

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
ARCHÆOLOGICAL
LIBRARY

ACCESSION NO.

41021

CALL No.

327.420593/V.N.L.



12016.

Printed for private circulation.



THE

BURNEY PAPERS.

Vol. IV.

41021

PART 1.

327.420593

V.N.L.

(February 1838 to March 1849.)

Printed by order of the Vajirana National Library.



CENTRAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL
LIBRARY, NEW DELHI.

Acc. No 41.021.....

Date 20.8.53.....

Call No 959.305 327.420593

B. P.

V. N. L.

Fort William 14th March 1838.

No. 9.

To H. T. Prinsep Esquire,
Secretary to Government of India
Secret and Political Department
Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward you, for the information of the Honorable the President in Council, copy of a translation of a letter to my address from the Ministers at the Court of Siam. The portion of it relating to Burmese affairs is deserving of notice in as much as it proves the Siamese Court to be anxiously watching the state of our relations with the Court of Ava, and may perhaps be construed into a hint that they would not object to join us, should we eventually be obliged to have recourse to hostilities.

I have &ca.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell

Commr. in the Tenasserim Provinces.

Maulmein
the 23rd February 1838.

Fort William 14th March 1838.

No. 10.

Translation of a letter from the Ministers of Siam to the Woon Gyee of Maulmein.

That in the year of Hare last Khoonsee Kheet Pretcha, Khoon In Punya, Paya Phon mo Chak, Mone Tchawink Tcholathan, Moone Thodsena-wee Tchann, conveyed a letter and also went to visit their relations in the Country of Maulmein. The Woongye was kind enough in giving provisions and allowing them to go about visiting and purchasing stones for the King as they liked without any hindrance and when they took leave the Woongye gave them a letter to bring to Siam, every part of the contents of which letter have been understood. Thanks to the Woongye for having acted in the way of friendship in aiding and beholding the people of Siam and Raman.

That Saming Thamoo Chack, Saming Pholyothas, Saming Phollasit, Mone Tchamnih Tchathathan being Talaeng officers and followers 38 men are desirous and ask permission to go to visit relations in the country of Maulmein—seeing that the rainy season is past and dry season is come on—Khoon weesoot same officer and followers, 10 men, ask permission to go to purchase articles in the country of Maulmein. The total number of people going out this time including officers and followers are 48 men, Siamese and Taliens, to visit relations and to purchase goods in the country of Maulmein. Let the Woongye behold them in the way of friendship and allow these people to go about visiting relations and purchasing goods as they like and to return to the kingdom of Siam freely.

Hunter the Lord of the Weapons received a letter from the Woongye, the ruler of the Country of Maulmein, stating a wish to send merchants of the country of Maulmein to go and trade in the kingdom of Siam

and merchants in Siam to go and trade in the country of Maulmein, and that the ruler of Maulmein would see and take care of them, the contents of which have been explained to us. But perceiving that should the merchants go by land trading the cost of hire of Coolies and elephants would come to more than it would by sea, and the ruler of Maulmein also wishing to send people to purchase elephants, bullocks, buffaloes in the country of Kanbooree and in the country subject to Kanbooree, but having learnt that the merchants of Kanbooree are afraid to sell them, and that cattle of all kinds in Maulmein having died to a great number—being much in want of cattle to cultivate paddy fields and wish order to be given to the merchants of the country of Kanbooree, and country subject to Kanbooree to sell elephants, bullocks, buffaloes to the merchants of the country of Maulmein freely, it will benefit the merchants of both countries. All this has been made known to us.

Cattle of all kinds being animals used amongst people here we will not interfere with them in selling and purchasing the same for use in this country, but to take away to outer countries like other merchandize, we Siamese believe it to be a great sin, being animals having lives we would not sell them to be taken to other countries. The Rajah of Kanbooree gives information that the cattle in the country of Kanbooree this year fell sick and died. The Woongye wishes to allow merchants to go and come trading. On both sides this is much approved of but the route being difficult for merchants to carry merchandize which prevents them from going to the country of Maulmein, but by sea being easier, the merchants of the kingdom of Siam prepare boats and load with rice, salt, oil and sugar being the principal cargo and export the same to the countries of Singapore and Penang, every season without ceasing. The King of the Kingdom of Siam never prevented or interfered in any way. The English merchants also bring va-

rious kinds of articles to the Kingdom of Siam bartering, selling and buying with the merchants of the Kingdom of Siam for the benefit of both countries in a friendly manner.

That on the 12th Month the Rajah of Quedah gave information that the Burmese wanted to break the friendship and to make war with the English but this news is not quite certain. On hearing this the Paya of the Saiyoke wrote a letter and sent it by Loang Thookarat to Tavoy, being the nearest country to ascertain the news. Macfarquhar, the ruler of the country of Tavoy, sent 8 papers printed in the Burmese character and also a letter to the Kingdom of Siam which having been translated we learn the matters of Ava in different lights; but in one place it states that Woongye MOUNG NYA, the former ruler of the country of Rangoon, the King of Ava has ordered to the Country of TOUNGOO for the purpose of collecting men from TOUNGOO and KINGSAA when required in War. The country of Rangoon formerly was a great country but now the King of Ava has made it a small country. About the Woongye MOUNG NYA contemplating to prevent the Siamese from coming and going trading with MAULMEIN we cannot comprehend his right to do so, because we do not know how the boundaries are divided between the English and the Burmese and where could the Burmese act* the route to prevent Siamese going and coming to MAULMEIN. The Burmese and Siamese are enemies of a long duration and if the people of Siam who frequent the country of MAULMEIN shall be seized by the Burmese we should lose our honour. About this matter let the ruler of MAULMEIN let us know. Should the Burmese come to stop the roads towards the English boundaries and station men to prevent our passing we would not care. We will prepare and send out troops and fight and annihilate them and never allow them a post.

* sic. ? ent.

Macfarquhar, the ruler of the country of Tavoy,

sends a letter to Mr. Hunter saying the English men are very fond of eating Siamese Mangoes and that Siamese Mangoes are not to be had in the country of Maulmein and in the country of Tavoy and that the ruler of Tavoy would be glad to get some trees to plant on the country of Tavoy, and we have consequently sent by Paya Singha Chukaphat Raman 30 young trees. Considering it as a mark of friendship also we send to the Woongye 30 Mangoe Trees.

Letter dated Monday the 2d Month and 6 days of the Waxing of the Moon in the year of Fowl, answering to the 4th December 1837.

(True translation)

(Signed) D. Smith.

Fort William 18th July 1838.

No. 24. To the Secretary to the Government of India
Sec. and Pol. Department,
Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward you for the information of the Honble. the Deputy Governor of Bengal copies of letters either received from or addressed by me to the Chiefs of some of the neighbouring states during the last two months.

* * * * *

4. Number 9 is a letter addressed to me by the head man of a caravan of Chinese traders, who had arrived at Zimmay with the intention of coming on here. Their not having done so is ascribed in this letter to their not having been met by a messenger from hence as had been promised them by Captain McLeod. No doubt this circumstance may have in some measure influenced them, but the reports of our native traders concur in stating that the authorities at Zimmay refused to allow them to come on to this place, though from what cause remains unknown. I fear we shall not succeed in obtaining an unmolested passage to Maulmain for these people without the assistance of the Court of Bangkok. The messenger to whom the Chinese letter alludes was duly sent to meet them, but unfortunately he never reached them; neither has he ever been heard of since his departure. It is supposed he has been either drowned or carried off by wild beasts.

5. Numbers 10 and 11 were addressed by me to the Court of Siam on the occasion of the return of the people whom they annually send here: I deemed it advisable to take advantage of my correspondence with this Court to represent the case of the unfortunate lady

Mrs Briesley, who is supposed to be in the hands of the petty Rajahs on the Gulph of Siam: In my last letter also I stated that I will send a party with a letter to Bangkok after the rains which I was induced to do knowing the anxiety which exists at that Court to learn particulars regarding our relations with the Court of Ava.

Should His Honor be pleased to approve the tenor of my replies to the several communications above noticed and particularly my promises to send an officer to the different quarters enumerated, I have the honor to suggest the following Sketch of a journey to be undertaken by an English Officer which would prove beneficial in many respects.

To proceed from hence as soon as practicable after the close of the rains, to the capital of Siam on the plea of imparting the most correct information relative to the affairs of Ava and of soliciting the interference of the Court towards a free and unmolested passage to Maulmain for the Chinese caravan through their dependent Shan States. Should instructions to that effect be obtained and the requisite permission to be himself the bearer of it to the Chiefs of those States, that he should proceed up the Menam River to Labon and Zimmay and there make the necessary arrangements for the future journeys of the Chinese and transact any business that may have arisen in those places consequent on our present intimate intercourse with them.

.

I have &c.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell

Commissioner in the Tenasserim

Provinces.

Maulmain

The 19th June 1838.

Fort William 18th July 1838.

No. 10.

No. 25.

Copy

Letter from the Commissioner of the Tenasserim
Provinces to the Ministers of Siam.

I have received and thoroughly understood the letter you have sent me by the hands of Saming Thanoochak, Saming Pholyotha, Saming Phollāsīt, Moone Tchamuch Jolathan. I have given orders that they be lodged and fed and allowed to go where they like and see and hear every thing that takes place in Maulmain. The Siam Ministers are desirous of learning all that has taken place between the English and the Burmese and for this purpose I have written a long English letter to Mr. Hunter and requested him to make known the contents of the same to you. Whenever Saming Thanoo Chak &ca. send any of their followers back to Bangkok I shall write in the same way to Mr. Hunter and then the Siam Ministers will be kept constantly informed about the Burmese. The object of addressing this letter to the Siam Ministers by the first of Saming Thanoo Chak's followers who return to Bangkok who are accompanied by 5 people from Maulmain Vizt. Mounggya, Nga Pyoe, Nga Waing, Nga Loung, Nga Moug, is to make known to the Siam Ministers that information has been obtained that two English Female subjects are now in confinement at Sonkra and made the slaves of the Chief of that place. These women were wrecked on the coast near Poongah and the husband of one of them was an Englishman named Bresley, who commanded the vessel, and who was murdered by his crew, while the women were carried into the interior. Once before, many years ago, the Siam Ministers gave an order to the Rajah of Sonkra to deliver up these women, but he did not obey it,

and said what is false, that he knew nothing of them and that they were not at Sonkra. The justice and humanity of the Siam Ministers is known every where and they will be very angry to hear that two English subjects are retained as slaves in the country of Siam and that their orders to send them back to their own country have been disobeyed. But I beg the Siam Ministers not to believe what the Rajah of Sonkra may say but to obtain the great King's orders to the Rajah of Sonkra to deliver them up and send some one of rank and of power to cause the order to be obeyed, because to keep two English women in slavery is contrary to the great friendship between the countries, and the Rajah of Sonkra ought not to do such a thing. If the Siam Ministers cause the early release of these two unfortunate women then the great English Ruler of India who has heard of these two women being at Sonkra will be very much rejoiced.

Dated 27th February 1838.

Fort William 18th July 1838.

No. 11.

No. 25 contd.

Copy.

Letter from the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces to the Ministers of Siam.

The Officers Saming Thanoo Chak, Saming Pholyotha, Saming Phollasit, Moonee Tchamnih, Jolathan, Khoon Wesootsanee, who brought me your letter dated 6th December 1837, have reported to me their intention of returning to Bangkok. They have been treated with the usual civility and attention and have been allowed to go about wherever they like, according to the friendship between the countries. They will make known to you all that they have heard about Burmese affairs and that because the English are uncertain whether the King of Ava desires to break the friendship between the countries the Governor General of India has ordered some troops to be sent to Moulmein which are daily expected. When the English feel satisfied that the King of Ava desires to continue the friendship between the countries, then these additional troops will be withdrawn. The English do not desire to go to war but if the new King of Ava breaks all the treaties entered into with the former King then it will be his fault, not that of the English, if war takes place. The Ministers of Siam are very wise men who know that trade always benefits countries. The Chinese traders from Table and Moula are very desirous of visiting Maulmain but they say that the authorities at Zimmay put obstacles in the way to prevent them. If the Ministers will send orders to Zimmay, these impediments will be removed, and both the English and the Chinese will be very thankful. In a letter which I sent by the hands of Nga Shwa-gya dated

27th February 1838 I brought to the notice of the Ministers the fact of two women English subjects, who are kept in confinement and slavery at Sonkra. I hope the Ministers will have caused strict enquiries to be made by sending some person of rank and authority to Sonkra to ascertain if what I write be true and to release two unfortunate women kept in confinement by one of their own officers in defiance of the Ministers' orders, who are known to be very desirous of continuing unbroken the friendship between the two great countries. When the rains are over I will send a few men with a letter to the Ministers to inform them of the state of affairs in order that they may receive the earliest intelligence and by these men I will send some trees and seeds of English flowers as the present is not a good time to send them. I am very thankful for the trees and seeds which the Ministers sent me. I send an English letter to Mr. Hunter, Lord of the Weapons, who will explain to the Ministers all that I have said to him.

Dated 23rd April 1838.

Fort William 28th November 1838.

No. 37.

To the Commissioner in the
Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

* * * * *

4. . . . You will make it your particular study to cultivate friendly relations with the Siamese and other bordering nations and tribes and for this purpose it may be expedient to give a more important character to the missions contemplated by you, of an officer to Bangkok and other places. It seems to His Honor in Council expedient that Dr. Richardson, your assistant, who is well acquainted with the character of those people should be employed on this mission, and that he should be the bearer of a letter from myself to the Phraklang and Ministers of Siam declaring the object of the Mission to be to cultivate existing relations of friendship and communicate certain intelligence, and announcing Dr. Richardson to be an officer in the confidence of Government. You are hereby authorized to supply yourself with any articles of European manufacture of the value of about 2,000 Rs. you may think appropriate as presents, sending in the bills to this department to be charged in the Durbar accounts and these presents being conveyed with you to Moull-main may be sent with the letter under Dr. Richardson's charge to be presented on the part of the Government to the King of Siam. It must be Dr. Richardson's principal object to secure the good will of the Government and officers of Siam so that the resources of that country in supplies, in carriage cattle and elephants may be available to you in case of the necessity arising of moving the force in your quarter. In like manner, if Dr. Richardson should obtain the permission of the Government of Siam to make the tour prepared* among the North Eastern

* (?) proposed.

tribes, their conciliation with a view to obtaining similar facilities must be his principal object.

• • • • •

I have &ca.

(Signed) H. T. Prinsep

Secretary to the Government
of India.

Fort William
23d Novr. 1838.

Fort William 28th November 1838.

No. 38.

Letter from H. T. Prinsep Esquire, Secretary to the Supreme Government of India, to the Praklang and Ministers of the Court of Siam.

I have received the orders of the Great Ruler of India to write you this letter, and to say that he is very desirous of conveying to the Golden Majesty of Siam the expression of his thanks for the kindness and attention which have been invariably shown by His Majesty's orders to all British subjects of Maulmain who have proceeded into the countries under His Majesty's happy rule for purposes of trade. For this purpose the great Ruler of India has directed Mr Richardson, one of the assistants to the Commissioner of Moulmain, to proceed to Baugkok and convey this letter to the Ministers. Mr Richardson is already well known by name to you, as he has on several occasions visited the states of Zimmay, Labaung and Layang for the purpose of cementing the good understanding which exists between the Chiefs of those places and the English authorities in Moulmain.

Mr Richardson is well acquainted with all matters connected with the Burmese, and will inform you how matters stand at present with the Court of Ava. Mr Richardson is also well acquainted with the sentiments of the Great Ruler of India on this subject, and as it may be agreeable to the Ministers to be kept constantly informed of everything that may occur, Mr. Richardson has been directed to remain at Bangkok, if the Ministers desire it; otherwise to return to Moulmain.

While conveying to you, to be laid before the King, the expression of the sentiments of great and sincere friendship of the Great Ruler of India, I take the opportunity of expressing my respect and admiration of the Ministers of Siam, whose conduct has rais-

ed the renown of the Siamese nation throughout all countries.

I remain &ca.

(Signed) H. T. Prinsep

Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William

23d Novr. 1838.

Fort William the 8th May 1839.

No. 34.

E. A. Blundell Esqr.

(Demi-Official.)

My dear Mr. Prinsep,

* * * * *

I take the opportunity of forwarding to you a few Extracts from a letter I have received within these few days from Richardson at Bangkok. As he has not sent in any official report of his proceedings I have preferred sending you these extracts in a demi-official form to making them the foundation of an official letter from myself. He appears to have managed his affairs with prudence and discretion, but has evidently imbibed the impression that the Court of Siam distrusts our power. If his Majesty of Siam has really compared Moulmein to his own frontier town of "Sonhia" I trust he will not carry the comparison still further in his Royal mind, for Sonhia has long since fallen to the Malays.

There does not appear to be any thing in Dr. Richardson's letter calling for immediate instructions and I shall not forward another dispatch to him till I hear from you whether Government desire that any orders should be transmitted to him.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) E. A. Blundell.

Moulmein,
10th April 1839.

We reached Bankok 9th February about 4 o'clock in the morning. I found a small house had been erected for me just in the front of the British Factory, the back part of the floor of which rested [against] the wall of the enclosure and a ladder to go down into the compound. The front of the house opens a few feet from the river. Beneditto, the head of the Portuguese and native Christians here, Pedadie the Port Captain and Pascal an officer in His Majesty's Artillery (all gentlemen of Portuguese descent) were waiting to receive me. Mr. Hunter also came down to the boat a few minutes after I arrived. Two rooms were also prepared for me in a brick house within the compound. Mr. Hunter's house had just been pulled down. The Goung Keluk had heard from the Telains that the temporary house had been built of old materials used at the funeral of the King's mother. As I consequently refused to enter it, the walls were pulled down and new mats put up by the Pra Klang's orders. In the morning after my arrival the Pra Klang sent for Mr. Hunter to his house from whence he sent me a note to say the Pra Klang wanted to see copies of the letters if I had no objection. As I saw none, I sent them, and Mr. Hunter on his return said the Pra Klang was much pleased with them and would be glad to see me in the afternoon. Just as boats were reported ready and as I was about to start, a message was brought from the King that though the letters were not addressed to him, such was his friendship for the English that he would receive them as if they had been so. An officer of some rank in one of the state boats gilded and having a platform in the middle and high cloth such as used by the Royal family, accompanied the messenger, with a proper tray and gold cloth for the letters. I placed both the letters in the tray, and carrying it down to the boat myself covered with the

red Chatta acknowledging the favor awarded by the King, gave them over to the messenger, who placed them in the centre of the boat and covered [them] with the chatta, and, escorted by three or [four] other boats, bore them off to the Palace. My visit to the Pra Klang was put off till the evening when my reception was cordial and friendly. I explained the reason of my visit, and at his request gave him a short account of our misunderstanding with the Burmans. As the impression was removed that I had come to demand the Talains, I have no doubt they were delighted with my communications. The King however still thinks I have a great deal of gold for distribution among the Talains. On the 11th I visited the Pra Klang again and after waiting in vain for some proffer of assistance, I requested him to send orders to the Laos Chiefs not to interfere with the cattle traders. I asked also for an order to effect the free trade in cattle and elephants to be sent to the Chief of Chumpon and other officers on the South West frontier, and that I may be furnished with a copy for transmission to De Castro who had been waiting upwards of a month at Chumpon to purchase cattle which the Chief refused to sell without orders from the Court. I demanded the Thugs who are at Kauburi and that an order might be furnished me to the Laos Chiefs to permit the Chinese Caravan to proceed to Maulmain without let or hindrance, of which and the order for the sale I wished myself to be the bearer to Zimmay and other places in Laos, and that if the Siamese Government had any wish that I should do so I would return here, as in case of a rupture with the Burmese, which might be expected, the Governor General thought it would be well to have some one here to keep this Court aware of the differences with the Burmese, by keeping messengers going between this and Maulmain, instead of trusting to the absurd and exaggerated reports of petty traders and ignorant people. To the last part of what I said, he answered first to my surprize—said at once

I may go any way I pleased, that he would furnish me with all I wanted and as to my returning here, that it would not be friendly to tell me not to come and would not be right to tell me to do so. In that also I might do as I pleased, intimating pretty plainly that they did not want me. On the other subject he must consult Chow Khoon, the Chief Minister. He told me that I was to have an audience of the King on the 17th. I repeatedly called on him and sent the Port Captain Pedadie and Beneditto to him in the interim to hurry on the orders and letters about the cattle, but it is impossible to get any thing done here without the most provoking and unnecessary delays. I need not give you any details of those meetings and messages. I hoped that after my audience we should progress more rapidly. Suffice it to say, that I inferred from all that passed that we shall obtain a conditional order for the export of cattle, that the Thugs would be given up and Chinese allowed the passage to Moulmain. On the 17th, as had been arranged, I had my audience. It was long [and] friendly, and I was said to be highly honored by the unusual style in which I was received. At 10 o'clock, the King's boats having arrived, accompanied by Mr. Hunter, Captain Brown of the ship *W. T. Hamilton*, Messrs. Smith and Hayes of Mr. Hunter's house and an officer of Captain Brown's ship, we started and were met by some Portuguese officers in the Siamese service at the landing place. Myself and Mr. Hunter had each a sort of swinging conveyance like a hammock, and horses were furnished for the other gentlemen; a small detachment of cavalry and elephants, and 2000 foot soldiers were drawn out in line on the occasion, through which, after entering a gate (which we did as usual by circuitous route), when we got off the conveyance, we passed to the Praklang's Hall of Justice. Outside the Palace at this place we waited 45 minutes, with some Siamese officers till the Princes had all arrived, when we proceeded to the

Royal presence. An immense crowd of people were collected who were quiet and orderly throughout. Outside the gilt door which was shut, and where we waited just long enough to have it opened, the people who accompanied us prostrated themselves as often as they had time. When the door was opened we walked in and seated ourselves behind the presents which had been sent a day or two previous, on a carpet which covered the floor. The King called us to come nearer him and we went before the presents and sat down again, making three salaams to His Majesty. The interpreter had been taken ill just before we entered the Hall, and Mr. Hunter, whom they look [upon] as a Siamese officer, was obliged to officiate. The usual questions were put and answered at His Majesty's request. I explained the terms on which we [were] at present with the Court of Ava. At the close of the Audience the King said if I had any thing to say on business, Chow Khun Bodin and the Praklang would attend to me and so strong was his friendship for the English that any wish of the Governor General should be considered the same as if the wishes were his own. The audience lasted about 1 hour and 40 minutes. The questions were put in the usual round about way. The King spoke to Phia Pipat, the second Praklang, and he to Radsithi, who again communicated with Mr. Hunter and he with me. The titles were repeated before sufficient answer and I could understand that they were modified a little to meet the Royal ear, though I believe no change was made in the meaning of what was said. The Hall is about 100 feet by 60, and except a small space in the centre, was crowded with the officers of the Government in their robes of state. The King was seated in his highest gold or gilt throne, raised about 15 feet above us. The lower stones on which he has usually received missions from the neighbouring states had been removed. In his personal appearance His Majesty is exceedingly stout and is said by every one to be the most intel-

ligent and sensible man in the Kingdom, all the business of which he himself attends to. He often surprises the Government officers with his knowledge of transactions it was not supposed necessary to acquaint him with. After the curtain of heavy cloth of gold which crosses the hall before the throne was down *Coontsist*, the *Pra Klang*, who speaks English intelligibly and whom I had often seen, came over to us and introduced me [to] the *Chow Khun Bodin*, who said he would be happy to see me at his house. This Chief, who is the First Minister, sat on the King's right in the Hall and the *Pra Klang* on the left, the Princes of the Blood before them near the foot of the throne. Not one of the numerous assembly till after the curtain was down ventured to raise his head from close to the ground, where their grovelling position on their elbows and knees placed it. After the audience—we went the usual round of the boats (some of which were very splendid and costly) and white elephant, which is a good deal like the one at Ava, except that this one from vice has broken his tusks almost off. From the elephant shed which is in the bank of the river we returned home a little past two; from that day I have been using my endeavours to expedite the preparation of the letters and orders. I have called on *Kroma Mung Rack*, the head of the Princes, the *Chow Khun Bodin* the Prime Minister, and *Chu Ta*, the King's brother and second legitimate son of the late king (you know the present King is the son of an inferior wife, his elder brother is in the Priesthood) and have been well received by them all. As I hope in a short time either to send or bring (depending on my return here) my journal, in which the conversations at each visit to the different Chiefs is detailed, it may not be necessary further to draw out this letter which I hope in a day or two to dispatch, as until I have seen the letters and orders to the different Chiefs I cannot, of course, with any approach to certainty say what will be the terms on which the trade will re-open.

March 5th. After repeated promises, on which I perhaps too credulously relied, that I should have the letters to-day, I have been again disappointed and though I have detained your messengers thus long, very much against my inclination, knowing that it was impossible to judge with any certainty from their conversation what they were likely to do and wishing to see the letters and orders that I might give you positive information as [to] the terms on which the cattle trade would be re-opened, as should the prospect be of obtaining an insufficient supply, early measures might be necessary to secure a supply from other quarters, I have determined to send off the messengers at once, as it may still be some days before I receive them (they have already to-day been detained here ten days). On the 26th ultimo I sent to the Pra Klang to say that I wished to see him; he put me off till the 28th, when I saw him and gave a more detailed account of the circumstances under which the people's cattle had been seized, and pressed him to get the letters and orders finished, as I was anxious to start before the season for doing any thing was over, and more particularly I wished to dispatch the messenger who had come from you. I could get no definite answer and was obliged to be content with the assurance that all possible dispatch should be made. On the 1st March an express arrived from Songora, informing the Ministers that the Malays were within a few miles of that place with 3000 men (the Patani people had joined the other insurgents), that the Rajah of Ligore was still quietly remaining at Ligore and begging that immediate assistance might be sent to Songora. All was instant bustle to complete the equipment of 7000 men under Pya Sipuput, the Praklang's brother, who had been ordered 10 months ago to reinforce the Raja of Ligore, and such is the uncertainty of all the movements of this court that the equipment of this force has been two or three times given up and resumed again. Their present active preparations have put a

stop to all other business, the finishing of my papers amongst others. On the 2d I again sent to [the] Pra Klang to say I wished to see him. He excused himself as his time was fully occupied in preparing the troops for service, but promised that in three days I should have all the documents, and as the force was about that time to sail he would be at liberty to attend to me. On the 4th I sent Pedadie, the Port Captain, again to request a meeting. A civil message was sent excusing himself on account of pressure of business from seeing me, but promising that I should have the letters to-day and stating that the answer to Mr. Prinsep was finished. About 4 o'clock however a message was again brought from the Pra-klang begging for two days more. As there is not the least certainty that I shall then receive the letter, I have determined that rather than you should be longer detained without information, to dispatch the messenger at once, and I hope about the end of this month, say the 26th or 28th, to have an opportunity of forwarding letters from Yahine, which may reach you ten days after the receipt of this; this is however more a speculation, as in this kingdom it is impossible to calculate on [any] one's movements with any certainty. I have nothing more definite to say than what I have stated in the first page of this letter viz: that the Praklang *has promised* that the cattle or the money shall be returned to the people who had bought them—the cattle if possible; that the trade shall be re-opened under some restrictions and limits of which I am not yet made acquainted; and that I shall have a copy of and be the bearer of the orders on this point. Orders are to be given that the Chinese Caravans shall not be impeded in their way to Maulmain. It is at present left to myself whether I return here or not; a half promise has been given that the Thugs shall be sent back to Tavoy, and the orders to the Chief of Chumpon, under what restrictions I do not know, are said to have been sent with

a letter to yourself and one to De Castro, which I gave to be forwarded with them. The most hearty assurances of friendship have been given by the King and every member of Government I have visited. They are by no means certain that we shall beat the Burmese should war be declared; though of course they have formed a somewhat more just opinion of our power than they had before the late war. The King with all his sagacity has expressed doubt on the subject; in particular, he is by no means satisfied we are safe at Maulmain, and compares our situation with that of the Siamese at Singora. Chow Khun Bodin expressed his doubts to Mr. Hunter (when buying some sticklac from him). He said, Ava is a large kingdom and they have a great many good fighting men, we had better let them alone. From all that I have heard there are certainly some doubts entertained here of the issue of the approaching contest, though I cannot believe that they are so ill informed as to suppose we shall not ultimately be successful, but the length of time that has elapsed has very much increased their doubts as to the event.

In conclusion I am sorry to say that I slightly *suspect* the cordiality of this people towards us; their professions are as warm as could possibly be wished for but there is hollowness that will more decidedly show that we have both the will and the power to punish the Burmans for their insolence and broken faith. This opinion I have slowly and cautiously formed and the bearing of the Praklang last night tended a little to strengthen [it]. Mr. Hunter is convinced that the belief is general that we are afraid, and with good reason, of the Burmese. Chow Khun Bodin spoke most decidedly, almost insultingly, to him on the subject the other day. He says that he is almost convinced that within the last four months there has been some communication to this Court from that of Ava. I do not believe it, but give you the surmise, for it is no more, quantum valet.

Fort William 12th June 1839.

No. 142.

To H. T. Prinsep Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India
Secret and Political Department
Fort William.

Sir,

. . . I have the honor to state for the information of the Honorable the President of the Council that I have received a communication from Captain McLeod acquainting me with the nature of the call made on us as the supposed guarantees of the peaceable conduct of the Siamese towards the Burmese.

2d. I regret my inability to furnish any information regarding the complained of invasion of the Burmese territories by the Shan States tributary to Siam, as none has reached this place direct from that quarter. I can only conjecture that it is the result of a determination on the part of the Siamese Shan Chiefs to afford assistance to the Chief of the Kayen Neo (Red Kayen). If this be the case the Burmese cannot assert that their territories have been invaded, as the Red Kayens have always been independent, but it may be that advantage has been taken of the rebel Kayens seeking assistance from Burmah and presenting a maiden to His Majesty, to consider that part of the country held by them as an integral portion of the Burmese dominions.

3. I trust to receive in a few days from Doctor Richardson a report on the state of affairs on our northern frontier. That gentleman quitted Bangkok in the latter end of March for the Shan States and informs me that he expects to return to Moulmein in the ensuing month. It may be however that late events in that quarter may have induced him to prolong his stay there and I have written to him acquainting him with the report made by Captain McLeod

and authorizing him to remain among the Shan States for the present, provided he be of opinion that his doing so will be advantageous to the public service both in procuring draught and slaughter cattle for this force, and in watching and reporting on the movements that may take place on the part both of the Burmese and Siamese. I trust His Honor in Council will approve of this measure as the demand made by the Burmese Court renders it desirable that we should obtain full and correct information on the subject. At the same time that I wrote to Doctor Richardson I addressed a short letter to the Chief of Zimmay, the Superior of the Siamese Shan States, from whom the invasion has proceeded, acquainting him of the threatened retaliatory invasion of his country and expressing disapproval of his act if really done by his authority. I hope this short note will meet the approval of his Honor in Council.

* * * * *

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell
Commissioner in the
Tenasserim Provinces.

Moulmain
The 27th May 1839.

Fort William 12th June 1839.

[Continuation of Dr. Richardson's Journal.]

April 16th.

My last to you by your messenger gave some account of my proceedings up to, I think, the 9th of March, when I proposed as soon as I could get the letters from the Ministers and orders to the Laos Chiefs to start by the land route to Yahine and Laos. I then mentioned my belief that this Government was not at heart so friendly to us as their professions would lead us to suppose and nothing I have since seen has caused me to alter that opinion. There is little doubt but that our forbearance towards the Burmese has been set down to a supposed want of power to punish the breach of treaty.

I got the order to the Yahine and Laos Chiefs and answer to letter &c. and left Bangkok on the 19th ultimo. The order to sell us cattle, after stating that we are great friends, goes on to say that cattle is very scarce, and not to be bought and sold at any time like other merchandize, but as I had come about them they are to sell a few (2 or 3) that we may not be "grieved in spirit" is the translation the interpreter gives of the expression. The originals of these orders are given to a Chief who is sent up expressly on this business and I got, after repeated requisition, copies of them. You may be sure I said every thing in my power to get something more satisfactory, not forgetting the very suspicious time and way the trade had been stopped, and the appearance of identity of council with the Burmese. Chow Pya Khoon Bodin, under whom that part of the Kingdom more immediately is placed, told me it was no use talking as no alterations in those orders would be made unless war was declared with Ava. I pointed out the

absurdity of such assistance, as if war was declared it was too late to commence preparations, and by the time we could send up for the cattle the war would be over. He gave a grumble of dissent, and I could get nothing more from him than we are to procure 2 or 3 at different places to keep us from being too much grieved in Spirit.

The Ministers gave me an order to all the Chiefs on my route to give me provisions and any thing I wanted and I innocently supposed all was right. They sent a petty officer with me Nakon tahathee, where I had left the elephants (and to which place I sent a dozen of people overland by an excellent road) where four others were to join me in return for the presents brought, and a second officer sent with me to see me to the end of the district of Nakontahathee. From Bangkok to this place we were 3 days, and 4 more to the end of the district. Here I found they were playing me false. I sent the Minister's order to get boats and could find no one who would acknowledge to be head of the village. When the officer from Nakontahathee came up he told me he had done his duty in bringing me to the end of his district and was about to return. There is a nasty muddy stream which we could not cross without boats. I told him I should not let him go till he had put me in communication with the Authority of the village. He was kept crossing and recrossing all the afternoon to no purpose—no one would have any thing to say to me, though the Ministers' order had been read by the man who turned out to be the Thoogyee. In the morning I made another attempt to get some assistance in which failing I sent some of my people back with the Siamese Officer with a letter to Mr. Hunter, begging him to tell the Praklang how I was situated. About a mile from our camp the officer slipped away from our people and they never saw him again. I sent the people back on the 27th March and did not see them again till the 5th April, though they were only three days on the march

each way. This I was not surprized at. The Siamese cannot do anything off hand. The second order was to the same effect as the first. On the receipt of this the Thoogyee came over (not an individual had come near us during the absence of the people) and promised us boats to cross the nullah and provisions, but declared there was no road this way to Yahine. I might go any road I pleased but he could not show me any as none existed. I however got some directions from an old woman in the village and my people had seen the road when out with the elephants. We started on the 7th and on the 8th reached Soaphan [from] which place to this we have travelled along a road by which a mail coach may be driven, through an alluvial country nearly as level as the sea in a calm. The country is thinly populated, the soil generally poor, the plains for some days bare of trees and the road the whole way exposed to the unmitigated blaze of a most powerful sun. We seldom got to our halting place till noon or after and the tent is generally as late as 2 or 3 P. M. The Thoogyee of the last village was civil and the Myowaon of the place quite what I have been accustomed to. He has furnished us with all we wanted in the way of provisions and promised a guide unasked so that I hope our difficulties as regards the roads are at an end. We are one day [from] the May nam, which we will I trust reach to-morrow and thence 7 or 8 days to Yahine from which place I shall write you more fully.

Fort William 24th July 1839.

No. 24.

To E. A. Blundell Esquire,

Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

* * * * *

5. His Honor in Council trusts that you will have received some official reports from Dr. Richardson and that either through him or from other sources you will have ascertained the real state of affairs between Siam and Ava consequent upon the outrages alleged by the Burmese to have been committed by Siamese from Tinnay. Dr. Richardson should however be warned to avoid mixing in any way in the disputes referred to or even approaching the neighbourhood.

* * * * *

I have & ca.

(Signed) H. T. Prinsep

Sec. to Govt. of India.

Fort William
the 24th July 1839.

Fort William the 28th August 1839.

No. 20.

To H. T. Prinsep Esqre.,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Secret and Political Department,
Fort William.

Sir,

2. I regret to state that I am still unable to afford any authentic information relative to Dr. Richardson and his proceedings. The sole report that has reached me regarding him is contained in the enclosed translation of the statements of a native of this place who was last month at Yahaing (the nearest of the Shan States) for the purpose of purchasing buffaloes. The individual Moung Nau alluded to in this statement as having excited the anger of the King of Siam was one of the Talain Chiefs who headed the insurrection against the Burmese at the conclusion of the last war, and who, having taken refuge here with numerous followers was granted a pension of 50 rupees by Government. This person obtained my permission in December last to visit the site of an old town named Mya Waddee on the N. E. frontier of this province, with a view of settling there if found worth his while. He went up with a few followers only and returned in about 3 months with violent fever. Whether during his stay in that neighbourhood and in his communications with the half wild tribes of Kayens, thinly scattered about there, he may have given cause for umbrage to the Court of Siam and induced them to imagine he was sent there in order to entice away some of the refugee Talain population in Siam I know not, but should he have done so, the consequent proceedings of the Court, as reported in the enclosed statement would scarcely be warranted, unattended as they are by any remonstrance or representations

against this Moung Nau's supposed misconduct. I shall of course prohibit this person from again visiting the place, if his doing so be found really offensive to Siam. I am utterly at a loss to account for Doctor Richardson's silence and feeling considerable anxiety regarding him I have dispatched a small party to Yahaing to obtain some authentic intelligence regarding him with instructions that if on their arrival there they learn that Doctor Richardson has proceeded to Bangkok they are immediately to return here. If they learn that he is in any one of the Shan States, one half to return and give me the information, the other to join Doctor Richardson with my letter.

* 24th July.
See extract
from Vol. 22 of
this series.

3. In your letter of July* you say "Doctor Richardson should however be warned to avoid mixing in any in the disputes referred to or even approaching the neighbourhood of Zimmay." I am inclined to think there may be some mistake in this sentence. The original instructions to Doctor Richardson were to proceed from Bangkok to Zimmay, which place he in all probability reached some time in May last. Zimmay is the chief of all the Shan States tributary to Siam and must be the seat of any intrigues going on, whether directed against us or against Burmah. To prohibit Doctor Richardson from visiting that place (supposing the prohibition could have reached him in time to be attended to) would exclude him from all chance of learning what is actually going on in that direction, while the visit of a British officer to a Siamese State and one with which we have been for years in constant communication can afford no umbrage to the Court of Ava. Perhaps it was meant that Doctor Richardson should be prohibited from visiting the scene of any actual warfare existing between the Shans tributary to Siam and those dependent on Burmah.

4. That some prohibitory orders similar to those mentioned in the statement of my informant have

been issued by the Court of Siam appears to me extremely probable from the fact that during the last three months not a single head of cattle of any description has come down from the Shan States and what is extraordinary not one of the numerous traders who have proceeded from hence to Zimmay have returned, a circumstance which inclines me to infer that the communication from that place may have been stopped in some way or other. I trust however that in a very short time all doubts on this subject will be cleared up.

* * * * *

I have &c.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell

Commissioner in the Tenasserim
Provinces.

Moulmein
the 9th August 1839.

Fort William the 28th August 1839.

No. 21.

Statement of Gna Houng taken on the 8th day of the evening of 2d Moon Watso 1201 (or 2nd August 1839 A. D.)

On the 10th of the waxing Moon Kutsom of the present year (22d April 1839) I with Gna Than, Gna Po, Gna Pein and Gna Han, five men, proceeded to Yahain to purchase buffaloes. At the distance of a day's journey from Yahain we waited Doctor Richardson, who was on his way from Bangkok to Zimmay. A Kareun having informed us that Doctor Richardson had arrived at Yahain we went on but did not find Dr. Richardson, he having proceeded on to Zimmay after sleeping one night at Yahain. While we were remaining at Yahain about 10 days without getting either buffaloes or bullocks, we met 4 messengers who had been carrying a Royal order to Zimmay. These men told us, "Two other parties of messengers have gone to Doctor Richardson. When the King asked if it was true that Mounghan was to establish villages in the district of Mya Waddee, Doctor Richardson replied that no written authority having been given to Mounghan to erect villages he would not be allowed to do so. But on the King's sending the people to see and hearing that Mounghan was actually building houses His Majesty said, as Doctor Richardson has told me a falsehood let not a single head of cattle be exported to Moulmein. Let those who have sold return the money, which Royal order we conveyed to Zimmay." They further told us that Dr. Richardson was within two days' journey of Yahain on his way back to Bangkok.

It is 10 days since we returned. The above communication was made to us by the messengers in the presence of the Governor of Yahain. The price of the buffaloes for which we had bargained was returned to us.

(A true translation)

(Signed) L. de la Cardemond
Senior Asst. Commissr.

Fort William 9th October 1839.

No. 9.

To H. T. Prinsep Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Secret and Political Department
Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose copy of a report made to me by Dr. Richardson, on the subject of the invasion of Burmese territory by the Chief of the Shan States of Zimmay.

His Honor in Council will perceive from this date† that the King of Ava has strong ground of complaint against those Siamese, as a more wanton and uncalled for act of hostility has seldom been perpetrated.

I have forwarded copy of the report to the Acting Resident at the Court of Ava as the intelligence contained in it will clear up all the doubts on the subject which he naturally entertained.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell
Commissioner in the
Tenasserim Provinces.

Maulmain
the 6th Sept. 1839.

Fort William 9th October 1839.

No. 10.

To. E. A. Blundell Esquire,

Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

In compliance with your request to be furnished in a separate form, with the information I may be in possession of regarding the late unprovoked outrage committed by the Laos Shans on the Birman frontier, I have the honor with the following short account of the whole affair, to forward extracts from my journal, of conversations at various times, with different Laos Chiefs relative to the subject.

In 1837 in the absence at Bangkok of the Chow Huana or Heir Apparent of Zimmay, who has always opposed our wishes as far as he could venture, and certainly against the secret wishes of most of the other Chiefs of that place, Captn. McLeod succeeded in reaching from thence Kien-Hong (on the Chinese frontier) by the way of Kien tung, which is the first large town on the route, subject to the Birmans, and inhabited by Meir Shans, differing little or nothing from the Laos people.

It is scarcely necessary to remind you that for many years, till within the last 50 years, the Birmans possessed the whole of the Laos country as far south as Yahine, or about 150 or 160 miles south of Zimmay. At the time when the Laos people threw off their allegiance to Ava, and placed themselves under the protection of Siam, and at various periods previously, the Birmans had succeeded in carrying off a large portion of the inhabitants of the country. In revenge for the treatment they had received from the Birmans and to enable them to establish their towns which had become the lair of the tiger, the seven brothers who

had rebelled against Ava, carried on a predatory warfare for 20 or 30 years with their Northern Shan neighbours, tributary to the King of that country, and in that time succeeded in carrying off a large portion of the inhabitants of Kun thin (a large town on the banks of the Cambodia river), of Kintung (the town already mentioned), Mein Moun, Mein Poo (one of the towns now laid desolate by them), and many others, extending their inroads as far as Kin Hong with impunity from the Birman, and as the people so carried off form the greatest portion of the present inhabitants of the Laos States, they view with great jealousy any attempt to establish a communication with the Northern Towns, greatly dreading a return of the captives to their former homes.

Soon after the Chow Huana returned from Bangkok, (probably before Captain McLeod reached Maulmain) he sent and seized Benya Pat, his own frontier officer towards Kun-taung (a follower of Chow Rajavong the third Chief of Zimmay) and accused him of an intention to go over to Hein taung, put him in jail and threatened to send him to Bangkok. His immediate Chief stood security for him that he might be allowed to bring his wife and family from the frontier, and he then did go over to the Birman side. The Chow Huana sent after him a body of 200 men, but failed in taking him. Such however was the unsafe state of the country between Kein taung and Zimmay, that the Isoboa of the former town who had himself attempted three or four years ago to send a party to Maulmain, who were stopped at Zimmay, and is no doubt anxious to open the route (his brothers and many of his people being in captivity at Zimmay), was afraid to allow a party of our traders, who had been left by Capt. McLeod, to return by that route, and perhaps also secretly wishing to interest us more in the business, obliged them to take a circuitous route by Monay and the Red Karian Country, then just opened.

From that time, the jealousy which seems to have been smothered since my first visit, gradually rekindled in the Zimmay Chiefs, though there was still a considerable traffic carried on, and no doubt that to Mein Poo, which the Chow Huana himself monopolised, and which was very profitable, prevented his sooner putting a stop to the intercourse altogether.

About the middle or beginning of last year, the Myosta, or as he is commonly styled, the Isoboa of Mein Poo, sent his son with some people to re-establish Mein That, and some others of his people to re-establish Mein Tnoon, two deserted towns within his jurisdiction, but nearer to the Siamese frontier than his own town of Mein Poo, situated the one, Meintsat, on a large river (the Maykote) which falls into the Cambodia river below Kein thin, and the other on a small stream which falls into the Salween, below the

**From Mein Tnoon to Mein Poo
80 days, Mein Poo to Mein Tsat 3
days, from Mein Tnoon to Mein
Tsat 2 days, and five or six days
from Mein Tnoon to Kein Taung.**

mouth of the May Poo, on which Mein Poo stands. Mein Tnoon which is nearly north of Zimmay was reached by the force in 8 days.

This excited the suspicion of the Chow Huana of Zimmay and perhaps of some others of the Elder Chiefs, who have the most lively recollection of the Birman rule. They supposed or affected to suppose (for the true reason of the attack was the fear of losing the northern people already mentioned as forming so large a portion of the population, added to the hope of obtaining slaves and plunder) that the measure was preparatory to an invasion of their country, as soon as a point of assembly and depôt of provisions could be formed at the new towns. The Chow Huana therefore determined to attack and carry off the people, and towards the end of the year sent 70 elephants and 200 men under Chow Faon to rise on the inhabitants, when he should attack the places from without. These people went as traders, eight or ten at a time, some before and some after Chow Faon, who left

Zimmay in November, and was some months in the Birman towns.

In March or April five Red Kareens, in whose country a civil war is raging, came from one of the contending parties to request assistance from Zimmay, under cover of which application, the Chow Huana commenced raising troops. In April a party of 29 men arrived at Zimmay, with a present of Horses, Patsos, Betle boxes, &ca., and two elephants of their own, and three which had strayed from Zimmay traders, which they brought to return to their owners and bearing a letter to the effect that by orders of the King of Ava, conveyed to the Mein Poo Isoboa through the Chief at Monay, the present mission was sent to perpetuate the friendship and good feelings now so happily existing on the frontier, and render permanent the gold and silver road lately opened by the English. The day after their arrival, they had an interview with the Chiefs. The Chow Huana ridiculed them, and said it was absurd in the people of a little insignificant town, who rode on goats, to offer friendship to the Chief of a large place like Zimmay, where they rode on elephants, and at the end of the interview he told them to come again next day, when he would talk to them more fully. When they had left the Yeum, where the interview took place, there was a short consultation amongst the Chiefs. Chow Huana said that the Mein Poo people must be aware of their intentions, and had merely sent this mission to see how matters really stood, and proposed immediately to put them in confinement. Chow Pimathan objected, said the English had a party, sent by you to purchase cattle there and to confine a friendly messenger on mere suspicion would not tell well in other countries. He proposed to affect a desire to meet their wishes, but being under Bangkok, to refer them to the King, and (in the apparently friendly way they so well understand) to oblige them all to go there. Chow Huana, who is a most obstinate person, stuck to his own opinion, and

that evening surrounded their house with a guard. Not wishing to seize them then, as three of their party were out in the villages trading, the guard told them they must confine themselves (as their audience was not finished) to the small space round their quarters.

The three people who were out trading, got an intelligence from their friends amongst the Zimmay people, of what was going on, and departed at once for Mein Poo. In the morning Chow Huana seized the remaining 26, deprived them of all their property, and put them in confinement. Six days after this (the Kareens having been told the force had another destination had departed in high indignation) the force marched under the Chow Huana of Zimmay, Chow Huana of Labong, and other Chiefs of these towns (Lagon refused to join) consisting of 7,500 men, of whom Zimmay furnished 5000 fighting men, 1000 Cattle and provisions, and Labong 1500. The force was so large that resistance was hopeless. The Isoboa of Mein Poo and many of the people of that town escaped, but his son at Mein Tsat, with most of the people, and a large portion of the inhabitants of Mein Tsoon, in all 1815 people, with 500 cattle, were captured. They found the Mein Poo people had, on the return of the three men of the deputation who had escaped, seized some of Chow Faon's people and sent them prisoners to Monay. Many of the houses were unfinished, some just begun in Mein Tsat and Mein Tsoon, when the attack was made.

The people of these towns, on seeing the overpowering nature of the force, may have made a virtue of necessity, and offered to come in. It is on this plea at least, that those taken in the towns, in a body, have been declared only subjects of the state, and are to have villages appointed for their residence; others, those taken in the jungle, or attempting to escape,

have been either kept by those who took them, or divided amongst the captors, but though the Zimmay people make a wish on the part of the Mein Poo people to come over to the Siam side the grounds on which the expedition was undertaken (unjustifiable as the act would be then,) there is every reason to suppose that the outrage was unprovoked and uninvited by the Mein Shans. The general feelings of the people certainly, and I believe of most of the Chiefs also, was opposed to the act. The Priests waited in a body on Chow Huana begging him to refrain from so wicked a deed, but this, as is often the case, with wrong headed and obstinate people, both of which qualities he possesses in an eminent degree, only made him more fixed in his own determination, and to him chiefly may the outrage be attributed. I did hear once at Zimmay, that the intention of attacking these towns was not unknown at Bangkok, and at Yahine, I heard, that the Chow Huana, who had only recently returned from the capital, had there reported to the Government that the Birmans were coming down nearer the frontier and proposed attacking them, that the King had said he would give no orders on the subject, that he did not see any necessity for attacking them, but that the Laos Chiefs were the guards of the frontier and must be guided by circumstances. I have however generally heard, and believe the King's orders were, on no account to disturb the existing quiet of the frontier, and the Lagon Chief distinctly said, it was the absence of orders from Bangkok, added to what I had said to the late Chief of Lagon on a former visit, when they had something of this kind in contemplation, that had deterred him from joining in the foray.

When your letter was delivered at Zimmay, the Chiefs expressed themselves as unconcerned regarding what the Birmans could do to them, but anxious to know, if the British Government would take any further notice of the affair. They think we have a right

to be offended on the ground of their having shut up the road so closely opened to Kein taung by Captn. McLeod, and more than once I have been told that if we ordered the captives to be restored to their homes it would be done. With this preface, I may proceed to lay before you the extracts from my Journal.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) D. Richardson.

Maulmain

August 31st 1839.

Fort William, 9th October 1839.

No 11.

Extract from the Journal relative to the invasion of the Birman frontier towns by the Laos people.

May 8th. Moun Lee, five days from Labong. A report which has been gaining strength for some days, was here confirmed. It is said that Chow Pimathon, son of the last Isoboa of Zimmay, who has lately returned from Bangkok, and appears to hold some anomalous appointment in the military department connected with the Chow Huana and Rasoon of Zimmay, has marched with a force of 100 men or more against Kein toung, the first of the large towns on the Burman side. I have hitherto disbelieved the report, and even now, hear no reason assigned for the invasion; this village furnished 20 men.

14th. Reached Labong to-day; find all the Chiefs but the Isoboa Chow Normon Nio Kamoun, and Moun Lik gone to the foray, which is not, as I before heard, against Kein toung, but Mein poo, a small town S. W. of this, some days' journey nearer the Salween river.

May 15th. Labong. Called on the Chief, and after telling him of the Malay insurrection, enquired about the expedition to the northward. He told me, they had placed some of their own people in a village on the frontier and having information that they intended to go over to the Birman side, had sent a force to bring them in; he was however not at all inclined to be communicative, and evidently did not approve of the step; he said he was the youngest of these Chiefs and least in authority; his town also being the smallest, he was obliged to obey the orders from Zimmay. He also told me Chow Pimathon was averse to it. The Chow Huana of Zimmay appeared to have been the prime mover in the affair.

20th. Chow Moung Lik, a captive here, brother of the Isoboa of Kein toung, who is also a captive here, returned my visit. In speaking of the period tranquillity this frontier has enjoyed since our occupation of the Province, I led the conversation to the present attack on Mein Poo, the Myo Tsa of which place was in Monay in 1837 when I was there. I said it was a very easy matter to light a fire, but if inflammable materials were at hand, it was not so easy to put it out again, or to know when the conflagration would cease. He said it was true, and regretted the measure, which he attributed to the Chow Huana of Zimmay. He said he had intended attacking Kein Toung, if an opportunity offered, but his courage had failed him. They had, however, succeeded in capturing the majority of the inhabitants of Mein Tsoon, and Mein Tsat, late offsets from Mein Poo, in the Moung territory, the former seven, the latter eleven elephant's marches from Zimmay. These places had been so recently established, that the people had not finished their houses: the captives he told me amounted to 1300 and young: the Chief of Mein Poo had sent a friendly deputation to Zimmay in the beginning of April, with presents and a letter, expressing a wish to establish a friendly intercourse. The Chow Huana told them they were subjects of the King of Ava, and under the Isoboa of Monay, that he did not believe their intentions were friendly, that any Mission that was sent ought to be from the King of Ava to the King of Siam; he then put the messengers in confinement, and seized the presents they had brought, and also their elephants; and issued orders for the immediate assembly of a force. Zimmay and Lagon were originally to have furnished 3000 men each, and Labong 1500, but in consequence of the Lagon Chief refusing to proceed in the matter without orders from Bangkok, he, the Chow Huana, levied 5000 men from Labong, left this in the middle of April, to the attack of Kein toung (this

report has not been confirmed by what I have heard in any other quarter) if a good opportunity offered, if not, they were to content themselves with the three small towns of Mein Poo, Mein Twon and Mein Tsat. Intelligence has been received stating the seizure of 1200 captives, and 500 bullocks. A party commanded by a brother of Chow Pimathon is the only one said to have met with any opposition. It is not known whether there [were] any casualties.

May 22d. Called on the Isoboa of Lagon, who arrived here yesterday on his way to Zimmay: he asked me what the British Government would say to the marauding expedition of the Zimmay people. He told me he had been called on to furnish his portion of troops, but that [he] refused to have anything to do with it, for these reasons: that on my former visits I had told them not to attack the Burmans, whilst they were quiet; that they had not the orders of the King, and having orders to furnish a large quantity of timber to the King, he was not prepared. I said the British Government had no wish to interfere in the affairs of its neighbours, further than if by friendly means it could prevent rapine and bloodshed and promote kindly feelings amongst them. That in accordance with these views, I had on my former visits recommended peaceable and friendly intercourse with the Burmans, if they were not averse to such intercourse; but that I could only recommend the course I knew the British Government would approve of, and which I thought most beneficial to themselves. If Zimmay could not see, not only what was just, but what was ultimately most for her own advantage (for what was the acquisition of a few hundred men, when they could not show more beyond their own frontier) that however much the British Government might disapprove of such acts, and be grieved at the ruin which followed, I did not think our Government would interfere, but that I thought the King of Siam had cause to be much

displeased at a small place on his frontier assuming a power he only should exercise, and involving him in a war, which this act must do if the King of Burmah did his duty by his subjects, without knowing whether he (the King of Siam) was prepared for it or not ; and that I knew he had had some difficulty in fitting out a small expedition against the Malays. He said he perfectly agreed with what I had said and that whoever bore the blame, and from whatever quarter it came, he ought to be held free, as he had nothing to with it. I tried to get at the cause of the war, but he was not more communicative than his brother of this place.

May 23d. Left Labong for Zimmay. Met just outside the town the Labong part of the force, returning from the attack on the Birman frontier towns. There were about 300 men, and I counted 109 elephants. There were about 60 or 70 miserable captives some of them children not more than 10 or 12 days old ; regretted I had not felt authorized yesterday to use stronger language to the Chief (who is a sensible man) on this brutal outrage.

May 27th Amiter, the son of a man who is himself prisoner here, who took the account of captured property, told me to-day, there were 1815 miserable captives of all ages, from a few days up to 70 or 80 years old, and about 500 cattle. He also stated that some 30 years ago, about the time his father was made prisoner, the Zimmay people had destroyed these towns in the same way they had done now.

June 3d. Called on the Chow Huana, and on asking him in case we were driven into a war with Ava, to what extent we might expect to procure carriage bullocks or elephants, he said they had but few, and if we went to war with Ava, they would make war on this side on their own account, indeed whether we did or not, they could never be friends with the

Burmans; that they (the Burmese) had begun to extend their villages in this direction, and sent people here to establish a trade, but that the Shans in old times had been too often taken in, in that way, and were not such fools as to believe them; and when they knew that some of these towns were strong enough for a rallying point, and would answer as depôts for provisions, they would invade this country; consequently they put their messengers in confinement, and went and carried off the people from the new towns. I said that though they had been enemies formerly, I could not see that was any reason why they should not be friends now; that they had no evidence of an intended attack, and it would not tell well in other countries, that on suspicion of an attack from Ava, they should put a friendly messenger in confinement, and do the very thing they expressed so much hatred of the Birman for intending. Oh! he said, it was not mere suspicion. Had not they sent a friendly messenger with presents, and was not that proof sufficient that the false Burmans intended to lull them into security and attack them; he said, never trust a Burman, and having given them as bad a character as he could do for duplicity, he changed the subject to praise of the captured cattle. Called also at Chow Pimathon, where I met Chow Mounng Lik from Labong. He came to complain of the unfair division of the captives taken in the late inroad. Labong had only received 100. Chow Pimathon complained of the obstinacy of Chow Huana, and said however well inclined, he could do nothing, as he had no influence.

June 4th. Returned to Labong this day. Chow ne non Lungi, the Isoboa of Mein neoung, an old friend, who had been absent with the marauding party, called in the evening. He told me that the whole country to the northward is in arms; that the old system of rapine and murder adopted by the

Burman Shans before our occupation of the provinces, is again in full operation. Kein toung, and Kiir thoung are now, or have been, within the last month, at war, if such a system may be called war. Thinee has destroyed Zaygia, the most flourishing, industrious, and well governed of the Mein Shan States, and is at this moment burning the villages, and carrying off the people from that principality. He gave me some account of the foray, and promised to give a detail at some future visit.

June the 5th. Called on Chow ni noicam, a native of Lagon, and one of the old Chiefs, by whose exertions in marauding under Chow tchewee these towns were peopled with the inhabitants from the Burman side. He asked me what the British Government would say to their late expedition. I said, however much the British Government might wish to see all their neighbours living in friendly terms, the matter rested between the Kings of Ava and Bangkok, and I did not think we had anything to say to it. He told me the Burmans had made four attempts to settle these towns before this, that they had as often saved them as they had done now, without the King of Ava resisting it; and if they settled them ten times more, so often would they destroy them; that they were only intended as rallying points and depôts of provisions, in a meditated attack on these towns. I blamed the Zimmay Chiefs for seizing their messengers. He said they had no right to send messengers. If they wanted to be friends the King of Ava should send a mission to the King of Siam, as he had done; that the Burmans always sent messengers in that way when they intended an attack, but the Shans were not such fools as to believe them.

