-Kaida in the Year of the Hijrah 1240, on Tuesday, corresponding with the 24th May 1825.



A True Translation

(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON,

Malay Translator to

Government.

The 26th August 1825.

Note. The King of Perak styles himself "Adenda" younger Brother, and the King of Salangore "Kakanda" Elder Brother, these being polite substitutes for the personal pronoun and customary in the correspondence amongst Malay Princes.

The Rajah Kechil Soolong is meant for Tuanku Hassan, Nephew of the King of Salangore.

On perusing the letter of which the foregoing is a translation, the deception lately practised by the Siamese is very apparent, in the fabrication of a paper purporting to be from the Rajah of Perak and Chiefs to the Chow Pya of Ligore, which Captain Burney brought a Copy of. I do not once observe any of those words or expressions in this letter to which I objected in the other. This is the genuine production of the King, and a well written letter. There are many Arabic words in it.

Signed) J. A.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 947-61.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 8th September 1825.

RAJAH of SALANGORE.

Rajah of Salangore
30 August
1825.

TRANSLATION of a letter from Sultan Ibrahim Shah, Rajah of Salangore, to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Esquire, Governor of P. W. Island—dated 10th Moharram 1241—vizt. 26th August 1825.

After Compliments.

The letter which was brought by my friend's Agent Mr. John Anderson has safely reached me, and I understand its contents. I replied to the requisition of the said Agent to me to deliver up the property of Sisat, that I had really never taken it—so far from that I have never seen either it or Sisat, nor indeed the property of any Perak people, although I did see several of their boats founder. I afterwards had a meeting with the Rajah of Perak, and having installed him on the throne with royal honors deliver over possession of that Country to him. He then entered into a treaty with me, where by it was agreed that twelve dollars (should be levied) on every Bhar, (of tin), and that one half should go to my brother the Rajah of Perak, and the other half to myself; which treaty has been ratified on both sides in the most solemn manner.

(There is a
doubtful expression
in this part
of the letter.)

I was loth, as I told my friend's Agent, to enter into any discussion on the subject of the boundary between Perak and Salangore, it being known to everyone. I was on the point of returning to Salangore, when a messenger from the Rajah of Perak waited on me with a request that I would lend him Guns which I complied with.

As to my leaving Rajah Hassan behind it was by the King of Perak's desire I did so—and moreover he (Rajah Hassan) being the latter's father (in law) it would be beyond my power to restrain him. Should

my friend doubt this statement he can order enquiry to be made thereof at Perak, for it is most certain that he has married the Mother of the Rajah's brother.

My friend's Agent also stated that several of my prahus had gone to Perak, but I request my friend will not listen to what people say. Only two small boats accompanied my Son who proceeded there with the duties.

It was further asserted by my friend's Agent that several Lannoon (pirate) prahus were at Salangore. I declare it is no such thing and I beg my friend will disregard these reports. As his Agent is about to proceed to Perak, he can ascertain whether there really are such numerous boats at that place belonging either to myself or the Lannoons. I have never yet solicited aid from Lannoons. If my friend is well disposed towards me, he will make known the authors of this report, and whether they be Perak people or Siamese I shall be able to expose their falsehood.

I have only further particularly to request of my friend, that the treaty now making (or made) between his Agent and me, may experience no detriment from the influence of another Quarter. ["This paragraph is metaphorically and obscurely expressed in the original."]

(Signed) R. CAUNTER

Actg. Malay Translator.

P. W: Island
30 August 1825.

RAJAH of LIGORE.

Rajah of Ligore
2d. September
1825.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Esquire Governor of P. W. Island—dated Monday Month of Moharram.

After Compliments.

Having occasion for the following Articles I have to request my friend will commission them for me from Bengal, where I understand they are procurable in abundance. Nine or ten Emeralds all corresponding about the size of the tip of one's finger—Nine or ten Rubies to be also alike—and a Couple of Sapphires similar to those worn by Europeans about their necks and arms. When they arrive I beg my friend will be so kind as to send them to Kedah, from whence they can be forwarded to Ligore, together with a letter informing me of their cost, which I will then remit.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER

Actg. Malay Translator.

P. W. Island
2d. Sept. 1825.

RAJAH of LIGORE.

Rajah of Ligore
2 September
1825.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore to the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esqr. Governor of Prince of Wales Island dated 9th Moharram 1241 vizt. 27th August 1825.

After Compliments.

I beg to make known to my friend that when Salang (Junkceylon) was invaded by the Burmese armament several of their people were taken prisoners by the Siamese forces. The Burmese have been (our) enemies from time immemorial, and as rebels to his imperial Majesty they (Captives) by the laws of Siam were to be sent up to the Capital. Half of them however were taken to Ligore and kept there. (One of these) a Burmese named Echin associating himself with one Eduang a Siamese stole some Elephants and escaped to Penang.

A Malay also called Arif the Nephew of Sri Pekarma Jyah of Pulo Lankawi, (jointly with his Uncle) took up Arms and killed a great many Siamese. Sri Pekarma Jyah was himself also slain, and Arif made prisoner in the prahu in which he had engaged and killed the Siamese as aforesaid. This traitor to his Imperial Majesty has fled to Penang. I hope my friend will promote an alliance by causing the fugitive offenders against the State herein mentioned to be sent back and in cases of offenders on the side of the English absconding to Siam, I will in like manner send them back, conformably to the Treaty concluded with Captain Burney. I pray my friend may be disposed to view in such reciprocal Acts of friendly accommodation, incitements to mutual cordiality and will accordingly cause these runaway Culprits to be returned to me. It is not my intention when they come to punish their offence but to remand them to their former

condition. If my friend send them back it will be an unequivocal token that the friendship and good will he professes for me are sincere and I shall acknowledge the same by a return of equal confidence and regard.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER,
Actg. Malay Translator.

P. W. Island
2d. September 1825.

ORDERED that a Copy of the above Letter be sent to the Superintendent of Police with orders to seize the persons alluded to, and to report as far as possible on the merits of the case.

RAJAH of LIGORE.

Rajah of Ligore
6th September
1825.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Chow Pya of Ligore to the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esquire, Governor of P. W. Island—dated Friday 18th Mohar-ram 1241—vizt. 2d September 1825.

As it is my intention to return within the present month, I have thought it due to the friendship which indissolubly subsists between my friend and me, to make him acquainted therewith. I am now only waiting the arrival of Kun Aksorn who was sent to purchase some articles to set out for Ligore, where I expect Captain Burney whom I have promised to conduct to the Capital; having already forwarded a written express to notify my friend's intention of deputing him there. I request my friend will therefore cause my friend Capt. Burney to set out as agreed on, in order that our amicable relations may be established on a permanent footing.

Being now on the eve of my departure I wished to send my friend some specimen of Siamese manufacture, as a token, but not having time, I ordered a Teapot to be made with which I have directed Dikong to follow Kun Aksorn in order to present the same to my friend. It is but a trifle, and in point of value unworthy his acceptance, but I request my friend will nevertheless receive and keep [it] as a pledge of our mutual regard, which I hope will always continue unimpaired—for Kedah and Penang are united by situation.

My two sons whom formerly his Imperial Majesty was graciously pleased to direct should reside at Kedah, will I trust after my departure be admitted by my friend to the same degree of friendly intimacy as myself. I request that all matters of business may be communicated to me by letter, which can be forwarded from Kedah, to me at Ligore, where I can satisfactorily dispose of the same.

Being desirous of establishing a friendly understanding with the Governor General of Bengal, I beg my friend will have the goodness to forward the Articles which I sent for him as soon as possible.

I am now expecting intelligence regarding Mr. Anderson's Mission to Perak and Salangore. If by any means it be possible I would wish my friend to send me the desired information by Kun Aksorn, that I may know what has been done. I trust my friend will agreeably to his promise, make such arrangements as may tend to the encrease of mutual good will.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER
Actg. Malay Translator.

P. W. Island
6th September 1825.

THE following Minute by the President relative to Captain Burney's early departure on his Mission to Siam is recorded.

Minute by the
President
1 September
1825.

MINUTE BY THE PRESIDENT.

The unfortunate accident which happened to the *Minerva* and the consequent return to this port with Mr. Maingy, Captain Burney and Mr. Blundell has rendered it impossible for Captain Burney now to visit the Coast of Tenasserim as intended without losing the season for Siam. It becomes necessary therefore that final arrangements should be made for his departure to that Capital by Sea. So much has already been written on the objects of that Mission, it would be useless repetition here to enter at length on the subject. As far as the British Interests in this quarter are concerned they may be abstracted thus: 1st. the restoration of the King of Kedah; 2d. the withdrawal of the Siamese from Perak; 3d. the prevention of further conquests by the Siamese over the Malayan States on either side of the Peninsula, the consequent maintenance of the independence of those States and the exclusion of the Siamese power from contact or contiguity with the British Settlements in the Straits. For all other points I refer to Paras. 10 to 13 of the letter from the Supreme Government of 13th May 1825 with the instructions to Captain Burney therein enclosed. It seems unnecessary to add to those instructions. Under present circumstances the probable necessity of the Campaign against Ava, the consideration of the many points of discussion likely to arise in the Settlement of frontiers and actual interchange of Territory with Siam seems to point out in strong terms the expediency of having a British accredited Agent at the Capital of Siam at this juncture so as to afford a medium of direct communication with that Court.

I propose therefore that the Master Attendant be directed in communication with Captain Burney to endeavour to engage a Vessel adapted to the conveyance of the Mission to Bangkok and as the application of Captain Burney contained in his address of the seems to come within the scope of the Instructions of the Supreme Government I propose that Captain McFarquhar, with the escort required, be directed to hold themselves in readiness to attend him.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

1st September 1825.

ORDERED that detailed Instructions, in conformity to the President's Minute, be prepared for the guidance of Captain Burney, who, in communication with the Master Attendant, will be directed to engage a suitable Vessel for the conveyance of the Mission.

ORDERED also that the Commanding Officer be addressed relative to the Escort to be attached, that the Superintending Surgeon be desired to place Mr. Sub Assistant Surgeon Harris in Medical charge of the Mission, and lastly, that the Military Paymaster do disburse upon Abstracts Pay and allowances to the Detachment employed as an Escort, up to the 15th Instant.

Factory
Records,
Straits settle-
ments, Vol. 103.
pp. 994-5.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 15th September 1825.

RAJAH of LIGORE.

Rajah of Ligore
4th September
1825.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Chow Pia Ligor to the Honorable the Governor of P. W. Island, dated Sunday 20th Moharram viz. 4th September 1825.

After Compliments.

THE Raja of Perak having written to me to say that there is a great scarcity of grain at that place, and requested a supply of rice, I beg to acquaint my friend that I am now preparing 4 prahus, each laden with five Koyans of rice, and manned with twenty two hands to send to him. These Boats are yet at Kedah, and I have ordered Amboon Narain to proceed with this Letter and deliver it to Khun Aksorn who will present it to my friend, and at the same time request certificates from him separately for each Boat, in order that the friendly object of their voyage may be made known. I request my friend will expedite the furnishing of these Papers and be so good as to dispatch Amboon Narain to Kedah, where he will deliver them to the persons who are to proceed in charge of the Boats. I rely on my friend's compliance with this request.

(Signed) RICHD. CAUNTER

Actg. Malay Translator.

P. W. Island.
9th September 1825.

THE SECRETARY reports that a reply in the Negative was forwarded to the Rajah of Ligore.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 996-1000.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 15th September 1825.

POLITICAL AGENT to the SIAMESE STATES.

Political Agent
to the Siamese
States 10th
September 1825.

To

J. R. CUPPAGE Esquire

Acting Secretary to Government

Sir,

In reply to your Letter of the 8th Instant, I have to forward enclosed an Account of the further Articles required by me in order to complete my stock of public presents for the King and Court of Siam. The Honble. the Governor in Council is well aware that the distribution of Presents at Bangkok is the only mode of securing the services of the Officers, and through them the attention of the Court of Siam. But it will be my duty to govern the distribution of the enclosed List of Articles valued at Drs. 3538, as well as of the more expensive articles furnished to me at Fort William, with due care and economy, and according only as the prospects of success open before me.

I would beg to suggest that I be further authorized to provide myself with some appropriate present, as a Service of Glass or 30 or 40 Stands of Muskets, of the value of Two hundred Dollars, to offer to the Chow Pya Klang or Foreign Minister at Bangkok, in the name of the Honble. the Governor of this Island.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY
Pol: Agent.

P. W. Island
10th September 1825.

ACCOUNT of further Articles required to complete the Stock of public Presents for the Envoy from the Right Honorable the Governor General to the Court of Siam.

For the King of Siam.

	S.D.	P	S.D.	P
1 Piece of Scarlet Cloth (Superfine)	43.	—		
1 Do. of Green Do. Do. ...	43.	—		
1 Do. of Yellow Do. Do. ...	43.	—		
1 Do. of Velvet	25.	—		
1 Do. of Jaconet Muslin	20.	—		
1 Do. Do. Do.	14.	—		
1 Do. of Cambrie	9.	—		
1 Do. Do.	7.	—		
10 Do. of Long Cloth, 3 Cubits wide @ 19 Drs. each ...	190.	—		
2 Do. of Corded Muslin @ 15 Drs. each	30.	—		
1 Corge of Coarse India Cloth	50.	—		
Total	474.	—		
			474.	—

For the Wang-Na.

The same as the above	474.	—		
			474.	—

For the Chow Pya Klang.

The same	474.	—		
			474.	—

For the Chakri.

$\frac{1}{2}$ Piece of Scarlet Cloth	21.	—		
$\frac{1}{2}$ Do. of Green Do.	21.	—		
$\frac{1}{2}$ Do. of Velvet	13.	—		
2 Pieces of English Muslin @ 15 Drs. per piece	30.	—		

5 Pieces of English Long Cloth @		
19 Drs. per piece	95.—	
Total	180.—	180.—

For the Kalahom.

The same	180.—	180.—
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For the Inferior Officers and Chiefs.

An Assortment of Common Ceylon		
Stones and Jewels	500.—	
6 Watches @ 25 each	150.—	
40 Pieces of English Chintz @ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$		
per piece	270.—	
30 Pieces of English Long Cloth		
@ 14 per piece	420.—	
3 Pieces of Aurora Cloth @ 25 per		
piece	84.—	
8 Dozen of Aniseed @ 4 Drs. per		
Dozen	32.—	
A Case of Handkerchiefs of various		
Patterns	300.—	
Total	1756.—	1756.—
Total Spanish Dollars		3538.—

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captn.
Pol. Agent.

P. W. Island
10th September 1825.

RESOLVED, that the same be authorized.

POLITICAL AGENT to the SIAMESE STATES.

Political Agent
to the Siamese
States 14th
September
1825.

P. W. Island, 14th September 1825

To J. R. CUPPAGE Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I beg leave to report for the information of the Honble. the Governor in Council that in communication with the Master Attendant, I have engaged the English Brig Guardian for the conveyance of the Mission from the Right Honorable the Governor General to Siam at 1,600 Dollars per Month, and enclosed I have to submit one Copy of the Charter Party which has been duly executed by Captain G. Sutherland, the Commander of the Brig, and myself.

I beg also to enclose an Indent for a small supply of Stationery; and another for such Medicines as Mr. Sub Assistant Surgeon, under the directions of the Superintending Surgeon, desires to provide for the use of the Mission.

With respect to any supply of Cash, which it may be necessary for me to take with me to Siam, I solicit to be guided entirely by the Orders of the Honble. the Governor in Council. I do not contemplate the Charges of the whole of the Mission at Bangkok will exceed Three Thousand (3,000) Dollars.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY

Pol: Agent.

RESOLVED, that the Indents be passed and that an Advance of Two Months be made to the Political Agent on his Estimate of 3,000 Dollars per Month.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 1052-7.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 22 September 1825.

Letter to the
Rajah of Ligore
dated 10 Sep-
tember 1825.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Honorable the Governor of Prince of Wales Island to the Chow Pya of Ligore dated 10 Sept. 1825.

After Compliments.

I have duly received my friends several letters under date but have been unable to reply to them sooner from a press of public business.

My friends letter and presents for the Right Honorable the Governor General were carefully dispatched to Bengal six days ago by a large ship called the Elizabeth. Captain Burney embarks in a few days to proceed to Ligore and Bangkok, and he will be happy to commission from Bengal the Stones and Jewels required by my friend, if my friend will have the goodness to give that Officer when they meet a more particular description of these things.

I am much obliged to my friend for his very handsome token of friendship, the Silver ornamental Kettle which he has sent to me. I am very anxious that a cordial good understanding should subsist between my friend and myself, and that through our means the English and Siamese should be as one Nation. Let my friend ask Khun Aksorn whether he and all his attendants have not received every kindness and favor since they have been at Penang, and whether they have not been allowed to go whithersoever they pleased, and to buy and sell with as much ease and freedom as the oldest inhabitants of Penang. All the English require from the Siamese, and I from my friend is, that in the Siamese Countries the same freedom of trade and intercourse may be afforded to British Subjects as that which Khun Aksorn and every other Siamese receive at Penang. Let my friend be assured

of my continued desire to cultivate amicable relations with him, and with all whom he may leave after him at Kedah. I shall entrust to Captain Burney's charge to deliver to my friend at Ligore, a suitable return for the friendly token which he has sent to me.

With respect to my friend's last letter, notifying his desire to send some Boats laden with Rice to Perak. I would recommend my friend not to think of sending any Boats to that Country, until all the Pirates and wicked men are driven away from it. Mr. Anderson has not yet returned from his Mission, but Captain Burney will take to my friend at Ligore a full account of all that the English may do at Perak and Salangore, in fulfilment of the Agreement with my friend. Whenever the Rajah of Perak is liberated from the thralldom of Rajah Hassan and replaced in the Government of his own Country, I will send word to my friend's son at Kedah, and engage to order one of the English Cruizers to give safe convoy to such of my friend's Boats as may be appointed to visit Perak. Let my friend be under no uneasiness with respect to the scarcity of Rice at Perak. Mr. Anderson has taken grain with him, and the moment the Salangore people leave Perak, the Native traders of Penang will carry abundance of Grain to that Country. I am now anxious only that my friend will return to Ligore as soon as possible and be ready to accompany Captain Burney to Bangkok before the adverse monsoon sets in.

Concerning the offenders mentioned in one of my friend's letters, I understand from Khun Aksorn that two of them have returned to Kedah. As to the other, Arif, I have given orders to the Police to search for and apprehend him, and will communicate to my friend hereafter the result. With respect to the Muskets my friend is desirous of purchasing, it is proper to acquaint my friend that the British Government does not permit the Trading in Fire Arms, as such would enable Pirates and other bad persons to possess themselves of these

Articles, but as a mark of particular favor to my friend, I have, in compliance with his request allowed Khun Aksorn to procure thirty.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER.

Acting Malay Translator.

N. B. After this letter had been closed and delivered to Khun Aksorn, it was thought advisable to send with it some small present in return for the Kettle, or rather as a token of friendship and good will. One of the value of 65 Dollars was accordingly procured, and delivered to the Envoy for the Chow Pya in the name of the Honorable the Governor.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 1058-1133.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 22 September 1825.

READ the following letter from the President to the Prah Klang at Bangkok.

TO THE PRAH KLANG at BANGKOK.

To the Prah
Klang at
Bangkok.

LETTER addressed by the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esqr. Governor of Prince of Wales Island to the Chow Pya Klang or Foreign Minister at Bangkok.

Prince of Wales Island
20 September 1825.

THE Governor of Prince of Wales Island has much pleasure in acquainting the Chow Pya Klang, that the Right Honorable the Governor General of British India, has deputed Captain Henry Burney as his Envoy to the King of Siam, for the purpose of tendering to His Majesty the congratulations of the British Government on his accession to the ancient and distinguished Throne of his Ancestors, and for the purpose of affording to His Majesty and his Ministers every explanation regarding the War in which the British Nation is now engaged with the Burmese, the old and inveterate enemies of the Siamese. The English Nation desires to preserve the most intimate friendly relations with the Siamese, and the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, under whose charge the Provinces of Tavoy and Mergui, which have lately been conquered by the British from the King of Ava, are now placed, has given especial directions to all British Officers in that quarter, and to Mr. Maingy the Chief Officer, to respect the lives and property of all Siamese Subjects, and to open the most amicable intercourse, and a free trade with the contiguous Siamese Governments. The Governor of Prince of Wales Island proposes himself in a few weeks to proceed to Tavoy and Mergui, and to

make arrangements for settling any disputes that may have occurred between the British and Siamese officers, and for preventing the recurrence of such things.

The Chow Pya Klang will learn from the Chow Pya of Ligore, that he has concluded a Preliminary Agreement with Captain Henry Burney, by which all discussions between the Government of Prince of Wales Island and the Chow Pya of Ligore respecting the Country of Kedah are put in a course of adjustment, mutually beneficial to the English and Siamese. The English Government seeks no accession of territory or power, and invites the Court of Siam only to join with it in cementing a lasting friendship, and in establishing free and unrestricted intercourse between their respective people.

On the subject of Kedah, as well as on the means of opening a most advantageous trade between the English and Siamese Countries, Captain Burney has been authorized by the Right Honorable the Governor General to discuss and forward to Bengal, any proposition which the wisdom and good sense of the Pya Klang may suggest to him. If there is any matter in which the Governor of Prince of Wales Island may serve the Pya Klang in this quarter, the Governor begs the Pya Klang will let him know; and in the mean time Captain Burney, whom the Governor of Prince of Wales Island recommends to the kind attention of the Pya Klang, will have the honor to offer some presents in the name of the Governor of Prince of Wales Island to the Chow Pya Klang.

READ the following Letter from the President to the Rajahs of Tringano, Kalantan &c. &c.

**To the Rajahs
of Tringano,
Kalantan,
&c., &c.**

LETTER addressed by the Honorable R. Fullerton Esquire, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, To the RAJAHS of TRINGANO and KALANTAN and PYAS of PUNGAH, CHAIYA, CHIMPOHUN and PUCHPURI, and CHOW PYA of RACHPURI.

Prince of Wales Island
20 Sept. 1825.

I have to acquaint my friend that Captain Henry Burney is proceeding to Bangkok as an Envoy to the King of Siam from the Right Honorable the Governor General of British India.

Captain Burney may have an opportunity of stopping at my friend's place of residence, and of assuring him of my friendly regard and cordial good wishes : and I therefore furnish Captain Burney with this letter, in order that my friend may see and converse with that Officer, and state to him any matters which my friend may desire me to know, so that the friendship and good will which now subsist between my friend and the British Government may receive encrease and stability.

**Polit. Agent to
the Siamese
States.**

READ a letter from the Political Agent to the Siamese States, intimating his intention of sailing on the 24: Instant.

Poll. Agent to
Perak and Salan-
gore 18 Septem-
ber 1825.

POLL. AGENT to PERAK and SALANGORE.

To

THE ACTING SECRETARY to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit enclosed for the information of the Honble. the Governor in Council, Translation of a letter to my address received this day from the King of Salangore. The bearer of the letter informed me that ten small Prows accompanied him from Salangore to Perak, and that several Chiefs had been sent up to convey the Guns in charge of Rajah Hassan at Kwalla Bidor to Salangore.

I have &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Poll. Agent to Perak
and Salangore.

Penang
18 Sepr. 1825.

From the Rajah
of Salangore to
Mr. John
Anderson.

Translation

of a letter from Paduka Sri Sultan Ibrahim, King of Salangore, to Mr. John Anderson.

After Compliments.

May my friend be informed that some delay has taken place with respect to the Engagement entered into between us, in consequence of my being somewhat indisposed. As to the debts due to me by the King of Perak, I beg my friend will demand the payment of them: other persons who were indebted to me in Perak inform me they have paid the amount to the King. If my friend does not settle this I must go and demand them myself; for I made known this to my friend; but as he was about to proceed himself, he objected to my going. The Statement of my debts is with the King of Perak, and my friend may examine the Account.

Moreover, with respect to Perak, I have restored it to the King; there was, however, an engagement that I should receive 6 Drs. or half the Duty of 12 Drs. per Bahar on Tin; such was the engagement known to white people as well as black. I also proclaimed him King. Let my friend examine the Engagement.

I send this letter by See Sarnon, who in the event of my friend having quitted Perak and returned to Pulo Penang, will convey it to him, in order that I may not be supposed to have failed in my Engagement.

Dated on the 27th of Moharrum 1241, Saturday, or 10th September 1825.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang

18: Sept. 1825.

Poll. Agent to
Perak and Salan-
gore 15 Septem-
ber 1825.

To

The ACTING SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT.

Sir,

Para. 1st. In continuation of my letter of the 26th Ultimo I have now the honor to submit for the information of the Honble. the Governor in Council, a report of my proceedings and negociations at Perak.

2d. The boat which I sent with my dispatch above-mentioned, having returned to Pulo Pankour on Thursday morning the 1st Instt., and my Messenger from Perak in the Afternoon of the same day, I lost no time in making the necessary preparations for proceeding up the River. My writer was about eight days being obliged to ascend the River to Bota, where the King was residing, a distance of upwards of 100 Miles according to Forrest's scale. He brought me a reply from the King and was accompanied by the Shabundar with a large boat, manned by Chinese and pulling 26 Oars; with 3 Prahus sent down for my accommodation. Having myself embarked on board the Schooner William Money and distributed a party of 22 Soldiers and provisions amongst the other boats, we quitted the anchorage of Pulo Pankour at Midnight, and running along the Coast, entered the Perak River at day light on the 2d Instt.; near the entrance we fell in with five small prahus having on board the King's Brother Rajah Abdullah, Rajah Keelil Tangah, the Sultan Mooda Laxamana and other Chiefs who came down to meet me and assist in towing my boat up the river. These Chiefs brought me presents of poultry, fruit &c., and welcomed my arrival with the greatest cordiality.

Enclosure 1.

3. During the passage up our fleet was gradually increased by the arrival of several other Chiefs in small prahus, and my boat being towed by three or four at a time, rendered the passage up the river more expeditious than I experienced on a former occasion

without such friendly assistance. Early in the morning of the 3d. we arrived close to the residence of Rajah Hassan at Kwala Bidor, situated at the junction of that river with the Perak, where we were saluted by a great many discharges of guns, swivels &c. from the stockade of that Chief and the China Captain or Chief of a party of about 200 Chinese who reside at a village on the opposite side of the Bidor river. These salutes I returned from Swivels on board my two boats.

4. Rajah Hassan having expressed a great desire to see me and the tide being unfavorable for proceeding further, I landed and paid that Chief a visit. I candidly explained to him the objects of my mission as regarded himself and urged him to prepare to leave the Country without unnecessary delay. He appeared almost overpowered with distress and wounded pride, but seemed to recover composure and cheerfulness after some explanations which I gave him. He called me into a small back apartment where he said he was anxious to have a little private conversation. This room was filled with spears Muskets, Blunderbusses &c. His object was perhaps to impress me with an idea of his means in the way of arms and to prevent his Attendants in the Hall, where he received me, hearing any observations which I might have occasion to make, hurtful to his pride.

He informed me he had not received any orders or communication whatever from the King of Salangore on the Subject of his removal and that he was at a loss to know how to act, that he might be blamed if he quitted the place without the King's orders &c. I learnt however from another source that a prow had arrived from Salangore the morning before and brought intimation that the King's Son Rajah Doula, was coming up, as stated in His Majesty's letter to the Honble. the Governor and this intelligence was confirmed by our falling in with Rajah Doula's two prows in the night of the 8th Instt. proceeding up the river, as we were descending.

5. After a conference of about half an hour I took my leave of Rajah Hassan, informing him, that as I had no doubt he would receive orders from the King of Salangore, prior to my return down the river, I should expect to see him nearly ready to depart when I descended. The China Captain and others brought me off small presents of poultry &c., which I repaid by some small return. Leaving Kwala Bidor a little after noon, we reached Rantau Panjang late in the evening of Saturday the 3d. where I learnt that the King had descended the River from Bota to meet me and was at Sungie Trus, about 6 or 7 miles further up. Here I was again saluted by the China Captain of Rantau Panjang.. The whole Chinese population was until about a year ago under one head, a division however took place, and a regular engagement between the two parties in which 4 or 5 were killed and many wounded; after which they separated and the former Captain established himself at Kwala Bidor.

6. On the morning of the 4th I proceeded up the river in a small prow with the Sultan Mooda and the other Chiefs, accompanied by my escort and attendants, distributed in other small covered boats to the number of 15 or 16 which were propelled by long poles, the current being rapid and the stream shallow about Rantau Panjang. At noon we came in sight of the King's flotilla consisting of about from 20 to 30 small prows lying opposite a large temporary Balei or Hall, which he had erected to receive me in. As soon as my boat reached the shore a large party of the King's attendants, carrying Umbrellas, spears &c. with a Chief bearing a Salver, came down to receive the letter from the Honble. the Governor. The party then formed a Street on each Side and I was preceded by a band of Music, with a Chief bearing the letter and attended by the principal Chiefs walking behind me. The whole was conducted with great regularity: My Escort also formed a Street

close to the entrance of the Balei at the door of which the King met me and gave me a cordial reception. It is impossible for me to express the degree of joy and I may say enthusiasm with which my arrival was welcomed by all classes, and the friendly and hospitable attentions continued till the last. I was saluted on arrival and departure.

7. It being Sunday and the time not being particularly pressing, I proposed that we should defer the discussion of business till the following day, which the King readily assented to, and promised to come down at an early hour the next morning to meet me at Rantau Panjang. We had however a long conversation and the King often adverted to his great respect for the English and his anxiety to conciliate the Penang Government by every possible means, referred to my former visit as Commercial Agent and our acquaintance when he was Heir apparent and asked me why we did not prosecute the trade in tin, which, from the great rise in price, of late years, would have proved so advantageous. He also made frequent reference to the solicitations of his father for British interference. In the afternoon I returned to Rantau Panjang.

8. On the 5th, the King agreeably to appointment, descended the river and I was engaged all that day in discussing the several points, in obtaining an engagement, and during the following day and part of the 7th in collecting farther information from him relative to the proceedings of the Siamese, the state of his country, his views and feelings; and I shall now proceed to give, as well as I am able, a connected narrative of the most important information which I obtained.

9. As soon as the King had perused the letter from the Honble. the Governor, with which he expressed the greatest satisfaction, he voluntarily informed me that he had been apprized by the Chow Piya of

Enclosures Nos.
2, 3 and 4.

