

An anecdotal history of old times in Singapore, from the foundation of the ...

Charles Burton Buckley

An Anecdotal History Of Old Times . . In Singapore . . .

(With Portraits and Illustrations)

FROM

The Foundation of the Settlement under the Honourable the East India Company, on February 6th, 1819,

TO THE

Transfer to the Colonial Office as part of the Colonial Possessions of the Crown on April 1st, 1867,

BY

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IN TWO VOLUMES—VOLUME II.

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CHAPTER XXXI.

1844.

ALMOST every issue of the weekly paper contained accounts of several deaths by tigers, and the "Tiger Club" was frequently mentioned. The Club killed a large one three miles from town on a gambier plantation about New Year's day. A week after, one of the Native Infantry was killed by a tiger, and the party went out and wounded it, but it escaped in the thick jungle. A day or two after, they disturbed another tiger and two cubs. The Tiger Club gave a reward of $100 to a Chinaman who caught a tiger in a pit where it was shot. Two men in the plantation had been killed by tigers.

Gang robberies were very frequent in the town, large gangs of Chinese attacking shops. The following is an account of such robberies in one paper, and it is only one of many:—"On the night of the 17th January, a most daring robbery was perpetrated in the town by a gang of Chinese. About 10 o'clock a band of between 50 and 60 Chinese armed with muskets, pistols, swords, spears and shields attacked the shop of a money-changer named Mohamed Abdulkader, on Boat Quay. He was sleeping in the verandah outside his shop which was locked, and was awakened by the Chinese beating some rattan shields; then they lighted three or four paper matches and broke open the shop, which they immediately plundered. The robbers wounded two Klings near the shop, and then carried away five bags of money and gold. One of the constables, who (a European, presumably) was going his round with a peon at the time, came on the Chinese while plundering the shop. They immediately knocked the peon down, and fired several blank cartridges at the constable, who, thereupon went to procure assistance, but by the time he succeeded in collecting the guardians of the night and returned to the spot, the robbers could not be overtaken.

"Another robbery took place about two o'clock on the morning of the 23rd January. About forty Chinese attacked the house of a Kling writer named Andry Narrain (adjoining the Hindoo Temple) which they broke open, and about ten of them armed with swords and axes entered the room where the owner was, and, whilst some by threatening signs kept him quiet, others broke open three boxes from which they took $130. and 3½ buncals of gold, which they carried off. One of the inmates of the house was severely wounded on the head and body. The robbers had their faces blackened so that they could not be identified, and they preserved a strict silence. They were two or three peons on the spot, but though they sprung their rattles, no efficient force came till after the robbers had gone away."

The first Chinese Hospital or Poor House had been built from the proceeds of the Government Pork Farm, which had been imposed for that express purpose. The building was finished in 1834, but the Government used it as a Convict Jail, because the Convict lines, that had been commenced before the Poor House, were not finished, and not sufficiently large to contain all the convicts; and the poor were put in an attap bungalow run up for the occasion, to which exception was made. Complaints were also made of the number of sick Chinese who came from the plantations in Rhio and other Dutch places, to take advantage of the hospital, which was not intended for them.

This year saw the commencement of the present Tan Tock Seng's Hospital. The *Free Press* of the year wrote of it thus, beginning on the 25th January:—"We are glad to learn that there is now every chance of a suitable hospital for the reception of diseased and aged Chinese paupers being erected, and what is still more gratifying, chiefly through the means of the Chinese themselves. Cham Chan Sang, a Chinese merchant, who died a few days ago, has by his will bequeathed $2,000 to the hospital, and we understand that a short time ago another wealthy Chinese merchant, Tan Tock Seng, presented $5,000 towards this object. We have no doubt that we shall hear of their example being generally followed by their fellow-countrymen in the Settlement, so that sufficient funds will speedily be obtained. A number of diseased Chinese, lepers and others, frequent almost every street in town, presenting a spectacle which is rarely to be met with, even in towns under a pagan Government, and which is truly disgraceful in a civilised and Christian country, especially one under the government of Englishmen.

"A public meeting of the inhabitants was held on Saturday last to take into consideration a letter which had been received by the Governor from the Bengal Government. This letter is an answer to one from the Governor, enclosing the draft of an Act for the suppression of mendicity and loathsome exposure at Singapore, and relative to the erection of the hospital, for which purpose Tan Tock Seng had offered $5,000. The Deputy-Governor seems to have got the idea that it is merely to please the fastidious "European, and quasi Europeans," that the hospital is to be erected, and he therefore thinks that the Chinese, who are almost the only parties who would be benefited by the hospital, ought not to be made to pay for its support, but that the whole community ought to be taxed for it. We believe that the Chinese would have had no objection that the funds required should be raised by a pork farm, and this tax would have pressed very lightly upon them.

