

Seven gun-boats, Lieutenant Patey, 119 men; from Her Majesty's ship Agincourt, Her Majesty's ship Iris, Her Majesty's steamer Spiteful, Her Majesty's brig Ringdove, Her Majesty's sloop Hazard.

Seamen, small-arm men, Lieutenants Mathews and Newland, 136 men; from Her Majesty's ship Iris, Her Majesty's steamer Spiteful, Her Majesty's sloop Royalist.

Pioneers and rocket brigade, Lieutenant Heath, 52 men; from Her Majesty's ship Agincourt, Her Majesty's ship Iris, Honourable East India Company's steamer Phlegethon.

Captain's gig, 10 men; from Her Majesty's ship Iris.

Total—472 men.

(Signed) G. RODNEY MUNDY,  
Captain of Her Majesty's ship Iris,  
and Commanding Officer.

*Agincourt, off the River Bruné,  
Borneo Proper, 20th July 1846.*

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter of the 30th May last, No. 95, relative to Borneo, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on my arrival at Singapore, I received from Captain Sir Edward Belcher, of the Samarang, the accompanying narrative of events that had occurred on that part of the Bornean coast he had recently visited, and which, more or less, bear upon the disastrous transactions that had taken place in the capital.

On my arrival at the Sarawak, on the 24th ultimo, and meeting Mr. Brooke, I learnt from him that subsequent reports to those already transmitted to their Lordships led him to believe that his first information had not been exaggerated. Under these circumstances, I invited Mr. Brooke (and he readily accepted the invitation) to accompany me to the seat of government, for the purpose of assisting in the investigation of the outrages alleged to have been committed.

We arrived off Navarro Island, at the entrance of Bruné River, on the 4th instant, and it was not long before we were visited by some fishermen belonging to the city, from whom we learnt with regret that the reality had gone far beyond the report; that Rajah Muda Hassim, one of his sons, Panjeran Bedurudeen, seven brothers, one sister, and other relations, and about a similar number of other persons, had been put to death at the same time. Subsequently two of the remaining princes were sacrificed, upon it being ascertained that the person named Japper (alluded to by Mr. Brooke in his letter inclosed in my despatch No. 95, of the 30th May,) as having fled to him to bring information of the transaction was known to have departed, leaving in existence of that family only two brothers, and the son and heir of the Rajah, who were protected by the most powerful remaining Pangeran, named Moumein, who,

although son-in-law of the Sultan, disapproved of the deed, but confined his interference to the protection of those parties.

The cause of this sudden change of conduct on the part of the Sultan (who, their Lordships are already aware, is a very weak as well as ill-conditioned character) was the fate that had attended Pangeran Usop, whom, their Lordships will remember, I, at the Sultan's request, last year attacked and drove from the city, and who was subsequently taken and put to death by Bedurudeen, in consequence of an attack he made upon it after my departure. It would appear that the Sultan's reputed son, a man of worthless character, Pangeran Hassim, had married Usop's daughter, and, partaking of his father-in-law's hostility to the English and disposition to piracy, as well as deeply resenting his fall, and exercising the very great influence he had over the mind of the Sultan, he, in conjunction with a very clever and artful man named Hadgi Samoad, at last brought His Highness to consent to this deed of revenge.

Our informants further stated, that so soon as this crime had been perpetrated, the Sultan began to place the river and city in a state of defence, and Commander Egerton, of the Hazard, corroborated the statement that a trap had been laid for him to get him to the city, and, as alleged by the informants, with the view of putting him to death.

Under all the foregoing circumstances, and those considerations alluded to in my letter No. 95, before referred to, there did not appear to me the shadow of a doubt as to my right with reference to those principles which govern European states under similar circumstances, to proceed with an armed force, and demand an explanation of these hostile deeds; and, acting upon this conviction, the result is communicated to their Lordships in my letter of the 9th instant, No. 113.

On our arrival at the city, we found it entirely deserted by the inhabitants; those fled who felt they were compromised, and the remainder, no doubt, from apprehension of being confounded with them.

By means, however, of Japper, we managed to open a communication with those friendly to us; and on the following day I was visited by Pangeran Moumein, Pangeran Baher, and Pangeran Muda Mahomed, and had a long interview with them on that occasion. Their story was nearly to the same effect, and in unison with that which had already reached us.

The future then became the most interesting subject for discussion. The Sultan had fled, and they were, in fact, without a government. I invited them to come to some determination as to the course they would pursue for the well being of their country, but they appeared to be entirely paralyzed.

Pangeran Moumein, although condemning the Sultan's proceedings and himself very respectable in character, yet was most timid, and seemed to have an aversion to setting the Sultan aside; and the others, although very violent against him, had neither talent nor weight to undertake the formation of a new government.