Ligore of my intended Mission and had a few days before received a large dispatch overland upon the subject. He then called his writer to bring the dispatch, which he handed to me for my perusal and he permitted me to retain the letters (3 in number) till the following morning. In the interval my Clerk made correct Copies of them and I have the honor to submit translations of them herewith. Any remarks of mine upon the Style of these letters and the cunning and duplicity of the Chow Piya of Ligore may perhaps be wholly unnecessary. The letters speak for themselves. The King candidly owned he had been kept in a constant state of dread and apprehension from the ambitious and aggrandizing spirit of the Siamese and that weakness and an inability to make effectual resistance had compelled him to acknowledge a submission which was not sincere. He added "my brother and Chiefs are still at Quedah. I am very anxious about their return and fear the Siamese may injure them, if I do not comply with their wishes." The paper enclosed by the Chow Piya to the King purporting to be a Copy of the letter from the Honble. the Governor proves to be a copy of the rough draft of my commission, which I desired my writer to prepare, prior to my departure, and which not pleasing me was put aside in his desk. It now appears that Che Etam, the Chow Piya's intellenger, was at the Office on the day it was written; my clerk missed the paper, but considered it of no consequence and he is now fully convinced as I am, that Etam stole it from his desk.* I beg to attach a

Enclosure No. 5. literal translation of it. It does not differ very

* Since writing this, Etam who was on the point of returning to Kedah, from which place he lately came with the Envoys, upon being taxed with this Act this morning, fell at the feet of my writer, confessed the fact and implored pardon.

materially from the approved commission which was afterwards written.

10. As to the presentation of the Boongha Mas—he said that was a matter in which he would be guided solely by the wishes of the British Government. He would be so much the better pleased to be relieved entirely from the Siamese control, if possible: but if peace could be preserved by presenting the Gold and Silver Flower, he was ready to conform to the wishes of the Government. He informed me that it had been presented only twice by Perak, and reminded me that it was he who so long opposed compliance with the ceremony till the country was overcome by Quedah in 1818. The King gave me the following information, in the presence of all his Chiefs, relative to the presentation of the Boongha Mas. He said that prior to a demand being suddenly made by Kedda in the name of Siam about the year 1815 or 1816, Perak had never presented the Boongah Mas nor was any demand made for it. They had done nothing to provoke the Siamese and were in no way tributary to that nation. A compliance with the ceremony was long resisted, but they were overcome by the superior means of Quedah. The Old King, his father, died soon after the Country was overcome. As resistance was useless and he was desirous to preserve peace, he had sent the Boongha Mas twice. This “Boongha Mas dan Perak” is a representation of a small tree made of gold and silver filagree. The quantity of gold required is 4 Buncals, which costs there 80 Dollars, and eight dollars weight of silver. Four ornamented spears are also sent, and some presents of scarlet and white cloth &c. purchased at Penang likewise accompany it. The whole expence does not exceed 1,000 Spanish Dollars and the ceremony is triennial, thus making an average annual expence of Spanish Dollars 333.33 $\frac{1}{3}$. As far as regards expence therefore, he said, the ceremony

was immaterial, and he would gladly pay more to be relieved from any further interference.

11. With respect to the armament proposed to be sent to Perak for the purpose of attacking Salangore, the King said that the arrival of 1,000 Siamese, much less 3,500 as mentioned, would bring total ruin upon the Country and such had of late been the terror of the Ryots that many of them were prepared to quit the country with their families the moment they heard of the approach of the Siamese; that they were afraid to plant paddy, as they had no expectation of reaping it, and that consequently the measures lately adopted by the British Government for preventing a Siamese force proceeding to Perak were most satisfactory to him. He remarked that it was true a friendly understanding had formerly [existed, but in] consequence of these troubles, the Sons of the King Vizt. the Rajah Mooda and Doula and his nephew Rajah Hassan had been gradually assuming more power than they should, which they were enabled to do, from the weak and defenceless state of the Country.

12. I put some questions to the King about the letters which the Chow Piya of Ligore sent to Penang professing to be from him and bearing his Chop. I remarked upon the difference of style of these letters and the many expressions which were not only different from those used by Malays but almost unknown to them. The King said what I observed was very true, that all the expressions to which I had objected were not his, that he permitted his Chop to be put to the letters which were written by a Quedah Malay a renegade low born wretch whom I saw, formerly named Kaya Ahiya (now dignified with the title of Tuanko Raja Maha Mantri by the Siamese) who is in the interest of the Chow Piya for the time being, as he would be in any other for a very trifling consideration. The King whispered

to me he was afraid of the Siamese and that this man (pointing to him) had been instructed to write in this Style and to make representations by Che Hat the Confidential Interpreter of the Chow Piya. I called the man forward and in the presence of all the Chiefs I made my observations and stated the grounds upon which I had pronounced the paper (Copy of which I carried with me) to be a fabrication. The man himself, as well as all present, admitted the truth and justice of my observations.

13. I next adverted to the great exaggeration in that paper concerning the number of prahus with which the King of Salangore's sons had lately entered the river. They all admitted that there had never been more than 5 of a very small size and that the professed object of the Rajah Mooda's visit was to pay some duties collected by Rajah Hassan to the King. The King however said he was afraid of Rajah Mooda, who is certainly a very bad character, and he would not give him a meeting. The King of Salangore's sons therefore returned without molesting him or the Ryots farther.

14. Concerning the piratical fleet which was assembled a short time since in the neighbourhood of the Sambalang Islands and Pankour, the people of Perak informed me that they came from Rhio and Limgin and the neighbourhood of Singapore; that they are the same marauders who have for many years past come up the straits at certain seasons of the year and committed depredations between Malacca and Penang. Their favorite places of resort are Pula Pankour and the Straits of Colong. None of these Prahus had entered the Perak river. The names of some of the piratical Panglimas were mentioned to me. They had captured 2 Perak prahus laden with rattans for this place; one or two of the crew having escaped, described them. All agreed in saying that Rajah Hassan had only a

few small prahus belonging to him and that those of Salangore were of the smallest size. I have reason to believe the Rhio boats were connected with Salangore and were prepared to oppose the Siamese, although they made no scruple of attacking any vessel they were capable of mastering, as they have been in the habit of doing for many years past.

15. The King repeatedly urged me to remain in the Country and establish a factory. He said he would give up his whole Country to the English, granting him only a small allowance to maintain himself. He says he does not like the cares and troubles of Government, and that he would willingly resign all to their management, that he had no desire to amass money, for he had no security in keeping it, and that he was chiefly desirous of confining himself to the performance of his religious duties. He adverted also to the great profits which the Dutch formerly derived by the tin trade, when they had a factory at Perak, and said that Perak could never be tranquil without the superintending control of an European Government.

16. In consequence of the troubles of late years, the King had not been at Rantau Panjang (where he formerly resided) for two years and upwards. He had never, although about 40 years of age, seen the sea, and his Cousin Rajah Kechil Tengah, and Brother Rajah Abdullah, both grown up men, had never seen the sea, or descended the river so far till they met me. In fact the navigation of the river has of late been shut up entirely to the inhabitants of the interior who were afraid to go down until my arrival gave them confidence.

17. The account which I received at Salangore of the flight of Che Hat from Perak about 2½ years ago and the seizure of the 40 Siamese prows was corroborated in a very great degree by some of the most intelligent Chiefs of Perak. The following is

a literal transcript of a written Statement of all the circumstances as delivered to me by two of them. Shortly after the Conquest of Quedah the Chow Piya of Ligore sent a letter to the King of Perak, demanding the Boongha Mas; the Rajah Bendahra (lately dead) and several of the principal Chiefs thought it prudent to comply, but Rajah Ahmed (a chief from Siack long residing at Perak and since dead) and who had a powerful party of subordinate Chiefs to back him, objected upon the grounds that Perak had nothing to do with the Siamese, that the country had been overcome by Quedah and that as the King of Quedah was at Penang, it would be proper to convey the Boongha Mas to him. The Rajah Bandahra's party however prevailed and that Chief proceeded across the Country with the Boongha Mas, which he presented to the Chow Piya of Ligore* mutual animosity between Rajah Ahmed and the Rajah Bendahra.

(* sic.—words
omitted here.)
? which produced.

18. When the Rajah Bendahra returned to Perak, he was accompanied by some Siamese, the Chief named Aluang Tait and Che Hat, a native of Calantan, long in the confidence of the Chow Piya. Upon their arrival they commenced a general plunder and seized effects of all the Chiefs who had opposed the presentation of the Boongha Mas. These Chief were Rajah Ahmed Nackoda Mahomed, Datu Sri Dava Rajah, Che Marasin, Che Mapak, and Che Paudah Ibrahim, to the amount of upwards of 10,000 Dollars. Che Hat established himself as the Agent and representative of the Chow Piya of Ligore and in his name committed the most shameful extortion and practised the most revolting barbarities. The King was under the greatest influence of terror from this worthless ruffian. His will for a time was law. He claimed every thing he could lay his hands on and having collected a large booty, was preparing to return to Quedah with the spoils.

19. I pause here to narrate one of the many instances of the savage ferocity of Che Hat. During his passage from hence to Perak (for he was on that occasion, it will be remembered, permitted to pass through this harbour), he fell in with a small prow belonging to the son of a late wealthy native merchant of this island at Trong, from whom he purchased rice to the value of 75 Dollars, desiring the young man to follow him to Perak where he would receive the amount. He did so, but upon demanding the money he was seized and bound and in the dead of night he was cast into the river and perished, his mouth being previously stuffed by Che Hat's orders with cloth to prevent his screams being heard. This fact is well known at Perak, and by several respectable inhabitants of Penang.

20. During Che Hat's stay of six or seven months at Perak, Nackoda Mahomed, one of the persons before named, who had been plundered of some property by the Siamese, contrived to play the hypocrite and ingratiate himself with Che Hat. He gave him his daughter for a Wife and resided in the same Stockade, pretending the greatest attachment and submission. When all the booty had been embarked on board the prahus, he by the consent and connivance of several of the Chiefs clandestinely sent Nackoda Palla to Salangore to invite the King and Chiefs of that Country to come up and attack the Siamese. Rajah Ahmed also went to Salangore and the King was led to expect by these Chiefs he would himself soon be attacked by the Siamese. It is generally understood also that the whole of the Chiefs of the Perak Country were concerned in this affair. The above named were the ostensible prime movers. I know that the aid of the King of Salangore was earnestly solicited although a more explicit avowal at present might be attended with danger to those making the disclosure.

21. The Rajah Mooda of Salangore, it appears lost no time in proceeding to Perak and reached Kwala Bidor. Che Hat was at this time posted on a small Island called Pulo Kichil about 15 Miles higher up the river. Some skirmishing took place between the people of Salangore and those of Perak, who were, or pretended to be in the interest of the Siamese, or who were afraid of their vengeance. Nackoda Mahomed worked upon Che Hat's fears and as a near relative, urged him to seek safety by flight. He lost no time in doing so with all his Siamese and a greater part of the Malay followers, taking his Wife with him.

22. After he had proceeded about half the journey across the Country to Quedah, he was overtaken by his relative Nackoda Mahomed, who pointed out the great inconvenience of carrying a female with him, and begged him to let her remain in his charge until all was settled. Prior to following Che Hat, however, this crafty Chief had with the aid of the Rajah Bindahara, Mahomed Saha, Etam Ammen and Kauda Ahmed, with their respective followers, seized upon and appropriated to their own use the greater part of the Tin and the effects left in the Siamese prows, and the remainder, a small portion, fell into the hands of the Rajah Mooda of Salangore and his followers. The Wife of Che Hat was soon after married to a Perak Chief and Nackoda Mahomed was said to be possessed of about 3,000 Dollars as his share of the spoil, and is now in confidential employ as an envoy between the Chow Piya and the King. An inference may be drawn as to the real disposition of the King from this very fact, he is not ignorant of the part played by Nackoda Mahomed.

23. The Siamese having been driven out, the Rajah of Salangore proclaimed the King of Perak and invested him with royal authority in conformity to an

ancient treaty existing between the two states and an engagement was entered into that he should receive half the duty on all Tin as a reimbursement for the expences attending his giving protection to the King. Rajah Hassan was appointed as the Collector of the revenues at Kwala Bidor by mutual consent. The King of Perak glad to be relieved of the Siamese at the moment, the more readily assented to this last arrangement and a good understanding subsisted for some time. He married the King's Aunt; who now lives separate from him at Rantau Panjang. The irregular payment of the duties and their reduced amount, a desire of the part of Rajah Hassan to monopolize the commerce, his interference with traders and the Ryots, and other restrictive measures have rendered him unpopular amongst the people and obnoxious to the King, and his Majesty is now equally anxious to get rid of the interference of Salangore as he is of the Siamese.

24. Perhaps when he first assented to the establishment of Hassan, the King regarded the alternative as the least of two evils which he was forced to make a choice of, the [?and] expected more consideration from one of his nation and religion than from the Siamese. The Malays as well as the Siamese however do not comprehend the principles which should actuate a protecting power. The right of protective interference is too often made a plea for oppression.

25. About five or six months ago a Siamese Chief named Nai Kct and a Malay Chief named Maharaja-lela, with about 300 Malay followers proceeded to Perak and remained a short time. Nai Kot returned about six weeks ago to Quedah, and there was not a single Siamese in the Perak country when I was there, although Captain Burney states he was informed there were about 15 or 20 Siamese with the Rajah of Perak. By the late arrange-

ments the King earnestly hopes that the Siamese will be prevented from interfering in the Government of his Country. It is clear however, the Chow Piya, of Ligore, from the tenor of his letter, meditates an infraction of his treaty, and sending some of his Chiefs to assist in the Government. Were he permitted to do this, his treaty would prove a downright imposition and we should thus have been made his Agents in expelling Rajah Hassan and tying the hands of the King of Salangore, thereby in fact, affording him assistance in attaining the object he has so long aimed at Vizt. an entire control over Perak. I am sure it is needless for me to dwell upon the manifest expediency of preventing the Chow Piya from exercising any control whatever. The King and people of Perak will repay with gratitude our interference, and the commerce of the country will soon make compensation for the expences unavoidably sustained while we shall confer additional security on our more easterly settlements, which would require a large additional force if the Siamese are permitted to come in contact with them.

26. With the disposition on the part of the King and Chiefs which I have before described, it required no arguments of much weight from me, to induce him readily to assent to make an engagement as was pointed out in my instructions, for the purpose of obviating any pretext on the part of the Chow Piya of Ligore for disturbing his Country. It seemed to me to be necessary to obtain from the Rajah a formal engagement recognizing the established boundary, agreeing to the removal of Rajah Hassan and stipulating for freedom of trade, and throwing open the navigation of all the rivers within his Kingdom. To that engagement, which was drafted in Malay, and of which a correct translation is attached, I beg to refer. I considered it preferable not to insert the engagement relative to the transmission of the Boongha Mas, but

No. 7.

recommended the Rajah to allude to this in his letter to the Honble. the Governor which is equally binding and leaves it optional with Government to exact the performance of this or not as may appear to be advisable and just, after an attentive consideration of all circumstances. This arrangement leaves the Government free to act as may be deemed best.

27. It will I trust be noticed with satisfaction by Government, that the duty on Tin has been reduced by the voluntary consent of the King, exactly one half. The collection of the duties is now entrusted to the Shabundar as it formerly was, and as a proof of a cordial understanding on this head, it may be only necessary to mention that I saw the duties paid on a quantity exported on 3 Prows which accompanied me up from Perak. Rajah Hassan was fully satisfied with this arrangement and it was in fact an intimate friend of his who owned the Tin and paid the duty to the King. The navigation of the Perak river has now been thrown open.

28. With respect to the great scarcity of rice reported by Captain Burney it is only necessary to state that it was selling at 11 Gantoms Per Dollar when I left Perak which is fully as cheap as it is at Penang at present. The fact is, the Ryots are so poor at present, that they have not the means of purchasing it at any price. My knowledge of the Siamese character does not lead me to think that the desire of the Chow Piya to send several boats with rice proceeds from charitable motives or that he would sell it one fraction cheaper than any body else. I conceive that his professed intentions of sending prows with rice is all a trick to introduce by degrees a large party of Siamese: so think the inhabitants of Perak.

29. I have before adverted to the two parties which prevailed relative to the compliance with the demands of Siam. In consequence of these divisions

3 Chiefs named Datu Sideeva Rajah, Che Panda Ibrahim and Che Mapak had estranged themselves from the King upwards of twelve months and had established themselves close to Rajah Hassan at Kwala Bidor. On my arrival, these Chiefs entreated permission to accompany me to wait on the King and to profess their allegiance, which I consented to; in my presence the King gave them a kind reception and a reconciliation took place. These and many other Chiefs were prepared to fly the country on the arrival of the Siamese, and they and others had often urged the King to resistance, which he was afraid to risk, and hence they seceded from him.

Enclosure No. 8 30. After entering into a formal engagement with the King, I deemed it proper to send an official notice to Rajah Hassan to quit the country in conformity to the several engagements which had been entered into; this I sent by my writer. I received a reply in six hours. Translations of these documents are hereby annexed. Under all circumstances I considered this Chief entitled to some consideration and I accordingly resolved to give him a meeting on my passage down the river. I have ever found a little conciliation blended with authority productive of good.

31. During my stay at Perak the Chiefs waited upon me daily and were unremitting in their attentions and civilities. The King begged me to permit one of the Cruizers to remain till Rajah Hassan had taken his departure which I should have been disposed to have taken upon myself the responsibility of doing, if the provisions had not been expended. Having however settled every thing and taken my leave of the King who came down at day light on the 7th Instant with all his Chiefs to bid me farewell, I quitted Rantau Pangong and reached Kwala Bidor at noon the same day, after considerable trouble in dragging the Schooner over the numerous sand-banks.

32. On my arrival opposite the residence of Rajah Hassan, I sent my writer ashore with an invitation to the Rajah to come on board. I had been apprized that he had killed a Buffalo and prepared an entertainment for me, which I declined. He immediately came on board in a small canoe, unattended by followers, except 3 or 4 of his confidential friends. I entered into conversation and told him that as he had a large family of wives and relations, I had no inclination to use any force to compel him to quit the place without a little time to prepare. This seemed to relieve his anxiety, for he had been led to expect he would be ordered to quit the place peremptorily that day, and my writer remarked that great preparations had been made on shore for resistance. Many guns and swivels were collected opposite the entrance of his Stockade and all his attendants, about 100 in number were armed with long swords and krises. He said he was still without orders from Salangore, but as he had no doubt it was resolved he should quit the place, he proposed to send an Agent to Penang without delay, to purchase a large prahu or two to embark his family on and enquired if I thought he would be permitted to reside in the Honble. Company's territory. I told him that as it was not the object of the Government to oppress him, but merely to restore peace to Perak, which could only be done by his removal, I did not think there would be any objection to his taking up his abode in the Company's Territory, so long as he conducted himself with propriety, and I advised him in a temperate manner to make immediate preparations for his departure. He complained much of the great loss he would sustain, having planted a considerable quantity of Paddy. Some of the Perak Chiefs however offered to take this off his hands at a fair valuation.

33. He admitted the propriety of my observations and promised he would make his stay as short as possible. In conclusion I informed him that as engagements had been entered into, and he now

* I warned.

only remained for a time by indulgence, I informed * him, at his peril, not to collect any more duties, and to prevent prows passing up and down the River, and not to oppress and interfere with the Rajah, all of which he solemnly engaged to observe. The Scales and brass Weights belonging to the King had been transferred to his charge when he came to reside as the Collector, and he professed a readiness to deliver them over to me to be sent to the King. I declined accepting them however, and said this might lay over till he had received final instructions from Salangore, intimating at the same time, that if he was disposed to manifest a friendly and conciliatory disposition towards the Rajah, he would voluntarily deliver them to the Shabundar on his return up the river after accompanying me to Pankour. I also explained that I did not require any formal engagement from him, the King of Salangore as his principal having engaged for his removal. He brought me off some poultry as a present and after I had descended the river a short distance he sent off one of his people with 4 large slabs of tin as a token of his good intentions. I could not help feeling pity for the evident distress of the man. He is an uncommonly stout portly looking Man.

34. I was not a little surprized that the orders of the King of Salangore had not sooner been sent, it was suggested to me however by some of my attendants that the Rajah Mooda or heir apparent, who did not wait for me at Salangore, might have influenced his father to change his determination in some degree, and induced him to swerve from his engagement, which was not entered into without due deliberation, and I was not altogether free from apprehension that some attempt might be made upon my small party on the passage down the river. I therefore took every proper precaution to guard

against any treachery and had all my party under arms during the passage down the river. I was accompanied by the Shabundar and the large Chulia boat, which towed my schooner down the river. The Shabundar seemed to be under great apprehensions from pirates in the river. I would beg suggest the propriety of sending a cruizer to remain in the Perak river until Rajah Hassan has removed, for the purpose of preserving tranquillity and ensuring his speedy departure.

35. During the night of the 7th we fell in with
 (* sic.—? hailing) 2 prows, which upon hoisting, * we were informed, were from Salangore with Rajah Daula, the King's son, on board, but the current was too rapid to enable us to communicate and he passed on. I am led to expect he was the bearer of the order, and it was he whom the King mentioned in the letter to the Honble. the Governor, his intention of sending to bring away the Guns.

36. On the following day we fell in with a prow near the mouth of the river which we called along side and the Chief on board proved to be the celebrated Nakoda Mahomed before mentioned who had proceeded across to Quedah the day after the arrival of my writer with the letter which I had addressed to the King from Pankaur, and was now on his return with a dispatch from the Chow Piya of Ligore, having quitted Quedah only 4 days before, and passed through the Straits of Penang. This person informed me all the Rajah of Ligore's fleet had returned to Traung, and that the armament from Sangora, Murdalong &c. had been dispersed. The King of Perak's brother he said was still at Quedah, and was to be sent back after his return. Several prahus were also loaded with Paddy and rice to be sent to Perak, as soon as the Chow Piya learnt the result of my Mission and heard of the removal of Rajah Hassan. This person has been

continuing to ingratiate himself into the favor of the Siamese, and it is supposed is playing a deep game. When he first went to Quedah, after Che Hat's discomfiture, it was generally expected he would have lost his head, but the Siamese, it would appear, have not yet been informed of his treachery.

37. On the morning of the 9th we reached the Honble. Company's Schooner Zephyr and Fattal Garib at the Sambelang Islands, made all sail and arrived at the Presidency late on the evening of the 10th Instant, after an absence of exactly four Weeks. The only accident that happened were the loss of one of the Zephyr's anchors during some blowing weather at Pankour, and one belonging to the William Money, from which we were forced to cut in the river, having hooked to a tree 3 fathoms deep. I received several presents of tin from the King and others in return for the presents given by me, which shall be hereafter noticed.

38. From the observations which I have had occasion to make in this and my preceding report, it will be observed, that the information obtained by the Political Agent to the Siamese from the Chow Piya of Ligor, and that acquired by me, united to my own personal observations, differ materially in several points. I have felt it my duty to state fairly, what I heard and observed and it will rest with the superior judgment of Government to decide upon the case in all its bearings. As the Political Agent has commented a little upon the information derived by me from Che Etam, in my capacity of Translator, I feel it a duty incumbent upon me to make a few remarks in reply. That Etam is a spy of the Chow Piya is very certain from his being here at this moment in the capacity of intelligencer as is well known, and more especially by his robbing my writer's desk of the draft of a commission, which he carried to his Master, and which is the enclosure transmitted to the King

of Perak. I was well aware, as I have often stated to the Honble. the Governor, that he was a spy for both parties and guided my conduct towards him accordingly. Under the influence of excessive fear and in the expectation of some advantage, he gave the information which I submitted. I could point out 5 or 6 instances in which his information has proved correct and certainly somewhat useful to Government. Such persons are ever ready to deny or avow as circumstances may dictate. With respect to the number of prows, his estimate, I am fully convinced was under the mark. I had at the time many means of information. The Chiefs of Perak informed me they had been assured by the Siamese themselves the number of prows was upwards of 400 and the Troops 10,000 men.

39. As to the anticipation that the season was unfavorable as to prevent the fleet issuing from the Traâng, I can only say that I differ very much from Captain Burney and his nautical friends. I always stated publicly and privately that the fleet *was prepared* and would issue out at a certain time. I foretold it long before. The registers in the Master Attendant's Office show that boats of the smallest size have been in the habit of coming from Traâng and navigating the Straits at all seasons of the year. I have been in the habit of sending, and seeing sent, small prows of a ton burthen at all seasons. The best proof is, that I sent one to Salengore of less than that burthen and also to Traâng at that very time, another lately to Salengore and one of two tons accompanied me and kept at sea with the vessels, making two trips to the Presidency in a Month, and this perhaps as bad a month as any. The boat which I met entering the Perak river a few days ago from Quedah, was not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ Tons burthen.

40. But if the Political Agent's arguments be admitted that the Siamese fleet could not with safety

have proceeded to Salangore, we must naturally conceive the Chow Piya had some other object in coming down suddenly with so large a fleet to Quedah. I have always entertained and do entertain, the belief that he had a more important object than the conquest of Salangore in view. His preparations were out of all proportion to the enterprise avowed and I believe this to be the opinion of the best informed Natives at Quedah, Penang, Perak and Salangore. His Highness accustomed to success from intrigue and deeply disguised treachery, did not anticipate a discovery of his views or any opposition. The display of our means had made him pause and he now reverts to conciliation. I may be wrong, but I have not formed my opinions in haste, nor would I hazard them here but from very substantial grounds and mature reflections.

41. My opinion is, that there will be no tranquillity to the Settlement of Penang and the adjoining Malay States, and there will never be any end to the ambition of the Chow Piya of Ligor so long as his large Marine equipment now assembled at Traâng and the Northern Ports continues undispersed. The fleet will be always prepared to start at a short notice and a force will be required to watch its movements. He will send a few boats at first to Perak and more by degrees, if not prevented, under the pretence of trading. His agents will remain under the plea of collecting debts and various reasons will be urged until he acquires complete possession. Such are my unaltered views of His Highness's character. When I look over all the correspondence with the Chief, when I revert to the innumerable instances in which he has practised deception, to the detection of his falsehood by the late Governor and Capt. Low, and even by the present Political Agent, to the Style of his correspondence and that threat in one of his earliest letters, four years ago, which he

has in part realized, by assembling (as he said he would do) a large Army to attack any State that gave protection to the King of Quedah, I cannot refrain from thus publicly expressing a deliberate opinion that we must rely more upon his fears than his good will for his pacific intentions. These opinions I submit with great deference to Government. I am emboldened to give them, by observing that many of my former conjectures have been amply realized and from the responsibility I feel attached to the Official Situation I hold.

42. The alarming encrease of piracy in these Straits, principally in the vicinity of the Sambelang Islands, is a subject which has lately attracted much notice both at this Settlement and the neighbouring ones of Malacca and Singapore. The maintenance of a large Marine force would not in my opinion, be so effectual and would be more expensive perhaps, than the establishment of a Military post at the Island of Pankour, which has long since been pointed out as an eligible situation for such a purpose. The plan of forming such a Post, sanctioned by the Supreme Government in 1818, was abandoned in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining a proper title to its occupation. I am happy to observe this objection is now entirely removed. The King of Perak, off whose Coast it lies and to whom it indubitably belongs, tendered it to me for that purpose and expressed an anxious hope that the British Government would form a post there forthwith. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the advantages which would accrue from such a measure. They have been often adverted to and anticipated by others more competent than I am to form an opinion upon the subject, as the records will show. Such a measure would tend to the effectual suppression of piracy in these Straits and give security to the native traders. The Island would

form a depot for the tin and other merchandize from Perak—the expences would be but trifling.

43. The Island of Pankour abounds with very fine timber for ship building, particularly a large tree called Chingal. As a proof of the durability of this wood, which is accounted to be superior in this respect, in the estimation of the natives, to Teak, it may be only necessary to mention, that a prow built of that wood in the same year that Penang was established, or 40 years ago, accompanied me up from Perak. Some of the trees are 30 feet in circumference. On the Island and the main opposite, Dammer and Rattans of the best quality are procurable, according to my own observation in great quantities. At Teluk Piridut, 3 miles from the Island, Rajah Hassan informed me he obtained 10 Bahars or 20 Peculs of Tin by digging a fathom deep and at Teluk Sera, close to Pulo Salong about 8 miles to the Northward, there is a rich mine of tin, the ore being found in abundance two fathoms under ground. The inhabitants of Perak are afraid from* resorting there from a dread of the pirates. The anchorage is excellent, fresh water abundant, and the rocks are covered with shell fish.

44. Three points of primary importance would be gained by the establishment of a Post at Pankour. 1st and chiefly the suppression of piracy, 2d. a direct control over Perak, by which the Siamese would be prevented from extending their conquests to the Southward, 3d the encrease of trade in that valuable article of commerce, tin, and a place of refreshment and refitment, for native traders from all quarters, navigating these Straits.

45. I perform a pleasing duty in bringing to the Notice of the Honble. the Governor in Council the useful Services of Captain Poynton Commanding the

Honble. Company's Schooner Zephyr, and the commanders and crews of the other vessels, as well as my Clerk, Mr. Fransiz, and I must not omit to record my approbation of the steady and soldier like conduct of Subedar Major Devy sing and the detachment of the 25th Regiment Bengal N: Infantry forming my escort. The utmost cheerfulness prevailed and every person vied with each other in rendering himself useful and promoting the public service.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON,
Political Agent to
Perak and Salangore.

Fort Cornwallis
The 15th Sept. 1825,

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Paduka Sri Sultan Abdullah, King of Perak to Mr. John Anderson Agent to the Honble. the Governor of Pulo Penang.

Chop of
Paduka Sri
Sultan Abdullah
King of Perak.

(After Compliments.)

The letter which my friend sent me by Che Hamid has duly reached me and I fully comprehend its contents. As to my friend's desire that I should proceed to meet him at Pankour, I should be very happy, but I have never been at sea and there are no prows at Perak at present in which I could with propriety embark to meet my friend. I now send, however, a China Toukang with Rajah Kechil Tanjah-Laxamana Panglima Bukit Gantang and the Shabundar, with some small prahus to wait on my friend and on which he may embark and come to meet me. These are not such as I could wish, but my friend must excuse this. Written on the 15th day of Moharram, Monday 1241.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
My. Transr.

Large
Chop.

TRANSLATION of a letter from Aluang Packdi Juta Minister of the Chow Piya of Ligore to Sultan Abdullah, the Rajah Mooda Tuanko Maha Mantri and the assembled Chiefs of the Perak Country.

The Chow Piya of Ligore had been pleased to direct the equipment of a force of 3,500 Men to be sent to Perak, and all was ready when Captain Henry Burney, as Agent of the Governor Genl. of Bengal, arrived from Bengal and the Governor of Pulo Penang, who making obeisance to the soles of the royal slippers of the Panhua Chow Tan who is most glorious, represented a friendly desire to establish union and good will and requesting that a greater friendship than formerly might be established with the Siamese, stating also that the Governor of Bengal had prepared goods as an offering to the amount of 50,000 with which Captain H. Burney was sent to make obeisance to the most powerful King of Siam and begging the Chow Piya to assist in forwarding him to the Capital.