June 22d. Called on Chow ni nan tung for an hour or two. He told me Mein Poo is situated in a valley of a river of the same name, which falls into

* *sic. 2 marches*

the Salween, from which the town is distant about one day; it is 10 or 11 elephant in * North, a little westerly from Zimmay, and is a place of some size and very considerable strength. Mein Tsoon is a small place, on a stream which also falls into the Salween a short way below the May Poo. It is 8 elephant marches from Zimmay, in the same direction, and two from Mein Too Min which is larger, about 2 days north, a little westerly of Mein Tsoon, and three days south easterly of Moymboo, situated on a large river, the Moy kote which falls into the Cambodia river just below old river then. The Min Too Isobon's son, a young lad, was in charge of this place, which he had settled last year with people from Mein too (Mein Tsoon had been settled from the same place shortly before, after the return of Captain McLeod, with whose Mission the Chow Huana of Zimmay, on his return from Bangkok, appears to have been much displeased, and has ever since sought an opportunity of interrupting the communication to the northward, fearing the Kein toung Prince here would get away. Immediately on his return he seized Benya Tot, his own officer, on that pretence, who, on regaining his liberty on the security of Chowpymon, had just done that of which he was accused, vizt. gone over the river to Kein-toung. The Chow Huana sent 200 men after him, which was the interruption to the quiet of the frontier. He had for some time meditated an attack on Mein Too, and the unsettled towns, and had sent Chowpymon, in November, to have a party of 200 men with 70 elephants which had been sent in small parties as traders, at different times, who were to rise on the inhabitants when he attacked the towns, and a proper application of one of the Chiefs of the red Kareens for assistance has given a pretext for raising the force, and a friendly mission of 29 men from the Min Too, Isoboa, (in April) the members of which except three Chow Huana put in confinement [and] hurried on the march of the force, which took place six or seven

days after their imprisonment. He told me what I had before heard from Chow ne non Maha jiwit of Zimmay, that the people taken would not be personal slaves of individual Chiefs, but merely subjects of the State, and would have villages assigned for their residence, under their own Chiefs. He gave many other details not necessary to note.

July 23rd. Before leaving Labong to-day, called, amongst others on the wife of Chow no non con (he is himself in the country). She begged me to tell her if we intended to order the Mim Too people to be sent back to their homes, as she had a poor little orphan girl taken there, whom she would have sent back to Zimmay or perhaps just when she had become as much attached to her as one of her own children, she might be called on to part with her.

July 26th. Ban Tan—four days after leaving Labong on my return home. Met here the proprietor of the village, Chow ne non Moh jiwit, brother in law of the Chow Huana of Zimmay, who paid me a visit of three or four hours in the evening. He enquired the contents of my letters from Ava, and when I mentioned that the King of Ava had wished to make us take up the affairs of Mim Too, he said if we took it in hand, and ordered the people to be sent back, they would be returned. No doubt the probability of such an interference on our part had been discussed amongst the Chiefs, for he said the young Isoboa of Mim Too had said, "if such an arrangement were to take place he would come to us, for he dare not return to the Birmanus, who will kill him for coming over to the Shans without resistance." I said it was absurd to suppose he could resist 7000 men; if the attack had been made with 200 the case might have been different (he evidently wished me to infer they had of their own accord come under the protection of Zimmay, which I have heard stated before, though without a shadow of

foundation). I told him also, I believed that should the British Government interfere it would only be by mediation, to prevent further misery, and bloodshed, that the matter rested between the King of Ava and Bangkok. I asked him if the priests had not interfered to prevent the invasion. He said they had gone to the Chow Huana in a body, begged him not to proceed and told him though he would gain the town he would bring misery on the country. He said he himself was only an inferior person and must go where he was ordered, but he thought the Chief must have been mad; all that was said to dissuade him appeared only to have the effect of fixing his determination to proceed, though they had the orders of Bangkok not to disturb the peace of the frontier. Though I had given the same advice for the last two years, and though the Lagon Isobon had refused to go, nothing would change his determination, and he had in a few months shut up the gold and silver road of trade and friendship, we had been years in opening. It is on this ground they think we had a right to interfere.

August 5th. Yahine. The Pilot [Palat] as he is here called, the second Chief of the village (Tsetkar) called on me in the afternoon; he had a great deal to say for himself, and appears to take the principal management of affairs. He returned from Bangkok just before I did. He told me he had heard that the Chow Huana of Zimmay had reported to the Ministers the re-occupation of Mein Twon and Mein Took, and asked leave to carry off the people, or drive them out, and that the King had said, he did not see the necessity for attacking them, but would not give any orders. The Laos Chiefs were the guards of the frontiers, and [ought] to be guided by circumstances, on which Chow Huana had commenced preparations as soon as he returned home. My visitor did not seem at all disposed to view the matter

as the treacherous and unjustifiable act I represented it.

(True Copy)

(Signed) E. A. Blundell,

Commissioner.

Fort William 9th October 1839.

No. 12.

To H. T. Prinsep Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India
Secret and Political Department,
Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of the Right Honble. the President of the Council, that Doctor Richardson returned to this place on the 23d ultimo, from the mission on which he has been employed.

I have the honor to forward copy of an abstract of his proceedings,* of which the more detailed account, contained in his journal, will be prepared for transmission by some future opportunity.

It appears from this report that Doctor Richardson had no ground of complaint against the Siamese authorities in as far as his personal reception was concerned, but as respects the chief object of his mission, that of ensuring continued supplies of cattle, it is to be feared that he has materially failed. The orders obtained by him from the Court at Bangkok addressed to the Chiefs of the Shan States were to the effect that such cattle as had already been purchased by Maulmain traders should be allowed to be taken away, but that the future export should be limited to two or three only from each state. Doctor Richardson ascribes the impediments to the cattle trade altogether to the Chow Huana (Heir apparent and virtually the Chief) of Zimmay, the present paramount Shan State, and he is of opinion that the Chiefs of the other States are all personally well inclined to leave the trade open and unrestricted. Judg-

* See *infra*.

ing however from the nature of the orders obtained by Dr. Richardson from the Ministers of Siam, it would seem that the impediments, such as they are, originate with them, and Dr. Richardson is inclined to ascribe this unfriendly spirit to the idea which seemed to prevail among them that we are unable or unwilling to withstand the power of the present King of Ava. Indeed on one occasion, the Minister in whose department the affairs of the Shan States lie, candidly told Dr. Richardson, when he remonstrated against the orders that had been given, that no others could be expected unless we declared war against the Burmese.

It will be seen that about 1400 head of cattle, which had been purchased by our traders previous to to Dr. Richardson's arrival in the Shan States are on their way down to this place, and if they reach us in tolerable condition will ensure supply of fresh meat for some few months. Beyond these, however, Doctor Richardson is of opinion that the supplies will be very limited.

The long absence of any intelligence from Doctor Richardson proceeded from his being in daily expectation of taking his own departure for Maulmain, when he thought it unnecessary to send on messengers ahead, as he had every reason to suppose he should reach Maulmain before them.

The report brought to me regarding subsequent orders issued by the Ministers of Siam, appears to have been without foundation.

I have the honor to forward copies of the translations of the letters addressed by the Ministers of Siam to you * and to myself † in reply to the letters delivered to them by Dr. Richardson. The original to your address has been delivered to the charge of the Commander of the Steamer Enterprize. I have also the honor to forward copy of a translation of a letter

* See *infra*.
11 March 1839.

† See *do.* *do.*

* *Not copied*

addressed to me * by the Chief of Zimmay, in reply to that which I wrote to him in May last.

Doctor Richardson was unable to bring away with him the escaped convicts who had been seized and kept in confinement at the frontier town of Camburi, as he had not the means of guarding them. I propose sending a small party for the purpose as soon as the rainy season has passed.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell

Commissioner in the

Tenasserim Provinces.

Maulmain

the 9th October 1839.

Fort William 9th October 1839.

No. 13.

To E. A. Blundell Esquire,
Civil Commissioner in the
Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

I have the honor to report my return this day from my mission to the Court of Siam and Northern Shan or Laos States, and to forward the following short abstract account of my journey to and from those places and proceedings in these countries.

December 18th [1838] left Maulmain, and proceeding up the Attran river in a south-easterly direction, through a rich alluvial country, landed on the 20th at noon at the Kareen village of Nat Kyeeing: on the 21st six elephants which had left Maulmain on the 17th joined us, and on the 22d we commenced our march through the splendid teak forests on the banks of the Zimmay. On the 3d of January we reached the three Pagodas, our boundary with Siam, through a perfectly uninhabited, but rich and level country, and the names of numerous cities and towns, the sites of which we frequently passed, but of which now not a vestige remains, testifying to the former populous state of the country. The inhabitants were Talines and Lowas, which last races have been all but absorbed by the surrounding tribes, their name being only kept up by some wild tribes in the hills to the North East of this; what remains of the Talines have removed either voluntarily or by force into the Siamese territory. Their number also has, by various causes, been very much diminished—many of the later emigrants are said to have died of starvation in crossing this desert space between the Taline and Siamese countries. On the 4th of January we lost one of the elephants which, alarmed at some one running up behind

him, broke away from his mohaut on the march. We halted three days on the banks of the Thaung Kala river, which we reached that evening, and sent the other elephants to look after him, but without success, the jungle being full of wild ones. On the 8th we reached Naung Ben, [a] village of Kareens, the first we had seen since leaving Nat Kang. As up to this time we had no guide, we were obliged to find our way the best way we could, taking the most promising looking path of many wild elephants tracks; my progress was of course slow, and for three days the whole party, which consisted of about 80 people, had no food but fern leaves and a root something like a yam, but long, and running straight down into the soil a depth of three or four feet.

At Naung Ben we hired an elephant, in room of our lost one, and a guide. On the 10th passed Sadideng, a Kareen village, and on the 12th another small village, also of Kareens. On the 18th reached Maynam noi, which is nearly due west of Tavoy, the distance said to be not more than five marches by well travelled but mountainous paths, though but few inhabitants. Here we found six Thugs, escaped 10 or 15 days ago from the jail of Tavoy. They were sent by my request to Camborree, where there are ten or twelve others, as I wished to get them all sent back to Tavoy. The Siamese officers at this post, in a very civil [manner], furnished us with a guide and a boat in which I sent two of the sick, and some of the heaviest of the presents to Camborree, which place we reached on the 25th of January. Here I was obliged to halt a day, and although the Myo Woon was exceedingly civil in his professions I could not prevail on him to send back the thugs without an order from the Ministers, and though there is a good road (about which they did their utmost to deceive me) from this by which Bangkok is easily reached in five or six days, notwithstanding my strong remonst-

rance, I was civilly forced to go by Pra Pree which is south of Bangkok. On the 30th of January we reached the last place, where the governor of the town was equally civil, but wished to send me by boats still further out of my way. I however insisted on going across the country here, and reached Nakon Tchaisee, not however without an attempt of the guide to push me down into the morasses near the sea. 3d of February: From this it is one day's march by a good road to Bangkok; the old chief of the town assured me he had no idea of the distance by land, as no one could possibly go that way, being perfectly impossible from swamps that would swallow up an army. As boats had arrived from the capital for my conveyance, I did not contradict the old gentleman. On the 6th we left Nakon Tchaisee (!) in three or four boats; on the 7th, having pulled nearly all night, reached Tha Chin where we halted till the 8th, embarked in two fine large boats with accommodation cabins, pulled by twenty men each, and reached Bangkok at 4 p.m. on the 9th of February. We brought to close off a Mat House, Mr. Hunter, a British merchant residing here, had, by instruction of the Ministers, erected for me between the British factory (where he himself resides, and in which two good rooms were provided for me) and the river. Two Native Portuguese were waiting to receive me, one the Captain of the port, the other the Commandant of Artillery. About 7 a.m. Mr. Hunter was sent for by His Excellency the Pra Klang, and at his request sent to me for copies of the letters to the Ministers, which I sent. The contents of the letters were so much approved of, that His Majesty sent in the four men to say, his friendship for the English was such, though the letter was not written to him, he would receive it as though it had been: a State boat with forty rowers and ten guard boats accompanied the messenger, and I sent the letters over at once to the Palace. In the morning I waited on the Pra Klang,

where my reception was kind and friendly, but nothing was said as to the object of my mission, further than that it was a friendly visit. On the 17th I had an audience of the King, on which occasion I was accompanied by Mr. Hunter and three or four other English gentlemen at the time in Bangkok. I was received with much state, more I am told than was displayed on former occasions. His Majesty made strong expressions of his friendship for the Governor General, and said any wish of His Excellency was the same as if the wish were his own; on retiring, after an audience of 1 hour and 20 minutes, he referred me to the Ministers for any thing I might have to say on business, and the curtain was let down on a signal from himself before the throne. After the King had retired, the Pra Klang's son pointed out to me Kroma-luang Rack, the head of the princes, and Chow Khoon Bodin, the Prime Minister, under whose immediate jurisdiction the north and Eastern frontier of the Empire is. He returned my salam, and said he should be glad to see me and hear all I had to say. On the 19th I waited on Chow Khoon Bodin, the Prime Minister, and was received with flowery speeches and strong expressions of friendship. I was however unable to obtain a definite answer respecting any of the objects of my mission which I brought forward. He said the southern frontier where George De Castro (the person sent from Mergui) was waiting to procure cattle and elephants, was not under his jurisdiction, nor was Camborree where the Thugs were; that cattle and elephants must be considered as part of the defences of the country, and that as the Laos people were only tributary to Siam he could not order them to sell their cattle, though I pointed out to him that we only wanted the Ministers to order that no obstacles might be thrown in the way of our people purchasing the spare cattle that their owners wished to dispose of; he persisted, though I assured him to the contrary, that the Chinese caravan had never been

interrupted in any way but had of themselves declined proceeding to Maulmain, as the market did not suit their goods. He however agreed that I should go to the Laos country, and return here by any route, and at any time I pleased. In the evening I called on Chow Fa, the legitimate son of the late King, and half brother of the present King, who was the son of an inferior wife. He is a remarkable person, reads and writes English, and is rather a good practical astronomer. His house is furnished in the European style, and he has a small collection of good English books, amongst which is an encyclopedia. He is, I believe, expected to succeed to the throne, but at present does not take the least share in the government of the country. My reception was here also very civil and friendly. A supper was served by a Madras servant he has, and his own servants, many of whom were dressed in white jackets and trousers, stood up and waited; tea and coffee were served also, and musical entertainment afterwards. The whole entertainment was in good keeping, without any of the ridiculous make shift imitations of European customs so often seen in entertainments of the kind. On the 23d of February called on Kromaluang Rack, the King's uncle and head of the princes. This was altogether a visit of ceremony, and though the Prince appeared to me friendly and affable, Mr. Hunter, who kindly accompanied me in all my visits, and who sees him often, says he was distant and reserved. These were all the Chiefs I saw; Kromaluang Rack I did not see again; he declined seeing me when I sent to propose taking leave of him before starting. Chow Khoon Bodin I saw again to take leave, and the Praklang, who was very friendly and affable, I saw very often, as all my business was with him. Nothing could be more friendly from first to last, than the professions of all from the King down.

My instructions pointed out the propriety of waiting till the Ministers should offer their assistance, as

from the tenor of their late letters there was little doubt they would do, and rather point out the way they could be useful to us in our expected contest with the Birmans than make any request from them, but so vague and general though unbounded were their professions of goodwill, that it was necessary to make a direct request on every point on which we expected any thing from them; and although on the request first being made either for orders to the Chiefs to the West and South, near Tavoy and Mergui, to allow the sale, or to the Laos Chiefs not to interfere with the sale of cattle, they appeared anxious to meet our wishes, yet when the orders were given, they were worded in such a way as to be all but useless. Of this the letter to the Laos Chiefs, of which I enclose a copy,* is a specimen. On my pointing out to Chow Khoon Bodin, the Prime Minister, under whose more immediate authority the Shan States are, the unsatisfactory nature of the letter, he said it was no use saying anything more about the letter now, that it would not be altered till we declared war with Ava, when all the assistance they could command should be at our disposal. I was told the order to the Chiefs to the South was sent, but the copy I applied for to send to Mr. De Castro, though promised me, I never obtained. I pointed out to the Praklang that as I did not return by Camborree, I could not take charge of the Thugs who had escaped, and whom they had promised to give up; after some conversation he agreed to keep them in confinement, and give them up to any authorized person sent to receive them. With regard to the Chinese caravan the Pra Klang assured me that after receiving your letter on the subject, he charged the Chow Huana of Zimmay in Mr. Hunter's presence (this Mr. Hunter confirmed) on no account to interfere to prevent their proceeding to Maulmain if they wished; yet he would not insert a clause to that effect in the letter.

* See *infra*.

I left Bangkok on the 19th of March. An inferior Siamese officer was appointed to accompany me to Nakon Chaissee, where I had left my elephants. He delivered over four elephants as return presents from the King and Ministers; and on the 23d I started by land for Zimmay, accompanied by an officer from this place; on the 26th we reached the end of the district, which is separated by a steep muddy nulla from the next. Here the Thurgha (altho' I sent over the officer from the last town with the Ministers' orders that we should be supplied with everything we required and not interrupted in our way to Zimmay) refused to give us boats or supply us with provisions; and I was obliged to send back some of my people to Mr. Hunter, and request him to explain to the Praklang, that we had been detained here, and request him to send such an order as the people would attend to. On 6th of April I received the second order, a long and friendly one to all heads of villages and towns, to supply us with every thing we wanted, and to point out the road to us. This I sent at once over to the Thageen. He with a very bad grace gave us boats and provisions, but declared that no road existed, that the swamps made it perfectly impossible in that direction to [reach] Zimmay; that the thing had never been done. During my detention for the second order, I had ascertained the existence of a good road and was not a little astonished at his assertion, which would have staggered any one who did not know them. He however persisted and refused to give us any guides, as the order was only to point out the road; the only road he knew was by Camboori. I now suspected the Ministers of double dealing, and no doubt was left when I learned that a boat had come up quietly to watch us. As I had however the Ministers' pass, and orders to the heads of villages in strong and friendly terms, to assist us; and having been repeatedly and publicly assured by them that I was at perfect liberty to proceed by any route most agreeable to myself, and

believing, that could they have found any the least plausible pretext either to refuse now or to complain hereafter of my travelling through the country, they would themselves have let me know it in some ways, and as the land route is at this season travelled in 12 or 20 days less time than that by the river, without including the time I should lose by returning, I determined to proceed, and as our Mahouts had seen the road in the direction which had been pointed out privately by the villagers, I started on the 7th. The first two days, till we reached Soophan, the principal town of the district, there was only a footpath with one or two nullahs, but from this there was a cart road all the way through a level country, by which a carriage might be driven to Yahine. The Thooghees furnished us (and refusing payment) on the sight of the order, with all the provisions we required, and were generally civil, though they persisted in the declaration that there was no road that way to Zimmay, till the 18th, when we reached Bankan, on the Maynam river, where the secret orders had not I supposed reached, for the Thooghee there believed the order to be "to furnish guides" as one of my interpreters had done. He accordingly furnished me with guides, after which we had no further difficulty, they were regularly furnished from one village to another. We reached Yahine, which is the first of the Laos towns, on the 28th April. I omitted to mention that a Siamese officer, Pra Sooren was sent up with the original of the letter to the Laos Chiefs, of which I found a copy. He started the day after I did from Bangkok, came by boat to Kontsauren (!), and thence by land up the left bank of the river. By my detention he was enabled to reach this place before me, and left two days before I arrived. He had however communicated the Ministers' orders that the buffaloes of the people you sent after me with the petition to Bangkok, should be given up; of this however I was not informed by the wily old Chief of the place till I had fought the battle

myself. When he found he was not likely to get any advantage, I was informed that they were ordered to be given up. Notwithstanding the repeated assurance of the Ministers to the contrary, I was here told in so circumstantial a manner that it is difficult to doubt it, that a special officer was sent up from Bangkok to enquire into the numbers of cattle that had been sold to us, that it was by this person's orders, who was present at Yahine at the time and took away the people's passes to Bangkok, that the buffaloes were detained. On the 1st of May I left Yahine and received, as I have always done from the Laos Chiefs and people, the greatest kindness and attention throughout. The monsoon set in heavy on the 2d, which made it trying for the people who had no cover but leaves. We however reached Labong on the 14th without any sickness amongst them. In the afternoon, even before I had called on the Chief, I had visits from several old friends, all of whom seemed glad to see me. In the afternoon Pra Sooren arrived from Labong. On the 15th I called on the Isoboa, who was as friendly as ever, and expressed himself as determined to follow his father's advice and be our firm friend, and there can be no doubt of his sincerity. He is the son of the late Chow Chiweet and has been raised to the dignity of Chief since my last visit. He was then third. The Chow Huana has been removed as Isoboa of Lagon, and the Chow Rajawan has died. On the 17th I called on him again, after he had seen the Pra Sooren's orders, which he said were quite enough for him, that we should have no difficulty in procuring cattle there as far as their means would allow. Called also this day on Pra Sooren who assured me that the Government of Bangkok were most anxious to be on the most friendly terms with us, and nothing that he could do should be wanting on his part to forward these wishes. On the 21st of May the Lagon Isoboa arrived here with a body guard of 300 men and forty elephants on his way to a conference to be held at Zimmay on the cattle trade.

The house he had here as Chow Huana still belongs to him and he went into the fort at once where I called on him, on the 22nd. His friendship and good feeling towards us was not at all diminished since his elevation to the Yazalatten of Lagon, he assured me he considered himself to have two lords, the King of Bangkok and the English. He acknowledged the great benefit the intercourse and trade with us had been to this country, and said he would use his endeavours to prevent interruption, and of his sincerity there is as little doubt as that of his brother-in-law, the Chief of this place; indeed the Chow Huana of Zimmay and three of his Binyas or officers, who conduct the judicial business of the country, are the only exceptions I am aware of throughout Laos to the friendly feeling entertained towards us, and as the advantage they derive from the trade to the Coast is very great, the interest of the whole country is in favor of its continuance. Pra Sooren started on the 18th for Zimmay, but as all the influential Chiefs were absent in the invasion of the Burmese, I put off my departure for that place till I should hear of their return, intelligence of which reached us on the 22d. I left Laboung on the morning of the 23d of May, and reached Zimmay at noon the same day. Pra Sooren and an officer from Lagon were in sheds between the town and the river, and I occupied one I supposed was intended for me close to them. I sent the interpreter as usual to Chow Huana to report my arrival, and the people of his house told him to go to the town where they attend business of that kind. In the evening some mats were brought me, and about 7 o'clock the Chow Huana's son called, a lad of one or two and twenty. In the morning Chow Maha Nient, Chow Huana's brother-in-law and some of the Youm officers called from Chow Huana to know what our people complained of, though this was unusual before I had seen the Chiefs. I told them a number of their cattle had been detained in the country five months after they had been ready

to start; and that they had then been obliged to give a bribe of 300 rupees for a pass, and to pay a higher duty on each bullock than had been formerly fixed by the Chow Huana, and that many of their cattle had died, both here and on the road. I said money unjustly obtained should be repaid, and cattle they had lost in consequence of their unjust detention here replaced by others. They acknowledged they had made a mistake, but begged me to make further enquiries as to the real losses of the people, which I promised. On the 20th I met all the municipal officers at Chow Huana's house. I repeated what I had said to Chow Maha Nient, and further requested to know what footing the trade was to be on in future and what numbers of cattle we might expect for carriage in case of being involved in a war with Ava. It is unnecessary here to give the long discussion which followed; it is enough to state, that all Chow Huana said was in the same unfriendly spirit and decided opposition to the trade with us which he uniformly displayed. He said the traders refused to give up the names of the people from whom they had bought the cattle, and were consequently detained, and a pass at their own desire had been given for the route they had taken, and the duty was always what had been charged them; also that he did not see the probability of their being able to spare any more cattle, that they now had not enough for themselves. Chow Pima Thon was evidently annoyed with him, and said the Siamese King and the English were friends; that they were under the Siamese and consequently looked on themselves as under the English, that the trade and friendship had existed too long to be broken off in that way; that what I had said was very just, and that if I should wait till the 31st, when they had consulted together, they would let me know how long the trade should continue on its present footing, and what prospect there was of our obtaining cattle afterwards. I agreed to wait, and in the mean time proposed to call on the old Isoboa,

which I did that day; he is 86 years of age, retains all his faculties, but takes no share in public business: On the 31st by appointment I again met at Chow Huana's house all the municipal officers of the town, except the old Isoboa, the Isoboa of Lagon, several officers from that town, and 3 or 4 of the officers of Labong—the Isoboa of which town refused on the plea of ill health to attend; several Chiefs who have nothing to do with the business were also present. Chow Huana asked what was the probable amount of property belonging to our people now in the Shan Country, and appeared a good [deal] surprised when I told him there was upwards of 50,000 Rupees, although the value of each party's investment is marked in the pass which is shown at the Youm; he made several proposals quite incompatible with any degree of freedom of trade, to which I objected on that ground, and as being contrary to the stipulations in the Treaty of Bangkok. At last, after some consultation amongst themselves Chow Pima Than, as on the former day, took the lead, and said what I proposed, viz., that the people who had now their property embarked in the trade, who had come here on the faith of [a] positive agreement by Chow Huana with myself, should be allowed to continue the trade on the old footing without let or hindrance, and if they had any difficulty in obtaining payment for their goods, they should apply to the Youm for assistance; that with regard to future traders coming from Maulmain, he could not promise that they should obtain cattle; he appealed to Chow Huana who confirmed what he had said. I said I was obliged to him and satisfied as far as those now engaged in the trade were concerned, but wished to know if the trade in cattle was prohibited to people in future coming from Maulmain, as in that case I would want time to warn the people not to entertain the hope of procuring cattle. He said no, they might come, and if cattle are to spare, they might purchase them. There was

then some discussion about the duties which were at last left as they had been hitherto, but they wished to collect them on the frontier instead of here, to which I saw no objection. I then made the demand as above stated on behalf of the people whose cattle had been detained here, and after a good deal said by Chow Huana in his spirit of opposition, Chow Pimothan again interfered, and requested a day to consider the subject, to which I agreed after some friendly conversation, in which the Chow Huana joined. I expressed my wish to start on [the] 2d. as the monsoon was daily becoming heavier. Chow Huana objected in friendly manner to my leaving so soon, and said he had sent out for an elephant as a return present, which he feared would not be ready so soon. I agreed to remain till the fourth. I had to-day a warning from a friend (the second I here had) to be on my guard as some foul play was intended towards me. Though this person ought well to have known what was going on, I have never had the least apprehension of any thing of the kind. On the 2d Chow Ho non Keo, the president of the Yum stated, all I had demanded on behalf of the people whose cattle had been detained was acceded to, 150 cattle, one half of the total lost, was given them and duty overcharged returned. The 300 Rs. bribe, as the people were not very anxious to press it, and as I thought referring to that might cause soreness and irritation which might urge them (having it in their power) to do more than that small amount of damage to the trade by vexatious restriction, I did not insist on.

In the evening I received the elephant by a deputation of the Youm officers, in the name of the whole of the officers of the town with many good wishes. On the 3d being to start on the morrow, called on the principal Chiefs, and as the only point that remained was to ascertain what assistance in carriage cattle we might expect from this, in case

of a war, I asked Chow Huana if Pra Sooren had delivered the Ministers' orders on that head, and if so, what elephants he thought we might calculate on obtaining. He said Pra Sooren had delivered the orders, but there had been a great mortality amongst the cattle and elephants, he did not think they could sell any and Moulmein was a long way off and Ava further. If we hired cattle he did not see the prospect of any of them ever finding their way back, besides the people would not dare to accompany our force. I told him the Ministers, particularly Chow Khoon Bodin, had positively promised that if war was declared with Ava, they should assist with all the cattle and elephants in their power. He said yes, if they could spare them but he did not think there would be any to spare, as if we went to war, he would attack the Burmans here on his own account.

At Chow Pimathon's I mentioned in detail what had passed at Chow Huana's; he said he was junior here and had not much weight with him, but that the ministers' order must be attended to, and as far as his power extended, he would do all he could to keep up the good feeling now existing. I thanked him for the assistance he had given me in the late discussion.

At the houses of the other Chiefs nothing else was said except taking a friendly leave of them. On the 4th, before leaving, called on Pra Sooren and requested him to press on Chow Huana the furnishing of carriage cattle and elephants in case of a war was not optional, as the sale of cattle was with the Chiefs here, but a positive order from the King. He promised to do so, and I started for Labong on my return to Maulmain. On 6th called on the Lagon Chief who said he did not think much of what had been said at Zimmay, that there was no trusting the Chow Huana. He had a claim against him which he had not been able to get him to settle. He assured me that our relations with Lagon would continue as they had been for the

last ten years. On the 8th when I was on the point of starting, a deputation from the traders here waited on me to say the Chow Huana had demanded 3 cattle for each driver who had been last year employed by our people, and one from each mahout, which had so frightened the people of the country that they could not obtain a single driver. I sent them with my salam to Chow Pinathon to tell him the state of the case, and ask his assistance, as he had publicly pledged himself at a general meeting to assist the people. I also called on Pra Sooren, who has also returned here, and intended to start to-morrow for Bankok. I requested him to put off his departure, as Chow Huana virtually put a stop to the trade by the proceeding just mentioned. He agreed to stop and in conjunction with the Chiefs of Lagon and this place, wrote to Zimmay, complaining of the proceedings. On the 14th an answer was received from Zimmay denying their having broken in any way any agreement entered into. I pointed out to Pra Sooren that although no stipulation had been broken, yet the people were virtually deprived of the power of taking away their cattle by this unjust tax of the Chow Huana's preventing the people who were anxious for the employment from hiring themselves to the traders; he said he could do nothing more and should start to-morrow; if Chow Huana now broke his faith after what had taken place it was on his own responsibility. As our people had succeeded in getting one or two drivers, and as I believed they would shortly get as many as they wanted, I determined also on starting; and on the 13th had commenced loading the elephants, when a Shan arrived from Maulmain and told me there were letters on the road for me from yourself which would be here in a day or two. I was unwillingly again compelled to put off my departure, as in case of war having been declared, I wished at once to ascertain what carriage and other cattle we had to expect from them; after waiting two days and it being still uncertain when the men with the letters

* *Sic. There
appears to be an
omission here.*

might arrive, I determined to send some people to meet them, and on the 18th dispatched five people. Should they not meet them, however, to go as far as Meinhinghee, 6 days off, where he had been left by* the people returned, having met the man (who had no letters) a day and a half from Meinhinghee. Two days from this however they fell in with a Chinaman who had the letters, which they brought on. As war had not been declared, the contingency on which alone the Siamese Government had promised to order the Chiefs here to furnish us with a larger supply of cattle, I had again the prospect of a speedy return to Maulmain, but as your letter authorized me, should the exigencies of the case, political and commercial, render it necessary to remain for a time in these States, and as our people still made but little progress in obtaining drivers, and as the Shans are still afraid they will be fined again on their return, I had reluctantly determined to retrace my steps to Zimmay, where I did not expect to be detained more than a day or two at most when I was attacked with severe inflammation in my eyes, which confined me entirely to my darkened tent, from which I did not recover till the 9th of July. In the mean time your letter, which the Chinaman refused to give to my people, had reached the Zimmay Chiefs, intimating that the Birmans intended to punish them for the attack on their frontier towns and that the British Government disapproved of such acts of treachery in profound peace. This I suppose had made him think it as well to have friends, at least on one side of him, and pains had been taken to convince the country people that the cattle had only been taken to restore to our people the 150 lost, which they had been obliged to make good, and that it would not occur again. As drivers had in consequence been obtained nearly sufficient for about 1500 cattle, all that were collected, I determined as soon as the first batch had started to return to Maulmain, as the necessity of my visit to Zimmay was

obviated. On the 16th the first portion of the cattle, amounting to 2 or 300 started, and I had the elephants tied up at night to start in the morning. The heavy rain in the night loosened the earth, so that three of them drew the stakes they were tied to and one of them I had not recovered on the 23d when I determined to start on my return and leave a mahout in charge of the Chief of this town, from whom by the by, I had received the lost elephant as a return present. The second and third batch of cattle have started and there are now a few I believe in the hands of other dealers; confidence seems gradually returning, and cattle are slowly obtained. From the universal friendly feeling of the Chief here and the great profit they have derived from the cattle trade, though Chow Huana being just now the [blank] and most anxious to put a stop to the trade altogether, I have no doubt that we shall be able to obtain a considerable supply of cattle, perhaps three or four thousand head annually or perhaps more, but from the Chow Huana we must constantly expect a recurrence of difficulty and losses to the traders of a similar nature to the present, but I very much doubt his ability to stop the trade altogether, though I have no doubt he would be borne out by the Siamese Government if it was done in a less unjust way than in the last instance. They are said, and I believe with truth, to be jealous of our influence in these States. On the 23d I left Labong, and travelling a short distance from the route I followed in the way up, reached Yahine on the 4th of August, from whence I crossed the hills, and reached Meahwadil on the 14th and from Mee Kaloung over to the Houng Aro on the 20th, where having procured boats embarked all the people and reached Maulmain on the night of the 23d. We suffered of course much exposure and fatigue from the state of the roads, and the heavy rains of this country; but as I hoped would be the case, when the monsoon was once fairly set in, we had no sickness, except one case of fever, from which the poor boy

died five or six days after we left Yahine, where we were obliged to leave him.

I must beg your indulgence for my long silence, which proceeded entirely from expecting daily to be able to start in so short a time, that I should reach this as soon as any messenger I could have dispatched. I trust the foregoing abstract which I am sorry is less succinct than I could have wished will give some idea of what has been done, till I am enabled to forward my journals, and a sketch of my route which shall be prepared, and sent in with the least possible delay.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed.) D. Richardson.

Maulmain

the 24th August 1839.

Fort William 9th October 1839.

No. 13 Contd.

[March 1839]

Order addressed to the Chiefs of Zimmay, Labong and Lagong, by the Ministers of Siam.

According to the friendship existing English Merchants coming into Siam by land or water, with a pass, are allowed to buy and sell. Mr. Richardson has brought presents to the Golden feet from the English Ruler, and made known every circumstance. He says that merchants coming to purchase elephants at Zimmay, Labong and Lagong are prevented by Zimmay, and requests that they may be allowed to purchase. This is the order. Mr. Richardson says he wants elephants and cattle, because preparations are making in his country for war, and also for agricultural purposes. According to custom elephants and cattle cannot be taken out of the country. Hitherto numbers of cattle have been taken out of Zimmay, Labong and Lagong. At that time elephants, buffaloes and cattle were abundant, and were allowed to be taken out of the country according to friendship. Now they are become scarce. Elephants, buffaloes and cattle are not like other merchandize. There are not sufficient in the country for its own purposes. Mr. Richardson has brought letters from the English Ruler, and says he has come to procure cattle. That he may not be vexed let him have two or three from Zimmay, Labong and Lagong. Mr. Richardson having reported some dispute about the money paid for cattle in Zimmay, Labong and Lagong, we have taken His Majesty's orders and have sent two officers to Zimmay, Labong and Lagong, with orders that Mr. Richardson may have two or three cattle that he may not be vexed.

(True Translation)

(Signed) D. Richardson

Fort William 9th October 1839.

No. 14.

The letter of Chow Khun Praklang, Minister of State to His Majesty the King of Siam, to Mr. Blundell, Governor of Maulmain, Tavoy and Mergui.

You sent a letter by Doctor Richardson, informing me that the Right Honble. the Governor General had selected him to be the bearer of a letter from the Honble. Mr. Prinsep, Secretary to the Supreme Government, to the Minister of Siam; Doctor Richardson being an officer of much intelligence, having visited Chengmie, Lackon, Lampoon and various other countries, and you desired him to say how thankful you were to the Ministers of Siam for the kindness they had shown to the Maulmain merchants and that you hoped the Ministers would continue to show them the same favor, for such friendship existing between the two countries makes the people friendly and happy because it causes trade to flourish, whereby they become rich and will bless the wise rulers who give them the opportunity of becoming so. That also you had received the letters concerning Mrs. Brisley and that you were very thankful to the Ministers for their exertions in her behalf, and that the information from Penang respecting her must have been incorrect. All the other parts of the letter are fully understood.

On Dr. Richardson's arrival in Siam he was properly received, and attended to, and through the assistance of the Ministers had an audience of His Majesty the King of Siam, and delivered the presents.

The King was previously aware that the Right Honble. the Governor General had ordered the Honble. Messrs. Prinsep and Blundell to write letters of friendship to the Ministers of Siam. His Majesty has already thanked the Right Honble. the Governor General and Mr Blundell.

Mr. Blundell asked the Ministers to preserve the road of existing friendship open; that the merchants of the countries may go and trade together, which will be good for both countries, and all people will bless such wise rulers. The Siamese and English must take care that their friendship be strong, and that such friendship being cemented will last as long as Heaven and Earth.

Doctor Richardson mentioned to the officers that the Governor of Maulmain had sent George de Castros to Chumpon to purchase elephants in a friendly way. Doctor Richardson also stated that the merchants from Maulmain had gone yearly to buy elephants and cattle, but that now the Governor of Cheng Mie had prohibited the sale of elephants and cattle to the Maulmain merchants, and the people that sold cattle had money belonging to the Maulmain merchants. The Ministers here having consulted see that elephants, buffaloes and bullocks are for the use of the country; that in case of war elephants and bullocks are used for carrying provisions; buffaloes are used by the people to assist in all agricultural purposes, which is the strength of the country; therefore to sell elephants and cattle like other merchandize to foreign nations few would remain, not enough for the use of the country. Because the Governor of Maulmain sent to buy elephants to Chumpon, telling him to spare some elephants to George de Castros on account of friendship, that he might not lose that business he came upon. Dr. Richardson mentioned that in Cheng mie, Lackon and Lampoon the exportation of cattle had been prohibited.

I have enquired of the officers from these countries, who brought the duty to the King, and they say that the Governor of Cheng Mie, seeing that every year the merchants of Maulmain came and bought cattle, and that only few remained, he prohibited the sale of them. That is what the officers of these coun-

tries state. Now the money belonging to the Moulmain merchants [is] in the hands of the owners of the cattle, the Ministers see that the money or the cattle must be delivered up to the proper owner according to true justice. Letters have been sent to the Governor of Cheng Mie, Lackon and Lampoon respecting the money belonging to the Maulruain merchants in the hands of the sellers of the cattle and that if they do not get the cattle the Governor must see that the Maulmain merchants must get their money all back, telling him that the friendship between the Siamese and English is strong and sincere, and that by no means let any disturbance occur.

The people with writing on their foreheads who came from the direction of Tavoy without a pass, orders were given to the Governors of Kanburree to put them all in irons, 18 in number, imagining that they were runaway convicts. Two of them were taken ill and died, the remaining 16 Doctor Richardson asked for, and the Ministers gave them to go along with him. Mr. Blundell sent letters of friendship to the Ministers to take care to preserve friendship. The Ministers therefore have the highest consideration of Mr. Blundell and thank him very much.

Written in Bangkok, 11th March 1839.

Translated from Copy furnished by the Ministers,
by R. Hunter Esqre., of Bangkok.

Fort William, 9th October 1839.

No 15.

The letter of Chow Phya Prakiang, Minister of State to His Majesty the King of Siam, to the Honble. Mr. Prinsep, Secretary to the Supreme Government, India.

By the orders of the Right Honble. the Governor General you sent a letter stating that British subjects were allowed to trade to all Siamese possessions with all facility, for which the Right Honble. the Governor General is sincerely thankful, and that he had selected Doctor Richardson, one of the Assistants to the Commissioner of Maulmain, to bring presents to His Majesty.

You also state that Doctor Richardson had resided a long time in Ava, and knows all the Burmese country, and what are the intentions of the Right Honble. the Governor General respecting the Burmese and if the Siamese wish to know all that occurs in Burmah let Dr. Richardson remain in Bangkok, but if the Ministers do not wish it, he is not to remain. All other parts of your letter are fully understood.

On Dr. Richardson's arrival in Bangkok he was properly received and attended to, and through the assistance of the Ministers had an audience of His Highness and delivered the presents. His Majesty was informed that you had the instructions of the Right Honble. the Governor General to write a letter of friendship to the Ministers of Siam and that the Governor General had selected Dr. Richardson to be the bearer, for which His Majesty returns his sincere thanks to the Right Honble. the Governor General.

Your further state that if the Siamese wish information respecting the Burmese, they can ask Dr. Richardson, because he is well acquainted with the Burmese country and also with the Governor General's intentions towards that country.

The Ministers have consulted with Doctor Richardson, and he supposes that this year there will be no war, as the Resident had continued at Ava two months, altho' the Burmese had not properly respected him, nor admitted him to an audience of the King of Ava, that the Resident was still at Ava and on his departure war will commence.

The Governor of Kanburree sent letters here stating that 18 people without a pass, and written on the forehead, had arrived there. The Ministers here, on receiving this intelligence, concluded that they had run away from the English territory and sent orders to put them in irons at Kanburree to see if the English would claim them; two of them sickened and died. Dr. Richardson asked for the remaining 16 and the Ministers have given them up to him.

The Ministers here have sincere friendship for the Right Honble. Governor General of Bengal, the Honble. Mr. Prinsep, Secretary to the Supreme Government, and all the great English officers connected therewith, because they all wish to continue friendly with the Siamese. The Ministers ask that all the great officers in Bengal may have long life and great prosperity, honor and dignity bestowed upon them, and that their names and deeds may be handed down to the latest posterity.

Written in Bangkok 11th March 1839.

Translated from copy furnished by the Ministers, by R. Hunter Esqre., of Bangkok.

India Secret
Consultations.
vol. 27.

Fort William 27th November 1839.

No. 60.

To Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

I am directed by the Resident in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated 6* and 9* September, reporting the return of Dr. Richardson and submitting communications received through him from the Government and officers of Siam and also communicating the particulars of the attack made by several people on Burmese Settlements ascertained by Dr. Richardson.

* See vol. 26 of
this series.
• Should be 9
Oct. See ditto.

• See ditto.
11 March 1839.

2. The letter of the Minister at *Bankok to my address in reply to that conveyed by Dr. Richardson is satisfactory in [the] professions of friendship it contains. An impression seems to exist on the minds of the Siamese Ministers that war with Ava will ensue on the withdrawal of the Resident from the Court. But it appears from the wording of their letter that this impression has not arisen spontaneously in their minds, but may be traced to their communication with Dr. Richardson.

3. His Honor in Council is averse to any formal explanation, but relies upon your taking advantage of any opportunity that may occur in the course of your own or your assistant's intercourse with the Siamese authorities to correct the error into which they have on this subject been led.

4. His Honor in Council does not deem it necessary to remark upon any other point connected with the result of Dr. Richardson ['s mission] which seems to have been successful and of good effect in partially restoring the intercourse with the Shan tribes.

5. With respect to the Siamese affair with the Burmese you have rightly forwarded copies of all the papers to the officiating Resident in Ava.

6. His Honor in Council does not consider that the proceedings reported call for any specific orders or instructions from him at this juncture.

7. His Honor in Council waits the full report upon the geographical and other details of the journey of Dr. Richardson which is promised by that officer.

8. His Honor in Council considers him to have displayed much temper, firmness and discretion in the novel situations in which he was placed by the duplicity and varied treatment he experienced from the different Siamese officers

9. The successful accomplishment of a journey over this hitherto untravelled country reflects great credit on the energy and resources of Dr. Richardson.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. T. Prinsep
Secy. to Govt. of India.

Fort William
27th Novr. 1839.

Fort William 27th July 1840.

No. 105.

To the Secretary to the Government of India
Secret and Political Department,
Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to request you will lay before the Right Honble. the Governor General of India in Council the following circumstances connected with the Southern Frontier of these Provinces.

No line of demarcation between these Provinces and those dependent on Assam* has ever been distinctly laid down, owing to the circumstance of the uninhabited wastes of the interior having hitherto precluded the question from being raised, but from our first possession of this country it has always been considered that the river "Chan" having its mouth in Lat: 10' 10" and a S. W. course to the sea, bounds these possessions to the south. From the period of the conquest of Mergui and Tenasserim from the Siamese by Alompra, the Burmese have always considered the river "Chan" as their southern boundary, though it must be owned they never kept up any establishment on that river, nor did their outposts ever extend to within many miles of it. At the same time the Siamese outposts were never brought to the northern side of the river, and the intermediate country was left utterly uninhabited. Well defined and recognised boundaries could never exist between two countries such as Burmah and Siam, carrying on against each other a constant uninterrupted system of plundering, devastating inroad, and the safety of each rendered it necessary that a wide tract of country between them should be left an uninhabited jungle. It is seldom either that Burmese Historical Records specifically define the boundaries of their possessions, it being considered sufficient to give the name of the towns, provinces or districts forming the boundaries

* *Sir. Should be
Siam. (?)*

in certain directions. For instance, in defining the boundaries of Tenasserim as gained by Alompra from the Siamese it is merely stated that on the S. E. lies the Siamese district of Moundaong, without giving the line of demarcation between them. It is not until circumstances call for our forming establishments at the limits of our possessions that the question of boundary between ourselves and the Siamese will be raised, and it is such a circumstance which now induces me to bring before Government the subject of our Southern frontier.

The country on both sides of the Chan river is rich in tin. On the left or Siamese side is Renoung, formerly, I believe, celebrated for its tin, and which within the last 8 or 10 years has been re-established by the Siamese Government, who have a few hundred men there engaged in collecting the tin. On the right, or our side of the river are the sites of several deserted towns or villages where tin was formerly collected and where it is known to exist in considerable abundance, though less so perhaps than on the Siamese side. A few months ago, a party of Malays applied to the officer in civil charge of Mergui for permission to establish themselves in one of these sites, which was granted to them, but on their arrival they were warned by the Headman of Renoung that he considered them within his jurisdiction, and would not allow them to collect tin there, except on his own terms. This alarmed them and they quitted the place. When at Mergui, the circumstance being reported to me, and also that the Headman of Renoung has subsequently established his own people on our side of the river, I furnished these Malays with a letter addressed to him, informing him that I considered the right bank of the river to belong to us, and desiring him, if he disputed it, to report the circumstance to his Government. Several applications were made to me, especially by some highly respect-

able Chinese at Mergui, to the effect that if I would ensure their protection in the country on the left bank of the Chan river, they would immediately employ their friends in working the tin there, at the same time informing me that they have received frequent communication from the Chinese (about 70 families) employed by the Siamese Government at Renoung, to the effect that they are highly dissatisfied with their treatment and are ready to come over in a body to join their countrymen on our side of the river, and that were it not that they have been brought up to no other profession than that of tin collectors and smelters they would quit at once, but are fearful of not meeting with employment.

I informed the Chinese at Mergui that I hope to be able to settle the question of boundary during the ensuing fine season, and I would now respectfully request His Lordship in Council to empower me to assert our right to the left bank of the Chan river. That we possess the right may be inferred from the following points.

1. The oldest and most respectable inhabitants of Mergui all assert that the country dependent on Tenasserim and conquered by Alompra from the Siamese extended to the Chan river.
2. That though we have not hitherto asserted our right by any direct act of possession, yet from our first conquest of these Provinces we have always assumed the Chan river to be the southern boundary, and
3. That though the Siamese have now for some years re-established Renoung on the left bank of that river, they have never, until the last few months, formed any establishment or fixed any post on the right bank.

As there appears no doubt of the existence of tin in large quantities on the left bank, the advantages of our working it need not to be detailed, and from all the enquiries I have made, supported by the remarks

of the late Doctor Helfer who visited the spot, I feel confident that, were due protection afforded, the station would in a few years become of much importance.

I have the honor &ca.

(Signed.) E. A. Blundell

Commissioner in the Temasserim
Provinces

Maulmein

The 19th June 1840.

Fort William 27th July 1840.

No. 105.

To Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 19th instant,* regarding the definition of our boundary on the Southern frontier of Tenasserim.

* *Sic. Should be ultimo. See ante.*

2. The Chan river has been marked upon the maps, and generally understood to be the boundary line between Siam and Tenasserim, and His Lordship in Council has no hesitation in so recognising it.

3. But as from circumstances the population subject to the British Government has not until lately desired extensively to occupy land in the wild country to the south of Mergui, I am desired to remark that the assertion of our rights of possession on the left bank of the Chan river should be made with caution and forbearance.

4. The immediate establishment of an inconsiderable settlement on the left bank of that stream within our own territories, but on grounds on which encroachment has been made by Siamese miners, might lead to a collision which it is of course inexpedient to provoke, but which would be the more likely to ensue should any emigration take place of Chinese settlers from the Siamese side of the river to our own on the formation of villages by us.

5. His Lordship in Council is, at the same time that he desires me to inculcate the necessity of prudence, far from inclined to forego the rights of the British Government, or to consider the advantages offered by the rich crop of tin procurable on the banks of the Chan, as inconsiderable.

6. You will immediately write to the Siamese Governor of Moundaong, and desire him to restrain the encroachments referred to, and inform him that the King of Siam has been addressed with a request that he will issue orders to his officers to abstain from such trespasses upon the British territory.

7. Your letter to the King of Siam requesting him so to instruct his officers, and pointing out the danger of collision from such encroachments between the subjects of the two allied nations, will of course be framed in terms of perfect friendship and moderation.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) H. Torrens

Offg. Secretary to Government
of India.

Fort William
27th July 1840.

India Secret
Consultations,
Vol. 50.

Fort William 11th January 1841.

No. 86.

To T. H. Maddock Esquire,

Secretary to the Government of India,

Fort William.

Sir,

** see infra.* I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor General of India in Council copy of a letter addressed by me to the Ministers at the Court of Siam* on the subject of the southern boundary of these provinces. This letter I forwarded from Tavoy, in charge of a small party of men, the route from thence being considerably shorter than from this place. I availed myself of the opportunity to request the Minister would give orders to allow the people of Tavoy to purchase cattle within the Siamese territories, as, I regret to state, that owing to a violent epidemic, nearly the whole of the cattle within that province have been swept off, and the unfortunate people now possess few or no means for carrying on their usual grain cultivation.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell

Commissioner in the Tenasserim

Provinces.

Moulmain

The 24th Novr. 1840.

Fort William 11th January 1841.

No. 87.

From the Commissioner, Tenasserim Provinces,
to the Ministers of Siam.

In accordance with the great friendship that has always existed between the two great countries of the Siamese and English, I write this letter to the Ministers to acquaint them that the Myo Sangyee of Renoung, on the south side of the Chan river, interferes with British subjects on the north side of that river, and says that he possesses authority on both sides of that river. Now it is well known that the Chan river is the boundary between the English and the Siamese and consequently the Renoung, Myo Songyee, has no right to exercise any authority on the English side of the Chan river, and I request you will issue orders to him not to do so in future, according to friendship, because little men should not be allowed to do what may injure the friendship between great countries. Owing to a great sickness nearly all the buffaloes and cows in the country of Tavoy have died during the past year and the people of Tavoy are in great distress and have no means of cultivating paddy. I request of you to allow them to purchase buffaloes in your country and to bring them to Tavoy. If you will give an order to this effect the Tavoy people will be very grateful and will take money to buy buffaloes and the great English Ruler of India will be very much pleased at such an instance of your great friendship. I send this letter by the hand of Nga pazee and 5 men who will wait to bring back your reply.

(Signed.) E. A. Blundell
Commissioner in the Tenasserim
Provinces.

Fort William 21st February 1842.

No. 62.

To T. H. Maddock Esquire,

Secretary to the Govt. of India Political Department,

Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to report to you for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor General of India in Council, that I have lately visited the Chan river, forming the southern boundary between ourselves and the Siamese, and which, as such boundary is at present a subject of some dispute.*

* There is apparently an omission here.

I arrived at the mouth of the river on the evening of the 21st ulto. and anchoring off the entrance of the creek leading to the small Siamese settlement of Renoung, a person calling himself the head man of that place came off, whom I desired to send notice to his Superior at Pakchan (about a tide and a half up the river) of my arrival in a steamer and of my wish to confer with him on the subject of our landing, if he would come down and meet me, as the steamer could not proceed so far up the river. This he promised to do immediately.

On the following morning (22d) I proceeded up the river in the steamer and anchored about a couple of miles up the Malewan branch at the spot marked A. on the accompanying sketch. My Assistant, Mr. Corbin, who accompanied [me], proceeded at once to the settlement formed by some of our people at Malewan where he obtained a fast pulling canoe, which was sent up that evening to Pakchan with another message to the head man of that place, acquainting him of my arrival and of my wish to confer with him, if he would come down the river.

On the 23d I visited our people's settlement at Malewan which I found to contain about forty decent huts inhabited chiefly by Malays with a few Siamese and Chinese. They have cleared some extent of jungle, have raised sufficient grain for their subsistence and are preparing to collect tin during the ensuing rains. It does not appear that they are in any way molested by the Siamese of Pakchan but they have been warned that their right of establishment there is not recognised by the Siamese Government, who may eventually call on them to abide by the monopoly of tin as it exists in the district under Siam. I told the assembled villagers that they would be considered as British Subjects, that they would be visited occasionally by Government officers, that if force was used towards them by the Siamese they might resist it and that they would be succoured if necessary from Mergui. At the same time I let them know that the interest felt in them and the desire to assist and protect them would depend greatly on the value they might affix to the Settlement by the quantity of tin they might collect and dispose of. They promised to work hard during the ensuing rains when the running streams are full, and I trust they will succeed, as from all I could learn on the subject, there appears no doubt that stream tin is extremely abundant in that neighbourhood.

On the 24th, having been then three days in the river, and no return of any kind having been made to my messages to Pakchan, I quitted and returned to Mergui.

I beg to state that as a harbour and running stream this Chan river is perhaps one of the most eligible within the British Indian Dominions. Easy of access, sheltered from winds and the sea, the largest line of battle ship might beat up it a distance of nearly

20 miles. At present, however, like many other noble rivers and harbours on this coast it is of no use to us. The country from Mergui downwards (and the same may be said of nearly the whole peninsula) is one mass of dense jungle untenanted by man. It is however a splendid tract of country, possessing a rich and fertile soil and a temperate climate, both adapted to every species of cultivation. I am unwilling as yet to raise any strong hopes of much tin being procured in the neighbourhood of the new settlement. That it exists there, I can entertain but little doubt, and the people have settled on the spot solely to work it. In another year or two all doubts on the subject will be cleared up. The assurance of protection will, I know, induce some Chinese with a little capital to expend it there, and if they meet with adequate returns, their operations will be extended and this noble river may ere long see ships arriving in it to carry off the produce.

* *See infra.*

I beg to enclose copy of a letter* which I purpose addressing to the Ministers of Siam on the subject of our southern boundary. In this I suggest that an officer should be deputed by them to meet me on the spot, though I doubt whether they will assent to it, or, if they do, whether it will lead to any good result. The subject is so far one of difficulty that the whole country is and has been for many years, since the conquest by the Burmese, an uninhabited wilderness in which neither Burmese nor Siamese possessed any permanent posts. The real objection of the Siamese to our occupation of the right bank of the Chan must proceed from the knowledge that a permanent settlement there on our part will immediately draw off all their people from the left bank to the enjoyment of security and comparative wealth with us. Beyond this, the measure does not affect them, inasmuch as we claim no country in which they have made

any attempt at settlement since our possession of this coast.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed.) E. A. Blundell.

Commissioner in the Tenasserim
Provinces,

Maulmein

The 1st February 1842.

Fort William 21st Febrary 1842.

No. 63.

From the Commissioner, Tenasserim Provinces,
to the Ministers at the Court of Siam.

In the month of December 1840 I received the letter addressed to me by the Ministers on the Chan river and have understood its contents. What the Ministers say in this letter is very true, that the Burmese and Siamese are enemies by long standing and therefore could never have fixed the boundaries between them and that all the country between them was overgrown with jungle. Now the English and Siamese are and always have been friends. Since the English have taken the countries of Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim from the Burmese, they have never carried off the people of Siam, neither have the Siamese ever carried off the people of the English. The people of both countries are protected and happy and they spread over the country as the jungle did when the Burmese and Siamese were always at war with each other. Consequently it is necessary to fix how far the English people shall spread and how far the Siamese shall spread. Ever since the English have possessed this country they have understood that the river Chan formed the boundary between them and the Siamese and all the people of Mergui say that such was the boundary when the Burmese held it and that they never heard of the boundary which is mentioned in the letter of the Ministers. Being desirous of seeing the Siamese officers at Pakchan, I went down there in a fire ship and arrived at Renoung on the evening of 21st. I desired the Songee of Renoung to acquaint the Myowoon of Pakchan of my arrival and of my desire to see him if he would come down and meet me. On the 22d I went up to Malewan where the English have villages and I sent up a boat to Pakchan with another message to say I wished to meet the

Myowoon if he would come down. I waited till noon of the 24th, but as no one came to meet me, I went away again. I do not know whether the Myowoon was at Pakchan, but if he was he ought to have answered my messages. The English have a village on the north side of the Chan river, the Siamese have none. If the Ministers will send an officer of rank fully empowered to settle this matter I will go and meet him in the Chan river at such time as the Ministers will fix, in order that the limits of the two great countries may be fixed. The English and the Siamese are great friends and this is a small matter that ought not to interrupt friendship, therefore it ought to be settled quickly and to do this, officers appointed by the English Ruler and the King of Siam should meet on the spot and fix the boundary between the two great countries according to friendship.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell

Commissioner in the Tenasserim

Provinces.

Maulmain.

Fort William 21st February 1842.

No. 65.

To Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

* See ante.

Your report on the Chan river dated the 1st inst.* has been laid before the Governor General in Council and on the subject of the settlement which you propose to form on the right bank of that river, I am directed to enjoin the necessity of great caution in your proceedings towards that end.

2. His Lordship in Council is not convinced of the necessity of raising any formal discussion on a line of boundary between our possessions and those of Siam at the southern extremity of the Tenasserim province, and he is apprehensive that the protection of a new settlement on the border would prove embarrassing unless military establishments were kept up there for the purpose and this would be a measure for which the Government is in no way prepared.