"The monthly expenditure of the hospital might, we understand, be calculated at from $450 to $500 per month, say $6,000 per annum. This sum the Bengal Government seem to think must be raised by means of a new tax or rate, and it was one of the objects of the meeting to show that such a measure would be unnecessary. From official documents it was shewn that there existed a large surplus both on the general revenue and in the Assessment fund, and it appeared to the meeting that, before a new tax was imposed upon the inhabitants, the funds arising from those already existing ought to be exhausted.

"The recommendation of the meeting that the proposed Pauper Hospital and the European Seamen's Hospital should be under one roof would be advantageous in many ways. We sincerely trust that nothing may happen to mar or hinder establishment of the hospital. It has long been required; and, so far back as 1829, called from the Grand Jury a very strong representation."

RESOLUTIONS OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT SINGAPORE, ON SATURDAY, THE 3RD FEBRUARY, 1844.

TAN TOCK SENG IN THE CHAIR.

A letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal to Colonel Butterworth, C.B., Governor to Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca, No. 1244, dated at Fort William, 18th December, 1843, having been read by the Chairman—

1st. It was proposed by E. J. Gilman, seconded by Tan Kim Seng, and unanimously carried:—That it appears to this meeting that the Government of Bengal is under a misconception in supposing that the proposed erection of a Pauper Hospital for the reception of the Chinese is to "please the European and quasi European," portion of the inhabitants, and that the Chinese are indifferent on the subject: that on the contrary it is the opinion of this meeting that the Chinese are, as a body, most anxious that the same should be carried into effect.

2nd. It was proposed by C. Spottiswoode, seconded by T. O. Crane, and unanimously carried:—That it is the opinion of this meeting that the erection of a Pauper Hospital is absolutely necessary, and that the funds for the support of the same should be provided from the General Revenues of the island.

3rd. Proposed by W. Napier, seconded by Syed Omar and unanimously carried:—That it is the opinion of this meeting, that, with reference to the last published Official Statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of this island, any further tax for the purpose of supporting a Pauper Hospital is unnecessary.

4th. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by M. F. Davidson, and unanimously carried:—That on its being decided that a Pauper Hospital be built, it is desirable that the Executive Government do take measure for the prevention of the importation of sick paupers into the island.

5th. Proposed by C. A. Dyce, seconded by J. Guthrie and unanimously carried:—That funds having been provided for the erection of a European Hospital, it is the opinion of this meeting that it would be expedient and desirable to unite the proposed Pauper and European Hospitals under one roof, as in that event the funds would be amply sufficient to erect a large, convenient, and sightly building, divided into distinct establishments, for Europeans, Chinese, and other Natives of Asia.

6th. Proposed by W. R. George, seconded by W. H. Read, and unanimously carried:—That the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the Hon'ble the Governor, with a request that the local Government will afford their countenance and support to the same.

7th. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by T. Smith and carried unanimously:—That a petition to the Supreme Government

embodying the foregoing resolutions be drawn up in English and Chinese, and signed by the inhabitants, and that it be thereafter sent to the Honourable the Governor for transmission to Bengal."

On Monday morning, the 25th July, 1844, the foundation stone of the new Pauper Hospital at Pearl's Hill was laid in the presence of the Hon'ble Thomas Church, Resident Councillor, Tan Tock Seng, by whose munificence the funds for the building had been supplied, and a number of other gentlemen. A brass plate was deposited beneath the foundation stone, on which was engraved the following inscription:—

The Foundation Stone
of
The Chinese Pauper Hospital
Singapore,
was laid on the XXVth May, MDCCCXLIV,
during the Government of
The Hon'ble Colonel W. J. Butterworth, C.B.,
Governor of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore
and Malacca.
The Hon'ble T. Church, Esquire,
being Resident Councillor at Singapore.
The funds for the erection of this building were
furnished by the humane liberality of
Tan Tock Seng, Esq., J.P.,
Chinese Merchant in Singapore.

It was the wish of several brethren of the Mystic craft that the ceremony of laying the foundation of the building, which was to be appropriated to those purposes of charity and benevolence which are recognised by Masons as among the fundamental articles of their constitution, should be performed with Masonic honours, but it was unfortunately found to be too late to make the necessary arrangements.