Captain Henry Burney the Agent of the Governor Genl. of Bengal making obeisance at the soles of the slippers of Panhua Chow Tan who is most glorious and delicately (or with soft words) begged that the armament might not be sent to attack Salengore, engaging on behalf of the Governor of Pulo Penang that he would speak to the Rajah of Salengore and effect the removal of Rajah Hassan from the Perak Country, preventing also the people of Perak from being forcibly carried away by him. He also said that the Perak Country was of no use to the English and that they would not govern it, but that the Country was under the authority of Siam, to send the Boonga Mas dun Perak, and observe the customs of states that are tributary.

Moreover he said with respect to the Rajah of Salengore's seizing the goods when Che Hat went (to Perak) the Governor of Pinang would negotiate and cause the payment of the dollars, the Governor of Pulo Pinang would also prevent the King of Salengore from going to commit further disturbances in the Perak Country and that he would also fix with the Rajah of Salengore a proper boundary between the two Countries agreeably to former Custom, that is the River Burnam.

The Chow Piya therefore having considered, did not wish to destroy the good understanding with the Governor General of Bengal. At the time Captn. H. Burney presented himself before the Chow Piya at Keddah, Nai Kot and Che Walim suddenly arrived at Keddah and the Chow Piya was informed of the contents of the letter which the Rajah of Perak sent the Chow Piya, called Captn. H. Burney and was pleased of his favor to acquaint him that the Rajah of Perak had sent a letter by Nai Kot and Che Walim representing that the Rajah Mooda of Salengore had brought prahus to Perak, as stated in the Rajah of Perak's letter. Captn. H. Burney there upon represented to the soles of the slippers of the Chow Piya of Ligore who is most glorious, that a ship should be sent agreeably to the engagement to remove Rajah Hassan and to force the Rajah Mooda to return. Captn. H. Burney promised to go and settle with the Governor of Pulo Penang, and the Chow Piya therefore waited for a time to learn the result.

When Captain H. Burney returned to Pulo Penang he sent a letter respectfully representing that the Governor of Pulo Penang was about to send Mr. John Anderson to stop at Perak, and then proceed to Salengore, wherefore the Chow Piya has been pleased to dispatch Nakoda Mahomed with all haste to convey this letter in order that the Rajah of Perak may be previously informed. If Mr. John Anderson meets with the Rajah of Perak let the Rajah speak properly. Do

not yield superiority to the English, but speak with decision. If the Rajah of Salengore does not conform to what will be required of him agreeably to the engagement of the Governor of Pulo Penang, the business with Salengore will be taken into consideration and settled by force. Every thing relative to all this business has been made known to Nakoda Mahomed and the Rajah will consult with him so that the affairs of the Country may not be received.

The Chow Piya of Ligore entertains much regard for the Rajah of Perak and he will respectfully make him known to the mighty King of Siam and obtain a great name for him in Siam, so that his name may be famous and good in the Perak Country more than formerly, and the Chow Piya will hereafter make known to the Rajah of Perak all, after having made a representation to the Mighty King of Siam.

With respect to the intention of the Chow Piya to send the large Armament, he has thought it proper to detain it for the present, for there is not war: if it were to be sent to remain inactive only there would be great difficulty of procuring Paddy at Perak. The Rajah Kechil Mooda and Orang Kayabesar will be sent over land, and some Siamese and Malays Chiefs are preparing with 200 Ryots and upwards to accompany them, who will become associates in conducting the affairs of the Country with the King of Perak. A more particular reply cannot be sent at present to the King's letter because Nakoda Mahomed is dispatched without delay to make known all the intelligence respecting the English as above alluded to, in order that the Rajah of Perak may be previously informed. Respecting all other business, that shall be sent hereafter.

Dated Saturday 29th Dalhajah or 15th August 1825.

A true Translation.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.

Malay Translator.

TRANSLATION of a letter from Aluang Packdi Qunta Minister of the Chow Piya of Ligore to Sultan Abdullah Rajah Mooda Tuanko Maha Mantri and all the assembled Chiefs of Perak.

Large
Chop.

I have been directed by the Chow Piya of Ligore to make known that Captain Henry Burney the representative of the Governor General of Bengal, having respectfully presented himself before the Chow Piya and delicately begged to detain the Armament for the present and not to send it to attack Salangore, engaging on the part of the Governor of Pulo Penang and the Chiefs of the English residing there to speak to the Rajah of Salangore to remove Rajah Hassan from the Perak Country and not to permit the subjects of Perak to be taken away by force as is more particularly stated in the letter which accompanies this, and to communicate the Chow Piya's desire that if Rajah Hassan conforms to the engagement of the Governor of Pulo Penang perhaps some of the people residing with Rajah Hassan may be alarmed and wish to proceed with him. The Rajah of Perak, the Rajah Mooda Tuanko Maha Mantri and the other Chiefs are directed to pacify them; to tell them all that they will be free from all blame and advise them to remain quietly at Perak as before and not to quit with Rajah Hassan. Dated 29th Dalhajah Saturday 1240 or 15th August 1825.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Malay Translator.

TRANSLATION of a letter from Alaung Packdi Juta, Minister of the Chow Piya of Ligore to Sultan Abdullah, Rajah Mooda Tuanko Maha Mantri and the assembled Chiefs of Perak.

Large
Chop.

I am directed by the Chow Piya of Ligore to transmit a Copy of letters from the Rajah of Pulo Penang to the address of the Rajah of Salangore and the Rajah of Perak, which are alike, and it is given to Nakoda Mahomet to convey to the Rajah of Perak for his information. In this letter of the Governor of Pulo Penang, there is nothing certain. The Agent to be sent is Mr. John Anderson, who is to settle the business. The English are very knowing and no confidence can be placed in them, and they may possibly take advantage; wherefore take care and consider all circumstances. Whatever Mr. John Anderson may state, let the Rajah of Perak reply that he has transferred the Country to the Chow Piya of Ligore, certainly, and that the Rajah [is] in charge of the Country and that he has not power to negotiate upon important business, but say that he must represent all to the Chow Piya of Ligore.

When that English Agent waits on the Rajah let the Rajah of Perak speak with firmness; that there may be no dissention and the business be settled at once. All the circumstances have been confided to Nakoda Mahomet and the Rajah of Perak will consult with him upon every thing relating to this business, in order that there may be no variation on the road of prosperity of the business of the powerful King of Siam and the Chow Piya of Ligore, so that it may be favorable to the King of Perak.

With respect to what is stated above, let the Rajah of Perak reply that the Country of Perak has

been transferred to the Chow Piya of Ligore and that he wishes to obtain a good name from the great King of Siam, and in order that the Country may be secured to the Rajah of Perak to remain Rajah and to descend to his family as before. Do not let the Rajah of Perak entertain suspicion, for the Chow Piya of Ligore entertains real favor for him and he will request the great King to confer great honor upon him, so that his name may be famous amongst all Malayan Countries.

Dated 29th Dalhayah, Saturday 1240 or 15th August 1825.

(The foregoing Translation is as literal as possible.)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator.

Copy of a rough draft of a Commission drafted by the Malay Writer to the Malay Translator, which was not approved, and was laid aside—translated as follows.

I the Honble. Robert Fullerton, Governor of Palo Penang and its dependencies, make known to my friends, to the King of Perak and the King of Salangore and all other Chiefs, that I send as my Agent Mr. John Anderson, to represent me and wait on the Kings of Perak and Salangore, and other Chiefs, for the purpose of giving them good counsel and settling everything agreeably to propriety amongst all parties, in order that friendship may be fully established and a good understanding prolonged, so that union may remain as long as the Sun and Moon may endure. I request that my friends will place confidence in my Agent and give attention to his advice, with sincerity and that they will receive him with respect and kindness as my agent in order that good will may continue.

True Copy.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.
My. Translator.

TRANSLATION of an Engagement of His Majesty Paduka Sri Sultan Abdullah Ma-alum Shah who is seated on the Royal Throne of the Perak Country given to Mr. John Anderson, Agent to the Honble. Robert Fullerton, Governor of Pulo Penang, on behalf of the Honble. English East India Company, as a token of lasting Alliance and friendship, which can never be changed so long as the Sun and Moon shall endure—in order that friendship and union may be prolonged and continued from this day forth, for ever.


ARTICLE 1st. His Majesty the King of Perak hereby agrees to fix the boundary between the States of Perak and Salangore at the River Burnam, and there shall be no encroachment on either side and His Majesty engages not to interfere in the Government of Salangore nor will he send any Armament into that Country, the subjects of Perak however being permitted to proceed thither for commercial purposes, conforming to the established rules and customs of other traders there frequenting.

ARTICLE 2d. With respect to the agreement entered into between His Majesty the King of Salangore and Mr. John Anderson, Agent to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang, providing for the removal of Rajah Hassan from the Perak Country and its dependencies; the King of Perak is well pleased with this arrangement. He engages not to receive Rajah Hassan nor permit him to return to any part of the Perak territory. His Majesty the King of Perak also engages that he will not grant a monopoly or entrust the Collection of the revenues in future to any other, in order that there may be no further disturbances in the Country, and he has hereby fixed the duty on the Tin exported from the Perak Country at 6 Dollars Per Bahar, in order that the Commerce of the Kingdom

may be thrown open and extended, that population may be increased, that all traders may be encouraged to resort to Perak such as the subjects of the English Government, the Siamese, Salangore and others, and that they may be enabled to carry on an intercourse with ease and satisfaction and be at liberty to resort to all the ports, settlements and rivers within the State to trade without any interruption for ever.

This engagement is hereby made and to it is affixed [as] a token of its validity the Chop of his Majesty the King of Perak and it is delivered to Mr. John Anderson, Agent to the Honble. Robert Fullerton, Governor of Pulo Penang.

This paper written on the 6th day of September 1825 of the English Year, and on the 20th day of Moharram, Monday in the Year of the Hejirah 1241.




CHOP of
PADUKA SRI
SULTAN ABDULLAH
King of Perak.

(True Copy)

(Sd.) JOHN ANDERSON
P. A.

TRANSLATION of a letter from His Majesty Paduka Sri Sultan Abdullah King of Perak to the Honorable Robert Fullerton Esqr. Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)



CHOP of
PADUKA SRI
SULTAN ABDULLAH
King of Perak.

With respect to the letter which was brought by my friend's Agent, Mr. John Anderson, it has reached me and I received it with the customary form. All that is therein written I fully understand respecting Mr. John Anderson settling the differences between Salangore and this Country, consequent upon the negotiations of my friend with the Chow Piya of Ligore which are very satisfactory, my heart is full and entirely gratified with the result of Mr. John Anderson's proceedings.

As to Rajah Hassan he has ordered him to quit this my territory, and the boundary between Perak and Salangore has been fixed at the River Burnam, agreeably to former Custom.

With respect to the engagement between the Chow Piya of Ligore and my friend, I have also seen and understood it. Concerning the Boongha Mas I have sent it twice, and if it be considered proper I will prepare and send it again as a token of remembrance on my part to the King of Siam, for I am a very insignificant man and am under great apprehensions. On this my friend is better able to judge respecting every thing connected with the business. Such is my representation.

Dated 22d Moharram, Monday 1241, or 5th September 1825.

A True Translation.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.

My. Translator.

TRANSLATION of a paper sent to Rajah Hassan at Kwala Bidor by John Anderson, Agent to the Governor of Pulo Penang, at Rantau Panjang in the Perak Country.



SEAL

Sd. John Anderson,
Pl. Agent.

I, John Anderson, Agent to the Honble. Robert Fullerton, Governor of Pulo Penang and its dependencies, by virtue of the powers vested in him by the Honorable East India Company, whose seal is hereto affixed, hereby give notice to Tuanko Rajah Hassan, that I have finally adjusted and settled all the points of difference between the Chow Piya of Ligore, the King of Salangora, and the King of Perak, and conformably to the orders of the Honorable the Governor of Pulo Penang and the Engagements which have been entered into with the several Chiefs above named it becomes my duty to intimate to Rajah Hassan with truth and propriety, that he must quit the Perak territory with haste, in order that there may be no further differences, and that discussion may not be prolonged.

Written the 23d. day of Moharram 1241, or 6th September 1825.

A True Copy

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

P. A.

TRANSLATION of a letter from Tuanko Rajah Hassan to Mr. John Anderson, Agent to the Governor of Pulo Penang.

Rajah Hassan presents many compliments to our friend Mr. John Anderson, and acquaints him that his letter has reached him in safety. With respect to our friend's order to remove, it is well, and we cannot intrude by asking a little delay from our friend. Our friend however will consider towards us, for all things are not ready. When our friend Mr. Anderson descends the river, we are anxious to meet him and represent all circumstances. We present many compliments to our friend.

Dated 23d. Moharram Tuesday 1241 or 6th September 1825.

True Translations

(Signed) J. A.

My. Translator.

True Copies

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Political Agent to Perak &
Salangore.

ORDERED that a Copy be furnished to Captain Burney and that the report do lay over for consideration.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 103,
pp. 11481-1253.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 29 September 1825.

SEPARATE.

READ the following letter from the Political Agent to the Siamese States, submitting observations on Mr. Anderson's Report recorded on the Proceedings of last Council.

POLL. AGENT to the SIAMESE STATES.

Political Agent
to the Siamese
States.

Prince of Wales Island
19 September 1825.

To
THE HONORABLE R. FULLERTON Esquire
Governor &c. &c. &c.

Honorable Sir,

Mr. Anderson's Reports of his Mission to Salangore and Perak appearing to me to require certain explanations from me, I solicit permission to submit them for your consideration, before you determine upon the course of measures which it may be now expedient to adopt with respect to our political relations in this neighbourhood

I have the misfortune to differ from Mr. Anderson. We agree however as to the necessity of preventing the extension of Siamese Dominion to the southward, and he has proved what I had hoped, that the British Government will have no difficulty in persuading the Chiefs of Salangore and Perak to come to any measures that it may propose to this end. Indeed, I never entertained any doubt as to this point. I only feared how far my superiors would approve of the policy of entering into closer relations with these petty States.

I submit Mr. Anderson's reports give rather too favorable a picture of the old Chief of Salangore, who

has long been known to be deeply concerned with Pirates, and on whose veracity I should not be disposed to place implicit credit. "Of all the Malayan States on the Peninsula, the Government of Salangore," as described by Mr. Crawford, "labours under the heaviest *Mala Fama* on the score of piracy, man stealing, manslaughter and similar peccadillos of the Code of Malayan morals." It is also some months since we were told by the same competent authority "The Pirates of the Illanous are widely extended, being carried on all the way from their Native Country (Island of Magindanus) to the Spice Islands on one side, and to the Straits of Malacca on the other. In these last indeed they have formed within the last two years two permanent establishments, one of these situated on Sumatra near Indragiri, is called Ritti, and the other a small island on the Coast of Linga is named Salangut." I beg to question therefore the truth of the Chief of Salangore's denial of all knowledge of the Lanoon boats, and I may add that from information received at this Island, the pirates to the Southward were termed Lanoons by me, and not, as supposed by Mr. Anderson, by the Chief of Ligore, who, I presume, never heard of such a race.

It appears that Mr. Anderson could have obtained from Salangore, if he had pressed the point, the pecuniary compensation which we are pledged to pay to the Chief of Ligore, on account of the forty Boats he lost at Perak. During my negotiations at Queda, I found it absolutely necessary to win over Che Hat, and the other principal advisers of the Ligore Chief, by holding out to them some prospect of personal advantage in my plan of arrangement. I refused to take any notice of the great value, as declared by them, of the contents of the Boats, naturally conceiving that the whole was *stolen property*. But I thought I should be justified in estimating the value of the 40 Boats and their appointments only at 2,000 Dollars, and to this sum, therefore, I limited the

amount of compensation. It is not the Chow Pya, but his followers who will benefit by that payment, and I must leave it to you Honorable Sir, to determine from Mr. Anderson's Report, whether the Boats were not taken by Salangore, whoever might have seized their contents. The British Government, I should think, cannot listen to the statement, that it is not the Chief of Salangore, but his son and heir apparent, Raja Daula, who shared in the booty, or who is connected with the mal-practices to the Southward. Our duty and policy must be, I submit, to teach the Malay Chiefs, that we shall hold them responsible for whatever trespasses their sons and adherents may commit against the tranquillity of States and security of trade.

As for the poor Chief of Perak, it is evident that no dependence can be placed on any thing that he may say or do, unless we adopt some more determinate measures for his protection; and indeed without entering into positive alliances of an offensive and defensive character with him and the other Malayan Chiefs, I do not see how we can exercise the right of supporting their independence. Neither of Mr. Anderson's Agreements comprise this great point of raising up a barrier against Siamese Conquest to the Southward. If the Court of Siam refuse to ratify my Agreement with the Chief of Ligore, and determine upon prosecuting its views against Perak and Salangore, I do not observe in the present engagements with those States, such a pledge of protection on our part, as would afford us a right and title wherewith to oppose the Siamese.

I am happy to state that Mr. Crawford in a communication which I have lately received from him, "agrees with me entirely in considering it quite hopeless to get the Siamese by Treaty to yield up their supremacy over the Malayan States, but thinks that if an alliance, offensive and defensive,

were entered into with those States, Patani excepted, which is in a great measure peopled by Siamese, the *prudent* Government of Bangkok would pocket the affront." I apprehend then that my best course at Siam will be to endeavour to persuade the Government as a measure absolutely necessary, in order to prevent all chance of dispute, between its Southern States, and our Settlements of Penang, Malacca and Singapore, to draw a line of demarcation for the Southern boundary of its Empire, without going into any discussion as to its right of Supremacy over Kalantan, Tringano and Perak. If possible, I shall certainly seek, as instructed by you to have this line drawn from Patani to the River Trang or Oapih. But in the event of my failing to effect the removal of the Siamese from Quedah, I trust, Honorable Sir, you will perceive that the question of Siamese dominion, as far as Quedah is concerned, is widely different, and for the following reasons, from that which bears on Perak, Kalantan and Tringano.

With respect to the last mentioned States, the British Government has never absolutely recognized the right of Siam to control them, whilst their inhabitants remain in general unmolested and free. Here, then, we are at full liberty to interfere as much as may be necessary for securing a continuance of the present state of things, and this may be done I am confident without the chance of our being called upon to undertake active Military operations. With respect to Quedah, however, the great mischief has already been done. The Country throughout is in the occupation of the Siamese. We have publicly acknowledged their right of interfering with it. The Inhabitants for the most part have been driven out, and many of them forced to adopt a life of Piracy, from which it will perhaps be impossible to reclaim them, whilst the only respectable Chiefs and Ministers of the former

Malayan Government have been destroyed. Under such circumstances therefore and adverting particularly to the imbecile character of the King of Queda, unsupported as he would be by any such men as his deceased Bindahara, Laxamana and Tomongong, it has often been a matter of doubt to me, whether the restoration of His Highness is an object much to be desired, or at least one for which we should make any important sacrifice.

Were the point once settled against His Highness, we might make a general arrangement highly advantageous to ourselves. There would be no difficulty, as I before submitted, in forming offensive and defensive alliances with Kalantan on the one side, and Perak on the other, for precluding the further progress of Siam on the Malayan Peninsula. There would be no difficulty also, I have reason to believe, in persuading the Chief of Ligore to enter into engagements with us, for confining himself within Queda and Patani, for securing to us a more free and liberal trade and intercourse with every part of Queda and the adjoining Siamese territories than what we have ever possessed; and lastly for providing some Annual Stipend out of the Revenues of Queda to be paid to the King by the Chief of Ligore. This last stipulation would not only save us some expence, but maintain the point of honor, which many consider as engaged to support the interests of the King of Queda. But such an arrangement as this could never be carried into full effect, so long as His Highness continued to live at this Island or his friends and partisans to exasperate the Chief of Ligore's natural distrust and jealousy. And this brings me to notice the most unpleasant portion of Mr. Anderson's reports.

I am by no means surprized at the contents of the letters addressed by Luang Packdee to the Chief

of Perak. I only wonder under all circumstances that these Documents do not tell more against the Chief of Ligore. Unhappily a violent degree of personal animosity exists against Mr. Anderson in the breast of that Chief, who in July made many complaints to me, and again in August, in the presence of Mr. Maingy, used such language as obliged us both to check him. His principal charge was, that the Malay Translator had said and done every thing to provoke a War between the Siamese and this Government, and no explanation on my part would induce the Chief to disbelieve what his Envoys and Malay friends had told him. Hence, when he heard that Mr. Anderson had proceeded to Perak and Salangore, he suspected, as I discovered on my second visit, that he had been deceived, and that he would suffer in reputation to the Southward. I presume then, that it was to save his character in some measure with Perak, to which he had before transmitted many vaunting declarations, and to protect himself as he believed, against the Malay Translator's representations, he ordered explanations to be written to Perak. The language in which they are made proves them to be the composition of one of those mischievous Malays, who have been so active in fomenting all the late misunderstandings. The expression making obeisance to the soles of the Royal Slippers, is peculiarly Mahometan, and so little in character of a Siamese, from whom the letters purport to be, that I strongly suspect the writer intended them to be seen by us. A reference to the forged Chops and Letters which were discovered at Acheen in 1819, will shew that the Malays are very expert in this mode of doing mischief. It is to be regretted Mr. Anderson did not take charge of the Original letters, as the possession of them, whenever authenticated would give us considerable advantage in any further discussion with the Chief of Ligore.

But Mr. Anderson apprehends, that this Chief still meditates interference with the Government of Perak. Of course he does, and will continue to do so, until we avail ourselves of the power, which we now possess, of entering into such an alliance with Perak, as may preclude Siamese interference altogether. I distinctly showed in my report of the 1st of August, that the Chow Pya considered Perak as a Siamese tributary, that I had denied it, and had only been able to wave the discussion, without settling the matter either way. My agreement however was so drawn out, as to afford our Agent to Perak the means of precluding by express treaty with its Chief, the interference of the Chow Pya of Ligore with the Country and Government of Perak on any pretence. At Quedah I could never have prevailed on the Chow Pya to resign by Treaty all Siamese right of Supremacy over Perak. I contented myself with preventing the force which he had prepared from proceeding to that Country and destroying it, and with securing to ourselves the *right* of attacking any Detachment of Siamese Armed Men or Boats that we might find to the Southward, and I conceived it would rest with our Negotiator at Perak, to devise means for precluding Siamese interference in the many other forms in which it may be attempted. Unless therefore, some further measures than those adopted by Mr. Anderson be concerted with both Salangore and Perak, it is manifest, as that Gentleman fears, that the whole of his labours will especially benefit the Chow Pya of Ligore, and that His Highness will have made us the Agents in securing to himself an easy and undisturbed control over the Government of Perak. The Chief of that Country is evidently surrounded by factious Chiefs and intriguing Subjects, and unless we engage with him by Treaty not to admit of Siamese interference with his Government, the Emissaries of Ligore will of course continue to alarm and direct him, and the Chow Pya of Ligore to seek to establish Siamese control through their Agency.

I am sorry Mr. Anderson should suppose that my notice of Che Etam in my report of the 1st August, rendered it "incumbent upon him to make a few remarks *in reply*." I can assure you Honble. Sir, that in that report I studiously abstained from stating many things, that would have proved the incorrectness of Malayan Spies and Informers, and the extraordinary credulity of some minds. I wish to adopt the same course on the present occasion, although there are many points on which I could tender explanation. Whether the Malay Translator returns the feelings which the Chow Pya of Ligore entertains against him, as the Chow Pya himself imagines from the reports, I believe, of Che Etam, the Honorable Board can best determine, from observation of that Gentleman's conduct and reports. I must again beg to state as I submitted in April last, that I do not propose to set myself up as an Apologist for the Siamese Chief. The Malay Translator has never once seen him. I have now visited him several times, and all I ask in his favor, is a little exercise of liberality. I have reported of him only that which I have seen and heard myself, and I am perfectly indifferent whether my superiors finally determine upon treating him as a friend or foe. In the mean time, I would only beg to protest against the plan of putting the worst possible construction on every thing said or done by the Chief of Ligore, and the best on whatever may come from a Malay Chief or Informer.

In conclusion I may state that the fact of small Boats coasting close along the shore, and running into some of the numberless creeks and rivers at the first appearance of bad weather, cannot surely be produced as a proof, that large War Boats may voyage with the same ease during this Monsoon, when the weather cannot be depended upon for two hours together, and when such efficient Vessels as

the Honble. Company's Schooner Zephyr part from their Anchors whilst lying off the Coast.

How far Mr. Anderson's predictions have been verified I do not know, but I submit that all political predictions are extremely hazardous, and that a habit of using or making such must preclude the exercise of a cool and dispassionate judgment on any question, in which the party predicted against is concerned.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Captn.
Political Agent to
the Siamese States.

THE above having been referred to Mr. Anderson, the following explanatory letter from that Gentleman is recorded.

Political Agent
to Perak and
Salangore dated
21 September
1825.

POLL. AGENT to PERAK and SALANGORE.

To

The Honorable Robert Fullerton Esquire,
Governor, &c. &c. &c.

Honorable Sir,

I must claim permission respectfully to offer some reply to the letter of the Political Agent to the Siamese States of the 19 Instant. I must leave Captain Burney to reconcile to his own mind the style of the present letter, with his private communications to me. I cannot perceive to what good object such an intemperate effusion will tend. Such a latitude of animadversion and so querulous a disposition on the part of a Subordinate Officer, will be best appreciated by Government.

I naturally inferred that the style and tenor of the letters from the Minister of the Chow Piya of Ligore to the King of Perak would excite disagreeable feelings in Captain Burney's mind. I did not consider it optional with me to withhold from the inspection of Government documents of such importance, as giving a clear insight into the views and policy of the Chow Piya of Ligore, in respect to Perak. These letters came officially before me, there was no doubt of their authenticity; they bore the large Chop and were in the handwriting of Che Hat, who is so frequently mentioned by Captain Burney as the Chow Piya's Confidential Secretary. A few days after my return from the late Mission, Captain Burney called upon me, and perused the letters, with the aid of my writers. He then admitted that they were very characteristic of the Chow Piya and that the expressions were indubitably Siamese. I have not seen him since, and must own that the letter put into my hands yesterday surprized me very much.

In alluding to the letters Captain Burney terms them "the most unpleasant portion of Mr. Anderson's report." It would be a waste of words to prove all the inconsistencies in the letter to which I am now replying. It is fortunate that in administering the poison, he also provides an antidote. In one part he attempts to prove, by reference to forged Chops at Acheen in 1819, that the letters of which I have produced translations, are the "composition of some mischievous Malays" and in the same breath, he admits that they were written by the Chow Piya of Ligore's orders, to obviate any possible deception on my part; insinuations both extremely complimentary to me. He says, "hence when he "heard that Mr. Anderson had proceeded to Perak "and Salangore, he suspected, as I discovered on "my second visit, that he had been deceived and "that he would suffer in reputation to the South-ward I presume then that it was to save his "character in some measure with Perak to which "he had transmitted many vaunting declarations, "and to protect himself, as he believed, against the "Malay Translator's representations, he ordered "explanations to be written to Perak." How can Captain Burney reconcile such contradictions? The reputation and character of the Chow Piya are too well established to be affected by any thing the Malay Translator could urge.

Captain Burney omits to notice in what particular respect the Chow Piya of Ligore anticipated deception; it would seem indeed, from the sequel of his report, that I have not proved such an adept as he would have had me be. Had I attended to his verbal suggestions, I should assuredly have laid myself more open to the imputation. If a little sagacity and penetration in prying into the real views of the Chow Piya and perceiving what is conducive to the interest of my employers and the welfare of the neighbouring Malay States, gives

me a title to such *honorable* distinction on the part of His Highness, I am content to receive it. I remember when Captain Burney first communicated your intention of requiring my Services to proceed to Perak and Salangore, he was pleased to ascribe to me very great influence with the Malays and said many civil things on that head.

With respect to the letters, I have only to state that the originals, corresponding in the writing and other respects with those received from the Chow Piya, were handed to me by the King of Perak in open assembly; were in my possession 24 hours and copied and carefully examined by two writers. I have been Malay Translator to Government several years, and have been sent upon three Missions. I have not yet been proved such a dupe as Captain Burney would have it believed. It will be for Government to determine whether the letters do not bear the genuine marks of authenticity in all respects. I fear indeed, the King entrusted to me more than he should have done consistently with prudence; and I have reason to know that it was so suggested to him by his Minister, after he had given me the letters and hence he has the greater claim to consideration. He is not aware that I made Copies of them.

I do not count it any misfortune, as Captain Burney does, that he and I differ widely in several points, when I observe that my opinions are not discordant with equally good authority. I have the satisfaction of perceiving that my general sentiments on the question are in unison with those of such public officers as Mr. Maingy and Captain Low, both of whom have had sufficient opportunities of forming a correct estimate of the Chow Piya's character, nor is it matter of surprize that his Highness should regard me with no very

friendly feeling. It must be remembered that I have long been the Interpreter when the late Governor and yourself have had occasion to make some severe observations to the Envoys and I have been the translator of some strong letters of remonstrance; yet his Highness has condescended to write me Civil Letters, to send me presents, to desire his Envoys to enquire about the health of my Children, to invite me to Kedah, saying that next to yourself, I was the person he was most desirous of transacting business with &c. If Captain Burney's assertion be true, that "unhappily a violent degree of personal animosity exists against Mr. Anderson in the breast of that Chief," the circumstance only tends to afford another proof of the insincerity of the Chow Piya—a failing in which he has been so often convicted by the late Governor, Mr. Maingy, Captain Low and others. Captain Burney's own reports are so replete with contradictions, and various plans, that I own I am really unable to form a decided opinion, either [as] to his real estimate of the Chow Piya's character, his own views of policy, or the objects he aims at by negotiation.

The Chow Piya has alternately vented his abuse upon Captain Low, Mr. Maingy and Captain Burney himself, and I cannot be surprised that I am not permitted to escape. I acknowledge myself to be friendly to the simple and oppressed Malays and I esteem it one of the most flattering distinctions of my public life that the Chow Piya has ascribed to me such penetration. It has assuredly been my anxious care to watch his proceedings and to collect the earliest intelligence of his designs. A weighty responsibility attached to me. My information has been submitted to Government, but Captain Burney forgets that while he seeks to criminate me, he is in fact presuming to animadvert upon the deliberative proceedings and acts of Government.

(* sic.)

He has a much greater stake at issue than I have. My office is not dependent upon the continuance of description * with the Siamese. He has a lucrative appointment entirely dependent upon the settlement of this unhappy business and he has been now engaged 10 months. How much longer the adjustment of differences may be delayed it is impossible for me to predict.

I rejoice to find that after being compelled from a sense of duty, to say so much in disparagement of the King of Salangore, Captain Burney thinks I have not been sufficiently severe. I do not perceive what benefit would be gained by my indulging in invective against an old Chief, worn down with years, who has been on terms of friendly alliance with the British Govt. upwards of half a century. I would recommend Captain Burney to peruse my reports with more attention. He is obliged to have recourse to an extract from the Singapore Chronicle (tho' he quotes the opinion as Mr Crawford's) to do away with any little favorable impression which my report may have excited. He gives another extract from the same paper to prove that there are such pirates as *Lanoons*, which all the world knows, but that extract is quite out of the record.