3. On the whole the Governor General is of opinion that the time is not yet arrived when we can prudently hold out encouragement to settlers to fix themselves at a spot so distant from British Authority, and so much exposed to aggressions of their neighbours as the place in question and if the Siamese have not at once accepted your invitation to send an officer to meet you on the spot His Lordship in Council would not repeat it or press the question of boundary to an immediate settlement.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) T. H. Maddock
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Fort William
The 21st February 1842.

Fort William the 24th August 1842

No. 107.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire,
Officiating Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Secret and Political Department,
Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Honble. the President of the Council of India translation of a letter* received by me from the Ministers of the Court of Siam,

* See *infra*.

The first part of this letter is in answer to mine acceding to my request that they would depute an officer of rank to confer with me on the spot relative to the settlement of the southern boundary of these Provinces and intimating that they will abide by the decision I may come to.

The second part contains an offer of assistance in the event of our being attacked by the Burmese, and expresses their apprehension of such an event in consequence of learning though Mr. Hunter (an English merchant residing at Bangkok) via Singapore, that the King of Ava was about to return to Rangoon with a large body of men, and that our force at Moulmein had been withdrawn.

The letter concludes with the request that the messenger to whom it is entrusted may be allowed to reside at Moulmein in order to forward intelligence to the Court of what is taking place here. This messenger is the same individual who came here last year and who returned to Bangkok in April last with my letter above alluded to. It appears that he was only three days at Bangkok when he was ordered to return here and contrary to their usual practice, no

intimation of his return was given to Mr. Hunter in order to his writing to me.

I always have felt and still do feel great confidence in the pacific disposition of the Court of Siam as regards us, but I deem it my duty to bring to the notice of Government the ground that exists for some suspicion that this confidence may be misplaced.

1st. It is not impossible, nay not improbable, that the Court of China may have called upon those of Siam and Burmah to effect a division in its favor. Siam is more subject to Chinese influence than Burmah, but Burmah would be far more influenced by hostile feeling towards us.

2dly. In my last letter to your address I reported the circumstance of some priests having come here from Rangoon and obtained a pass to proceed overland to Siam and the suspicions that then existed of their being emissaries from Burmah. It has since been reported to me that on their way, after quitting this Province, four of these persons threw off their priestly garments and assumed those of Court officials. These men could not have arrived at Bangkok previous to the departure of the messenger just arrived thence, and on my questioning him on the subject he said he had not heard of them, and volunteered the assurance that they would be immediately seized and imprisoned by his Court.

3d. This messenger from Bangkok has been dispatched with the greatest haste at a most unusual and inclement season of the year for travelling. His departure was kept a secret from Mr. Hunter, which has never been done before, and he brings a letter more yielding and more liberal than the occasion seems to call for, inasmuch as when they first heard at Bangkok that the King was coming down last year with a large army they dispatched this same messenger with a decided denial of the Pakchan river

as our boundary and without any allusion whatever to the King of Ava's movements.

4. From a paragraph that appeared in the Singapore Free Press under date 19th May last it would appear that a formidable armament directed by Siam against Cochin China had been withdrawn without effecting anything and that it was uncertain whether any thing had been even attempted by it. It is possible that this war between Siam and Cochin China may have been put an end to by the influence of China.

5. I have received a note from Mr. Brown, the temporary agent at Rangoon for Post office purposes, under date the 28th ultimo in which he says "Within these few days letters have been received from Amara-pura up to the 8th of this month and I learn from a party in whom I have the greatest confidence that he is privately informed that it is the intention of this Government to enter into hostilities with that of China. He enters into no details concerning this seemingly extraordinary report and I mention it to you as it has reached me. The information has been given so pointedly as to lead me to believe that this Government either intends to make war on China or that they wish such an opinion to have credence."

This report of a contemplated war with China has also reached me from other quarters. Granting that the report be correct, I cannot for a moment think that the King of Ava would venture on any such expedition. In the first place he would have an immense tract of thinly inhabited mountain and jungle to pass over ere he attained the Chinese frontier, carrying with him provisions and munitions of war, while in the second he must be apprehensive that we might avail ourselves of such an opportunity to place our relations with him on a different footing. We are not aware of any ground he may have for a war with

China and it is certainly most unlikely, after all that has occurred that he should suddenly resolve on assisting us in our operations against the Chinese. I must naturally therefore come to the conclusion that if the King of Ava is collecting troops nominally to attack China they will in reality be directed against us.

I beg to be distinctly understood as in no way desirous of creating any present alarm. The reports of the Burmese arming nominally against China require more confirmation, and the suspicions I have brought forward against Siam are as yet of no great weight. Still both are worthy of attention. We know the Burmese Court to be most hostilely disposed towards us. We know the Court of Siam to be greatly under the influence of that of China and we know that the most exaggerated reports of our defeats and disasters are greedily listened to at both these Courts. We must be prepared for all contingencies and as amongst them is that of the King of Ava assembling an army and appearing on the frontier before the end of the rains, I feel anxious about having the means of rapid communication with the Presidency and must entreat that a sea going steamer be attached to me. I would also ask for at least one river steamer, but I fear there are none remaining in India to send to this coast. It is needless to point out the great value of such a vessel in the event of our being threatened with an attack.

As connected with the reports of the Burmese arming I may mention that the granaries erected at Rangoon previous to and during the King's late visit to that place, continue to be kept full of stores and provisions of all kinds, though we do not hear that any such have been prepared more in our immediate neighbourhood. The continued residence at Martaban of the Governor against whom we have had such frequent grounds of complaint and the nonappointment of the former Viceroy of Rangoon as at one

time announced, and who is known to be most averse to any collision with us, are also in some degree indicative of the entertainment of hostile designs towards us.

I am perhaps to blame in thus bringing forward a mass of mere crude suspicion of the formation of a confederacy against us in those regions, acknowledging as I do, the claims to our confidence possessed by Siam. She is the inveterate enemy of Burmah, she is weak and unwarlike, her capital lies exposed to us, and her Ministers have just offered through me her assistance against the Burmese if needed. Still there is nothing irrational in the supposition that the influence of China may prevail in her councils, and any indications of it, however remote, should be noticed. That Burmah should be open to any suggestion hostile to us, coming from China, is indeed extremely probable, and should we be satisfied that she is again collecting a force I presume Government will think fit to prepare reinforcements for our defence in these Provinces.

I have of course acceded to the request contained in the letter from the Siamese Ministers that their messenger should be allowed to reside in Moulmein and forward them intelligence of what is going on here and as he is about to send back some of his followers with letters. I have the honor to enclose copy of my reply* to the communication from the Ministers herewith forwarded.

* See *infra*,
No. 101.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell
Commissioner Tenasserim Province

Moulmein
12th July 1842.

Fort William the 24th August 1842.

No. 108.

Letter from the Ministers of Siam to the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces.

Khoon Wesoot sanee and Saming Thanoo chak having returned from Moulmein to the Kingdom of Siam brought with them a letter from the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces in which it is stated (Copy of this letter was enclosed in the Commissioner's dispatch to Mr. Secy. Maddock, No. 62, of 1st February last*). The contents have been fully understood.

* See vol. 75 of
this series.

The Thoogyee of Krah also sent in a report in the 3d Moon in the year Kan stating that the Commissioner having arrived in the vicinity of Krah in a steamer, anchored off Ranoung and sent people to inform the Thoogyee of Krah of the same. After which the vessel moved up to the mouth of the Moulmein river, when the Commissioner dispatched a boat with some Malays bearing a message to say he wished to see the Thoogyee of Krah. When this intelligence reached the Thoogyee he prepared boats and provisions and proceeded to wait on the Commissioner, but, that officer had taken his departure before the Thoogyee arrived.

Formerly when the towns of Mergui, Tenasserim and Tavoy were under subjection to Siam, people journeying to or from Tavoy to the capital of Siam proceeded by the Tatakoon route, and those from Mergui or Tenasserim went by the Thain Koon road.

The towns of Tavoy, Mergui Tenasserim and Krah are at a distance from each other and the territories belonging to them were formerly well populated. The Governors of Krah were called "Paya Kro Koross." (!) The large Bay of Pakchan forms the mouth of Krah river. Ranoung is under the autho-

rity of Krah and lies lower down the river. The Siamese village lies at the mouth of the Lamon River, directly opposite the mouth of the Malewan river on the northern side.

As to what the Siamese and Burmese residents of Mergui told the Commissioner respecting the Burmese boundary being from the northern bank of the river Pakchan it is not even near that town, but on the contrary close to Krah. If such was not the case at what place did the Burmese post their men to guard their boundary? as higher up the river Chan there are several Siamese towns and villages on both banks. Moung at and Moung yeat with some Siamese established themselves at Moulmain long before Che Song's party came there.

As to what the Commissioner observes in his letter that the Siamese and Burmese have long been enemies and never had any defined boundary between them, this is perfectly correct. The Commissioner has himself visited the places and must be aware to whom they belong, and where the proper boundary is. We therefore request the Commissioner will consider the matter and judge fairly.

The Commissioner proposes to have a Siamese officer sent to Moulmein and that he would proceed thither and meet him so that the boundary may be settled in a friendly manner, and that the existing friendship between the two nations may not be darkened by matters of small import. This is very satisfactory indeed, but as the rainy season has set in, it would be difficult and dangerous for any party to proceed now to the place through the jungle, but after the rains are over we will depute an officer on this duty and will convey information of the same to the Commissioner. Khoon Wesoot Sane and Paya Thano Chak have informed us that some Talains who had proceeded from Moulmain to Rangoon in a traffick-

Fort William the 14th March 1845.

No. 34.

Dated Nutdan waxing 13th 1206. [13 Nov. 1844]

The great Egga Maha Thana-dee Puddee of the Thee-Ayoh dwah-yah madee (!) Golden Royal City, informed Major Broadfoot, Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces, that three letters sent by Major Broadfoot in the hands of Byeen Nayah da moo-tset, one of which is a petition of Gna Ya and the other of Gna Tait tah and Gna Warah and one from Gna Tsandah, in all three, are received; one of the three letters contains [remarks] regarding the boundaries of the English and Siamese territories, the people of the south bank of the Kra river having come over to the English side. The English and the Siamese are in great friendship up to this day. Major Broadfoot having the inclination of continuing the existing friendship is desirous of settling the boundaries between the two extensive territories so as no disputes may arise in future. Major Broadfoot being the sole controller should not only consider about the Kra River, but should also consider of the boundaries which existed in the ancient times between the Talains and Siamese territories, and the Talains cities on the east side of the river of the upper parts now owned by the English and the Burmese of Zimmay and Yahine, a long range of hills called by the Talains thoo Makree to consult with amicability and peace. As regards to the people belonging to the English side being presented by the Siamese Chiefs with a written paper, the sealed paper which was given to them is now received back. Some bad men after using the name of the Siamese Chiefs threatened to do things in the English territories. For the purpose of putting a stop to all these a letter was plainly written to us, which is duly received. The Siamese Chiefs are inclined to do justice, and the English Chiefs are also desirous of doing justice in consequence of the existing

* This document has been copied as it stands. In several cases there appear to be omissions and it is impossible to make sense of some of the passages.

great friendship and not to discontinue it. Proper consultation regarding boundary has not as yet been made with each other. On the return of the bearers of this, vizt. Byeen Nyah danoo tset, Khoon-Veetsettoon, Khian and Moon Pack-dhee, on the last occasion of their being in haste to return for the purpose of avoiding the rainy season, should Byeen Nyah danoo tset be unable to come down a letter would have been sent mentioning all the particulars, but now as Byeen nyah danoo tset is sent and a letter also written mentioning all the particulars clearly*—the reasons of the English and Siamese nations having an occasion to speak about the boundaries are, on account of the people who belong to the Siamese Territories living on the South bank of the Kra river and now removed to the English territories—Siamese and the English nations being in the state of great friendship, and as Major Broadfoot being the sole controller and being desirous of continuing the existing friendship has written a letter regarding the settlement of the boundary in amicable terms, the authorities of Theeayoot taradwahyawadee (!) golden royal city are also anxious to have the boundary decided. No boundary was ever settled between Mergui and the Kra cities in the ancient times on account of the Burmese and the Siamese having a war. All the particulars are mentioned in the last letter between the British subjects who live at Maylee-wan and the people of Kra being too near to each other. Between the cities of Mergui and Kra there are many jungles, hills and streams. Katseenlah Creek is also near to the Tha-lahr-green Island, which place and where will be the boundary? and have the British and Siamese subjects to leave* far from each other, otherwise many disputes will arise, and there must be some reason in those people moving from one side to the other. The people of the English side speak well to the English authorities and those of the Siamese side do the same to the Siamese authorities, all of which are liable to cause some bad

? * live.

feeling between the two great friendly nations. Request that Major Broadfoot will take into consideration and settle justly and fairly which is to be the boundary. The Chiefs of the Theeayoke tayadwayawadee, (!) golden royal city, are desirous to agree. The boundary between the Talin cities on the east bank now owned by the British, and Zimmay and Yahine is the long range of hills called Tae-May-Kree which existed from the ancient times and that guards were always kept since the Burmese time to keep them off from trespassing on Siamese side.

The sealed papers which were given to the Karens are brought to Bangkok. On inspection it shows it to be a paper given by the guard officer, Lueng-Eng-Kamanoon. In the years 1204 and 5 the Kareen Tsokays Gna Patsa and Gna Patah went to the Myotsa of Doan-Kata and asked for permission to allow them to reside on the frontiers for the purpose of cultivating, on which a written order was given them by Lueng-Eng-Kamanoon, Guard Officer, mentioning that no Siamese are to oppress them, they being his people he has sent them as guards on the frontier. No order is given to make any prohibitions on the English side. The Kareens wander from one place to the other and during the time they stay on the English side they call themselves English Kareens. This order was intended only to be used in Siamese territories and not elsewhere. If any took such orders to the British side they are to be blamed.

Fort William the 14th March 1845.

No. 35.

1. Usual Complimentary address.

2. The two letters from the great Egga Maha (titles) intrusted to Danoo Tset for delivery have given the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces great satisfaction, and they will afford the same he is sure to the British Government which is anxious for the continued welfare and prosperity of their ancient allies the Court of Siam.

3. The Commissioner having lately been along a portion of the North Eastern frontier was enabled on the spot to satisfy himself as to their ancient boundary line in the Burmese time, which, as truly remarked in the friendly letter under reply, was the long range of hills called Tae-May-Kree. The boundary has always been, and will in future always be the line of water shed, that is to say, all ground which is drained by streams falling into the Thoung yeen river and into the Attran, the Ye, the Tenasserim and Lanya Rivers belongs to the British: All ground which is drained by streams falling to the eastward and joining the rivers on the Siamese side of the line of mountains belong to the Court of Siam. In other words the line of water shed or the crest of the ranges of mountains which forms the lines of separation between the waters falling into the British rivers and those falling into the Siamese rivers is, and shall in future always be, the boundary line between the two states.

4. This line of boundary is that which nature has formed and it possesses the great advantage that as the crests of the steep mountains are never selected for the position of towns or villages, a considerable tract will exist between the towns and villages under Siamese and those under British rule.

5. This line presents the further advantage of being clearly defined the whole distance from north to south and leaves only one point for adjustment vizt. the Pakchan frontier.

6. The river Pak Chan flows through from the Siamese side to the British side of the chain of hills or high ground, and it is therefore requisite to decide upon the intersection of the foregoing line of clearly defined boundary with the right bank of the Pak Chan, and this the Commissioner will do on the spot in communication with the Siamese Authorities on the Pak Chan.

7. When in the Pak Chan River the Commissioner will institute careful enquiries with respect to the conduct of the Chinese from the British side of that river, and will not fail not only on this but on all occasions to pay attention to such representations. The British Government will hear with pleasure of the friendly and cordial co-operation which exists between the Siamese and the British authorities in bringing to justice those wicked men who take advantage of being on the frontiers of the two great nations to commit acts of violence and the Siamese Court may feel assured that the orders already given on this point will be carefully repeated to the British authorities in charge of the Province of Mergui. There is no greater sign of friendship between two states than cordial co-operation in showing their respective subjects that acts of violence whether performed against their own fellow subjects or those of a neighbouring friendly state will be severely punished.

(Signed) H. M. Durand

Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces.

"Ganges"

Off Amherst

The 16th February 1845.

Fort William the 16th May 1845.

No. 28.

To F. Currie Esquire,
Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward a copy of the letters which will be taken by the messenger Benya Dhunnoo sent to the Court of Bangkok regarding the southern or Pak Chan boundary of the British Provinces.

- * *No map accompanies this document.*
2. The letter and the map which accompanies it * sets forth clearly what that boundary is to be.

3. After an examination of the sources of the Pak Chan I am not surprised at the Siamese Authorities evincing some jealousy with reference to this part of the frontier. The communication between the eastern and western coasts of the Peninsula is here perfectly easy, and the Siamese have a road from Kra to Chumphon and the east coast. In ascending to the sources of the Pak Chan proper no ground to any considerable elevation had to be crossed, and a good road might without any difficulty be made as far as I went.

4. Under these circumstances it did not appear to me advisable to excite unnecessary alarm by proposing that the boundary line should cross the Kra. The only object in my visit was to ascertain the line which should offer the best and clearest natural boundary. The Kra in the upper part of its course, though narrow, has precipitous banks. It is not a good but at the same time it is not a very bad boundary and it leaves to the Siamese a tract of country they must naturally wish to retain, and which the British Government has neither the inclination nor any clear right to consider its own, though perhaps as much

so as the Siamese who only crossed over the watershed line to establish themselves on the western side of it a few years ago, and who have therefore only the right of prior occupancy to the British. In the time of the Burmese Government in these Provinces the boundaries there as elsewhere were constantly fluctuating according to the temporary success of an ever-living border warfare.

5. The messenger during his long stay at Moulmein will have enjoyed full opportunities of observing and cannot but return thoroughly convinced of the entire neutrality maintained between the Burmese and Siamese Courts by the Local Authorities.

6. I have directed a wood depôt for steamers to be collected at the mouth of the Mylewan River.

7. The inhabitants of Mylewan, consisting of Chinese, Malays and Siamese, I found in great disorder—the three classes at enmity with each other, and some atrocious crimes had been committed. I have warned them that any well grounded cause of complaint preferred against them by the Siamese Authorities will meet with the same attention and be punished with equal if not greater punishment than if the offences had taken place within our own frontier and jurisdiction.

8. The chart, a copy of which accompanies this letter* was made by Mr. Crawley of the H.C.S. Ganges, who surveyed nearly to the sources of the Kra.

I have &c.

(Signed.) H. M. Durand
Commissioner Ten : Prov:

Moulmain
The 7th April 1845.

* No chart appears with this document.

Fort William the 16th May 1845.

No. 29.

From Captain Henry Marion Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces vitz. the twenty-two cities and six zabs of Martaban in the Talain Country East of the Salween river, Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of the Tenasserim.

To the great Egga-maha-thay-Nadu-pudee of the Thee Ayohe tura Dwah wadee Shway Myo-duru. (!)

1. In consequence of the representation made in the letter from the great Egga maha-thay-nadu-pudee entrusted to Benya-Dhunnoo Set, the Commissioner, when in the Pak Chan river caused the Assistant Commissioner, Captain Moore, to institute careful enquiries into the case.

2. The depositions of the witnesses, in accusation and in defence were taken, and the matter carefully examined.

3. One of the witnesses, the head man of Renoung, was not able to come, which formed a subject of regret.

4. After an attentive enquiry it appeared that there was no violence proved against the Chinese. The relatives of a murdered man applied to the head Siamese authority at Renoung for redress, and the head Siamese authority after making full enquiry was unable to do more than levy a fine upon the person on whom suspicion rested. But the whole transaction appears to have been carried on by and through the the head Siamese authority of Renoung, and not by open force on the part of the Chinese. An original document, copy of which is appended, written at the time, sets forth the events clearly.

5. The people of Mylewan have been cautioned against committing any offences towards the Siamese authorities or people, and that they would be severely punished if they afforded the Siamese authorities grounds of complaint which on enquiry should prove well founded. They are aware of the strict and cordial friendship between the Siamese Court and the British Government, and they will carefully observe the Commissioner's instructions.

(Signed) H. M. Durand
Commissioner Ten. Prov.

Moulmain
The 5th April 1845.

Fort William the 16th May 1845.

N030.

From Captain Henry Marion Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces viz: the 22 cities and 6 zabs of Martaban in the Talain country East of the Salween River for Tavoy, Mergui and Tenasserim, and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

To the great Egga Maha Thay nah dee puddee of the Thee Ayoke tara Dwah yawaddee Shway Myodaw. (1)

2. The Commissioner having returned from the Pak Chan river is glad to find the Messenger Benya Dhunnoo set still here, and has therefore entrusted him with this letter to the great Egga Maha Thay nah dee puddee of the Thee Ayoke Tara Dwah Yawaddee Shway Myodaw.

3. During the time that the Commissioner was in the Pak Chan river he caused the course of the Kra and the Pak Chan to be carefully ascertained—that of the Kullee River was already known. The Southern boundary of the British territories is the Kra or Pak Chan River from the sea as far as the junction of the three forementioned streams, but beyond this point it was undecided, and it was in order to determine with precision this question that the Commissioner took steps accurately to ascertain the course of the Kra and Pak Chan rivers.

4. The accompanying map* will show clearly the line of boundary and the course of the rivers.

* See ante for a note on this map.

5. The Commissioner stated in his former letter that the proper boundary line between the two friendly powers is the watershed line, that is, that all ground which is drained by streams falling into the Thoongeen, the Attaran, the Yah, the Tenasserim and the Lenyah Rivers belongs to the British. All ground which is drained by streams falling to the eastward

and joining the rivers on the Siamese side of the line of mountains belongs to the Court of Siam.

6. The high ground along the west of which the boundary line runs extends to the Pak Chan and Kullee streams, tributaries of the Kra or great Pak Chan, which are separated from the streams flowing to the eastward upon the Siamese side by a ridge of ground of no great elevation.

7. It is very desirable that there should be one uniform rule as regards the boundary line from north to south, and that by adhering to that rule all causes of misunderstanding should be for ever removed.

8. At the same time it is desirable that the line of road, made by the Government of Siam and which forms an easy communication between the territories on the eastern side of the Peninsula and those on the western side south of the British Provinces should be not only wholly in the hands of the Court of Siam but also free from any possible interference by the too great proximity of the frontier line.

9. To combine these two objects, viz: adherence to the general rule that the water shed is the line of boundary, and the avoiding interference with the line of high road along the Kullee Stream to Chumphon the proper line of boundary is as follows.

10. The southern boundary of the British Provinces is the Pak Chan or as it is called by the Siamese the Kra river, from the sea upwards to its source. The eastern bank belongs to the Siamese, the western to the British Government. The free navigation of the river is common to both nations.

11. The Commissioner has fixed upon the Kra instead of the Pak Chan for the boundary above the village of Kra because it is not the wish of the British

Government to hold a tract which may be of great convenience to the Siamese in consequence of the facility of communication between the eastern and western sides of the Peninsula. The ground between the Kra and the watershed line from whence flows the Pak Chan rises to a very moderate elevation and offers no serious obstacle to easy communication between the eastern bank of the Kra and the Siamese sea coast. It may therefore as before remarked be of some importance to the Siamese Government to have this tract their own.

12. British Authorities on the Kra or Pak Chan have been ordered carefully to avoid all interference with the Siamese authorities on the opposite bank.

13. It is advisable that the Court of Bangkok issue strict orders along their frontiers so that all subordinate authorities may clearly understand the line of boundary between the British and the Siamese territories. Corresponding orders will be issued to the subordinate British authorities, and the long continuance of uninterrupted friendship between the two powers be thus maintained.

14. The boundary is clear and mistakes must in future be inexcusable. The watershed line from north to south as far as the source of the Kra, that is all waters flowing into the Thoongeen, the Attaran the Yeh, the Tenasserim, the Lenyah and the minor rivers between the Lenyah and the Kra or Pak Chan drain ground belonging to the British Government, the southern boundary of whose provinces is the western bank of the Kra.

15. Within this boundary no Siamese authorities are to exercise any jurisdiction, levy any revenue, and

beyond this boundary no British authorities are to exercise any jurisdiction or levy any revenue.

(Signed.) H. M. Durand
Commissioner Ten : Prov :

Maulmain,
The 5th April 1845.

Fort William the 16th May 1845.

No. 31. To F. Currie Esquire
Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that on the 14th instant I informed the bearer of the letter from the Court of Bangkok that the replies were ready and that he was at liberty to return whenever he pleased

2. His departure has been delayed in consequence of some proceedings he instituted in the Police Magistrates' Court. He will however shortly take his departure.

3. He has been directed to inform the Court of Bangkok of my intention of commencing a road up the Loung Bae to the frontier, and that when that shall be completed a road to Meewuddee will be begun. That the object for forming these roads is entirely with the view of facilitating commerce, and that the Court of Bangkok are not to entertain groundless apprehensions in consequence of any rumours which may originate in misrepresentations regarding this measure.

4. He has likewise been instructed to inform his Court that I have ordered a wood depôt to be formed in the Pak Chan river in order that our steamers may be able to supply themselves with fuel when that river is visited, and that these visits will be comparatively frequent.

5. It was often repeated to him and much dwelt upon, that the Court of Bangkok might rely upon the continued friendship of the British Government, and need, unless themselves give the cause, entertain no apprehensions that the existing good understanding

would be disturbed. That the most satisfactory method of clearing up any doubts which in future might be entertained in consequence of rumours was to send to the local authorities at Maulmain to enquire and that there would be no hesitation in communication to the Court of Bangkok the exact truth of any circumstances from which an erroneous rumour should happen to arise.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. M. Durand,
Commissioner.

Maulmain
16th April 1845.

Fort William the 25th October 1845.

No. 21.

To F. Currie Esquire,
Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Governor General in Council that on the 24th ultimo a messenger from Rangoon arrived at this place.

* * * * *

3. The letter evinces an unaltered resolution on the part of that Court to engage in hostilities with the Court of Bangkok. No allusion is made to the slow progress of the Burmese Army in the conquest of the Karenee country, nor does the letter advert to the late rebellion under the General Moung Taung Bo which evidently had the effect of paralyzing the exertions of the Burmese Forces and distracted the attention of the Court from the Shan frontier to a theatre of disturbance of more immediate importance.

4. Before the rise of this rebellion the Burmese Forces on the Shan frontier had obtained some success. Pa Pau, a subordinate Karennee Chief who joined the Burmese, is said to have been instrumental, though his knowledge of the difficult country in which the operations were conducted, in enabling the Burmese Forces to attack a Karennee Chief of the name of Ka Doh under such advantageous circumstances that that chief and many of his men were slain, and the half of his district remained in the hands and under the power of the successful force. The whole of the tract under Pa Pau had also as a matter of course come under the rule of his allies the Burmese. Many engagements are stated to have preceded this defeat of the leader Ka Doh. Skirmishes would however be a much more proper expression to denote the affairs in

a mountain warfare not pushed forward with any remarkable vigour. So much the reverse indeed that the Karennies do not appear to have lost heart in consequence of their defeat.

5. A war on a distant frontier, from the first not prosecuted with energy, of course smouldered as soon as the rebellion rendered it imperative upon the Court of Ava to crush as rapidly as possible an immediate danger, and diverted troops and resources which might otherwise have co-operated in furthering the schemes of conquest entertained by Tharawaddee.

6. Scrupulous attention to the 10th article of the Treaty of Yandaboo was however a respectable cloak under which to cover the real causes of the slow development of the hostilities avowedly contemplated by the Court of Ava against the Court of Bangkok.

7. There is doubtless some uncertainty on the part of the Burmese Rulers as to the view in which the British Government might regard the prosecution of his ambitious schemes and some anxiety clearly to ascertain whether a rupture of peace between Ava and Siam involves the consideration of war with the British Government. Hence this repeated reference to the 10th article of the Treaty.

8. The Court of Ava appears in some measure to have become acquainted with the tenour of the communication from Bangkok in which the friendly offices of the British Government as an umpire between the two states was declined, and judging that offence might possibly have been taken in consequence of the letter from Bangkok, the Court of Ava seem to have considered the opportunity a favorable one for urging that the disinclination of the Siamese Ruler to listen to the advice of the British ought to annul any rendering of the 10th article favorable to the Siamese. The messenger from Rangoon on the occasion of a late interview asked whether he might obtain a copy of

the letter from Bangkok. He was told that such a step was not customary, and that his request could not be acceded to. The request was probably intended as a blind, for the tenour of the letter from Rangoon indicates in its last paragraph a tolerably correct knowledge of the nature of the reply from Bangkok.

9. The messenger further asked that the subject should be noticed in the answer given to the letter which he brought.

10. The subject has been noticed in the reply which I have directed to be given fully as much as seemed requisite, for it did not appear expedient to confirm any intimation the Court of Ava may have received by a candour not demanded by the occasion.

11. As the uncertainty under which the Court of Ava labours is, so far as of any avail, favourable to the continuance of peace, I have not been studious in replying to do more than reassert the wish of the British Government to see peace undisturbed, and to maintain a strict neutrality between the two Courts, without however admitting that any article of the Treaty of Yandaboo could be involved by boundary disputes between the two Courts.

12. To the allusion made regarding a road through these Provinces by which it was usual to attack the Siamese I have thought it sufficient to make no direct advertence, but to leave the Court to draw its own inference from the manner in which the power of the British Government is recalled to its memory.

13. It is my intention to intimate to the Court of Bangkok the nature of this communication from the Burman Court, the use which the latter has endeavoured to make of the refusal of the Siamese to entertain the

suggestion of a pacific adjustment of existing differences, and the tenour of my reply. The Court of Bangkok will have their attention drawn to the dexterous use made by the Burmese of the unwillingness of the Court of Bangkok to listen to pacific suggestions, and the advantage that they would derive from a contrary course will be dwelt upon.

14. I shall at the same time request the attendance of a proper officer from the Court of Bangkok to meet on the frontier of the Thoonyeen an officer whom I shall in the dry months depute to carry out in conjunction with the Siamese officer the establishment of a clear understanding along that whole frontier of what is and what is not British territory. The question is settled so far as the admission of the Court of Bangkok is concerned, and it is very desirable that all should be permanently arranged before Burmese Forces enter the Shan States.

15. I have not deemed it necessary to dispatch the steamer to Calcutta with the view of conveying intimation of the communication now submitted for the consideration of the Governor General in Council. The good understanding between the British and the Burmese Local Authorities is on a very satisfactory footing and I apprehend no disturbance of this most desirable state of harmony and good feeling.

16. I trust that the Governor General in Council will approve of the manner in which the communication from Ava has been met. Every endeavour shall be made to maintain, if possible, peace between the two belligerent Courts, and failing in that to maintain a strict neutrality on the part of the British Authorities.

I have &c.

(Signed.) H. M. Durand

Commissioner Tenasserim Prov:

Maulmain

The 6th June 1845.

Fort William the 24th January 1846.

No. 115.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward copies of three
* *Date 1 Sept. 1845* letters* from the Court of Siam.

*& 28 August
1845 (2)*

2. One letter has reference to the conduct of some Siamese within the boundaries of the British territory, a subject upon which the Court of Bangkok was addressed.

3. The second letter relates to the threatened hostilities on the Burmese and Shan frontiers, and is also in reply to a communication from hence.

4. The third letter has reference to the settlement of the boundary question and requires a reply. The timid jealous policy of the Siamese Court would prefer keeping the matter in its present state of uncertainty, but there are urgent reasons for not yielding to a dilatory course pregnant with future evil.

5. The letter alludes to the circumstance of a Goung Gyouk and a few of the men of the Local Corps being stationed on the Pak Chan. I am happy to say that the result of this measure not only in repressing atrocious crimes on our southern frontier, but also in imparting a feeling of security both to person and property has been decided. The inhabitants within the British boundary have entered upon the cultivation and the manufacture of sugar with such marked success that the Chinese of Mergui have turned their attention to the subject and were, when I was at Mergui, making enquiries preliminary to embarking capital in this promising adventure.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. M. Durand

Maulmain

Commissioner Ten. Prov.

the 20 Nov. 1845.

Fort William the 24th January 1846.

First Letter.

A communication from the High Officers of the Court of Siam to Captain Henry Marion Durand Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces, viz. the 22 cities and 6 zabs of Martaban in the Talain country, East of the Salween River, for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

Your dispatch forwarded by Phya Tanu Chak states that a subject of the Siamese Government, ignorant of the existing customs and regulations has created disturbances in the English territories; that not knowing his own boundaries he had passed into the English territory and undertaken to exercise the functions of his office there and thus rendered himself liable to punishment by the English, and exposed to the displeasure of the Siamese Government also. Further that the letter of Mūn Cham Nan, headman of the Chokey at Nong Boa, sent to the deputy Governor of Mergui was a violation of all propriety.

Your communication accompanied by the documents of the Governor of Tak, the deputy Governor's answer to the Governor of Tak, and the letter of Mūn Cham Nan headman of the Chokey at Nong Boa, forwarded by Phya Tanu Chak, has been received and understood, and an investigation instituted. Phra Sunthon Borirak, the Governor of Tak, has sent down the following statement. That persons indebted to him and to the Assistant Governor and many others had run away and taken refuge at Maulmain viz :—

One family consisting of the man Chai the

Woman <i>Pan</i> and a daughter indebted in the sum of	- - - - -	200	ticals.
One Family <i>Chhang</i> and <i>Ta</i>	-	120	"
„ <i>Seum</i> and <i>Mun</i>	- -	296	"
One Woman <i>Kku</i>	- - -	80	"
One Man <i>Mun</i>	- - -	80	"
Total	- -	776	Ticals.

* ? *An omission here.*

The Governor of Tak, Phra Sunthon Borirak, had seen that when Young thu and other traders subject to the English had outstanding debts * and at Tak, Major Broadfoot sent a communication to the High Officers of the Court and requested that Phra Sunthon should investigate and settle affairs, transmitting the money and property to the Capital of the Court and that the High Officers of the Court intrusted them to Phya Tanu Chak to convey to Major Broadfoot. But when debtors fled from Tak and took refuge at Maulmain Phra Sunthon the Governor gave a letter of Commission to Phra Soothat Tham to go out and make settlement of the debts himself. This course of Phra Sunthon Borirak cannot be approved of. If there are debts or matters of business requiring attention at Maulmain, the proper course would be to communicate the whole matter to the Court at Bangkok, that they might send a communication regarding the matter consistent with the subsisting friendship.

We give thanks to you for the information you communicate in regard to a subject of the Siamese Government's raising disturbances in the English territory, thus rendering himself liable to punishment from the English Authorities.

As for Phra Soothat Tham whatever may be the offences he has committed in the territory we beg his offence may be overlooked since he is a Laos man, and unacquainted with the existing customs and relations.

Since debtors have fled and taken refuge in a friendly country, it is suitable that we should give

you information of the matter in the confidence that if these debtors should be lurking in Maulmain or its vicinity you would use your friendly office in investigating and settling the business—that if you should not deliver up the debtors, you might forward the amount of the debts conformably to the existing friendship.

Regarding the statement that Mun Chamnan, headman of the Chokey at Nong Boa, sent a letter to the deputy Governor of Mergui in violation of the rules of propriety, it appears from the commencement of the letter transmitted to us, that it was addressed to some person of distinction at Tenasserim and not to the deputy Governor of Mergui, but the matter is expressed in the language of a common person and not conformable to the subject. Mun Chamnan spoke as he thought; Phra Pollasongkhram his master knew nothing of it. Mun Chamnan and his deputy who sent the letter are not good men. At first he dwelt in Baugatan, one of the southern towns. Thence he fled with his family to a village called Ta Ket, subject to the Chief of Tenasserim. Subsequently he returned and took up his residence at Nong Boa, as a subject of Phra Polla Songkhram, the Agent of the Siamese Government at Petchaburi, and now has gone back to live in the Province of Mergui again. If any punishment should be inflicted on him, let him be sought out and apprehended.

This communication is sent in triplicate as follows viz :

In Siamese One Copy	} All of the same purport.
In English One Copy	
In Peguan One Copy	

Monday

September 1st 1845.

Court Seal.

Fort William the 24th January 1846.

No. 117.

Second Letter.

A communication from the High Officers of the Court of Siam to Captain Henry Marion Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces viz : the 22 cities and 6 zabs of Martaban in the Talain country east of the Salween River, for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

Your letter informs us that a communication from Ava has been received by the English in Maulmain, purporting that the Burmese have refrained from doing any [? injury] to the inhabitants of Chiengmai (Zimmai) who have created disturbances on the Burman frontier because that the English had a Treaty of Friendship with the Burmese, and that as the English were on terms of friendly alliance with the Court of Siam, it was necessary that the Burmese should regard that friendly alliance also. For this reason they have withdrawn their forces. Also that the Siamese should have done as they have, was an infringement of their Treaty with the English and would render it void. Your letter gives us this information and expresses the wish of the English that the Siamese and Burmese should not engage in hostilities with each other, and that you have written to Ava to the same purport, urging them to consider well the evil consequences of a war, not to engage in a war with the Siamese, but dwell together on peaceable and friendly terms. That if the Siamese and Burmese have any disagreement regarding the mutual boundaries, the English cannot take any part in the controversy ; they only wish the Siamese and Burmese to dwell in peace and amity together, as the wisest course. That if the Siamese fight against the Burmese or the Burmese against the Siamese on the matter of

their boundaries, it is not a matter that concerns the Treaty of the English with the Burmese. That both countries are allies of the English, and hence the English wish them to be at peace among themselves. That the Kingdom of Siam has been a friendly ally for a long time and hence you have sent them a letter of information. All this is fully understood.

What the Burmese say in regard to refraining from doing any thing against the inhabitants of Chiangmai, who have created disturbances on the frontier—that they refrained out of regard to the Treaty which the English made with the Burmese in which the Siamese and Burmese are placed in relations of amity with each other—that the English made a Treaty with the Burmese more than 20 years ago. Why they should have included the Siamese in that Treaty the Court of Siam does not understand. From the time that Treaty was formed till now, neither Burmese or Siamese have sent or received any friendly communications from each other on any occasion whatever. The Burmese have for a long period been in a state of hostility against the Siamese and no confidence has subsisted between them. Whatever guard they have been accustomed to keep on their frontiers is incumbent still. The case is different with the English and Siamese. Being faithful allies, traders of both countries have come and gone by land and sea without impediment, and when any occasion has demanded it, communications have been freely exchanged.

That the Siamese should maintain such friendly relations with the Burmese as with the English is very difficult; confidence is wanting, we cannot trust them, for on former occasions they came many times with friendly professions and every time they made these professions they made ravages on our towns and cities. The Burmese are not honest and therefore friendly relations with them cannot be maintained.

As for the Burmese statement that the Chiengmai had created disturbances on the frontiers among the Laos Provinces, Chiengmai has indeed attacked and taken some of them, and some of them have come themselves and tendered their allegiance, and Chiengmai has sent forth a portion of her population to occupy the banks of the streams; but how can the Burmese call this creating disturbance on their frontier? It is the same as in relation to Mergui, Tavoy and Tenasserim. The Burmese took them and they became Burmese, so with these Laos Provinces, whoever takes and holds them, to him they belong.

The matters contained in your letter sent by your messenger Ma Khon tai are fully understood. That you should send a communication dissuading both your allies from war was very suitable and conformable to the existing friendly relations. We thank you much. The Siamese also are persuaded that war is expensive and calamitous. Peace is preferable. But if the Burmese insist that the inhabitants of Chiengmai have transgressed their boundaries and become incensed and assail our towns and villages, what can we do? We must do as we can. But if they will listen to the suggestions which you made to them, and refrain from assailing our towns and villages, then all things will move on smoothly and happily.

This communication is sent in triplicate viz:

In Siamese One Copy	} to the same purport.
In English One Copy	
In Peguan One Copy	

Thursday

the 28 August 1845.

Court Seal.

Fort William the 24th January 1846.

No. 118.

Third Letter.

A communication from the Court of Siam to Captain Henry Marion Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces, viz. the 22 cities and 6 zabs of Martaban in the Talain Country, East of the Salween River, for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities South of Tenasserim.

Your letter forwarded by Makhontai informs me that an English Officer will proceed to the Northern boundary to examine and ascertain the true locality of said boundary. The Commissioner desires that said officer be met by an officer from the Court of Siam who shall be well acquainted with the boundary, that they may settle the same with precision, said officers to proceed to the boundary line simultaneously in the month of January next, it being the second month according to the Siamese reckoning, there to consult together and come to a final decision.

As to the boundary in the Kra Country, the Commissioner forwarded a letter by Praya Anuchak saying that the Commissioner had been to the Pak Chan and examined the River Kra, with the river Pak Chan, to ascertain the course of said river from the sea to the junction of the three rivers Kra, Pak Chan and Valit, with the desire of knowing the true location of the English and Siamese boundary. The Commissioner having seen, drew a map of these rivers and forwarded the same, giving us to understand that on one side of the water shed line belongs to Siam, the other to the English.

Formerly there was a letter forwarded concerning the borders of the two countries from the River Kra and Pak Chan to the river Fungui Attaran, the country of Ye and Tenasserim, to the river Luya, saying

that the rivers and streams flowing from the mountains on the west side belong to the English, and those flowing to the east belonging to the Siamese the boundary line consisting of a continuous range of mountains reaching to the river Chan.

We said formerly that the boundary should be fixed at the river Pak Chan. The Commissioner thinks the river Kra should be the boundary. That the English should take the whole of the territory in question is not proper. It is proper that a part belong to the Siamese. Thus there will be a good mutual river road both to the east and west, there being a distinct mark, viz. water flowing from north to south.

The Commissioner desires the Court of Siam to issue orders to its officers who rule the Kra Country, that they cause all the inhabitants of said country to know the limits of the Siamese and English territories, that there be no trespassing on either side.

The subject matter of your two communications we fully understand.

With regard to what you say of the streams on the frontiers of the two countries from the River Kra and Pak Chan to the Fungui and Attaran, in the country of Yé and Tenasserim to the river Luya, viz : that those streams whose waters flow to the east belong to Siam, and those flowing to the west belong to the English, because the boundary consists of a continuous range of mountains reaching to the Pak Chan—by whatever names the places and streams may be called by the English or Burmese.

The Court of Siam does not fully understand the locality of said places, because the names do not agree.

Formerly the boundary between Siam and Burmah consisted of rivers and ranges of mountains whenever

there were roads or passes employed by travellers, there were built watch houses for the protection of said roads and places that there might be no mistake. *

On the north, from the junction of the river Memei with the river Hong eastward to the river S'asongyeng, was the boundary of Chiangmai. From the river S'asongyeng onwards was the boundary of Siam.

The country Tak exercised jurisdiction along the eastern bank of the river Memei to where the source of the Mei Samne enters the mountains. There are a number of streams flowing from the mountains into the Memei on the east side viz: the Tan, Pu, Chalan, Mang, Ngau and several other small streams. Between these streams are teak forests in the jurisdiction of Tak. The Burmans and Peguans from Maulmain have been accustomed to go and cut teak wood in these forests yearly, paying for the privilege a certain sum for each tree to the authorities of Tak.

The country Ut'aitani joins Tak and exercises jurisdiction from the mountains from which the river Me Mei flows, following the river Mesang to its junction with the Songpo, the east bank of which is the boundary as far as the river Sito. In this region are the Mesang, Mekorom, Menang-dat, Me-Saleng, Meacham, Me Kraior. These rivers flow from the mountains into the eastern side of the Songpo.

The country of Sisanat joins Utaitani and exercises jurisdiction from the river Tito to the river Huetilealam-pa at a place called Sangkalumlang-ka at Muddy Water pond.

The country of Tongpapum joins Sisawat and exercises jurisdiction from Muddy Pond, where are three pagodas, to the source of the Ramongsue where are two Maprong trees and mountains upon mountains to the pond Hue-sa-kra-bue.

* Many of the names in the following paragraphs are in this form not recognisable.

The country of Saiyok joins S'ong-po-pum and exercises authority from the source of the river Kamongsue at the two Maprang trees, to a place where, there are three heaps of stones thence to the river Si which is the source of the Kamong Sue.

The country Tatakua joins Saiyok and exercises jurisdiction from the three heaps of stones to the source of the river Kop where is a large mountain extending to the junction of the Kop with the river Buang.

The country Lumsum joins Tatakua, and exercises jurisdiction from the source of the Kop in the great mountains to the space between the white Elephant and the Nong rivers.

The country Kanburi joins Lumsum and exercises jurisdiction from the space between the sources of the Mong and the White Elephant to a heap of stones at the sources of the Mekami, Anfa, and the Bangyakap and extends out to the junction of these streams with the Buang.

The Country Ratchaburi joins Kanburi and exercises jurisdiction from the service of the Bongyakap to Takopittong, the rivers Me-teh, Little Mepra and the Great Mepra, the country Thongchatu and the river Targu.

The country Petchaburi joins Ratchaburi and exercises jurisdiction from the river Tarju to the mountain Monchan and river Inong extending to Singkon.

The country Kamnetnoppakan joins Petchaburi and exercises jurisdiction from the river Inong to Mt. Tong, and extends to Mt. Moachan and Singkon. The road to Tenasserim starts from Petchaburi.

The country Rasé joins Kamnetnoppakan and exercises jurisdiction from Mt. T'ang to Tu-martai, on

the road Langkea, having mountains for its boundary.

The country Kra joins Rasé and exercises jurisdiction by land to Napran and Chang-uya by sea to the island Salangin, and on the sea coast to the river Krachengla. This is a correct description.

The forests on the borders, from the large mountain at the source of the Memei, in the jurisdiction of U'taitani, to the boundary of Kra, are valuable, some for the honey they afford, others for sapan wood, others for teak, and others for rattan; also as places for catching elephants. Our people range these forests collecting honey, cutting sapan, teak and rattan, making torches, resin, and cultivating fields, buying and selling, thus obtaining a living. It is now twenty years since the English took possession of the country between Burmah and Siam. During this time those who seek a living in this way on the frontiers of the two countries have not trespassed on one another. The names of rivers, mountains and trees we have used in this description of the boundary are those used by the officers on the frontier. The Karens on the Moulmain side, who live near the boundary, know the places by the same names.

As to the proposition of the Commissioner for a meeting of officers on the northern frontier, we remark that the boundary from Tak to the Kra country consists of many parts and is of great extent. Should officers be sent from the Court of Siam who should be of such rank as to be able to make a final decision, and who should properly examine all the places, many men would be required. There are already a Governor and under officers, men of rank, in each of the provinces, we have named from Tak down. Whatever place it is desirable to examine the Governor and under officers of that province will point out the extent of the Siamese boundary there. Let them speak uprightly and the matter can be decided. But if they speak as when Mr. Blundell and the Governor of Petchaburi went to consult

together in the Kra country, no decision can be arrived at; Mr. Blundell said that the people of Mergui informed him that the boundary line between the Province of Mergui and that of Kra was the Pak Chan river, the west bank belonging to the English and the east to the Siamese. The Governor of Petchaburi replied that in the war between Burmah and Siam the Burmese conquered Mergui, but that the boundary was never decided upon. The Siamese have been accustomed to exercise jurisdiction by sea to the Island Salangin, on the sea coast, to the river Krachengla, and inland to Napran and Changnya. Should the boundary line [be] fixed along the Pakchan river, this would be exceedingly close to Kra. On the other hand, should it be fixed at the limits within which the Siamese have been accustomed formerly to exercise jurisdiction, it would still be far from Mergui. There should be a just decision, so that the inhabitants of the two countries may live at some distance from one another.

The Governor of Petchaburi and Mr. Blundell came to no decision. Mr. Blundell forwarded a communication saying it was proper that the Pakchan should constitute the boundary line. To this it was replied that the Court of Siam cannot consent that the river and Bay of Kra be the boundary, this being too near to Kra. When our letter reached Moulmain Mr. Blundell had left, and (Mr. Broadfoot, Mechichoparobat) the Commissioner received it, and forwarded a reply by Paya Tam-Chak, saying, the question of the boundary is one of importance and should be settled. That besides the question of the river Kra, it is necessary to come to a decision concerning the north eastern boundary in the Peguan Country, between the English possessions and Raheng and Cheangmai, the region of country which the Peguans call Tekari. While this correspondence was in progress, Michechoparobat (Mr. Broadfoot) left and Captain Henry Marion Durand was appointed Commissioner for Ten-

asserim. The Governor of Mergui raised a flag at the town of Kra, on the opposite side of the river, saying that was the English boundary, and Masaruk with ten soldiers to protect the boundary on the opposite side from Kra, at the distance of only about 60 yards.

As to the request that the Court of Siam should issue orders to the officers of the Kra country that they inform all the inhabitants of said country as to the boundary between Siam and the English Territories, that there be no trespassing, we cannot yet come to final decision that shall accord with this request. Please let this matter rest awhile, as this is not the only place where the boundary is to be settled. There are yet several other places. When a final decision is had, let it be respecting all the places, from Tak through to Kra. The Court of Siam can agree to any proposition that does not break over the former boundary. Having come to a decision let there be a written agreement concerning every part of the boundary line, which shall be final. Thus there will be, in future, no trespassing on one another. Let each place be called by one name. We request that each place in the boundary be called by the name given it by those who have the care of said boundary. Using the same names the matter will be well understood—using different names we shall not know the places spoken of.

This communication is prepared in Siamese, English and Peguan, the subject matter being the same in all.

Dated Thursday, 9th month, 11 day of the Waning Moon in the year 1207, the year of the Little Serpent (viz.)

August 28: 1845

Court Seal.

Board's
Collections,
Vol. 2228,
No. 110916,

To Major W. C. McLeod,
Principal Assistant to the Commr: Ten: Prov:
Sir,

* See India Secret
Cons. Vol. 119
for a letter from
Durand to Currie
of this date.

I have received a report that a Chief deputed by the Court of Bangkok is now on the Thoungyeen with orders to await the arrival of the officer which in accordance with my letter of 6th June last * was to be on the Thoungyeen this cold season for the purpose of determining the boundary on the N. E. frontier.

2. You will immediately dispatch an express with a letter informing the Chief in question that you are on the point of proceeding thither to place yourself in communication with him.

3. As soon as you are conveniently able to do so you will proceed from here with a suitable escort and such tentage from the Commission tentage as you may deem it advisable to take with you, and will meet the officer in question wherever he may be encamped, which at present appears to be on the left bank of the Thoungyeen in the neighbourhood of Atseen.

4. The first step will of course be to ascertain whether the deputed officer be duly authorized and fully empowered to confer with you, that is whether he be a properly accredited Agent from the Court of Bangkok.

* See India Secret
Consultations,
Vol. 115.

5. In the event of his being so and there appearing no objection to the credentials and rank of the deputed officer you will proceed to explain to him what the boundary of the British frontier is, and in so doing you will be guided by my letter 16th February 1845 to the Court of Bangkok.

6. The only part of the frontier about which there is any doubt is that where the Mailongee River

joins the Thoungyeen; although that river joins a tributary to the Thoungyeen River it cannot be considered that the territory drained by the Mailongee belongs to the British Government and you will probably find that all territory draining directly into the Mailongee River is separated by marked features of ground from that draining into the Thoungyeen, and that therefore a good termination to the N. E. boundary of the Provinces can be selected.

7. As the relations between the Court of Siam and the British Government are of the most friendly description you will take care to conduct the negotiations with the utmost amity and in such a manner as to satisfy the deputed officer from Siam that the establishment of a boundary which shall render it impossible for misunderstandings in future to arise is the only object of your mission.

8. You will report the progress of your negotiation from time to time, and will endeavour to avoid any unnecessary delay in the fulfilment of the objects of the mission.

9. Should the Chief not prove a properly accredited Agent you will dismiss him, and will demand an explanation of his conduct in crossing over into British territories without making any report to Maulmain of his intention of so doing

10. You will in such a case nevertheless proceed to examine the water shed line between the waters draining into the Thoungyeen and those draining into the Mailongee River and will invite the attendance of any border authorities in order that the object of your mission may be seen and understood.

11. You will report upon the portion of frontier line in question after a careful examination.

12. If the Chief be a properly accredited Agent you will from the water shed line between the

Thoongyeen and Mailongee tributaries proceed along the Thoongyeen as far as its S. E. sources, in order that any doubts which may arise along that line may be on the spot the subject of enquiry and examination. The watershed line is so marked a boundary that there ought to be but few or no difficulties.

13. With the Siamese Agent you will be firm in all your communications—these should be as few as possible, and though in all things your tone with him should be perfectly amicable yet I strongly recommend a reserved manner and conduct.

14. As the tentage and guard is more for the sake of your mission assuming a form which shall command respect than from any real use which either may prove, you will bear this object in mind.

15. I shall direct such a party of mounted men from the Local Corps as can be spared to attend you, in order that you may have the means of maintaining an easy and rapid communication with Maulmain. Your Guard may be either from the Local Corps or from the Native Infantry according as you prefer to have the one or the other. If from the Native Infantry a European officer should be in command of it.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) H. M. Durand
Commissioner Ten : Prov :

Maulmain
the 19th January 1846.

Fort William the 25th April 1846.

No. 89.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire

Officiating Secretary to the Govt. of India
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

The season favorable for the prosecution of Military operations on the Shan and Burman frontier is now closing without any extension of the Burmese conquests in the Karen-nee country and with no probability of the present occurrence of hostilities between the Shan and Burmese forces. The late revolution in the Court of Ava has, as was easily to be anticipated, afforded sufficient occupation to its successful originators, who have been employed in strengthening their own position. Foreign aggression has therefore been put off until a future period.

2. The same envoy who was sent last year by the Court of Siam arrived on the 14th ultimo and brought the letter of which a copy* is appended. The object of the frequent dispatch of the messenger in question is of course as much to ascertain what the British Authorities may be doing, as to watch the Burmese. A similar messenger is sent annually to Tavoy, nominally with the view of favoring mercantile intercommunication, but in reality for the purpose of ascertaining the state of that Province. I found the messenger there during my late visit at Tavoy.

* See 18 Dec. 1845.

* Omitted.
Substance given in
this para.

3. In my letter of the 20th January* I reported that Major McLeod had been ordered to proceed without delay to place himself in communication with the officers from Siam on the N. E. frontier and he was also directed to dispatch an express with letters announcing his immediate arrival on the frontier.

4. A message was returned that the Chiefs awaited Major McLeod's arrival. That officer reached

Myawadie on the 3rd February and found that the Chiefs had departed on or about the 30 January.

5. In my letter to the Court of Bangkok, dated the 16th February* 1845, I stated that a British officer would be on the frontier in the month of January. Accordingly the Chiefs informed Captain Guthrie that they could only wait until the end of the month of January and that they would then withdraw. It is to be regretted that Major McLeod did not reach Myawaddie before the expiration of January, for the Siamese Court will probably make use of the circumstance as an apology for the conduct of their deputed officer in withdrawing from the frontier.

6. Major McLeod found that the Chiefs had, prior to their departure caused a post to be put up as a boundary mark. This he very properly pulled down. Not only had no such boundary mark ever before existed, but moreover it was placed on ground acknowledged by the letter of the 13th November 1844* from the Court of Bangkok to be far within the British boundary.

7. From Myawaddie Major McLeod proceeded to Atseen, a small tributary of the Houndran River, at which place the Chief of Doung Kodat and other minor personages had been for some time encamped. The day previous to their departure these Chiefs proceeded to the Meekene, another small tributary of the Houndran, eight miles north of the Atseen; there they collected a small mass of stones and declared the southern bank of the stream as the boundary of their territory. This novel claim, one wholly preposterous, seems to have been determined upon with a levity, which the absence of the long expected British officer can in no way excuse, and which will doubtless much alarm the Court of Siam.

8. It was my purpose to have sent out to Major McLeod the messenger from Siam in order that that

* See vol. 115 of
this series.

* See vol. 115
No. 34.

confidential officer of their Government might himself see the proceedings of their frontier authorities, but on the 18th February Major McLeod returned by forced marches to Moulmein, assigning as his reason for so doing that one of the Subordinate Siamese officers, who had been at Atseen, had proceeded to Maulmain. As Major McLeod's camp was left to follow after, and did not reach Maulmain until the 2d Instant, I did not think it advisable to direct him either to return with the Siamese Envoy to Meekwe and Myawaddie or to proceed to Mylomee, but have caused it to be notified to the Zimme and Labong Authorities that the British Officer's visit to the northern extremity of the frontier is unavoidably postponed until the close of the rainy season.

• See vol. 116
of this series.

9. In my letter of the 16th February* 1845 written upon the receipt of the Court of Bangkok's assent to the proper boundary of the British Provinces, I noted some of the causes which operated in inducing them so clearly and satisfactorily to meet the wishes of the British Authorities at Maulmain. There were others however which aided in bringing the Court to so decided a step. The destination of the Admiral and his squadron in the Straits was a secret, and the Siamese King was so suspicious of the intention of the British that measures for securing the River approach to his Capital were adopted and considerable alarm was entertained.

10. When the destination of the British squadron had become generally known by the events which followed, and when at the same time the Court of Siam was relieved from the fear of the Burmese by the slow progress of their military operations in the Karen-nee country, it became no longer so desirous of having the boundary question settled, and the letter, a copy of which accompanied my letter of the 20th November 1845,* was written. It is natural that the Court of Siam, which at one time held nearly the whole of

• See vol. 122
of this series.

these Provinces except the island of Beloochyon, should be loath by a formal settlement of the boundary question distinctly to resign its claim upon our territories, the conquest of the Burmese from the Siamese, and accordingly they will studiously defer such definitive arrangement as long as they can; but the delay is pregnant with danger, and evil consequences might under existing circumstances at any time arise.

11. The Court will be alarmed when it receives from its messenger the account which he will not fail to give of the incautious conduct of their frontier authorities. The letter calling for an explanation of the conduct in question will [prove] to the Court that the pending boundary question must be settled, and that the levity and presumption of its frontier subordinates must be controlled. This they have hitherto always been ready to do when they found that such conduct was not allowed to pass unnoticed.

12. I have whilst writing this letter received a report from Captain Guthrie the Superintendent of Forests that on the Houndran the Shan Authorities have been demanding revenue from the Karens under British Authority and protection. I shall inquire into the details of the demands made and shall take measures to impress upon the Court of Siam the absolute necessity that such events shall not recur.

13. As soon as the rainy season is over, and the forests can be entered with safety, I shall depute an officer to the N. E. frontier and shall make every endeavour not to leave the boundary for another season in its present unsettled condition.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. M. Durand
Commissioner T. P.

