

Mr. Brooke landed on the following day, and at Moumein's house had a meeting on an enlarged scale, and stated to it my readiness to assist them in any measure that would have the effect of putting an end to the existing anarchy, or that might give permanent security to life and property; but on this, and subsequent occasions, he found the same timidity and irresolution to prevail as at their conference with me. In point of fact, the massacre had been of that sweeping character, as to cut off every man of weight or intelligence, and leave the survivors in an irrecoverable state of helplessness and dismay.

In the meantime, the common people had recovered from their panic, and commenced returning to the town; and by the fourth or fifth day nearly every house was inhabited, and the same busy scene presented itself as on ordinary occasions; the boats flocking round the ships to sell or exchange their produce, with as much confidence as in any English port; and I am persuaded nothing would have been more gratifying to them than to have learnt from me that I was authorized to establish an Englishman (such an one, for instance, as Mr. Brooke) as their governor and chief, under whom they would have felt confident of the undisturbed enjoyment of the produce of their industry, and of protection from uncertain and despotic exactions.

My letter of the 20th instant, No. 115, will have informed their Lordships of my unsuccessful attempt to obtain possession of the person of the Sultan. The other individual, named Hadji Samod, already alluded to, appeared to be a particular object of hatred on the part of the people, both as the Sultan's adviser and supporter; and at their suggestion, I dispatched a small but unsuccessful expedition in search of him; and they sent several war-boats on the same mission, in another direction; but the Hadji has, as yet, escaped capture; although three of his principal adherents have been taken, and whom the authorities immediately put to death.

Having remained eleven days at the city without any prospect of securing a definite and satisfactory arrangement, it became a matter for consideration as to the next best course to be adopted that would hold out any hope of my leaving the city, and those friendly to the English, even in a temporary state of security; and Mr. Brooke concurred with me in thinking that the effect might be good were I to address a sort of proclamation to the chief persons actually in the place, to be given to the Sultan on his return, detailing the whole of the proceedings that had taken place between us during the last twelve months, pointing out the unprincipled and dishonest conduct of the Sultan—showing how entirely he and they were at my mercy—yet still holding out the olive branch to him, but declaring my determination to act with the extreme of vigor should he ever again evince hostility to Great Britain.

I accordingly framed a document, of which the enclosed (so far as the genius of the Malayan and English languages will admit) is a copy, and

having intimated that all the authorities, merchants, &c. &c. should assemble on board the Spiteful yesterday, to hear a proclamation read to them, they assembled in a large body, when Mr. Brooke was so kind as to explain to them the course of our proceedings, the kind feeling we had towards the country, and our desire for its prosperity and happiness.

The document was then read by the interpreter. They seemed perfectly pleased with its contents, and no less so with the intimation that I intended to leave a ship of war with them until Mr. Brooke's return.

I sailed so soon as the meeting broke up, and in a few days intend to visit, on my way to China, several ports to the north of this, where it is desirable to convince the inhabitants they are not forgotten, and that their acts are watched. Mr. Brooke will accompany me on this visit, and call here again on his return to the Sarawak, to ascertain what course things have, in the meantime, taken, and as Borneo is within the limits, I have assigned to Captain Mundy as his charge. The Iris and Hazard will remain on the coast as long as circumstances may render necessary.

I lament it is not in my power to afford a more satisfactory narration of my political proceedings with regard to this fine and interesting country, and trust that my failure to attain all I rather wished, than expected, may be attributed to circumstances over which I had no controul, rather than to any deficiency either in exertion or judgment on my part; and it will be most gratifying to me to learn that their Lordships and Her Majesty's Government approve of my conduct and proceedings on the present occasion.

I have, &c.

THOS. COCHRANE,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

*To the Secretary of the Admiralty, London.*

*Her Majesty's ship Samarang,  
Singapore. June 15, 1846.*

SIR,

IN compliance with your directions, I have drawn up the following report from memory of the intercourse which took place between the people residing on the northern coast of Borneo, between Maluda Bay and Labuan, during my late visit. We found them particularly shy, and not inclined to intercourse until we reached the river Tampasuk and Ambong. I had entered Ambong for the purpose of obtaining astronomical observations and procuring bullocks. Our reception was that of old friends, and the Orangkayah immediately communicated "that our allies Rajah Muda Hassim and Bedurudeen had been massacred by order of the Sultan at Brunè.

On the day following, during the prosecution of my survey of the Abai river, I was visited by the Rajah Matabak, of Tampassook, and a Pangeran, whom he introduced as a brother of Bedurudeen.