The foundation stone of the European Seamen's Hospital was also laid at this time on the same hill. The two buildings, still standing, were designed by Mr J. T. Thomson, the Government Surveyor, and were said to be very handsome edifices, adding much to the appearance of the town. The Government had been slow to recognize the necessity for providing a hospital, and as the first introduction of anything like one was due to private enterprise, it was not thought to be astonishing that it was left to generous minded individuals to do what they could to alleviate the necessities of the sick poor.

As the Chinese who flocked into the Settlement were mostly of a poor class, it followed as a matter of necessity that some of them would at some time or other be thrown on the charity of the public. Men in failing health, exposed to all the vicissitudes of the climate, soon became helpless and unable to earn their living; while others, from neglect of superficial scratches or slight wounds, soon suffered by their abrasions becoming sloughing ulcers, and they became street mendicants, to the annoyance of the general public. On this account

Tan Tock Seng, a generous-hearted and philanthropic Chinese gentleman, built the hospital at his own expense, and his son Tan Kim Ching added to its accommodation. The Government provided only medicines and medical attendance. The dieting was met by contributions and subscriptions from all classes of society. The management of the financial department was in the hands of a Committee, Hoo Ah Kay, Whampoa, being the Treasurer, and Seah Eu Chin looking after the food supply.

The paper in November, 1852, contained the following paragraph about the Pauper Hospital:—"For some time past the patients admitted into Tan Tock Seng's Hospital have been far more numerous than there are any means of accommodating, and the consequence has been a great overcrowding, so that the diseases of the patients instead of being alleviated have in fact been aggravated by their reception into the Hospital. The Committee of management have for some time past been fully alive to the inadequacy of the accommodation and most anxious for its increase, and indeed had procured plans from Mr. Thomson, the Architect of the original building, for its enlargement, but the want of funds has hitherto prevented them from making the additions required. Under these circumstances, some of the principal Chinese residents met the Officiating Governor yesterday, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken; when the difficulty was solved by Tan Kim Ching, the son of the founder of the Hospital, offering to defray the entire cost of the additions, estimated at two thousands dollars, provided Mr. Thomson's plan was adopted. This act of liberality on the part of Tan Kim Ching thus removes the main difficulty, and his generous example has been followed by others of his countrymen increasing the monthly subscriptions, so as to allow of the benefits of the Hospital being materially extended. The monthly income of the Hospital, however, will still be inadequate to meet its requirements, and we therefore trust many others will be induced to contribute towards its maintenance and thus assist in conferring a great boon on their helpless fellow-creatures who must otherwise be left to perish in their misery."

Here (wrote Dr. Rowell in 1885) one would wish to inscribe in letters of gold not only the names of the Founder, his son, and of the Treasurer and Purveyor as given above, but, chief of all, of that early Committee of management, the names of Colonel Macpherson, Resident Councillor, Thos. Dunman, Commissioner of Police, and Mr. R. C. Woods; not that there were not others, but these were the most prominent. But for them, the Poor Fund would have dwindled away as a lump of ice in the sun at a very early stage of its existence, as it did when they passed away from the scene of their labours. Mr. Dunman knew how to put the "screw" on in the shape of "fees for processions," "fees for permission to carry fowling pieces on sporting expeditions," in fact, he was a sturdy beggar for helpless beggars, and when he entered the doors of Chinese Towkays with a subscription paper, it was not for nothing; he was not to be refused. In his private diary are frequent entries such as "Received through Inspector Cox from the pawnbrokers' shops a subscription of $60 to Tan Tock Seng's Hospital."

The following inscription was engraved on stone and fixed at the hospital gate:—

THIS HOSPITAL
FOR THE
DISEASED OF ALL COUNTRIES
WAS BUILT A.D. 1844.
AT THE COST OF
SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
WHOLLY DEFRAYED BY
TAN TOCK SENG.

THE WINGS WERE ADDED
AND LARGE IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED
AT THE COST OF
THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS
WHOLLY DEFRAYED BY
TAN KIM CHING.
SON OF THE FOUNDER.

This tablet is erected by the Committee of Management, 1854.

The paper in September, 1857, contained the following passages in an article about the hospitals:—"The Indian Government (on account of the expenses of the Mutiny) have ordered all public works, not absolutely necessary, to be stopped. We hope this will prevent the hospitals being scattered as proposed at distances apart from each other, so that more medical officers would be necessary. The European Hospital, it is said, is to be erected on the Race Course, while Tan Tock Seng's Hospital is to be situated on the ground lately bought by Government on Balestier's plantation. In the case of Balestier's plantation is it very well ascertained that the locality is perfectly salubrious? [Quite prophetic words.] If the Government is quite determined that the Hospitals shall be removed from their present positions [Pearl's Hill], we would suggest that the Singapore Institution [Raffles] and the ground attached to it would be much better adapted for Hospitals than the places at present intended. It is easy of access from the harbour and the town, and sufficient room for both; the Trustees would probably be willing to listen to a proposal to transfer the schools to another site, and to concur in requesting the Legislature to give the requisite power to do so."