Maulmain
the 21st March 1846.

Fort William the 25th April 1846.

No. 90.

The High Officers of the Court of Siam, To Captain Henry Marion Durand, Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces.

Dear Sir,

Whereas the month of December is the commencement of the dry season, the season for warlike operations, and as the Court of Siam cannot place confidence in the Burman Government; therefore, desiring to learn particularly the state of things in Burmah we send the bearer of this letter, Phaya Thanuchak Saming Phatapa Raman with 37 men to learn what they can concerning Burmah at Moulmein. When the above mentioned persons shall arrive we beg that Captain H. M. Durand will treat them according to the customs of countries at peace with one another.

If Phaya Thanuchak shall desire to visit his relations and friends (the Peguans) please let him do so whenever he shall desire. And when he shall desire to return (to Siam) please give him liberty so to do without hindrance.

This letter is prepared in Siamese, English and Peguan, all of the same import.

Bangkok December 18th, 1845, being the first month, 5th day of the Waning Moon 1207.

India Secret
Consultations,
Vol. 123.

Fort William the 25th April 1846.

No. 90 contd.

To the Ministers of the Court of Siam.

After Compliments,

The bearer of your letter of the 18th December 1845 Phaya Thanuchak has been allowed in compliance with your request to remain at Moulmein, and he is now permitted to return to Siam without hindrance.

(Signed) H. M. Durand,
Commissioner in the Tenasserim,
Provinces.

Moulmain Commissioner's Office
The 4th March 1846.

Fort William the 25th April 1846.

no. 90 contd.

To the Ministers of the Court of Siam.

After Compliments.

The Chief of Yahine and of Kammopot, deputed by you to meet the Officer whom in my letter of the 6th June 1845* I informed you should be sent to the frontier to point out the British boundary, did not await his arrival. They received his letter and stated that they hoped to see him soon and would await his coming, but they went away after having put up a square post on British territory as a boundary mark. This post was pulled down by the British Officer. I write for a reply and explanation of the conduct of these Chiefs and to know whether they acted under orders from the Court of Bangkok.

* *Not traced.*

2. The Chief of Doung Katat advanced into British territory as far as the Atseen, a small tributary of the Houndran. He did not await the arrival of the British Officer, but on the Meekwee, another small stream of the Houndran, he erected a heap of stones and gave out that that was the Siamese boundary. Had the Chief of Doung Katat placed the boundary mark in the centre of the town of Moulmein he would not have acted in a more exceptionable manner than by placing it on the Houndran. I write for an explanation of the conduct of this Chief and to know whether he acted under orders from the Court of Bangkok.

3. I do not think it probable that such conduct has been sanctioned by the Court of Bangkok, but I wish to have a distinct reply upon these points.

(Signed) H. M. Durand,

Commissioner in the Tenasserim,
Provinces.

Maulmain Commissioner's Office,

The 4th March 1846.

Fort William the 25th April 1846.

No. 91.

To Commissioner, Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

* See ante in
this vol.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 21st ultimo,* and in reply to state that the Honorable the President in Council approves generally of the proceedings reported therein.

2. His Honor in Council observes however with reference to the 4th and 5th paragraphs of your letter that it is much to be regretted that Major McLeod was not in time to meet the Siamese Commissioners, who were led by a communication from you to the Court of Bangkok to expect him on the frontier in the month of January, and who accordingly waited for him till the end of that month.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. A. Bushby
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Fort William
The 11th April 1846.

Fort William the 30th May 1846.

No. 127.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

In consequence of a report from the officer in charge of the province of Mergui that a Chief with a party of Siamese had crossed over into the British territory and given out that he would levy revenue upon a district in the upper part of the Tenasserim River, it seemed necessary to address the Court of Bangkok, and I have therefore forwarded the letter of which a copy is appended.

2. It appeared equally advisable to forward the news of the victories achieved by the British Arms on the N. W. frontier, and of the measures adopted by the Governor General towards the Sikh Government. I have therefore together with the letter of which I append a copy forwarded the Proclamation of the 22d February 1846.*

* Not copied—
no direct reference
to Siam.

3. The subordinate Siamese Authorities having effectually prevented the ingress and egress of cattle, merchandize and peaceful traders on this frontier, and such conduct being entirely different from that pursued on the frontier of Province Amherst, the opportunity appeared favorable for requesting the Court of Bangkok to issue orders to their subordinate authorities on this frontier, so that uniformity of system may prevail, and the interference and prohibitions of petty Chiefs be curbed. I accordingly addressed the Court as will be seen by the Appendices upon this subject. I am not sanguine that these restrictions will be removed for* this frontier in consequence, of* the facility of inter-communication is viewed with extreme jealousy by the Siamese Court.

* (sic.) ? from

* (sic.) ? for

4. I have dispatched the letters by the acting Goung Gyouk on the Pak Chan, who has orders not to delay, but after delivering the letter to return to his post immediately. From Pak Chan to Tchumpoon is one day's march, and from thence to Bangkok the time taken in a boat is about four days: his absence need not therefore be long. Communication with Bangkok is more expeditious from this point than from any other in the Tenasserim Provinces and it will be advantageous that the Siamese Court should receive when necessary, dispatches by this direct route.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. M. Durand

Commissioner Ten : Prov :

Pak Chan
the 8th April 1846.

Fort William the 30th May 1846.

No. 128.

To the Court of Siam.

(After the usual Compliments.)

It is reported that a Siamese Chief came to the northern part of the Tenasserim River, and set up a flag there, and threatened to levy revenue upon British territory.

The flag is ordered to be struck, and all individuals on the Tenasserim River and the tributaries to the Tenasserim River will be made to pay revenue to the British officers.

I send duplicates of the letters lately despatched from Maulmain, one of which had reference to similar acts on the part of Siamese officers on the Thongeen and Houndran Rivers.

I write for a distinct reply. I do not suppose that such acts have had the cognizance of the Court of Bangkok but I wish to be clearly informed upon this point.

(Signed) H. M. Durand
Commissioner Ten: Provs:

H. C. Steamer Proserpine
The 4 April 1846.

Fort William the 30th May 1846.

No. 128 Contd.

To the Court of Siam.

(After the usual Compliments.)

I take the opportunity of sending by this messenger a copy of the General Order issued by the Right Honble. the Governor General of India on the 22d February last, from which the friendly Court of Bangkok will learn with pleasure that the Governor General of India has gained four great victories, occupied Lahore, and punished in a signal manner the unjustifiable aggression of the Seiks upon British Territory.

(Signed) H. M. Durand

Commissioner Ten: Prov:

H. C. S. Proserpine
the 4th April 1846.

Fort William the 30th May 1846.

No. 128 Contd. To the Court of Siam.

(After the usual Compliments.)

The friendship which exists between the Siamese Court and the British Government has already produced a mercantile intercommunication between the Shan States and Maulmain advantageous to the subjects of both Governments.

2. Such friendly intercourse might be still further most advantageously increased were the Court of Siam to issue orders to their subordinate authorities at Tchunpaon and in its neighbourhood not to check and hinder the free intercourse of peaceful traders, and to permit the free passage and sale of all cattle and merchandize as is the case in the British territory and as is done by the subjects of the Siamese Government to Maulmain and Tavoy.

(Signed) H. M. Durand

Commissioner, Ten : Prov :

Pak Chan River
8 April 1846.

Fort William the 30th May 1846.

No 129.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the copy of a letter from the Chief of Zimmay respecting the boundary question.

2. In the office there is no copy and no cognizance of any such bonds or agreements as are alluded to in the letter from Zimmay. I shall feel obliged should any such exist in your office, by your favoring me with a copy of them.

3. The Court of Bangkok when it acknowledged the proper boundary of the British territory on the frontier did not appear to be aware of any separate agreement with the Zimmay authorities which affected the question.

4. The matter is of some importance in as much as the tract in question is calculated to be able to produce annually a very considerable quantity of good teak timber, more indeed than can be obtained from the corresponding tract on the left bank of the river, and the inconvenience arising from spurious passes and permits said to be obtained from the Shan Authorities is very favorable to the malpractices of dishonest traders and proves a frequent source of confusion, loss of property, and inextricable cases in the Courts.

5. I shall, as stated in the letter to Zimmay, submit the agreements entered into, supposing they

exist, when they are received, with such remarks as they may seem to call for.

I have &c.

(Signed.) H. M. Durand

Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces

Maulmein,
the 20th April 1846.

Fort William the 30th May 1846.

Translation.

The Owner of the Gold Palace of Zimmay informs the Assistant Commissioner, Captain McLeod, that with reference to the letter sent by the hands of Sannud Alley, which contained that "the authorities of Tenasserim having consulted with those of the Court of Bangkok regarding the boundary between Maulmain City and the cities of Yahine and Zimmay, I, Captain McLeod, am ordered to proceed and see and will therefore proceed without delay to Yahine and on my return I will come along the Thoung Yeen River and I wish you to consider the existing friendship and come down soon to meet me at Win Wee," and after this on the 5th of the Waning Taboung (17th March 1845) Assistant Commissioner Captain McLeod sent a letter in the hands of Mounng Koondine with 5 others accompanying him which contains "I have examined and fixed boundaries in two or three villages within the jurisdiction of Yahine, and as the monsoon is close I will return to Maulmain and come again to the Thoung Yeen after the wet season is over, consequently I wish that a letter may be sent mentioning the spot where you wish to see me." The contents of these two letters are known, but with reference to the boundaries, Dr. Richardson came to Zimmay in the year 1196 (1835) and in making friendship he requested that from the west of Thoung Yeen River as far as Salween River may be made and considered as the jurisdiction of the Maulmain City. In consideration of the friendship which existed and in consideration of that which is to be in future we have complied with the request made by Dr. Richardson, to which both parties agreed and settled. Another point which was agreed upon was, that if any one went from Zimmay to Maulmain for the purpose of working and trading there, duty or tax will be levied from those individuals according to

the customs at Maulmain and the same will be levied from those who go from Maulmain to Zimmay, according to the customs at that place. The duty on timber was agreed and settled as follows. For timber of 8, 9 and 10 fists the duty to be 1 rupee; for 11, 12 and 13 fists 2 rupees; for 14, 15 and 16 fists 3 rupees. When individuals wish to go from Maulmain to Zimmay they are to be allowed to do so with Detunhats (passes) mentioning distinctly the number of male and female. The same will be done for those who go from Zimmay to Maulmain and when anyone who goes from Zimmay to Maulmain commit crimes and be liable to be killed a letter must be written and sent. The same is to be done for those who go from Maulmain to Zimmay. With reference to lawsuits the authorities of the place where it arises must decide. To these terms both parties agreed and made a written bond in the Royal Gold Palace. At which time the parties present and witnessed, on the part of Dr. Richardson were the Interpreter Mounng Rain and Nga Tah, besides the Chiefs and poor men who were all present. After which the Assistant Commissioner Captain McLeod came to Zimmay and again on entering on the same subject in presence of all parties, the terms agreed on the former occasion were acknowledged and strictly confirmed by all parties. Consequently another bond was made out and now to speak again regarding boundary—we do not know to listen. This we inform.

12th Waning Taboung 1207

(24th March 1846)

Fort William the 25th July 1846.

No. 152.

To G. A. Bushby, Esquire
 Officiating Secy. to Government of India,
 Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

* See this series
 vol. 123.

I have the honor to inform you that the Goung Gyouk, Moung Bhong Shwey, dispatched from the Pak Chan River, as reported in my letter of the 8th April 1846,* with letters to the Court of Bangkok, finding himself detained at Chumpohun until orders should be received from the capital, did not (in compliance with my instructions) deem it advisable to be so long absent from his post, and has forwarded the letters with which he was entrusted to Moulmein.

2. In forwarding them from hence to Bangkok I have addressed to the Siamese Court the letter of which I append a copy.

I have &c

(Signed) H. M. Durand

Commissioner Tenasserim Provs:

Moulmain

10th June 1846.

Fort William the 25th July 1846.

No. 152 contd. From CAPTAIN HENRY MARION DURAND

Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces vizt. the 22 cities and 6 Zahs of Martaban in the Talien Country East of the Salween River for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

To The GREAT EGGA MAHA THAYNAH DEE-PUDDEE (!) of the Thee Ayoke Taradwah Yah Waddee Shway Myodaw (!).

The Commissioner informs the Great Egga Maha thaynah deepuddee of the Thee Ayoke Taradwah Yah Waddee Shway Myodaw that on the 10th April 1846, he dispatched the accompanying letters from the Pak Chan River, being desirous that they should reach the Court of Bangkok without delay.

The Siamese Frontier Authorities did not however see fit to forward the messenger and dispatches on his journey, but wished him to await the receipt of orders from Bangkok. The messenger, Goung Gyauk, on the Pak Chan, was therefore under the necessity of returning to his post and duty, which did not admit of such protracted delay, and the letters were returned to the Commissioner.

In the meantime the Governor of Bengal having been informed of the nature of the communications made by the Commissioner to the Court of Bangkok from the Pak Chan has written to ascertain what reply has been given to the letter regarding free intercourse and communication. He will regret to learn that owing to the system pursued on the Siamese frontier not only has no answer been received, but the letters are not even as yet admitted in the Siamese territories.

There could not be a stronger instance of the necessity for the attention of the Court of Bangkok to the existence of a system so contrary to that adopted on the British territories with regard to Siamese messengers and traders, and which admits of such speedy remedy by the Court of Bangkok adopting that wise policy with respect to messengers and traders which is common amongst civilised nations, is in accordance with treaties, and the strongest indication and bond of alliance and friendship.

(Signed) H. M. Durand
Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces.

[9 June 1846,
Maulmain.]

Fort William the 31st October 1846.

No. 175.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the copies of six letters lately received from the Court of Bangkok.

2. They are in reply to the various communications which I had occasion to make in consequence of the encroachment on British territory and conduct of Shan and Siamese subordinates on the British frontiers.

3. The letters are chiefly remarkable in consequence of the definite expression of the wishes of the Court of Bangkok contained at the close of the letter marked No. 1, in which it is stated "When a Siamese and an English officer duly appointed, and together at the boundary, consult, advise together, and let this matter be settled from the country of Krah to that of Tak, and a treaty be made between them, the matter will then be ended and there will be no further cause of difference between them."

4. It appears advisable to take advantage of this clear and positive expression of the wishes of the Court of Bangkok, and to take steps for such arrangements as will bring to a conclusion the long pending question of boundary, one which may if left longer unsettled prove fertile in future difficulties and embarrassments.

5. Instructions will be requisite for my guidance and with reference to the shortness of the dry season, during which alone anything can be done, the less the delay in furnishing such instructions the greater the probability the measures undertaken will

have of being brought to a successful termination in the course of the ensuing season, instead of being necessarily spun out to future years, when the Court of Bangkok may not perhaps feel equally well disposed as, under the influence of the late successes of the British arms on the north-west frontier, it now appears, to an amiable arrangement by Treaty.

6. It may be a question whether in order that the measure may have a better chance of being brought to a rapid and favorable conclusion the importance which the Government attaches to it would not be best evinced by the deputation of an officer to Bangkok either by land or sea, to arrange preliminaries. The Court might however be brought, as the matter is in reality a simple one, to come to a conclusion at Bangkok, and if it could be so induced a very great deal of trouble would be avoided.

7. The proper British boundary from Krah to the most northerly point is, as I have frequently repeated, the crests of the ranges of mountains forming the water shed line which separates country drained into British from country drained into Siamese rivers.

8. The admission that Krah is the southernmost point of the British boundary is remarkable, for by reference to a former letter from the Court it will be observed that they urged instead of the Pak Chan the Salangeen as the British and Siamese boundary. Practically however they have long acknowledged the Pakchan at the source of which is Krah, as the British southernmost boundary.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. M. Durand
Commissioner in the Ten: Prov:

Maulmein
28th Sept, 1846.

Fort William the 31st October 1846.

No. 176.

The letter of the Than Aka Maha Senah Budee, Phu Yai, in the city of Phra Maha Nakon Siayuthia.

To Captain Henry Marion Durand Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces viz: the 22 cities and six zabs of Martaban in the Talien country east of the Salween river for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

* dated 4 March
1846—See vol. 123
of this series.

A letter* was received here brought by Phya Thanoochack on the 30th April 1846 written in both the English and the Burmese languages, each of the same tenor. The contents of the one in English states that an officer of the country of Pingpet and an officer of the country of Tak, were sent out to meet the English officer according to the letter sent by Captain H. M. Durand on the 6th June 1815,* to point out the English and Siamese boundaries.

* Not traced.

That the Siamese officers did not remain to meet the British officer, only receiving the letter of the said officer. That the Siamese officers had said they wished to meet him, but that they did not wait until he came, and took a square post and placed it in the British territory, and gave out that it was the boundary. That that post was pulled down by the British officer, begging for a clear answer, whether the Siamese officers in thus doing had received orders from the city of Phra Maha Na Kon Sia Yuthia or not.

That a head Siamese officer in the country of Utaitanie went into the British territory and went to the Attseen River, a small tributary of Houng Kiang River. That the Siamese officers did not wait to meet the English officer but gathered a heap of stones at the Mekwæ river, another small tributary

of the Hong Kiang, and said it was the Siamese boundary; That the officer of Utaitani, in placing the boundary on the Meekwee or placing it in the middle of the city of Moulmein, it would have been equally exceptionable. The letter in the Burmese language is of the same tenor differing only in the following.

It states that at first Hongkro was the boundary of the British territory, since they took possession of Moulmein, that the Siamese had not gone to keep a frontier post or boundary there, but that now the people of Utaitani have advanced the Siamese boundary until it reaches Hong Kro, at the Bay of the Meekwee and other small tributaries of the Hong Kiang, that they have erected a heap of stones there, and changed the name of the Meekwee into that of Habing and said it was Siamese boundary. Would it not be better for the Siamese of Utai-tani to go and place the boundary in the middle of Moulmein, than to put it at the Hong Kro, as then there would be no occasion for further controversy.

The letter which Nakon Thai brought at the time, in the English language, and that sent by Phya Tanoo Chak previously are exactly of the same tenor, and are fully understood.

There was a letter sent by Nakon Thai stating distinctly where the boundary of the Siamese reached.

A letter of appointment was received here, stating that in the month of January, which is the 2nd month of the Siamese year, an officer on the part of the Siamese should go out and meet an officer on the part of the English, that they might consult about the boundary and let it be settled.

An order was therefore given to Phya Kampeng Pet, Phya Utai-tani and Phya Tak to proceed out and meet the English officers about the period mentioned in the letter of appointment, and that if at the

end of the 2nd month of the Siamese year, being beyond the period appointed, the English officer did not come they were not to linger or delay, but to come back, to look after and put in preparation soldiers and troops to be in readiness in case of any tumult, that being the (dry) season for war, and no confidence could be placed in the Burmese; fears being entertained that they might come and cause a disturbance, it was deemed necessary to be duly prepared to fight the Burmese in case of need. Phya Kampeng Pet and Phya Tak went and waited for the British Officer at Sam-ma maie, on the eastern side—Phya Utai-tani went and waited at Mai Salueng, on the 1st day of the second month and waited there until the 14th day of the waning of the Moon of the same month.

Nakon Thai brought a letter to Phya Tak which stated that Captain H. M. Durand would come and meet the Siamese officers and wished them to wait. Phya Kampeng Pet, Phya Utai-tani and Phya Tak therefore waited until the 6th day of the waxing moon of the third month, and the period being then past they came back.

What is said about the officers of Kampeng Pet not waiting to meet the English officer, but took a square post and placed it in the British territory, saying it was the boundary, which post the English officer pulled down, and that the Officer of Utai-tani went into British territory to the Ateen River, a tributary of the Houng Kiang River, and did not wait the English officer but gathered a heap of stones at the McKwee, another tributary of the Houng Kiang River, saying it was the Siamese boundary, thus much.

The Siamese officers who went and waited the English officer, when they came back did not state that they had put a post down or had erected a heap of stones as a boundary, but stated that they went and waited for the English officer but that he di

not come, and therefore they had not consulted about the boundary question.

When the matter contained in the letter brought by Phya Tanoochak was known, a person was sent up to question Phya Kampeng Pet, who it appears shortly after his return from the jungle had sickened and died. Phya Tak, who went with Phya Kampeng Pet, was questioned, who stated that Phya Kampeng Pet had given no orders to plant the post. The person at the guard house had put it up merely as a mark for their own people to show where the guard was relieved, how far they were to guard, between that place and Utaitani.

Phya Utai-tani and Khun Cha Sok of the Gosia House say the heap of stones together with a small wooden house for religious purposes on the top of them, at the Meekwee River, was erected by the Talien people who stop at the guard house of Utaitani merely as a mark to show the people of the guard that they might guard as far as that.

The English officer ordering the post to be taken down, according to the custom of the city of Phra Maha Nakhon Siayuthia, no notice can be taken of it.

It is not as if any thing had been definitely settled regarding it, or that a Phia Che-dee had been erected as a boundary mark as is the custom. The Burman translation of the letter states, that formerly Houng Keo was the boundary of the English, ever since they took possession of Moulmein, that the Siamese had not gone to keep guard on, or look after the boundary, but that now the people of Utai-tani have advanced the boundary until it has reached Houng Keo, and have changed the name of the Meekwee to that of Habing saying that it is the Siamese boundary.

Khun Cha Sok, the officer of the Guard House, says they did not guard as far as the Houng Keo, it being too far from the Meekwee River, the journey being one of three days. Formerly they used to guard as far as the Meekwee Ma Acheen, Ma Saouloung, Ma Nong det, Ma ta rong and the Ma Sang rivers; in saying they have advanced the boundary as far as Houng Keo, and have changed the name of the Meekwee and have given it that of Aibing—the name has not been changed nor have they advanced as far as Hang Kio.

As Captain H. M. Durand is as yet uncertain about the matter, it is proper that he has sent a letter to enquire about it, as there exists the strictest friendship between the Siamese and English. Thanks are due to him for the information given regarding what has been done on the part of the Siamese officers in these matters, and therefore a letter is written to inform him on the subject, and to do away with any doubts he may have. If enquiries are not first made in such matters, it would tarnish the present existing friendship through the proceedings of petty officers and people stationed at the frontier boundaries of either country. When Siamese and English officers meet, consult and fix a period for pointing out the boundary on either side and a Phya Chedee has been erected as a mark at the meeting of the boundaries, then the matter will be definitely settled.

Three copies are sent in the Siamese, English and Raman languages, all of the same tenor and date.

Dated in Bangkok this 9th day of August 1846.

Fort William the 31st October 1846.

No. 176 contd.

The letter of the Than Akamaha Senahbudee, Phu Yai, in the City of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia.

To Captain H. M. Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India, for the Tenasserim Provinces viz: the 22 cities and six zaha of Martaban in the Talien country East of the Salween river for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

A letter has been received stating that the English and Siamese are in the strictest friendship; that traders under the jurisdiction of the cities of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia and traders under the jurisdiction of Moulmein have been in the habit of trading backwards and forwards for a long period past, being a source of profit and advantage to both sides; that if the English send persons requesting to purchase cows, buffaloes and other merchandize at the country of Chumpon, to allow them to do so, and requesting to have an order sent from the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia to that effect, that traders may buy and sell with facility, that if the Siamese do not interfere traders would find a profitable result. This is thoroughly understood.

The English and Siamese are in the strictest friendship and treaty, and all cities, towns and villages under the jurisdiction of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia are aware of this. In whatever country traders see there is profit to be made, trade is carried on backwards and forwards; on the sea coast to the eastward the countries of Chantabun, Chantaburi, Trat, Nakhon, Soucha (!), Chiya have merchandize which is shipped to Singapore for sale. On the sea coast to the westward Junkceylon, Pungah, Takooa, Trang, Tuckooa Pa, Puket, Khra, Ranong have merchandize which is

shipped for sale to Penang. The Sarat and Chinese merchants of Penang and Singapore, when they see an opening in any country under the jurisdiction of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia where they can trade with advantage, come in, settle and trade both in the city of Phramaha Siayuthia and elsewhere, and they trade without hindrance. The persons who are in Government authority in any of those places do not interfere or prevent them from trading, but in Chumpon there are only jungle productions, and traders seeing there is no profit to be made do not go to trade there themselves. Countries which are in friendship and treaty will not interfere with the merchants of any country, Chinese, Musselman or English, trading backwards and forwards with honesty and good faith. The guard houses merely prevent those who introduce opium, which is an article which must be prevented from being brought in for trade in any place or country. Siamese being bondsmen, debtors, those who have creditors, who trade transgressed against the laws, absconded into the territory of the British, and then return and enter into combinations with persons in the place to steal elephants, horses, buffaloes, cows, persons* constantly roving, drunkards, troublesome persons and vagrants, brawlers and rioters.*

* *sic.*

* *There appear to
be some omissions in
this passage.*

Such persons going to complain to the English of things which are actually of no importance, but which they strive to make a feud of, might cause a breach of friendship. These are the only people who are interfered with by the guard people. The buffaloes and bullocks at Chumpon are only sufficient for the agricultural purposes of the place. There are times when disease springs up amongst them and they fall down and die. This is frequent. The buffalo is an useful animal, and the Siamese are not in the practice of buying and selling it as a commodity at any place. They only purchase and dispose of them amongst themselves in their own country.

In 1833, thirteen years ago, the Governor of Mergui sent Khun Mang Sating, Khun Mounng Sang Kiah, Khun Mounng Bo Kean and Khon Sadek begging to purchase some cows and buffaloes at Chumpon. They brought a letter written in the Siamese language to Phya Chumpon, stating in the letter, that as there were a large quantity of these animals at Chumpon, they begged to purchase them at such prices as were considered equitable between two friendly nations. Phya Chumpon was at the time in the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia, and there was only Luang Balat in authority there. He sent in word, and an order was given for him to send an answer to the letter. The answer stated that there were not so many buffaloes and cows as was stated in the letter sent in by the Governor of Mergui, being only sufficient for the agricultural purposes of the place. But as the Governor of Mergui had sent in begging to purchase these animals they allowed Khun Satire, Khun Mounng Sang Kiah, Khun Mounng Bo Keah, and Khun Sadak to purchase some few, in accordance with the friendship existing.

Hereafter, traders coming to purchase buffaloes at Chumpon may be disappointed, as at Chumpon they do not trade largely in them.

This subject was spoken of before and it was begged that Captain H. M. Durand entertained no further feelings of regret on this head.

Three copies of this letter are sent, in the Siamese, English and Raman languages, all being of the same tenor and date.

Dated in Bangkok this 9th day of August 1846

(Seal)

Fort William the 31st October 1846.

No. 175 contd.

The letter of the Than Akamaha Senahbudee, Phuyai, in the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia.

To Captain H. M. Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India, for the Tenasserim Provinces viz: the 22 cities and six zahs of Martaban in the Talien country East of the Salween river, for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

A letter has been received stating that a Siamese officer went and planted a flag on the northern part of the Tenasserim River, and gave out that he should levy duties in British territory; that an order had been given to take the flag down, and that all persons living on the Tenasserim River and provinces shall pay the duties to British officers. Formerly Captain H. M. Durand sent a letter, stating that the Siamese officers had done likewise at the Thangyeen and Hongkoo Rivers; that whether the Siamese Government were aware of this or not he did not know, but wished for a clear answer on this point and therefore sent a letter in to that effect.

The Burmese translation also states that a flag was planted on the northern part of the Tenasserim river, being of the same tenor as the English. In speaking of this affair—at what place a Siamese officer went and planted a flag or at what time no stated period is mentioned. All about the Tenasserim River, up to the northern part, which the Siamese call the Ting Chatree River, and on the eastern side, where the guard houses of Petchaburi, Ratchaburi and Kauburi are connected, all have been strictly interrogated and investigations have been made in all those places, but none of them have

planted a flag or given out that they should levy or exact duties in British territory.

At the country of Ratburi it was stated that in the 4th month of Pee Marong (March in the year 1844) three head Taliens of Mergui came to levy duties on the Taliens who live at Teng Chatree.

A Talien named Boorooie being there, told these three men that the Taliens living there were under the cognizance of the guard of Ratchaburi, and that therefore they would have to inform their master first. Both parties consulted and advised amongst themselves, and the three Taliens of Mergui did not levy any duties but went back.

This affair took place two years ago, and no notice has been taken of it since. At Petchaburi it was stated that on the 2d day of the first month Peo Moung Sata Sok (30th November 1845).*

* (*old.*)

A Talien named Mun Pitak living at Chong Row Phia in Petchaburi went up, following the course of the river, visiting his relations and friends, and went and stayed with the Talien Boouvie. Boorooie is under the cognizance or jurisdiction of Ratchaburi. They saw an English and a Burmese officer together with 8 Talien come in a boat, who stated that they were going to collect duties on the paddy fields in the country of Muta, and they anchored their boat at a place called Bang Nang Yee. Boorooie called upon the English officer, and Mun Pitak went with him. The English officer asked Boorooie if he was well living there? that if he was not so, to go and live in the British territory. Boorooie stated that he was well there, and took his leave.

The English officer remained at this place for three days and then proceeded to the country of Muta. Mun Pitak went about visiting his relations and friends amongst the Taliens until he reached the house

of Chang Wang Loosa Phung, who is under the cognizance or jurisdiction of Tavoy, and then went and saw Ka loo po. Ka loo po informed him that an English officer had been there to levy duty on the paddy fields in the country of Muta, stopping about 14 or 15 days and had then left.

Mun Pitak left Muta, and went to visit his Talien friends who were under the jurisdiction of Ratchaburi. Seven families followed him, and in the 5th month of Pee Ma Mea atta Sok, they were clearing ground at a place called Sowan Peng.

It is against all rules and customs of the Siamese to send and plant flags and point out boundaries.

The Siamese never sent any person or persons to plant a flag. The people about the jungle and close to the boundaries are all Taliens, and are an unsettled race, clearing ground here and there, going backwards and forwards, and changing every year.

They have the name of being under the jurisdiction of the guard of Ratchaburi, as in going about from one post to another he frequently stops and lives amongst them, but that the Taliens pay any customs or duties or that such is exacted from them is not the case. The Siamese have no wish and are unwilling to interrupt the course of, or to cause a blot on the friendship now existing.

Instructions were given at every town and guard house about the boundary, to the effect that where they had been in the practice of keeping guard, and of taking care formerly, so far and no farther were they to take charge, and on no account to advance into the country of Moulmein, Mergui or Tavoy, so as to leave a cause for difference.

When a Siamese and an English officer, duly appointed, meet together at the boundary, consult, advise together, and let this matter be settled, from

the country of Krah to that of Tak, and a treaty to be made between them this matter will then be ended, and there will be no further cause of difference between them. Three copies of this letter are sent, in the Siamese, English and Raman languages, all being of the same tenor and date.

Dated in Bangkok the 9th day of August 1846.

(Seal)

Fort William the 31st October 1846.

No. 176 contd.

The letter of the Than Akamaha Senabudee Phu Yai in the City of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia.

To Captain H. M. Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces viz: the 22 cities and six zabs of Martaban in the Talien Country East of the Salween River, for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

A letter has been received, stating that in the year 1846, on the 10th of April, Captain H. M. Durand sent a person from Pak Chan with two letters to the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia, with instructions to use dispatch in the delivery.

The officer in charge of the guard house would not allow him to pass, telling him to wait first until he had sent word to the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia and received an order for him to proceed; the bearer of the letter being in authority at Pak Chan, named Geer Gneek, could not wait, and was obliged to go back to Pak Chan and the two letters were returned by him back to Captain H. M. Durand, together with a letter stating that the officer of the guard house would not allow him to pass. That copies of both these letters had been forwarded to Bengal; that the Governor General of India had sent a letter to Captain H. M. Durand, asking whether an answer had been received yet or not. That the Governor General of India was waiting to hear what answer would be received from the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia; that when the Governor General of India finds that the two letters were not yet received there, and therefore no answer had been received to them, he will regret it much; that it is necessary for the Government of Siam to enquire into

this, and proper means taken accordingly to send orders to the officers of the guard house and inform them that be it messengers or be it traders, when the business is of importance or otherwise, to allow them to go and come with facility and without hindrance, as should be the case between two nations in treaty and friendship, as is the case with other civilized nations; that such a petty matter might be easily remedied by the necessary orders being duly sent so that parties might go and come with facility. All this has been understood. The case is thus: When Nai Boon Choon brought the letter to the country of Chumpon, on the 14th April 1846, Phya Chumpon received him and hospitably entertained him, giving him the Sala Klang as a place of residence.

Nai Boon Chooie stated that he waited to be sent into the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia, and that if he was not sent in he would go back. Phya Chumpon and Phia Chakra Rachamontree said the customs of places were different, and wanted him to wait until he sent in word according to the customs of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia, and then they would send him in.

Nai Boon Chooie would not remain and returned back. Phya Chumpon and Phia Chakra Racha Montree could not help this as the custom of the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia is when any countries in the world send persons bearing letters to any country under the jurisdiction of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia, that country has never been in the practice of forwarding it, but must first send in word to the Senah Badhee. When the order is given, the bearer is allowed to act according to instructions. This custom has been brought down from the earliest period. Thus Phya Chumpon and Phia Chakara Racha Montree did not dare to send Nai Boon Chooie in without first sending word, and thus it was that

Nai Boon Chooie returned the letters back to Captain H. M. Durand, and also sent a complaint stating that the officer of the guard house would not allow him to pass.

Captain H. M. Durand would naturally feel regret as it was different to the customs of the English. Nai Boon Chooie is a man from the Island of Junk Ceylon. Captain H. M. Durand sent him to be the bearer of a letter here. Nai Boon Chooie knows the manners and customs of the Siamese. It would have been right for him to have waited first, but he would not, and went back, and there was no resource left. It is begged that Captain H. M. Durand entertains no further feeling of regret on this head.

Three copies of this letter are sent, in the Siamese, English and Raman languages, all being of the same tenor and date.

Dated in Bangkok this 9th day of August 1846.

(Seal)

Fort William the 31st October 1846.

No. 176 contd.

The letter of the Than Akamaha Senah Bodee Phu Yai in the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia.

To Captain H. M. Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces viz: the 22 cities and six zabs of Martaban in the Talien country East of the Salween River, for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

A letter has been received stating that Captain H. M. Durand was about sending a person bearing a letter to the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia, and that he availed himself of the opportunity to forward a copy of the General Orders of the Governor General of India dated the 12th day of the waning moon of the 3d month; that the British army had been victorious in the Punjaub and that the Governor General had invested the city of Lahore; that the war had been brought on through the people of the Punjaub having entered into the British territory and committed aggressions there; that for this the English had collected their forces and humiliated them.

That as the Siamese and English are in strict friendship and treaty the former will be glad to learn this.

The General Orders of the Governor General of India forwarded by Captain H. M. Durand have been fully understood.

In the year Pee Maseng Satta Sok (1845) the Siamese know that the Governor General of India had collected forces and advanced towards the Punjaub for the purpose of making war with the Sikhs belonging to the country.

The Siamese under the existing friendship were anxious to hear news of the progress of this war and all vessels trading from Bombay and Singapore were severally interrogated regarding it on their arrival, and the Siamese were therefore kept duly informed on this subject.

The officers of the Siamese Government are pleased to hear that the British army, under the direction of the Governor General of India, has proved victorious in the Punjaub, and beg to compliment the Governor General of India upon his successes and trust he may attain to still higher honors.

Three copies of this letter are sent in the Siamese, English and Raman languages being all of the same tenor and date.

Dated in Bankok this 9th day of August 1846.

(Seal)

Fort William the 31st October 1846.

No. 176 contd.

The letter of the Than Akamalia Senah Bodee Phu Yai in the city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia.

To Captain H. M. Durand, Commissioner on the part of the British Government in India for the Tenasserim Provinces viz: the 22 cities and six zabs of Martaban in the Talain country East of Salween River, for Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserim and the cities to the south of Tenasserim.

A letter has been received stating that in 1846 Phya Tanoo Chak, a Siamese officer, was the bearer of a letter to Captain H. M. Durand begging that Phya Tanoo Chak might be allowed to remain at Moulmein, and that Captain H. M. Durand had allowed him to do so, in accordance with that letter and that when he required to return back here he was allowed to do so without hindrance. Phya Tanoo Chak on his arrival here mentioned with pleasure the great kindness and hospitality he experienced from Captain H. M. Durand whilst in Moulmein, that whilst there he was left nothing to wish for.

Tha Tanoo Chak, in going and coming had done nothing at variance with the customs of the English; when coming away he had paid his respects and received a letter as formerly.

Thanks are due to Captain H. M. Durand for the kindness and hospitality shown to Phya Tanoo Chak—it is in accordance with the friendship existing.

Makon Thai, the bearer of letters into Phra Maha Nakon Siayuthia, has been treated in reciprocal manner here. As he is now returning back a letter has been given to allow him to go on his path in friendship and without hindrance.

Regarding the boundary the Siamese express a wish that officers on both sides meet and consult upon the matter and settle it definitely at once.

Three copies of this letter are sent in the Siamese, English and Raman languages, being all of the same tenor and date.

Dated in Bankok this 9th day of August 1846.

(Seal)

Fort William the 31st October 1846.

No. 177. From G. A. Bushby Esquire,

Officiating Secy. to the Govt. of India,

To the Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

* See ante in
this vol.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch dated 28th ultimo,* submitting copies of letters from the Court of Bangkok in reply to various communications from you on the subject of the encroachments on British territory and the conduct of the Shan and Siamese subordinates on the British frontier.

2. In reply I am directed by the President in Council to instruct you to address a letter to the Minister of Siam stating in clear and precise terms what is understood to be the boundary between the Tenasserim Provinces and the territories of Siam, and after noticing briefly the apparent encroachments which have been attempted to be made by inferior officers of the Siamese Government, to express the desire of the British Government that in a conference between British and Siamese officers near the boundary the limits may be defined and acknowledged on both sides, and that with this view you will, on being apprized of the resolution of the Government of Bangkok to depute an agent of its own for this purpose to the frontier or any place within the territories of either party which may be deemed most convenient for both, depute an officer to attend and arrange for the final settlement of this question.

3. His Honor in Council leaves it to you to point out to the Siamese Court the place of meeting and the date on which it is to take place, and to select a competent officer to represent the British Government on the occasion.

4. There is not time even if it were desirable to attach so much importance to the question at issue as such a measure would cause, to send a mission from Singapore to Bangkok in order to induce that Government to adopt the course now recommended, but if Lieutenant Colonel Butterworth, the Governor of the Straits Settlement, has an opportunity of unobtrusively communicating to the Siamese Government the wishes of the Government of India on the subject, he will avail himself of it.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. A. Bushby,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Fort William
the 31st October 1846.

Fort William the 7th March 1847.

No. 78.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire,

Secretary to the Government of India,

Fort William.

Sir,

* See this series
vol. 125.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 31st October last, * transmitting the copy of a communication to the address of the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces, relative to the boundary between those Provinces, and the territories of the Siamese, and requesting me to avail myself of any opportunity that might offer of intimating to the Court of Bangkok the desire of the British Government to have the question settled. I lost no time in addressing a communication to the Prime Minister of His Majesty the King of Siam, Chow Phya Praklang, by a vessel which was on the eve of starting for Bangkok, and at the same time I requested a British Merchant, through whom my letter was forwarded, to urge the speedy settlement of the question.

I adopted this course, in consequence of there being no person here who writes Siamese sufficiently well to be entrusted, with a communication of this nature, and in the expectation, which has been realized, that the said merchant, Mr. Hayes, in whom I have confidence, would be requested to translate it, whereby the interest and purport of my communication would be more fully apprehended.

C. D.

Mr. Hayes's reply, together with the letter therein referred to in English from the Prime Minister at the Court of Bangkok, Chow Phya Phra Klang, copies of which are enclosed, have just reached me, and will I trust, prove satisfactory to the Honble. the President in Council.

Under the impression that the letter in Siamese, with the envelope in which it was received, may be novel, and therefore acceptable, I have ventured to transmit them by this opportunity.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor.

Singapore
13th February 1847.

P: S: I am given to understand that it is in the contemplation of the British Government to appoint a Consul in Siam, with a view of furnishing Certificates of the produce of sugar exported from thence. If so I would respectfully desire to direct attention to Mr. Hayes as a person in every way suited for the office and likely from his knowledge of the language and manners of the people to prove generally useful.

Fort William the 27th March 1847.

No. 79.

A.

To His Excellency

The Chow Phya Praklang

Prime Minister to His Majesty

The King of Siam.

My Friend,

The excellent understanding which has at all times subsisted between the Siamese Government at Bangkok and the British Authorities in these settlements induces me to write a few lines to your Excellency in furtherance of the maintenance of that good understanding to other parts of the British possessions in the east.

In a recent communication from the Government of India, I observe some allusion to the difficulty which has obtained in settling the boundary between the Tenasserim Provinces and the Siamese territories, and that definite instructions have been given by the British Government to the Commissioner for the early final arrangement of this matter.

I conclude that my friend will have received intimation of the views of the British Government on this head through the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces, and I only write, as one friend would do to another on such an occasion, to recommend my friend the Praklang to advise His Majesty the King of Siam that the British Government are desirous of having the said boundary question settled without delay.

I think this would be readily effected by the deputation of a Superior officer from my friend's Government to meet the like deputation of a British officer from Moulmein to the boundary of the two countries, previously fixing the time and place, with instructions then and there to come to a final settle-

ment of the question. This would, I am persuaded, afford satisfaction to the British Government, and I should be happy to hear that my friend's Government have so determined to act when I will communicate the same for the information of the Governor General of India.

With every consideration and sincere friendship

I remain,

Your Excellency's &ca. &ca.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth.
Governor.

Singapore,
30th Decr. 1846.

India Secret
Consultations,
Vol. 133.

Fort William the 27th March 1847.

No. 80.

To James Hayes Esquire,
Siam.

B.

My Dear Sir,

I have written His Excellency the Praklang by this opportunity touching the boundary between Siam and the Tenasserim Provinces, because I have learned that the British Government have sent positive instructions to the Commissioner at Moulmein to have this matter settled without delay, and I think a word in season may not prove unacceptable.

You will probably find a fitting occasion to commend our friend the Praklang, for whom I have a sincere regard, to advise His Majesty, the King of Siam, to send a party high in office from Bangkok with full power to act, intimating the time and place at which the said functionary may be found on the frontier, with a view to a similar deputation being ordered from Moulmein to make a final arrangement of all matters connected with this question. I know that disappointment and dissatisfaction have been experienced on both sides relative to this question, but in the way I propose, and I believe the Government of India have directed, every thing can be finally and satisfactorily settled.

Believe me &c.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth,
Governor.

Singapore
29th Decr. 1846.

Fort William the 27th March 1847.

No. 81.

C.

To the Honble. Lieutenant Colonel Butterworth, C. B.,
&ca. &ca. &ca.

My dear Sir,

Your letter regarding the boundary question between the English and Siamese in the Tenasserim Provinces I duly handed to His Excellency the Prakhlang, to whom I also translated the contents. He received it in a very friendly manner, and appeared to appreciate the motive which dictated it.

I subsequently recommended His Excellency, in a private interview which he granted me the following day, to endeavour, by using his influence with the King, to have an efficient officer of high rank sent over to the Boundary, invested with full power to treat on this question, and have the matter adjusted without delay.

A translation of your letter the King also saw, who immediately ordered two noblemen of high rank to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the boundary as soon as letters are received from the Commissioner at Moulmein, appointing time and place. His Majesty expressed satisfaction at the contents of the letter, and ordered an answer to be returned by the first vessel leaving for the Straits Settlements.

On the whole I think the Siamese appear anxious to have the matter settled, and although I am not personally acquainted with the noblemen appointed to proceed there, I am led to believe they are clever and are inclined to adopt all pacific measures.

I remain &ca.

(Signed) James Hayes.

British Factory
30th January 1847.

Fort William the 27th March 1847.

No. 82.

D.

The letter of His Excellency the Chow Phya Phra Klang Senah Bodee Phu Yai in the city of Phra Maha Nakhon Siayuthia.

To the Honble. Lieutenant Colonel Butterworth, C. B., Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

A letter has been received stating that the good understanding, which has at all times existed between the Siamese and English authorities induces you to write this letter in furtherance of the maintenance of that feeling, and that the same might be more firmly extended.

It also states that in a communication from the Secretary to the Government of India making allusion to the boundary question between the Siamese and English at the Tenasserim Provinces, definite instructions had been given by the Governor General of India to the Commissioner of those Provinces for the final arrangement of this matter without delay.

It further states that you conclude the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces will have forwarded a letter containing full information on this head, and that you forward this letter, recommending to advise His Majesty the King of Siam that the British Government are desirous of having the matter adjusted without delay.

That if the Siamese would send out an officer invested with full powers in this matter to meet the English officer at the boundary of the two countries, previously fixing the time and place, then and there to come to a final settlement of the question, it would be a source of much satisfaction to the British Government, and that you would communicate to the Governor General of India, that the Siamese Government had determined so to act.

The contents of this letter are thoroughly understood, and many thanks are due to you for your attention in sending this letter, and is in accordance with the rules of nations friendly and near to one another, and is therefore duly appreciated.

At the boundary on the western side, where the question lies, the boundary before joined with Burmah. On the northern side, from the Gaes country, Chin Mai of Mueng Tak was the Siamese boundary, all the way down as far as Muang Kra at the southern extremity.

The officers of the guard houses kept watch there regularly, taking care of the country, of which facts letters have been sent over informing the English officer in charge of Moulmein from the time of Commissioner Blundell's appointment to that of Captain Henry Marion Durand's, and up till the present day.

In the year Khan, Chatawa Sok (1842) Mr Commissioner Blundell sent in a letter stating that he intended coming in to see the boundary, where the countries of Kra and Mergui joined, and begged a Siamese officer to go out at the same time to Pakchan that they might discuss the matter and let it be settled. His Majesty gave instructions to Phya Phetchaburi, the Governor of Muang Kra, and who was perfectly acquainted with the boundaries of Muang Kra, and of Mergui previously, to proceed there, point out the boundary, and settle the matter with Mr Commissioner Blundell.

Phya Petchaburi went and waited at Muang Kra several days until the time of appointment was passed, when he came back to Chumpon. When Mr Commissioner Blundell arrived at Muang Kra and knew that Phya Petchaburi was still at Chumpon, he instructed Mr Richardson to go in and see him there, and Phya

Petchaburi went back and met Mr. Blundell at Muang Kra. [He] then stated to Mr. Blundell that when Mergui still belonged to the Burmese, the Siamese had a boundary and kept guard there, on shore as far as Nar Praso, Chang Gnoo and Hak Ka Tak on the coast, up to Luang Phra Cheng, which are the boundaries joining each other. Mr. Blundell did not make any answer or observation to this but gave Phya Petchaburi a letter to forward, and then returned back again.

In this letter it stated that if the boundary was made at the river of Kra, each country taking one side of the river it would be well. This was the contents of this letter. Phya Petchaburi and Mr. Blundell therefore did not settle the matter definitely and it was left as before.

Major Broadfoot, the Commissioner who superseded Mr. Blundell's place on his return back, in the first month of Per Marong Chow Sok (December 1844) an officer of Mergui came and planted a flag on the western side of the river there, distant from Muang Kra about 120 or 130 feet.

In the year Ma Seng Sapa Sok (1845) Captain Henry Marion Durand was appointed Commissioner at Moulmein, and sent in a letter regarding the boundary, stating that on the northern boundary the question must be discussed and settled, and begged that an officer, invested with full power, might be sent out to the boundaries joining each other during the month of January 1846 (Pi Maseng Sapa Sok) and that Captain Henry Marion Durand would come at the same time and discuss and settle the matter. His Majesty hearing this gave orders for Phya Kampeng pet, one of his High Officers and Governor of Muang Tak, to go (invested with full power) to confer with Captain Henry Marion Durand as

requested and timed in the letter sent in; that if on his arrival there the English officer did not make his appearance during the whole of the Siamese month of duan Yi, he was to return back again and collect the servants, men and officers, as there was a report that the Burmese intended making a descent on the Province of Chiengrai, which is under the jurisdiction of the Province of Chieng Mai, so that in case the report proved true, they might be in readiness to make war with them.

Phya Kampeng Pet, Phya Tak, and Phya Ootaitani went out therefore to confer with the English officer at the place where the boundaries joined, on the second day of duan Yi and waited there 28 days. Captain Henry Marion Durand sent a letter by a Raman named Ma Khon Thai, stating that he would come and meet the Siamese officers and wished them to wait. The above three officers waited therefore until the 6th day of duan Sam, the following month, and finding that no English officer came, Phya Kampeng pet having pressing business to collect forces &c. to be in readiness to fight the Burmese in case of need, left and returned to his Province. Captain Henry Marion Durand then forwarded in a letter by a Raman to the city Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia, stating that the Siamese officer sent out did not wait to see him, but that the officer had taken a square post and planted it in English territory, and had also erected a heap of stones at the Mergui river, and gave out it was the Siamese boundary, requesting to know whether the orders to do so had been issued by the Government officers, and stating that placing the boundary at Mergui could not have been more exceptionable than if it had been placed in the middle of Moulmein.

When Phya Kampeng Pet came back, he did [not] state that he had planted a post, or erected

a heap of stones, and therefore as soon as it was known here a message was dispatched up to Phya Kampeng pet, who it was found had died after his return from the jungle. Phya Tak, who accompanied Phya Kampeng pet, was then questioned, who stated that Phya Kampeng pet had given no instructions to have this done, but the guards living at the frontiers had done so merely as a mark for the officers of the guard house to keep watch as far as the post was planted. On the part of Ootaitani province—Phya Ootaitani and Khun Cha Sak, the officer of the guard house, stated that the stones were erected by the Khariens, who guard the frontiers of the Province of Ootaitani, and they put a small house for religious purposes upon it. They told their comrades to keep their watch as far as that, the boundary not being yet settled, and that guard was to be kept where they had been in the habit of keeping it hitherto, until officers from both sides had gone out, met and discussed the matter and settled the boundary, and Phra Chedee had been erected as a mark according to the ancient customs of the Siamese. If an advance had been made beyond the boundary, it would then be a matter of wrong and error. A letter was sent back to Captain Henry Marion Durand stating the matter, in charge of the Raman who brought his letter in. Since the ninth month of Pee Mamea Sok (July 1846) until the present Duen Sam Captain Henry Marion Durand has not sent in to appoint either a time or a place to meet and discuss the matter. The city of Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia wishes to have this matter properly adjusted, and amicably settled, and thus leave no further cause for difference. Whatever time English officers have hitherto appointed, the Siamese have in every instance punctually attended to.

But it is a very long distance, and the Officers have not as yet been enabled to meet each other.

These are the circumstances in detail, and this letter is forwarded for your information. Should you meet the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces, who would come and appoint a place and time, an officer on the part of the Siamese shall be sent out at the same time as the English officer and they shall discuss the question finally and adjust the boundary matter on both sides satisfactorily. Petty officers and people living on the frontiers near the boundaries will then have no chance of making such a small matter the cause of any farther difference or dispute for the future.

Copies of this letter are sent in the Siamese and English languages, the contents of each being of the same tenor.

Dated in Phra Mahanakon Siayuthia, this 30th day of January 1847.

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No. 208.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire,
Officiating Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Department.

* not copied.
† See vol. 125 of
this series.

I have the honor to state with reference to your letters of May 9th* 1846 and 31st October† 1846, and to the other correspondence which has passed in regard to the boundary between the British Possessions on this coast and the country subject to Siam, that a further search in the records of this office has brought to light important papers connected with the question, which have led me to suspend the execution of the instructions contained in the second of your letters above mentioned.

* See *infra*.

2. A letter from Major McLeod of the 19th Novr.* last, copy of which with its enclosures is now submitted, forwarded a letter from the authorities of the Shan State of Zimmay, tributary to Siam, repeating their former assertion that an agreement had been made with them by Dr. Richardson, and afterwards acknowledged by Major (then Captain) McLeod, distinctly recognising the Thoung Yeen River as their boundary with these Provinces. The letter professes to send the agreement itself, but was in fact only accompanied by a paper purporting to be a recital of the contents of the agreement, and of the subsequent confirmation of it by Major McLeod. Major McLeod, in forwarding to Captain Durand the translation of these documents did not however, in any way contradict the statement that such agreements had been made, and the person, a man of respectable rank who was the bearer of it from Zimmay, positively asserts that the agreements, having Dr. Richardson's signature, exist there.

3. An exact copy of any agreements has now been again applied for from the Chief of Zimmay, and

Major McLeod has been addressed in order to procure his statement in regard to such agreements and to any material circumstances within his knowledge connected with them.

4. A reference however to the instructions of Mr. Blundell to Dr. Richardson, of December 20th* 1834, to which and specially to his previous letter to Government of the 18th August* 1834 and to the orders of Government in reply of the 23rd March* 1835 I would particularly solicit the attention of the President in Council, will place it beyond doubt that Dr. Richardson was fully empowered, if not to execute a written agreement, yet distinctly to admit, or more correctly according to the state of things at that time, to claim the Thoung Yeen River, and that only, as the boundary between the British and Zimmay Territory. That Dr. Richardson held this language on his Mission to Zimmay in the beginning of 1835, is clear from all his reports and journals, in which he speaks of the Thoung Yeen River as the clear British Boundary.

5. Again in 1837, when Major McLeod* proceeded on his Mission to the Shan States and to the frontiers of China, Mr. Blundell gave instructions of the 23rd Novr. 1836 5th para; in a part of which he expressly referred to the Thoung Yeen as the boundary with Zimmay.

6. That Mr. Blundell never changed his opinion or declarations on the point while he remained Commissioner is further evident from his report to Government of October 20th* 1842, in which he proposed to obtain from the Zimmay authorities the superintendence and management of the forest tract across the Thoung Yeen, by an amicable arrangement based on mutual concurrence and providing for a money payment by us to Zimmay.

7. The first mention I can find of our claim up to the crest of the range of mountains, which divides streams flowing in to the Thoung Yeen from those flowing down to the eastward and joining the rivers which have their course through Siam proper, is in Major Broadfoot's letter to the Ministers of Siam of March 26th 1844,* in which replying to a letter that had reference solely to the southern or Mergui boundary he said generally " But it is not only the boundaries in the Kra River that require consideration ; the boundaries in the north and east between the Talien country, belonging to the English, and the Siamese country of Zimmay and Yahine, along the range of hills called by the Taliens Day Krine, require the deep consideration both of the Ministers of Siam and of the Commissioner."

* See vol. 109 of this series.

* See also Major Broadfoot's letter to your office of Feb. 6, 1844, para: 3; and 29 Ap: 1844.

* See vols. 105 & 109 of this series.

8. On this, followed the letters reported on in Captain Durand's letter to your office of February 16th* 1845, and November 20th* 1845, in the first of which the Court of Siam admitted the crest of the range of mountains as the boundary, and in the second claimed the tract westward of the range to the Mi Moae or the Me Mei, which is the Siamese name for the Thoung Yeen.

* See vol. 115 Do.

* " " 122 " "

9. I cannot find on record a single ground of proof on which to claim for our government the country eastward of the Thoung Yeen and which could be opposed to the arguments recorded by Mr. Blundell in his letter of August 1834 before referred to, and to the admissions which may be shown to have been made by our own officers at Zimmay. It is true that the most convenient and natural boundary is the range of mountains, and that it was probably the ancient boundary between the Taliens and the Shans or Siamese. It is true also that at one time, but not that I can find any trace of near the period of our conquest, the Burmese had jurisdiction eastward of the Thoung Yeen. But these circumstances can give us,

I think, no title to disturb the present possession of the Shan Chiefs.

10. Whatever, therefore, the advantage to us, (and it would be considerable), of obtaining the possession and sovereignty of the tracts which yield large quantities of teak (almost entirely cut and brought down by capital and adventure from this place) lying Eastward of the Thoung Yeen, I cannot further pursue our claim to those tracts without fresh instructions from Government.

11. The Government has not certainly made known, or authorized to be made known to the Court of Siam its admission, in the letter from the Political Department of the Government of Bengal of the 23d March 1835,* of the Thoung Yeen as the boundary. Nor has it signified a subsequent approval of any agreements or declarations which Dr. Richardson may have made at Zimmay. But it may be thought that under all the circumstances which have been stated we should not be justified, unless upon fresh information of facts, in urging any claim to deprive the Zimmay Chiefs of the country actually held by them eastward of the Thoung Yeen. We must in that event await some favorable opportunity of obtaining the management of the teak forests across the Thoung Yeen in the Zimmay country, perhaps an arrangement of the kind which Mr. Blundell suggested in his letter of the 20th October 1842.

12. I should say that the actual jurisdiction along the eastern bank of the Thoung Yeen is divided between the two Shan States of Zimmay (North) and Yahine (South) and that no agreements or admissions of their rights to that river as the boundary appear to have been made to the Yahine Chiefs by any British Officer, but we have no better general argument that I am at all aware of, or can learn after enquiry

here, to claim as a right the tract across the Thoung Yeen from the Yahine than from the Zimmay territory. The limits of the possessions of these two small states on the Thoung Yeen appear to be at or close to the point which will be seen in Major McLeod's Map of the Tenasserim Provinces, published, I believe, in the Bengal and Agra Gazetteers, * where two parallel lines begin to be drawn, bending round along the hills to the Southern Point marked the three Pagodas.

* *Not yet traced.*

13. The statements contained in this letter will probably suffice for a report also on the subject of Lieut. Latter's letter regarding the country of the White Kareens, forwarded with your dispatch of the 17th October* last. There is as yet an entire absence of proof that when these provinces were ceded to us by the Burmese, they exercised any authority beyond the junction of the Thoung Yeen and Salween Rivers; and the country above that point, between the range of mountains and the eastern bank of the Upper Salween, has been actually considered by us, as will be seen, from Major Pemberton's general map, as under the power of the Shans tributary to Siam, and Dr. Richardson in his brief account of the Kingdom of Siam appended to his report of his mission to Bangkok in 1839, distinctly speaks of the Siamese frontier in that quarter as extending to the westward and to the Kareen country subject to Ava.

* *Not found.*

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) J. R. Colvin

Commissioner Tenasserim Provs :

Moulmein

12th April 1847.

India Secret
Consultations.
Vol. 137.

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No. 209.

