

On the following morning our scouts, a few Chinese who volunteered to give us every assistance, brought us intelligence that armed parties had assembled at night upon both banks to attack us, within a very short distance above the Residency, but had changed their minds and returned.

I had a stockade constructed on the 3rd, and ran a strong *cheval-de-frise* of strong sticks round the island, and used every other precaution, according to our means, to hold our position during the night, which passed off without any incidents—excepting the wounding of a Sepoy by the accidental discharge of a rifle during a false alarm.

I deemed it best simply to protect the Residency for the present, and to adhere to this policy until reinforcements should have arrived, or other instructions from Penang by the "Pluto."

The four men of the "Thistle" who were left with me were detailed to work the three guns we have here (a Vavasour 9-pounder, a brass 12-pounder howitzer, and a mortar), and otherwise to make themselves useful.

The Sepoys, numbering about 50 active men, were our only other force. They are, with two or three exceptions, recruits from the neighbourhood of Lahore, in India, and are still far from perfect in the use of arms, and are to a great extent wanting in discipline, but they did their duty well.

On the morning of the 5th Mr. Swettenham arrived from Qualla Kangsa, and assumed civil charge of the Residency.

I append a list of killed and wounded, and letters that have passed between the Sultan and myself, also depositions of the most reliable witnesses of the murder of Mr. Birch.

Before concluding I feel it due to them to state that I was greatly assisted in my operations by the members of the Resident's Staff, viz., Messrs. Bacon and Keyt, and Police Inspector Lagis. Mr. Kenn also proved useful in attending to the sick and wounded.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) T. F. ABBOTT,
Sub-Lieutenant.

Commander F. Stirling,
Her Majesty's ship "Thistle,"
Senior Naval Officer, Straits of Malacca.

Sub-Enclosure No. 2.

List of Killed and Wounded at Passir Sala on
November 2, 1875.

Killed.

The Hon. S. W. Birch.
Arshad, Interpreter.
Hit Sersing, Sepoy.
Dim Laroot, Boatman.

Wounded.

Doolah, Boatman, severely.
Karet Singh, Sepoy, severely.
Chet Singh, Corporal Sepoy, severely.
Mahomed, Boatman, slightly.
Mohomed, Boatman, slightly.
Mya Singh, Sepoy, slightly.

Sub-Enclosure No. 3.

Bandhar Bahru,
November 2, 1875.

To His Highness Sultan Abdullah Mahomed Shah,
son of the late Sultan Jaffir bin Al Maathum
Shah, Sultan of Perak.

I HAVE to inform my friend that Mr. Birch was killed by some of our friend's people at Passir

Sala this morning, and I shall be obliged if my friend will come up here and consult with me, and give me every assistance in the matter.

T. F. ABBOTT, Sub-Lieutenant, in
charge of the Residency, Bandhar Bahru.

Sub-Enclosure No. 4.

Durian Sabattan,
November 3, 1875.

From Sultan Abdullah Mahomed Shah, Sultan of
Perak, &c., to Sub-Lieutenant T. F. Abbott.
I HAVE received my friend's letter, and I am
very sorry.

As soon as I received my friend's letter I began
to collect my people to come up to Bandhar
Bahru.

And when my people are ready I shall come and
consult with my friend and give every assistance
in my power.

ABDULLAH.

Sub-Enclosure No. 5.

From Sub-Lieutenant T. F. Abbott, in charge of
Her Britannic Majesty's Residency at Perak, to
his Highness Sultan Abdullah Mahomed Shah,
son of the late Sultan Jaffir Al Maathum
Shah:—

I thank my friend for my friend's answer to my
letter, and for the expression of my friend's readiness
to assist us.

I shall be glad if my friend will succeed in
collecting our friend's subjects, to come to our aid,
and I shall put the Balu on the Residency premises
at my friend's disposal; and I shall be glad also if
my friend will come here as early as convenient,
and consult with us and the great officers of the
British Government, whom we expect soon to arrive,
as to the best means of punishing the murderers
of Mr. Birch and several other British subjects,
and restoring quiet to the country. The body of
the late Resident has not been found up to this
day, and I am told that the Resident boat and
the property in it have been sent up to the Sultan
Ismael.

Sub-Enclosure No. 6.

Mahomed Noor, private servant of Mr. Birch,
states:—

At about half-past eight I was on shore at
Passir Sala, near the goldsmith's shop. I was
sitting in an empty boat. I saw a large number
of Malays come to where the proclamation was
posted and say, "What, more! let us tear it down;
if they try to prevent us we will stab them."
They then tore it down, and rushed at Arshad and
stabbed him. I saw the crew of Mr. Birch's boat
jump into the river. I also jumped into the river.
I saw the small sampan panjanj coming down the
river, and I swam after it and got in. The Malays
were firing at us from both banks as we were
coming down.

By Mr. Abbott.—Where did you see Mr. Birch
last?

Answer.—In the boat.

Before me
(Signed) T. F. ABBOTT,
Sub-Lieutenant.

Interpreted by EDWARD BACON.
Witness, F. G. KEYT.