This arose from the buildings for the Hospital on Pearl's Hill being wanted after the Mutiny for military purposes and, together with the European Seamen's Hospital, being converted into the present Ordnance and Commissariat Offices. The present Chinese Hospital was then built on a swamp on Balestier plain, bordering on Serangoon road, which was given for the purpose by Government, in place of that erected by Tan Tock Seng, and the tablet was removed to the new hospital, were it remains.

The new Government building was much larger than the building at Pearl's Hill. As the Settlement grew larger and richer, the poor also increased. Three blocks of brick buildings forming three sides of a square were put up for the sick, while the fourth side facing the road was for the adminstrative requirements. Some have thought that the building on Serangoon road was at first intended for Indian troops, and never occupied by them. But it seems more likely, so

far as can be gathered from old papers, that they were built specially for the hospital. But even these buildings soon proved insufficient; there were some 400 paupers crowed into them in a very short time after they were occupied.

Looking at the hospital, at the present time, it is impossible to realise what it was then. Dr. Rose, the then Head of the medical department, never took a stranger visiting Singapore near the place. He felt thoroughly ashamed of it. His representations to remove difficulties in the way, to improve the state of the wards, their floors, their drains, to relieve their overcrowded state, were all of little avail. The low ground prevented proper drainage. The food supply was limited, a fixed quantity without reference to the numbers in hospital was issued daily; the fund could not do otherwise, so that when the hospital population was large, the share falling to each was proportionately small. Many a time did good old Mr. Dunman send for them a hand-cart load of slaughtered fighting cocks picked up in a raid on cock-fighters. Tan Kim Seng sent them once a year (Chinese New Year) a ration of pork and a few cents each. The average death rate was about two a day.

Notwithstanding the frequent urgent representations by those who were in charge, the then Government took no steps to alter or improve its condition. In fact, the time were bad, for the "Transfer" was being agitated. The Government of India did not care to interest themselves in this question, but left it for the new Government to settle; and even when the transfer took place, the first Governor was unpopular, and the expenditure incurred for Imperial purposes was too large to allow the question of comfort and better accommodation for paupers to be considered. Dr. Randell was the first to take the bull by the horns. He was at that time Acting Assistant Colonial Surgeon, and finding no hopes of anything likely to be done to improve the hospital, he took it upon himself to calculate what number could be kept there with the likelihood of deriving benefit by treatment, allotting what he considered the least safe superficial space for each patient. Then, keeping those who were most in need of treatment, he turned all the others out, and further admissions were regulated, either by the urgency of the case, or by vacancies in the wards.

The large number of mendicants thus thrown on the public, forced the Government to take the first steps toward increasing the accommodation, and the erection of a ward outside the hospital enclosure was decided on. Commission after commission was nominated to consider what was to be done, and a poor rate was proposed, as the Poor Fund was gradually disappearing.

As times became better, and the revenues increased, ward after ward was put up, and Mr. Tan Beng Swee built a tile-roofed ward at his own expense; eventually the Government granted votes for the maintenance of the hospital on a more liberal basis. Afterwards under the careful management of Dr. Rowell, P.C.M.O., it became a well organised hospital and a pride to the Settlement. The whole place was a model of a poor-house and Infirmary combined.

The Lepers, who were located in a miserable, dirty shed, had a decent place in a detached ward, and from time to time were sent to

the Leper Asylum at Palau Jerajak at Penang. On the whole, too much praise cannot be accorded to all those who helped to bring about the happy change, and it was said in 1884 that it had become as much a contrast to what it was in 1862, as a palace is to a pig-sty.

But statistics have again and again proved that the removal from the high airy site on Pearl's Hill to the water-logged ground on Serangoon Road has been the cause of serious and frequently fatal illness among the patients. From time to time some of the Committee have tried to find a scheme to move the hospital to some healthy site, and the matter came to a head about 1898 when the disease of beri-beri took a hold of the place and caused very fatal consequences. Again a determined effort was made to induce the Government to face the evil, and to sell the present site and rebuild the hospital elsewhere. The matter was referred to London, and an attempt is now being made, in 1902, to overcome the evil by the erection of a novel kind of experimental but very expensive ward, with an iron frame, and sides of very perishable material that can be quickly removed and burnt. The fact will remain to the end of time, or of the present hospital, that the Government took over the original building of Tan Tock Seng, for a purpose that might certainly have been accomplished equally well in another spot, and allowed the hospital to remain in a swamp, which should have been the last place to be chosen for the purpose. By some strange fatality, the opinion of the then Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Joseph Rose, was overruled in selecting the site, and the result has been most unfortunate. Statistics shewed clearly that the germs of disease were so rampant in the hospital, that those who came in for treatment for one complaint died in the hospital from another disease they contracted in it.