To Captain H. M. Durand
Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward you translations of
two letters received from Zemmi.

2. The bearer is the same person who waited on-
you before he left this for Zemmi.

3. I have directed the messenger to be enter-
tained in the usual manner.

I have &ca.

(Signed) W. C. McLeod

Print: Assistant Commissioner.

Moulmein
19th November 1846.

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No. 209 Contd.

Title of the Tsambwa and Chiefs and 32 Court Officers of Zemmi having assembled inform the Commissioner of Moulmein and his Assistant Captain McLeod and other officers of the Courts, that Dr. Richardson was sent with presents as an Agent by the former Commissioner and on the 6th of the waning moon of Tahadway 1196 political matters were spoken of and Dr. Richardson applied for the territory to the westward of the Thoung Yeng River and to the eastward of the Salween, when they informed Dr. Richardson that that locality first belonged to the Taliens and Burmese and that the Shans had afterwards fought and conquered it, and that they are now governing it. They however gave that locality to the British in consideration of the existing friendship. After which on the 2d of the Waning Moon of Taboung in the Era 1207 Major McLeod sent four Burmans with a letter informing that he had looked at two or three villages on the boundaries of the British and Shan sides and that he would now return as the rain was approaching and that in the month of Thaden Gyoot he would come back and see respecting the boundaries, and requested to know at which place they were to meet together. Respecting the boundaries they have already spoken and settled with Dr. Richardson and after this also they have spoken with Major McLeod. The Commissioner having sent a message by the Tsheng Gine Woon Roon, that he wishes to see the Agreement made with Dr. Richardson with respect to the boundaries between the two countries, they send the Agreement so that it may be known. As they wish to know of the death, prosperity and appointments of authorities at Ava, they hope that if intelligence is received by the authorities at Moulmein they may be informed of the same.

A true translation from the Burmese

(Signed) W. C. McLeod,

Prinl. Asst. Commissioner.

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No 209 contd.

Formerly in 1196, on Wednesday the 6th of the Waning Moon of Tabodma, Dr. Richardson arrived at Zemmi, being sent by the Commissioner with presents. Dr. Richardson with his interpreter and the owner of the Golden Palace with the Chiefs (whose titles are given) and the Court officers, thirty two in number, co-operated and consulted with each other agreeably to the existing friendship, and that it may stand in force, of which the following are the particulars.

On Dr. Richardson's arrival, so that the two states may be one, he applied for the territory to the westward of the Thoung Yeng. The owner of the Golden Palace and the 32 Court Officers accordingly, in consideration of the friendship, granted [it]. It was settled that should any of the Karens, Tha Nhieng Shans, Young Thor, Kalla, Burmese or Talieng (Inhabitants of Moulmein) cultivate gardens and fields in the jurisdiction of Zemmi, and work for their livelihood, revenue will be received from them, in accordance with the custom of the country, and if Lawa Shans or Karens (Inhabitants of Zemmi) cultivate gardens and fields in the jurisdiction of Moulmein, they are to be taxed according to the custom of the country. If any of the inhabitants of Moulmein wish to take any wood and bamboo from the Shan States, they can do so, likewise the inhabitants of Zemmi, in the jurisdiction of Moulmein; duty to be paid to the Government entitled to it. The duty on wood of 8, 9 and 10 fists is 1 Rupee; of 11, 12 and 13 is 2 Rupees; and of 14, 15 and 16 fists is 3 Rupees. When the inhabitants of Moulmein or Zemmi proceed from one country to the other, as hawkers or merchants with elephants, ponies, buffaloes or bullocks, they are to obtain a stamped permit according to the custom of the Land, specifying the

sex of the persons and the quantity of goods. This is to be strictly done, without which the persons proceeding from one place to another will be apprehended. Those who are proceeding are not to pass on, so as to be out of the sight of guards. If any leave without reporting [to] the guards, they shall be punished agreeably to the rules of the country. On the arrival of any one in the country, it is to be reported to the ruler of the country. In violation of these rules the offenders will be punished according to the laws of the country. It is to be hoped that no Burmese, Taliengs, Tha Nhieng Shans, Toung Thoo or Mo Nai Shans (who are not inhabitants of Moulmein but of Ava) may come to Shan States deceitfully together with the inhabitants of Moulmein. They do not wish those people to come to their country as they are their enemies. If any inhabitants of Moulmein commit crimes at Zemmi, they are to be dealt with agreeably to the laws of the country, likewise at Moulmein, the inhabitants of Zemmi. Should any be deserving of death, the prisoner being first well secured, a reference to be made in a letter to the Court, and after being agreed to by both the authorities, the man is then to be put to death. The above was spoken in the Golden Palace and both parties agreeing made the Agreement. After which again in the year 1199 on the arrival of Captain McLeod at Zemmi, he said that he was proceeding to China, but not having effected his intentions returned to Zemmi; they repeated what had passed with Dr. Richardson to Captain McLeod, who said that it was very well, and another Agreement was made again.

Agreements were made twice.

A true translation from the Burmese.

(Signed) W. C. McLeod,
Prinl. Asst. Commissioner.

Fort William the 31st July 1847,

No. 210.

Additional Instructions to D. Richardson, Esquire.

It having been reported to me by Captain Wm. Warwick, who has lately been employed in cutting timber on the banks of the Thoung Yeen River, that the Shans of Zimmay have been in the habit of exerting authority and levying tribute from the Kayens who, residing south of the Thoung Yeen, are consequently under our jurisdiction, and it appearing that Captain Warwick has taken upon himself without any authority or instructions from me to that effect to prohibit them from so doing, and as I am unaware of the degree of authority which that gentleman may have exerted, I request that on your way to Zimmay you will make yourself acquainted with all the circumstances that have transpired on that frontier.

You will lay down most explicitly the Thoung Yeen River as the boundary between ourselves and the Shans. You will point out to the Shan Officers the danger they will incur, both to their own persons and to the good understanding between the two countries in attempting to exert any the slightest authority on this side the Thoung Yeen. You will also explain that their side of the river is equally inviolate to our people and warn our wood cutters, whoever they may be, that they have not the right of cutting on the other side and can only do so with the permission of the Shan authorities and on payment of such tax as they may impose.

Should you find that Captain Warwick has entered into any arrangement with the local Shan Officers which you may see good ground to disapprove of, you will not hesitate in cancelling it. I do not anticipate that those local officers will give you much trouble or annoyance on the subject, considering that you are on

your way to the seat of their Government, and of course you will enter with them into no arrangement on the subject of duties, which you will reserve till your arrival at Zimmay, and confine yourself merely to explaining both to the Shans and to our people the respective limits of the jurisdictions of the two Governments.

You will forward me a detailed statement of your proceedings in this business before proceeding on your journey.

I have &ca.

(Signed) E. A. Blundell

Commissioner Ten : Provinces.

Moulmein

The 20th December 1834.

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No. 210 contd.

Extract from a letter from E. A. Blundell Esquire, Officiating Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces, dated Moulmein 18th August 1834, to C. E. Trevelyan Esquire, Secretary to Government, Secret and Political Department, Fort William.

* *Not copied.*

Para: 5. Having directed Mr. Richardson to ascertain as far as practicable the feelings with which a post on the Salween, as proposed in Mr. Maingy's report of 31st July* 1833, would be viewed, I take this opportunity of laying before His Honor in Council the result of my enquiries on the subject of our claim to territory on the east bank of the Salween, north of the junction of an inconsiderable stream called the Thoung Yeen with the Salween, which has hitherto been commonly considered our boundary in that direction.

6. This junction is at the highest in Latitude 18°. 30' whereas Mr. Maingy recommend that a post be established in Latitude 19° or still higher if deemed advisable. Mr. Maingy's proposition was grounded on data respecting the Burmese former possessions in that quarter, which were afforded him by Lieut. Coll. Burney, but as the territory north of the Thoung Yeen is now and has been since our war with the Burmese in the possession of the Shans of Laboung and Zimmay, I deem it my duty to bring to the notice of Government all the arguments for and against the measure before adopting the important step of depriving our neighbours of their territory and perhaps turning their present kindly feelings towards us into jealousy and fear of our future encroachments.

7. I do not presume to dispute the accuracy of Lieutenant Colonel Burney's information as to the eastern boundary of the Burmese dominions, once extending beyond the Salween to the chief range of

mountains running north and south throughout the Peninsula, or of their possessing a slip of territory on the east bank of the Salween connecting their possessions bordering on China with those on this coast. Their historical books show this to have been the case, and it is admitted by all from whom enquiries have been made, but it is at the same time admitted that about 60 years ago, the town of Meinloogyee (then called Yoongalien) in which resided apparently the chief authority east of the Salween, was abandoned and the Chief with the whole population withdrawn to Martaban, in consequence of the then superior forces of the Siamese in that direction. The country appears to have remained waste for nearly 20 years after this event, when the Siamese from Zimmay attempted to re-establish the town of Mein Loon Gyn, but were driven out by a force sent from Martaban. A few years after this the Siamese appear to have succeeded in their objects of establishing a town on or near the site of the old one, and from that time forward to have held undisputed possession of the whole strip of territory in question on the east bank of the Salween.

8. In conversation on the subject of boundaries with the Chief of Laboung and Zimmay he asserted to Dr. Richardson that their present possessions extend some distance on the the west bank of the Salween, and that they levy a revenue from Kayens or wild Tribes residing on that side. At all events since the conclusion of the war the Siamese have occupied and levied revenue on the east bank of the Salween, north of the junction of the Thoung Yeen. Their claim to it has never been disputed by us, and there is no evidence forthcoming of the Burmese being in possession of it immediately before the war, far less at its conclusion.

9. That a Post, as recommended by Mr. Maingy, on the banks of the Salween, would be highly advantageous there is no doubt, but under the circumstances above detailed I am very unwilling to establish it

without the express sanction of Government. I am inclined also to think that the chief object of such a post, that of attracting the caravans of Shans and Chinese traders into our territory, may be accomplished by negotiation with the Chiefs of Laboung and Zimmay, and with a Chief of a race of Independent Kayens who hold a tract on each bank of the Salween to the northward, who have never yet been visited by Europeans, and who have sent me messages requesting I would depute an officer to their country. Should it meet with the sanction of Government I am desirous of sending officers to explore the country north of us on each side of the Salween, which I conceive may be done at a very trifling expense and that benefits arising from it would be more than commensurate.

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No. 210 contd.

To E. A. Blundell Esquire,
Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

* *Not copied.*

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor of Bengal to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated the 18th of August and 10th* of February last together with their respective enclosures.

2. The Governor is happy to find that Dr. Richardson's Mission to the Shan Chief of Zimnay and Laboung has been productive of such beneficial consequences, and he trusts that further benefit will result from your having directed that gentlemen to proceed again to the same quarter.

3. Dr. Richardson may be permitted to prolong his stay among the Chiefs if invited by them, and if he should anticipate any advantage from his so doing, and your authority to him to expend the sum of 600 Rupees in presents and to take 50 muskets with him for the same purpose is sanctioned.

4. Without meaning to express any disapprobation of your proceedings the Governor is of opinion that missions into Foreign Countries ought not to be undertaken except on emergency without the previous sanction of the Government.

5. The question of establishing a post on the Salween need not for the present be considered. It is evident from the information furnished in your letter of the 18th August that we have no right whatever to adopt such a measure to the north of the junction of the Thoung Yeen. The Governor considers that information to be most valuable and entitled to his thankful acknowledgments as without it we might

have been led to commit an act of injustice highly
injurious and offensive to friendly neighbours.

(Signed) H. MacNaghten
Secretary to Government of Bengal.

Fort William
23rd March 1835.

India Secret
Consultations,
vol. 137.

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No. 211.

Extracts from Additional Instructions by Mr. Blundell to Lieut. McLeod, dated Maulmain the 23d November 1836.

Para. 5. " You will mention that the Kareans residing south of the Thoung Yeen still complain of the Shan officers calling on them for tribute money. You will not bring this forward as a subject of official complaint, but represent it as a disobedience of orders on the part of their officers which may some day subject those subordinates to serious consequences as these Kareans have been instructed to resist all such payments and to apprehend and send to Moulmein any one that may demand them."

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No. 212.

Extract from a letter from E. A. Blundell Esquire, Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces, dated Moulmein, 20th October 1842, to G. A. Bushby Esquire, Officiating Secretary Government of India, Secret and Political Department, Fort William.

Para : 8. A new channel of trade has within the last year or two been established between this and the Shan states, and it is one of considerable importance to the British nation at large, and which calls for immediate attention. Teak wood is known to exist in very great abundance in various parts of the Shan Territories on the streams tributary to the Thonng Yeen and Salween Rivers. No regular understanding has been entered into between the two Governments relative to this timber finding its way into the Moulmein market further than that a certain trifling duty should be levied by the Chiefs on each tree that is cut. This was sufficient in the infancy of the operation in these forests, when but few people resorted to them, but now that a great number of our subjects are engaged in working these forests, and large sums of money are embarked in such operations, it becomes incumbent on us to form some permanent arrangement to encourage them as much as possible and to protect our subjects who may embark in them.

9. To render this trade of real utility to the British Government and to purchasers at large, and to guard the Shan Government from loss, various minor arrangements are absolutely necessary to be made by the two states. These points can of course only be settled in communications with the Shan Chiefs or Tsobwas when their sentiments are clearly ascertained.

10. I may mention that the agents of the Court of Siam residing here, appear to be endeavouring to interfere with these forests and probably that Court may

design to appropriate the revenues derived from them. In any disputes between Siam and their tributaries on this point, it may be imprudent in us to interfere; but it becomes an object of importance to ascertain how far such disputes are likely to affect our interest and to endeavour to secure the good will of the States to whom the forests actually belong and by whom, so long as we are assured of such good will, the impediments or restraints that may be attempted by the distant though paramount power will be evaded.

11. With reference to a former correspondence on the subject of teak timber and to the probability of Her Majesty's Government deciding on forming a building yard in this place, these teak forests within the Shan States possess great value, and it is most desirable on this and various other accounts that arrangements should be made for working the forests economically and if possible for providing for their renewal in the course of time. These forests are only rendered valuable to the Shans by the demand for timber in the Moulmein market. Without such a vent they are wholly unprofitable to them, and consequently I should not anticipate much difficulty in effecting some arrangement regarding them. We have reason to know that the Chiefs are constantly defrauded of the dues leviable on the trees cut down within their forests. Their establishment for collecting it is insufficient and corrupt and the timber is mostly brought away by our people clandestinely and I am of opinion that the offer of a certain sum per annum, secured by us would induce them to allow us to survey the forests and keep up establishments within them for preservation and renewal. Should His Honor in Council agree to my deputing an officer I request to be favoured with his opinion on the subject of securing to the Shan Chiefs their fair annual revenue and obtaining a local jurisdiction within the forests solely for the purposes of preservation and economy in working them.

12. The trade in piece goods is extensively carried on with the States of Zimmay, Laboung and Lagong. Many of our subjects have settled in those places. Some of these men are however persons of bad character, who having goods on credit here to a large amount proceed to the Shan country and there squander the proceeds of their investments, when litigation takes place and the authorities of those places have endless troubles and are obliged to make constant reference to me. It is much to be feared that the same state of things exists to a great extent in hitherto unvisited States. It is therefore obviously to our interest to have this subject properly investigated and these traders and settlers placed in such a position that our trade may not suffer but be turned to a good account. The consumption of our produce throughout these countries is considerable and I think much benefit will arise by the mission to the respectable traders and further ensure a greater demand for the articles themselves.

13. Another object, and to my mind one of most importance to our commerce, is the overland trade with China. I have already frequently touched on this subject in my reports. When Dr. Richardson was at Zimmay in 1835 and Captain McLeod proceeded to the Chinese frontier in 1837, the numerous caravans of Chinese traders fallen in with, and the authorities on the frontier, expressed a considerable desire to visit Moulmein and there open a direct traffic with us. In 1836 a few of the traders belonging to the caravans which visit Zimmay extended their journey to this, where finding the market most encouraging they promised in spite of the hilly nature of the road to revisit us. Circumstances prevented their performing their promise the following year. In 1838 I had selected a Chinaman who had accompanied Captain McLeod as Interpreter to the frontiers, and dispatched him for the purpose of escorting the

traders down as they had requested, but unfortunately neither he nor his two companions ever reached Zimmay, nor indeed were ever heard of after quitting this province. The consequence was, the traders in a letter expressed their disappointment at not meeting a person from this and have never since made any attempt to reach this.

14. It is suspected that the authorities at Zimmay have indirectly thrown obstacles in the way of caravans coming down. It will be the object of the officer sent on this mission to remove all objection on the part of the Shans and to endeavour to persuade the Chinese to come on. Should this not be feasible he will report on the practicability of forming a fair at some central place near the frontiers or even at Zimmay itself, and at the same time the road will be reported on and the portion of it within our territories may be put into a proper state of repair. I have already on previous occasions stated the advantages of this trade to us; these I shall not repeat but merely observe that I consider it a most desirable thing to be regularly established if possible.

15. The utmost caution will be observed in no way to excite the jealousy and suspicion of any of the States themselves to which the mission proceeds, or of the Court to which they are tributary. The expenses will be trifling considering the important objects in view. Carriage can be supplied generally from the Government Establishment here, and indeed beyond the prices of the presents which I would recommend to be proportionate to the advantage we hope to obtain, and the value of which would probably be covered by that of those received in return, the pay of some Coolies and of the Establishment allowed the officer so deputed, and his expenses, would be all that Government would have to disburse.

Fort William the 31st July 1847.

No. 213.

To J. R. Colvin Esquire,

Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces.

Sir,

* See ante in
this vol.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 12th April * and enclosures, respecting the undetermined boundary between the British territory and Zimmay, tributary of Siam.

2. As at present informed the President in Council is of opinion that the British cannot claim more now than was claimed by Mr. Commissioner Blundell and Dr. Richardson, the latter of whom is stated to have agreed with the authorities of the Shan State of Zimmay to recognise the Thoung Yeen River as their boundary with the British possessions on the Tenasserim Coast. All further proceedings regarding the boundary shall be suspended, but before passing final orders in reply to your present letter, the President in Council will await an inspection of the agreements referred to in para: 3d, and Major McLeod's reply to your application to him on the subject of them.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. A. Bushby

Officiating Secy. to the Govt.

of India.

Fort William
Secret—Foreign Department,
1st July 1847.

Fort William the 28th August 1847.

No. 252.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India
Foreign Department, Fort William.

Sir,

* See vol. 137 of
this series.

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 1st instant* on the subject of the boundary between these Provinces and the Siamese territory, and submit with reference to it copy of a letter to my address of this date from my Principal Assistant Captain Phayre, forwarding a copy of a letter to that officer from Major McLeod.

2. It will be seen from Captain Phayre's letter that no answer has yet been received from the Chief of Zimmay to the request from this place for a copy of any Agreement relative to the boundary that he may have bearing Dr. Richardson's signature. There would be nothing remarkable in this delay, as the correspondence of these petty Chiefs is always irregular and protracted, but it appears to be now most probable from the statements in Major McLeod's letter, that no such formal agreement, as was formally alleged to be at Zimmay really exists.

3. Any further communication on this point, which may be received from Zimmay, shall be duly forwarded to you. But it does not appear to me, with reference to the other parts of Major McLeod's letter, that the absence of such a formal agreement can substantially weaken the claims of the Shan Chiefs to have the Thoongyeen recognized as their boundary, after the repeated declarations or admissions to which I referred in my letter to your address of the 12th* April last, and of which Major McLeod now speaks so strongly.

* See Ditto.

4. Independently of any particular admission the weakness of the claim which has been raised for the British Government in regard to this boundary is the absence of any distinct or ostensible proof that I can find of recent possession by the Burmese of the tract referred to, previously to our conquest of these provinces. I need not remark that we made war against the Burmese in conjunction with the King of Siam, as our friend and ally, and we could therefore with the less propriety, sustain any pretensions as against him to territory over which he has exercised sovereignty without any [?hindrance] till this late dispute on our part, ever since the peace of Yandaboo, and to which we have, as far as I am aware, no other right to plead than such as may rest on some remote and general historical assumptions, and on arguments of supposed clear and natural boundaries, which cannot of course be urged as practically decisive of the limits of territory between states.

5. I take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 27th March last* in connection with this subject.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. R. Colvin

Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces.

Maulmain

The 19th of July 1847.

India Secret
Consultations,
Vol. 138,

No. 253.

Fort William the 28th August 1847.

To J. R. Colvin Esquire

Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces

Sir,

Herewith I have the honor to transmit copy of a letter dated the 1st instant from Major McLeod, late Principal Assistant Commissioner Tenasserim Provinces, relative to the document regarding the boundary between the British possessions and the Siamese Shan States which the Zimmay Chief said he possessed, signed by Dr. Richardson and Major McLeod.

2. No answer has ever been received to the letter I, by your directions, addressed to the Zimmay Chief on the 19th April last requesting an exact copy of the above alleged document.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. P. Phayre,

Principal Assistant Commissioner.

Maulmain

The 19th July 1847.

Fort William 13th September 1841.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 195,
Vol. 62

The Honble. S. G. Bonham Esquire.

Sir,

The Success arrived at this bar on Friday night last, making a passage of seven days. On my arrival I immediately wrote the Praklang acquainting him of the arrival of the son of the Ex Raja of Keddah. It being neap tides and blowing hard from the south, I had no answer till this morning when he sent a verbal message, saying he had sent orders to Paknam that if the winds lulled they were to fetch him from the ship in an accommodation boat, but that if it continued to blow so hard he had better remain on board until the springs and come in with the ship. He also sent an assurance that he would be well received at Bangkok, and I have not the slightest doubt but that every thing will accord with your wishes.

I see Hunter's cutter coming out and will get him to write to you.

I am &c.

(Signed) J. P. Triggs.

Success, Siam Bar,
11th July 1841.

Fort William, 23d August 1841.

No. 7.

To Governor, Eastern Settlements,
Singapore and Penang.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 1st July.*

* See ante.

2. I am desired in reply to state that the Governor General in Council approves the advance made by you to Tuanku Dye, the son of the Ex Chief of Quedah, to enable him to proceed with his cousin to Bangkok there to petition for the restoration of the District of Quedah to the family.

3. The Governor General in Council concurs with you in thinking that the Court of Siam will be glad to receive the submission of the exiled family, and that an arrangement may not improbably result from the son's visit to the capital, which will prevent disturbances of the kind twice experienced under the attempts to govern Quedah by Siamese officers. It will be a source of much satisfaction to the Governor General in Council to hear that the Ex Chief so obtains restoration to the ancient possessions of his family; and it seems to His Lordship in Council that the end will be more likely to be attained by not displaying on the part of the British Government any unnecessary anxiety on the subject, or offering mediation or the guarantee of any terms.

4. The Governor General in Council thinks you acted quite right in refusing to accede to the Ex Chief's request for permission to proceed to Penang, to be more near the territory to which he desires to be restored. Such a movement would have been more likely to excite suspicions than to assist the negotiation which it is desired to promote.

5. The fact that the Siamese have found it necessary to place Quedah under the management of Malay Chiefs is a circumstance rightly deemed by you favorable to the views of the Ex Chief, as it shows the disposition of the Court not to be adverse to the principle of governing the Malays by their own Chiefs. But it may be necessary to caution the Ex Rajah against opening correspondence with the Malay administrators, taking any step likely to bring them under suspicion of collusion and to cause their removal and a change of system. His Lordship in Council trusts soon to hear from you of the reception given to the two Chiefs sent to Siam.

I have the honor &ca.

(Signed) T. H. Maddock
Secretary to Government of India.

Fort William
the 23d August 1841.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 196,
Vol. 14.

Fort William the 22d June 1842.

No. 12.

To T. H. Maddock Esquire
Secretary to Government
Fort William.

Sir,

* See same Range
195, Vol. 61.

With reference to my letter of the 1st July * last and your reply of the 23d August * it now affords me great satisfaction in being able to forward for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council translation of a letter to my address from the Praklang, the Minister for Foreign Affairs for Siam, by which it will be seen to a certain extent, the object of the visit of Tuanku Dye to Bangkok has been successful.

* This letter does
not appear to exist.

2. By this opportunity a box containing a letter on the same subject from the Praklang to the address of the Honorable Mr. Prinsep * is also forwarded to Calcutta. This letter is not quite so comprehensive as that which was sent to me. In the letter to Mr. Prinsep the Praklang says, *the King has given his permission for the Ex Rajah to return to Kedah.* In the letter to my address it is stated "The great Emperor has therefore directed that the country of Keddah shall be divided into three parts and that the Government of these shall be bestowed on such Malays as His Majesty shall deem worthy of his confidence. This resolution has been communicated to Tuanku Dye," the Ex King, "and also in a letter to the Chou Phya and also that the mighty Emperor has been graciously pleased to permit the Chau Phya to return to Keddah and reside there." In neither of these letters therefore is it distinctly stated that it is the intention of the King of Siam to place the Ex Rajah in charge of Keddah, but from Tuanku Dye, who proceeded to Siam

to negotiate for his father's return to Keddah, I am informed there is no doubt of the Ex Rajah being reinstated after his arrival in that country.

3. The Praklang proceeds to observe that from the altered circumstances under which Keddah will now be placed in consequence of the King's determination to sanction the Ex Rajah's return to his country, the 13th Article of Captain Burney's Treaty of June 1826, ratified by the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council on the 17th January 1827 will be inapplicable and requests therefore that it may be expunged. It is the particular article in the treaty that has caused so much confusion, as from its provisions the British Government has considered itself bound to assist Siam whenever Keddah has been attacked by the Malays under the auspices of the Ex Rajah or any of his family, while the corresponding stipulations in our favor, however necessary they may have been at the time the Treaty was concluded, are now and for many years have been entirely useless in every respect.

4. I have just received from the Ex Rajah the letter addressed to him from Bangkok already adverted to. In it it is stated that the Siamese Government intends to divide Keddah into four parts, giving to the Ex-Raja that portion which is by far the most valuable and which includes the fort and town of Keddah, where the Ex Rajah resided previously to his being driven therefrom in 1821. The letter also states that the Governor of Singora will be dispatched to fix the boundaries of the division to be thus allotted. In these letters there are obviously considerable discrepancies, but from them all it is certain that the Siamese Government are desirous of expunging the 13th article of the treaty, which, as already observed, has been on many occasions found inconvenient to us and that it is intended that the Ex Rajah shall be permitted to have at least by far the

most valuable portion of the territory over which he formerly presided.

5. Under these circumstances I venture respectfully to report that I conceive the propositions of the Praklang should be forthwith complied with and the article XIII of the Treaty be declared void.

6. In my former letters I have declared it my opinion that Siam will never be of any avail to us in any dispute in which the British Government may be involved with Burma, and that at no time can there be any reasonable cause of alarm from her; at this time in particular, by reason of the position of affairs in China, she is more than ever in fear of our Government, and it would therefore, if the Government consider it expedient to do so, be a fitting opportunity, when acknowledging the Praklang's letter to enforce generally on the Siamese Government that as the Keddah country has always been in alliance with Prince of Wales Island, the British Government expects that Keddah will in future be treated precisely in the same way as are Salengore and Perak, with the exception that the Rajah of Keddah shall invariably every three years send to Siam the Boonga Mas as has heretofore been invariably the custom, and to this arrangement I have little doubt the Siamese Government will at once accede, at all events by its silence if not directly.

7. Presuming that there can be no doubt of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council approving of the Ex Rajah returning to Keddah I shall forthwith write to him that he has the permission of Government to proceed to Prince of Wales Island, where he can remain until the necessary preliminaries have been adjusted for his return to Keddah.

8. I should at this particular juncture wish to be at Penang, as my going over to Keddah and giving to

the Rajah's restoration a little *éclat* might possibly tend to prevent any minute interference with the Rajah hereafter, but from this I am precluded until I can ascertain if the means will be afforded me of proceeding to Borneo, as it appears to be in the contemplation of the Government that I should do; as also from expecting the arrival of the reinforcements for China from England and India, at which period, if possible, I am desirous of being here.

9. The necessary communications on the subject will be made to the Resident Councillor at Penang, and I feel satisfied that arrangements for the reinstatement of the Ex Rajah in that portion of Keddah which the Siamese have allotted to him will be effected without any trouble or inconvenience.

10. The expense incurred in procuring a passage for Tuanku Dye and his followers from Bankok on his return to the Straits amounts to 500 dollars, a sum that he was totally unprepared to meet, and as he went with the knowledge and sanction of the British Government and his mission has proved tolerably successful, I have caused this sum to be paid from the public treasury, to which disbursement I have respectfully to solicit the sanction of His Lordship in Council.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) S. G. Bonham

Governor of Prince of Wales

Island, Singapore and Malacca.

Singapore

18th March 1842

Fort William the 22d June 1842.

No. 13.

Translation of a letter from the Chow Phriya Phra Klang Senabodi, High Minister at the Court of Phra Maha Nakhon Sri Ayodia, or Siam.

To the Honorable Mr. Bonham

Governor of Pulo Penang, Singapore and Malacca.

With friendly greeting.

* Blank space.

A letter has been received by the presence from Mr. Bonham which was transmitted by Mr. Hunter regarding Tuanku Dye * Dall for whom Mr. Bonham expresses very friendly feelings. It also appears from the letter that Mr. Bonham had learned that Tuanku Anoon had gone to Siam to negotiate regarding the Keddah affairs, and Mr. Bonham requested that so soon as the consultations were over Tuanku Dall might be sent back quickly. It was further suggested (by Mr. Bonham) that since the Keddah country is small, the (Ex Rajah) Chow Phrya should be restored to its government to remain there, as of old, so that friendly relations may remain between the two great countries England and Siam.

Further it was stated in that letter that in the preceding year a Cochin Chinese vessel trading to Singapore had been seized by the (English) Commander of a Siamese vessel, for which proceeding no reason had been assigned, and it was requested that in future no vessels trading in the same manner should be seized, because should they be seized the Cochin Chinese might molest English vessels trading to their country in retaliation, and that the Siamese might thus be suspected, and be involved in disputes. It was also requested that the Chinese who were in the above vessel should be released to return to their families at Singapore and that the same proceeding

regarding Chinese might be attended to on all future occasions.

There are many other matters also to be discussed in this letter.

The Chow Phriya of Keddah has submitted to the Court a humble petition to be allowed to stay in Keddah. The first letter was transmitted via Songkla (Singora) and another via Ligor. When letters were received by the Ministers, they could not produce them before the presence until the relations of the Chow Phriya should have arrived to supplicate in person. Since then the Chow Phriya has sent Tuanku Dall and Tuanku Mahomed Akil with a supplication letter to the presence exhibiting submission and with many protestations of grief and regret for the past, begging to be again received under the gracious protection of his Majesty of Siam, and to be allowed to return to and live in Keddah and further promising to pay to Siam the Gold and Silver flowers according to former usage.

The Ministers at the capital taking all these things into consideration have gladly presented to the Emperor the letters of Mr. Bonham and of the Chau Phriya, and have also presented Tuanku Dall and Tuanku Mahomed Akel. These two persons have prostrated themselves at the feet of the great Emperor, the munificent. Thus the Emperor has been acquainted with every thing.

The Emperor accordingly instructed his Ministers to take the Chau Phriya's affairs into their consideration.

The Ministers accordingly held a Council and they brought under their review all that had happened regarding Keddah affairs from the year of the Large Snake 1182 upwards.

At the above date the Chau Phriya of Ligor went

to the presence and reported that the wild tribes of the frontiers had informed him that the Burmese intended invading Lower Siam.

His Majesty then directed the Chau Phriya of Ligor to proceed and assemble the forces of the Lower Provinces of Siam to defend them against the anticipated aggression, and that Chief did as he had been ordered, and all these countries with the single exception of Keddah were prepared for defence, which country could not be depended on but was refractory and not to be trusted.

In the year of Hare when the gold and silver flowers should have been sent from Keddah to Siam they were kept back, and the Chau Phriya of Keddah had left Keddah Fort and had gone to reside at Mirbow River and would not return to Keddah. At this time Tuanku Mom behaved deceitfully (in regard to the Ex Rajah) and insinuated to the Court of Siam that the Chau Phriya of Keddah was not well disposed towards it, and not to be trusted, and further that he had dispatched the Chief or Nakodah Si Amang to Ava with overtures to the Court there, and requesting that His Majesty of Ava would detach a force to invade the territory of Siam. Further that the people of Keddah would not join the Chau Phriya of Ligor against the Burmans on account of the above negotiations with Ava. Further that should the Burmans actually invade Singora and Ligor and other places, the Chau Phriya of Ligor would have great difficulty in resisting at all points. Thus the Chau Phriya of Ligor, finding that he could not depend on the Chau Phriya of Keddah, solicited that the Emperor would allow him to go to Keddah, and settle affairs there, and this particularly because, as he represented, this province is bounded by the sea on the west and its coasts lie very conveniently for descents on it by the Burmese, while on the other hand its ports are equally convenient for the fitting

out of fleets of Siamese boats to oppose Burman armaments. So the Chau Phriya of Ligor was sent back from the Court to Ligor. From this place he in the year Maseng 3 tri sok proceeded to Keddah, which was then in confusion. The Chau Phriya was residing at the River Mirbow and (on learning the approach of the Siamese) he fled to Pulo Penang.

Such being the state of affairs, the Chau Phriya of Ligor was constrained to put his own son Phra Phakdee Borirak in possession of the part of the Government of Keddah. This happened in the year of the snake (Trisok).

In the year of the monkey (Chosok) the great Emperor of Siam died and was succeeded by one of the Royal family.

Now the Ex Chau Phriya of Keddah being found obstinate and disrespectful, he would not submit to the wishes and orders of the Emperor, nor would he transmit any written acknowledgments of his submission. Instead of doing all this his sons and adherents and relatives invaded Keddah on three several occasions. The first invasion was that of Tuanku Abdullah, the second was that of Tuanku Long Puteh, and the third armament went under Tuanku Kudin. When the Chau Phriya of Ligor heard that the Chau Phriya of Keddah was collecting forces or concerting to assemble forces from the countries of Perak and of Salengore to invade Keddah, he sent intelligence to the Court of Siam, and requested instructions how to act, and to be allowed to prevent these forces being so collected.

In the year of the Monkey (Chosok) the English invaded Ava, and took possession of Tavoy and Mergui and Tannao (in Tenasserim). At this period the Chau Phriya of Bengal (the Governor General) directed Captain Burney to visit Siam as Envoy to treat with

the Court there. That officer first arrived at Penang, where he was informed that the Chau Phriya of Ligor was then in Keddah, with the intention of punishing Perak and Salengore by invading them. Upon this he, Captain Burney, accompanied by Mr. Maingy of Penang visited the Chau Phriya of Ligor at Keddah, and expostulated with him regarding his projected invasion of these countries as they said that the Penang traders would be thereby annoyed, at the same time saying that the Chau Phriya of Keddah would not be allowed to molest Keddah.

After three years had passed the Chau Phriya of Ligor found that the Chau Phriya of Keddah would not go and with due submission humbly sue for pardon (of the Emperor).

The English agreed that the Chau Phriya of Keddah should not molest or invade Keddah.

The Rajah of Ligor therefore brought Keddah directly under Siamese management just as Mergui and Tavoy are wholly English.

So Phra Phakdee Borirak was fixed in the Government of Keddah according to Siamese custom, and the projected invasion of Perak and Salengore were given up.

The Chau Phriya of Ligor and Captain Burney, after the consultations at Keddah, proceeded towards the capital of Siam and the latter touched at Ligor in the way to accompany the Chau Phriya of Ligor.

At the Capital Captain Burney concluded a treaty betwixt the Siamese and the English nations which contains fourteen articles. There are six other subsidiary articles regarding the trade of large and small vessels.

As before noticed the Chau Phriya of Ligor had installed Phra Phakdi Borirak in the Government

of Keddah. This was in the year of the Fowl (Sattasok). This Governor administered the Government of Keddah for six years and until the year of the hare (tri sok). Then Tuanku Kudin invaded Keddah where he died. The Chau Phriya of Ligor came to the assistance of the Siamese with an army and the Governor of Penang sent a war vessel to blockade the mouth of the river and peace and order were restored. Six years after these events and while the Siamese Government above named was yet in authority Tuanku Mahomed Sand conspired with the Keddah people and invaded that country with an army. Upon this Mr. Bonham sent again a vessel of war to blockade the mouth of the river and all the people there became distressed for provisions and supplies, and there was much fighting and loss of life amongst the Malays. Desperation ensued, and the country suffered devastation. Thus frequently have the Malays of Keddah conspired to expel the Siamese and restore their own Chiefs. After Keddah had been again freed from rebellion the Emperor of Siam came to the resolution of governing it by means of Malayan officers as the best mode of preventing a recurrence of such scenes. For it appeared to His Majesty that the religion, the laws and the customs of Siam were quite distinct from those of the Malaya, and that like oil and water they could not be amalgamated. Besides it seemed that Keddah had almost reverted to jungle which could not be desirable.

His Majesty has also been ever desirous that his people who inhabit the outskirts of the Empire should be freed from anarchy and live in peace. His Majesty therefore directed his General, *Si Phiphat*, and also the Chau Phriya of Ligor to confer together and to select Malays of respectability and ability and who might be trusted in order that they might be placed in authority in Keddah. But before the conferences could be concluded the Chau Phriya died.

This His Majesty directed to be done because the Malays knew each others customs and therefore there would be less chance of rebellion.

Subsequently the above named general went to Keddah and placed Tuanku Annoom in authority over it as the Emperor reposed confidence in him and Tuanku Hassain was appointed to assist him in the Government. Now the Chau Phriya (the Ex Rajah) has sent Tuanku Dall and Tuanku Mahomed Akil with a submissive letter begging to be restored to the Government of Keddah, and promising to present the gold and silver flowers as tokens of his submission according to old usage, so that by means of the Emperor's power he may enjoy repose; and Tuanku Dall has acquainted the Emperor that the Chau Phriya is now residing in the Company's territory, and is unhappy and in difficulties.

The Ministers moreover have represented in the presence that the Chau Phriya has become contrite and has become of another mind, and that he has sent his son and grandson to explain all.

His Majesty's Ministers have therefore solicited him to compassionate the Chau Phriya of Keddah and to allow him as of old to go and reside there, and that under the circumstances adverted to that a letter should be sent to Mr. Bonham to acquaint him with what has been detailed in this letter respecting past events.

The great Emperor has therefore directed that the country of Keddah shall be divided into three parts and that the Government of these shall be bestowed on such Malays as his Majesty shall deem worthy of confidence. This resolution has been communicated to Tuanku Dall and also in a letter to Chau Phriya; and also that the mighty Emperor has been graciously pleased to permit the Chau Phriya to return to Keddah and reside there.

* Moreover the 13th article of the Treaty of Bankok runs thus (there the article is copied in, but with the following omissions and mistakes. Where the Siamese engage to remain in Keddah the words "and to take proper care of it" are omitted. "Pry" in Province Wellesley is written "Chrai," which signifies Keddah : instead of Siamese, Chinese, and other Asiatics, it is written Siamese Malays and Chinese.)

This article His Majesty of Siam hopes may be expunged so that both of the great countries of Siam and of the English may be for ever united by friendly relations.

A letter has been transmitted to the Governor-General of Bengal regarding the 19th* clause which it is requested Mr. Bonham will obligingly forward.

Tuanku Dall and Tuanku Mahomed Akel have returned in Luang Pathel's vessel on Wednesday the 15th of the third month.

* There is apparently an omission here.

In regard to the request of Mr. Bonham that captains of Siamese vessels may be prevented from seizing trading vessels returning from the new country (Singapore) to Cochin China* are enemies of the Siamese, and as the English and Siamese are on such friendly footing that the conduct of them both may be misrepresented and the Siamese be suspected. Now his Excellency is ever cautious to give no cause for umbrage to the nations with whom he is in amity. When any country is offended with another country or has cause to suspect it then enquiries are made, and if these do not prove satisfactory that country is attacked. The Emperor ordered the Commander of the ship Chinda Doung Kea to overhaul all Cochin Chinese vessels and to enquire as to their affairs, destination &c.

In the 4th month of the year of the Rat the captain of this ship seized a Cochin Chinese vessel at the Island of Oolooley off the coast of Sai Nejon

and took prisoner eight Cochin Chinese and four Chinese, and the Captain reported that at the time the wind was strong so that his people only took a few loose articles which were lying about the deck and then set fire to the vessel and returned.

In the 6th month of the year of the bull (tri sok) the same Captain fell in with a Cochin Chinese vessel off the coast of Calantan in which were some Chinese and two Cochin Chinese and that after detaining them some time for the purpose of making enquiries she was dismissed without molestation.

This His Majesty considered the proper mode of proceeding betwixt the two countries.

Mr. Bonham desires that trading prahus or vessels passing from Singapore to Cochin China may not be molested because the English might possibly impute blame to the Siamese.

If the captains of Siamese vessels do not detain Chinese vessels for the mere purpose of making enquiries regarding the Cochin Chinese affairs, as to whether the intentions of that nation be warlike or otherwise, then Siam would not be prepared if necessary for the defence of the mouths of the rivers against any invasion by the Cochin Chinese. Such vessels therefore should be brought to as heretofore.

Further the Commanders of Siamese vessels have been ordered not to detain any vessels which they may meet within the English bounds.

When English vessels [go] to Cochin China they should be provided with English papers so that should they meet with Siamese ships there may be no hindrance to their voyage.

The four Chinese who were seized opposite to Sai Ugon were a man of Hok Ean, one Khe and two of Canton.

These men had gone to reside at Singapore and went afterwards on a trading voyage to Cochin China. One of these men was drowned at Bangkok, the remaining three have been at Mr. Bonham's request sent back to Singapore.

This letter has been written in duplicate, one copy being in the Siamese and the other in the Malayan language, upon Wednesday, in the third month, on the 15th day of the month in the year of the Bull (Tri sok) and of the Siamese Era 1203 (corresponding to the 19th January 1842.)

A true translation by me from the Siamese Copy.

(Signed) James Low,

Major,
Assistant Resident.

Singapore
The 9th March 1842.

Fort William the 22d June 1842.

No. 14.

Note by the Honorable Mr. H. T. Prinsep.

The accompanying letters were yesterday delivered at my house in a packing case containing the wooden trays or leaves enveloped in silk which are the usual covers of a state letter from Siam.

The Prah Klang of that Court has been in the habit of addressing all his letters nominally to me since I signed the letter carried to Bangkok by Mr. Crawford in 1823. But Mr. Bonham has apparently a special reason for sending them in this demi official form, rather than with an official report to the Secretary, because it would seem that he regards the favorable issue of the negotiations which the Ex Rajah of Queda sent his son to Bangkok to institute for a restoration of his country to be owing in a great degree to the good offices of Mr. Hunter, an English trader, who has long resided at that capital, and is possessed of much influence at the Court.

Mr. Bonham refers to a demi official correspondence that passed between himself and me in 1837/38, at a time when the last Malay rising against the Siamese was recently suppressed.

That rising was occasioned by the oppressions and mismanagement of the Siamese administration and ended in this Government's authorizing the Governor of Singapore to communicate to the Court of Siam its resolution of not again to assist actively in suppressing revolts that might have their origin in similar causes.

It was during and at the close of these transactions that Mr. Bonham represented demi officially that the Siamese were beginning to be aware of the cost and difficulties they must encounter in the attempt to

convert Queda into a province of Siam and were disposed to change their feeling and appoint Malay Governors more or less connected with the old family. He thought this opportunity a good one for an attempt to procure the restoration of the Ex Rajah on his old terms of fealty and asked me whether the Government were disposed to hold out to Mr. Hunter the prospect of some personal remuneration if the object could be effected through his influence. I was authorized by the President in Council to whom I of course communicated this correspondence to write to Mr. Bonham that the Government would consider the sum of two or three thousand dollars well laid out if so important an object could be brought about at such a cost, and that he might freely assure Mr. Hunter of remuneration to that extent in case of his being able to procure the Ex Rajah's restoration to Quedah. The Governor General, Lord Auckland, who was then in the North West Provinces approved and confirmed this measure, participating entirely in the wish to see the affairs of Quedah brought to such a consummation. Mr. Bonham did in consequence enter into correspondence with Mr. Hunter, but nothing it was found could then be effected, the [blank] of the Courts of Siam requiring that the Ex Rajah should make his submission unconditionally as a preliminary to any terms with him.

The change of policy however in the administration of Queda did take place, and in the course of the past year when the Siamese vessel Success came to Singapore, the Ex Raja, thinking the disposition of the Court of Siam to be favorable, sent up his son and nephew to Bankok with the full assent and some pecuniary aid from Mr. Bonham, whose proceedings are entirely approved by this Government. That [blank] has it seems resulted in the propositions to our Government contained in this letter of the Phrah Klang to my address, and in the arrangement by which the Ex Rajah is to be restored to part of his old ter-

ritory, the rest being placed by administration in the hands of his relatives who are now in power there.

The letter of the Prah Klang contains a distinct renunciation of the 13th article of Captain now Colonel Burney's treaty with Siam, which article has been the subject of much discussion and the deliverance from the obligations of which has been much wished.

The long and able paper of Colonel Burney recently received from the Court of Directors* will fully explain the circumstances under which this article was agreed to. That officer will however himself be rejoiced to hear that its abrogation is about to take place through the unlooked for event of the Ex Rajah's restoration to the country of his ancestors.

** Search has been made for this paper without result. Its receipt is recorded in the Court Minutes of the Company, but the document itself is not forthcoming.*

With this question however I have at present no immediate concern. I write this now merely to confirm the statement of Mr. Bonham as to the authority given to him in 1837/38 to offer remuneration to Mr. Hunter for the purpose of procuring what has now been happily effected and therefore to support his proposition that the acknowledgment then offered shall now be given, since it appears that the success of Tuanku Dye's mission has been mainly owing to Mr. Hunter's influence and exertions in its favour.

(Signed) H. T. Prinsep

Calcutta

23d April 1842.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 196,
Vol. 17.

Fort William the 22d June 1842

No. 15.

To

Lt. Col. Burney.

Sir,

* See ante 18 March
1842.

I am directed by the Honorable the President in Council to transmit to you the enclosed original despatch* from the Governor of the Eastern State-ments respecting negotiations now in progress for the restoration of Keddah to the Ex Rajah, and as a consequence of that event the cancelment of the 13th article of the Siam Treaty of 1826 concluded under your superintendence, with the request of His Highness in Council that you will be pleased to favor me, for the information of Government with any remarks of yours upon the subject.

2. You are requested to return these documents with your reply.

I have the honour &c.

(Signed) G. A. Bushby
Officiating Secretary to the
Government of India.

Fort William
the 27th April 1842.

Fort William the 22d June 1842.

No. 16

To G. A. Bushby Esqr.,
Officiating Secretary to the
Government of India, Political Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
 * *See ante.* your letter under date the 27th instant,* transmitting
 to me an original dispatch from the Governor of the
 * *do.* Eastern Settlements dated 18th ultimo,* respecting a
 negotiation now in progress for the restoration of
 Keddah to the Ex Rajah, and I lose no time in sub-
 mitting, for the information of His Honor in Council,
 such observations as occur to me upon this subject
 and on the proposition made by the Court of Siam for
 cancelling the 13th article of the Siam Treaty of 1826
 which was concluded under my superintendence.

2. I beg to remind His Honor in Council that
 this is not the first time that the Siamese have pro-
 posed to the Ex Rajah to return to Keddah. In the
 year 1824 he received a formal invitation to this effect
 from the Rajah of Ligore, but he wisely determined
 upon not accepting it unless the Government of Prince
 of Wales Island became a party to it, and on that
 Government taking up the matter, the Siamese drop-
 ped it, exciting a strong suspicion at the time that the
 invitation was only a Siamese stratagem to allure the
 Ex Rajah into their power.

3. The present invitation however is, in all pro-
 bability, an honest one. Those who were most inter-
 ested in the direct occupation of Keddah by the Siamese,
 the Wang-na, or Crown Prince at the capital, and his
 uncle, the Rajah of Ligore, are both dead, and Keddah
 has been so laid waste and destroyed by repeated
 attacks of Malays that the Court of Siam must be

sensible its only chance of deriving any benefit from the country will be by allowing the Malays to govern it again. Yet I should think promises and engagements must have been made by Tuanku Dye to the Siamese Court, before it would agree to restore to its confidence his father, the Ex Rajah, and perhaps the Government of India will require more information on the point before it adopt Mr. Bonham's recommendation and openly becomes a party in this negotiation, by making arrangements for conveying the Ex Rajah to Keddah, and for his proper reinstatement there, in such portion of the country as the Siamese may have allotted to him.

4. There is no doubt that if Mr. Bonham's recommendation be adopted the British Government will gain in reputation among the Eastern States. But His Honor in Council will perhaps consider that any such interference on our part may not end with the pleasing ceremony of escorting the Ex Rajah to Keddah. We may be made responsible for his future safety and good conduct, and in fact committed to ulterior procedures. Before we act therefore, we ought to take care to ascertain clearly and precisely, the terms and footing on which the Ex Rajah is to be replaced in Keddah.

5. The present Bugis State of Salengore is wholly independent of Siam, the Chief never having acknowledged her supremacy or sent her the *Boonga Mas*. The State of Perak has also been relieved from every kind of Siamese interference or connexion since the year 1827. When therefore Mr. Bonham proposes that we should "enforce generally on the Court of Siam" that the British Government expects that Keddah will in future be treated "precisely in the same way as Salangore and Perak" with the exception that the Rajah of Keddah shall send, triennially, the *Boonga Mas* to Siam, he means, I presume, that

in spite of the well known token of subjection and dependence on the part of the Rajah, the Siamese shall in future on no account nor in any manner, interfere with the government of Keddah or the conduct of the Rajah, nor derive from them any advantage whatever, beyond a gold or silver flower triennially, of the value of about 100 Spanish dollars.

6. I do not believe that the Court of Siam has the most distant idea of allowing the Ex Rajah to return to Keddah on such terms, and I think if the Government of India intend that he shall be replaced in this manner, it will be but just and will prevent future misunderstanding, to make a communication to this effect to the Court of Siam, in more clear and decided language than Mr. Bonham proposes to do. It is not on the side of Siam that I should anticipate any difficulties or inconveniences likely to follow such a step on our part. He is too well aware of our superiority to attempt to dispute or counteract any determination of the British Government and therefore we might go farther and put a stop also to the transmission of the *Boonga Mas* from Keddah. But in adopting such a line of proceeding we must be prepared to take an active part in the interior affairs of Keddah, and to such interference I must own objections have been shown, particularly in a letter addressed by Mr. John Crawford to Mr. Secretary Swinton on the 31st May 1824.* Besides the arrangement now proposed by the Siamese of subdividing Keddah may entail other evils: the Rajah will naturally enough endeavour to recover possession of the whole of his former territory. He and the Chiefs placed by the Siamese over the other two or three divisions of the country will differ and intrigue with each other and with Siam, opening a door for the interference of the latter. Our reputation will require that the Chief whom we had the *éclat* of reinstating shall be protected and maintained in his territory.

* *J. Notes towards a treaty—Factory Records, Str: Setts Vol. 99.*

But admitting the force of all these objections it cannot be denied on the other hand, that the Straits Government since the year 1830, have been interfering in Keddah, and with military operations to a great degree, quite as much, perhaps, as it could be necessary under any arrangement we might make for the benefit of our old ally, the Malay Chief of Keddah.

7. As the proposition for cancelling the 13th article of the Treaty of 1826 has emanated from the Court of Siam, I suspect that it contemplates some advantage to itself from such annulment, and I am confirmed in my suspicion when I observe that the Siamese Minister, in reciting this article in his letter to Mr. Bonham, omits the clause which stipulates that Siam shall take proper care of Keddah and its people, and which gives us the right of interfering at any time to prevent the adoption of any measures we may regard as injurious to Keddah or its inhabitants. The circumstances of the Ex Rajah being restored to Keddah will of itself annul the only clause in that article from which any inconvenience has been experienced by us; that requiring us not to permit the Rajah or his followers to go and attack or molest Keddah, or any other territory subject to Siam. But this inconvenience arose entirely from an erroneous construction which the Government of the Eastern Settlements put upon that clause. I shall not trouble His Honor in Council with a repetition in this place of the history and purport of that clause, as I have already explained them and pointed out the misapprehension of the Straits Government in the 83d, 98th, 99th and 100th paragraphs of a letter which I addressed on the 31st July last* to the Secretary of the Honorable the Court of Directors, and a copy of which I understand has been forwarded to the Government of India.

* See ante for a note on the non-discovery of this document.

8. I conceive however that if the Rajah returns to Keddah under the authority of Siam, all the other

clauses in the 13th article of the Treaty ought to continue in force. The Rajah will no doubt be accompanied or followed to Keddah by a large portion of the 25,000 or 30,000 of his former subjects, who emigrated into our territory of Province Wellesley, and the several clauses binding Siam to govern Keddah properly, stipulating for a perfect freedom of trade and intercourse between Keddah and Prince of Wales Island, and an unrestricted exportation of provisions and supplies from the former to the latter places, requiring fair and proper import duties to be levied in Keddah, without any of those injurious monopolies at the mouths of the different rivers which the Rajah formerly maintained, will all again become useful and necessary.

9. Strong arguments may certainly be adduced in favor of the Government of India now assuming a high tone in order to give peace and tranquillity to Keddah and the Straits of Malacca, and benefit our old ally the Ex Rajah, and the admissions in the letter of the Siamese Minister himself to Mr. Bonham may furnish us, I think, with grounds for insisting upon the Siamese Court now adopting the proposition we made to it in the year 1825. But the Government of India will decide whether the advantages will be an equivalent for the inconveniences likely to attend such a humane and popular course of policy, or whether the inconveniences will be greater than those which we have already experienced through a misapprehension on the part of the Straits Government of the clause in the 13th article of the Treaty of Siam. If the Government of India decide against dictating to Siam a proper adjustment of the affairs of Keddah, I still think we should not afford our sanction to this injudicious subdivision of the country, nor become a party to replacing the Ex Rajah over a portion only of his territory, in the loose and indefinite manner now proposed by the Siamese Court;

and in this view of the case our best course will perhaps be the following. His Highness may be told to accept or otherwise, on his own responsibility, the offer now made to him by the King of Siam to return and reside in Keddah, and the Straits Government desired to take no part in the matter beyond advancing the Rajah a small loan of money and some military stores, if he requires them. At the same time, the Government of the Eastern Settlements may send a reply to the letter from the Siamese Minister, stating that the Ex Rajah is at full liberty to proceed and accept the King of Siam's offer whenever he pleases, and that the circumstance of his now having been restored to the favor of the King of Siam and invited to return and reside in Keddah does of itself annul that clause in the 13th article of the Treaty which required the British Government not to allow him and his followers to go and attack or disturb Keddah, but that there is no reason why any of the other clauses in that article should be annulled, and that accordingly, the British Government will consider all these as still in full force.

10. I beg to return the original documents enclosed in your letter.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) H. Burney.

Lieut. Col. 68 N. I.

Calcutta

30th April 1842.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 196,
Vol. 14.

Fort William the 22d June 1842.

No. 20.

To T. H. Maddock Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India
Fort William

Sir,

* *Not copied.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 28th February* and its enclosures from the Honorable Court of Directors relative to the capture of Tuanku Mahomed Saad, and in reply I beg to forward copy of the correspondence which took place between Mr. Salmond, the Resident Councillor at Penang, and Mr. Stewart on the subject, previously to the gun boat Diana being sent in search of that marauder, together with a letter from Mr. Salmond, explaining the circumstances attending it. I also forward a paper containing the examination of Mr. Stewart* touching the subject matter, and which I thought it advisable Mr. Church, the Resident Councillor at Singapore, should conduct.

* *Not copied.*

2. It appears that immediately after the details of the trial were published, Mr. Salmond, on seeing that portion which the Honorable Court have considered it desirable should be enquired into, called Mr. Stewart and questioned him in the presence of Major Low, at that time stationed at Penang, on the discrepancy between the evidence he had given before the Court, and what was really the fact, when Mr. Stewart in Major Low's presence made a statement which was taken down and sent to me by Mr. Salmond, in a demi official shape, but as Mr. Salmond's note was written under some excitement I did not think it necessary to forward it for the information of Government, especially as I felt personally satisfied from the instructions issued by Mr. Salmond, and Mr. Stewart's statement, that Tuanku Mahomed Saad had

not been inveigled by any false promises to give himself up, but has been induced to do so solely because he could not escape, the Rajah of Perak, in whose country he had taken refuge and who had been written to on the subject, having directed him to remove from the Perak Territory, which he could not do in consequence of the Government gun boats being at the entrance of the river for the purpose of capturing him.

* *Omitted.*

A memo of Mr. Stewart's statement made in the presence of Major Low is herewith enclosed* and bears the signature of that gentleman, the general accuracy of which has, within a few days, been admitted in my presence by Mr. Stewart.

3. Mr. Church in his letter to me says that he has examined Mr. Stewart both in the English and Malayan language. This became necessary from its being clear that Mr. Stewart's knowledge of the English language is imperfect. Mr. Salmond in his letter makes a nearly similar observation, and as Mr. Church has not seen Mr. Salmond's letter, there can be no doubt that Mr. Stewart cannot express his meaning very clearly at any time, and he is not unlikely to have been more than usually embarrassed by the Counsel engaged for the Tuanku at his trial who appear to have taken and to have been allowed more than ordinary freedom of speech on the occasion.

4. The papers themselves will I trust enable the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council to form a sufficiently accurate judgment of the propriety of releasing the Tuanku, on the grounds suggested by the Honorable Court, but I respectfully hope I may be permitted, as an inferior agent on the spot, and one who, from residing at Penang but seldom, is comparatively indifferent, or at all events free from all party bias, to say I am perfectly satisfied that Tuanku Mahomed Saad delivered himself up simply because he could not effect his

escape, as the Perak Raja had informed him to my knowledge that he would deliver him up if he (the Tuanku) did not quit the Baggan Tiang River, which is in the Perak territory; this the Tuanku was unable to effect, inasmuch as he had in his boat his wife and other females and his children, and therefore could not pass through the impenetrable forest, which grows on each side of the river, while the mouth of the river itself was blockaded by the Government gun boats. It was here indeed that Mr. Stewart on his going to Penang left orders with the gunner of the Diamond "to use every precaution against Tuanku Mahomed Saad's escape and to fire upon him should he attempt to do so," and that the Tuanku was aware he would be put into the Fort or common jail if taken to Penang is also clear from Mr. Stewart's statements.