Captain Burney says "it appears Mr Anderson could have obtained from Salangore, if he had pressed the point, the pecuniary compensation which we are pledged to pay." In what part of my report does Captain Burney find such an assurance? I distinctly stated that I left that point open for negotiation. I believe indeed that the King of Salangore has such a respect for the English and such a dread of their power that he would yield up his Crown, *if pressed*, but as his explanation relative to the seizure of the Siamese prows did not seem to warrant my insisting upon that point, I contented myself by following your orders and submitting the explanation obtained.

The Political Agent says "I found it absolutely necessary to win over Che Hat and the other principal advisers of the Ligore Chief by holding out to them some prospect of personal advantage in my plan of arrangement. I refused to take notice of the great value as declared by them, of the contents of the boats, naturally conceiving that the *whole* was *stolen property*. It is not the Chow Piya but his followers who will benefit by that payment." This puts the matter quite in a new light. Captain Burney's former report gives me no insight into this mystery. My conception of this is that it was deemed necessary to give a handsome douceur to Che Hat for writing the Treaty which was brought about mainly by him, and to promote his private interests at the expence of his Master. I have always been instructed to consider it derogatory to the dignity and character of the British Government to gain any objects of political importance by bribing inferior servants. Captain Burney, from his frequent allusion to the efficacy of presents, seems to rest all his success upon an incessant and endless presentation of gifts.

Mr. Crawford's opinion on this head is excellent. "They (the Siamese) are mercenary beggars from the highest to the lowest. A man well disposed to us at Bangkok asked my Interpreter one day if I had expended all my presents. I had not, but to elicit his opinion, the Interpreter said I had. The reply was "then it is all over with you" This requires little comment. If the attachment of the Siamese is to be gained by such means only, or rather if their civility is to be procured only by such a practice and their respect rest upon such unsound a foundation, there will be but little security, a continual expence and outlay will be necessary to keep them in good humour and we shall be regarded as tribute bearers. Surely the British Government does not court the friendship of

the Siamese at such an expence. Captain Burney attributed much of his success at Poongah to conciliating with money and presents a native of the Coromandel Coast in the employ of the Pya. A liberal interchange of presents is conformable to the practice of most Asiatic States but to rest the success of weighty political measures upon the quantum of presents offered and to substitute valuable gifts for argument and authority is a poor resource. If it be desirable and just to make a liberal allowance to the Siamese for any concession on their part, it would be far preferable in my opinion, to come to a clear understanding at once and make a fixed money payment.

The treaty made by Captain Burney does not absolutely pledge the payment of 2,000 Drs.—it pledges only negotiation; but the duration of that negotiation is not limited and very little time has yet been lost. Your Instructions on this head were, “in respect to the demand for compensation for the “destruction of the Ligore fleet, some explanation “must be given before any decisive opinion can be “formed by the Government;” and again “it “must be held in mind that we are proceeding only “upon the assertion of one of the parties in “dispute.” I submitted the Information obtained. It rests with the superior judgement of Government to determine what further steps shall be taken. The demand has not been waved; the subject is as open for negotiation as it was a month ago. Rajah Daula is not the heir apparent of Salangore, as stated by Captain Burney. That officer does not allude to the treaty between Perak and Salangore and prior rights, rights respected by the Government of Penang many years before the Siamese claimed the Boonga Mas from Perak. He passes over without notice all the arguments of importance.

There can be but one opinion upon the participation of the King of Salangore in the expulsion of the Siamese from Perak. It is acknowledged on all sides, that a fleet of prows from Salangore under the command of the Rajah Moodah or heir apparent and Rajah Daula did proceed to Perak and that the old King himself followed immediately after. It is also stated that some skirmishing did take place; some of the booty perhaps and at all events some of the prows must have fallen into the possession of the Salangore people. This also is stated by the King and Chiefs of Perak. The King of Salangore denies having participated in the plunder; it was incumbent upon me to communicate his denial to Government. He has since repeated it in a letter. The question then is, is he not responsible for the acts of his sons? It may also be enquired how far he was justified by prior treaty to expell the Siamese and whether Che Hat had any right to be at Perak at all. All these are points to be considered. My own impression is that it would be very satisfactory if the Chow Pya could be persuaded to wave this demand altogether; but if you, Honorable Sir, are of opinion that the Rajah of Salangore should be required to pay the Two Thousand 2,000 Dollars as the price of his relief from the Siamese interference, I dare say he would comply with your requisition. Whether he is guilty to the extent stated by the Siamese or not is impossible for me to say. He will not, at all events, admit it. I always understood and it is so stated in my Pamphlet, that the force from Salangore had expelled the Siamese. The additional particulars furnished by the Perak Chiefs give us a clearer insight into the matter.

As to an offensive and defensive alliance with Perak and Salangore, however pleased I might have been to have entered into such an engagement, I had no authority to do so. I was reminded by you that "our mediation for the present is amicable only and

“ was cautioned to abstain from any expression or
 “ declaration which would ultimately commit us to the
 “ necessity of the more severe measures of Military
 “ interference ” and I was directed to enter into a
 negotiation with the King of Perak “ submitting the
 “ result before any definitive arrangement be made.”

The second Article of Captain Burney's treaty provides that “ the Governor of Ligore engages that no
 “ Siamese force by land or water shall proceed to
 “ Perak or settle in that Country. ” Although I have
 not by a formal engagement pledged the Government;
 I led the King to expect the intervention of the
 British Government, and I have provided for the non
 interference of the Siamese by obtaining an engage-
 ment stipulating for the freedom of trade and naviga-
 tion to the English as well as others, a fixed duty and
 established boundary, and the Kings have been re-
 cognized and treated as Sovereigns and independent
 Princes. I flatter myself enough has been done to
 secure every proper and legitimate object for the
 present. It rests only with the Chow Piya of Ligore
 to fulfil his part of the engagement, by returning to his
 own Country and disbanding his Armament and
 refraining from sending any men to Perak ; the Kings
 of Salangore and Perak will, I trust, perform what they
 have pledged.

It is not absolutely necessary in my view, for this
 Government to enter into specific engagements with
 the Chiefs of Perak and Salangore, formally guaran-
 teeing their independence. It may be enough that a
 communication of the determination of the British
 Government to uphold the independence of these
 States, which have never yet been regarded in any
 other light than as independent, be made to the Chow
 Piya of Ligore. I have not, by a formal writing, in-
 volved the Government in any pledge to support this ;
 but nothing has been conceded to the Siamese by me.
 This Government has denied the right of the Siamese

to supremacy over Perak, and Captain Burney's treaty, as he observes, gives a right to prevent the Rajah of Ligore from sending any force to remain at Perak. Had I given the King of Perak a formal recognition of independence in the face of Captain Burney's report it is probable the Chow Piya's indignation against me would have been raised to an extreme pitch. When he observes however a determination to prevent his interference with Perak, he will I hope, abandon his views. Had I been vested with the authority, it would have been a most easy and gratifying duty to have entered into offensive and defensive alliances, which Captain Burney seems to think I should have done, although the tenor of his report and your instructions do not contemplate such objects from my deputation. I must own that I was solicited to give a written pledge, but does Captain Burney think I would have presumed to run headlong into such an engagement without your orders. I am perfectly aware of the caution which has hitherto been used and the circumspection necessary on such a point. The Chow Piya upon your remonstrance made through Mr. Maingy and by letter engaged to abandon his hostile enterprise to the Southward and to disband his forces. Captain Burney's treaty was a repetition of that engagement, but he pledged certain conditions which were not foreseen. The Chow Pya engaged to return to Ligore in 20 days—upwards of 50 have already expired and he is still at Kedah.

I must claim some little credit for the opinion expressed in Captain Burney's letter as being jointly that of himself and Mr. Crawford viz: that the Siamese Government would pocket the affront of our declaring the independence of the Malay States. In the pamphlet which I had the honor of submitting, I have repeatedly stated such to be my conviction and that all negotiation for their regular cession would be in vain. I am happy to find that on this, which is the main point, we entirely agree.

But after such a declaration, I lament to observe that Captain Burney doubts the expediency of the restoration of the *Malayan Government of Kedah*, to effect which, was, as far as my recollection serves me, the primary object of his appointment as Political Agent. If, as he seems to have done, he has abandoned as hopeless, the interests of our ally and adopted sentiments so much at variance with the oft-recorded views of this Government, any argument of mine, after all that has been said and done upon this important subject by more competent authority, would be futile and useless. I think I may with equal truth ascribe to him feelings towards the Siamese very much akin to those he attributes to me in favor of the Malays. In all his reports, Captain Burney has never omitted to animadvert severely upon the Ex-King of Kedah. In the present letter he is called "imbecile"—the King of Perak "a poor weak man" and the King of Salangore "a pirate" and everything that is bad. As Captain Burney says of the Chow Piya—Captain Burney has not seen the Kings of Perak and Salangore; "I have. I only ask a little liberality." I have the advantage however of being acquainted with the language and character of the people for whom I am accused of partiality, while his acquaintance with the people of Ligore is but of recent origin. I have been always led to believe that conciliation and kindness and a ready access are consonant with the wishes of the Honorable Court in the intercourse of their Servants with the Natives, and if I have been fortunate enough in attaching the several Malay Chiefs to the British Government and myself personally I must be content to bear the reproach which the Chow Pya seeks to attach to me.

In another Para. of his letter Captain Burney argues in favor of yielding up to the Chow Piya of Ligore the full and unqualified right to the pos-

session of Kedah, which has hitherto been the main object of contention and all the expensive negotiations of this Government. The bias on Captain Burney's mind cannot be mistaken when he hints at the removal of the King of Kedah from this Island and accepting on his part a pecuniary compensation from the Rajah of Ligore!! This is entirely a novel plan. It is not long since he contended for our right to drive the Siamese out and he now urges the complete right of the Chow Piya, a right which if ever acknowledged at all by Government, Captain Burney himself was mainly instrumental in conceding. It will be for you, Honorable Sir, to decide how far such suggestions as are now submitted, may be consonant with your instructions and the object of Captain Burney's appointment.

The Chow Piya charges me, according to Captain Burney's statement, with provoking a war between the Siamese and this Government. I may perhaps be charged with provoking the rupture at Mergui and the hostile designs of the Siamese in other quarters, because I long since predicted that they were not to be trusted and that they would never be induced to aid us against the Burmahs. If a conscientious desire on my part to anticipate any possible evil designs of the Siamese and a zealous furtherance of the views of Government for the attainment of the important objects contemplated by you and the Supreme Government render me liable to the imputation, I must submit to the accusation. What is the interpretation of the following para. of Captain Burney's report dated 1st August, but that he anticipates something like hostilities and he prides himself upon having secured a fair plea for using force. He says "this Treaty gives us a *right* which we certainly did not possess before of preventing Siamese troops and war boats from proceeding to Perak and Salengore, and this I consider to be the great point gained." Does not Captain Burney anticipate the necessity of

recourse to arms when he says that he contented himself with "securing to ourselves the *right of attacking any detachment of Siamese armed men or boats that we might find to the Southward.*"

And in his late letter he says "but Mr. Anderson apprehends that this Chief still meditates interference with the Government of Perak. Of course he does and will continue to do so, until we avail ourselves of the power which we now possess of entering into such an alliance with Perak as may preclude Siamese interference altogether. I distinctly showed in my report of the 1st August that the Chow Piya considered Perak as a Siamese tributary—that I had denied it, and had only been able to wave the discussion, without settling the matter either way. My agreement however was so drawn out, as to afford our Agent to Perak the means of precluding by express treaty with its Chief, the interference of the Chow Piya of Ligore with the Country and Government of Perak on any pretence." There was nothing in Captain Burney's report leading to any such inference. If, as he says, we now possess by virtue of his treaty, the right of preventing the Chow Piya going to Perak what more is required? So far from Captain Burney being impressed with any such sentiments as he has now expressed relative to the independence of Perak, when I sailed, *he repeatedly reminded me of the absolute necessity of obtaining an engagement from the King to transmit the Boonga Mas!!* How can he contend that it was designed I should formally declare the independence of Perak, when he states in his report dated 1st August "His Highness desired much to introduce in the treaty a clause respecting the transmission of the Boonga Mas to Siam on the part of Perak, and I had much difficulty in preventing its introduction. I observed however that if the Rajah of Perak engaged and was willing to send such a *token of vassalage* to Siam, the British Government would not prevent it."

In the present letter he says " At Quedah I could
 " never have prevailed on the Chow Piya to resign by
 " treaty all Siamese right of Supremacy over Perak."
 What then does Captain Burney mean by the preceding observations, but to find fault with me for not exceeding my instructions and practising that very deception which the Chow Piya ascribes to me. Captain Burney's treaty provides only as far as respects Perak for the removal of Rajah Hassan and the establishment of a defined boundary. Captain Burney remarks " unless therefore some further
 " measures than those adopted by Mr. Anderson
 " be concerted with both Salengore and Perak, it is
 " manifest, as that Gentleman infers, that the
 " whole of his labours will especially benefit the
 " Chow Piya of Ligore only and that His Highness
 " will have made us the Agents in securing to himself an easy and undisturbed control over the
 " Government of Perak. The Chief of that Country
 " is evidently surrounded by factious Chiefs and
 " intriguing subjects and unless we engage with
 " him by treaty not to admit of Siamese interference with his Government, the emissaries of
 " Ligore will of course continue to alarm and direct
 " him and the Chow Piya of Ligore to seek to
 " establish Siamese control through their Agency." The King as I have stated, has no power, though he has every inclination to resist Siamese interference ; such an engagement, had I made it, would have in the *present state of affairs* endangered the personal safety of the King, exasperated the Chow Piya of Ligore and in the face of Captain Burney's pacific reports and proceedings, justly exposed me to the imputation of deception. How can a gentleman of Captain Burney's age and experience permit himself to argue so inconsistently.

With respect to my returning the feelings which the Chow Piya is said to entertain for me, it is quite superfluous to say more in my own favor

than that I have no personal acquaintance with him and have never seen him, consequently our animosity must be founded on public grounds. His Highness is a principal—I am only a subordinate Agent or the organ of conveying the orders of my superiors, and I trust it will be no discredit to me, if I have performed my duty with firmness. I have been a mere Translator and Interpreter, but I have, like every other public officer, formed my opinions of His Highness from his proceedings and correspondence.

Captain Burney alludes to the credulity of some minds. I have had reason to remark this failing too. That Officer made it appear in one of his early reports that the Chow Piya had been persuaded to come across to meet him, agreeable to his requisition. We have seen for what object he came. Captain Burney states the Chow Piya said he had lost the credit of assisting us with boats and His Highness lays all the blame on Captain Low. The Supreme Government has pronounced, (according to Mr. Crawford), all expectations of co-operation from the Siamese to have been delusory.

In one of his early reports, altho' he liberally quoted the sentiments of his Agent Achong, in several points, he omits to state that person's estimate of the number of prows equipped by the Chow Piya of Ligore. Achong gives the number at 300 and upwards. Captain Burney however says there were little more than half that number. He observes there were (at Khontaie) 30 new boats building, 100 old ones, most of them too old and decayed to be again used. Mr. Maingy and others have fully established the incorrectness of this last assertion.

Captain Burney has several times alluded to the reported likelihood of his being detained at Trang. The following extract will shew that there was more foundation for the report than he would make it

appear, by the cursory way and air of ridicule in which he notices the rumour in subsequent reports. "I invited" he says "the Luang to accompany me" (to Khontanie) but he vehemently opposed my proceeding farther and even observed, that if I went to Khontanie I should perhaps be *prevented from leaving it again*. To this *threat* I laughingly replied, through my interpreter, that I should be very happy to be *detained by him*, as I was anxious to take up my residence amongst the Siamese and then weighed anchor and stood up the river." He was pressed to return and considered it impolitic to persist in doing what "I was now satisfied the Chow Piya of Ligore was most anxious to prevent." It appears that some Malays were spectators of this affair and brought the report to Penang of the probable detention of Captain Burney if he attempted to proceed up the Trang river.

I am accused of prejudice against the Chow Piya of Ligore. What does Captain Burney himself say on a former occasion? "I do not set myself up as an apologist for the Chow Piya of Ligore, who I believe possesses much ambition and all the little arts and cunning with which that passion is usually connected in the breasts of native princes." I have never seen His Highness and I confess I have formed my opinions very much from the information contained in Captain Burney's reports. I certainly do regard the Chow Piya as a very dangerous and troublesome neighbour; and I have no other prejudice than that naturally inspired by the restless character of the man and the inconveniences which have resulted therefrom. If I entertain an unfavourable opinion of the Chow Piya I am not singular. Captain Low states in his report of the 10 April 1824 that "the duplicity and contempt of whatever is dignified in the conduct of the Rajah and his Officers by his orders, we may suppose on this occasion must be

“ sufficient to convince us of the hollowness of his professions and the little advantage to be gained by treating with him as an independent and liberal minded prince.” These sentiments were approved and acted upon by the late Government, and I cannot observe anything in the conduct of the Chow Piya since, which tends to create a more favorable impression. On the contrary, his recent proceedings have been more than ever calculated to prove the correctness of Captain Low’s opinion and the resolutions of Government.

Perfectly sensible as I am of the liberal and moderate principles which actuate this Government, in consonance with the express wishes and directions of the Supreme Government and the Honorable Court of Directors, I cannot be insensible to the credit which I, as a public officer of this Government, would gain, by a successful cooperation in maintaining peace and a cordial understanding with the adjoining states. The conduct of the Siamese has been such as to point out the necessity of guarding against treachery and preventing undue encroachments. You, Honorable Sir, will do me the justice to bear testimony that I have ever deprecated the necessity of resorting to military interference or coming to an open rupture with the Siamese, so long as it can be avoided. All I have ever presumed to urge has been the necessity of vigilant precaution and a display of adequate means to resist encroachment. I have only to shield myself under the conviction of having done my best to ward off probable danger by submitting, as I was bound to do, the best information procurable. I do not assume infallibility ; but I trust I shall at least be protected against such mischievous remarks as Captain Burney has made. The charge of encouraging war is a weighty one, and must be my apology for this lengthened detail.

For your information, Honorable Sir, I feel confident that the preceding remarks are quite superfluous; but as Captain Burney's letter may be recorded, I am anxious that my explanation should be laid before the higher authorities also.

I have, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Poll. Agent to Perak and Salengore.

Penang

21 September 1825.

THE HONBLE. THE PRESIDENT lays before the Board the following Minute on Mr. Anderson's Reports, containing a detailed view of the points about to be discussed with the Court of Siam.

Minute by the
President 24
Sept. 1825.

MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

Mr. Anderson having returned from Perak and Salengore, and sent in the Report of his Proceedings; I now record the sentiments and opinions entertained by me on those Proceedings, as well as the suggestions which occur to me on the future measures to be pursued: It is scarcely necessary to recapitulate the views and objects of our interference, founded on the extreme inconvenience that must have resulted from the subjugation of Salengore and the approximation of Siamese Dominion to our Settlements, of these inconveniences the Supreme Government appear to be alike sensible; the difficulty in our Course, for preventing them, has been the danger of a rupture with Siam, and unless their counteractions could be effected without such result it is clear that we must have allowed conquest, however inconvenient, to have taken its course. It would no doubt have been most desirable that things should have remained as they were, that no steps should have been taken by the Chief of Ligor, before the sentiments of the authorities in England were received as to the line of Policy to be pursued; the preservation of such a state of things however was beyond our power. Had the Chief of Ligor proceeded by Sea, and at a proper distance from the Island, we could have had no ground for interference and the same reasoning would apply to an attack by Land beyond our control. The free passage of his Armament thro' this Harbour, seems to have been a *sine qua non*, of his undertaking, and this we had a right to admit or refuse, and the refusal produced the

application for our Mediation; under the information furnished by Captain Burney on his last visit to Queda, that an armed force was in preparation for the attack on Salengore, further delay on the decision became impossible. Had the Armament proceeded, it seems clear from the report of Mr. Anderson, founded on the information of the Rajah of Perak himself, that there was no prospect of successful resistance. That the whole of those Countries must have been thrown into confusion and ultimately subdued, all the evils which we were desirous to prevent, must have been perfected long before the sentiments of the authorities in England could have been received. And even then, tho' they had taken the same view of the Case as we have done, and determined on preventing further Conquest in this quarter, the mischief would have been complete and irrecoverable: On the receipt of the above information and the consequent arrangement made by Captain Burney there remained no alternative, we must either have availed ourselves of the opening made, by undertaking the mediation for the adjustment of differences, or at once have abandoned all hopes of counteraction. Having followed the former course, it now remains to consider the terms required by the disputing parties.

2. The Rajah of Ligor engages that no Siamese Force by land or water shall proceed to Perak or settle in that country.

The Rajah of Ligor engages that no Siamese force by land or water, shall proceed to Salangore.

The Rajah of Ligor engages to proceed to Siam on the subject of the restoration of the King of Quedah, and if the King of Siam consents, he engages to withdraw his people from that country, to permit the King to return to his Kingdom, to release the family and relations, and that no Siamese force shall afterwards by land or water enter the territories of the King of Quedah.

By the 2nd. and 5th. Articles the main objects of our Interference are attained—the arrest of further conquest towards the South. The 7th embraces another object which the records show to have been one never lost sight of by this Government.

The Governor of Ligor engages to return home within twenty days, with the armament which he has brought to Quedah.

On the other side it is provided, That the Government will effect the removal of Rajah Hussein of Salengore from Perak, and prevent him from forcibly taking away such of the inhabitants of the country, as may be unwilling to accompany him. The British Government declare that they have themselves no intention of occupying Perak or interfering with its administration.

The Government agrees to negotiate with the Rajah of Salengore to obtain payment from him to the Governor of Ligor, of a sum of Spanish dollars 2,000, for the Boats and other property belonging to the latter which the Rajah of Salengore is said to have seized at Perak; and will prevent that Rajah from disturbing the Peace of Perak. And the British Government further engages to negotiate with those Rajahs, for the establishment of an equitable boundary, between the respective States.

The Government engages, if the King of Quedah be restored to his Kingdom, that H. M. shall send the Boongah Mas triennially to Ligor to convey to the King of Siam. The English Government declare that they have no desire to interfere with the Government of Quedah. The other articles are of a general nature, for continuance of friendship, free intercourse, and suppressing Piracy. In reference to the Articles affecting Salengore and Perak, it became necessary to depute an Agent to those States to obtain from them an explanation of the circumstances set forth by the

Rajah of Ligor, and eventually to induce them to acquiesce in the terms proposed. The Proceedings of Mr. Anderson, the Agent deputed, are now before the Board.

See Art. 3d of
Agreement No. 3
in Mr. Anderson's
Report of 26th
August 1825.

See Art. 2d. of
above.

It was not to be expected that the reports of the two disputing parties should correspond, and we accordingly find a very material difference in their accounts of the same transactions. To the first point, as to Rajah Hussein, it was stated that he resided in the Perak country with the assent of the King whose aunt he had married. The Rajah of Salengore has however agreed and provided for his removal. The Reports stated by Captain Burney as communicated to him at Quedah respecting the number of Piratical Prows in the Perak River were also contradicted. The circumstance of such Prows having actually been at the mouth of Perak river and the Sambelang Islands is beyond all doubt, and altho' such would not be acknowledged, there seems to me little doubt that they were in communication with the Rajah, and that they would have been employed in his defence. These occurrences we have a right to prevent, and the occasional presence of an Armed Vessel can alone effectually remedy the evil. In respect to the next point urged viz. the non interference in the affairs of Perak it was urged that a connection had long subsisted between Perak and Salengore, ever since the year 1804, and a treaty was produced bearing that date between the two States; on this point more will be said in another place. It is enough here to observe that the Rajah of Salengore agrees to discontinue all such interference in future. The same article determines the boundary between the two States, as stipulated in the Articles of Agreement with Ligor; the other articles are of a general nature, for mutual intercourse, reciprocal exchange of offenders, and suppression of Piracy. The only point unadjusted is that for the payment of 2000 dollars, on

See para. 25 to
27 Mr. Ander-
son's Report of
26th August 1825
Also para. 17 to
25 of the Report
of 15th Sept.

which the Rajah of Salengore has explained in a manner very different from the representation made to Captain Burney: That he received no part of the property seized on the occasion; That the seizure of the boats was made by the Perak's people having, by means of a false alarm, procured the sudden departure of the Siamese who accompanied Che Hat the Ligor Agent and [who it] has been generally understood was guilty of great rapacity; and that the Perak people in reality, in seizing the Ligor boats, seized only their own property, and sunk the boats. If under these circumstances, the demand of 2000 dollars be enforced from Salengore, it can only be as an offering for the maintenance of tranquillity and not a just compensation for damage actually done by him. As a part of an Agreement subject to the final decision of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, this point may remain open till the sentiments of his Lordship on the whole subject be received.

Unless it should be found that the non payment is likely in the opinion of Captain Burney to interfere materially with the objects of his Mission. In that case it may be paid from the Treasury, to be recovered eventually from Salengore.

The report of Mr. Anderson of the 15th Sept. contains the account of the actual state in which the Rajah of Perak is placed. It is evident that he is now liable to the alternate exactions and oppressions of his neighbours on each side. There can be no doubt of the views of Ligor against that state. The letters written by that Chief and delivered to Mr. Anderson sufficiently display the ambitious and intriguing spirit that has hitherto marked the conduct of the Rajah of Ligor; On the other hand there seems just reason for believing, that the object of the Rajah of Salengore in exercising any control or supremacy over Perak is defensive. He is well aware of the views of the

Siamese against Perak, and he is equally aware that should that State be placed in complete subjugation to Ligor, that his own kingdom must soon fall into the same situation. This is exactly the result which it is our object to prevent. By the 2d. Article of the Agreement made with Captain Burney, the Rajah of Ligor engages to send no force to Perak. It must be our business to ensure the fulfilment of this Agreement in its true sense, and prevent any interference with Perak, either by one or the other of its neighbours. From Perak or Salengore little or no opposition can be dreaded. They look up to us as the only barrier against subjugation and destruction. The readiness with which they assent to every proposition affords sufficient proof of their dependence on us. It is from the Rajah of Ligor, all along the aggressor, that the breach of Agreement is to be expected, but it is to be hoped that the same influence that produced the admission of our mediation, and the same dread of our power will, discreetly used, secure their adherence to the terms.

The Removal of Rajah Hussan is an object which it is desirable to see carried into execution as soon as possible. I propose therefore to dispatch an armed vessel to remain near the mouth of the Perak river, until that part of the agreement be carried into execution. It will be desirable however if possible to make some arrangement for the future disposal of that person, where [he will be] less exposed to the temptation to which men like him of predatory habits, are too much disposed to yield. If willing to reside within the limits of Wellesley Province, subject of course to our laws and regulations, I see no objection to the allotment of land for that purpose. I annex herewith drafts of letters intended to be addressed to the respective Chiefs interested in the late negotiations.

Deeming it necessary that Captain Burney should be fully well informed as to the occurrences

at Perak and Salengore in completion of the Agreement entered into with the Rajah of Ligor, Mr. Anderson's report was submitted to him. His observations with the replies of Mr. Anderson are annexed to this Minute. It was not (as I have already observed) to be expected that the disputing parties would give the same account of the same transactions and it is not surprising, that the Gentlemen employed, should each receive their impression from those with whom they have been in communication; as far as those differences bear on the question of the superior degree of penetration or credibility to be attached to the different views they have taken of the character and conduct of the parties with whom they have been negotiating it is enough to observe that as both have well performed the duties required of them it is unnecessary to pass any decision on the relative merits of the negotiations. The address of Captain Burney contains some observations on the general subject before us which it seems here necessary to notice: First, the general question of the general independence of the Malay States: Second, The relative advantages of abandoning the interests of the King of Quedah and making thereby more favorable terms with the Rajah of Ligor.

In respect to the first, it has been observed by Mr. Crawford, "That it is hopeless to prevail on the
 " Siamese by Treaty to yield their Supremacy over
 " the Malayan States; but that if alliances offensive
 " and defensive were entered into with those States,
 " Patani excepted, which is now peopled by Siamese,
 " the prudent Government of Bangkok would pocket
 " the affront."

But there is a previous question here to be answered: Has the Government of Bangkok any legitimate right to consider such an act as an affront? Siamese supremacy over the Malay Peninsula has been set forth but it is a thing taken for granted and not

proved. I have never seen any authority produced for it beyond the vague tradition of events, said to have passed 700 years ago, and in so far as the history of every State has been traced in the Malayan Annals, is directly disproved. The occasion of war between the Siamese and the Malay States, in which the latter were generally successful we find set forth in history; but not one instance of acknowledged or established dependency of the one, or supremacy of the other, has ever been produced. The Malays certainly were never the natural subjects of Siam, they are of a different origin, descent, religion, and language. The Malay States are weak; those of Siam powerful; the dependence therefore is the result of power, not of right, and has operation only in respect to those whose proximity has enabled the latter to turn its power to the subjugation of its neighbour. The mere assertion of a claim, which the asserter never had and never could establish, and which the relative state never acknowledged, is a mere nullity and can never surely be urged as a legitimate bar to a connection with another State if it suits the policy of such to contract it. It may be well therefore that the negotiator should abstain entirely from agitating a question amounting to an admission of such unfounded rights, he should confine himself to negotiation in respect to those only whose dependence has, however unfortunately and erroneously, been by ourselves admitted and promoted, and those are Quedah, to the full extent; Perak partially only as will now be shewn.

It is scarcely necessary to recapitulate the history of the former. It was the northernmost of the Malay States and next to the Siamese Government of Ligor, the first therefore to feel the effects of their proximity. It is admitted at the time of the cession of the Island, to have presented the Boongah Mas to Siam, but it is clear that it occasionally sent the Boongah Mas to Ava

also. To those who attentively read the first agreement proposed for the cession, no doubt can be entertained that the protection of the British Government against both Ava and Siam was the object in view. It certainly was not at the time considered that the mere presentation of the Boongah Mas placed the King in such a state of subjection as to authorize the direct interference, exaction and oppression afterwards practised. Had it been so considered it must have followed that the King had no right to cede and that we had no right to accept the Island, but in reality the presentation of the Boongah Mas, according to the general practice of those countries, bears no such construction of dependence as has been put upon it, Siam sends the Boongah Mas to China, but we have never heard of China exercising any control or interference in the internal Government of Siam. Much misconstruction has arisen as usual on such occasions, by the erroneous application of European Ideas and terms to Indian customs. Boongah Mas has been confounded with tribute, and then followed homage, vassalage, liege lordship and supremacy and all the feudal jargon of Europe which when applied to this part of the world has never failed to mislead the judgment and confound the understanding. The triennial presentation of the Boongah Mas being the only connection that subsists between Quedah and Siam the British Government were fully justified in supporting the King against all further interference and encroachment. Had the King ceded the whole kingdom to the British Government instead of the Island of Penang all the legitimate obligation the Government incurred to Siam, would have been the regular presentation of the Boongah Mas as done by their predecessors. Beyond that all was the undue aggression of power on one part and the unavoidable submission of weakness on the other, against which the weaker state had a right to protect itself by a connection with a more powerful one, and

another powerful state, provided it suited its own interests, has an unquestionable right to bestow it. That a course of policy founded on this principle would not have been opposed by Siam itself seems pretty clear.