* See ante in this
Vol.

5. In my despatch of the 18th March,* reporting the result of Tuanku Dye's (the Ex King of Keddah's second son) visit to Keddah I have already reported that it is the desire of the Siamese Government to expunge from the Treaty concluded by Captain Burney at Bangkok, the 13th article of that instrument. This at once puts at rest the principal inconvenience that has heretofore been experienced by the Straits Authorities from the invasion of Keddah by Malays from our coasts.

6. Should the Honorable the Governor General of India in Council approve of my proceedings as reported in my letter just adverted to I shall perhaps shortly receive orders to see the Ex King reinstated in Keddah, and should such be the intentions of Government, as the Tuanku has been declared not guilty of piracy, a fitting opportunity of releasing him might be afforded on His Lordship in Council being officially advised of the Ex King having positively assumed the management of his former territories. Should the Tuanku be set at large before that period and make his appearance at Keddah before

the Siamese authorities have vacated the country, the circumstance would undoubtedly tend to aid unfounded suspicions and probably render them less willing to meet the wishes of the British Government with respect to the Keddah question than they appear to be at present.

7. In reference to the 100th paragraph of Colonel Burney's letter to which you direct my attention, I beg to remark that under the instructions of the Government contained in a letter from your office dated the 27th July 1840,* I addressed a letter to the Praklang under date 15th September * following of the tendency recommended by Colonel Burney. It does not therefore appear to me, under the circumstances arising from our new relations by the request of the Siamese Government to expunge the 13th article of the Treaty, necessary again to bring the matter to the notice of the Court of Bankok.

* *Not found.*

• " "

I have the honor &ca.

(Signed) S. G. Bonham
Governor of Prince of Wales
Island, Singapore and Malacca.

Singapore.
10th May 1842.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 196,
Vol. 14.

Fort William the 22d June 1842.

No. 18.

To the Officiating Secretary to Government
in the Political Department,
Fort William.

Dated Allahabad, 8th June 1842.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 18th ultimo,* on the subject of the restoration by the Siamese of the Ex Rajah of Queda to his principality and the modification of the 13th article of our treaty with Siam; and to inform you in reply that His Lordship concurs in the views and propositions of His Honor the President in Council as stated in the letter under acknowledgment.

* *Sic, Should be March. See ante.*

I have the honor &ca.

(Signed) T. H. Maddock
Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor General.

Allahabad
8th June 1842.

Fort William the 22d June 1842

No. 19.

To S. G. Bonham Esqre.,
Governor Eastern Settlements.

Sir,

I have the honor, by direction of the Honorable the President in Council, to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch dated the 18th March,* with its enclosures, on the subject of the restoration of the Ex Raja of Keddah, and the modification of our treaty with Siam.

* See ante in this
Vol.

2. His Honor in Council considers it highly desirable to seize this opportunity of formally annulling those clauses of the 13th article of the treaty which have reference in any way to the disposal of the Ex Raja of Keddah, and you are authorized to notify to the Siamese Court the consent of the British Government to a modification thus far of that article.

3. But there appears to be no reason why the remaining clauses of the same article, providing for the proper administration of the place, and for its perfect freedom of trade and intercourse with Prince of Wales Island, should not remain in full force, that their existence may operate as a restraint in the future proceedings of those entrusted with the Government of Keddah, while it will always be in our discretion to revert to them or not as we may deem expedient.

4. It may become necessary that our mediation should be tendered for the adjustment of the relations of the Raja with the Court of Siam in case of their leading to disputes affecting the tranquillity of the country but His Honor in Council would not interfere for such a purpose if it could be avoided.

5. At present there seems to be no necessity for your interesting yourself in Keddah affairs to the

extent you propose, and for your becoming a party otherwise than passively to the division of the Keddah territory, and, in general, to the other arrangements in that quarter of the Siamese Government.

6. The President in Council authorizes the donation of 5000 Rs. to Mr. Hunter, the merchant of Bangkok by whose aid this negotiation has been brought to a successful issue, but the outlay of 500 dollars on account of Tuanku Dye's passage money ought to be considered an advance to the Keddah Rajah, to be recovered from that Chief on the first fitting opportunity.

7. A Copy of the Article in question is annexed with those parts underscored to the omission of which the sanction of His Honor in Council extends.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) G. A. Bushby
 Officiating Secretary to the
 Government of India.

Fort William
 the 22d June 1842.

Fort William the 22d June 1842,

(Copy)

Article 13. The Siamese engage to the English that the Siamese shall remain in Queda and take proper care of that country and of its people; the inhabitants of Prince of Wales Island and of Queda shall have trade and intercourse as heretofore; the Siamese shall levy no duty upon stock and provisions, such as cattle, buffaloes, poultry, fish, paddy, and rice, which the inhabitants of Prince of Wales Island, or ships there, may have occasion to purchase in Queda; and the Siamese shall not farm the mouths of rivers or any stream in Queda, but shall levy fair and proper import and export duties. The Siamese further engage that when Chao Phya of Ligore returns from Bankok, he shall release the slaves, personal servants, family and kindred belonging to the former Governor of Queda, and permit them to go and live wherever they please. *The English engage to the Siamese that the English do not desire to take possession of Queda, that they will not attack or disturb it nor permit the former Governor of Queda or any of his followers to attack, disturb or injure in any manner the territory of Queda or any other territory subject to Siam. The English engage that they will make arrangements for the former Governor of Queda to go and live in some other country and not at Prince of Wales Island or Pryhe, or in Perak, Salangor or any Burmese country. If the English do not let the former Governor of Queda go and live in some other country, as here engaged, the Siamese may continue to levy an export duty upon paddy and rice in Queda. The English will not prevent any Siamese, Chinese, or other Asiatic, at Prince of Wales Island, from going to reside in Queda if they desire it.*

True Copy

(Signed) G. A. Bushby,

Offg. Sec. to the Govt. of India.

India and Bengal
Despatches,
Vol. 33.

[To the Government of India, Fort William.]

India

Ex Rajah of
Kedah.

Political Department.

(Extracts.)

Para. 3. You notify to us the prospect which has opened of the Ex Rajah's restoration to at least a portion of his ancient territory. His son, Tuanku Dye, it appears proceeded to Bankok, made submission in his father's behalf to the King of Siam, and obtained in return a promise of partial reinstatement, subsequently confirmed by letters which the Praklang, or Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Siamese Monarch, has addressed to Mr. Bonham and to Mr. Prinsep. No British authority took part in the negotiation, but it is considered to have been much aided by the good offices of Mr. Hunter, a British subject established at Bankok, to whom consequently, in conformity to expectations previously held out, you have made a present of 5,000 Dollars,

4. The present intention of the Siamese Government seems to be to divide the ancient territory of Kedah into either three or four portions, of which one only, but that one the most valuable, and including the Fort and town of Kedah, is to be placed under the authority of the Ex Rajah; it is not stated on what terms. The Praklang avows, as the motive for this arrangement, the adoption by his Court of the policy of governing the Malays through their own Chiefs.

5. The degree of sincerity, however, with which the Siamese Court enters into this arrangement is so uncertain, and the difficulties which may arise in the adjustment of the mutual relations between that Government and its dependant are so great, that we think with Lieut: Col: Burney, that the Ex Rajah should be told that he will accept the offer of the Siamese Government at his own risk. If the two parties, being unable to agree upon terms, should request

your mediation and guarantee, it will be time enough to consider of the expediency of affording it. But you clearly ought to be parties to no arrangement unless of the clearest and most definite kind.

6. The Siamese Government has expressed a strong wish that the thirteenth article of Colonel Burney's Treaty should be cancelled, a circumstance which we concur with that officer in considering to be in itself suspicious. We entirely approve of your having directed Mr. Bonham to intimate to the Siamese Court, that so much of the article as relates to the disposal of the Ex Rajah, being now inapplicable may be cancelled, but that the provisions requiring the Siamese to "take proper care of the country, and of its people," and providing for liberty of traffic, moderate duties and freedom from taxation on the export of provisions to Penang should remain in force.

7. You have on the present occasion transmitted to us the explanations of Mr. Bonham and Mr. Salmond respecting the mode in which possession was obtained of the person of Tuanku Mahomed Saad.

* * * * *

It is unnecessary to remark on the most reprehensible character of this proceeding, our strong disapproval of which we desire may be communicated to Mr. Salmond.

* * * * *

12. If the arrangement for the return of the Ex Rajah of Kedah takes effect, Tuanku Mahomed will of course be released from restraint, and permitted to share the fortunes of his family.

We are, &c.

(Signed) J. L. Lushington
&c. &c. &c.

London

The 30th December 1842.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 196,
Vol. 29.

No. 168.

Fort William the 5th April 1843.

To the Honorable S. Garling, Esquire,
Officiating Governor of Prince of Wales Island
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

*See India &
Bengal Despatches,
Vol. 33.

In transmitting for your information and guidance the accompanying extracts, paragraphs 5—6 and 12 of a letter from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated 30th December* regarding the expected restoration by the Court of Siam, of the Ex Rajah of Keda, I am directed by the Honorable the President in Council to request you will report whether the Ex Rajah has actually been restored, and if not, that you will state the causes which have prevented the favorable issue of the negotiation with the Court of Siam, of which from Mr. Bonham's letter of the 18th March 1842* there appeared to be every prospect.

• See India Pol.
Cons. Range 196,
Vol. 14.

2. You will observe from the 12th paragraph of the Honorable Court's letter that on the restoration of the Ex Rajah depends the release of Tuanku Mahomed Saad, now in confinement at Moorshedabad,

I have the honor &ca.

(Signed) T. R. Davidson
Officiating Secretary to the
Government of India.

Fort William
the 5th April 1843.

Fort William the 29 July 1843.

No. 24.

To T. R. Davidson Esquire,
Officiating Secretary to the Government
of India, Fort William.

Sir,

* *Not copied.*

In reply to your letter of 5 April last* I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of the Honorable the President in Council, that the Rajah of Keddah has been restored to his Dominions where he has now resided some months, not at Keddah itself but on his side of the river forming the northern boundary of Province Wellesley. It is generally understood that he has taken up his residence at this spot in consequence of distrust of the Siamese Government, but I have received a communication from him in which he informs me that he is about to move into the fort of Quedah.

2. It does not appear that he has been restored to the whole of his former territory, but that his rule is restricted to the portion from Keddah to the frontiers of Perak, while the northern portion is divided between three Malay Chiefs independent of him. These Chiefs appear to have anticipated the Rajah at the Court of Siam and to have obtained these portions of his territory prior to the late negotiation.

3. Since his restoration the Rajah appears to have taken forcible possession of a small tract of country, called Krian, claimed by the Chief of Perak, from whom a letter was received by Mr. Garling on the subject, copy of which is enclosed. Mr. Garling forwarded this letter to Keddah enclosed in one from himself, copy of which and of the reply are herewith enclosed. No farther notice has yet been taken of the matter.

* See *infra* 5 Jan.
1843.

• • • • •

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) G. A. Blundell,
Offg. Govr. Prince of W. Island,
Singapore & Malacca.

Prince of W. Island,
21st June, 1843.

Fort William the 29 July 1843.

No. 25 (1).

Translation of a letter from Sultan Abdullah Mahomed Sha Eang-de per tuan of Perak addressed to the Honorable Samuel Garling Esqr., Resident Councillor.

On the 18th of Dulkodah (20 December 1842) one of our people named Rajah Lella Pahlawn Pangu-loo of Krean came to us and reported that part of the territory of Krean under our control had been taken by the Eang de per-tuan of Keddah, and that all his property had been also seized, and that all his followers had been sent away from that place.

We now inform our friend of this circumstance as the Krean territory is not in any way adjoining to the lands of the Eang de per tuan of Kedah, but it is adjoining to those of our friends, and further the territories of Perak are under the protection of our friend. We have therefore to state that this conduct of Eang de per-tuan of Kedah towards us we leave for our friend's consideration.

With the help of God and of our friend we are able to launch ten or twenty prows to retake Krean, but we think that as Krean is close to the lands of the English we therefore leave the matter to be considered by our friend and whatever our friend may judge proper we beg may be imparted to us and we will readily be guided.

Written 4 Dal Hedjah 1258 (5th January 1843).

India Political
Consultations.
Range 196,
Vol. 35.

Fort William the 29th July 1843.

No. 25 (2). The Rajah of Quedah.

(Usual Compliments.)

Herewith I forward to my friend copy of a letter dated 14 Dulhaji, which I have just received from the Iyang de Pertuan of Perak. I beg my friend will advise me of the circumstances under which my friend has seized upon Kariyan, and whether he intends to withdraw from that district.

(Signed) S. Garling

Resident Councillor.

P. W. Island
23d January 1843.

Fort William the 29th July 1843.

No. 25 (3).

Translation of a letter from Sultan Ahmed Tajudeen Allim Shah addressed to the Honorable S. Garling, Esquire, Acting Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca, &c. &c.

On the 24th Dulhedjah (25 January 1843) Wednesday evening our friend's letter arrived together with a copy of a letter from Eang de per Tuan of Perak and we understand all that is stated in them.

With regard to Krean we know that in the time of our ancestors it had always been part of the Kedah territory and has descended to us, and we have always ruled over it. Even at the time when we left Kedah and came to live at Pulo Penang the Panghuloos of Krean came and gave account of themselves and brought the revenues to us. From the time when we went to Malacca we no more ruled over Krean as it was too far from us.

Now as the Siamese Rajah has been pleased to have pity on us and returned Kedah and all the places under it in the same state that it was before we did not order the seizure but merely sent to call all the Panghuloos of Krean (independent of those in the Company's land which had been given by our parent) in order to know how matters were as we had been so long away.

Further there are many persons alive in Penang who know that the left side of the Kurow river belongs to Kedah and that the right side going up belongs to Perak.

This is such as we have ever known to be the boundaries between Kedah and Perak, not to say the lands of Krean which is in the middle of territory.*

* *sic*.

Written 25th Dul Hedjah 1258 (26 January 1843).

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 280.

To the Honorable the Acting Governor of
Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to forward copy of a letter from Mr. James Hayes, a British Merchant at Bangkok, the capital of Siam, transmitting a petition to the Right Honorable the Governor General from himself and two other individuals relative to the obstructions put in the way of trade, and which it is alleged is contrary to the existing treaty between the East India Company and the Siamese Government

It will be seen that one of the petitioners, Anser Saib, is the individual who, by his own confession, was connected with the disgraceful act of smuggling opium, contrary to the well known law of Siam.

I have reason to believe that Mr. Governor Bonham made a reference to Siam concerning the soldiers' jackets and was either satisfied with the explanation afforded by the Siamese authorities, or felt it was a transaction not requiring the further interposition of Government.

Mr. Bonham made a representation to Siam relative to the Sampan pukat (trading boat) and the result was that three of the Chinese were released and sent to this Settlement, the boat belonged to Singapore.

It is notorious His Majesty of Siam interferes very considerably with the general commerce of the country. On this point I observed in my annual report dated 24th February 1843.

"The Monarch of Siam is supposed to engross a
" considerable portion of the trade of Bankok, the

" capital of his dominions ; his interdictions as to the
 " export of certain articles would appear to be govern-
 " ed by no respectable principle. The British mer-
 " chants settled there are becoming seriously appre-
 " hensive that unless some reform speedily takes
 " place their interest, as well as commerce generally,
 " will suffer materially by the short sighted policy of
 " the King."

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) T. Church

Resident Councillor.

Singapore

The 25th July 1843.

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 281.

Memorial of British Merchants residing in Bangkok
Unto the Right Honorable Edward Lord
Ellenborough Governor General in Council.

The Memorial of the undersigned British
Merchants residing in Bangkok, Siam.

Humbly Sheweth,

That on account of the many obstructions, thrown in the way of trade between your memorialists and the Siamese for some time past by the King of Siam, and which obstructions are in direct violation of the existing treaty between the Honorable East India Company and this place, your memorialists are of opinion, unless speedily put a stop to, will eventually prevent trade being carried on between the English and Siamese, and thereby prove detrimental to the revenue of our Sovereign Lady the Queen.

In article 10 of the existing treaty it stipulates "Merchants are forbidden to bring opium which is positively a contraband article in the territories of Siam, and should a merchant intrude any the Government shall seize, burn and destroy the whole," whereas in the case of Aniver Saib, a Pulicat merchant residing here, having opium found in his possession, this article was not only confiscated, but Aniver Saib himself bound with irons and thrown into prison, and from which punishment your memorialists submit he was exempted, no clause in the treaty entitling them to commit such severe acts. Again in the case of the capture of a Sampan Puckat off the bar of Siam, in which affair a number of persons, affirmed to have come under the denomination of Asiatic merchants, were inhumanly murdered, and property consisting of sundry lawful merchandize and monies (besides opium) was unlawfully confiscated, the crew

thrown into prison, and subjected to hard labour, under penalty of severe flagellations and starvation, and from the severity of which numbers of them perished.

Your memorialists also conceive that in the case of the Siamese Government giving an order for merchants to bring them articles from foreign countries, it is imperatively required on its part to take those articles when brought according to their instructions, whereas in the case of Aniversaib, aforementioned Pulicat merchant, after having executed an order, which had been given him by this Government for a number of soldiers' jackets, they refused to take them, and the clothing being valueless elsewhere, the merchant has suffered most materially, having laid out of funds for the space of upwards of 4 years to the amount of about 15,000 ticals.

Amongst the articles prohibited by the existing treaty teak wood timber has been exempted from such prohibition, notwithstanding which, Messrs. Hunter and Hayes residing here, having purchased a large quantity of teak wood timber, a refusal was given them by Government to its exportation, although passes had been given hitherto by these officers for large shipments of this article, and no intimation had been given of its future prohibition.

In article 5th of the treaty it specifies that "Merchants subject to the English and their ships, "junks and boats may have intercourse and trade with "any Siamese country which has much merchandize, "and the Siamese will aid and protect them and "permit them to buy and sell with facility;" which article has been violated in many instances of minor importance, but more particularly in the case of a British ship the "Good Success" arriving here for a cargo of sugar, when the Government instead of assisting the British Merchants in the purchase of a

cargo, monopolized the whole trade in that article and the consignees were necessitated to purchase the sugar for the vessel from the Government (or send the vessel away empty) at a price far beyond the then market price, and by which the concerned were losers to a large extent. And your memorialists further pray, that the foregoing grievances may be taken into consideration so that they may be remedied as quickly as possible, trade being almost at a stand still and your memorialists are of opinion, that the trade can not improve until some gentleman be appointed fully authorized to cause a new treaty to be made.

And your Memorialists will ever pray &ca. &ca. &ca.

Dated in Bangkok This 28th Day of May 1843.

Hunter and Hayes

Christopher Harvey

(Sign) Aniversaib.

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 284.

To the Honorable T. Church Esquire,
Resident Councillor,
Singapore.

Sir,

In June last year I visited Siam, in the ship which I at present command, say the "Good Success" belonging to Bombay, for the purpose of purchasing a cargo of sugar. On my arrival at Bangkok I requested my agents Messrs. Hunter and Hayes to purchase on account of the owners of the "Good Success" eight thousand peculs of sugar. They called upon a number of the sugar dealers to dispose of their sugar but was astonished to find that His Majesty the King of Siam had issued an order prohibiting them from selling their sugars to any person but himself under severe penalties. My agents called upon Chow Phya Praklang, Prime Minister, and remonstrated with him on the step taken by His Majesty in direct violation of the present existing treaty, but without effect, and was told that they could get no sugar unless purchased from the Government and at a price His Majesty may deem fit to name.

Notwithstanding the prohibition imposed on the native dealers they sold my agents two boat loads, about 800 peculs of sugar, and had commenced to weigh the same when the King's officers came and seized the boats and took possession of the sugar, and deposited the same in the King's stores, the King also dispatched officers up the creek and rivers to meet the boats as they came down from the plantations and seized them in the name of the King and stowed the sugar in his godowns, paying the dealers for the same from 7 to 8 ticals per pecul and the dealers were informed that if they sold sugars to my agents

Messrs. Hunter and Hayes they would be fined and imprisoned and their sugars confiscated.

In consequence of these arbitrary measures I was detained 10 days and my agents were compelled at last to purchase the cargo from the King paying for the same (9) nine ticals per pecul, being one to two ticals more than what they could have purchased sugar at from the dealers themselves and making a loss to the owners of my ship of nearly (12,000) twelve thousand ticals.

As the owners of the "Good Success" are much interested in the trade with Siam, and trading there under the faith of the present existing treaty, I sincerely trust the present case may be taken into your serious consideration and prevent not only those with whom I am connected, but all traders with that country, from falling into the same snare as they did, and hoping that this may be added to any other attestation of facts you may have received on the subject.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) Wm. Evans.

Singapore
The 29th July 1843.

Fort William the 29 July 1843.

No. 26. To the Magistrate of Moorshedabad.

Sir,

Intelligence having been received from the Governor of the Eastern Settlements of the restoration of the Ex Rajah of Quedah to his dominions, I am directed to observe that the Governor General in Council does not see any sufficient reason for the further detention of Twanka Mahomed Saad now in confinement at Moorshedabad, and His Lordship in Council accordingly authorizes the release of the prisoner from restraint, conformably to instructions received to that effect from the Honorable the Court of Directors.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. Thomason
Secretary to the Government of
India.

Fort William
The 29 July 1843.

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 287.

To J. Thomason Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India
Fort William.

Sir,

* *Not copied.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 16th of September,* with its enclosures, being original documents forwarded by my predecessor regarding the obstructions stated to exist in our commercial intercourse with Siam.

* *See ante in this
Vol.*

2. On my arrival here I found a letter on the same subject which I forwarded under date the 29th August* without enquiry or comment of any kind, believing that the question was before the Right Honorable the Governor General in all its bearings. I have now examined into the several grievances set forth in the above communications upon which a good deal of light has been thrown by a gentleman recently returned from Bangkok after a four years residence in this the capital of Siam, and who is himself one of the Memorialists.

3. The ill treatment of Aniver Saib, which has been much exaggerated, was by the showing of the Memorialists, consequent on his acting in direct contravention of the 10th article in the first, or political portion of the Treaty with the Rajah of Siam, and in opposition to the laws of that country, by importing and selling opium, thereby rendering himself liable to punishment in accordance with the 6th article of the latter or Commercial portion of the Treaty.

4. The same may be said with reference to the Sampan Puckat which was conveying opium along the coast; and on being closely pursued, fired into a Siamese war boat, and killed one of the crew; when

captured the opium was discovered in the Puckat and the men thrown into prison, where nine died, one absconded, and the remainder were given up at Mr. Bonham's requisition.

■ ? came.

5. We came* again to Aniver Saib who now figures as Rajah's Agent for supplying the troops with clothing. This case was also enquired into by Mr. Bonham and the reply by the Siamese is so satisfactory that I am not surprised further notice of the complaint was deemed unnecessary. The Siamese version of the tale has been confirmed by the subsequent memorial from Anniver Saib which I have the honor herewith to forward. It appears that Anniver Saib had been employed to procure clothing for the Rajah's troops, failing however to bring any for two years a contract was entered into with another party to procure what was required direct from Bombay. Eventually Anniver Saib arrived with a quantity of jackets, when the Rajah offered to take the whole at the same rate as he had obtained his last supply from Bombay. This was refused, and upon this Anniver Saib grounds his grievance.

6 These sort of bargains are never entered on with Foreign Native Princes without a due consideration to the hazard that is run by making engagements with personages over whom there can be no judicial control. A case of this nature is now pending between the Rajah and one of the mercantile houses here, which would doubtless form a matter of complaint if I had not set my face against it. One of the party concerned, from whom I received the information, stated that his firm had been in the habit of supplying warlike implements to the Rajah for some time, and during the last year, prior to the termination of the War with the Chinese, His Highness ordered 250 Guns of small calibre from England, in anticipation of a visit from some of our ships on their passage to or from China. These guns arrived a month or two

since, but the Rajah having no longer any dread of such a visit in prospect or no further thoughts of making a show of opposition in such a case, has now refused to take the guns, which are thrown upon the agent's hands.

7. In all these matters I cannot see the smallest reason for any movement on the part of the British Government. The direct interference however of the Rajah with the trade and the vexatious duties which from time to time are imposed upon articles of traffic may be deemed worthy of notice. The enclosed letter from Mr. Hayes, the person alluded in the 2d paragraph of this letter will show the extent to which this is carried. I must here observe that the seizure of the boats laden with sugar does not strike me as being so heinous an offence as this letter and the Memorials would imply, for it was known to the purchasers of the sugar that His Majesty had prohibited the sale of this article except through him, and it was therefore an attempt to smuggle, for which the vendors of the sugar were punished. Whether the prohibition or in other words the monopoly of the sale of sugar is in accordance with the tenor of the 1st article of the Commercial Treaty is another question, and one upon which I will not presume to anticipate His Lordship's decision.

* See *infra* 1. Nov.
1843.

8. The heavy duty imposed on square rigged vessels which has been noticed by every person writing on Siam is tantamount almost to their exclusion from the trade. Tock Sing, the principal merchant here, turned this to his own advantage, although not to the extent expected, when he ordered a ship of 300 tons burthen to be built at Bankok in all respects similar to an English vessel of that tonnage, except as regarded the rigging which was made junk fashion. The first year the port dues on her at Siam were 350 ticals, but the next year it was increased to 680 ticals consequent on the quantity of cargo she carried.

This latter sum however is not more than one eighth of what a square rigged vessel carrying the same quantity and quality of merchandize would pay. I cannot but think therefore that if the evil tendency of these restrictions to trade were pointed out to the Rajah, and remonstrated against by the Supreme Authority, there would be little difficulty in putting matters on a better footing.

9. The existing Treaty with Siam was concluded during the Burmese War, after that war had lasted nearly three years, when it was considered of moment to conciliate the adjacent powers. This was not lost upon the Siamese, who are stated to be as cunning as they are cautious and timid. The whole politicag horizon however bears a very different aspect in thesel days, and as I have before observed the Siamese were for many months in a sad state of alarm at hearing of our triumph in China and the prospect of a visit from us. Chain cables (sold to His Majesty by the very party who have now failed in their speculation with the guns) were drawn across the river Main, at the entrance to which the fortifications were repaired and others commenced upon, with a view of making some show of opposition, which it is universally believed would never have been offered, had their fears been realized.

10. His Lordship will be able to form a just estimate of the trade carried on between this port and Siam by the abstract statement of exports and imports noted in the margin* since 1826/27, the period at which the above Treaty was concluded, to the present time. I think it right to add that from all enquiry I have been enabled to make, it is by no means probable that any very great encrease may be expected even were the restrictive duties taken off square rigged vessels, for the chief articles of import are salt and sugar, as will be seen by the annexed detailed extract* from the official trade report of this year, and these

* See end of letter

* Not copied.

articles brought on junks do not give more than a remunerating profit, but it would certainly gratify the merchants here, and the house of Messrs. Hunter and Hayes particularly, if a remonstrance were deemed necessary, and I think such a measure would tend to do good throughout the Malayan Archipelago, where the Petty Chiefs have assumed a tone quite inconsistent with their insignificance.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) W. B. Butterworth
Governor Prince of Wales Island
Singapore and Malacca.

Singapore

The 8th Novr. 1843.

ABSTRACT STATEMENT OF THE ANNUAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS
TO AND FROM SIAM.

		1826/27	1827/28	1828/29	1829/30
Imports	Drs. ...	148,669	211,622	281,938	255,757
Exports	„ ...	218,955	131,030	366,298	337,642
		1830/31	1831/32	1832/33	1833/34
Imports	Drs. ...	141,142	210,680	219,462	196,822
Exports	„ ...	200,007	226,428	239,191	142,604
		1834/35	1835/36	1836/37	1837/38
Imports	Drs. ...	159,141	176,791	345,012	279,872
Exports	„ ...	191,083	233,086	216,980	377,791
		1838/39	1839/40	1840/41	1841/42
Imports	Drs. ...	305,272	259,273	326,341	409,463
Exports	„ ...	289,512	483,578	211,597	229,891

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 291.

To the Honble. Colonel Butterworth
Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

I beg leave to lay before you the following statement regarding the commercial intercourse between the English and Siamese, from which you will observe that the latter have gradually assumed a tone quite at variance to the present existing treaty.

From the time of my arrival in Siam in 1835 up till 1839-40 trade had been carried on amicably between the natives and ourselves, without the interference of the Government, and as our transactions were large, and selling goods at a credit necessarily threw a large amount of our funds into the hands of the natives, as their mode of payment had been principally produce (the exportation of ticals being prohibited) we never doubted but the smooth state of things would continue. However, that was not allowed to be the case. The King having turned merchant himself caused all dealers in sugar to sell the same to him only and on no account to trade with European merchants, under penalty of fines and imprisonment. This threw us into an awkward situation having a large amount out, in the hands of the natives, our only mode of obtaining payment of the amount was denied us. Besides these restrictions in regard to the natives' transactions with us, the duties on all kinds of produce have been raised to such an exorbitant extent as alone to amount almost to a prohibition. These duties have been exacted in direct violation to the existing Treaty, as in Article 1st of the agreement annexed to it, it distinctly says " No import, export or other duty shall be levied upon the buyers or export sellers from or to Europeans." Remon-

strance has been used with the Siamese against the injustice of these restrictions, but without effect ; indeed as soon as they found they could levy these duties with impunity, recourse was had to other means to extort money from the European merchants of the place. In 1841 my firm in Siam had purchased up a very large quantity of teakwood timber. The exportation of this article having been allowed hitherto, no suspicion had been entertained of a prohibition of this article, more particularly so, as the officers of the Siamese Government were aware of our buying up the said timber. If the Siamese had informed us before, or while buying this article, that they would not have allowed it to be exported, it would have prevented a very serious loss ; but they did not do so until it was in the act of being shipped, and as it was principally purchased by barter, the price it commanded in Siam when resold, left us very heavy losers. Again in the case of the " Good Success" arriving in Siam to purchase a cargo of sugar, the Government monopolised the whole trade in this article, and actually seized two boats of sugar, which had been previously purchased by me, and which were laying at the time in front of the British Factory. This act was in direct violation of the Treaty, as in Article 6th of the said Treaty it says " Merchants subject to the Siamese or English going to trade in Bengal or any country, or any other country subject to the English, or at Bangkok or any other country subject to the Siamese must pay the duties upon commerce according to the customs of the place on either side, and such merchants and the inhabitants of the country shall be allowed to buy without the intervention of other persons in such countries." Here the Siamese have not only interfered in the matter of buying and selling but actually seized the article after it had been purchased and threatened to flog and imprison any native merchants who should sell this article to Europeans. The price this sugar was purchased originally at was eight ticals, but when repurchased

from the King, which I was necessitated to do after detaining the ship for ten days, I was obliged to pay him nine ticals, being one tical per pecul more than the then market price, and which on a ship of large tonnage amounts to a very large sum, and which, added to the already enormous measurement duty on the vessel, could not fail of leaving a very serious loss. I would wish particularly to draw your attention to the large capital we have now in the hands of the Native Merchants, and which we can in no way recover, unless the system of monopoly by Government be put an end to ; and craving your kind influence to cause an inquiry in the matter.

I have the honor &c.,

(Signed) JAMES HAYES.

Singapore

The 1st November 1843.

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 288.

Translation of a letter from the Chowe Peeah Praklang Senah Body, Great Man of Beenooah Praak Maha Nakun Sree Ahyou-teeah (!) in Siam to the Honble. S. G. Bonham Esqre., Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

We have received our friend's letter together with a list of goods and their value by Captain Jackson of the Bombay ship Kusravey, in which letter our friend was informed that 18 Chinese belonging to a Sampan Pukat had been put in irons at Siam for having smuggled opium into a Chinese prow or Junk and that these men were from Singapore. In reference to the Treaty entered into between the English and Siamese it is provided that those who were found smuggling opium in Siam the opium only was to be seized and burnt, but it appears that the Siamese have exceeded the spirit of the Treaty by having not only confiscated all the merchandize and goods of a great many Chinese who trade in Siam, but imprisoned and killed them. Our friend has learnt this account from what has been simply stated by the Chinese and on such information has written a report of it to His Majesty the King of Siam requesting the release of the Chinese alluded to with the delivery of the goods which are not prohibited by the Treaty, and that they may be sent back to Singapore; it is further stated that a Chief or Minister belonging to Siam had slain seven of the Chinese of the Sampan Pukat. If our friend wish to continue the friendship which exists between us we request that a proper investigation may be made into the subject to ascertain the truth of what has been reported to our friend by the Chinaman, that there might be no occasion of misunderstanding hereafter between us. Our friend's letter appears to contain statements of undoubted

facts and hence our friend's peremptory request to release these men. That a Chinaman, named Koeh Hoopeng, a four years resident of Singapore, who had frequently traded in several Malayan ports stated to our friend that himself and 31 other Chinese sailed on the 11th day of the 3d month (March 1839) to the eastward as far as Canton, with a quantity of opium and other British goods. After selling a chest of opium and some goods they were obliged in consequence of some disturbance there to proceed to Sengorah, but owing to contrary winds they went to the Soomut Pakan. That on the 29th day of the 3d month of the year Anjing (Dog) the Noquedah of the Sampan Pukat sailed to the country Bunlam, where they sold seven chests of opium, value of each 1,000 kope, but the Noquedah received only 4,000 kope from that country, then he went to Anghin, where they saw five boats coming out of Siam. The five boats approached the sampan pukat when the men of the Siamese boats hoisted their colours to intimate that they were the guard vessels belonging to the Siamese. The Chinese seeing that the guard vessels had would not believe that they were such, but on being spoken to and desired by them to lower the pukat colours they complied, when two of the guard boats fired into the Sampan Pukat and shot a Chinaman dead. The whole five boats then attacked the Sampan, some of the Chinese jumped into the sea and the chief of the gun boats boarded the Sampan and cut the Chinese Noquedah with a sword and threw him overboard. The informant Koeh Hoopeng and three other Chinese were tied to the mast of the guard boat. The Sampan Pukat was carried to the country of Soomut Pakan, where 25 Chinese were landed and from thence carried to Siam before Tan Senah Body to whom they were reported as belonging to a Chinese pirate prow. They told Tan Senah Body they were not pirates, but people belonging to Singapore who were trading in the Malayan ports, as will

* ? word in the original is 'appelun' but there appears also to be an omission of a line.

appear from documents they possessed at the time that they had sold opium and [? at] Banlam where they had obtained some silver and that the goods and merchandize contained in the Sampan Pakat had been taken on credit from the different Merchants at Singapore. Tan Senah Bôdy said in reply that if they were people who came from Singapore there should have been some paper or document to that effect. He then ordered them to land the cargo of the Sampan and the whole of the Chinese 24 in number together with the Nocquedah, who had been wounded, were ordered to be placed in irons. That in consequence of their keeper having overworked them 7 of their number died ; 15 months after Koeh Hoopeng made his escape to our friend who had sent his statement together with a list of the goods belonging to them.*

* The detailed list
has been omitted.

* * * All that our friend has written from what has been reported by China Koeh Hoopeng, together with the list, we perfectly comprehend. We now have to solicit our friend not to credit a report coming from such a person as the informant, China Koeh Hoopeng. It is not usual for such a Sampan Pukat as that belonging to him to sail about the neighbourhood of Siam.

On the 6th month of the year Anjing (Dog) Pia Chumpoon reported that on the 4th month of the year Ahyam (Fowl) in the district of Toongka, about a day's journey from a place called Chumpoon, the Pungulu Allawang Appie, in charge of the said district, during his absence at Chayal, had his house plundered, and his wife wounded by the gang of Chinese belonging to the Sampan Pukat. The Chinese enquired of her where all her valuables were kept, they then pillaged not only the Pungulu's house, but all the houses in that neighbourhood, in consequence of which the inhabitants fled into the jungle. The amount of property plundered on that occasion was estimated at 18,000 kopes. After this the Pia

Chumpoon and Kamkan directed the guard vessels to go in pursuit of the Sampan Pukat but did not fall in with it.

On the third month of the year Aujin (Dog) Peeah Pye Gee-booree and Peeah Tee booree (!) sent a letter stating that a Sampan Pukat had entered their countries not with any intention of trading but coasted all along those countries carrying on illicit traffic in opium with all the people about the sea coast. The Sampan Pukat was seen in almost all the creeks and other *inaccessible places for 2 or 3 days together and then sail * out to sea. Whenever the Sampan met with any of the Siamese or Chinese trading prows she invariably captured them and plundered all their goods. The Chiefs of these two countries sent guard vessels to go after her, but whenever they came in sight the Sampan would set sail and get off. When His Majesty Prah Bat Lam deet Prahk Put Chou Hooah Beemooah Prakh Maha Nakoon Sree Ahyon tuah (!), the King of Siam, heard of the piratical acts of these Chinese he issued strict orders to all the Chiefs of the Maritime ports to send guard vessels after the Sampan Pukat and such other boats and prows which contain opium or commit piracies in their neighbourhood, and that vessels found sailing about without proper passes from the ports of Singapore or other places, people who come under pretence of wishing to trade, like the Chinese belonging to the Sampan Pukat, should in case of having opium on board be seized and captured, the opium to be destroyed or burnt, and the rest of the cargo to be distributed to the captors as prizes. This is in accordance with the old established laws of Siam.

On the 5th month of the year Koorah (horse) a guard vessel of the country Scomut Pakan sailed in chase after the Sampan Pukat, and when within gun shot of her the Sampan first fired a couple of shots into the guard vessel, which occasioned a fight

of nearly an hour. The fire of the Sampan killed two of the Siamese, the Panglima then boarded the Sampan with his men, some of the Chinese resisted and others leaped into the sea. The number who thus perished was not ascertained but those captured were 25. The Sampan Pukat and the 25 Chinese were taken to Somut Pakan and from thence to Siam, were His Majesty Prahk Bat Sam deet Prahk Peet Chowe Hooah Benooah Prahk Maha Nakoon Sree Ahyon teeah, the King of Siam (!), questioned where they came from. They replied from Singapore. Where is your pass and what colours do you carry? They said they had neither. Under such circumstances His Majesty the King of Siam was fully convinced that they were no other people than pirates. In searching the Sampan Pukat it was found that she contained 23 chests of opium which were burnt and the remainder of the cargo distributed agreeably to His Majesty's directions amongst the people of the guard vessel who captured the Sampan, but not as stated detained in Siam. All that the informant China Koeh Hoopeng has stated to our friend is false, in as much as this individual was not the Noquedah but one of the crew of the Sampan. The Noquedah of her is now at Siam and his name is China Teeheng Seesake, who when questioned what was the cargo of the Sampan Pukat, said she contained white cloths in rolls, two boxes long cloths of 70 cubits 75 pieces, green cloth 80 corges, Malacca black 18 corges, Malay cloth 15 corges, handkerchiefs 6 corges, flowered red cloth 9 corges, white thread 11 peculs, yellow thread 1 pecul, black thread 4 peculs, red thread 2 peculs, fine twine 1 pecul, dried China fruit 1 pecul, iron bars 20 peculs, silver value of opium sold at Bunlam, 3970 kopes. This is the saying of the Noquedah Teheng. It is written in the 10th article of the treaty that all foreigners whether English, Malays or Chinese, who wish to trade with Siam, must produce a pass from the English autho-

rities to say that they are permitted to travel by land or sea as the case may be from an English port to Siam, and further that such persons wishing to trade at Siam, were not to traffic in opium, and if they knowingly persisted in carrying on illicit trade in this prohibited article His Majesty the King of Siam was to seize and burn the opium found in their possession. In the 6th article of the treaty it is provided that all British subjects, whether Malays, Dutch or Chinese who come and trade at Siam in any ship or vessel carrying Burmese crews were to be captured by the Siamese and their cargoes forfeited, and the parties liable to all the penalties and punishments prescribed by the Siamese laws and may other provisions contained in the treaty which are not necessary here to repeat.

It is also written in the treaty that all foreigners who will not abide by the rules and customs of Siam but resist the authorities and oppress the inhabitants of the country, commit murder, steal or behave themselves disrespectfully towards the great men of Siam such person shall be considered as great offenders and after investigation if it be proved that murder has been committed, death shall be awarded, and if other minor offence be committed by Commanders or officers of foreign vessels they shall only be fined, but if committed by other persons lower in degree than the above, they shall on proof be either flogged or put in irons agreeably to the established laws of Siam.

Again it is provided that if any European, wishing to settle at Siam for the purpose of trading, the Governor General of Bengal was to restrict such person from using any disrespectful manner or language to the inhabitants of Siam, and if on the other hand any of the people of the country should oppress an European, the offender would be punished. These Chinese belonging to these Sampan Pukats have on very many occasions been found smuggling opium at Siam and

committing acts of piracy, murder, rapine and all sorts of crimes for years past. This one in particular has been so bold as to fight with a guard vessel and to kill her Panglima or Commander and those Chinese are liable to be sentenced to death, but His Majesty the King of Siam being very merciful towards all men has simply put them in confinement and in awarding such sentence against these Chinese His Majesty the King of Siam does not exceed or depart from the provision of the 6th article of the treaty.

On the 4th day of the 2d month of the year An-jing (Dog) a vessel laden with opium, the Noquedah of which was a Chinaman named Kung Seng and the officer an European came and anchored outside in the yellow waters, and on the 4th month of the year Anjing (Dog) another vessel commanded by a Chinaman named Beng Cheum, having also an European for an officer came and anchored at the same place with a cargo of opium. The 2 Chinese Noquedahs landed and reported to the head man or Magistrate of Siam that they came from Singapore and had brought long cloths, white thread and iron bars and that they wished to trade at Siam on the same footing as before, and if they were permitted to do so they would enter in, but if not return back to Singapore. After this the two Nocquedahs went and carried on an illicit trade in opium with the other Chinese residing at Siam, on the understanding that the purchasers were to take the opium from their vessels which were lying outside. Three or four days after the Nocquedahs came and told the head man that the goods they had brought were unsaleable and there were no purchasers. They requested permission to return to Singapore when a pass was granted them. Instead of sailing away they merely moved a little further outside when the Chinese inhabitants carried on smuggling to a great extent. When these two vessels were about to sail the Magistrate suspected that a great

quantity of opium had been imported and on enquiry amongst the Chinese 42 chests of opium were found.

Again another vessel belonging to Mr. Hunter brought a quantity of opium which was sold to China Lee-an in the year Anjing. This circumstance was not known at the time, but when it was discovered that the Chinaman had purchased the opium from Mr. Hunter, no punishment was inflicted upon Mr. Hunter, but only upon the Chinaman. After this a ship from Bombay, commanded by Noquedah Azim, came with a cargo of opium which was sold to China-Lee-ho clandestinely. When detected the Chinaman confessed he had purchased $2\frac{1}{2}$ chests from Noquedah Azim. On this occasion likewise the punishment fell upon the Chinaman and the Noquedah was let off. Another vessel from Bombay commanded by Noquedah Mohamed Ariff with an officer named Dicy came to trade at Siam. A Dutch seacunny belonging to that vessel brought 35 catties of opium on shore for sale, but was immediately detected and the opium seized and burnt, but the man was let off unpunished.

Another person by the name of Moorsaw, a Madras man who had been settled at Siam for many years with a wife and several children was reported to the Minister Sena Bodhi that he was carrying on an illicit trade in opium. Moorsaw was apprehended and examined, but he denied having done so; six months after when Moorsaw's young wife had quarrelled with him, she gave information against her husband Moorsaw and said that a quantity of opium was secreted under his house. On search being made 13 balls of opium were found. On this occasion His Majesty the King remonstrated with Moorsaw and told him that he had now been residing for many years in Siam and was aware of the rules and customs of the place, had married a wife and begotten several children. That he should have denied the circum-

stance of his having carried [on] this trade in opium when questioned by the Minister and for telling a falsehood Moorsaw was ordered to be put in irons for 16 days, merely as a warning, after which he was let off.

All vessels under British colours trading at Siam if detected in bringing a cargo of opium, the opium alone is seized and burnt, but none of the crew ever punished or confined according to the articles of the treaty.

The Chinese belonging to the Sampan Pukat did not come to Siam for the purpose of traffic, but brought opium and sold it to all the people on the sea coast. This is acting contrary to the treaty, and they are accordingly punished according to the laws of Siam

That our friend's request for the release of these Chinese and delivery of such unprohibited goods belonging to them to be returned together with the Chinese to Singapore is considered by His Majesty the King of Siam as a mark of friendship, but all that the Chinaman named Koeh Hoopeng has stated is positively false. That these Chinese have without doubt entered the Siamese territories and committed all kinds of crimes with impunity and were so bold as to fight the guard boat and kill her Panglima. This is a great crime and if committed in an English country would be viewed in the same light. This is given as our real opinion on the subject which we communicate to our friend, requesting our friend to weigh the matter well and see into the merit of the case, after which as a mark of friendship another letter on the subject might be sent to us. We have dispatched this letter in the Siamese and another copy in the Malayan language, both containing the same subject.

Written on the 2d day of the 3d month Sunday
Sakerat Siam 1202 year of the Rat.

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 289.

Translation of a letter from the Chou Phya Praklang Prime Minister to His Majesty the King of Siam to the Honble. S. G. Bonham Esqre., Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

There is a large quantity of cloth brought at the request of a captain (Siamese) from the Coromandel Coast. The name of the Pulicat merchant is Attra. It has reached Bangkok. This captain does not wish to take the cloth as it is not according to muster and cannot be sold elsewhere, because, it has been made expressly for the Siamese. If the Siamese Captain does not take the cloth the Pulicat merchant will be a heavy loser. The Emperor desires that Mr. Bonham will have the goodness to enquire of the Noquedah if he will suffer or not should the cloth not be taken. Cloth also was sent by a chief person at Pulicat called Mutsait (Chew Sap) in his vessel, the Noquedah of which was An Noot Sap. It arrived at Siam and brought a letter from Mutsait and mentioned that any thing His Majesty wanted to send to Pulicat should be sent in that vessel, and his Majesty wished to have a quantity of cloth (Layang) to make uniform for his troops and had given him muster to be taken at Pulicat.

In the English era 1831 An Noot Sap went to Pulicat and brought the cloth. The Emperor got 200 jackets made of it, the cost Drs. 2 per jacket for his guards. Further the Emperor requested that more of this kind should be sent, to the number of 997 pieces, making in all for the troops 697 (*sic!*) pieces, which was received. But it was not enough, and another order was given to An-wa-sap to bring more. But the Noquedah has informed us that the cloth could not be got that year, but perhaps it might afterwards.

An-wa-sap has remained in Siam and sent another person in his stead to Pulicat, but for two years no cloth was received, and An-wa-sap said the cloth had not yet been made and now four years have elapsed, and the Pulicat merchant now says that formerly this cloth could be sold at the former rate but not now. This being deceptive conduct. But matters have been settled.

The Emperor therefore ordered Md. Asim, a Bombay Nakhoda, to bring the cloth for 6 dollars and 2 rupees per piece, and he had taken away a pattern. Now, in the English year 1838, the Emperor received from the said Md. Asim the quantity of 3,500 and the price has been paid and settled as An-wa-sap knows and the Emperor has requested Md. Asim to bring still more cloth from Bombay.

In 1839 (year English) Phra Khlang got a ship loaded which went to Singapore to trade and returned to Siam. An-wa-sap's correspondent at Singapore took up the vessel on her return voyage, and sent goods to Siam, and with these cloth for the troops, to 4,000 jackets. An-wa-sap offered this cloth to His Majesty for sale. The Emperor said that if he would sell it at the same rate that the Bombay merchant had done he would buy it. His Majesty wishes to be informed if this man, An-wa-sap, has reported any of these things to Mr. Bonham in order to throw blame on the Siamese. For had An-wa-sap performed his agreement His Majesty would not have sent to Bombay for cloth, and as His Majesty will be supplied yearly from Bombay in future. Also the supply at present is more than sufficient for the troops. This letter is merely to inform Mr. Bonham of these transactions and to request Mr. Bonham to send back a reply in the Siamese and Malayan languages.

Dated Wednesday in the 1st month year Khan.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 196,
Vol. 45.

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 285.

To the Governor Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.
Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
 * *Not copied.* your despatch of the 29th August last,* with its en-
 * *See ante, No. 284.* closure from the Master of the ship "Good Success,"
 complaining of the obstructions thrown in the way
 of trade by the King of Siam, and in reply to inform
 you that it does not appear to be established that the
 King has by the proceedings described in your des-
 patch under reply directly violated any article of the
 existing treaty and that the interference of the Gov-
 ernment of India is not under the circumstances
 considered necessary.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) T. R. Davidson
 Officiating Secretary to the
 Government of India.

Fort William
 the 27th January 1844.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 196,
Vol. 45.

Fort William the 27th January 1844.

No. 292.

To Lieut. Colonel W. J. Butterworth, C. B.
Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your
 * *See main series, col. 45.* despatch dated 8th November* last relative to the
 obstructions which are alleged to exist in our commercial intercourse with Siam and in reply to inform
 you that there does not appear to be a violation of
 any article of the existing treaty on the part of the
 King of Siam, nor does His Honor the President in
 Council consider the interference of the British Government at present required.

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) T. W. Davidson
 Officiating Secretary to
 the Government of India.

Fort William
 the 27th January 1844.

Fort William the 23d March 1844.

No. 50

To the Officiating Secretary
to the Government of India
Fort William.

Sir,

* See *same range*,
Vol. 35.

With reference to the 2d paragraph of a letter under date the 21st June 1843*, from the late Officiating Governor Mr. Blundell, bringing to notice that the Governor of Quedah since his restoration to power, had forcibly taken possession of a small tract of country called Kream, claimed by the Rajah of Perak and submitting a correspondence on the subject between Mr. Garling and those Chiefs. I have the honor to state that—

* See *infra* for one
of these.

2. On my arrival at Penang I received from the Rajah of Perak direct, and through the Resident Councillor, the enclosed letters*, the one addressed to Mr. Blundell and the other to the Superintendent of Province Wellesley. After making most minute and particular enquiries on the spot, and satisfying myself that the Governor of Quedah had unjustly seized upon the Kream country, and that a collision between the two parties would most certainly tend to the plunder of the inhabitants of that part of Province Wellesley bordering the Kream country, I directed the Rajah of Perak not to make any hostile movement for three months and appointed a meeting with the Rajah of Quedah which he did [not] choose to attend but sent his son Tuanku Dye, to whom I explained matters and urged him to induce his father to withdraw from Kream.

* See *infra* for
them.

3. When about to leave Penang I addressed the enclosed letter to the Governor of Quedah, as also the one to the Rajah of Ligore,* under whose immediate orders the Governor of Quedah manages his

* See *infra*.

country. The tone and tenor of the Rajah of Quedah's reply* lead me at once to lay the question before His Honor the President in Council with a view to my being favoured with definite instructions how to act in the event of hostilities being carried on between the Rajah of Perak and Governor of Quedah.

* See *infra* for the report. The plan is omitted

4. The intimate knowledge of Major Low with the boundaries of Perak and Quedah territories as well as the parties most immediately concerned, induced me soon after my return here to call upon him for a report on the subject. A copy of this report with a plan* showing the disputed territory in question I have the honor herewith to forward, by which it will be perceived, as I have previously mentioned, that this is a most wanton and unjustifiable seizure of the Kream district by the Governor of Quedah, the validity of whose right and title is most completely nullified, even on his own showing, for the man whom he states as having been deputed by him to take possession of Kream was his nephew (not his son) and a noted freebooter, withall, who possessed himself of the north rather than the south bank of the Kream river to the terror and dismay of the inhabitants of Province Wellesley.

5. The 2d and 3d articles of the treaty concluded under date the 18th October 1826 with the Rajah of Perak, wherein we guarantee "assistance in expelling from the country any Siamese or Malays who may at any time enter the Perak country with the political views or for the purpose of interfering in any way with the Government of His Majesty" lead me most unhesitatingly to recommend that I may be authorized to withhold the stipend promised in the 1st Article of the treaty between the British Government and the Rajah of Quedah till he shall have entirely withdrawn for one whole year to the north of the Kream River, and that I may be furnished with a strong

letter of remonstrance from His Honor the President in Council to the Rajah of Siam to be forwarded in the event of my letter to the Rajah of Ligor failing to produce the desired effect.

6. The multiplicity of correspondence on record regarding the Rajah of Quedah will have made His Honor acquainted with the wily character of this obstinate old man. If, as he states, his conduct has been dictated by the Siamese authorities, there can be little doubt that their views extend to the whole of Perak, and it therefore more especially behoveth us to move at once in this matter.

7. Under any circumstances I most respectfully urge that he may be made to withdraw to the former boundary of Quedah, and as the most decisive method of effecting this without bloodshed and convincing him of his wilful error in regard to the tenure on which we hold Penang, that his annual stipend be stopped till he has done so for one whole year.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor of Prince of Wales
Island, Singapore and Malacca.

Singapore
7th February 1844.

Fort William the 23d March 1844.

India Political
Consultations.
Range 196,
Vol. 48.

No. 51.

[1848.]

Translation

of a letter from Sultan Abdullah Mahomed Shah, Rajah of Perak, to the Honourable E. A. Blundell Esquire, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

I wish to inform my friend that the countries of Pulo Penang and Perak are indissolubly united by treaty and friendship. That in the Hijera 1241 Mr. John Anderson, on behalf of the Honourable Company, proceeded to Perak to meet Sultan Abdulla Moollum Shah and entered into a treaty of alliance, and again in the Hijera 1242 Captain James Low, as Envoy to the Honorable the Governor in Council of Pulo Penang, also went to Perak and made a treaty, one copy of which remains with each party, and by the assistance of the English Government the reigning Rajahs of Perak have remained as independent Rajahs up to the present time. I consequently never wished to break any of the agreements that were entered into.

Moreover ever since the countries of Pulo Penang and Perak became allied no wrong has been done or offence given, but all has continued well. Now I wish to inform my friend about the District of Kream which lies on the bank of Soonger Kream on my side of the river. I am informed that when the Rajah of Kedah received back his territory of Kedah, people came from Kedah and forcibly seized and took the district of Kream, that was under my dominion, and said they did so by orders of the Rajah of Kedah; they also spoiled the country and plundered the inhabitants. They likewise plundered Pangholoo Jumahat or Rajah Lela Pehalawan and drove him away.

This Pangholoo Jumahat was placed by me in authority there with the approval of Captain James Low, because that Krean adjoins the country of Pulo Penang and is rather distant from Perak but is near to my friend, so that in case of any disturbance my friend may soon have knowledge of it. The Pangholoo of Krean has come to inform me of the matters respecting Krean and I would wish to send a large armament to Krean to take it back, but should I do so without the knowledge and concurrence of my friend I fear I might be infringing the treaties. I immediately after receiving information forwarded a letter to the Honorable Samuel Garling Esquire,* Resident Councillor of Prince of Wales Island, and one to Mr. Ferrier,* Superintendent of Province Wellesley, and a long time has elapsed [but] I have not received any answers. The reasons for this I am not aware of.

* See ante, Vol. 35 of this series.

* Not copied.

Being informed of the arrival of my friend to succeed Mr. Bonham who has returned to England I have the greatest hopes that my friend will favor me with a reply, and assist me according to the terms of the treaty existing between the English Company and myself. From the remotest time the District of Krean belonged to Perak and of this my friend is well aware. With Compliments.

Fort William the 23d March 1844.

From the Honorable Colonel Butterworth, &ca. &ca.
To the Governor of Quedda &ca. &ca.

(After Compliments.)

I sent for my friend consequent on intelligence having reached me that he had passed over, seized upon and retained possession of the District of Kreaan, hitherto considered as the undisputed property of the Rajah of Perak.

I think it right before leaving Penang to repeat what I said to my friend's son Tuanku Dye, vizt., that during the period Tuanku Annum continued as the representative of the Siamese Authority in Quedah no question was made as to whom the District of Kreaan belonged, and that Tuanku Annum never for a moment attempted to exercise any jurisdiction there, on the contrary the Kreaan district was universally considered as appertaining to the Rajah of Perak.

It is very much to be regretted that my friend so immediately on his restoration to power should have made this aggression on the neighbouring territories of Perak, as it will probably lead to hostilities with the Rajah of that country, who would long since have commenced had I not requested him to desist till I should see my friend and induce him to withdraw to his own country on the south bank of the Kreaan river.

At present I have not written to the Supreme Government, but I must shortly do so unless my friend listens to my advice and gives up the territory he has recently seized upon, for if hostilities be once commenced on the borders of Province Wellealey I may be forced to adopt measures which will be very detrimental to the future interests of my friend and his family.

Prince of Wales Island
9th December 1843.

Fort William the 23d March 1844.

To the Rajah of Ligore &ca. &ca.

(After Compliments.)

I write to my friend consequent on the receipt of a letter from the Rajah of Perak, who informs me that the Governor of Quedha, under some misapprehension of the right of territory on the south bank of the Sun-gie Kream River, has seized upon and retained possession of the District of Kream hitherto considered as the undisputed property of the Rajah of Perak.

During the period Tuankoo Annum continued as representative of the Siamese Authority in Quedha no question was made as to whom the district of Kream belonged and Tuanku Annum never for a moment attempted to exercise any jurisdiction, on the contrary the Kream District was, as I have before observed, universally considered as appertaining to the Rajah of Perak.

It is very much to be regretted that the present Governor of Quedha, so immediately on his restoration to power, should have made the aggression on the neighbouring territory of Perak, as it will infallibly lead to hostilities between the two countries and may force me to adopt measures for the protection of Province Wellesley, which will be detrimental to both the contending parties.

Being anxiously desirous of preventing such a state of affairs, I have requested the Rajah of Perak not to make any hostile movement till I can hear from my friend to whom I have addressed this letter, in the hope that he will remonstrate with the Governor of Quedah and induce him to withdraw his people to the north side of the Kream River, if, as I have every reason to believe, from the intercourse which has

hitherto subsisted between the Rajah of Perak and the Settlements committed to my governance, as also from the tacit acknowledgment of the Rajah of Siam prior to the return of the present Governor to Quedah, that the country south of the Krian river forms part of the Rajah of Perak's territory.

I shall be glad to hear from my friend at an early period and it will afford me infinite satisfaction if his views coincide with mine on this subject, when I feel assured that steps will be taken to induce the Governor of Quedah to withdraw to his own territory and preclude the necessity of the Rajah of Perak going to war to maintain his right to that boundary, hitherto unquestioned, which nature appears to have formed between the Perak and Quedah countries.

Prince of Wales Island

9th December 1843.

From the Honorable Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the Most Honorable the Military Order of the Bath, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

Fort William the 23d March 1844.

No. 51 contd.

Translation

of a letter from Sultan Ahmad Tajoodin Hallim Shah
To the Honorable Colonel Butterworth C. B.
Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

I have received my friend's letter on the 7th day of the Hajee month stating that I was disturbing at Kreaan river the peace of the Perak country. I wish to acquaint my friend that from the time of my grandfather before the English Company had asked to rent Pulo Penang, Kreaan was under my father's government. My friend can learn this from old residents. When Mr. Ibbetson was Governor he sent me to Malacca, contrary to agreement with the Company. Moreover, I have heard that Captain Low gave the Kreaan river to the Perak people, a thing which is contrary to the custom of former Governors from Mr. Light's time upwards to Governor Phillip and Governor Fullerton.

At the time of the latter I was ordered to go and reside at Penang and I sent my son Tuanku Zein al Abdin to go and rule Kreaan from the then north boundary to the mouth of the river Korow, and according to the state of things in my grandfather's and ancestor's time and according to orders, and which have not been departed from up to the present day. I can show my friend these chops and documents.

Moreover the King of Siam *ordered* me to go and subdue Perak and annex it to Siam. My friend can look at the registry of such papers and will there find the agreement of my father with the English

Company. Now I would have sooner replied to my friend's letter but the gun boat returned so soon that I had not time.

Dated 7th day of the Bulon Haji month Dulhaijah
(27th December).

Fort William the 23d March 1844.

No. 52.

To the Honorable Lieutenant Colonel Butterworth, C.B.
Governor of Prince of Wales Island
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

* *Not copied.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo,* directing me to report most fully on the right and title or otherwise of the Governor of Keddah to the Krean country.

2. The Krean river is the largest betwixt the Murda river in Keddah and the Perak River. It is deep and broad and its course, which inclines a few degrees to the southward of east, forms a very natural and distinct line of demarcation betwixt the countries of Perak and Keddah, from the sea on the West to the mountains on the East, which last run parallel to the coast at a distance of from at least 35 to 40 miles. The ceded district of Province Wellesley occupies about 10 miles of the north bank of the river upwards from the sea and the boundary pillar, and the direct distance is 6 miles.

3. That this was the extreme boundary betwixt Perak and Keddah when the latter had become fully colonized is in some degree manifested by the total absence of any vestiges of population on the Keddah and Province Wellesley side of the river to a distance of ten miles at least from its bank, while the country still further north and especially those tracts bordering on the Muda river, where the first Keddah Chiefs settled, display in the ruins of forts and temples and other buildings traces of a dense population. These traces disappear before reaching the *Pry* river just opposite to Penang, and as no mention is made in the History of Keddah which I received from the

Ex Rajah (or present Governor of part of Keddah) himself of either the Pry or the Kream river, I am inclined to think that the limit of Keddah to the south did not in former times, *i. e.*, from three to four hundred years ago, extend beyond the Pry river.

4. When Penang was ceded to the British in 1786 it was natural that the authorities there should have enquired about its limits. I cannot at this moment find the Government Record to which I would refer, as I have not the date, but Lieutenant Colonel, then Captain H. Burney, who was Envoy from the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in 1825/6 to the Court of Siam, refers to it in his public report of his proceedings when sent on a political visit to the Rajah of Ligor in lower Siam, subsequently to his mission to the capital of Siam. He therein observes that he told the Rajah of Ligor that Captain Light, the first Superintendent of Penang, had reported that the river Kream in N. Lat. 5: 10 was then and always had been the boundary betwixt Keddah and Perak, and that this boundary was laid down in a chart of the Malayan coast which Mr. Lindsay had constructed shortly after the cession of Penang. It will be presently shown why this question was then mooted at all. Colonel Burney must have been fully convinced of the validity of these arguments, which he used in his political capacity, for in a chart of the Malayan coast which he himself compiled dated 10th April 1825, and which was presented by him to the Right Honble. the Governor General, the Kream river is laid down as the mutual boundary of Keddah and Perak.

In 1813 the rajah of Keddah, or rather Governor of that country under the Siamese Government, was ordered by the latter to invade and subdue Perak, because the Rajah of that State asserted the independence which had been transmitted to him by his predecessors. This Rajah (the present Ex Rajah,

but as above stated, now the Governor of a portion only of Keddah; nothing loth as it should seem, obeyed the mandate, and Perak sustained for a while all the miseries consequent on such an unprovoked and unprincipled aggression. I am unable positively to state whether in retiring from Perak this Keddah Chief retained the usurped possession of any tract of land bordering on the south bank of Kream River, but if he did so, it must have been but for a very brief period, since such an occupancy is unknown to the people in that quarter.

In the latter part of 1825 when I took charge of Province Wellesley, the Rajah of Perak was in full possession of the south bank of the Kream river which was under his Panghula or officer, stationed on the Korow River, this last lying about 10 or 15 miles to the southward of Kream River.

5. The present Ex Rajah or Ex Governor of Keddah was expelled from that province of Siam by the then Rajah or Governor of Ligor in 1821. The south bank of the Kream was then under the Perak Rajah. In the Ex Rajah's letter to you, dated the 27th December,* he observes that after his expulsion from Keddah he had sent his son, he should have said his nephew, Zemalaledin to govern Kream. This was however in 1824, several years after he lost Keddah. This assertion of power exercised by him within what he calls part of the *Keddah* territory, after he had been driven from Keddah, would seem strange and incredible. Yet it is true in one sense, and false in another, and affords a strong argument that the Ligorian did not, from 1821, the period of his invasion of Keddah then in rebellion to Siamese supremacy, up to 1824, exercise any authority or control over the Kream river and district. If he had, then this freebooter, Zemalaledin, would never have been permitted to enter the river. The Ex Rajah's assertion is true in one sense and false in another, because the Kream river is or should be at

* See ante.

least agreeably to the Law of Nations a thoroughfare to the lawful possessors of both of its banks, because the Keddah territory lying east of the British territory, is bounded by the north bank of the Kream river, and as under such circumstances the Chief in question might have had authority on the Kream without at all interfering with the rights of Perak to the south bank, and the navigation of the river by its inhabitants.

6. But the following are the facts of the case. In the latter part of 1825, when I took charge of Province Wellesley as before noticed, I found Zemaladien, otherwise called Tuanku Din and Koodin, a man partly of Arab descent and partly of Malayan, located on the north bank of the Kream river at Bukut Tungal, just within the British territory. There was not at the period a single Siamese post on either bank of the Kream river—both banks being in a very jungly state and thinly peopled. This Chief, taking advantage of the unsettled state of Province Wellesley about 1824, paid a pretended friendly visit to Tuanku Noo, a Malay man the owner of the village of Bukit Toongal and of some land adjoining, and after treacherously murdering him, took possession of his wife and family and property. The position was very favorable for this Chief's piratical propensities, as it enabled him unsuspectedly for a while, to abet the numerous and atrocious piracies committed on British subjects of Penang. With the sanction of the local Government I proceeded with a detachment of the Corps I then commanded and expelled this man and his armed followers from their position. His presence there as head of the pirates doubtless contributed to prevent the Perak Rajah's people from settling on the Kream south bank to the extent which they afterwards did, and even although that Chief had not established any post on that bank I may remark that this Tuanku Din headed the in-

vasion by the Malays of Keddah in 1829, where he was killed. In May 1826 the Ligorian was actively engaged in undermining the power of the Perak Rajah and had actually assumed the privilege of conferring offices in Perak. A Perak merchant who had escaped from Perak deposed at the Perak Police Office (18th May 1826) "that on his departure he had heard that "the Ligorian had delegated to one of his hirelings "Nakhodah Mahomed of Perak the Government of "the sea coast of Perak, from the Kream River to "Burnam River" which last divides Perak from Salengore, which serves at least to show that Kream was considered in Perak as the northern boundary of Perak.

7. I had the honor in 1826 of being deputed by the Honorable the Governor of the Straits, Mr. Fullerton, as his Political Agent to Perak in order to free that State from Siamese interference. The object was effected, thereby securing that which was contemplated in the 14th article of the Treaty of Bangkok, the independence of Perak. My instructions directed me to give the King of Perak clearly to understand that he may rely on the assistance of the British in expelling any Siamese who may proceed to Perak, and in resisting any interference with his Government. The Rajah of Ligor, when he corrupted a number of Perak Chiefs, had given them secret commissions under his seal. These were not returned to him when his force evacuated Perak and one of these was afterwards discovered by me at Korow river as will be presently noticed. The Perak Rajah's authority over his subjects had been so shaken that even after he had been emancipated from direct Siamese control, his frontier districts were in a distracted state. One of these was the river and district of Korow, the Panghula of which upheld, as well as he could, the authority of the Rajah up to and on the Kream river. This Perak Chief had been a year or

two before my mission to Perak driven up from the lower part of the Korow river by a piratical Chief named Tuanku Long Puteh, but he in turn was afterwards expelled by an equally noted pirate Nakhodah Oodin. Both these men were Malays. The Korow River lies about 12 or 15 miles south of the Kream and the pirates had formed a chain of strong posts from its mouth to a distance of 15 miles up it, over-aweing the people of the interior and depredating on and killing British petty traders and others at sea. No one ever suspected that the Rajah of Ligor, who in the 8th article of his treaty with Captain Burney, 31st July 1825, had engaged to adopt effectual measures for the suppression of piracy, was leagued with such men. Yet he actually and secretly was so beyond his jurisdiction under the mask, as Mr. Fullerton observed in his Minute, of constant and unceasing protestations of amity towards the British.

8. The Penang Government finding the evil of piracy to have reached an intolerable height were pleased to order me to proceed in command of a military and sea force to destroy the pirates and their establishments at Korow. After this had been effected I discovered amongst the papers of the Chief there, Nakhodah Oodin, which fell into my hands, a number of letters addressed to him by the Rajah of Ligor, and amongst these there was one directing him to continue in the Government of Korow. This order was dated a year or two back from that period and about the time when the Rajah of Ligor had begun to corrupt the Perak Chiefs with the view of usurping the Government of that country. So His Highness might have fairly if he had chosen denied any participation in the guilt of Nakhodah Oodin, subsequently to his own agreement with Captain Burney or to the Treaty of Bangkok. By so doing he might have evaded the charge of having infringed the 3rd and 8th articles of his treaty with Captain Burney, which pro-

vided for the independence of Perak and suppression of piracy although he could not have extricated himself from the odium and guilt of having abetted piracies on British subjects previous to the treaty. Nakhodah Oodin could not be tried at Penang for piracy as there was then no Admiralty jurisdiction. The Penang Government therefore sent him "to the Power to which he belonged"—the Rajah of Ligor, and he has not since returned.

9. The Rajah of Ligor was extremely mortified and disconcerted when the account reached him of Oodin having been detected, for he could not deny his own Seal, and as Captain Burney arrived shortly afterwards from Calcutta with the ratified copies of the treaty of Bangkok, the Rajah to save himself took the bold measure of claiming Korow as a part of Keddah. Captain Burney opposed to him the arguments before stated, without much effect at the time, but soon afterwards the Rajah received from the Honorable the Governor of the Straits the copy of a letter which he the Rajah had addressed in 1822 to the then Governor, the Honorable Mr. Phillips, in which His Highness had denounced Oodin as a notorious pirate and had requested that he should be seized. After this untoward exposure no more was or has since been heard of the Rajah's claim on Korow including Kream district. If he had still desired to enforce this unjust claim he had every opportunity so to do when the Honorable Mr. Ibbetson, the Governor of the Straits visited him in 1831 to adjust the British and Siamese boundary line and as I also accompanied Mr. Ibbetson he might have questioned me on the subject, but he never even hinted at it.

10. There was no attempt made by the Siamese Government in 1826, when the Treaty of Bangkok was concluded, to bring any part of the territory south of the Kream River within the limits of Kedah. The

Rajah of Perak was then the ruler of Perak, at least *de jure*, however his actual authority might have been placed in abeyance by Siamese interference, and Krian river was considered by the British Authorities in the Straits and by the Native population of Perak and Keddah generally as an undoubted portion of the Perak State. The Treaty of Bangkok therefore by its 14th article fully secured to the Perak Rajah the integrity of his territory as it stood at the date of that Treaty.

11. In 1831 I accompanied the Siamese officers (who were sent by the Rajah of Ligor) to fix a spot on the north bank of the Krian river on which was to be and subsequently was erected the boundary pillar betwixt Province Wellesley and the Siamese dependency of Keddah. Neither these officers nor others who guarded the post afterwards made the slightest claim to occupy territory on the opposite bank. They only asked to be allowed a free egress to the sea, which request would have been superfluous for to this privilege they would have had an indisputable right, had they possessed any such territory. The Rajah of Ligor even at the time when I accompanied the Honorable the Governor Mr. Ibbetson to visit him in his camp in Keddah after he had recovered it from the Malays gave me the control of his officers at this point on the Krian River, saying that he would dismiss them should I ever be obliged to report to him their incapacity or bad conduct. From that period up to the time of my leaving Province Wellesley in November 1840, or rather up to that when the Ex Rajah of Keddah made his encroachment on Krian, the Siamese have as quietly as might be occupied their post on the north bank of the Krian River and close to the brick boundary pillar alluded to, and without in any manner interfering with the Perak people settled on the south bank of the river from the sea to the mountains of the interior and this too with-

out any claim having ever been set up by the Siamese on this bank or having attempted to settle on it.

12. As the matter now rests it appears to me that the present Governor of part of Keddah, the Ex Rajah, would hardly have ventured on the dangerous political movement he has made without some countenance from the Siamese authorities, and consequently that the latter, having as is well known no regard for him, but the contrary, have either connived at his conduct in order to bring him into discredit with the British Government and to show how ungraciously he repaid the exertions which were made by it to restore him to some authority in Keddah, or else that the Court of Bangkok, or at least the Rajah of Ligor, still clings in secret to the ambitious views which that Court formerly entertained in the direction of Perak and Salangore.

I have &c.

(Signed) James Low
Major.

Singapore
4th February 1844.

Fort William the 23d March 1844.

No. 54.

To the Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
&ca. &ca.

Sir,

* See ante in
this Vol.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 7th ultimo,* with enclosures, relative to the forcible aggression of the Governor of Queda upon a certain tract of country called Kreaan, claimed by the Rajah of Perak.

2. In reply I am directed to inform you that under all the circumstances detailed in the correspondence and papers that accompanied your dispatch, the Governor General in Council authorizes your withholding the payment of the annual stipend to the Rajah of Quedah till that chieftain shall have withdrawn within the limits of the former boundary of his territory, and have abstained from aggression on Kreaan for the period of one year.

3. His Lordship in Council requests that you will intimate to the Rajah of Perak the course you have been directed by the Government of India to pursue on this occasion, and you will urge him not to adopt any measures for the forcible reoccupation of the tract in dispute that may disturb the peace and affect the interests of the common frontier.

4. The Governor General in Council is not disposed, merely on the assertion of the Chief of Queda as to the part taken by the King of Siam in this matter, to make a formal remonstrance to that Sovereign of* the subject as recommended in paragraph 5 of your letter.

* (Sic.) ? on.

5. His Lordship in Council would hope that the proceedings now authorized will effect an early

adjustment of the affair. Their result, as well as the reply that may be made by the Rajah of Ligor to your letter alluded to in your dispatch, you will report for the information of the Governor General in Council.

I have &c.

(Signed) F. Currie

Secretary to the Government
of India.

Fort William

20th March 1844.

Fort William 18th May 1844.

No. 213.

To the Right Honorable Edward, Lord Ellenborough
Governor General of India &ca., &ca.

The Memorial of Robert Hunter of Bangkok
in the Kingdom of Siam, British Merchant
and Agent.

Sheweth,

That your Memorialist in the month of August 1824 commenced business as a general merchant resident at Bangkok and established a house of business there which has since hitherto been and now is carried on under the firm of Messrs. Hunter and Hayes.

That at the time of his first establishment there, your Memorialist being the only British born merchant resident in Bangkok, had to contend with all the difficulties attendant upon an experimental trade with a semi-barbarous people, of whom Europeans knew as little as they did of Europeans, and with whom at that time European Governments had no fixed commercial relations.

That in the year 1826 Captain H. Burney, being sent to Bangkok in a diplomatic character by the Supreme Government of India, Your Memorialist had the satisfaction of rendering some service to the Mission, which resulted in the existing Political and Commercial Treaties with Siam of the twentieth of June 1826. He was also fortunate enough to be useful to the Indian Government on the two subsequent occasions of Dr. Richardson's overland journey from Moulmain to Bangkok in 1839, and of the late determination of His Siamese Majesty to restore the expelled Rajah of Quedah to his territory, for which several services your Memorialist received the official

thanks of the successive Governors General at these periods.

That after the execution of the Treaties of June 1826, the trade of your Memorialist and of British subjects in general having been placed on a steady footing increased rapidly so that in 1842 the number of square rigged vessels that resorted to the river of Siam was no less than fifty-five (55) chiefly under British colours, nine being regular traders to the port of Bangkok and with the exception of three or four direct from Great Britain, most of them coming from Bmobay, Singapore or China.

That on the 26th of February of this current year when your Memorialist left Bangkok, there were five permanent commercial establishments there, carried on by British subjects, of which that of Hunter and Hayes, to which your Memorialist belongs, is the only one in which British born subjects are interested, the other houses consisting of one native merchant from the Madras Coast and three branch establishments of native houses at Bombay.

That this increase of trade was principally fostered by the non-interference of the Siamese authorities, who continued for some time content with the heavy measurement duty of 1700 ticals per Siamese fathom, chargeable by the terms of the treaty on vessels importing cargo and 1500 ticals per fathom on vessels entering without cargo (Article 1st of Commercial Treaty).

But avarice which is the characteristic of most semi-barbarous Governments, and of that of Siam amongst the rest, seems to have been awakened by the opportunities afforded by the great accession to trade and the arrival in 1842 of the Ship Good Success, Captain Evans, with dollars on board for the purchase of sugar, put the King of Siam upon the expedient

of monopolizing this article for his own profit in direct contravention of the terms of the Treaty (Art. 1). Accordingly he issued an order that sugar should be sold exclusively by one of his own officers and at his Royal Stores. At the time your Memorialist's firm of Hunter and Hayes had contracted with various dealers for about 2 or 3000 peculs at 7 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ ticals, part of which was lying off their wharf and about to be weighed and landed into store. The effect of the order was that the whole of the sugar was carried off to the King's stores, and their firm informed that if it wanted sugar for the " Good Success " it must buy at the King's stores at 10 ticals per pecul. To prevent a total loss of the voyage it was necessary to submit, and as a great favour sugar was supplied them from the King's store at $9\frac{1}{2}$ ticals per pecul.

The same monopoly of sugar was enforced in the following season, 1843, but the crop being large that year your Memorialist's firm was enabled to obtain a supply from His Majesty at the rate of $8\frac{3}{4}$ ticals per pecul, which it might have had direct from the dealers certainly as low as $7\frac{1}{2}$ ticals.

That in the following season, 1844, his Siamese Majesty professed not to monopolize to himself the trade in sugar, but he did what was the same thing by granting the exclusive right of dealing in that article to the two head China traders, who paid him for the privilege 2 ticals per pecul and an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ tical under the name of duty, and your Memorialist's firm, as well as other British traders were subjected to the alternative of sending their ships away empty, or paying 9 ticals per pecul for what would otherwise have been readily sold at $7\text{--}7\frac{1}{2}$ ticals per pecul at the utmost. Taking the average annual export to be one hundred and ten thousand peculs of sugar of first quality, which is a fair estimate, the loss of the exporters on this article alone, arising from the monopoly would be 275,000 ticals or

Company's Rupees 343,750, most of which falls on the trade of British subjects.

That by the 1st article of the Commercial Treaty of June 1826 it is expressly provided that "with exception of warlike stores, paddy and rice, merchants subjects of the English and merchants at Bangkok may buy and sell without the intervention of any other person and with freedom and facility and that merchants coming to trade shall pay at once the whole of the duties and Charges consolidated according to the breadth of the vessel.

If the vessel bring an import cargo she shall be charged 1700 ticals for each Siamese fathom in breadth

If the vessel bring no import cargo she shall be charged 1500 ticals per each Siamese fathom in breadth.

No import export or other duty shall be levied upon the buyers* sellers from or to English subjects."

* *Sic*.

Thus the monopoly in question whether directly by the King and his officers or indirectly by exclusive grant to Chinese or others was a manifest infringement of the Treaty by which British subjects trading in Siam during the last three years have sustained unjust loss to the amount of more than ten laks of Rupees or 100,000 Pounds Sterling.

That if so flagrant a breach of treaty shall be passed over without notice the Siamese Monarch, whose passion is avarice that has increased with his advance of years, will grasp one after the other, like Mahmood Ally in Egypt, every exportable product of his country and thus extinguish a commerce which it cost the Indian Government great sacrifices to open, and which was under its protection rapidly growing into importance, to say nothing of the loss of national character which must inevitably result from submitting to such infractions. Some Native British

subjects have already been driven out of the trade by these exactions and other vexations too numerous to be detailed and others are already preparing to follow their example.

That your Memorialist himself having entered into a contract with the King of Siam to procure for him a sea-going steamer and other supplies, and having accordingly procured and brought out to Bangkok at great expense and risk the Steamer Express for that purpose, was in consequence of the King's breach of engagement and of the personal ill will thereupon conceived against him by His Siamese Majesty compelled precipitately to withdraw with the vessel from the river of Assam (?), leaving behind merchandize and outstandings to the value of three laks of rupees under the charge of an European assistant, from whose communications since received your Memorialist seriously apprehends that it will not only be impossible for him to withdraw his property from the country, notwithstanding the express provision of the Political Treaty in that behalf (Art. 7), but that his English assistant will be subjected to personal restraint or ill treatment unless the protection of the British authorities be afforded or at hand.

That the above infractions of Treaties that have been most rigidly observed on the part of Great Britain would, as your Memorialist believes, have been easily prevented either by the presence at Bangkok of a Consul or other British officers charged to watch over the performance of the Treaties or by the casual appearance of a British Frigate or ship of war on the Coast of Siam to shew that Great Britain was awake to the interests of her subjects and commerce in that quarter. Such is the timidity of the Siamese Monarch and so sensitive his alarm for the vast hoards that he has amassed by monopoly and other modes of extortion that the least appearance of a resolution

to enforce the terms of the treaties would be productive of immediate apology and submission.

That should it be thought expedient to resort to either of the modes of redress above alluded to your Memorialist would further suggest that it might be expedient on the first opportunity of explanation or discussion with the Siamese Government to propose a modification of the form or rate of consolidated charge stipulated by the Treaty; a general duty of 1,700 ticals per Siamese fathom on vessels importing cargo and of 1500 ticals per fathom on their coming in ballast is a clumsy and most unequal impost, prohibiting all together on bulky articles and upon vessels coming empty in quest of freight. A mode of assessment, bearing more fairly on the import and far more productive to the Siamese revenue if recommended to their adoption by the British authorities would be most readily acceded to by those of Siam, and such is the productive power of the country that it is difficult to assign a limit to the commerce that might be thus engendered or the benefit that might accrue to the neighbouring British Settlements, especially that of Singapore. While the successes of Great Britain in China are fresh in their memory it is not to be supposed that the nations in her vicinity will venture to disregard any claim for redress or any proposal for improving future intercourse that may come from the British Government or its representative in the Indian Seas.

To conclude, Your Memorialist was in February last compelled by acts of bad faith and caprice of the Siamese Government to abandon his commercial establishment and property at Bangkok with the English assistant in charge of it to the mercy of an ignorant and haughty despot whose jealousy of his British allies, awakened no doubt by the late operations in China, will as your

Memorialist has abundant reason to fear, urge him to measures of personal violence and spoliation. Your Memorialist has come direct to Calcutta in the Steamer Express to claim of the Supreme Government not only that protection to person and property to which British traders are entitled by the positive terms of the Treaties made with your Lordship's predecessor in June 1826 but also redress for a manifest breach of those Treaties which stipulated for a direct commerce between British subjects and the subjects of Siam without intervention of the State or its agents, in consideration of a consolidated measurement duty on their vessels entering the port of Siam. Your Memorialist feels assured by the energy of your Lordship's administration that his appeal will not be made in vain and that your Lordship will promptly find means to enforce the observance of the Treaties either by interference of the Supreme Government or by setting in motion the naval force of Great Britain stationed in the China Seas for the protection of British rights and interests.

And your Memorialist ever prays &ca. &ca.

(Signed) Robert Hunter,

Calcutta

The 24 April 1844.

Fort William 18th May 1844.

No. 214.

MEMORANDUM by

MR. UNDER SECRETARY EDWARDS.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Hunter, a British Merchant and Agent engaged in trade in Bangkok in the Kingdom of Siam, has addressed the Government of India complaining of certain infractions of existing Treaties on the part of the King of Siam, by which he and other British traders resorting to the Port of Bangkok, have been put to serious loss and inconvenience.

(Here follow a summary of Hunter's letter (No. 213) and extracts from existing Treaties).

* * * * *

From the Treaties in force it does not by any means appear that any interference was intended with the King or that he should be prevented from monopolizing any product of his dominions or granting such monopoly to any persons should he be so disposed. If the King determines to monopolise sugar then such monopoly becomes one of the laws and established rules of the Kingdom of Siam to which our traders, by the articles quoted, are imperatively bound to conform.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ tical levied from the sugar dealers for their monopoly by the King which goes under the name of duty as stated by Mr. Hunter can be considered no infraction of the Treaty, for it is not levied from them because they sell to the English but it is the sum paid by them for their monopoly to whomsoever they may choose to sell it.

The spirit of the several Treaties seems to be that

the laws and customs of Siam should be rigidly conformed to. No specification of these laws or customs is made, and if the monopoly of sugar be legalized by the King then our traders would seem bound to conform to it, and it would not appear that we would be justified in forcing the King to sell that product without any restriction.

Mr. Hunter's second complaint is that he has been forced by the King to leave Siam abandoning behind him there property to the amount of 3 lacs of rupees.

This property has been left under the charge of an European assistant. He fears that the property will be plundered by the King and his assistant placed under restraint.

If what Mr. Hunter anticipates actually takes place then it would seem that there would arise an infringement of the 7th Article of the Treaty which specifies that* any English merchant or subject who has nothing to detain him requests permission to leave the country and to embark with his property on board of any vessel he shall be allowed to do so with facility.

* ? insert "if"

But it must be remembered that Mr. Hunter's differences with the King of Siam appears to have originated not so much on account of the sugar monopoly, which had been going on for two years previously without complaint on the part of Mr. Hunter, but on account of the Steamer Express. This vessel Mr. Hunter states His Majesty commissioned him to procure for him from England. Until we are made aware of the whole circumstances of that transaction, whether the King furnished the funds for the purchase of the vessel, it is not possible to say whether the King may not have some just claim against Mr. Hunter. If His Majesty did furnish the purchase money, as the vessel has not been transferred to him he may have

some just claim against Mr. Hunter's property and so
object to its removal from Bangkok.

(Signed) W. Edwards

Under Secretary to Govt. of India.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 196,
Vol. 53.

Fort William 18th May 1844.

No. 215

To the Governor of Eastern Settlements..

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a Memorial from Mr. Robert Hunter of Bankok, dated the 24th ultimo, and to request that you will ascertain as you may have opportunity what real cause of complaint Mr. Hunter has and report the result of your enquiry for the information of His Lordship in Council.

I have &c.

(Signed) F. Currie

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Fort William, Foreign Department,
The 18th May 1844.

Fort William the 28th March 1845.

No. 212.

To F. Currie Esquire
Secretary to the Government of India
Fort William.

Sir,

* See letter from
F. Currie (not
Edwards) above
series, Range 196,
Vol. 53.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Edward's Letter No. 1016 of 18th May last,* inclosing Copy of a Memorial from Mr. Robert Hunter of Bangkok, and requiring me to ascertain as far as practicable and report what real cause of grievances Mr. Hunter has.

2nd. Mr. Hunter's main complaints are two :—

1st Regarding the Royal monopoly of sugar ;

2nd Regarding the sale of a steam vessel, but the first above alone is very distinctly stated.

3rd. Of the monopoly of sugar there is I believe no doubt. The question is whether it is a grievance. Mr. Hunter has a right to seek redress for through his Government.

4th. I am of opinion it is not. Monopolies are a main source of revenue in these countries, though rulers seeking popularity occasionally give them up for a time as was the case at his accession with the King of Siam who concluded the treaty of 1826. But these abjurations of trade and of monopolies are always short lived from necessities of their political system which need not now be mentioned. Mr. Hunter seems, however, to think that in the treaty of 1826 monopolies were abandoned and their re-establishment as respects British subjects provided against. He quotes from the first article that English merchants in Siam may, with exceptions of certain articles, buy, and sell without the intervention of any other

person, but Mr. Hunter does not quote the beginning of the articles and the 6th article requiring obedience to the established laws of the country. Now, it will be scarcely contended that the laws, including those relative to trade and monopolies are never to be changed, or if changed that British subjects are exempted from obedience. But again the Commercial Treaty is mere appendix to the Political Treaty containing rules for the trade at Bangkok, and the foundation of it will be found in Articles 6 to 9 inclusive of the Political Treaty. In article 6 it is expressly stipulated that the subjects of either nation shall trade in the territories of the other with out the intervention of other parties in such countries. Now it will scarcely be contended that as regards Siamese subjects the Salt and Opium Monopolies are abrogated, and that the British Indian Legislature as relates to Siamese subjects trading to India be debarred from creating any other monopolies it may think fit, but if we have not so tied up our hand neither have we theirs.

5. If it be said that in this case the Commercial Treaty is useless, I admit it, and I consider all such treaties I know of with the natives between India and China as worse than useless, and without protecting trade tend to bring in interference, collision and war.

6th. As respects the steamer it is to be remembered the King and all his Ministers and nobles are traders, so is Mr. Hunter, who had for years great influence with the Court. This he has now lost and instead of being in some sort partners, he, and the Ministers or King have become rivals in trade. It is impossible to decide between them unless by judicial investigation on the spot which is impossible.

7th. Mr. Hunter next states his fears that his assistant will not be allowed to quit the country with his property. This case not having occurred need not be entered on further than to point out the difficulties

of enforcing the latter part of article 7 of the Treaty of Friendship. It would be necessary to prove there was nothing to detain the party desiring to leave the country, and if any charges of crime, or doubt of right to property were raised the tribunals of the country, according to Article 6th of the Treaty of Friendship and Article 6th of Agreement regarding trade at Bangkok (generally called the Commercial Treaty) would have to decide the case, in other words to detain or set free as they chose.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. Broadfoot

Commissioner in the Tenasserim Province

Moulmein

Commissioner's Office.

The 2nd July 1844.

India and
Bengal Letters
Received,
Vol. 43.

Fort William
Foreign Department
The 22d July 1844.

To the Honble. the Court of Directors
of the East India Company.

Honble. Sirs,

Cons: 27 Jan, 1844

Nos. 279 to 292.

(See India Pol. &

Foreign Cons.,

Range 197, Vol. 45)

Para. 122. This correspondence relates to the obstructions which are alleged to exist in the commercial intercourse of British subjects with Siam.

122 A. On this subject we remarked that there did not appear to be a violation of any article of the existing treaty on the part of the King of Siam, nor did we consider the interference of the British Government to be immediately required.

123. The Rajah of Kedah since his restoration to power, had taken forcible possession of a certain tract of country called Kreaan claimed by the Rajah of Perak.

124. Under all the circumstances of this case we authorized the Government of Penang to withhold the payment of the annual stipend to the Rajah of Queda till that chieftain should have withdrawn within the limits of the former boundary of his territory and have abstained from aggression on Kreaan for the period of one year. It was meanwhile directed that the course which our Government had determined to pursue on this occasion should be made known to the Rajah of Perak, and that he should be urged not to adopt any measures for the re-occupation of the tract in dispute, such as might disturb the peace and affect the interests of the common frontier.

We have the honor &c.

(Signed) N. N. Bird

&c., &c.

Fort William

The 22d July 1844.

Fort William the 18th January 1845.

No. 43.

To F. Currie Esquire
Secretary to the Government of India,
Fort William.

Sir,

(* See this series,
Range 196,
Vol. 48.)

With reference to your letter under date the 20th March, * No. 383, conveying the authority of the Governor General for withholding the payment of the annual stipend to the Governor of Quedah till that Chieftain shall have withdrawn within the limits of his former boundary and abstained from aggression on Kreaan for one year, and directing me to communicate the result, as well as the reply made by the Rajah of Ligore to my letter requesting his interference.

I have now the honor to transmit the accompanying copy of a correspondence which I held with the Governor of Quedah whilst at Penang by which it will be observed that the old man obstinately adheres to the determination of holding possession of the Kreaan Country. I am however happy to add that the Rajah of Perak remains perfectly quiescent on the understanding that passive measures are in progress to cause his restoration to that portion of his territories usurped by the Governor of Quedah.

* Omitted.

I have not received any reply to my letter to the Rajah of Ligore which appears by the annexed copy* of a communication from the Resident Councillor at Penang to have reached its destination. I shall however assume that the letter has miscarried and transmit a duplicate via Bangkok.

I hope and believe that when the Governor of Quedah shall feel the want of the annual stipend, and the crops from the Kreaan country shall have been gathered in, that he will be more disposed to meet the

wishes of the Governor General of India.

I shall be careful to communicate any hostile movements which may be made by either of the above Chieftains of which at present I do not entertain any apprehensions.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. Butterworth
Governor.

Singapore,
11th November 1844.

Fort William the 18th January 1845.

No. 44.

From the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the Most Honble. the Military Order of the Bath, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

To the Rajah of Quedah.

In my letter to my friend under date the 9th December last,* I pointed out the injustice of his usurpation of the Krean Country which has remained unquestioned in the hands of the Perak Rajah during the whole period that Tuwankee Annum continued as the representative of the Siamese authority in Quedah.

(* See this series
Range 196,
Vol. 48.)

I also intimated the course I felt it incumbent upon me to pursue in the event of my friend persisting unlawfully to hold the Krean Country in opposition to my expressed wish that he should withdraw to the north bank of the Krean river.

On receipt of my friend's letter bearing date the 19th January* I was compelled to lay the whole subject before the Supreme Government of India, by whom I am now commanded to acquaint my friend that the annual stipend hitherto paid him will be withheld till he shall have withdrawn from the Krean Country for one whole year.

(* Not copied.
See 27 Dec. 1843.
Ind. Pol. Cons.
Range 196,
Vol. 48.)

I would now once again urge on my friend the necessity for his immediately restoring the Krean Country to the Rajah of Perak, as I have issued the instructions of the Supreme Government that the annual stipend hitherto paid my friend shall be withheld till he has returned to and remained peaceably for one whole year within the boundaries of the Quedah District as they were acknowledged when my friend resumed the Government of his Country.

Dated Prince of Wales Island 13th May 1844.

Fort William the 18th January 1845.

Translation of a letter from Sultan Ahmad Tajooddeen Hallim Shah, Rajah of Kedah, to Colonel the Honble. W. Butterworth, C. B., Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

The letter which my friend forwarded to me by my man Ismail reached me on the 16th Jumadilawal (2nd June 1844). Its contents I fully understand.

It is therein stated that on account of Krean affairs my money on the Pulo Penang account is about to be stopped. In my opinion this is highly improper because the whole of Krean is actually under my dominion as specified in my letter to my friend. It is therefore contrary to my reason that I should give up Krean to the Perak people.

With regard to my money on the Penang account according to the Treaty made between the English Company and my late father, when I sent my son Abdullah to Bengal, whilst I was at Malacca, I then received a letter from Lord Bentinck confirming the aforesaid Treaty which was entered into between the English Company and my late father, and which is to continue unto my succeeding generations, and so long as the British flag exists in the Island of Penang the Treaty shall never end. The letter from Lord Bentinck I have shewn to Mr. Bonham, Mr. Garling and Mr. Lewis, who are all aware of the same. I therefore place great confidence upon the said letter, because from time immemorial whatever engagement that may have been made by the English Company it is known to remain firm and unchanged.

Upon the well known justness of the Governor of

Bengal who rules under the great King of England
my increasing confidence is placed and I consequently
rely upon my friend's assistance.

Dated 17th Jummadilawal 1260 or 3rd June
1844.

(A True translation. Signed Abdullah.)

Fort William the 1st February 1845.

No. 49.

To F. Currie Esquire

Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

In continuation of my letters under date the 7th February* and 11th* ultimo, relative to the usurpation of the Krean country by the Governor of Quedah, and in obedience to the orders of the Governor General of India as conveyed in the 5th paragraph of your letter dated 20th March*, I have now the honor to transmit the reply of the Rajah of Ligore to my reference on the above subject, which has just reached me.

* See Range 196,
Vol. 48 of this
series.

* See Range 197,
Vol. 4 Do.

* See Range 180,
Vol. 48 Do.

It will be observed that the Rajah of Ligor distinctly states the boundary of the Quedah country extends only to the Krean river, and the Governor of Quedah has no authority beyond the south bank of that river; moreover, that Tunkoo Annoom, who was the representative of the Siamese Government in Quedah prior to the restoration of the present Governor, had never interfered with the Krean country.

I have addressed a further communication to the Rajah of Ligore calling upon him to issue an order to the Governor of Quedah to withdraw from the Krean country. At the same time I have sent a transcript of the Rajah of Ligore's letter to the Resident Councilor at Penang with with a request that he will intimate its contents to the Governor of Quedah and urge him to restore the usurped territory to the Rajah of Perak.

I trust these measures will be approved of by the Right Honble. the Governor General, although I have

little hope of their being attended with immediate success, or that the Governor of Quedah will listen to reason till he shall feel the want of his annual stipend, which will, I trust, ultimately force him to retire within the limits of his own territory.

I have &ca.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor.

Singapore
21st December 1844.

Fort William, the 1st February, 1845.

No. 50.

Translation.

(After Compliments.)

This comes from me Pya Nackhon Sithammarat hoping it will safely reach my friend the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca, and have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Governor of Penang which has come into my hands, wherein it is stated that the Rajah of Perak had written a letter to the Governor of Penang complaining that the Rajah of Quedah has intruded upon his territory to the South, which is very improper, as his boundary extends only up to the Krian River and he has no right to go beyond that. At the time Tunkoo Annoom had charge of Quedah there has been no complaints whatever, but he was well spoken of by all around him, and he has never interfered with the country of Krian. I am now greatly astonished at the misconduct of the Rajah who governs Quedah that he should meddle with the territory of Perak which is so near to that, for by so doing it will evidently create a war between them, and therefore I trust that the Governor of Penang will interfere and recommend the Rajah of Perak not to cause any disturbance, and afterwards that the Governor of Penang will be pleased to let me know by letter, when, I will also give the Rajah of Perak and the Rajah of Quedah my advice, so as to make the population retreat back from the south of Krian River, which was formerly the boundary of the Rajah of Perak given by the Governor of Penang and therefore the Rajahs of Quedah and Siam cannot on any account meddle or interfere in it. And further the Governor of Penang will be pleased to advise the Rajah of Quedah that when the Perak people go

to Quedah to recommend them to return back quietly and to avoid all disturbances, that they may on both sides live peaceably. That upon Tunkoo Dai, the son of the Rajah of Quedah, having made sufficient atonement to me the Rajah of Nakhon for their misconduct, they were reinstated at Quedah and desired to govern that country as formerly and Tunkoo Abdullah is to convey the tribute money to me Rajah Nakhon, and further that when Tunkoo Abdullah brought the tribute money and was returning the winds were contrary from the north, which induced him to stop at Nakhon, and there I questioned him about the contents of the letter from the Governor of Penang. He replied that Penang, Perak and Soongi Krian formerly belonged to the Rajah of Quedah's father and should descend to his children, but as the English had rented Penang the same was given up by the Rajah of Quedah's father, but when the Rajah of Quedah settled himself at Penang, Jenolahdeen was desired by the Company to look after Soongi Krian, and the Rajah of Quedah to remove to Malacca. Mr. Ibbetson was at this time the Governor of Penang, and Captain Low, regardless of the order respecting Soongi Krian, gave it up to the Perak people, which the old inhabitants there can testify, and likewise be proved by the books and chops in possession of Tunkoo Abdullah. That as to the books I Rajah Nakhon know nothing of but that they merely signify the agreement between the English and the Rajah of Quedah regarding the lands which entirely belonged to Siam and that Tunkoo Annoom, as the Rajah of Quedah, must know all about the boundaries of Krian. That from 1826 to this moment no tribute money was sent by the Rajah of Perak. That at this time Captain Burney came upon a mission to enter into a friendly treaty with Siam wishing that Perak be placed under the English at Penang, and Quedah under the Rajah of Siam, and owing to the mutual friendship between us, I request of my friend to protect the lives and property of the population both at Quedah and Perak by

preventing any tumult breaking out between them and therefore send two letters to the same purport, one in Malay and the other in Siamese.

Friday the 8th month and on the 11th day, in the year Ulur Basar (22d September 1844).

Fort William the 1st February 1845.

From,

The Honble Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the Most Honble. the Military Order of the Bath, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

To the Rajah of Ligore.

* See ante.

I have received my friend's letter of the 22d September 1844,* and am happy to find that he entirely concurs with me in the matter between the Rajah of Perak and Governor of Quedah, in which the latter has behaved most unjustly. I have now only to request that my friend will order the Governor of Quedah to withdraw within the boundaries which have always been recognized by the British Government and acknowledged on all occasions as the limits of Quedah by Tunkoo Annoom, who governed that country with credit to himself and advantage to the people.

My friend's instructions to the Governor of Quedah to vacate the Kreen country and retire from the south bank of that river will doubtless be attended to, and I shall therefore only send notice to him of the communication now under acknowledgment, intimating that he will shortly have an order from my friend to return to the north bank of the Kreen river, which order I beg that my friend will despatch to the Governor of Quedah with that promptitude for which my friend has obtained such high reputation. In the mean time I shall induce the Rajah of Perak not to make any hostile movements to recover the Kreen country.

Dated Singapore this 20th day of December 1844.

Fort William the 7th March 1845.

No. 122.

To F. Currie, Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Fort William.

Sir,

* *Not copied.*

I have the honor to transmit for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor of Bengal the annexed copy of a letter from the Resident Councillor at Penang,* with its enclosures from Tuanku Dye, announcing the death of his father, Yang-de-per-Tuan, Sultan Ahmad, Tajudin Halim Shaw, the late Rajah of Quedah and soliciting the loan of 6,000 dollars to defray his expenses consequent on that event together with my reply thereto.

*

Tuanku Dye is the only surviving son of the late Rajah of Quedah and will I trust be nominated his successor, but he has lost the fingers of one hand and objections on that score may be raised to him. Moreover Tuanku Mahomed Saad, who was recently sent back from Bengal, is the son of an elder brother, and will not, I am disposed to believe, quietly surrender his hopes of obtaining the Government of the country.

The Siamese Government whose authority over Quedah we have recognized will I think be favourably disposed towards Tuanku Dye, and they certainly would never permit Tuanku Mahomed Saad, who attacked and committed such slaughter on the Siamese in Quedah during the year 1838, to assume the government of that country. The measures adopted by the Straits authorities on the occasion above referred to led to the capture of Tuanku Mahomed Saad, when he was tried for piracy and acquitted on the plea that as

a descendant of the Ex Governor of Quedah, he was at war with Siam, and in consequence with the British Government, the ally of that power, and therefore that the act with which he was charged was that of an enemy, not a pirate. As an enemy he was then shipped for Bengal, from whence he has but recently returned to Penang. I shall be careful to abstain from any interference and from taking any further steps touching the Karian country beyond what is mentioned in my letter to the Resident Councillor at Penang, till a successor to the late Governor of Quedah shall be nominated.

* *Not copied.*

It will be observed that Mr. Garling adverts, in the concluding paragraph of his communication,* to the Kotah District. This is a triangular piece of ground having Kotah at its apex in the very heart of province Wellesley. This Kotah is the resort of all the evil disposed people, whether belonging to the province or to Quedah. By taking a straight line from north to south we should obtain Kotah and the command of the Prye River which would then be within our boundary, but which is now navigated by the Quedah and Kotah people, without their being liable to search, although the Kotah boats may be laden with opium, to the detriment of our revenue and to the peace of the District.

I am not aware that any opportunity is likely to offer at the present more than at any other time of securing the Kotah District, as I conclude our negotiation for it must be carried on with the Siamese, but possession would be most desirable for the reasons above stated, as well as that the soil is particularly adapted for a sugar plantation, having a navigable river frontage, and I beg therefore very respectfully to know if the Right Honourable the Governor General would be disposed to authorize any steps to be taken by me with a view to obtaining the transfer of the Kotah District to the Honorable East India Company.

* *Not copied.*

I do not suppose that the Governor of Quedah on the part of the Siamese would be disposed to relinquish this strip of land, although it be of no use to him, without some equivalent and there is nothing that we could offer that I am aware of but the sugar boon reported on in my letter under date 27th* instant, except money, for which I have no doubt it could be readily obtained at between 5,000 and 10,000 dollars, but I have made no movement in the matter, and shall make none till I receive instructions to that effect from the Right Honorable the Governor General.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor.

Singapore
The 31st January 1845.

Fort William the 7th March 1845.

No. 123.

Translation of a Malay Letter bearing the Red Seal of Tuanku Dye, the second son of the late Ex King of Quedah, to the address of the Honourable Samuel Garling Esquire, Resident Councillor of Pulo Penang, dated the 27th day of Dool Hadjee, corresponding with the 5th day of January 1845.

After Compliments.

This letter is written to acquaint my friend that in the Hadjerat 1260 years now on the 11th day of the month Shawal, Saturday (9th day of November 1844) my son named Mahomed died, then on the 25th day Dalkhedah (5th December 1844) my brother Tuanku Abdullah died, then on the 20th day Dalhadjee (30th December 1844) my elder sister died, afterwards on the 25th day Dalhadjee (3d January 1845) Friday night my Royal Father Yang de-per-tuan Sultan Ahmad Tajudin Hallim Shaw expired. He died of fever and bowel complaint under which he laboured for only seven days. Such at present are my distresses, which I make known to my friend, and under these distressing circumstances want of means* (for according to the Malayan custom, the expense attending the burial ceremonies is very great) I entirely depend upon my friend as the only source from whom I can look for assistance that my friend will compassionate my present afflictions by soliciting the loan of five or six thousand dollars, to enable me to defray the requisite expenses. If not to such an extent, I must still place entire confidence for such aid as my friend may feel disposed to grant and which I shall consider as a token of lasting friendship which shall never be forgotten. I therefore fully anticipate that my friend will accede to this request as early as practicable. I send my younger brother Tuanku Ibrahim the bearer of this letter to my friend.

* Sic.

Fort William the 7th March 1845.

Toowanku Dayi.

(With usual Compliments.)

I have received my friend's letter dated the 27th day of Dool Hadji announcing the death of the late Iang-de-per-tuan Sultan Ahmad Tajudin Hallim Shaw, and certain others of my friend's relatives, and requesting the loan of several thousand dollars to enable my friend to meet the usual expenses.

I would convey to my friend the expression of my condolence on an occasion so distressing.

In respect of the loan of money, my friend must be aware that I am but Treasurer of the State Funds and have not power to disburse a single dollar without the express sanction of my superiors, much less therefore could I presume to disburse the large amount quoted. My friend must therefore excuse my inability to meet his wishes in the present distress. I shall lose no time in sending a translation of my friend's letter to the Governor.

I take this occasion of begging of my friend to advise me when it shall be finally determined who shall succeed to the Government of Keda' in the room of the deceased Sultan, as I have it in command from His Honor to communicate with the ruling power of Kedah on the subject of the Krian territory and the common boundaries between the countries of Kedah and Perak.

(Signed) S. Garling
Resident Councillor.

Prince of Wales Island,
The 9th January 1845

Fort William the 28th March 1845.

No. 214.

From the Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

To W. Edwards Esquire,
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Fort William.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
(* Omitted.) your letter under date the 11th ultimo,* No. 79, call-
* The communication ing my attention to your* communication of the 18th
was from Currie May last transmitting a memorial from Mr. Robert
not Edwards. See Hunter of Bangkok.
ante, Range 196,
Vol. 53.

2nd. Your letter with the memorial in question reached me at Pinang, where I was waited upon by Mr. Hunter in person on his return from Calcutta and at this interview, after freely discussing the matter with me, he decided upon returning to Siam, and promised to send early intelligence of his proceedings from thence or on his return to Singapore.

3rd. On completing my tour of the Northern Settlements I found that Mr. Hunter had been to Siam, returned to Singapore, and had again sailed to Siam, in a larger vessel, to bring away his merchandize. All this bore a favorable aspect and I therefore postponed making any observation on his second venture to Siam.

4th. Mr. Hunter returned only a few weeks since, and was too ill to lay before me either personally or in writing an account of his adventures, and when he did visit me he was in so nervous a state from the trials and vexations he had undergone that I did not feel justified in pressing for any tangible information, and it was not till the 7th instant that I obtained the

accompanying letter from that gentleman. I trust this explanation will satisfactorily account to the Right Honorable the Governor General of India for the delay which has occurred in furnishing the account called for.

5th. Mr. Hunter belongs to the oldest established firm in Siam and himself resided there for the greater part of the last 20 years, during the whole of that time till 1842 in the full enjoyment of the King's countenance and favor, and at the same time retaining the confidence of His Majesty's Ministers so much as to have proved of infinite service in our negotiation with that monarch as will be seen by the accompanying testimonial borne by Captain Burney and the ready response of the Supreme Government in 1826

* A. See Burney's
Rept. 2 Dec. 1826
on his Mission to
Siam. *Ben. Sec. &*
Pol. Cons. Vol. 342,
and *Savinton to*
Burney 23 Feb.
1827. *Fae. Rec.*
Sec. Setts. Vol. 141.

† B. Omitted.

‡ C. See *Eet. fm.*
Bushby to Bonham.
22 June 1842, *India*
Pol. Cons. Range
193, Vol. 14.

Mr. Hunter was
then in England.

* Dated 1 Nov.
1843. See this series,
Range 196.
Vol. 45.

(A)* and to Dr. Richardson on his overland journey to Bangkok, in like manner acknowledged by the Supreme Government in 1840 (B)*; also touching the negotiations for the restoration of the Ex Rajah of Quedah in 1842, when a donation of 5,000 Rupees was accorded to Mr. Hunter for his aid on this occasion (C)†.

It may, I think, be fairly assumed that the British trade with Siam has been mainly fostered and has attained to its present height owing to the temper, tact and judgment displayed by Messrs. Hunter and Co. in their earlier dealings with the natives of that country, and it is much to be regretted that the amicable footing on which the trade continued to be carried on till 1846 should have been broken through by the King, who in that year commenced a direct interference with the traffic of the place, and behaved in a most uncourteous, if not unjustifiable a manner to the firm of Hunter and Hayes, as pointed out in the communication of Mr. Hayes* which accompanied my letter under date the 8th November 1843.

7th. The monopoly of sugar and the manner in which it is carried on are fully reported on in my letter

under date the 27th ultimo, and may I think be considered in contravention of the 1st article of the Commercial Treaty of June 1826, which says that no import, export or other duty shall be levied from the buyers or sellers from or to English subjects, and this contravention of the Treaty necessarily tends to the great disadvantage of the trade, but with all this it will be seen by the abstract statement noted in the margin,* of the commerce carried on with this port and Siam during the past five years, that although the imports to Singapore have diminished, the exports from thence to Siam have increased since 1841.

* See below.

8th. In the 9th para. of my letter under date the 8th November, I have alluded to the expectation entertained at Bangkok that after affairs had been settled with China, the British ships would pay the Siamese a visit, and every preparation was made to effect a show of resistance. The fortifications at the entrance of the main river were repaired, chain cables stretched across that river and a large supply of guns ordered from England through Messrs. Hunter and Hayes, as also the steamer Express.

9. The peaceable return of the British troops to India on the conclusion of the peace with China entirely changed the King's views and the whole of his attention was then and is still devoted to the accumulation of wealth. He therefore gladly availed himself of any excuse for the nonfulfilment of his engagement with Mr. Hunter for the supply of the ordnance and the steamer "Express" which had been

* ABSTRACT STATEMENT OF THE ANNUAL IMPORT FROM AND EXPORT TO SIAM FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS.

	1839/40	1840/41	1841/42	1842/43	1843/44
Import Sp. Drs. ...	259,273	326,341	409,463	260,115	229,714
Export " " ...	483,578	211,597	229,891	357,492	305,594

commissioned from that firm. The immediate outbreak against Mr. Hunter and the subsequent animosity which has been shown to that gentleman originated in his saying that if the King would not give the price agreed on for the steamer she should be sold to the Cochin Chinese, with whom the Siamese are on hostile terms. The command for the withdrawal of Mr. Hunter with his steamer followed his impolitic speech and the steamer Express was to be sold to the Cochin Chinese at Singapore for 53,000 dollars prior to his taking (but on condition that he should be allowed to take) that vessel to Calcutta.

- 10th. This brings me to the period when I first met Mr. Hunter on his way to Calcutta, at which time he detailed what is mentioned in his memorial and a very few days subsequent to our conversation he addressed a letter to me marked D,* intimating that the life of his assistant was in danger from the vindictive feelings of the King of Siam towards the firm of Hunter and Co. I had every reason to believe that the object of this communication was to induce me to send one of Her Majesty's vessels to Siam with the view of frightening the King, but having satisfied myself that neither Mr. Harvey's life nor the property of Hunter and Co. were in jeopardy I declined making any movement, as will be seen by my reply to Mr. Hunter (E)* feeling that I could not do so without compromising the Government, and I am happy to find that my information was correct, for Mr. Harvey is still at Bangkok and I think it not improbable that Mr. Hayes (Mr. Hunter's partner) will join him there on his return from England. After fully considering this part of the memorial I do not conceive that there has been any direct infringement of the 7th Article of the Political Treaty.
- * See 19 Mar. 1844.
this Vol.
- * 19 Mar. 1844.
See *infra*.

11th. Should the 34 shilling rate of duty on sugar be extended to Siam a Consul must, I conclude,

be stationed at Bangkok, and the periodical visits of a man-of-war will necessarily follow, but I would respectfully suggest for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor General, the expediency of seeking a revision of our Commercial Treaty with that country, when our trade, if not greatly increased, would certainly be conducted on a more equitable footing. To show this I may mention that at present a vessel importing cargo of a trifling value pays precisely the same as if she conveyed the most valuable to the market, and the charges are so exorbitantly high as to deter vessels from touching there unless for a full cargo of sugar viz. 1,500 ticals without and 1,700 ticals per Siam fathom in breadth with an import cargo.

12th. I come now to Mr. Hunter's proceedings subsequent to his return from Calcutta, the details of which are set forth in the accompanying copy of a letter from that gentleman (E) as previously noticed. It will be gathered from this communication, although such is not expressly stated, that Mr. Hunter has collected many of his outstanding debts and recovered much of his property. The whole of the mortars and guns adverted to in paragraph VIII of this report, with a quantity of iron and sundry piece goods &c. in all amounting to about 2 lacs of rupees, are accounted for by Mr. Hunter, making his losses as estimated by himself under one lac of rupees in place of three lacs, as was shown at the period the memorial was addressed to the Supreme Government.

13th. It does not appear that the King of Siam has openly thrown any obstacles in the way of Mr. Hunter to retard the recovery of his debts, but under a despotic Government like that of Siam, the open withdrawal of the King's countenance from a former favorite would doubtless indirectly tend to this end.

I am, however, of opinion that all the ungracious conduct displayed towards Mr. Hunter has proceeded from personal enmity against him consequent on his threat, and the subsequent fulfilment thereof to sell the steamer Express to the Cochin Chinese and the use of other strong language, rather than from any systematic avoidance of the 6th Article of the Treaty. Mr. Harvey would not have been permitted to remain at Bangkok and to return there in the Port Captain's boat when it was intimated to Mr. Hunter that he could not be allowed to re-enter the river, without the King's permission.

14. The sufferings endured by Mr. Hunter on reaching the Gunga when refused permission to enter the river could not have been anticipated by the King of Siam, who had previously ordered him to quit the country. On the occasion in question the authorities simply insisted upon this order being carried into effect, after affording that gentleman the opportunity of taking away his merchandise, and when it is remembered that Mr. Hunter was looked upon and treated with the greatest kindness for a long period of years by the King and the Courtiers, the exasperated feeling of a despotic monarch, consequent on his being told that negotiations would be entered into with his enemies, are not to be wondered at. On the other hand, had the Chinese war continued I am satisfied that the steamer and military stores would have been purchased without a murmur, but arriving as they did, when their necessity appeared no longer urgent, the King wished to obtain them below their estimated value or considerably under the sum agreed for, and it was whilst smarting under this ungenerous proceeding that Mr. Hunter expressed himself in the unguarded manner previously adverted to.

15th. The treaty with Siam was concluded at a period when a continued wasting and unsatisfactory war with Burmah made it desirable to conciliate the

adjacent states on any terms, and with all due deference and respect I would again observe that much in that treaty might be revised and the whole placed on a footing equally perhaps more advantageous to the King of Siam, certainly more satisfactory to the trade and more creditable to the British Government. Should it be determined to depute any person to Siam on this account a hint would be quite sufficient to ensure Mr. Hunter's assistant (Mr. Harvey) or one of his partners every assistance in collecting the outstanding debts and disposing of the remaining property of the firm of Hunter, Hayes and Co. in Siam, but I do not think that it could be expected or that it should be required of the King of Siam, to recognise or countenance Mr. Hunter in any way.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor.

Singapore

The 13th February 1845.

Fort William the 28th March 1845.

No. 215 contd.

(Enclosure D.)