Mr. Crawford on this point observes, " A firm
 " tone and vigorous conduct will be indispensably
 " requisite. The Siamese are surrounded by weak
 " neighbours, whom they have subjugated and to whom
 " they have dictated without resistance. This and their
 " great ignorance of all foreign nations, has rendered
 " them altho' essentially weak and puerile, avaricious,
 " vain and arrogant to such an extreme as to fancy
 " themselves nothing less than the very first nation on
 " the Globe. These unfounded pretensions mislead them
 " so egregiously, that it is scarcely safe even to attempt
 " to conciliate them, and thus the most moderate
 " policy on the part of other nations, will always
 " be in danger of being construed by them into
 " timidity and apprehension of their own power.
 " From my personal experience of this singular and
 " impracticable character, it is now my firm con-
 " viction, that had the circumstances of the time
 " warranted the Penang Government in promptly
 " repelling even by Military force the threatened
 " invasion of the Island, the partial invasion of the
 " opposite coast, and the threatening and arrogant
 " language of the Government of Ligoré, that the
 " fears of the Siamese Court would have induced it to
 " have made ample atonement, to have retraced its
 " steps, to have withdrawn its force from Quedah, and
 " even forborne in future from meddling in the affairs of
 " that state." It was deemed advisable however to follow
 " another course. The encroachments of the Siamese
 " were allowed, they made endless exactions from the
 " King of Quedah, compelled him to attack Perak, and
 " when his resources were completely destroyed, drove
 " him out of his kingdom.

As there never occurred in the annals of India an instance of a Native Chief suffering so severely from British connection, so his restoration becomes essential to the character and reputation of the British Government. After the admissions that have been made, it is by negotiation only that that event can be brought about. There is no doubt that so long as we protect the King on this Island, the Rajah of Ligoré cannot consider himself secure in his new possession, and as he would run many risks to get possession of the person of the King so would he be ready to purchase from us by favorable terms the abandonment of his cause ; but it can only be under the conviction, resulting from trial, of the utter hopelessness of success, that we should ever allow ourselves to contemplate the abandonment of his cause in pursuit of other objects of our own. I fully admit however the necessity of a final decision one way or other, for I am well aware that no confidence or cordiality can exist between us and our present neighbour so long as the King of Quedah remains in his present situation.

With respect to Perak, its history and political relations are known, and have been clearly traced since the year of the Hejira 1021, A. D. 1612. It had all along been a dependency of Malacca. In 1619 it was conquered with Quedah by the King of Acheen and sent the Boongah Mas to that King ; in 1642 Malacca was taken by the Dutch with the assistance of the Achinese. From that period Perak has been a dependency of the Dutch at Malacca. It is presumable that they got their title to it from the King of Acheen ; Perak remained subject to the Dutch, who established a factory and stockade there for the purpose of securing their Tin Monopoly up to the year 1795, when Malacca was taken possession of by the British Government. A detachment from this Island took possession of the Fort at Perak, and expelling the Dutch, delivered up the whole country to its own

King. In 1804/5 a difference arose between the Kings of Perak and Salengore respecting the boundary, when the former took possession of the country. In 1814 we find the King of Quedah remonstrating to this Government, and earnestly requesting advice on the cruel order he had received to attack the King of Perak. The subject was referred to the consideration of the Malay Translator, Col. McInnes.

See Letter the
17 Janry. 1814
Consult. 20th.

That Gentleman's report refers principally to Quedah; his observations in respect to Perak it is quite unnecessary to repeat. He seems to have drawn his conclusions from the mere representations of the Quedah Vakeels, and the whole narrative is directly contradicted by the known history of Perak. There is not a vestige of proof that Siam ever demanded, or that Perak ever gave the Boongah Mas. The inferences of the Malay Translator seem to be drawn from occurrences at least 600 years old. We have traced the political connection of Perak from 1612 a period of more than 200 years, there is no mention of any dependence on Siam. So far from it, it is clearly shewn that Perak is connected with, and dependent on quite another power; the view of the Malay Translator seems to have been adopted and communicated to the Supreme Government who intimate their anxiety on the welfare and security of the King of Quedah and their conviction of the undesirable consequences likely to result from the extension of Siamese conquest in the vicinity of Malacca, and authorize a Mission to mediate all differences.

See Letter from
Supreme Govern-
ment 25th Febr'y.
1814 Consult. 1st
Sept.

The suggestions of Col. McInnes having been adopted and acted on, we can only now express our regret that on such mistaken premises a course of policy should have been pursued which has proved so embarrassing and destructive of our interests on the Malay Peninsula. In the year 1818 Perak was subdued by Quedah, acting under orders from Ligore, and the King, at the instigation and persuasion of this Government agreed

and has twice sent the Boongah Mas to Siam, and here for the first time commenced the slightest mark of dependence on Siam by that State. The Siamese were again driven out in 1822 by the Rajah of Salengore who restored the King of Perak by treaty, but settled his son and Tuanko Hussein at the mouth of the river. These are the transactions which formed the subject of the late negotiations. It must be evident that Siam can have no legitimate right over Perak; we certainly stand in a certain degree committed by the support we have so unfortunately given since the year 1804, but it may be hoped that if our negotiator cannot succeed in entirely rescuing Perak from all subjection, that it will hereafter be confined to the presentation of the Boongah Mas only, and preclude entirely all further interference with that state.

While on this subject it becomes necessary to refer back to the past effects of that influence long exercised over the Peninsula by the Dutch Government which has now ceased, as well as the alteration likely to be produced from the extension of Siamese means resulting from the diminished power of their great enemies the Burmese. The Dutch, as already explained, withdrew from Malacca in 1795. So long as they remained, their presence on the principles they acted, must have served as a complete barrier against Siamese encroachments on Perak and Salengore; and had they remained it is probable that Quedah also would have been saved: There can be little doubt that the King when pressed hard by the Siamese and disappointed in aid from the English would have thrown himself on the Dutch, and there can be as little doubt that that power would have eagerly received him, on the terms invariably observed by them, that is to say, their Political Alliance would have been afforded to save them from European interference, their military force to protect against native powers,

receiving in return the exclusive privileges of the trade of the country. The Records of this Government sufficiently shew the dread invariably entertained by Captain Light lest the King should throw himself into the hands of some foreign European Power, the French, Dutch and Danes having all held out to him the most promising terms for a settlement in his Country. From those dangers, the war with the French of 1793 and with the Dutch of 1795 relieved us, but it at the same time removed the main barrier against Siamese encroachment. On taking possession of Malacca and of Perak, we did not continue the controlling authority exercised over Salengore and Perak by the Dutch. We followed the more liberal policy of declaring them free and independent, but on thus foregoing for ourselves a right evidently derivable from conquest, the great subject of regret is, that we afterwards, on a mistaken view of Siamese claim, allowed one at least (Perak) to fall ostensibly under the dominion of a native power equally actuated by a spirit of commercial monopoly and far more severe, oppressive and cruel in its conduct towards its Malay subjects. The Dutch nation resumed their possession of Malacca in the year 1818, in the year 1819 they renewed their political relations with Salengore, and the Dutch Governor at Malacca addressed a Letter to the King of Perak preparatory to the same arrangement. The treaty with Salengore was in the mean time, in 1820, annulled by orders from Batavia, and the King of Salengore again declared free and independent. It is probable that the Government of Batavia had by that time made up their minds on the abandonment and withdrawal from the Malay Peninsula lately carried into effect by the Treaty of March 1824. Their object in contemplating the final cession was no doubt the same which actuated them on the temporary Cession in 1795, namely to lessen the value of the acquisition by diminishing the Political Influence of a settlement which they were soon to

abandon. The Dutch authority is now finally withdrawn from the Peninsula; the great barrier that has for centuries opposed the subjugation of the Peninsula is permanently removed, and we are now to decide whether in taking the place of the Dutch we are to permit or prevent the result. The revival of Dutch treaties and obligations involving generally the exclusive monopoly of trade cannot be desirable. On the same principle that the temporary policy in 1795 was to be considered as liberal so we must consider the same to be as a permanent measure; but we must not forget that the admission of their independence of our own power will be little benefit to them and of infinite prejudice to ourselves, if we allow another native state possessing no claim whatever to reduce them as they have done Quedah to the wretched condition of abject slavery and dependence.

We must here keep in mind that the Siamese and Burmese have been at war for more than fifty years. All the country between Mergui and Junkceylon has been the scene of alternate conquest. Junkceylon itself was plundered by the Burmese only in 1810. The whole time, troops and attention of the Siamese States of Champoon, Phionga and Ligor have been directed to the one object of keeping off the Burmese. From all that expence and trouble they are relieved by our conquest of Mergui and Tavoy and consequent interposition between them and their inveterate foe. All the resources directed to the above object are set at liberty for other pursuits. And late events here have sufficiently demonstrated that the first of their objects is the subjugation of the Malay Peninsula. The future condition of all the States there must therefore entirely depend on the decision of the British Government. I am aware that it has been urged and may still be the opinion of some that the Malay States being of unsettled and predatory habits and

given to piracy, it would be better that the Peninsula should be under the dominion of a settled and powerful state. I confess that I cannot concur in this opinion, nor do I believe it to correspond with political principles generally pursued. It appears to me that a few petty states, who never could possibly be dangerous, who themselves looking up to us for protection are not likely to harbour views of hostility against us, would be infinitely safer neighbours to petty commercial settlements than a powerful state able to draw a large force to a given point whenever it suited their purpose. In respect to commercial considerations we can draw the best conclusions of probable results from references to those places where Siamase principles are in the fullest operation and I have never understood that the Siamese at Bangkok are more liberal in their regulations of trade, or more fair in their dealings than the Malay Rajahs in our neighbourhood. That the Malay States are much addicted to piracy may be true, such probably will never be entirely eradicated by local application, but it surely may be hoped that the discreet exercise of that influence which the British Government will always possess will tend to the progress and amelioration of the government of those States and the introduction of more peaceful habits and the prevention of such occurrences.

But against the admission of Siamese Supremacy on this principle, there occurs another serious objection, the detestation and aversion of the Malays themselves to Siamese Government: Altho' there be little chance of their ultimate successful resistance if left to themselves, we may be assured they would not yield without a struggle; and a long course of anarchy, confusion and interruption of commerce would be the inevitable result.

By the late treaty we have given up the right of

forming political connections on the Island of Sumatra, we have received in return the corresponding right over the Malay Peninsula, but I apprehend that a line of policy which by the admission of Siamese Supremacy would exclude us from the first purchase of its valuable productions would ill compensate for the loss of what we have relinquished.

It remains for the superior wisdom of those to whom we owe obedience to decide on the future line of policy to be pursued: it should in my opinion be our object to prevent the mischief becoming irremediable before that decision arrives, and I have written this minute not merely in further explanation of opinions already expressed, but to caution Captain Burney against admitting Siamese rights of supremacy which might debar us hereafter from taking those States under our protection and effectually maintaining their Independence.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

24th September 1825.

THE PRESIDENT lays before the Board the following Translation of a letter to his address from the Rajah of Ligore.

The Rajah of
Ligore dated
27th Sept. 1825.

THE RAJAH of LIGORE.

TRANSLATION

of a letter from the Chow Piya of Ligore to the Honourable Robert Fullerton Esquire Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

May my friend be informed that his reply which he sent by Koon Aksorn reached me in safety, and I feel extremely obliged to my friend. I am now about to return and shall certainly set out on Friday, the 12th day of the 10th Month. The Monsoon for proceeding to the Capital is nearly at an end and if much delay takes place in departure it will be attended with difficulty to get up. With respect to Captain Burney's engagement that I would convey him to the Capital, if he has not already sailed, let him depart without delay; I will convey him to the Capital and will settle the business agreeable to the desire of the Governor General of Bengal, and establish a permanent friendship.

Moreover, when Koon Aksorn was formerly sent to purchase something, he did not procure enough, wherefore I send that person Nai Neem and Nai Simie to purchase some more articles to follow me with all haste and to accompany me to the Capital. I rely upon my friend that he will receive and treat these people like his own subjects, in order that they may return speedily and that there my be no delay.

Farther, with respect to Mr. John Anderson's proceeding to Perak and Salengore, I hear he has

returned, and I am very anxious to be informed of the business. I therefore beg my friend to send me a letter and inform me.

With reference to the letter sent me respecting the Criminal named Arif, I request my friend will cause further search to be made for him. Mr. Caunter stated that my friend was desirous of being informed of the appearance of this person Arif and enquired of Koon Aksorn, requesting a description of him to be sent, in order that he might be apprehended. Arif is a young man, neither tall nor short, his complexion reddish, his hair straight, his face a little marked with small pox, and he is a relative of Che Jaya, of Pulo Langkawi. Let my friend call Che Jaya and enquire of him, who will no doubt if intimidated discover him. When my friend sends me Arif, it will redound much to the honor of my friend and be a great proof of his friendship for me; I shall be exceedingly pleased. The four lamps which Mr. Caunter delivered to Koon Aksorn in my friend's Name, I have received with great pleasure.

Moreover, what I have now stated is done with a pure heart and friendly disposition. The Siamese are not well acquainted with all the customs of the English, and should any mistake or deviation from their etiquette be made let not my friend be displeased. My son, whom the great King has sent to reside at Kedah, is a young man and I am now about to return leaving him behind. I therefore trust that a mutual friendship will be established between my friend and him; Kedah and Pulo Penang are very close to each other, and a good understanding and friendly intercourse should prevail.

I have nothing in the way of Siamese manufacture that is novel to send my friend, and therefore send him two Coyans of rice as a token for the present; I will hereafter look for something of Siamese workmanship to repay my friend's favor.

I have occasion for a high horse, and have desired Koon Aksorn to endeavour to purchase [? one] to bring with him. I have also sent a prow for the purpose of embarking him on, if he can be procured. Should Koon Aksorn be in difficulty I request my friend to assist him, in order that he may return speedily. Dated 10th of 10th Month in the year 1241.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Pinang

27th Septr. 1825.

SON of RAJAH of LIGORE.

TRANSLATION

of a letter from Chow Koon Nooi son of the Chow Piya of Ligore to Captain Henry Burney.

I am directed by the Piya of Ligore to write a letter and say that he intends returning on Friday, the 12th day of the 10th Month, which is positively fixed. The Monsoon for going to the Capital will soon be unfavorable and it will be difficult to proceed, wherefore let my friend sail speedily agreeably to the engagement in order that there may be no delay in arriving there, so that the business may be settled, and friendship and a good understanding promoted. Dated 10th of 10th Month year Ze 1241.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Transr. to Govt.

Pinang

27th Sept. 1825.

THE FOLLOWING letter to the Rajah of Ligore advising the departure of Captain Burney is recorded.

To,

THE RAJAH of LIGORE.

LETTER

from the Honorable Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang to the Chow Piya of Ligore.

I have to acquaint my friend that Captain Burney has departed to meet my friend at Ligore according to his agreement and that I have given that officer full instructions to show my friend every thing that Mr. Anderson has done at Perak and Salengore on the part of the British Government and to explain all the arrangements which have been made which are in conformity to my orders and have my approval. I am about to dispatch a Cruiser to Perak to await the fulfilment of the engagement which has been made for the immediate removal of Rajah Hussan and to give full effect to the other arrangements. I enclose for my friend's information, copies of the engagements entered into with the Chiefs of Perak and Salengore.

Having now with so much trouble and expence, adjusted the various points of difference between my friend and the States of Perak and Salengore and laid the foundation for the reestablishment of peace, order and tranquillity, I expect nothing on the part of my friend or any of his people will be done to revive party differences. I shall take care to keep Salengore and Perak firmly to their engagements and must recommend my friend to keep quiet on his part. I trust a cordial friendship will be firmly established through the Agency of my friend and Captain Burney at the Capital between the Siamese and British Governments.

I have frequently assured my friend of my ready inclination and desire to cultivate friendly relations with the Siamese, and I expect my friend will leave especial orders at Quedah, that nothing be done on [the] part of any of my friend's people, calculated to disturb the arrangement which has been made at Perak and Salengore, or to interrupt the harmony and good will which have now been established between my friend and myself, and through us between the Siamese and English nations.

I wish my friend a safe and prosperous journey and hope he will receive Captain Burney with kindness and attention and speedily accompany him to the Capital to confirm with the Emperor, the friendship now so happily established between us.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
Governor.

The 23rd. Septr. 1825

Translated

(Sd.) J. A.
My. Transr.

THE FOLLOWING letter to the Rajah of Perak, in reply to one received through Mr. Anderson is laid before the Board.

To,

THE RAJAH of PERAK.

To the Rajah of
Perak dated 21
Sept. 1825.

LETTER

from the Honorable Robert Fullerton, Governor of Pulo Pinang to Paduka Sri Sultan Abdullah King of Perak.

I have duly received my friend's letter brought by my Agent, Mr. Anderson, and that Gentleman has also laid before me the engagement given to him by my friend which is extremely satisfactory to me, as evincing a disposition to prolong that cordial understanding which has, for a length of time subsisted between the state of Perak and the Governments of Pulo Penang and Malacca. It was a source of deep regret to me to observe the destruction and differences prevailing in my friend's country, and desirous of prolonging and securing his independence and the full exercise of his Sovereign rights, I adopted such measures as appeared to me were calculated to secure these important objects. The cordial reception which my friend and his Chiefs gave to my Agent and the respect and attention shewn to him are gratifying to me, in as much as it proves that my proffered mediation has been received with proper feeling. The engagements now entered into betwixt my friend, the Chow Piya of Ligore and the King of Salengore, under the sanction of the British Government will no doubt have the effect of putting a stop to all differences and misunderstandings and restoring peace and tranquillity amongst the neighbouring states. The conditions of the treaty with the Chow Piya of Ligore having been carried into effect and being in progress, through the agency of the British Government, the

Chow Piya will return to his own country, his forces will be entirely disbanded, and he will be prevented from exercising any future interference whatever over the states of Perak and Salengore. It is the object and intention of the British Government to uphold and support the independence of their states and to prevent all encroachment or interference on either side to avoid disputes. I expect therefore that my friend will duly conform to his engagement in all respects, whereby encouragement will be held out to traders to resort to his country, his own means [and] resources will be increased and a cordial understanding will prevail amongst all parties. Peace and an unrestricted commercial intercourse are all that is desired by the British Government.

My Agent informed me that my friend was desirous that a Cruizer should remain at Perak till Rajah Hassan had finally quitted the Country. I have received information that the King of Salengore has sent prows to convey away the Guns from Kwala Bidor and I now send two Cruizers to expedite the departure of Rajah Hassan, to afford protection to the Ryots and to bring me a report of the evacuation of the post of Kwala Bidor by that Chief. I request that my friend will inform Mr. Cracroft of his Welfare.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Pinang 21st Septr. 1825.

Translated

(Sd.) J. A.

My. Transr.

THE following Letter to the Rajah of Salengore
dispatched by the H. C. C. Prince of Wales is recorded.

To

THE RAJAH of SALENGORE.

To the Rajah of
Salengore dated
the 23rd Sept.
1825.

Letter

from the Honorable Robert Fullerton, Governor of
Pulo Penang to Paduka Sri Sultan Ibrahim King of
Salengore.

I have duly received my friend's several letters
and understand their contents. Mr. Anderson has
also laid before me a translation of a letter to his
address, in which my friend states that he had been
prevented by indisposition from sooner dispatching
the prows destined to convey away the guns in charge
of Rajah Hassan at Kwala Bidor. I am happy to find
however that my friend is proceeding to carry into
effect in the spirit of sincerity and truth, the stipula-
tions of the engagement which he entered into with
my Agent, Mr. Anderson. This letter will be con-
veyed to my friend by a Captain Collinson of one of
the Cruizers, who has been directed to remain at
Perak until the removal of Rajah Hassan is effected
and to bring the intelligence to that effect. I trust
therefore that no delay will take place. If Rajah
Hassan desires, as he mentioned to Mr. Anderson, to
take up his abode within the Honorable Company's
territory, there will be no objection to his doing so,
conforming to the rules and customs observed by the
Subjects of the Honble. Company.

My friend states that he did not seize any of
the Siamese prows, but he cannot deny that a fleet
of prows proceeded from Salengore to Perak in charge
of his Sons the Rajah Mooda and Daula. From the
statements I have received, the value of the property
on board the prahus was very considerable and I

think it will be proper for my friend to pay 2,000 Dollars by which his independence will be entirely secured and he will be finally freed from all interference on the part of the Siamese. My friend cannot be ignorant that but for the intervention of the British Government he would have been attacked some Months ago, and 2,000 Dollars is a small sacrifice for a relief from such a threatened calamity. On these grounds therefore I expect that my friend will pay the sum proposed. If it pleases my friend to pay the amount the Captain will receive it in Tin or Dollars, or if he will send me a reply engaging to pay it he may send it when more convenient to himself. As to my friend's debts in Perak these will be taken into consideration after the removal of Rajah Hassan, the King of Perak informed my Agent that he also had some accounts to produce. Let not the road of friendship be destroyed by disputes on this head. Engagements have now been made, fixing the established boundary between Perak and Salengore, by which I trust all future differences will be obviated and I must caution my friend that as these engagements have been made under the sanction of the British Government, and it is my determination to cause the same to be enforced, and to prevent interference of the Siamese or the sending of men to the Southward and to secure to each Chief the free and full possession of his Sovereign rights, that it will be incumbent on my friend to observe the conditions of the agreement, for no deviation can be permitted. The several provisions in that agreement are satisfactory to me and I hope may be the means of ensuring tranquillity and cordial understanding among all parties, promoting union and good will between Salengore, Pulo Penang and Perak and extending and encouraging the trade between the respective States, to the mutual advantage and peace of all.

I shall be happy to receive accounts of my
friend's welfare.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON
Governor.

Penang
21st Sept. 1825.

Translated

(Signed) J. ANDERSON
Malay Translator to Govt.

To the RAJAH HASSAN at KWALA BIDOR.

LETTER from MR. JOHN ANDERSON to
RAJAH HASSAN at KWALA BIDOR,

I am directed by the Honble. Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang to inform my friend that a letter has been received from the King of Salengore mentioning his having sent prows to convey away the Guns in my friend's charge and to express an expectation that my friend has already made the necessary preparations for his immediate departure from the Perak Country agreeably to the engagement entered into and his own assurances to me.

With respect to my friend's wish to take up his abode in the Honble. Company's Territory, I have made known his wishes to the Honble. the Governor who has been pleased to say there will be no objection to his residing here so long as my friend pleases, conforming however to the rules and customs of the subjects of the Honble. Company. It will give me satisfaction to receive my friend with kindness.

One of the Honble. Company's Cruizers is sent to remain at Perak and to bring a report of my friend's final departure from Perak. Let him therefore make no delay.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Pol. Agent to Perak and Salengore

Penang
23d. Sept. 1825.

Translated

J. A.
M: T: to Govt.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 105,
pp. 455-459.

FORT CORNWALLIS, The 1st December 1825.

READ a further letter from the Resident of Singapore, with the following copy of a dispatch to the Supreme Government containing further intelligence from Siam and Java.

RESIDENT of SINGAPORE.

(Copies)

To

G. SWINTON Esqre.

Secretary to the Government

FORT WILLIAM

SIR,

Pol. Dept.

The annual Junks from Siam have begun to arrive in considerable numbers and a ship belonging to the King arrived on the 6th instant. The latter brought me a letter from the Prah-Klang containing nothing but a recommendation of the Commander. The Country throughout is in a state of perfect tranquillity. As well as I am able to ascertain, the Chief of Chumpon, the person by whose orders the inhabitants of the province of Mergui were carried off as prisoners, has been severely punished by the King of Siam, being at present imprisoned in irons. Considerable anxiety is felt by the Court for the fate of the Siamese seized and detained by the Commanding Officer at Mergui in retaliation for the depredations committed by this individual. Of the sentiments entertained by the Court of Siam in regard to their relation to the British power, the only notice I am able to supply is contained in the annexed extract of a letter from the Agent of a mercantile house at this place, now at Bangkok.

[The remainder of this letter deals with Java and Celebes.]

I have &c. (Signed) J. CRAWFURD

Singapore

Resident.

8th Novr. 1825.

EXTRACT of a private letter from the Agent of a Mercantile House at Singapore residing at Bangkok, dated the 31st August 1825.

The Siamese intend to send an expedition to assist the King of Ligor in taking Salengore and Perak. The Captain of the Port asked me if those places had any connexion with the British. I said they had, and was afraid that the English would not allow them to take either of them, at the same time telling him that I, as a Merchant, had nothing to do with matters of that nature, and only told so much to him as a private friend. He immediately went and told the Prah-Klang, who instantly went to the Palace, taking the Port Captain with him to inform the King. What alteration it made in his plans I do not know. Twenty of their war boats dropped down the river the other day. Where they went, I could find no person that would inform me. Notwithstanding Mr. Crawford's friendly assurances to this Government, they still believe that the English have a design upon their Country and I think all the world would not convince them to the contrary. The Prah-Klang says why does Mr. Crawford always inform us of the Governor General's friendship, that is as much as to say he does not always intend to befriend us. We are daily expecting the Commissioners Ship here from Bengal which will I hope bring us good news of the final conclusion of the War.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 105,
pp. 463-8.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 1st December 1825.

THE PRESIDENT records the following Minute.

MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

Adverting to the question of discussion that may arise between Captain Burney and the Siamese Government respecting the Malay states it appears advisable that he should be furnished with copies of all Treaties made by the Dutch Government as well as the British that may be found on our records. I propose accordingly that they be copied and transmitted via Singapore by the first opportunity

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

25th November 1825.

THE ACTING SECRETARY reports that copies of the following treaties and papers, being all that could be found on record, were duly forwarded by the Honorable Company's Ship Orient to Singapore for transmission to Captain Burney at Bangkok.

(Note—No list of treaties &c. appears.)

THE PRESIDENT records the following Minute.
 MINUTE by the PRESIDENT.

In reference to the letters from the Supreme Government of 2d and 16th September last, a few observations seem necessary. In respect to the first I fear we have failed in conveying sufficient explanation of the extent of our views and intentions towards Perak and Salengore, and of the nature of the counteraction we meant to oppose against the Siamese encroachments on those States. On the perusal of the treaty concluded between the British and the Netherlands Government on the 24th of March 1824, the nature of the political relations to be maintained between us and the neighbouring Malay States, which may be said to have been for ages under the protection of the Dutch at Malacca, appeared to me one of the first questions that would arise after our occupation of that settlement and until that question could be decided by Superior authority it certainly appeared to me most desirable that the extension of Siamese dominion towards that quarter should, if possible, be prevented. But great as I considered the object, it certainly did not occur to me that we should be justified in using actual force in defence of those States and thereby involving ourselves in positive hostility with a Siamese Chief. Military operations were not therefore in our contemplation ; all that could be done was to counteract their progress by use of the legitimate means at our disposal, to refuse our consent to their armament passing thro' the Harbour, to point out to them the circumstance of our having taken the place of the Dutch at Malacca, and the danger of future collision in consequence between the two Governments, and lastly in so far as existing disputes between the Rajah of Ligor and Salengore afforded a pretence of attack, to attempt the removal of such pretence by offering to mediate on the adjustment of

all disputes. It was only on these principles that the extension of Siamese dominion over the Peninsula was intended to be counteracted, it is satisfactory that the course has to this period been attended with success and highly gratifying to find by the letters of the 16th September that our measures have met the entire approbation of the Supreme Government. It may be hoped that the exertions of Captain Burney will prove successful in putting a final stop to the further subjugation of the Malay Peninsula, but even if he should fail still much is gained by keeping things in the same state pending decision of the Superior authorities in Europe, and it must be our study by opposing the same means of counteraction to prevent the evil becoming irremediable before the receipt of that decision which will relieve us of considerable doubt and embarrassment on this important question.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

30th November 1825.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 105.
pp. 573-6.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 15 December 1825.

RAJAH of SALENGORE.

Rajah of Salengore
15 December 1825.

TRANSLATION of a letter from Sultan Ibrahim Rajah of Salengore to the Honble. Robert Fullerton Governor of Pulo Penang.

(After Compliments.)

May my friend be informed that the letter of which Nakoda Attak was the bearer has reached me in safety and I understand its contents. With respect to what is mentioned in relation to pirates, I have never harboured them and my friend may examine and ascertain that they have never been permitted to remain in my country. My friend may send a Cruizer to search if he pleases. Moreover my friend knows that from the earliest times I have not harboured pirates and he directs me to check them; but I cannot prevent them, my friend only can put a stop to these proceedings; for I am ignorant of them. If there be any person who says I give protection to pirates, my friend can send a cruiser with the informer to look after them and I am anxious to know who has stated that I harbour pirates.

Farther it is mentioned in my friend's letter that he will settle with the Rajah of Perak relative to my property and all this time I have refrained from going to demand it, as my friend has said he will do so; and if he had not said he would do so, I shall go myself. With respect to the engagement entered into between my friend and myself I shall not deviate from it and I only interfere with Perak because the Rajah has some of my property; but if my friend will settle all I shall not interfere farther.

The Rajah again alludes to the duty on Tin at Perak to which he has so frequently adverted and to which he has entirely relinquished the right.

As to the Siamese, why has my friend permitted them to proceed to Perak? My friend mentioned that he intended to restore peace between Perak and Salengore. The Siamese have restored the old Laxamana. Why has my friend not prevented them? and if they persisted, my friend might use force. The Siamese have also appointed Nakoda Mahomet Rajah Makota.

Dated 27th Rabial Akhir 1241.

(A True Translation)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON

Malay Translator to Govt.

Pinang

15 Decr. 1825.

ORDERED that with reference to the intelligence contained in the concluding paragraph of the foregoing letter, a letter be addressed to the Bajinda Muda remonstrating against the occupation of Perak by the Siamese forces, requiring their recall, and a strict adherence on the part of the Siamese Government to the late Treaty concluded at Kedah with the Rajah of Ligore and Captain Burney Political Agent for the Honorable Company.

Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 105,
pp. 824-7.

FORT CORNWALLIS The 22d December 1825.

THE following letter from the Honble. the Governor to the Chow Pya of Ligor and one from the Malay Translator to the son of that chief, are recorded.

To the Chow Pya
of Ligor dated
16 Decr. 1825.

To the CHOW PYA of LIGOR.

Letter

from the Honble. Robert Fullerton Esquire Governor of Pulo Penang to the Chow Pya of Ligor.