To the Honorable Colonel W. J. Butterworth, C. B.,
Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

When I had the honor of waiting on you on my arrival here from Siam a few days ago, I communicated to you in detail the circumstances under which I was compelled to quit that country by order of the Siamese Government, leaving behind me a very large amount of property, and I expressed to you at the time my apprehension that the Government might proceed to further acts of violence to the jeopardy, not only of the property in question, but possibly the life of Mr. Harvey, the European gentleman of my establishment whom I left in charge. I regret to state that the accounts I have since then received from Siam by the *Good Success*, which left seven days after the vessel in which I sailed, tend rather to heighten than diminish these apprehensions. Mr. Harvey writes to me in a strain of the greatest personal alarm, which I find is not attributable to the feelings incidental to his lonely and unprotected situation, from the facts and circumstances which have been brought to my knowledge by Captain Evans, of the "*Good Success*," who described all these bad feelings towards me as unhappily acquiring new force, and likely to take a direction that will be dangerous if not fatal to those with whom I was closely connected during my residence at Bangkok.

Under these circumstances I hope I shall not be regarded as unreasonable, in pressing upon your further consideration the state of my affairs at Bangkok through acts of illegal violence on the part of

the Siamese Government, with a possibility of their proceeding to further outrage, both against my property and those in whose custody it has been left, and to request that you will adopt such steps as may be in your power to provide security for the lives and property that may thus be endangered.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. Hunter

Singapore,
The 19th March 1844.

Fort William The 28th March 1845.

(Enclosure E.)

No. 215 contd.

To Robert Hunter Esquire.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, relative to the state of your affairs in Bangkok and the precarious situation of the person in charge of them.

From what passed at the interview to which allusion is made in the communication under acknowledgement I gathered that the immediate misunderstanding between you and the Rajah of Siam occurred with reference to the state of a steamboat which the Siamese had offered to purchase, and which you had actually brought from England for them, at their especial request. That the Siamese refused to agree to your terms and ultimately declined the purchase of the steamer, upon which you intimated an intention of selling her to the Cochin Chinese with whom the Siamese recently were, or now are, on the worst of terms; and lastly that immediately prior to leaving Bangkok you gave the Siamese Authorities a specimen of your mind pretty freely.

I have no doubt that the novel situation of Mr. Harvey, who I learn is a very young man, can be anything but agreeable, and I think it is to be lamented that he was left behind under such circumstances. I do not, however, understand that he is forcibly detained at Bangkok, and I cannot therefore anticipate that he is in the smallest danger, nor do I think that there is sufficient grounds at present to warrant any movement on my part.

I have &ca.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth,
Governor &ca., &ca.

Singapore
The 19 March 1844.

India Political
Consultations,
Range 197,
Vol. 10.

Fort William, The 28th March 1845.

No. 216.

(Enclosure F.)

To the Honorable Colonel Butterworth, C. B.,
Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

* See ante, Range
196, Vol. 53.

On the 24th April last I had the honor to address to the Right Honorable the Governor General of India a memorial* setting forth various infractions by the King of Siam of the Treaties made at Bangkok on the 20th June 1826 between Captain Burney, acting on behalf of the East India Company, and the Siamese Government, and a number of acts of bad faith and oppression practised towards me by the King of Siam, through which, after suffering great personal wrong and much pecuniary loss, I was at last compelled precipitately to quit the kingdom of Siam leaving property to the amount of three lacs of rupees at the mercy of His Siamese Majesty.

On requesting to be favored with the Governor General's reply to my representations I was informed that copies of my memorial had been sent to the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces and the Governor of the Straits Settlements in order that they might enquire into and report upon the matters therein set forth. In consequence of this reply I came to the Straits Settlements and at an interview with which your Honor favored me at Penang on the 2nd June, after my arrival from Calcutta, you were pleased to advise me to return to Siam, and having lost no time in complying with your suggestions, I now do myself the honor of stating for your information and that of His Excellency the Governor General the proceedings which took place subsequently to the 2 June until the time of my finally leaving Siam.

In my memorial I mentioned the breach of contract on the part of His Siamese Majesty respecting the steamer "Express" and that after His Majesty's refusal to receive and pay for it, I was compelled hastily to withdraw in the steamer from Siam. Finding that there was no hope of His Siamese Majesty abiding by his engagement, and that there was little probability of my being able otherwise to dispose of the steamer at Singapore, Calcutta or in China, I was obliged to accept an offer to purchase it which was made at Singapore by an agent of the King of Cochin China to prevent in some measure the heavy loss which would otherwise have arisen from the steamer having been thrown upon my hands by the Siamese King.

On my arrival from Calcutta at Singapore I made over the steamer to the agents of the King of Cochin China and finding that none of the Commanders of ships trading to Siam would give me a passage from fear of incurring the displeasure of the King, I was obliged to charter the small schooner *Venus*, in which I sailed from Singapore on the 29th June last.

Immediately upon my arrival at Bangkok about the middle of July I waited upon the Prime Minister (Praklang). He received me very coolly and enquired why I had returned to Siam. I informed him that I had come to look after my property. He then told me that he had heard that my object in going to Bengal was to complain against the King, but that I was too little a man for the Governor of Bengal to take any notice of me, and added that as I had sold the steamer to the Cochin Chinese I had better go to Cochin China myself, that the Siamese were not at all afraid of the Cochin Chinese, and that I might go and get them (the Cochin Chinese) another steamer. On my applying for a pass to permit the schooner to leave Bangkok and return to Singapore I was informed that it would not be granted unless I left in her, and I was at last obliged to consent to this, and on the

24th July sailed for Singapore, having obtained permission to return with a large vessel to remove my property.

On my arrival at Singapore I chartered the British Barque "Gunga," Captain Bowman, in which I immediately proceeded to Siam. On my return to Bangkok the Siamese Authorities did not make any objection to my landing, but they refused to give me any assistance whatever in collecting my outstanding debts. On the contrary, the King caused it to be generally understood that it was against his wish that any one should assist me, and the consequence was that my native debtors were not slow in availing themselves of the open encouragement which was given them to withhold payment of their debts. Indeed it was so generally understood that those who paid me would thereby subject themselves to His Majesty's displeasure that some who were honest enough to wish to make payment of their debts were obliged to use many precautions in approaching my residence in order that it might not be known that they had held intercourse with, or assisted me in any manner.

I need scarcely point out to your Honor that this extraordinary course of proceeding on the part of the Siamese Government is a direct violation of the 6th Article of the Treaty of the 20th June 1826, which provides that "if a Siamese or English merchant buy or sell without enquiring and ascertaining whether the seller or buyer be of a bad or good character and if he meet with a bad man, who takes the property and absconds the rulers and officers must make search and produce the person of the absconder and investigate the matter with sincerity. If the party possess money or property he can be made to pay but if he do not possess any or if he cannot be apprehended it will be the merchant's own fault."

The merchants were moreover prohibited from dealing with me, every impediment was thrown in the way of my satisfactorily settling my affairs, and every kind of annoyance that despotism instigated by malice could invent was practised against me. It would be a disagreeable task and it would give needless trouble to your Honor were I to relate these grievances in detail, but I may mention one or two instances to show how deeply rooted must have been the feelings of hostility entertained against me and how unscrupulous the King was to* the means which he took to gratify it.

* (sic.) ? in

It was intimated to me before the Gunga had half completed her loading that it was His Majesty's intention to visit the Churches (which he does in a boat attended by a large number of courtiers and priests in other boats) and that the Gunga must go outside, an order which was immediately obeyed, although it was not extended to any other of the ships which were then lying in the river. In consequence of this arbitrary proceeding I was obliged to incur considerable expense in sending the cargo down the river to the ship in small junks.

A message was at the same time sent to me that I must also go down the river while the King was afloat. This I complied with and remained for 3 or 4 days when I returned to my house which I reached in the afternoon. His Majesty upon being told that I did not seem so much annoyed by these proceedings as he had anticipated, broke out into a passion, and turned his rage against the Praklang, who narrowly escaped a flogging. The Praklang left the Palace about 11* o'clock p.m. when he immediately sent for the Port Captain, who being sick sent in his stead an old Portuguese Interpreter, named Sebastian, who had been in the service of three Siamese Monarchs and whom the Praklang immediately caused to be flogged. The Port Captain and this Interpreter came to my

* Sic.

house at about 11 o'clock p.m. when I was in bed and unwell and told me that I must forthwith go down the river outside the bar, that it was the King's Order and must be obeyed, and that the Praklang was prepared to use force in the event of my refusing to obey. I remonstrated with them, stating that I was very unwell and that it would be very dangerous for me to travel in the night, that I had no provisions of any kind on board my schooner but that I would start in the morning long before the King came out. The Port Captain represented what I had said to the Praklang, but he could not be prevailed upon to grant a respite of even a few hours, and I was forced to start for the schooner in a small boat in the middle of the night with my assistant, Mr. Christopher Harvey, who was ordered to accompany me, in which we went down to Paknam, and passed out to the shipping, when we got safely on board the Gunga and remained there for two or three days. The Church visiting ceremonies being then over, I proposed to return to Bangkok and accordingly started in company with Mr. Harvey and Captain Bowman of the Gunga in the schooner, but at the mouth of the river we were met by the Captain of the Port and Sebastian with a number of followers. They said that I could not be allowed to go up but must go back to the ship, and that the Praklang had given orders that I was not to be allowed to enter the river until the King gave permission. Mr. Harvey then went on board their boat for the purpose of proceeding up the river in their company and Captain Bowman and myself stood out for the Gunga. It blew very hard and night coming on we anchored, but the sea got so very rough that we were forced to get under weigh again. The tide was then running very strong and every sea breaking over the schooner and the water was over the cabin floor so that we were obliged to bale it out without intermission. The night was excessively cold, and the weather so very

rough that we expected every minute that our little vessel would go to the bottom. At day light we found we had passed the ships during the night time, and that we had been drifted so far down the Bay that we could just see the Royal masts of the Prince of Wales, one of the vessels at the anchorage, dead to windward of us. Fortunately the schooner was recognised from the Prince of Wales and the first cutter, well manned, was sent to our assistance and reached us about 11 a. m., when we got into her, and she immediately proceeded towards the shipping, but though the crew pulled very hard, we did not reach the Prince of Wales until 4 o'clock p.m. when Captain Bowman and myself were so much exhausted that we were obliged to be hoisted up the side in chains and carried into the cabin. I soon recovered, but I sorry to say that Captain Bowman is still suffering from his exposure on this occasion.

The above will suffice to show how determined the King was on giving me all the annoyance he could, and I shall only mention one other fact by which it will be seen that no considerations of honesty or good faith were allowed to stand in the way when there was a chance of oppressing and injuring me.

In my first settling at Bangkok I leased a piece of ground from the King for the purpose of building a house upon it, and it was agreed that I was to pay a rent of 600 ticals per annum for the ground. The buildings were erected at my own charge upon an agreement with the King that when I should give up possession he would pay me for them. Instead however of his doing so he insisted when I was about to quit Siam last month, that I should pay not only the rent for the ground but also an equal sum for the buildings. With this tyrannical and unjust demand I was obliged to comply.

I finally left Siam on the 29th December last, having broken up my establishment there and merely

leaving Mr. Harvey for a short time in Siam to try and collect some of my debts.

Owing to the King's not only, contrary to the Treaty, refusing me all assistance, but even encouraging my debtors to defraud me, I have been unable to obtain payment of debts to the amount of Forty thousand Spanish dollars, and will suffer very heavy loss from a large quantity of goods having been returned to me by parties to whom I had sold them, and which have been deteriorated in value, besides what I shall lose by the King's having refused to receive the steamer and other property which I had ordered for him by his desire, and returned other property which had been sold to him.

A total disregard of the provisions of the Treaties between the Governments of British India and Siam still continues to be openly manifested by the Siamese King who rigidly enforces the monopoly of sugar, in consequence of which the price of that article continues higher than it otherwise would be, and His Majesty is apparently encouraged by the seeming indifference of the India Government towards his violation of the Treaties to more open and [un-]disguised acts of oppression and injustice and it is now manifest that unless forcibly admonished of the danger of his proceedings he will upon the first prompting of his ill regulated and ignorant mind, or of the interested and evil disposed foreign advisers (Klings &c.) who engross him to the exclusion of those of his own family and country who better perceive the true interests of the King and his subjects, entirely set aside and disregard the Treaties, if by so doing any momentary advantages can be gained or feeling gratified.

In conclusion may I request that you will do me the favor to bring this letter to the notice of His Excellency the Governor General and I have a confident trust that after due consideration of the

representations I have made in it and in my memorial His Excellency will be pleased to adopt such measures as may to him seem necessary to procure the due observance on the part of the King of Siam of the Treaties between the British and Siamese Governments as well as some reparation for the losses and injuries which I have suffered at the hands of the King.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. Hunter.

Singapore
The 6 February 1845.

* * * * *

Para. 99. You stated to the Governor of the Straits Settlements that "there did not appear to be a violation of any article of the existing treaty on the part of the King of Siam," and we think with you that neither his monopoly of the trade in sugar, his prohibition of the export of teak, nor his augmentation of the duties on various kinds of produce constitute such a violation, inasmuch as they are measures affecting the trade of his subjects generally and not their intercourse with our merchants in particular. Any appropriate opportunity should however be taken of endeavouring to prevail upon His Siamese Majesty to afford greater facilities to commerce.

100. By the treaty of 18th October 1826, we are bound to protect the Rajah of Perak against any aggression of this kind and as there appears to be no doubt that Krian is part of his territory you very properly authorized Lieut. Colonel Butterworth to withhold payment of the annual stipend to the Rajah of Kedah, until he should have withdrawn within the limits of the territory under his Government.

* * * * *

We are &ca.

(Signed) J. Shepherd,

&ca. &ca. &ca.

London,
19th March, 1845,

(Addressed to the Governor and
Council of Bengal.)

India and
Bengal Letters
Received
Vol. 47.

Fort William
Foreign Department,
The 16th August 1845.

To the Honorable
The Court of Directors
of the East India Company.

Honorable Sirs,

* * * * *

Para. 115. The Rajah of Kedah having, in opposition to the wishes of our Government, obstinately retained possession of the Kreaun country which he had usurped from the Chiefrain of Perak, the instructions authorizing the suspension of the payment of his annual stipend until he should withdraw within the limits of his former boundary, were carried into effect.

116. The Rajah died in the early part of this year, on which occasion his son, Tuanku Dye, applied for pecuniary assistance to enable him to defray the expenses consequent on that event. For this purpose we sanctioned the advance of a sum not exceeding 3,000 dollars as a loan to the applicant out of the arrears of the stipend of the deceased Chief.

117. In the course of the correspondence which took place on this occasion, the local authorities suggested the advisability of obtaining from the Siamese State, the transfer to our Government of the district of Kotah, which was described as a triangular piece of land inconveniently projecting into Province Wellesley, and as the resort of persons of objectionable character. The proposed new line of demarcation, it was shown, would bring within the British boundary not only the tract in question but also a neighbouring stream stated to be now navigated by boats not liable to search, and therefore likely to prove detrimental to the public revenue. For the reasons above stated, as well as with advertence to the fact that the district in question was well adapted for a sugar plantation,

Colonel Butterworth urged that its possession by the British, was a very desirable object.

118. Before passing any decision on the question submitted for our consideration, we requested to be favored with the sentiments of the Governor of Bengal on the subject.

119. His Excellency viewed the proposition favorably, and we, in concurrence with that authority, instructed the Governor of the Straits Settlements to negotiate for the transfer of the land referred to, on the basis of a moderate compensation as suggested by him.

* * * * *

125. In the month of April last year, Mr. Hunter, a British subject engaged in commercial pursuits at Bangkok, complained in a Memorial addressed by him to this Government, of certain infractions by the King of Siam of the existing treaty with that state, whereby the Memorialist and other British traders resorting to that Port had been subjected to serious loss and inconvenience.

126. Mr. Hunter's Memorial was forwarded for report to the Governor of the Straits Settlements and the Commissioner for the Tenasserim Provinces whose replies * together with the papers in connection therewith, are now submitted for the information of your Honble. Court.

* See Broadfoot
to Currie, 2 July
1844 & Butterworth
to Edwards,

13 Feb. 1845. Ind.
Ind. Coun. Range
197, Vol. 10.

127. On the receipt of Colonel Butterworth's report it was considered right, with reference to the statements and opinions therein comprized, to submit the documents to the fourth ordinary member of the Council for a legal opinion upon the question of the infraction of the commercial treaty, by the alleged proceeding of the King at Bangkok. By a mistake, however, in the office of our secretary, the papers were

sent to the Law Commission instead of to Mr. Cameron alone in his capacity of Member of Council.

128. Before the report of the Law Commission was laid before Government, your Honble. Court's despatch dated 19th March 1845* was received, the 99th paragraph of which contains the expression of your concurrence in the view taken by the Government of this question in 1843/44, when it recorded the opinion that the acts imputed to the King of Siam as shown in the papers then brought to our notice did not constitute an infraction of the existing treaty with that state.

* See India and
Bengal Despatches,
Vol. 43.

129. As the circumstances mentioned in Mr. Hunter's Memorial do not differ materially from those on which the decision of Government on the former occasion was based, it was considered unnecessary, without further instructions from your Honble. Court to take any notice of the representation submitted by that individual, or to re-open the question of infraction in connection therewith, notwithstanding the adverse opinion recorded by the Law Commission in their report, a copy of which accompanies.*

* Not found.

* * * * *

We have &ca.

(Signed) H. Hardinge
&ca. &ca. &ca.

Fort William
The 16th August 1845.

India Pol. and
Foreign Cons:
Range 197,
Vol. 30.

No. 86.

Fort William the 10th January 1846.

To F. Currie, Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Fort William,

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor General of India, copies of the several communications which have passed between the Rajah of Ligore, the Rajah of Perak, the Acting Governor of Quedah and myself in reference to the Krean country, subsequent to my despatch to your address under date the 21st December last. *

See ante, this Range
Vol. 5.

* A.
* B.

* C.

See infra for these
documents.

2. On my recent tour to the Northern Settlements I requested the Acting Governor of Quedah to favor me with an interview, but he made a trivial excuse, * evidently to avoid a meeting, and I then solicited * him to state definitely his intention regarding the Krean Country usurped by his father from the Rajah of Perak, to which he replied * that the question rested with the Rajah of Ligore. I have reason to believe that he is afraid of making any movement in the matter till his nomination as the Governor of Quedah shall be confirmed

* D.

3. The last letter* received from the Rajah of Ligore also shows a desire to postpone any final decision on the subject of Krean till the nomination of Taunkoo Daye alias Zeynal Rashid, the son of the late Rajah shall have been approved of by the Court of Siam. I have again addressed the Rajah of Ligore in the hope that he may be induced to make the appointment of Taunkoo Daye conditional on his restoring Krean to the Rajah of Perak.

* E.

4. The Rajah of Perak* had become a little impatient at the early part of the year and from what

• F.

I perceived when in Province Wellesley on the borders of the Krean country, I was disposed to think that hostilities would be commenced without waiting for the result of my further reference to Ligore which I intimated * having made. I therefore determined to seek a personal interview with the Rajah and accordingly wrote to that effect appointing Kotah Siac a place from fifteen to twenty miles up the Perak River at which to meet him,

5. On my return from Penang I proceeded on the steamer to the spot indicated, and was met by a vast concourse of people, the whole reach of the river being studded with boats. After some general conversation I induced the Rajah to accompany me to the steamer, where I explained most fully what had been done to obtain the restoration of Krean and urged him to refrain from hostilities till I should receive a definite reply from Ligore, to which he readily assented, as he would I fancy at that moment to any request, for both he and his chieftains were overwhelmed with awe and astonishment at the machinery and movements of the steamer.

6. Upon taking leave of the Rajah I presented him and his chieftains, who were accompanied by about 200 followers, with a few common shawls or handkerchiefs which are much valued in that part of the world, the cost of which did not exceed 40 dollars, and we parted on the best of terms with the full understanding that he was not to make any movement touching Krean till a Governor should be nominated to the Quedah Country.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor.

Singapore

The 5th September 1845.

Fort William the 10th January 1846.

No. 37.

A.

Translation of a letter from Tuanka Zeinoon Rasheed, Son of Padooka Murboom Sultan Ahamad Tajudin Hall* mishale, Governor of Quedah, to the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, C. B., Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

* Sic. ? Allum.
Shah.

The letter our friend addressed us on the 3rd day of Jemadil Awal (8th May 1845)* has reached us in safety and its contents we have made ourselves acquainted with, in which we are informed that our friend has arrived at Penang and intimated a wish to have an interview with us. At present we cannot go to meet our friend as our Brother Taunka Mahomed Akil has proceeded to Ligore and there is no one that we can leave behind to be in our stead. Of this our friend is already fully aware. We therefore have to solicit that our friend will not take offence particularly at the present moment.

* This letter does
not appear. The
date should be
5th May.

Quedah, 3rd day of Jemadil Awal Hejerat 1261
(8th May 1845.)

Fort William the 10th January 1846.

B.

No. 87 contd.

From the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the Most Honorable the Military Order of the Bath, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

To Tuanku Daye, Quedah.

(After Compliments.)

I have received my friend's letter dated the 8th instant stating that he is unable at the present time to meet my wishes by coming to Penang to confer with me, as requested in my letter of the 5th, in consequence of the absence of his brother.

I regret that my friend cannot leave Quedah till the return of his brother from Siam, and as this event may not occur for some time I now write the particulars on which I wished to hold a conference with my friend vizt. the unjust retention of the Kreaan Country belonging to the Rajah of Perak.

A letter recently received from the Rajah of Ligore, which I was desirous of showing to my friend, in which mention is made of a communication to his address to the same effect must prove to my friend the view taken of this matter by the Court of Siam, for the Rajah of Ligore distinctly recognises the right of the Rajah of Perak to the Kreaan Country. I now beg that my friend will forthwith send me a definite answer as to his intentions on this question, that I may communicate the same to the Supreme Government of India and the Rajah of Ligore and take such further steps as may appear necessary, the Rajah of [Perak] having abstained from any movement to regain the Kreaan Country solely with the desire of meeting my strongly expressed wishes on this point.

Written at Penang this 27th May 1845.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth,

Fort William the 10th January 1846,

C.

No. 87 contd.

Translation of a letter from Taunkoo Zeynal Rachid Son of the deceased Sultan Ahmed Taljoodin Allum Shah of Quedah &ca., addressed to the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the Most Honble. the Military Order of the Bath, Governor of Pulo Penang, Singapore and Malacca, &ca. &ca.

(After Compliments.)

We have to inform our friend that his letter to our address on the subject of the letter from the Rajah of Ligore to our friend's address in which it is stated that he (the Rajah of Ligore) acknowledged the right of the Rajah of Perak to Krean and that a letter had been addressed to us also by the Rajah of Ligore to the same purport.

We have now to state to our friend that a letter to that effect regarding Krean has never reached us.

We will now write to the Rajah of Ligore about this, and whatever may be the orders, we will be guided by them, as this country of Quedah is under the Authority of Siam. Our friend is well acquainted with all these matters, and this regarding Krean has been referred to Siam, and it prevents our being able to do anything without the knowledge of the Siamese Authorities.

Written this 1st day of Jemadil Ahkir (7th June 1845).

India Pol. and
Foreign Cons.:
Range 197,
Vol. 30,

Fort William the 10th January 1846.

No. 87 contd.

D.

Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Ligore.

* *The titles of the
Rajah of Ligore
here inserted are
so misspelled as to
be totally useless.
They are therefore
omitted.*

This letter is from us . . . addressed to
the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the
Most Honble. the Military Order of the Bath, Govern-
or of Singapore, Malacca and Pulo Penang.

With Compliments &ca.

We have received two letters from our friend the
Governor of Singapore, one from Captain Peroni, an
English merchant who took it to Siam. In the said
letter it is stated that our friend the Governor of
Singapore had sent a letter to us. This we had an-
swered to our friend the Governor of Singapore, but
we have not heard further on the subject of it. The
other letter was sent to us by Chou Boree Rat-poo-
ban, Rajah of Poongah, 25th day of the 3rd Moon
year of the large snake Chow sok. In that letter our
friend stated that he has received a letter from us and
was glad to hear what we said in every particular.
With regard to what Chow Pia Chree (Rajah of
Quedah) had done to the Rajah of Perak it was not
right. Now our friend the Governor of Singapore re-
quests us to order the Rajah of Quedah to give back
the country unto the former boundaries as far as what
the English know it to be and as it was when Tuankoo
Anoon was Rajah presiding over Kedah. All the ryots
know that this would be but justice and that if we
ordered the Rajah of Kedah to go away from Kream, our
friend thought that the Rajah of Kedah would follow
our directions. Our friend the Governor of Singapore
had written to the Rajah of Kedah to the effect that
we had written to the Rajah of Kedah desiring
him and his people to leave Kream. We have written
to the Rajah of Kedah regarding this affair and our

friend can direct the Rajah of Perak not to fight and disturb the country for the regaining of Krea. Our friend's letter was also full of many other friendly matters, all which we understand. With regard to Krea Rajah Mudah (Tuanka Abdullah) informed us, and which we wrote to our friend, the Governor of Singapore, on the subject. That our friend knows everything therefore regarding it. We afterwards sent a letter by a person to the Rajah of Kedah desiring him that the boundaries of the territory of Kedah as they have always existed ought to be guarded and fixed by marks so that they may never be exceeded and thereby prevent quarrels and wars between the two countries and making enemies amongst the people.

The Rajah of Kedah wrote to us stating that Krea had always really belonged to Kedah that he did not wish to seize any lands of Perak. That the Seals formerly in use for that place are forthcoming, and that there are persons of consequence at Perak and Krea who can be searched for and from whom the real truth can be obtained. This the Rajah of Kedah wrote on the subject which coincided with what the Rajah Mudah had stated. If we were arbitrarily to order that the Rajah of Kedah should do as our friend the Governor of Singapore has written, the Rajah of Kedah would consider it unjust as he states he has proofs in the possession of a Seal and that persons of consequence both at Perak and Krea are witnesses who can be questioned as to the truth. Now the Rajah of Purlis and the Rajah of Chabang Passo wrote to us that on the 25th day of the 12th moon* Rajah Mudah (Tuankoo Abdullah) died and that on the 26th day of the 1st Moon the Rajah of Kedah also died. It is said that the Malay custom is that the dead Rajah cannot be buried until his successor is placed in his stead. The Rajah of Purlis and Rajah of Chabong Passo have requested that Peeyah

Intawee Chye, son of Chowpia Chree (meaning Tuankoo Dye, son of the Rajah of Kedah) be raised the dignity and to govern Kedah, in the meantime to bury the deceased Rajah and to follow the Malay customs, and requested us to report the same to Siam to the foot of the Throne of Phrabat Somdet Phra Buddha Chao Yu Hua of Phra Maha Nakhon Sri Ayuthia, to pray that the wishes of His Highness the King may be taken. We have done as these Rajahs wished and presented the petition, but the answer has not yet returned and the matter is therefore unsettled. If it is His Highness the King's wishes to raise Prah Intawee Chye to the dignity of Rajah of Kedah according to the wishes of the country everything will be quiet and settled. When this is all settled and Prah Intawee Chye confirmed, this matter of Kreaan can be enquired into and whatever it may be we shall let our friend know. Do not let our friend the Governor of Singapore be angry at the delay.

This letter is written in duplicate, one in the Siamese dialect and the other in Malays, both of the same meaning.

Written 11th day of 5th Moon Year Little Serpenchasok.

Fort William the 10th January 1846.

E.

No. 87 contd.

Letter from Sultan Abdullah Mahomed Shah of the Country of Perak to the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

After Compliments.

* Not copied.

That I have formerly written to my friend of date the 9th September 1843* on Saturday, respecting Kream which was taken by the Rajah of Quedah and to which my friend desired me to remain silent for a period of 2 or 3 months, but as I have waited now for a considerable time and received no intelligence from my friend up to the present moment I therefore request that my friend will let me know decidedly regarding (Soonghi) Kream whether it can be restored back to me or not, which is the object of this present application to my friend.

Dated the 21st Moharum 1261 on Thursday 31st January 1845.

India Pol. and
Foreign Cons.,
Range 197,
Vol. 30.

Fort William the 10th January 1846.

F.

No. 57 Contd.

From the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the Most Noble the Military Order of the Bath, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

To the Rajah of Perak.

I have received my friend's letter under date the 31st January last relative to Kream, which was usurped by the late Governor of Quedah.

I have every hope of shortly seeing my friend reinstated in that country and it would therefore be most unadvisable for my friend to make any movement till the successor to the Governor of Quedah shall be nominated by the Rajah of Siam, who takes a favorable view of my friend's right to Kream. I am still, and have been for some time past in correspondence with the Rajah of Ligor on the subject.

Dated at Singapore this 23rd day of February 1845.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth.

Fort William the 19th January 1846.

No. 88.

To The Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

* See ante in
this Vol.

In reply to your despatch dated the 5th September last* submitting copies of your correspondence with the Rajah of Ligore, the Rajah of Perak, and the Acting Governor of Quedah, relative to the Kreen Country, and detailing your proceedings in reference thereto, I am directed to state that the Right Honble. the Governor General approves your proceedings in the matter, and sanctions the presents which you made to the Rajah of Perak and the Chieftains on the occasion of their visit, amounting to 40 dollars.

I have &c.

(Signed) F. Currie

Secretary to the Government of India
With the Governor General.

Camp
Futtehpoore Sickree
The 31st October 1845.

* * * * *

Para. 66. After the death of the Rajah of Kedah there will, we hope, have been no further delay in obtaining the evacuation of the Krian country, which he had usurped from the Rajah of Perak.

67. You will report to us the result of the negotiation which you have authorized Lieut. Colonel Butterworth to open with the Siamese authorities for the purchase of the district of Kotah, a small slip of land projecting into Province Wellesley, the possession of which is considered desirable for reasons both of revenue and of police.

* * * * *

69. With respect to the personal injuries complained of by Mr. Hunter, they appear to have been in some measure provoked by his own imprudence; and there would probably have been difficulty in establishing the facts in such a manner as to entitle your Government to make a public demand of redress on his behalf. We approve, therefore, of your non-interference.

70. The general question remains whether the King's assumption of a monopoly of sugar is an infringement of the treaty. You referred the question to the Law Commission, who are of opinion that it is so. Major Broadfoot is of a contrary opinion, and you have determined not to interfere.

71. Monopolies being a frequent, and even habitual resource of the Siamese Government for purposes of revenue, we cannot but think that, if the Government had intended to bind itself never to re-establish them, an express provision to that effect

would have been inserted in the treaty. Without distinct proof in the correspondence at the time, that such was the intention of the negociators, we do not think our right of remonstrance sufficiently clear to induce us to exert it.

• • • • •

We are &ca.

(Signed) H. Willock.

&ca. &ca. &ca.

London

2d January 1846.

(Addressed to the Governor and Council of Bengal.)

India Pol. and
Foreign Cons:
Range 197,
Vol. 45.

Fort William 3d October 1846.

No. 4.

To G. A. Bushby Esquire,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of India
Fort William.

Sir,

* * * * *

* See Vol. 8 of
above series

My letter dated the 31st January 1845,* to the address of F. Currie Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, announced the death of the late Governor of Quedah, Sultan Ahmad Tajadin, Hakim Shaw, and my desire to avoid any permanent movement with reference to the Kreaan country usurped by him from the Rajah of Perak, till a successor should be nominated to the Government of Quedah by the Siamese authorities, which event I hoped would have taken place during the past or early in the present year, when I had reason to think that the just expectation which Twanku Dye might entertain of obtaining a continuance of the annual stipend guaranteed to his father by the first article of the Treaty with the King of Quedah in 1802, would lead to an early settlement of the question of Kreaan, and I then proposed to enter into negotiation regarding the purchase of the District of Kotah.

Tuanka Dye or Tuanku Zemoor Rasheed, the eldest surviving son of the late Governor of Quedah has been residing at Ligore for some time past in anticipation of his nomination to the Government of Quedah, and it is generally believed, although I can obtain no authentic information of the fact, that he is detained there, if not forcibly, under false pretences. I have therefore again written to the Rajah of Ligore relative to the restoration of Kreaan to the Rajah of Perak, but I have deemed it expedient for the present to make no

reference to the District of Kotah, as by so doing, I might in a measure appear willing to compromise the interest of the Rajah of Perak in my desire to obtain an accession to our territories.

I trust the Right Honorable the President in Council will approve of my letter to the Rajah of Ligore, a copy of which I beg to enclose, as also of my having refrained from taking any positive steps with reference to the District of Kotah pending the settlement of the Krian question.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor.

Singapore
26th August 1846.

Fort William 3d October 1843.

No. 5.

From the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the Most Honble. the Military Order of the Bath, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

To the Rajah of Ligore.

(After Compliments.)

¹⁰⁰ Not traced.

I had anticipated from my friend's letter of the 2d September 1844,* that the necessary instructions would long since have been given to the Quedah people to withdraw from the left bank of the Krian River, which was acknowledged by the Siamese Government as belonging to the Rajah of Perak at the period of the ratification of the Treaty of Bangkok in 1826, and accordingly was never interfered with by Tuanku Anum, the then Siamese Governor of Quedah.

My Friend intimated in the above letter that so soon as a Governor should be appointed to Quedah the question touching the Krian country should be settled. Now as I understand that Tuanku Dye, the eldest surviving son of the late Governor, Sultan Ahmad Tajudin Hallim Shaw, is at this moment residing at Ligore preparatory to receiving this appointment to the Government of Quedah, I beg that my friend will forthwith give such instructions as will ensure the withdrawal of that Chieftain's people from the Perak territory.

I have hitherto succeeded in preventing the Rajah of Perak from making any movement to regain his possessions, but I cannot hope to do this much longer, and I must therefore beg that my friend will at once take measures for the due fulfilment of the Treaty of Bangkok, under date the 20th June 1826, wherein both parties are expressly bound to maintain

the friendly relations then existing between the English and Siamese, which must be materially affected by hostilities on the Krian River, otherwise I shall be obliged to report to the Supreme Government of India the unsuccessful termination of the references I have made to my friend, a step I most earnestly desire to avoid.

The District of Krian is separated from Quedah by the River Krian, a most natural and distinct line of boundary from the sea on the west to the mountains on the east, which run parallel to the Coast at a distance of 30 or 40 miles, as my friend will observe by a reference to the map of the Country. Moreover the Rajah of Perak was in possession of his territory of Krian when the Treaty of June 1826 was signed and the proceedings of the late Governor of Quedah were therefore in direct opposition to the 14th Article of the treaty above referred to, which declares that the "English and Siamese shall not send any force to go and molest, attack or disturb Perak."

I earnestly solicit an early reply to this communication, as the people on both banks of the Krian River are in a most unsettled state, consequent on the usurpation of the Krian District by the late Governor of Quedah, in direct opposition to the Treaty above referred to. I am desirous of communicating with my friend on other matters, but I refrain from doing so till the question of Krian be satisfactorily settled.

Dated at Singapore this 25th August 1846.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor.

India Pol. and
Foreign Cons.,
Range 196,
Vol. 45.

Fort William 3d October 1846.

No. 6.

To Governor of the Straits Settlements.

Sir,

* 26 Aug. See ante,
No. 4.

In reply to your letter of the 23d* August last, I have the honor to state that the President in Council approves of the tenor of your letter to the Rajah of Ligore relative to the restoration of Kream to the Rajah of Perak, and of your having refrained from entering into negotiation with regard to the purchase of the District of Kotah pending the settlement of the Kream question.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. A. Bushby
Officiating Secretary to the
Government of India.

Fort William
The 3d October 1846.

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

No. 36.

To G. A. Bushby Esqre.,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of India
Fort William.

Sir,

With reference to my letter under date the 26th August last,* I have now the honor to report that Tuanko Dye, alias Tuanko Zeinoon Rashid, Ebene, Murboom, Sultan Ahamad Tajudin Hallim Shah, Governor of Quedah, the eldest surviving son of the late Rajah of Quedah, has returned from Ligore, having been duly recognised by the King of Siam as successor to his father.

2. The return of Tuanko Zeinoon Rashid to Quedah was most opportune, for the country bordering our territory had been thrown into considerable excitement by the untoward proceedings of Tuanko Mahomed Saad, the Chieftain who was sent by Mr. Bonham as a state prisoner to Calcutta in 1841, and remanded to Penang in September 1843.

3. Tuanko Mahomed Saad, after the receipt of the letter to my address dated the 29th January 1844,* having proceeded to Quedah, located himself at Kotah, and then and there commenced levying taxes on the inhabitants of the District of Prye, upon which he professes to have some claim in right of his wife. Not content with this, he undertook an expedition a few months since, with about 150 followers, and an elephant which he obtained from a bad character named Puteh Toh Ting, against whom there is a warrant out for murder, to secure possession of the tin mines at Pulie, under the charge of Hadjee Dultam, the revenue, dues and tolls on which, amounting to about 2000 dollars annually, are collected by the

* Not copied.

Quedah Government at the mouth of the Muda River by a person named Tuanko Ibrahim.

4. On this information being brought to Tuanko Ibrahim, he forthwith gathered together his people, and advanced to meet Tuanko Mahomed Saad, when a skirmish took place, in which several persons were killed on both sides terminating in favor of the latter, who returned to Kotah with about 100 prisoners, of both sexes, several head of cattle, &c., whilst Hadjee Dultam, the person in charge of the tin mines, equally afraid of both parties, ran away to the jungles.

* See *infra*,
29 Oct. 1846.

5. No time was lost on the intelligence* reaching Province Wellesley from the Acting Governor of Quedah, Tuanko Mahomed Hakip, in communicating with Tuanko Mahomed Saad,* and in giving publicity to Act X of 1839, and in directing the Superintendent, Captain Ferrier, to abstain from all interference, and to prevent strangers from locating themselves, or driving cattle within our territory, lest it should be, as without such orders it doubtless would have been, made the receptacle for stolen property, by either or both of the adverse parties. At the same time, free admission was given to those who might feel disposed to pass on to Penang without offensive weapons of any kind, and with the understanding that they were not to return till hostilities should have terminated.

* Do. 3 Nov. 1846.

6. At this period, Tuanko Zeinoon Rasheed, Ebene, Marhoom, Sultan Ahamad Tajudin Hallim Shah, reported* his return to Quedah, and his determination to proceed against Tuanko Mahomed Saad. Captain Ferrier, the Superintendent of Province Wellesley, who is a most trustworthy officer, then took advantage of his proximity to Kotah, to seek a private interview with the latter, in the hope of inducing him to surrender up the property he had taken, dismiss his followers, and ask forgiveness of his sovereign but without avail. He then obtained the Gun Boat from Penang,

which he stationed at the Prye River, close upon Tuanko Mahomed Saad's position, and with a judicious arrangement of the small Police Force at his command, succeeded in maintaining peace and quietness, and allaying the fears of the inhabitants of Province Wellesley, without moving troops from Penang, which I was most anxious to avoid, unless under circumstances of extreme necessity.

7. Tuanko Mahomed Saad was easily defeated and he is now a fugitive ; it is generally believed, but nothing certain is known of his movements, that he has proceeded towards the Southern end of the Provinces, some say with a view of inducing the Rajah of Perak to espouse his cause, but I think this improbable, for the old Rajah must have heard too much of the said Tuanko Mahomed Saad to trust him. Moreover his family have all come to Penang, where I have ordered that they shall be permitted to remain unrecognised and unmolested, so long as they keep quiet, and in the event of the smallest hostile movement, that Act X of 1839 shall be enforced against them.

8. It appeared to me extremely desirable to view the matter as a mere énéute on the part of Tuanko Mahomed Saad and his followers, and to treat it as lightly as possible, lest it should grow into a question of sufficient political importance to unsettle the minds of the inhabitants of the northern end of the Straits, which are readily excited by the recollection of the untoward occurrences between the Siamese and the late Governor of Quedah, and the successful result of this course is to be attributed to Captain Ferrier, who has acted most steadily and judiciously on the occasion, under the direction of the Resident Councillor at Penang.

9. The return of Tuanko Zeinoon Rasheed Ebene, Marhoom, Sultan Ahamad Tajudin Hallim Shah, offered such a favorable opportunity of again mooting the

question of the restoration of Kreaan to the Rajah of Perak, and of ascertaining the feeling of the Government of Quedah with reference to our obtaining possession of the District of Kotah, the scene of the present disturbance, that I lost no time in addressing that Chieftain on the subject, in a communication of which the enclosed is a copy* herewith forwarded, in the hope that it will meet with the approval of the Honorable the President in Council, and that I shall hereafter be enabled to report a satisfactory result.

* See *infra*,
5 Dec. 1846.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. J. Butterworth
Governor.

Singapore
the 11th December 1846.

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

No. 37.

Translation of a letter from Tuanku Mahomed Hakip, acting for Tuanku Zeynoon Rashid, ruling the Kingdom of Quedah and with compliments &c &c. goes addressed to the Honble. Samuel Garling Esquire Resident Councillor of Pulo Penang and its dependencies.

Let it be known to my friend that on the 14th of this month Shawal one of our people came to complain that Tuanku Mahomed Saad accompanied by above 150 of his people, had been to a place called Kupong, in the interior of Qualla Mudah, seizing everything they could get including buffaloes and bullocks. Many of the owners of the property they caught and murdered and their houses were burnt by them.

We sent our relative Tuanku Ebrahim, presiding over the affairs of Qualla Mudah, to meet them and to retake the property and return them to their lawful owners. But Tuanku Ebrahim was not in time to get up to them and thus Tuanku Mahomed Saad escaped with them to Cottah Prye.

We are backward in following them to Cottah Prye as it is situated in the immediate vicinity of the Company's lands, and those of all our friends,

This proceeding of Mahomed Saad is extremely bad and contrary to every usage and will be a grievous offence to the Siamese, and just now Tuanku Zeynoon Rashid has not yet returned to Quedah. It is not proper that we should remain passive and we wish to send and recover all the property seized by the said Tuanku Mahomed Saad and return them to their right owners.

We therefore previously inform our friend of our intentions in case there should be fighting between our people and those of Tuanko Mahomed Saad as the place is so very near to all our friends and the Company's territories.

In the meantime we would wish to have the opinion of our friend in answer to this our letter that we may know how to act.

Written 29th Shawal 1262.

20th October 1846.

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

To Tuanko Mahomed Saad.

(Usual Compliments.)

Herewith I forward to my friend a copy of a letter dated 29th Shawal received from Tuanko Mahomed Hakip, acting for, and in the absence of Tuanko Zeynoon Rashid setting forth that my friend entered Kupong in the interior of Qualla Mooda and there took violent possession of the cattle, and that several of their owners were killed. Being desirous of promoting peace and good will between all our friends around the Company's territory, we were concerned upon learning these tidings and would now endeavour to prevent the evil consequences which would result from any warlike movement on the part of Tuankoo Zeynoon Rashid, or his agent Tuanko Mahomed Hakip, for the recovery of the property, and vindicating his authority.

Should the facts be as stated by Tuanko Mahomed Hakip, I would enquire upon what provocation my friend adopted measures which tend to a rupture with Quedah and may possibly excite the jealousy of the Siamese and irritate them against my friend. I would also enquire whether my friend is disposed to restore the property carried away as here described, and to make such further restitution as may satisfy Tuanko Zeynoon Rashid and preserve the peace of the interior.

(Signed) S. Garling
Resident Councillor.

P. W. Island
The 27th October 1846.

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

No. 38 contd.

Translation of a letter from Tuanko Mahomed Saad &ca. addressed to the Honble. Samuel Garling Esquire Resident Councillor of Pulo Penang &ca.

(Compliments.)

My friend's letter was received with every respect the language of which was so sweet to hear and filled us with delight, and we return our warmest thanks to our friend.

With regard to Tuanko Mahomed Hakip's letter stating that we had gone and seized the buffaloes and cattle of the inhabitants of Kupong and that we had killed half of their owners, we never did anything of the kind as stated of seizing property and killing people who were the owners of them.

We went to Kupong to secure some bad people, there was a little fighting, some of our people were wounded, and one of the thieves was killed, others ran away vizt. Hadjee Dultam and Mahomed Soonghoot, who had previously robbed and burnt a place called Karangun, where people were employed collecting tin from mines not far from Koolim. We had expended a good deal of money in these mines of Koolim. All the people employed in the mines and in cultivating the high land paddy, and who kept buffaloes and cattle were seized by Hadjee Dultam and Mahomed Soonghoot and carried to Kupong with their buffaloes and cattle. The mines were in consequence abandoned and no one left who knew how to work them and our money advanced for the working of these tin mines was lost.

Respecting Tuanku Mahomed Ahkib's intention to send and take back the property he says we had in possession, we are not aware in what they consist as

we deny having taken any body's property. Referring to Tuanko Mahomed Ahkib's intention of coming to enquire of us we must submit to it and put our trust in the Almighty and our just cause. Of the ryots of Kupong one of the Panghuloos has removed and joined us, together with his wife and family and his buffaloes and oxen. These people have two or three head of cattle each and have brought with them their property. There are of these people so removed fifteen families, consisting of their children and grandchildren, being unable to cultivate paddy and pay the tax of one Koonchah each person imposed on them since the death of the late Rajah. Many of them this past year did not get any paddy and were obliged to sell their property and incur debts to raise \$5 each to take to Quallah Mudah instead of the paddy. This is what they have complained of to us.

What we have stated in the letter we declare before God to be true and no fiction.

We forward copy of a letter which we have addressed to Tuanko Ebrahim and our friend will see all that we have said.

Written 31st October 1846.

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

No. 38 contd.

Translation of the Enclosure.

The blessing of the Almighty goes from us addressed to our Cousin Ebrahim. There is a place called Karangun under the Government of Prye given to the Father of our wife Tuanku Fatimah by the late Rajah Mudah of Kyang under the sealed document. The late Rajah of Cotali Leta also admitted of this claim and the Father of Tuanku Fatimah, Tuanku Soleyman, removed from Purlis to Prye at the time the Rajah of Ligore attacked Quedah and drove out the late Rajah Mudah, and then their claims were not disturbed, and he gave a document that he should not be disturbed by any future Rajahs of Quedah or by the Siamese in the Government of Prye and its dependencies, and our late father and his people by the assistance of Providence lived in quietness and peace. The whole of the country under him, thanks to the Almighty, was not disturbed by the Siamese.

In the year 1844 in the month of Ramalan, Hadjee Dultam collected his followers and seized the property of the people of Karangun who were working the mines and carried off some to Kupong and others escaped into the woods. After Hadjee Dultam had left, those from the woods returned to their paddy fields. The last month of Rabie Hawal Hadjee Dultam and Hadjee Soonghoot came again and seized these people, and the paddy housed was burnt in their houses, and [they] left hanging up certain signs of defiance such as wooden swords, together with arms on trees. It is stated in our cousin's letter that if we wished to have Hadjee Dultam we should make known our wishes to Tuankoo Mahomed Ahkip. In what manner does our cousin mean that we should act? Hadjee Dultam went and burnt and seized the property of the

people of Karangun and our cousin knew of it, and so far from seizing the said Hadjee Dultam and sending him to us, being the agent of Tuankoo Dye, our cousin did not even send for him and his people and punish them by confinement in the Fort of Setar for a month or two. How then could we have considered these matters? Our dependencies for living was by advancing money to the cultivators of paddy living at Karangun and by advances to the mines of tin which amount to \$578.96½. This place Karangun, at the time of the late Rajah of Setan (Quedah's) life was under the Government of Prye and has not since been changed.

We went to apprehend those robbers and met some Macow Chinese cutting down timber at Karangun, who told us that it was with a permit from our cousin. This proceeding ought not to have been done without consulting us, as relatives, and appears as if intended to drive us away. Not only has our cousin refrained from apprehending thieves, even Chinese are sent to cut down timber. Our residence at this place of Prye is to possess the property belonging to our wife's father, and he had further other property at Quedah, which by the laws of God and man, ought to be given. The father of our cousin (Tuankoo Ebrahim) and of Tuanku Dye were similarly situated. Our father also was Paha Sultan Abdullah, and according to the laws and customs of Quedah we ought to receive our share of the revenues, and in one year to the amount of three to four hundred dollars.

We however did not ask for it but were content with what we got by right of our wife.

With respect to these Chinese working as stated we have received the duties, and we request that our cousin will not demand it again of them as these poor people will be paying double duties and we shall have cause to be offended, as relatives, with each other, our

names be disgraced in other countries on hearing of these acts. If we take what does not belong to us we only receive curses. If our cousin will not hear this our advice, it will not be us that wish to change the customs, it will be our cousin that does so in not following what is laid down in the Koran as it is stated.

It has never been our wish to act against the old customs; whoever should [commit this fault] the sin of doing so will fall on himself.

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

No. 39.

* Known as
Tuanku Dye.

Translation of a Malay letter from Tuanku Zeinoon Raschid* Ebene Marboom Sultan Ahamad Tajudin Hallim Shah of Quedah.

To the Honble. Samuel Garling, Resident Councillor, Pulo Penang, dated 13th day Dalkaidah, 3rd November 1846.

(After Compliments.)

That on our return from Siam by land through Ligore to Quedah whilst half way we received letters from our brothers Tuanku Mahomed Hakep, Tuanku Ebrahim and Tuanku Mahomed Samman intimating that Tuanku Mahomed Saad had combined with people of bad character and come over the Qualla Mudah River in the District of Kupang under our jurisdiction, where they have plundered buffaloes and cows, murdered several of the ryots, burnt their houses, took their families and carried them and their cattle away to Kotah Julutong Prye, which place is also within our jurisdiction. We are just now on our journey in haste and if in a day or two we reach Quedah it is our intention to prepare a force to go and seize Tuanku Mahomed Saad and it is very possible that it will terminate in open war. We therefore have to acquaint our friend of this inasmuch as Kotah Julutong Prye is contiguous to the Company's territories, and as we have from time immemorial been friends to the Company We should wish that this timely intimation may reach our friend. As for Tuanku Mahomed Saad our friend is aware that he is well known for years past to be a wicked man.

Written the 13th day Dalkhaidah.

India Pol., and
Foreign Cons.,
Range 197,
Vol. 54,

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

No. 39 contd. To Tuankoo Zeynoon Rashid.

With Compliments.

My friend's letter of the 13th Dalkhaidah I have received. I am concerned that any proceedings of Tuankoo Mahomed Saad should oblige my friend to adopt measures for attacking Cota Jalutong Prye, and nearing our mutual boundary with an armed force.

I duly appreciate the consideration which prompted my friend's letter, and I rely with confidence upon his endeavour to restrain his people from any acts of aggression within or upon our mutual border, and from proceedings of whatever character which can in any way affect the good understanding which has so long existed between the British Government and the Government of Keddah. My friend may rely with every confidence upon my assurance that I shall exert my best endeavours to prevent, within the British border, any movement or proceedings at variance with the friendship now subsisting between our respective Governments.

I have communicated all that has transpired to His Honor the Governor of the three Settlements.

(Signed) S. Garling
Resident Councillor.

P. W. Island
The 12th November 1846.

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

No. 39 contd.

Translation of a letter from Tuanku Zeinoon
Rashid Ebene Murhoom Sultan Ahamad Tajudin
Hallim Shah, Governor of Quedah.

To the Honble. Samuel Garling Esquire
Resident Councillor of P. W. Island &ca., &ca.

(After Compliments.)

That on the 28th day of Dhal Kaidah (17th November 1846) our friend's letter came to us and that we have made ourselves fully acquainted with its contents. We are requested in that communication that our people who are about proceeding after the capture of Tuanku Mahomed Saad should be restricted from acts of violence either within or on the boundary of the English Government so as to cause a breach of the good understanding existing between our respective Governments, and of our friend's assurance that nothing should occur within the Company's territory which might tend to disturb that amity. We feel grateful to our friend for his attention towards us in having communicated the whole of this affair to the Honble. the Governor of the three Settlements. We have to apprise our friend that we have on our part duly restricted our people from committing acts of disturbance approaching any parts of the English boundary, as we are fully aware of the long established alliance between our respective Governments, and of the mutual aid required each from the other and upon the faith of such an understanding, we implicitly trust that our friend will not either into this affair of Tuanku Mahomed Saad, inasmuch as his acts are wicked, going about to commit rapine within our jurisdiction, burn houses, murder carry away property and cattle belonging to our people, but that our friend will render every assistance to us.

Written on the 28th day of Dhalkaidah 1262.

Fort William the 6th February 1847.

India Pol. and
Foreign Const.,
Range 197,
Vol. 54.

No. 40.

From the Honble. Colonel Butterworth, Companion of the Most Honble. the Military Order of the Bath, Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca.

To Tuanku Zeinoon Rashid Ebene Murhoom Sultan Ahamad Tajudin Hallim Shah, Governor of Quedah.

(After Compliments.)

I write to congratulate my friend on his return from Siam, and on his having succeeded to his father's rank and titles, which I trust he may long enjoy in health and prosperity and that he may prove a blessing to the people over whom he has been appointed to rule.

* Not copied.

† See Ind. Pol.
Cons. range 197,
Vol. 30.

The present appears a most suitable period to call my friend's attention to my letters, under dates the 5th* and 27th May 1845.† relative to the usurpation of Kreaan, and, and to exchange a hope that he will show to the world the uprightness of his intentions by restoring that country to its rightful owner, the Rajah of Perak.

I have intimated to the Governor General of India the hope that my friend's return would be marked by the above proceeding, and it would give me extreme satisfaction to be able to report that this hope had been realised, in order that my friend might stand in the same position with that authority as his ancestors did prior to the usurpation of Kreaan. Let me hear from my friend on this subject.

I was sorry to learn by a letter of my friend addressed to the Honble. Mr. Garling that Tuanku Mahomed Saad, some time past a resident in Kotah, had been causing disturbances in my friend's country.

but I doubt not this has all ended to my friend's satisfaction, and he may rest assured that Tuanku Mahomed Saad shall receive no countenance or support in any of his wicked proceedings from the British authorities.

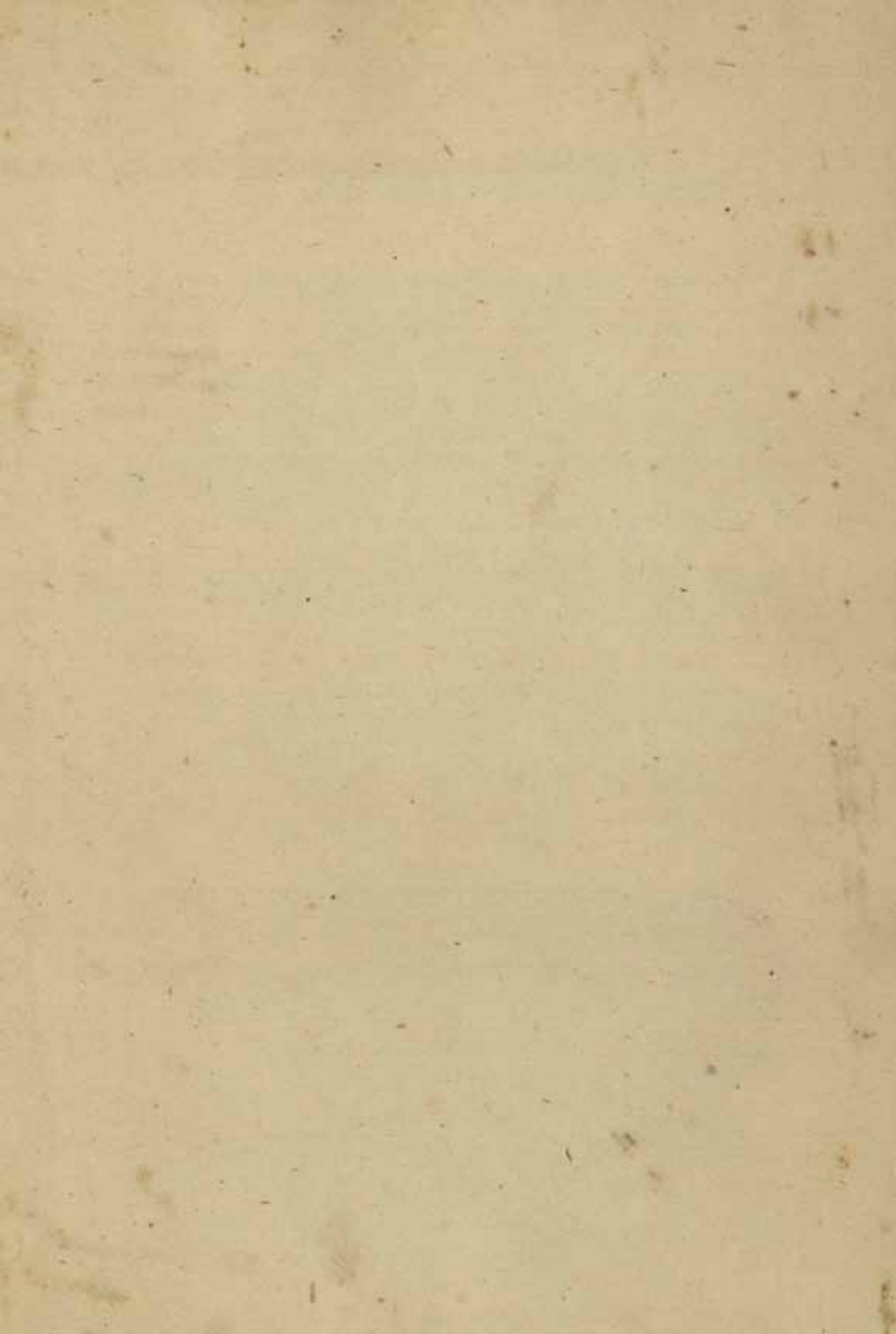
This Kotah has always been a receptacle for the bad characters of my friend's country, as well as those from Penang and Province Wellesley, and the people there will continue to give us both trouble so long as they are able to run from the jurisdiction of one power to that of the other, by claiming to be the subjects of the British or Quedah Governments as may at the moment suit their particular ends and views. I would therefore suggest to my friend an alteration in the boundary by which Kotah should become part of Province Wellesley.

If my friend concur with me in the expediency of this measure, I will request Mr. Garling to depute Captain Ferrier to meet any person my friend may nominate to negotiate this matter. I am aware that my friend's subjects may be put to some inconvenience in moving from Kotah, and that my friend may be caused expense on their account, which to a certain extent I should be happy to defray. My friend would do well to communicate on this question with Mr. Garling, in order that peace and quietness may continue on our respective frontiers.

Dated at Singapore this 5th day of December 1846.



(249) f



CATALOGUED.

Cal
6-5-80

N.C

"A book that is shut is but a block"

CENTRAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL LIBRARY

GOVT. OF INDIA
Department of Archaeology
NEW DELHI.

Please help us to keep the book
clean and moving.