When a few months ago Captain Burney concluded a treaty of peace and friendship with my friend and I undertook to adjust the differences which then unhappily subsisted between my friend and the States of Perak and Salengore, I expected that a termination would have been put to all farther discussion or reference on such subjects; but I regret to observe, that no sooner had I with much trouble and expence adjusted all the points of difference complained of, and my friend had proceeded on his return to Ligor, agreeably to his promise, than a party of several hundred Siamese and Malays proceeded across from Kedah to Perak where I am informed they still remain.

I took little notice of this for some time, as it was asserted by some of my friend's Agents that the party was merely intended to accompany the Rajah Kechil Mooda and other Perak Chiefs and that they would return without delay to Kedah. It appears however, that not only the land party which proceeded to Perak, but the boats which were sent under convoy of a cruizer from hence still remain there and complaints have been made that Nakoda Mahomed has been promoted by Siamese authority to an important post in the Perak Government and

is now exercising powers there which are not only extremely offensive to the Ryots of the Country but which being sanctioned by any of my friends officers is an infraction of the solemn engagement between my friend and the British Government.

The treaty between my friend and Captain Burney has been approved and ratified by the Right Honble. the Governor General and I must now therefore require my friend to give immediate directions for the return of the parties from Perak and to abstain from future interference in the Government of the country agreeably to existing engagements with the several states. In this I expect there will be no delay.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON

Govr.

Penang

16 Decr. 1825.

[The letter from the Malay Translator to the son of the Chow Pya of Ligor follows, but it contains no new matter.]

**Factory
Records,
Straits Settlements,
Vol. 105,
pp. 865-8.**

FORT CORNWALLIS The 22d December 1825.

SUPTDT. of POLICE.

**Supt. of Police
dated 21 Decr.
1825.**

W. S. Cracroft Esquire.

Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the information of Government a Siamese and Malayan paper under the seal or Chop of one Aluang Pea Nyoot, who I understand is the Chom Pea Ban or Siamese Commander in Chief at Kedah, which was found in possession of a Jawi man of this place named Yusuf or Joosoo: from the date of the paper it appears to be about three months old.

This Document seems to be a sort of grant or commission in the name of the Rajah of Ligor to said Joosoo conferring on him some privileges or favour, and requiring him to use his endeavours to bring back the Malays of Kedah and Lankawi to settle in that Island.

Joosoo is a petty trader between there and Kedah, and is I believe a nephew of Bappoo Cundoo, the king of Kedah's late head man, his family has resided in this Island many years. He was found with this paper in his possession on board his prahu in the Krian river three or four days ago, by some boats that went up the river under charge of the commander of the Blossom in quest of pirates, and from two or three other papers that were found in his prahu there can be no doubt but he is on terms of intimacy and friendship with the notorious Kedah pirate Pakir saib, with whom he had probably gone up the Krian to confer when met with by our boats. He however says he went there for trading purposes, and there is no proof to the contrary.

He says the paper now transmitted was given to him about three months ago by the Raja of Ligor *himself*, the day he left Kedah to return to his own Country, and that it is merely intended as a pass or Certificate to exempt him from duties in Rice provided he exports the same for the use of the inhabitants of Lankawi and for no other place ; and also on consideration that he will endeavour to get some of the good and peaceable inhabitants who fled from Kedah and that place to return and settle there.

Joosoo appears to have remained at Kedah some Weeks after the Raja's departure for Ligor, and to have returned here from thence about a month ago.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. CAUNTER
Sup. of Police.

Police Office
21 Dec. 1825.

ORDERED, that the Commission be sent to the Translator for translation.

FORT WILLIAM 13th May 1825.

No. 1.

Pol. Dept.
No. 17.

E. A. Blundell Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government

Sir,

I have now the honor to submit for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, a detailed report of my proceedings since I last left the Presidency on the 7th of February. I propose to frame my report in three separate letters—No. 1 the present letter will refer to my communications with the Governor of Ligore and the officers subject to his authority; No. 2 to those with the Governor of Salang and the Siamese States to the northward of Pungah; and No. 3 will give cover to a Map and a memorandum, containing such details respecting geography and other subjects of general information, as I was enabled to gather during the progress of my mission.

I arrived at Kedah on the 8th of February, and found no difficulty in obtaining from the Baginda Muda the promised letters of introduction to the Pya of Salang and Prahs of Tuccotong and Tuccopa. To the Pya of Chimpohun he declared his inability to write, as neither himself nor any of his officers is acquainted with that Governors precise titles, and to address him without inscribing them correctly would be highly disrespectful. He declined also to order two of his more intelligent Siamese servants to accompany me, on the plea of his having too few Siamese at Kedah to spare a single man, but the attendants whom he selected, Malays, I deemed it prudent to accept, as I believed, and I afterwards found I was right in so believing, that I should be able to make even their presence useful at any place which I might visit in the Kingdom of Kedah.

I was told of Khoon Aksorn's having passed Kedah the day before my arrival, and as he was a Messenger proceeding directly from the Chow Pya of Ligore, the Baginda Muda observed, that the Honorable the Governor had better communicate his wishes with respect to the mutual surrender of criminals between Kedah and Penang to Khoon Aksorn, and that in fact he, the Baginda Muda, had now no power to conclude any arrangement for this purpose with me. I learnt also that my Chinese Agent, Achong, had been forwarded to Ligore on the 30th of January.

The Baginda Muda and his officers appeared to place much more confidence in me during this visit than what they had previously done, and even the surly Chiom Pya Ban was more civil. I was solicited to land some of my Escort and to exercise the Sepoys before the young Chief; and he fatigued me in making me describe to him the forms of salutation and of receiving and paying visits in England. At my departure also, he engaged me to accompany him on an excursion up Elephant Mount whenever I again visited Kedah.

As usual, however, I had to persuade him to destroy the first draft of his proposed reply to the letter from the Honorable the Governor, and to substitute something more precise and intelligent. He as well as Chiom Pya Ban charged the King of Kedah with constantly sending spies and emissaries into the Kedah territories, in order to sow suspicions into the minds of the Siamese, and to incite the Malay inhabitants to revolt, and they smiled incredulously at my assurances, that the King had been earnestly cautioned by our Government against such proceedings. I found they firmly believed that many of the piratical incursions made by the Kings relatives and adherents, are made with our privity and full concurrence, and they fairly told me that as long as the King of Kedah continued at Penang, no confidence or

good understanding could subsist between the English and Siamese. I was subsequently told by the Malayan writer to Chiom Pya Ban, that among themselves, the Siamese are in the habit of saying that they can never live at Kedah in security so long as the English are allowed to occupy Penang. But I discovered this writer to be secretly in the interest of the King of Kedah, and I suspect, that he had only heard the same observation as that which the Baginda Muda and the Chiom had made to me, but that he repeated it in the manner most likely to injure my intercourse with the Siamese.

There was a report of Kedah that a British Agent had arrived at Bangkok, having crossed the Country from the Western Sea, that he had presented a thousand stand of muskets to the King of Siam—that His Majesty had resolved upon co-operating with the British Forces against Ava, and that he had observed several officers of high rank and 70,000 men to be held in readiness to march against the Burmese in the direction of Cheung-mai; and also the Chow Pya of Ligure to open friendly communications with the Honorable the Governor of Penang, for which purpose Khoon Aksorn had been deputed. On questioning the Baginda Muda regarding this intelligence, he acknowledged that such a report had reached Kedah, but professed his inability to tell me how far it was true, and he declared, that the objects of Khoon Aksorn's visit to Penang were two-fold—first, to offer the loan of the boats and vessels for which Captain Low had applied; and secondly, to purchase some cloths and other articles for his father to take to Bangkok for the funeral of the late King of Siam. I learnt, however, privately, just before leaving Kedah, and found at Pungah that I had in part learnt correctly, that the Court of Siam being incredulous on the subject of our successes against Ava, and distrustful of the accounts which Mr. Crawford from Singapore and other British officers had

transmitted, had directed the Chow Pya of Ligore to open communications with the Honorable the Governor and endeavour by that means to obtain correct and full intelligence regarding our proceedings, and that the Chow Pya had accordingly deputed Khoon Aksorn to Penang, with instructions to pretend to purchase cloths, and to discuss with the Honorable the Governor propositions for restoring the King of Kedah, and even to offer a loan of boats, at the same time that he exerted himself to learn and ascertain as much as he possibly could regarding the nature and progress of the war.

It was my original intention and desire, on leaving Penang to proceed from Kedah and visit Mergui and Rinnong, to ascertain the precise state of the war, and the nature of the Sianese claims and authority in that quarter before I met the Governor of Ligore, but apprehensive that I might be delayed to the northward long after Achong reached Trang, and believing that this Government considered my interview with the Chow Pya as the principal object of my Mission, I determined upon confining myself to collecting and communicating intelligence between Kedah and Pungah during the interval of Achong's absence.

From Kedah we proceeded towards the Purlis district. Having heard that the *Chiom* or *Luang* here, Rat-Mintha, is a very intelligent person and a near relative of the Pya of Chaiya, I ascended on the 14th February thirteen miles up the Purlis River to Kangar, where I found fifteen large boats equipping, and about three hundred inhabitants, forty Sianese only, twenty Chinese, and from two to three hundred Malays. The *Chiom* had unfortunately been summoned to Kedah the day before, but I was received by those in charge of the place with civility, and allowed to walk about and converse indiscriminately with the Inhabitants. The *Chiom's* character had been justly

represented to me. The Malays here appeared happy and contented. Paddy was extremely cheap and allowed to be freely exported—and several traders from Penang were loading their little boats with every semblance of confidence.

I met here Sing-chon, a Chinese servant belonging to the Pya of Singora who, was returning to his master from Penang with a large supply of Europe and Indian cloths destined for the King of Siam's funeral. He assured me, that his master had not the slightest idea or chance of being appointed to the charge of Kedah. He further told me, that he had been allowed to visit Penang, because his business related to the King of Siam, but that he was closely watched by the followers of the Chief of Ligore.

On my return from Kangar, I stopped and landed at Kayang, a small village about five miles from the mouth of the Purlis River, containing ten Siamese under a *Morn*, Prab, ten or twelve Chinese, and from fifty to sixty Malays. I found the principal Chinaman here named Hingoo, is an agent of Che Toah at Penang, who has farmed the exclusive state* of opium, Salt and Cotton Wool in this District.

* 7 right

We next proceeded towards the Sittool District, and on the 18th of February ascended through the *Qualla* Settool tooah, or *Sungey* Membang Legarce, to Membang Segara, a small village about ten miles from the sea, containing fifteen or twenty Malays only under an old Malay named Tuankee Long. He told me, that a *Morn*, Pullusn, with ten Siamese are living some miles further in the interior, where many Chinese are settled cultivating paddy, that Membang Segara is the limit of the Baginda Muda's authority, and under the orders of the Chow Pya's two eldest sons residing a few miles further to the northward, up the Meeraket River; and that the greater portion of the Malayan inhabitants of this District has fled to Penang. The River Membang Segara is shallow and not navigable

for even a canoe excepting when the tide enters. There could be no large boats built here, but I learnt here and again at Lungu, that the two young chiefs of Meerakit are equipping at that place from twenty to thirty boats.

On questioning the inhabitants of Membang Segara as to the cause and nature of the insurrection which occurred in this District two years ago, they told me that the whole originated in some emissaries, they believe from Penang, having spread a report that that the Siamese were about to transport all the wives and children of the Malays to Ligore, and that this report, which was entirely false, had led to the destruction of many lives, and to the emigration of nearly two thousand people. They further stated that much mischief had been done, and was continuing to be done by such emissaries, who would not allow Malays to live peaceably under the Siamese Government.

The people at Membang Segara, and at every place to the north of it wherever I visited, I found speaking Siamese among themselves, as if it were their vernacular tongue.

From Membang Segara, we proceeded towards the Meerakit river, and anchored near Pulo Eepoh, an Island described as possessing a very abundant tripang fishery around it; we attempted on the 20th of February to ascend the Meerakit river, but the extreme shallowness of the bar at its mouth shewed us that our schooner had no chance of entering the river excepting on the top of high water.

We next proceeded towards the Lungu District and landed on the 21st February at Lungu, a small village, situate about a quarter of a mile up a small stream, and containing about thirty Chinese, and from fifty to sixty Malays and *orang Laut*, under a Chinese captain named Ceet. This river, I saw immediately, was quite unfit for building or equipping boats in, and

on questioning the Chinese captain, I learnt that this stream is called *Qualla Lungu muda*, and that a few miles more to the northward there is another called *Sungey Beebera*, and sometimes *Qualla Lungu tooah*, where the Siamese are building two or three boats, but that even that stream is too small to admit of the construction of large vessels. He further told me, what I had previously heard, that a large body of the followers of the Pya of Singora live several miles up the *Rubong Boya*, a large river between the *Meerakit* and *Lungu*, but that I could not communicate with any of them, as the mouth of the river is occupied by a party of *Ligorians*.

I learnt here, and the information was subsequently confirmed, that the two sons of the *Chow Pya* named *Phoh Klom* and *Phoh Pho*, are placed at *Meerakit* for the purpose of superintending the preservation of the *Edible Birds' nests*, and the collection of a tithe on all *tripang* caught, in which two valuable articles of commerce the shores and rocky isles between *Purlis* and *Pak-lao* abound, and that the authority of these young Chiefs extends to *Sungey Oopih*, which is a small stream just above the river *Te-luwas* or *Talavase*, and which was the last established boundary between the King and the *Pya* of *Merdelong's* possessions.

Note.—The King of *Kedah* himself has just confirmed to me what I had heard as to *Sungey Oopih* being his boundary.

I delivered a complimentary letter and some presents to the Chinese captain to be forwarded to the young Chiefs at *Meerakit*, which he said a messenger from *Lungu* could reach in a few hours.

From *Lungu*, we proceeded towards the river *Trang*. We had previously ascertained that *Forrests' Telaga*, *Telaga Toojoo*, *Manneville's Pundaen*, and *Horsburgh's Talavase* (*Te-luwas*) as well as *Pulo Telibon* and several other places on the coast between *Lungu* and *Pak-lao*, *Pak-lao*, had been deserted ever since the occupation of *Junkceylon* by the *Burmese* in 1810, and that they are now the haunts of *Pirates*, or

occasionally of Orang Laut when engaged in fishing for tripang, at Tanjong Sittar, a small island lying in a deep bay to the north of Teluwas, which bay is not noticed in any chart that we had, and at the river Plean near Trang, we learnt that parties of the followers of the Pya of Merdelong or Khontelon are residing. But I was assured that the inhabitants at these two places, as well as their master are entirely under the orders of the Chow-Pya, and I did not therefore attempt to communicate with them.

On the passage to the River Trang, we were particularly struck with the strange appearance of the rocks and isles named by Forrest "Rough Saddle," "Square," "Cleft" and "Two Canisters," and we found at the first mentioned isle, called by the Malays Pulo Butt tra, and at another near it called Pulo Laang, two Prows from Settool posted to guard the edible Birds' nests.

We anchored on the 24th February to the East of Pulo Telibon on the channel between that island and the main, and on the following day, we ascended the Trang river. About six miles from the mouth of the River, we were for the first time stopped and desired to anchor, by a Siamese officer in charge of a small post situated in the midst of jungle. As I understood from my native pilots that Junsoo was only a furlong higher up the river, and as my followers required some refreshments, which could not be procured at this Siamese fort, I requested the officer to allow the schooner to proceed to Junsoo, but he objected, and we anchored. After addressing a letter however, to the *Chiom* or *Luang* na-rong che-lattee in charge of Kantanee, reporting my arrival, and giving it to the Siamese officer here to forward, I signified my intention of proceeding to Junsoo, and waiting there for the *Chiom's* reply. The officer opposed my intention, but quieting him a little by promising not to attempt to advance any farther than Junsoo until we received

the Chiom's reply, we passed on to that village, which we found to be a poor looking place, containing about thirty Chinese, twenty Chulials, and from fifty to sixty Malays only.

At 10 A. M. on the following day, the bearer of my letter returned with a message from the *Chiom* at Khantanee, stating, that he would come down and meet [me] at Junsoo. I was now convinced that it was the object of these Siamese, to prevent my seeing Khantanee, and had the wind and tide at the time been favorable, I should have immediately advanced towards that place under a pretext that I could not think of giving the *Chiom* so much trouble as to come down to meet me. He arrived however at one o'clock, just as the tide began to make, and was accompanied by his writer and the second in rank at Khantanee, an officer called nai-Belat.

On questioning them respecting Achong, they declared that nothing had been heard of him, and the nai Belat, who I found had arrived from Legore but two days before, assured me that Achong had not arrived there previous to his departure. This nai Belat proved himself a genuine Siamese. He pretended to have as yet heard a vague rumour only of the Burmese war, although I knew he had seen Captain Low last year. He would not deny the correctness of my observation, that, Achong having left Kedah twenty eight days ago, ought to have reached Legore before he quitted it, and in fact he " would not appear to be better instructed than myself " even in the " things of his own Country " although I was a stranger.

Anxious to ascertain the exact number of Boats equipping at Khantanee, regarding which I had heard the most conflicting accounts, I determined now that the tide had turned, upon attempting to proceed to that town. I affected therefore to be dissatisfied

with the conversation of the *Luang*, and to complain to him against a Chuliah, who had been extremely impertinent to us at Junsoo, and declaring [my] intention of proceeding to Khantanee, for the purpose of dispatching one of my own followers across the Country to Ligore. I invited the *Luang* to accompany me, but he vehemently opposed my proceeding further, and even observed, that if I went to Khantanee, I should perhaps be prevented from leaving it again. To this threat I laughingly replied, through my interpreters, that I should be very happy to be detained by him as I was anxious to take up my residence among the Siamese and then weighed anchor and stood up the river. The *Luang* dispatched the *nai Belat* to follow me, and this officer at length besought me in such earnest and abject terms not to proceed, stating that the *Luang* and himself would be most severely punished by the Chow Pya of Ligore the moment he heard of an English vessel having ascended to Khantanee, that I was induced to stop, from a reflexion that it would be cruel towards these men to proceed, and impolitic, in the present stage of my negotiations, to persist in doing what I was now satisfied the Chow Pya of Ligore was most anxious to prevent. Shortly after I anchored, the *Luang*, who also now appeared to have been following us, came up; and both he and the *nai Belat* appeared most grateful at my forbearance. I took care to let them understand that I had stopped because I was now convinced that their Master did not wish me to see Khantanee, and because I was too desirous of securing his friendship to give offence upon such a trivial point.

I then explained to these officers the necessity which existed for my seeing their master as soon as possible, and delivered to them the second letter to his address from the Honorable the Governor, together with a short one from myself. They declared, that answers to these letters might be expected from

Ligore in fifteen days. I endeavoured to point out the inaccuracy of their assertion and appealed to several of my followers, who had assured me, and who now assured them, that they had repeatedly gone from Khantanee to Ligore in the present season in three days, but these officers still maintained, that no answer could be expected in less than fifteen days. From this, as well as from Nai Belat's previous conversation, I was fully persuaded, that the nai Belat must have been sent down from Ligore to prepare the Luang here against my arrival, and that the Chow Pya had no intention of meeting me at Khantanee, desiring some delay, perhaps until the return of Khoon Aksorn from Penang, before he determined the time for seeing me.

These officers however and I parted on the most friendly terms, and they readily gave me a Pilot to navigate the Schooner down the river. From this Pilot, who had been the *Datoo* or Chief of Pulo Tebbon, and who was a remarkably intelligent Malay, and an old acquaintance of one of my followers, I learnt that the Chow Pya of Ligore has received the most unfavorable reports regarding the views of this Government, and, that he fully believes it is meditating an attack against him at Ligore, and that [with] this view Captain Low had been sent last year to collect routes across the Country. I had heard some of these tales on my first visit to Kedah, and it was from them principally that I received the impression, which I submitted to Government in my first report of the 28th January, namely, "I am by no means sanguine of being now allowed to pass across the Country to Ligore." The *Datoo* also gave me reason to believe, that the objects of my mission have been in the same manner most grossly misrepresented to the Siamese. From him, as well as from some of the inhabitants of Junsou, I gathered, that there are at Khantanee thirty new boats building, and about one

hundred old ones of all sizes, and two brigs laid up, most of them being too old and decayed to be again used.

From Pulo Tebbon, we proceeded on the 27 of February towards Pungah, off which we anchored on the 4th of March. To the northward of Trang, the Chow Pya of Ligore's authority, as I heretofore reported, extends to Pak-lao, a river and small town about eight miles to the north east of the Pungah river. Many of the places formerly occupied between Trang and Pak-lao, have also been deserted since the invasion of Junkceylon by the Burmese; Pulo Loutar-Comb, where there are some medicinal springs, Tak-Ding-den and Nak Kraat are now without inhabitants, without even orang Laut. Cassai contains a small population, employed in cultivating paddy, collecting tripang from the orang Laut, and catching Elephants, in which animals the country to the north of Trang is reputed to abound. Vessels from the coast of Coromandel occasionally visit Cassai, as well as the river Trang for these animals. Ghuby is a small village to the south of Cassai, near a mountain whose peak appears from four to five thousand feet high, and its inhabitants are employed in the same manner as at Cassai. At Pak-lao some tew (*sic*) collected; and here by orders from Siam, the Chiefs and people from Salang and Pungah are allowed to keep their elephants and to pass freely towards or from Chaiya on the Gulf of Siam. There is a direct route from Pungah to Chaiya, but as it passes over the high mountains which enclose the valley of Pungah, it is by no means so convenient or so expeditious as the route from Paklao, to which the people from Pungah can come in boats within four hours. Between Pungah and Pak-lao are a small river and town named Bosin, subject to the Pya of Salang, and its inhabitants are engaged in cultivating paddy.

While returning to Trang from Pungah on the

21st ultimo, agreeably to the arrangement which I had previously concerted with the Chiom of Khantaunee, I received a letter from Penang announcing the intelligence that Achong had failed to persuade the Chow Pya of Ligore to grant me an immediate interview, and I resolved therefore upon returning to the Presidency, as soon as possible without touching at Trang.

Since my return I have seen Achong, and I learn from him, that on his first arrival at Ligore, the Chow Pya's suspicions were roused against him. That when he succeeded in removing them, the Chow Pya determined on coming down to Kedah in thirty or forty days to give me an audience there in preference to Trang, which place he said would be too far from the Honorable the Governor, to whom it might be necessary to make reference—that the Chief accordingly prepared two letters, stating his intention, the one addressed to the Honorable the Governor from himself, and the other to me from his favorite son, whom I had seen at Quedah in 1822, and between whom and me, the Chow Pya told Achong, there exists much friendly regard—and that he delivered these letters to Achong and desired him to return to Penang via Kedah, notwithstanding Achong's pressing entreaty to be allowed to go down and meet me at Trang.

Achong learnt whilst at Ligore, that much doubt and suspicion exist at Bangkok respecting our proceedings against the Burmese, and that an Army is assembling in Siam. He ascertained also, that there

* Achong further declares that the Chow Pya of Ligore assured him of his readiness to convey me to Bangkok. is not a syllable of truth in the report which was brought here of the rising influence of the Pya of Singora, and that the Chow Pya of Ligore is determined upon attacking Salangore at the first favorable opportunity.*

I consider Achong's mission to to have partially succeeded in two points only. First, he has persuaded

the Chow Pya to agree to come and give me an interview at Kedah; and secondly he has established beyond further dispute the question as to the superior influence of this Chief to that of the Pya of Singora. I am forced to own however, that Achong has disappointed me, inasmuch as he allowed the Chow Pya of Ligore, to betray him to show to that Chief a journal of his journey from Kedah to Ligore, which he had kept, and the very sight of which tended to confirm all the Chow Pya's suspicions as to our desire of procuring routes through his territories. After this act of imprudence on the part of Achong, I am by no means surprised, that the Chow Pya would neither allow him to go down to Trang, nor his officers permit me to visit Khantanee.

4 March from
Mr. Secy. Ibbet-
son.

14 March from
Mr. Secy. Cra-
craft.

17 March from
Mr. Actg. Secy.
Blundell.

(The letters here
alluded to, of 4
and 14 March, do
not appear to
exist—the letter
of 17 March has
been already
transmitted.)

I have now the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the dispatches enumerated in the margin. The first and second were transmitted for my information, and to the last mentioned only, I have to solicit permission to submit a reply.

The Honorable the Governor in Council has inferred from a perusal of the Letter addressed by the Chow Pya of Ligore to the Honorable the Governor, that that Chief has no intention of granting me a personal interview, but the enclosed translation of the letter addressed to me at the same time by the young and favorite son at Ligore will shew that the Chow Pya actually proposes to meet me at Kedah, and I own I consider the tenor of this letter as extremely friendly, and the circumstance of the Chow Pya having desired his son to write it, is viewed by me as a certain proof of his good will towards me. I do not presume to understand the Malayan language so thoroughly as the Translator to Government but I am aware of what I think he has overlooked, that the letter to the Honorable the Governor is written in a language which the Chow Pya of Ligore cannot read, and that the Interpreter and Malay Writers employed by the

Siamese are of the most abject description, a mixed breed between a Siamese and Malay, most of whom write a bad hand, and compose most incorrectly in the Malayan tongue. It is inconceivable the trouble and vexation which the Malay writer to the Baginda Muda at Kedah gave me, before I could make him use intelligible and precise language in the replies to the letters from the Honorable the Governor. Precision in language is above all things avoided by such writers who expect the loss of their heads will follow any phrase which may commit their master more than he desires. The bad handwriting of such a writer should not therefore, I submit, be considered as "disrespectful," a charge the justice of which Achong vehemently denies, and one which, under existing circumstances, would be the last, I should think, that the Chow Pya would be disposed to incur. He possesses too much cunning not to see that being disrespectful to the Honorable the Governor, would be the most impolitic thing he could do, while his plans against Salangore are in progress.

I do not propose to set myself up as an apologist for the Chow Pya of Ligore, who, I believe, possesses much ambition and all the little arts, and cunning with which that passion is usually connected in the breasts of Native Princes. It must however have been observed by the Honorable the Governor, as much as by myself, that a very strong prejudice prevails against that Chief, and that not only the most unfavorable construction is put upon every thing he says and does, but the most wild and extravagant tales are hourly brought and circulated here in view to keep alive and aggravate our prejudice against him. I have every reason to know, that the same wild and mischievous tales are taken to him against this Government, and that he at the present moment firmly believes that a force is ready at this settlement to be pushed across the country to Ligore the

moment we have obtained correct routes. Can it then be matter for surprise that he and all his followers view us with the utmost jealousy and suspicion, or that he fears to receive our Envoys or accept our proffered kindness?

Nothing proved to me more forcibly that we had been most grossly misrepresented to the Ligoreans than the conduct of the Chiefs and of the whole of the common people at Pungah, who, though resembling the Ligoreans in language, features and dress, appeared in their conduct towards us to be of an entirely different race. This was an observation made by all who accompanied me to Pungah.

I have just been informed by Mr. Maingy that the return and reports of my Malay followers have proved of the greatest service in quieting the fears of the inhabitants of Province Wellesley, all of whom fully credited, notwithstanding his assertions, a report lately brought of the Siamese being prepared to make an immediate attack upon that Province and many of whom had packed up their property in order to be ready to fly to Penang at the first alarm. After knowing this, and also that it was believed by many Gentlemen here last year, that the Chief of Ligore had ordered Captain Low to be poisoned, and now lately, that he had cut me off, we cannot wonder that similar idle tales make an impression at Ligor and Kedah.

I believe that the Chow Pya of Ligore is sincere in his intention of coming down to Kedah, and that he will admit me to a personal interview, at which unless my views and intentions be already grievously misrepresented to him, I still hope to be able to remove much of the distrust and suspicion with which he has been filled. I do not imagine that he is coming down merely to superintend the prosecution of hostilities against Salengore, because I believe that the number of boats which he is equipping, and has

ready for service, is much exaggerated, and that it is insufficient to enable him to undertake the attack during the present favourable north east monsoon. His proposing such a delay as thirty or forty days, is imputed to his desire of gaining time until his preparations are completed, but the fact is, that he has no time to spare as the South west monsoon is fast approaching, and the season for his operations is already nearly past. I am inclined to ascribe the delay to his desire of first receiving Khoon Aksorn's report from Penang, and to a necessity which, I learnt at Pungah, existed for him, as well as for every other Siamese Governor, to be at his station on the first day of the present moon, when the oath of allegiance to the King of Siam was taken by himself and all his officers. The Prahs of Tuccotong and Tuccopa were obliged to hurry away from Pungah before my departure, in order to reach their respective Capitals in time to perform this ceremony in the manner prescribed by the laws of Siam.

I fear the time is passed when we might have rendered the Chow Pya instrumental without much difficulty in the accomplishment of the views of this Government with respect to Kedah, not only because his fears and suspicions have been much excited against us, but because he has now made arrangements for availing himself of the whole resources of that kingdom, and is therefore deeply interested against its restoration to our old ally. The son at Kedah is appropriating for his father the principal staples, namely—Paddy, Timber and Tin to the southward of Settool, while the sons at Meerakit are appropriating the staples to the northward, Birds' nests, Tripang, and Timber for Boat Building. The Chow Pya, as I have before mentioned, levies a tithe on all tripang caught off the Kedah shores, and monopolizes the whole of the Edible Birds' nests from the different islands in this neighbourhood, the produce of both of which sources of revenue was estimated by Mr.

James Scott, at 16,000 Dollars per annum. The paddy and timber, the produce of Kedah, are retained for the most part for the use of the Ligoreans themselves, but I believe the whole of the tripang and Birds' nests gathered, finds its way to Penang. Of late years also our Malay inhabitants from the opposite shore, as well as from this Island, have been fitting out boats and making long voyages, as far even as the Rinnong River, for the purpose of gathering birds' nests, and in these adventures, which are extremely hazardous and dangerous, they are accused of plundering such rocky islets of the Kedah territories as they find unprotected by Siamese boats.

The Pya of Salang however assured me, that the Chow Pya possesses great influence at Bangkok through his nephew, the present Wang-na, or Heir apparent, to whom he is said to transmit a portion of the profits arising from his occupation of Kedah. It is this intelligence that induces me earnestly to beg the Honorable the Governor in Council not to determine upon discontinuing all intercourse with the Chow Pya, but rather keep him in good humour and occupied until the other important objects which we require from the Siamese are attained at Bangkok although I am now fully satisfied that this Chief possesses no power to conclude a treaty with us, and that he is in truth a subordinate officer, bound implicitly to follow the dictates of his superiors at Siam, and by no means a Raja or Sovereign as he has been styled by us, yet I was told at Pungah, and I believe it, that we shall be able to make no impression in our negotiations at Siam, but through the intervention of the Siamese Governors in this neighbourhood, on whose reports only the Court of Bangkok will act. I conceive therefore it will be most impolitic to court the opposition of the Chow Pya against the exertions of any agent who may be deputed to Siam.

It is deeply to be regretted, that on the first arrival of the Ligorean forces at Kedah, a small detachment, and a very small one would have been sufficient, had not been sent there to drive them out again. I am convinced that such a measure would not have brought on any serious dispute with Siam, and the Pya of Salang assured me, that at Bangkok, very little interest is felt regarding Kedah, and that it was not until the Chow Pya had for many years been reporting the disaffection of the King of Kedah that he at length received a permission simply "to do as he pleased against that monarch."

My superiors have decided that the restoration of the King of Kedah will be most advantageous to British interests, and it becomes me only to submit such suggestions as may have occurred to me respecting the most prompt and efficient mode of accomplishing that object. I found at Pungah the Chief and his Ministers very kindly disposed towards the King of Kedah, to whose exertions and particularly to the exertions of whose late unfortunate Bindahara, they principally ascribe the repulse of the Burmese from Salang in 1810. The boats sent by the King on that occasion were by far the most efficient and formidable to the Burmese, and the Bindahara is reported to have possessed great skill and precision in directing cannon, and to have himself fired the shot which killed the Chief of Mergui. Besides this cause for feeling well disposed towards the King of Kedah, the Pya of Salang I found is not on most cordial terms with the Chow Pya of Ligore, some coolness and jealousy having been created by the circumstance of a great many adherents of the latter having been received and protected at Bengal.

The only person whom it will be necessary to conciliate at Bangkok is the *wang-na*, and through the friendly aid of the Pya of Salang, I should think it will not be difficult to prevail on that personage to

agree to divide with his uncle some annual compensation in money from the King of Kedah, and to agree also to obtain his uncle's consent to such a scheme by means of an imperial order or promise of other advantages from the King of Siam. The British Government may be guarantee for the regular payment of this compensation in the manner proposed by the late Honorable Governor, who, however fixed an annual sum of only 2,000 Dollars to be paid by the King of Kedah to Siam in lieu of all other claims. But it appears that Siam had for many years, even before our occupation of Penang, (See Mr. James Scott's Reports upon Junkceylon) been deriving a direct revenue in cash of 6,000 Dollars per annum from the King of Kedah on account of the birds' nests in the islands contiguous to his kingdom. I was told at Pungah, that this revenue or rent to Siam was paid through the Chow Pya of Ligore, but the King of Kedah assures me, that an officer from Bangkok annually came down to demand and receive the 6,000 Dollars.

With respect to the projected attack upon Salangore, I have great hopes that the Chow Pya's preparations will not be completed in time to undertake that measure until the next north east monsoon. If however he should be enabled to attempt it immediately, the best and most easy mode of preventing it, is by this Government at once prohibiting him, and declaring its intention of protecting Salangore. I believe such a declaration may be communicated to the Chow Pya in manner calculated not only to stop him, but to prevent an actual breach between us. Another certainly less hazardous line, but one that may ultimately perhaps prove more embarrassing, could be adopted, by our requesting the Chow Pya to suspend his operations against Salangore until we had satisfied ourselves, at Bangkok, that he possesses proper authority from that Court to undertake such hostilities.

To conclude, I am inclined to believe from all I have seen and heard, that it will be much easier to obtain from Siam the entire restoration of the King of Kedah, than any such cession of territory to ourselves as is proposed in the 7th article of Mr. Crawford's "notes towards a treaty with the Siamese," and that the British Government will not succeed in persuading the Court of Siam to consent by regular treaty to the future independence of the Malayan States, but that if it be assumed at once by us, we shall be allowed to act upon that principle without any serious demur. I am convinced Loubere is quite correct in stating that the Siamese "engage themselves in writing as little as they can. They will rather receive you into a Port, or into a Castle than they will agree with you by treaty in ample form sealed by their Barcalon."

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY, Captn.

Poll. Agent to the Siamese States.

Prince of Wales Island

The 2d. April 1825.

True Copy

(Signed) E. A. BLUNDELL.

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

FORT WILLIAM 13th May 1825.

No. 2.

Sect. Dept.
No. 16.

To E. A. BLUNDELL Esqre.

Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor in this letter to detail, for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, my communication, with the Pya of Salang, and the Chiefs on the Isthmus of Kraw, the result of which communications I have already reported in my letter under date the 24th ultimo.

Before leaving the Presidency on the last occasion, I had formed an acquaintance with *Luang Took-Krat*, an officer from Tuccopa, who had come here on some commercial business, and who engaged to prepare not only his master, the Prah of Tuccopa, but the Pya of Salang, to whom he was first going, for a visit from me. When therefore, on the 4th of March, I sent my native Interpreters on shore at Pungah to report my arrival, the Pya of Salang remarked, that he had been expecting me for several days, and had prepared a House for my reception, and immediately ordered some pilots to return with my Interpreters to the *Jessy*, and navigate the schooner up to Pungah.

On the morning of the 6th we reached Pungah, and took possession of the House prepared for our reception. Shortly after a native of the Coast of Coromandel, whose name is Nakoda Bapoo, but who possesses the title of *Luang Siri Maharajah Lam*, and the office, under the seal of the King of Siam, of Dubash and Interpreter at Pungah called upon me and made known that the Pya had desired him to attend to all my wishes, and to acquaint me, that I should be received in state at 11 o'clock. At the hour appointed, I proceeded, accompanied by all my followers, [to] the Pya's house, where I was received with much ceremony.

About three or four hundred men, armed with muskets and clothed in scarlet serge, surrounded the Hall of Audience, while a Siamese band was playing on each side. The interior of the Hall was divided into three separate stages. On the first and highest sat the Pya with his sword and Betel bearers &c. On the next, and about a foot lower, sat his Ministers the Tan Belat and Tan Yokabat, some Commissioners from Bangkok, the Prahs of Tuecatong and Tuccopa, and the Pya's youngest Son, a lad of about thirteen years of age. Near to these I was placed, with the Pya's and my own Interpreters. Behind us, and about two feet lower, the place was crowded with the Pya's petty officers, and apparently with every class of the Inhabitants of Pungah.

I presented the second letter from the Honble. the Governor and my Commission. The first letter stating in general terms the objects of my mission, I had previously forwarded to the Pya. My Commission was read and a copy of it was taken down in the Siamese language, in doing which my own Malay interpreters were requested to assist.

The Pya after enquiries respecting the health of the Right Honble. the Governor General, and of the Honble. the Governor of Penang observed that he was truly happy to welcome a British Agent at Pungah, where he had lived for so many years without ever having seen one. He was absent at Bangkok when Capt. Low visited Pungah last year. He then declared, that he entertained a very cordial regard towards the English and that as we were now punishing the Burmese, the old enemy of Siam, every Siamese was bound to cultivate the most friendly relations with us, but particularly the inhabitants of Salang and Pungah who had been for so many years living in hourly dread of the Burmese. He then put some questions to me regarding the progress of the war, and when

replying to them, I stated, that I had a great many details on that subject to communicate and that I hoped he would grant me, on some early day, a more private and confidential interview, when I could show him maps of the Country, and more unreservedly explain to him all that he desired to know. He highly approved of seeing me unattended by all this state and show, which he said were great impediments to the transaction of business and promised to see me again as soon as possible.

After some other general conversation, a very plentiful dinner, dressed after the Chinese fashion, was placed before Mr. Cuthbertson and me, and when we had partaken of it, we returned home much pleased with this our first visit.

During this interview, I observed the extraordinary influence which the Chuliah Luang Lam exercised over the Pya and the whole of his officers, who appeared to adopt all the Interpreter's opinions and suggestions. I made it a point therefore to gain the interest of this man, and, with presents and promises, I made him most serviceable to me. He could visit the Pya and his Ministers at any hour of the day or night, and he repeatedly proved to me, that he could persuade them to do whatever he desired. So well aware is he of his great influence, that he even asked me one day—"Do you not see, Sir, that I hold in my hand the brains of these people, and that I can release and retain just as much of them as I please?" He was well acquainted with the late Mr. Light and Mr. James Scott, as well as with the character and proceedings of the British Government in India, and he certainly proved himself attached to the English. He is married to a Siamese woman, and speaks the Siamese language like a native, and having repeatedly been at Bangkok, he pressed me to proceed thither at once, engaging with his

knowledge of the character and views of the principal people there, to obtain anything which the British Government may desire from that Court. I must, in fine, do this man the justice to own, that during all my communications with him, I never caught him telling me an untruth. On taking leave of the Pya the first day, he told me, that his eldest son, who was not then present, was preparing a Siamese play for my amusement, and accordingly on the following day, accompanied by Luang Lam, I paid a visit to the young Chief who received me with great cordiality. He is about 30 years of age, and of a frank and cheerful disposition, but unfortunately rather addicted to gaming. I was almost every day afterwards in this young man's house and as he possessed some authority in the Government, and much influence over his father, I procured through his means some information and copies of papers which his father hesitated to give me. He pressed me to proceed to Bangkok immediately—offered to wait at Bangkok until I could return thither with sufficient power, and promised to afford me at Bangkok, and on the route thither, every assistance and advice in his power. He is married to the sister of a Prah from Bangkok, who has farmed the privilege of smelting Tin at Pungah.

In the evening of this day, the 7th of March, I proceeded in an undress, accompanied by Luang Lam and my interpreters only, to the Pya's house, where himself and son and principal officers were assembled with very few attendants. I seated myself near the Young Chief in the same manner as the rest were seated, and opening a map of India, and of the Burmese and Siamese territories, gave them as full and satisfactory an account as I could of the origin and progress of the Burmese War. The whole listened with great attention, and the Tan Belat put down the names of a great many places in the Siamese Character on one of Horsburgh's Charts, with copies of which I

had presented the Pya, his son and the Prah of Tuccopa. The Pya then observed, that all what I had reported was highly gratifying, and would, he was sure, afford so much satisfaction to the King of Siam, that he, the Pya, could not hesitate to invite me at once to accompany him to Bangkok, whither he was about to proceed in the course of a month or three weeks for the purpose of assisting at the funeral of the late King. On my declaring that I possessed no power to visit Siam, he questioned me much regarding the time which it would take for me to obtain sufficient powers and added, " Since you cannot proceed to Bangkok, I wish you would give me a Note in writing of all that you said this evening, and of the objects of your Mission."

Some enquiries were then made regarding the Burmese Embassy to Cochin China, and as I fortunately possessed Copies in the Burmese Language, which Mr. Gibson had given me, of the letter addressed by the King of Ava to the King of Cochin China, and of the letter of instructions from the Burmese Ministers to their Ambassadors, I sent for these documents, and shewed them as well as a Chinese drawing of the reception of the Embassy at Saigon. The interest which the sight of these papers created cannot be described, and they all assured me, that I should be received at Bangkok with the greatest cordiality, if I gave the King such a proof of the good will of the English towards the Siamese as the production of these papers would be considered.

The Pya detained me until 1 o'clock in the morning.

On the 8th of March, I visited the Tan Belat, whose duties at Pungah are said to be the same as those of the Bindahara in Malayan States, and whom the Luang Lam always called " Vizier." He is an elderly man, shrewd, intelligent and of extremely mild man-

ner, and he appears justly to have acquired great influence over the Pya, his master *Luang Lam* how-
 * sic.—? "there" ever was * thing with him also, and I was not therefore long in securing his good will and confidence.

On the same day, I called on the Tan Yokobat, the Prah of Tuccotong and Tuccopa, and the Kha Luang Mekhong or principal Commissioner from Bangkok.

The first, the Yokobat, is related to the Pya of Salang by marriage, and his duties are said to be similar to those of the Laxamana in Malayan States. He appeared low-bred, and by no means intelligent.

The Second, the Prah of Tuccatong, is a mean looking man, but extremely quick and shrewd in conversation, and the Pya of Salang having once been an officer immediately under him as the Yokobat at Natoi, some coolness and reserve now exist between them. He exercises authority over the Christian village of Tham, Pak-Phra or Poppra Khokloce, Brahgri, Natoi, Tuccatong and Patai, the whole containing, I was told, no more than six or seven hundred people, but he is entirely subject to the orders of the Pya of Salang, who it may be observed by his letter to the Honble. the Governor includes the names of some of the abovementioned places in his enumeration of the eight countries which he governs. This Prah can proceed from Pungah to the seat of his Government, Tuccatong, in less than a day. He travels by water to Tham, and thence on Elephants.

The third person I visited was the Prah of Tuccopa, who is married to a sister of the Pya of Salang. He is an unusually stout thick set man, but not very intelligent, and apparently a little distrustful of our intentions. He exercises authority over Bangsak, Khokhak, Tuccopa, Thungtroce, Korot and Korak, the whole containing from one thousand to twelve hundred inhabitants, but he is entirely under the orders of the

Pya of Salang, who includes some of the abovementioned villages also in his title. This Prah can proceed from Pungah to the Seat of his Government, Tuccopa, on elephants in three days and two nights, and he can reach Chaiya from Tuccopa in two or three days.*

* *Takoa* signifies *Tin* in the Siamese language and *Tucca-tong* and *Tuccopa* are derived, I am told, from *Takoa-thung Tin*. Fields and *Takopa Tin-wilds*.

* This letter does not appear to exist.

The Prah of Tuccopa seemed a little shy in consequence of some questions which I put to him regarding the boats alluded to in Mr. Secretary Cracraft's letter to me under date the 17th of February.* There were none of them or of their crews at Pungah, and I was told, that three or four of the boats were at Tuccopa, to which place they had been driven in the Squall that separated them from Capt. Poynton. The Prah promised to write and order one or two of the crew, who he admitted are at Tuccopa, to repair to Pungah, but they did not make their appearance whilst I was there.

Both of the above Prahs had come to Pungah to meet the Commissioners from Bangkok, thirteen of whom had been deputed to register the population in this quarter of the Siamese dominions, and both of these prahs were obliged to hurry away from Pungah before my departure, in order to be present at their respective stations in time to take the oath of fidelity to the King of Siam in the manner prescribed by the laws of the Country.

The last person whom I visited on that day, was Prah-Wechit-Senee, the Kha Luang (literally Slave of the Court) Me-Khong, or Principal Commissioner from Bangkok. He is a tall stout man, but apparently a debauchee, and he proved himself to me to possess all the rapacity of a Siamese Courtier. I had taken to him as well as to the other persons of rank some presents of cloth &c. and the day after my visit, he sent a message privately to me, to inform me, that he would like to have a little more of that description of Scarlet

cloth of which I had presented him with a piece. I was too disgusted to take any notice of this message, but a few days after, I found this Kha Luang was using the powerful influence which he possessed as an officer from Bangkok to thwart my plans, and I therefore deemed it prudent to call upon him with another piece of the cloth, with which I think I entirely won him. He promised to explain everything I had said, fully and satisfactorily to the Ministers at Bangkok, and to touch on his way at Chimpohun and render the Pya of that place favourable to the opening of a communication with Tenasserim and Mergui. He gave me some advice as to the particular presents which a British Envoy to Siam ought to take for the different officers, and observed, that if the Envoy desires to make an impression at Bangkok, he must be supplied with a Commission under the Hand and Seal of the Right Honble. the Governor General. He added, that a letter and presents from the Honble. the Governor of Penang, would however be useful in any negotiations that might be necessary regarding the King of Kedah; and on my asking whether if the King accompanied the British Envoy, he would be kindly received, he replied, after cautiously looking around, "The King of Kedah had better not be taken to Bangkok until the British Agent has settled everything there regarding him with the Wang-na, the Chow Pya of Ligore's Nephew."

The *Kha Luang* informed me that he had registered "about 2000 Men" as Vassals or Slaves of the Soil throughout the territories subject to the Pya of Salang, and I afterwards learnt from the Nakoda of a Native Brig who was loading rice and tin for the Coast of Coromandel, and who from having formerly met the *Kha Luang* on that Coast, was now on very intimate terms with him, that the *Kha-Luang* told him the exact number of such persons which he had registered was 1225. The Names of every other

Siamese subject are also registered, but these vassals or slaves have the word "Salang" pricked in the Siamese character on their wrists. The *Kha-Luang* had previously to their coming to Pungah visited Ligore and registered the Siamese inhabitants there, and an officer had accompanied them from that place in order to claim certain subjects of Ligore who had fled to Pungah; but I was told by Luang Lam, that the Fya of Salang had privately given notice to the refugees of the object of this officer's coming to Pungah, and had advised them to keep themselves concealed until his departure.

In manners the Pya of Salang is extremely affable and pleasing, and he does not appear to want intelligence. He is much beloved by his subjects for the mildness of his rule and his whole conduct to me, I am bound to declare was marked by great cordiality and good will. He is about 50 years of age, and I should think rather of an indolent disposition. His father's sister was married to the late King of Siam which event led to his appointment from Yakobat of Natoy, to Pya of Salang. He is said to possess great influence at Bangkok, being connected by marriage with the *Kalahom* and *Chew Pya-Klang*, and with the Pyas of Rachpuri and Puchpuri and I was informed by *Luang Lam* he is about to take his Daughter up to Bangkok for the present King. He seemed to entertain no apprehensions as to what might be said at Bangkok respecting any thing which he might say or do, and he shewed me a very handsome gold Betel Set and service of plate which the present King of Siam, he said, had lately sent to him. The Jurisdiction of the Pya of Salang extends from Pak-lao to Rinnong, including Junk Ceylon, but the whole of this extensive tract is very thinly inhabited, since it was laid waste by the Burmese in 1810, the population now not exceeding six thousand souls, I was assured by a Catholic Priest, Padre Juan, to whom I shall

hereafter have occasion to refer. The inhabitants of Pungah itself consist of about five hundred Chinese, and two thousand Siamese and Natives of other Countries. A little above Pungah I was told that there are five hundred Chinese, and six or seven hundred Siamese employed in mining.

The Pya of Salang states in his title, that he is the Governor of eight places, namely Salang, Bangri, Tuccatong, Tuccopa, Korak, Poongha, Pukit and Pak-Phra; and here I may take occasion to report, that the office of Governor of a province is not invariably hereditary. The Sons of several of the former Pyas of Salang are now living at Pungah, and one of them is a subordinate officer under the present Pya as Chiom of Pukit, an ancient town in Junkceylon, which at one time had a Pya distinct from that of Salang. If a Govr. has a son old enough to be taken to Bangkok, and presented at Court his succession to his father is then previously arranged and purchased by his father's influence and presents joined to his own. But almost everything curious or valuable which these Governors acquire, finds its way to Bangkok, and they pride themselves also in presenting their Daughters to the Royal bed.

I found the Schooner which we had carried up to Pungah could not be taken down the river again, until the return of the spring tides, in consequence of the immense number of large trees which have fallen down its steep banks, or have floated down from the forests in the interior, and which have been allowed as a means of defence against the Burmese, so to impede the navigation of the river, that in many places, an ordinary-sized native boat even cannot pass during the neap tides. During the thirteen days that I was thus obliged to wait at Pungah, I daily saw the young Chief, and some of the officers assembled there, and was admitted every other night to a private interview with the Pya of Salang himself.

After I had in two or three more interviews interested and amused the Chief by giving him long descriptions of the Customs and manners of the English, he threw aside all reserve and communicated more useful information. He declared that he had received a letter from the King of Siam desiring him, as he was near Mergui and the British possessions in this quarter, to collect and transmit full and accurate intelligence of our proceedings, respecting which His Majesty had heard accounts on which, he said, he could not entirely depend, from Mr. Crawford at Singapore, and from some Burmese fugitives who had been seized by the Pya of Chumpohun and transmitted to Bangkok. He gave me reason to believe, that at Bangkok there exists every disposition to co-operate with us against the Burmese, and that the *Wang-na* is even assembling an army for that purpose, but that the Court is waiting for some more distinct communications regarding our views and intentions before it will resolve upon acting. He put many questions to me regarding our future proceedings on the Coast of Tenasserim, leading me to infer that the Siamese would rejoice to recover their ancient dominions there, and he, as well as his Ministers, strove to prevail upon me to pledge the restoration of a portion of them or even the restoration of the Siamese Prisoners carried away by the Burmese from Junkeeylon and other places to Mergui and Tavoy, and this last measure he observed would be considered as a very great proof of our good will. I contented myself with replying, that the British Government did not seek for any extension of territory and that it would perhaps depend upon the conduct of the Court of Siam as to what arrangements it would be necessary to make regarding our conquests on the Coast of Tenasserim, but that with respect to the Siamese Prisoners at Mergui and Tavoy, I was certain our Government would never prevent their leaving those places as soon as they pleased, and returning to their own country. I pointed out also,

that the best mode for the Siamese to secure the accomplishment of their wishes regarding the country of Tenasserim would, I thought, be by immediately opening Communications with our different Commanders and Garrisons and moving an army towards

* I was myself (surprised at) (sic.) Pungah that my being a military man, so far from exciting suspicion and alarm, as I had been told here to expect, obtained for me much greater consideration. I was two or three times requested to appear in full uniform, in seeing and examining which the chiefs appeared as much interested as children.

the capital of Ava through Cheung-mai and Moneh. The Pya of Salang had not heard from Bangkok for three months, but he was there himself four months ago, and he told me a curious story of an "officer," a person dressed in "Epaulletes" having come to that city about seven or eight months ago from Singapore, and of his having "sold Muskets,"

though what communications he had come to make to the Court, had not transpired. *

When I had again been requested to put down in writing a Note of the objects of my Mission, I drew up the paper marked C. in the Enclosures, after once more carefully examining the documents with which I had been furnished by Government. A Translation of this paper was made into the Siamese language at the Young Chief's House, in the presence of himself, the Tan Belat, Tan Yokobat, and the Prah of Tuccopa, to complete which Luang Lam and my Malay and Christian Interpreters assisted me. Such was the confidence at last established between the Pya of Salang and myself, that he even sent for my own Malay Interpreter to assist Luang Lam in making a Siamese version of the letters which the Honble. the Governor had addressed to him in the Malayan Character. The Pya had near him no respectable person who could read that character.

Upon visiting the Pya after he had seen the Siamese translation of my note he expressed himself highly pleased with it, and declared his intention of immediately dispatching a Courier with it to Bangkok,

as he was certain its contents would be highly gratifying to the King his master and would tend to remove at once all that distrust and suspicion with which our proceedings are now viewed at Bangkok. I then suggested to him the advantage of our uniting to open friendly communications between the British Commanders at Mergui, Tenasserim, Tavoy, Ye and Martaban, and the Governors of the contiguous Siamese posts. He immediately agreed to forward letters and presents from me to the different Siamese officers, and to accompany them with the most friendly letters from himself. When I mentioned that the establishment of such an intercourse between our Garrisons and the Siamese Posts might be very profitable to the Siamese themselves, whose Provisions would perhaps find a ready sale at our garrisons, the Prah of Tuccopa, who was then present, requested to be supplied with a letter to the officer commanding the British force at Mergui, to which he said he would dispatch a boat-load of merchandize the moment he returned to Tuccopa.

In preparing my letters for the different Siamese Governors, the Young Chief of Salang afforded me very kind assistance and sent his own writer to my house to transcribe my letters in the Siamese language. The Tan Belat afterwards examined the letters, corrected some inaccuracies of expression, and shewed me a draft of the letters which the Pya was about to send with mine, and nothing certainly could be more kind and friendly. For copies of the letters addressed by me to the British Commanders at Mergui, Tenasserim, Tavoy, Ye and Martaban, and to the Siamese Governors of Chaiya, Chimpohun, Puchpuri and Rachpuri, I beg to refer to D, E and F of the enclosures.

The Pya of Salang repeatedly expressed himself in the most flattering terms as to the happiness which my arrival had afforded him, and he one day told me,

that two days before my arrival he had dreamt a dream which had made a great impression upon him, and which he had related on the following morning to his son and ministers. He had dreamt that he had walked from Pungah to Bangkok over the bodies of dead men. Hence, he said, he was anxious to take me to Bangkok with him, and he would write a reply to the Honble. the Governor to request particularly that I should be sent back, and to offer to leave his son at Pungah to convey me to him (The Pya) at Bangkok. I told him that it would rest with the Governor General to determine what officer should be deputed to communicate his wishes to the King of Siam and that most probably a letter * from Bengal had already reached Penang signifying his Lordship's determination.

* It is to this letter that the Pya of Salang refers in his reply to the Honble. the Governor.

I learnt that the people of Pungah when proceeding to Bangkok first go in boats in four hours to Pak-lao, a small town under the orders of the Chow Pya of Ligore, but established as a thoroughfare by the King of Siam. That from Pak-lao they pass across the country on elephants in three days to Pennom near the junction of the rivers Bandon and Chaiya. That at Pennom, they embark in small boats and pass in two or three days more rapidly down the Chaiya river, to Chaiya, where they embark in large junks, which take from four to twenty four days to reach Bangkok according as the South West or North East Monsoon prevails. The Pya's eldest son told me that they had at least a hundred and fifty elephants at Pak-lao, and as a proof that there would be no difficulty in safely passing a British Envoy with as much baggage as he pleases by this route to Bangkok, he stated that his father had but lately brought through Chaiya and Pennom to Pak-lao on elephants, a hundred peculs of sugar and the same quantity of fine lac, which had been sent down from Bangkok to Chaiya. There is a direct route from Pungah to Chaiya, but it passes over the mountains which enclose the valley of Pungah and

* This road to Chalya I was told is very swampy and difficult to pass during the months of July Augt. and Septe.

is steep and inconvenient. I saw the mouth of the Pak-lao river from sea, and should take it to be not more than eight miles to the North East of the mouth of the Pungah River. *

I was allowed at Pungah to apply to any person I pleased for information respecting the Geographical Situation of the different Siamese Towns and experienced no difficulty in obtaining a map of the West Coast of the Gulph of Siam from Ligore to Bangkok. The Young Chief himself, who had repeatedly passed along that Coast, and touched at most places on it, kindly examined, and with some of his own attendants, corrected this map. But I found it impossible for some time to obtain exact information regarding the number and situation of the different places between Tuccopa and Mergui, and the point which was considered as the boundary between the Siamese and Burmese possessions. There were few at Pungah who appeared to have visited the country above Tuccopa, and they differed much as to the precise boundary between these States. Some of the followers of the Prah of Tuccopa could, I was informed, have given me correct information, but their master, whose authority does not extend beyond Korak, appeared to be afraid of giving offence to the Pya of Chimpohun, in whose jurisdiction the Country between Korak and the Burmese Frontiers is placed. The Prah and the Pya of Salang advised me to apply to the Pya of Chimpohun for information on this point, and they, as well as the *Kha* Luang from Bangkok, offered to explain everything to the satisfaction of the Pya of Chimpohun on their passage to Siam.

I met at Pungah Padre Juan a Catholic Priest, a native of Junkceylon who was educated by the Catholic Missionaries at Bangkok, and had lived some years at Penang, whither he had fled on the invasion of Junkceylon by the Burmese in 1810. He now lives

at Tham a small Christian village containing only twenty or thirty souls, situate between Tuccotong and Pungah. Recollecting having formerly seen me at Penang, he came to pay me a visit, and freely communicated to me as much intelligence regarding the country and people as he possessed. I trusted to his report of places even which he had not visited, as I conceived his education and knowledge of French and Latin entitled his opinion to respect, and upon his authority, I stated in my first letter to the officer commanding at Mergui, that at Thongla-ong and Muang Kloo-ung is the Siamese boundary. Subsequently however I obtained I think more correct information from Ta-Khun-tip, a Siamese priest, who had often been at Rinnong, and who drew for me a Chart of the Coast, and from Prah Boree-rach-Soomeas, who had often visited Pak-Chan. This Prah arrived from Chaiya but two days before my departure from Pungah, and on hearing all that I had communicated there he twice called upon me and applied for a letter to the Officer Commanding at Mergui declaring his intention, the moment he returned to Chaiya, of either going himself or detaching an Agent to Mergui with merchandize via Chimpohun and Pak-chan. He seemed an intelligent young man of very prepossessing manners, and I have no doubt of his sincerity.

For further particulars regarding the Geographical situation of the Siamese boundaries, I must beg leave to refer to the communications which I addressed to the Officers commanding at Mergui &c. (Enclosures C. D. E. and F.) and to Map and Memorandum which will be submitted hereafter. I will here only add, that Padre Juan, who had visited Rachpuri and Puchpuri, informed me, that the former place is only four days journey from the pass of the three Pagodas, the established boundary between the Siamese and Burmese territories to the East of Martaban, and that from the latter

place, Puchpuri, to Mergui, there is a pass and route which may be crossed in five days. I was further informed by the Pya of Salang, and his officers that the Chakri at Bangkok superintends the affairs of every Province to the North of that City and the *Kalahom* the affairs of those lying to the south of that city, and that to those officers respectively the most minute reports are made by the Governors of every Province from Singora to Cheung-mai.

The last day I was at Pungah the 19th March, I witnessed an interesting ceremony. Assured that I had now entirely secured the good will and confidence of the Pya of Salang and his son, I did not hesitate to attend and sit down in the midst of the whole of the Public Officers who were assembled in a large shed, and their wives in an adjoining house, to swear the oath of fidelity to the King of Siam, which oath I was told every person holding a situation under the King of Siam, is obliged, with his wife, to take twice a year, on the first days of the fifth and eleventh moon. I may hereafter have occasion to give a detailed account of this ceremony, but I shall mention here, that it consisted in the Pya and all the officers while the Priests recited prayers, turning towards the North (Bangkok) falling prostrate and striking their heads on ground three successive times, and in afterwards reading a long oath, and drinking some water in which a musket ball had been put, and the points of a sword and spear dipped. I was good humouredly pressed by the Pya and his son to strike my head on the ground when the rest did so, and to drink some of the water, offering to get me made a Prah by the King of Siam. They were however perfectly satisfied with my standing up and bowing towards the north whenever the rest prostrated themselves. Some of the Commissioners from Bangkok importuned me much to drink a little of the water stating that my doing so would be highly gratifying to the King, but of course I declined,

and endeavoured to pacify them by pointing out that I held no office under their Master, and was besides ignorant of the precise nature of the obligation, which they had previously read and which they annexed to this ceremony of drinking water.

I observed the Pya of Salang prides himself on his title, and he took pains to correct the address of the letters which I carried to him from the Honble. the Governor, and in which he was styled Pya of Pungah. The Siamese are fully sensible of the great value of Junkceylon. The very first consequence of our Burmese war has been to induce the Siamese to turn their views towards improving that Island and their Establishment there is to be restored the moment the Pya returns from Bangkok, when his eldest son is to be appointed Governor of Salang. Since the Burmese laid it waste, the inhabitants, which were at one time estimated at twelve thousand, have never exceeded eight hundred or a thousand men, and the greater portion of these even and all the women and children live there but half the year, retiring during the North East monsoon to Pungah. In the same manner, its produce of tin, which in the time of Forest was estimated at five hundred tons per annum, has not of late years exceeded twenty tons, or eighty *bhars*. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in cultivating paddy, of which grain I was assured by the young Chief, that Island exported at least three hundred Coyans per annum. The mortality of the Governors of Junkceylon, considering that the Island is deemed healthy, is very remarkable. Luang Lam told me that he had seen eight die.

Although I am satisfied that there is not the smallest chance of Junkceylon being ever ceded to us, yet I think that were it compatible with the general mercantile arrangements of the Honorable Company, the measure of establishing a factory

and commercial Agent there, or at Pungah (and to this extent only I believe the late Honble. Colonel Bannerman's plan was limited) could be easily carried into effect, and would prove very profitable. Our Merchants at Penang, and the people of Pungah themselves complained of it, do not appear to be aware of the great means for carrying on trade which that place possesses, both in respect to its own produce, and in respect to the produce of Siam which can be so easily brought down via Chaiya. If a Commercial Agent on the part of the Honble. Company were fixed at Junkceylon or Pungah, in order to excite the industry of the inhabitants, and create a more effectual demand for the produce of those places and of Siam, I have little doubt but he would be able annually to send to Penang a supply of Lac, Sapan Wood, Tin, Birds' nests, Tripang, Ivory and other Commodities sufficient to load two or three large Indiamen. Our Commercial Agent at Junkceylon might also offer, with two or three small Gun Boats, to join with the Siamese in protecting the Coasts and checking piracy, a service which is much required, and which the Siamese here would, I think, receive with gratitude.

Nothing however would tend more immediately to improve our commercial relations with Pungah, than a survey of its harbour, which ships of the largest description may visit, and of the coast between it and Kedah, a good chart of almost the whole of which is even to this day a *desideratum* in hydrography. Of all the charts which we had with us, the oldest, one of D'Après de Manneville's, most resembled what we observed and what the Native Pilots described around Pungah. A small island in the harbour of Pungah, called by the Siamese Ko-mak or Palo Penang, and remarkable as the only one covered with trees, the rest being high and rocky, and as being near the best anchorage, we took the liberty of

naming "Fullerton's Isle" in honor of the Governor of this Island.

I was happy to find at Pungah a much more liberal arrangement with respect to the trade in tin than what I had previously learnt. No tin [is] ever sent to Bangkok but when specially required, for instance 100 *bhars* were sent for the King of Siam to give to Mr. Crawford in return for the presents from the Right Honble. the Governor General, and about the same quantity is now about to be dispatched for the Funeral of the late King. The privilege of smelting the tin ore is farmed by a Siamese Prah from Bangkok who is engaged to give the King of Siam for this privilege 140 *bhars* of tin and 40 muskets per annum. His Majesty's tin is either sold on the spot or brought to Penang and sold, and the proceeds are remitted to Siam in cash or in such articles as may be specially commissioned. Thus I was repeatedly assured, that the whole of the tin, excepting a portion occasionally when demanded for Public purposes at Bangkok, finds its way to Penang. Some times also, as was the case when I was at Pungah, Native vessels call in there and export tin to the Coast of Coromandel. The selling price of the metal at Pungah is 50 Dollars for the large *Bhar*, equal to 3 *peculs* and 56 *Catties*. To the farmer, all the tin ore is brought and he pays 2 Dollars for 3 measures full of it, the measure being a basket containing from 14 to 15 *catties*, and a great source of this profit consists in the manner in which this measure is struck. The farmer paid formerly one Dollar only for 3 measures, but since the devastation of Junkceylon the King of Siam has directed the price paid to the miner to be raised to 2 Dollars. The ore is smelted no less than seven times and the mole of smelting it is the same as what Mr. Light described 40 years ago, and the produce about the same, vizt. 7 Per cent. At Pungah the metal is most abundant, from 1000 to 1200 *Bhars* having been collected during the

past year. Most of the miners and all the smelters are Chinese, and the former do not work as they did at Junkceylon in separate pits, but in trenches. The Pya of Salang has the privilege of taking from the farmer whatever portion of tin he may require at a fixed rate of 48 Dollars Per Bhar.

Elephant's Tusks and Rhinoceros's horns only are now Royal monopolies, the whole of what is collected being ordered to be sent to Bangkok, an order which I was told the Pya of Salang often takes upon himself to disobey. The import duties at Pungah on Cottons and Salt are six per cent; and the anchorage fees at the rate of one hundred and twenty five dollars for every fifty Bhars of Tin exported, being particularly high. I recommended the Pya to reduce them as a means of inviting more Ships to visit his port; but he observed that the present rate had been fixed for centuries and could not be altered except by order from the King. There is no import duty on opium, and several other articles. The consumption of the first has been prohibited by the King of Siam, without much effect however, as I daily observed at Pungah. The Chinese Junks pay only four per Cent on Cottons, and a moiety only of the other duties which are levied on square rigged vessels. The Chinese possess many other advantages in the Siamese Territories, and are allowed to visit and settle in any part of them. We can be at no loss to know the cause of such indulgence when we observe that the Siamese Chiefs admire fair women, and generally, in preference to their own females, marry the daughters of Chinese or fair women of Chinese Extraction. The Wife of the Young Chief of Salang is evidently of such origin, and this circumstance accounts for the Pya of Singora, and so many of the other Siamese Governors being of Chinese Extraction, the bias of whose minds must of course be to favor the Chinese.

The only authentic information I could obtain regarding the former state of the Country of Tenasserim, was contained in apparently an old book in which I was shewn a Code of Harbour and Custom House duties and regulations in force at Mergui and Tenasserim whilst under the Siamese Government. I procured a copy of this document by means of the young Chief, and I beg to annex a translation of it, as from its perusal Government will be enabled to estimate what advantage our commerce may probably derive from the measure of transferring this country to the Siamese. I saw clearly at Pungah, that the Siamese do not consider themselves to possess such a title or claim to our Conquests on this Coast as to require us to surrender more of them than what we may be inclined to do. I am sure they will be most happy to receive any portion of them, and as to what I was told at Kedah, on my first visit there, and the Chow Pya of Ligoré himself appears to have told the same tale to my Chinese Agent Achong, that "the Court of Bangkok is quite indifferent regarding the possession of any portion of the Coast of Tenasserim." it may be easily explained when we reflect that the Coast is too far from Ligoré for its chief to benefit by any cession of it, while the natural effect of such cession will be to increase the power and influence only of some of his rivals, the Governors of the Siamese Provinces immediately contiguous to it.

I learnt much at Pungah respecting the advantageous commercial situation of Mergui, and even the Nakoda of one of the native Brigs which were loading with rice and tin for the Coast of Coromandel solicited me to submit to the consideration of our Government the importance of retaining such a post on the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal as Mergui, whence not only a valuable trade could always be conducted but

large supplies of rice in times of scarcity on the Coast of Coromandel could be so easily received and taken for the relief of the sufferers. As to the capability of defending that Island there can be no doubt. Captain Poynton who assisted at its capture, declares, that Mergui not only possesses a noble harbour, but that it is naturally a very strong place, the Fort being placed upon a hill which completely commands the harbour, to fire at which he was obliged to elevate the Guns of his Vessel at an angle of nearly forty five degrees.

Our Steam Boat at Rangoon appears to have excited great interest at Bangkok, and innumerable were the questions put to me both at Pungah and Kedah respecting the nature and principle of such a vessel.

The event of the late King of Siam's demise was concealed by the Court at Bangkok for two months, nor was it disclosed, nor the people ordered to go into mourning, until every preparation was made for resisting any attack or interference, which, I was assured at Pungah, the Court believed might be attempted by the English from *Prince of Wales Island*. The Siamese form of mourning for a King is the same as that of the Chinese—every subject is ordered to shave his head, and it was not without much crying, I was told, that the Women of Pungah consented to lose their long tresses.

I have thus detailed, I hope not too minutely, the nature of my communications at Pungah, and I beg to annex correct translations of the replies which the Pya of Salang and Pralis of Tuccatong and Tuccopa have given in the Siamese Language to the letters addressed to them by the Honble. the Governor. Whatever may be the ultimate determination of Government, I have here earnestly to

request, that some early token may be transmitted to these Chiefs in acknowledgment of the cordial good will and kindness with which they received me, and for which I really feel grateful to them. In my intercourse with them, as well as with the Baginda Muda of Kedah, I adopted the practice of the old travellers and ambassadors. After a first formal and ceremonious interview, in which I proved to them that I possessed sufficient rank and powers, I threw aside all state and show, visited them privately and quietly, and endeavoured through my knowledge of the Malayan language [and my] Native Christian and Hindoostanee Interpreters, to interest and amuse them by descriptions of our customs and manners, and altho' I did not dance a minuet as Kämpfer did before the King and Court of Siam, or sing a Psalm as Lancaster did before the King of Acheen, still I did not hesitate to do things perhaps just as likely to excite risibility, and I found my plan eminently successful. It was the adoption of such a practice that enabled me to remove their suspicions and collect from them intelligence on any subject that I desired. I do not hesitate then to recommend to Government to accept the proffered assistance of these Chiefs at Bangkok, not only because I have experienced such kindness at their hands, but because I am more than ever convinced, that no impression can be made in our negotiations with Siam respecting the arrangements we desire to accomplish in this neighbourhood, but through the aid and intervention of the Chiefs residing near us.

I beg to submit to the particular notice of the Honble. the Governor in Council, that I am under the most important obligations to Mr. Maingy, the Superintendent of Province Wellesley; who had in the true spirit of that zeal for the public, which so highly distinguishes him, and of that friendship which has long subsisted between us transferred to me several

of his own Malay Servants and attendants, to accompany me on this mission. I found these men well acquainted with the Siamese language, and with every part of the Kedah and Ligore territories, and in possession of such superior worth and intelligence as a long servitude under Mr. Maingy could not fail to impart to them. I am much indebted also to Mr. Cracroft, who from his situation as Secretary to Government, and from his intimate acquaintance with the Malayan language and customs, and with the records of Government, was so well qualified to afford me useful and judicious hints. Mr. Anderson, the Malay Translator to Government, kindly gave me all the aid which his superior acquirements enabled him to give and I may add with pride and pleasure, that no Mission ever quitted Penang under more friendly, cordial and zealous assistance than what mine had the great fortune to receive. I felt the deepest regret on my return to the Presidency, to find, that there was one Gentleman, the late Mr. Williams, Deputy Secretary to Government, to whom it was no longer in my power to express my gratitude. He had, with that good nature which had endeared him so much to all who knew him, insisted on my accepting the gratuitous use of his schooner or Pleasure Boat, and this favor proved of the most essential service to my mission.

I have now only to hope that the Honble. the Governor in Council will consider that the objects of my mission towards the Isthmus of Kraw, as far as they were detailed in my Letter of Instructions of the 8th of January,* have been so attended to by me, as to justify his expectations. I trust he will be satisfied, that the Siamese do not possess any such title or claim to the late Conquests on the Coast of Tenasserim, as interfere with the British Government disposing of them in whatever manner it pleases, that the Court of Siam will receive a British

* See before.

Envoy at the present juncture with every satisfaction, and lastly, that the Chiefs on the Isthmus of Kraw are Servants implicitly bound by, and actually obeying the dictates of their Superiors at Bangkok.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt.

Poll. Agent to the Siamese States.

Prince of Wales Island
the 2d. April 1825.

True Copy

(Signed) E. A. BLUNDELL

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

FORT WILLIAM 13th May 1825.

A.

Sect. Dept.
No. 18.
Contd.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Son of the Rajah of Ligore, at Ligore, to Captain Burney.

(After Compliments.)

With respect to my friend Captain Burney sending China Achong with a Letter from the Governor of Pulo Penang and one from himself to my father the Rajah of Ligore, which he brought across from Quedah to Ligore, my father received them with much satisfaction, in order that friendship might be prolonged.

My father, the Rajah of Ligore, understands the contents of the letter from the Governor of Pulo Penang and my friend Captain Burney, relating to the English having engaged in hostilities with the Burmahs and taken many towns and that my friend Captain Burney had been sent as the representative of the Governor of Pulo Penang to transact business.

It is mentioned in the letter of my friend Captain Burney, that the Governor of Bengal had directed him to come to establish friendship. My friend Captain Burney therefore requests to meet my father the Rajah of Ligore at Trang. My father, the Rajah of Ligore is much pleased and desirous that the Siamese and English Countries should be on friendly terms and be like one; he would have gone to Trang agreeably to the request of my friend Captain Burney, expressed in his letter, but it appears to him that it is too far distant from the Rajah of Pulo Penang. My father the Rajah of Ligore, intends to come to Quedah, to be near the Governor of Pulo Penang, in order that business may be considered with facility, and that the road of friendship may be followed more than formerly.

The Rajah of Ligore is seriously disposed to preserve friendship and a good understanding with the English. He intends to proceed to Quedah in thirty or forty days, wherefore wait a little. When the Rajah of Ligore comes to Quedah, the business will be considered agreeably to the wish of the Governor of Pulo Penang and my friend Captain Burney as mentioned in his letter.

Further, with respect to the articles brought by China Achong, these are a Necklace, two arm bangles, two candlesticks and a shawl, which were received as a token of friendship. There is not at present time to prepare a suitable return of Siamese manufacture, but when the Rajah of Ligore and I come to Quedah, some articles will be prepared to send as a token of friendship.

Dated 3rd. of Rajah 1240.

Penang
the 26th March 1825.

A True Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Malay Transr. to Govt.

C.

NOTE delivered to the Pya of Salang for the purpose of being forwarded to the Court of Siam by Captain Henry Burney, Political Agent from the Government of Prince of Wales Island to the Siamese States.

Pungah 11th March 1825.

The unprovoked aggressions and hostile demonstrations of Ava having forced the British Government to declare war against that State, and British troops having taken possession not only of Assam, Cheduba, Negrais, Bassein, Rangoon, Serian, Dalla, Pegu, Martaban and Ye, but of Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim, places immediately contiguous to the Siamese territories, Captain Henry Burney has been deputed by the Government of Prince of Wales Island, under the direction and authority of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, to visit the Siamese States in this neighbourhood, in order to explain to them fully the origin and progress of the war, to satisfy them of the sincere good will of the British Government towards the Court of Siam; to invite them to consider the British Troops as friends, hostilely engaged only against the ancient and inveterate enemies of the Siamese, and to assure them, that the British Officers and Soldiers on the Frontiers of Siam have been particularly cautioned to treat the subjects and property of Siam with every respect and attention.

Captain Burney has arrived at Pungah, and given to the Pya of Salang, to his son and Tan Belat and Tan Yokabat, as well as to the Prahs of Tuccopa and Tuccatong and to the Kha-Luang from Bangkok, detailed account of the nature and progress of the present war, and they have engaged to repeat the same to the Court of Siam. Captain Burney will then here only state, that as the British Troops have established themselves in the vicinity of the Siamese possessions,

the Right Honble. the Governor General is desirous of deputing an Agent to the Court of Siam, in order to satisfy it more fully and unreservedly than can be done by letter, of the views and objects of the British Government, and as the time is arrived when the Siamese will have an opportunity of punishing their ancient and overbearing foe, the Right Honble. the Governor General is willing to point out to the Court of Siam, in what manner the co-operation of the Siamese in the present war may be rendered most serviceable to themselves, and most injurious to the Burmese. The Right Honble. the Governor General disavows all intentions of aggrandizement, and is therefore further willing to acquaint the Court of Siam what are his views with respect to the Conquered Burmese Territories, as well as to hear what arrangements that Court may be disposed to make with the British Government concerning the recovery of any portion of its former possessions on the Coast of Tenasserim.

Captain Burney possesses many documents to shew the Court of Siam what was the real purpose of the Mission which was deputed two years ago by the King of Ava to the King of Cochin China, and he trusts that the production of these papers, as well as the frank and candid manner in which the British Government offers to make the Court of Siam fully apprized of its views and intentions with respect to the Burmese, will be considered by that Court as unequivocal proofs of the sincerity and good feeling with which the British Government is actuated towards the Siamese Nation.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt. Poll. Agent
from the Penang Govt. to the
Siamese States.

(A true Copy.)

D.

LETTER addressed through the Pya of Salang to the Pya of Chimpohun by Captain H. Burney, Political Agent from the Penang Govt. to the Siamese States.

Pungah 15th March 1825.

This letter is addressed by Captain Burney to the Pya of Chimpohun to inform him that the Government of Penang, under the authority of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, has deputed Captain Burney to visit the Siamese States in this neighbourhood in order to acquaint them that the British Government has declared war against Ava, and that the British troops having taken possession of several Burmese Countries, are on their way to the capital of Ava. The Burmese are well known to be the ancient and inveterate enemies of the Siamese, and as the British Government has sent troops to punish them, the time is at length come for the Siamese to prevail over the Burmese, and this they will not fail to do if they now come forward and co-operate with the English. The Right Honble. the Governor General of Bengal has sent positive orders to the British Officers and Soldiers stationed on the frontiers of Siam, at Martaban, Ye, Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim, to treat the subjects and property of Siam with every respect and attention, and to maintain the most friendly intercourse with the contiguous Siamese posts. Captain Burney therefore encloses a Letter in English addressed to the British Officer commanding at Tenasserim or Mergui, and requests the Pya of Chimpohun will forward it to the nearest station by some of his own servants and thus open a mutually beneficial intercourse between Chimpohun and those places for the purposes of trade as well as of friendship.

Captain Burney has arrived at Pungah from Penang with various letters and papers, and he has fully explained to the Pya of Salang every particular

regarding the Burmese War, and this letter together with a dispatch addressed in the Malayan language by the Honble. the Governor of Penang and a box containing certain presents Captain Burney will deliver in charge to the Pya of Salang, who has promised to forward the whole to the Pya of Chimpoun with a letter from himself. Captain Burney has made not only the Pya of Salang but his Son and Tan Belat and Tan Yokabat, the Prahs of Tuccopa and Tuccatong, and the Kha-Luang Me-Khong from Bangkok intimately acquainted with every thing regarding the Burmese war, and they have engaged to forward immediately an official Note from him to the Court of Siam and to report to it, as also to repeat to the Pya of Chimpoun on their passage to Bangkok, the agreeable intelligence which Captain Burney has communicated to them.

Captain Burney begs the Pya of Chimpoun will excuse any errors or omissions which the Pya may observe in this address, and which Captain Burney's ignorance of the Siamese tongue prevents his discovering.

Captain Burney also begs the Pya will do him the favor to transmit a reply to him at Penang as soon as possible through the Pya of Salang and if the reply be accompanied by a map of the Siamese frontiers adjacent to Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim, the British Government will be apprized of the line that separates the Burmese and Siamese possessions in this quarter, and will be enabled to prohibit its troops against entering in any direction within the Siamese boundary. On this last subject Captain Burney has particularly communicated with the Prah of Tuccopa and Kha Luang Me-Khong and they have promised to explain it more fully to the Pya of Chimpoun.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt. Poll. Agent
from the Penang Govt. to the
Siamese States.

A true Copy (Signed) H. BURNEY Poll. Agent.

* No inverted
commas are
inserted.

A Copy of the above letter, with the necessary alterations, and excluding only the passages contained within inverted commas,* was also addressed to the Pya of Puchpuri and Chow Pya of Rachpuri. A Copy of the same was addressed thro' the Pya of Ligore's son to the Pya of Chaiya, and this last contained an additional paragraph stating that the letter and presents would be delivered to him by Prah Boree-rach-Soombat.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Poll. Agent.

E.

DISPATCH addressed through the Pyas of Salang and Chimpohun to the Officer Commanding the British Troops at Tenasserim or Mergui by Captn. H. Burney Political Agent from the Penang Government to the Siamese States.

* Mr. Cuthbertson by a subsequent and more correct observation made the longitude of Pungah 98 31

Sd. H. B.

Pungah Lat : 8 21 Long : 98 23 *

15th March 1825.

Sir,

The Pya or Governor of Salang having engaged to transmit letters and presents from me to the Chow Pya of Rachpuri, to the Pya of Puchpuri, and to the Pya of Chimpohun, with letters from himself, joining in my invitation to those Siamese Governors to open a friendly intercourse with the British Troops stationed in the vicinity of their respective commands, I do myself the honor to address you under the following circumstances, which I beg you will lose no time in reporting for the information of Brigadier General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B., K. C. L. S. &c. &c. &c.

Having been deputed by the Governor of Prince of Wales Island under the authority of the Right Honble. the Governor General in Council, to visit the Siamese States in this neighbourhood, I arrived on the 6th Inst. at this place, where I found assembled the Prahs of Tuccotong and Tuccopa and a Kha Luang or Commissioner from Bangkok, and where I have experienced the greatest kindness and cordiality. Having explained to the Pya, to his son, and Ministers, and to the Siamese Officers assembled here every particular regarding the origin and progress of the Burmese War, I was at first invited to accompany them to Bangkok, whither they are about to proceed in the course of a month or three weeks for the purpose of assisting at the funeral of the late King of Siam, but on

my declaring that I possessed no powers to visit Bangkok, the Pya resolved on transmitting immediately an account of all I have communicated, together with an official note from myself to the Court of Siam, and one addressing ? [ed to] the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island to request that I may be sent back to this place as soon as possible with sufficient powers from the Supreme Government and to offer to convey me to the capital via Chaiya, a large Town situated above Ligore on the Gulf of Siam. I am therefore to return to Penang to-morrow with such a letter from the Pya of this place.

In the mean time the Pya having engaged to transmit letters and presents from me to the before-mentioned Siamese Governors, with letters from himself, I have been induced to address a Copy of this Dispatch to the Officer Commanding the British forces at Tenasserim or Mergui thro' the channel of the Pya of Chimpohun or Chounpioun, which person exercised the especial duty of watching the Burmese at Tavoy and Mergui, and has charge of the pass into the Siamese Territories, and of the whole boundary line in this quarter. The Siamese appear of late years to have been recovering some of their ancient dominions to the Southward of Mergui, and their boundary line at present is reported here to cross the Isthmus of Kraw at Mooung Kroo-ong and Thongla-ong, two places on the western sea quite desolate and without inhabitants, nearly opposite to Chimpohun on the Gulf of Siam. Their frontier town to the Southward of Mergui would appear to be Pak-Chan, which is a little to the north of Rinnong or Rendong River opposite to St. Matthew's Island, and which is perhaps the same place as that which the Burmese call Chan-ra situated in about Latitude 10.50. The journey from Chimpohun to Mergui is said to take only three days.

I have learnt here that a great many of the Burmese who had fled from Tavoy and Mergui on our

occupation of those places, have been seized by the Pya of Chimpohun, and transmitted to Bangkok, and that the Court of Siam, distrustful of the accounts of the Burmese war which Mr. Crawford from Singapore and other British officers had communicated, has lately ordered the Pya of this place to collect and transmit full and positive accounts of our proceedings.

The Prah or Lieut. Govr. of Tuccopa who, under the control of the Pya of this place, exercises authority on the Isthmus of Kraw from Patai in about Latitude 8. 40 to Korah or Kraw a small village a little to the southward of Rennong having consented to depute an Agent from Tuccopa to Mergui for the purpose of establishing a friendly and commercial intercourse between those ports, I shall deliver a copy of this dispatch to the Prah for him to forward to the British Officer Commanding at Mergui. The Prah has further promised to stop at Chimpohun on his passage to Bangkok, and to communicate every friendly intelligence to the Pya of that place under whose authority are Pak-chan and Rennong, the former only containing a few inhabitants.

* Many Siamese as well as Burmese places appear to have two names, one in the learned, and another in the vulgar tongue. The first of these are in common use at Pungah, and the third I believe are Burmese corruptions. I suspect Dr. Hamilton's Piappi to which he says a passage can be made from Junkceylon in six or seven days (Page 235 No. 18 of Edinburgh Philosophical Journal) is a fourth name for Puchpuri. Sd. H. B.

The Pya Puchpuri,* Phreephree or Pepery, which appears to be situated on the river marked Cham in Horsburgh's Charts, has charge of the boundary to the North of Chimpohun and Mergui, and as the journey from Puchpuri to Mergui takes only five days, and as Puchpuri is within two or three days journey from Bangkok, I shall address a Copy of this dispatch to the Officer Commanding at Mergui or Tavoy, through the channel of that Pya.

The Chow Pya of Rachpuri, Ratphree or Yatpee, which appears to be situated on the river marked

Bencaser in Horsburgh's Charts, but named Me-Klong by the Siamese, has charge of the boundary to the Northwest of Bangkok, and particularly of the Pass of three Pagodas called by the Burmese Eugaru and by the Siamese Prache-dee-Sam-ong (three towers). As this place leads from Martaban or Moulama to Bangkok, and is not four days journey from Rachpuri, and as the Chow Pya of this place is said to be an officer of high rank connected with the Royal family of Siam, and in almost daily communication with Bangkok, I shall address a fourth copy of this letter to the British Officer Commanding at Martaban, Ye or Tavoy through the channel of this Chow Pya.

Should any of the above mentioned Siamese Governors accept the invitation thus forwarded by the Pya of Salang and myself I am sure I need not suggest to you the expediency of treating any Agents who may be deputed for the purposes either of trade or friendly intercourse, with every attention and kindness, so that the Communication thus opened may be followed up and rendered mutually beneficial to the Siamese and to our troops in Ava. I have acquainted each of these Governors that the British Officers and troops on the frontiers of Siam have received very peremptory orders to respect the subjects and property of that Nation.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt.
Poll. Agent from the Penang
Govt. to the Siamese States.

A true Copy

(Signed) H. BURNEY Poll. Agent.

A Copy of the above letter, directed to "the Officer Commanding the British Forces at Mergui" was given to the Prah of Tuccopa, and besides the above, two Copies were delivered to the Pya of Salang, one enclosed in a letter to the Pya of Puchpuri and directed to "The Officer Commanding the British Forces at Tavoy or Mergui;" and the other enclosed in a letter to the Chow Pya of Rachpuri, and directed to "The Officer Commanding the British Forces at Martaban, Ye or Tavoy."

(Signed) H. BURNEY Poll. Agent.

F.

DISPATCH addressed thro' the eldest son of the Pya of Salang, the Prah Boon-rach-Soombat and Pya of Chaiya to the officer commanding the British Troops at Mergui.

Pungah 18th March 1825.

Sir,

Since addressing you on the 15th Inst, thro' the Prah of Tuccopa and Pyas of Puchpuri and Chimpohun, an officer of some rank, Prah Boree-rach-Soombat, has arrived here from Chaiya; and as he, after hearing all I had communicated to the Pya of Salang, has resolved upon immediately trying a commercial adventure to Mergui, and has applied to me for a letter to your address, I am induced to write to you again thro' the Pya of Chaiya, to whom the Prah abovementioned is about to return with a letter from the Young Chief here, as well as with one from myself giving cover to this dispatch.

The Prah Boree-rach-Soombat proposes to pass overland from Chimpohun to Pak-Chan which will take him only one day, and then to proceed by water to Mergui, which he can reach in another day. I feel assured that both himself and his servants will experience from you that kindness and attention which are recommended by a consideration of the expediency of our opening as soon as possible a friendly intercourse with the Siamese.

Since addressing you before, I have ascertained that Moo-ang Kloo-ung or Kruu-ung and Thong-la-ong are to the Southward of Rennong; that Pak-Chan is as far as the Siamese have been able to establish themselves between Junkceylon and Mergui; and that Pak-Chan and Rennong are under the immediate charge of a Luang or officer from Chimpohun, stationed

about the centre of the Isthmus of Kraw, at a place called Mooung Krah, which name, I may add, so nearly resembles the Korah or Kraw near Tuccopa, that the Siamese themselves are often obliged to distinguish it by the term Rennong-Kraw.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. BURNEY Capt. Poll.
Agent from the Penang Govt. to
the Siamese States.

A true Copy

(Signed) H. BURNEY Poll. Agent.

G.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Rajah Narong Ruangrit, Prasit, Chit Song Kram, who governs eight Countries, Vizt. Jongsylong, Boonglee, Taccocoo Tong, Taccocooapa, Koral, Poongha and Pakit commonly styled Pia Poongha, to the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

I have received a letter by Captain Burney and perceive that he is a Commissioner from the Governor of Pulo Penang, to explain everything relative to the English having taken thirteen of the Burmese Countries, which I am very glad to learn, for the Burmahs have been great enemies to the Siamese. Captain Burney mentioned also that the Governor General had sent a letter for the King of Siam, which letter contains information about the war between the English and Burmahs, but the letter was at Pulo Penang.

(sic) Captain Burney seems to be a clever man, and possessed of good understanding, and I have received him with pleasure and respect. The letter which he brought I have sent a reply to the Governor's letter by Captain Burney, who returns to Pulo Penang, and I request the Governor will send the letter from the Governor General of Bengal, with which Captain Burney can return to Poongha again, that I may send the letter and him to the King of Siam.

Captain Burney has sent letters to the Rajah of Chimpohun, Rachaboory, and Petchboory. All the articles which he brought I have received. I am now preparing to depart for Bangkok and shall await him there, and I shall explain all that I have learnt from him. My son is waiting at Poongha to accompany him to Bangkok.

Dated Thursday the 29th of the fourth month and Year 1186 Pi vok.

Penang
26th March, 1825.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Malay Transr. to Govt.

H.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Rajah of Tucoona Tong and Bonglee to the Honble. the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

We have received a letter from Captain Burney and we know for certain that the English have taken several of the Burmah Countries. Captain Burney went to Poongha to explain all the circumstances to the Rajah of Jongsalong and to the Chiefs of Tucoona Tong and Tucoopa; we have accordingly prepared a letter and sent it to the King of Siam to explain all we have heard from Captain Burney. We have been made fully acquainted with the wish of the Governor of Pulo Penang to be on friendly terms with the King of Siam and we are perfectly satisfied with the explanations contained in the letter from the Govr. of Pulo Penang.

* The Kalahom
at Bangkok.

The Rajah of Jongsalong, Tucoona Tong and Tacoopa have jointly received Captain Burney with great pleasure, we have sent the letter to the Panahua-Chauthan Piya Accamahasena-thibody,* in order that he may explain every thing to the King of Siam.

Captain Burney seems to be a clever man and possessed of good understanding. If the Governor of Pulo Penang has any business hereafter, we wish that he will send Captain Burney again, for we are acquainted with him. If he does come back to Poongha upon any subject of business, we shall jointly assist in promoting the wishes of the Governor of Pulo Penang.

Dated Thursday the 29th of the fourth Month and year 1186 Pi vok.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Malay Transr. to Govt.

I.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Phra-jot Pac-dee Si-phichaisongkram, Commander of Tuccopa, to the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

(After Compliments.)

I have received a letter and presents from Captain Burney, and know all the contents of the letter. I have, in conjunction with the Rajah of Jan Sylang (Junkceylon) sent a letter to the King of Siam, and if His Majesty returns any particular reply, I will write to the Governor of Pulo Penang by the first opportunity.

Captain Burney has given a note or a kind of pass to go and trade at Mergui, and a letter has been sent to Tuccopa that they may prepare every article of trade to go to Mergui. Captain Burney has sent a map to the King of Siam to shew also to the Rajah of Choomphon, that the Rajah of Choomphon may know.

Dated Thursday the 29th of the fourth Month and year 1186 Pi vok.

A true Translation

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON
Malay Transr. to Govt.

Penang
the 26th March 1825.

True Copies

(Signed) G.* W. BLUNDELL Actg. Secy.
to Govt.

* sic. ? A. E. Blundell.



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