Now to take the case of the European Seamen's hospital. For a long while after the occupation of Singapore, there was no Government Hospital for the sick seamen of vessels lying in the harbour. The only hospital on shore for sick seamen then, was one established by Dr. Martin, situated where the Singapore Dispensary now stands in the Square. It was started a few years before 1840, in which year Dr. Robert Little arrived and joined Dr. Martin. The charge was $1 a day, but when the Government opened a hospital and charged one rupee (45 cents) the private hospital was driven out of the field; and as soon as it was quite discontinued, the Government charged one dollar.

The Government opened a place as the "European Seamen's Hospital." Accounts are very confusing as to the locality of the first hospital for this need, but it was afterwards built on Pearl's Hill at the same time as Tan Tock Seng's Hospital. There it remained till the Indian Mutiny occurred, and the construction of Fort Canning was decided on. Temporary accommodation was then found in Armenian Street for the European Seamen's Hospital, and finally, about 1861, the new buildings in Bukit Timah Road were occupied.

Referring to the time when the authorities were looking for European barracks, and it was proposed to place them in Balestier road, on the plateau near where the Quarantine Camp now stands, but which was rejected because of the vicinity of the swampy race-course on one side and the low land of Balestier's plantation on the other,

Dr. Rose once remarked that though the site was condemned for the soldiers, it seemed to be thought good enough for the sick, for they placed a hospital on each of the objectionable grounds, viz., the Seamen's Hospital on the Race Course, and the new Pauper Hospital on Balestier plain. And, as if to make matters worse, a Lunatic Asylum was placed on one side of the hospital, while on the other side were the cattle sheds (Kandang Kerbau) of the Public Works, and a crowded filthy native locality.

In building the new hospital, provision was made also for a Police Ward for members of the Police force and for injuries, accidental or homicidal, amongst natives. These two hospitals constituted two blocks running parallel to each other: and a small bungalow was run up between the Police Ward and the Lunatic Asylum for the reception of Officers.

However, everyone concerned tried to do his best to make the insufficient accommodation that was provided as comfortable as means and the surroundings permitted, and the name of the Institution was quietly changed to "The General Hospital," which was largely used both by H. M. Ships and mercantile marine: in fact, there was often a pressure for room, and Sir Harry Ord was considering the advisability of building a third block, when a long expected event brought about unlooked for relief. The opening of the Suez Canal revolutionized the trade of the port, and instead of having a large number of English vessels in harbour for weeks, waiting for cargo, Canal steamers sprang up, remaining only a few hours in port. The floating population thereby decreased, and consequently there were fewer patients seeking admission into the hospital. But in June, 1873, cholera, in an epidemic form, broke out it Kampong Kapor and the Lunatic Asylum. The patients of the General Hospital were hastily removed to the buildings at the Sepoy Lines left vacant by the removal of the Indian native regiment, but temporarily occupied by the Police. The hospital on Bukit Timah Road was reserved for a Cholera Hospital, which had to be supplemented by a temporary structure on the Race Course Plain. At the outbreak of this epidemic, Dr. Randell, the then Principal Civil Medical Officer, was on sick leave in England, and the removal was effected by Drs. Anderson and Hampshire, Dr. Randell returned about August, when cholera was declining. He at once made up his mind not to return to the old place, and strong representations were made to the then Governor, Sir H. Ord; but, though he quite agreed with the P. C. M. O., he felt (as he was about resigning office) that the initiation of the change should be left to his successor, Sir Andrew Clarke. One of the first public places visited by the new Governor, was the old hospital; and the following day, he went to the Sepoy Lines, and decided that the hospital was not to revert to its old quarters at Kandang Kerbau: and, to have good grounds on which to base a statement to the Secretary of State, a Commission was appointed to report on the advisability of the removal; and who can say how many quires of paper, and how much valuable time, was spent in arriving at a conclusion?

The revenues of the Settlement were progressing, the new Governor was a favourite after Sir H. Ord, and things worked smoothly; there

was no dissenting voice in Council, so plans for a new hospital were made and submitted to the Secretary of State; but, as is well known, Government is never in a hurry, so it took months before the Secretary of State had leisure to look at the plans, and even then, only disapprove of them as being too large, too expensive, &c., &c., and suggesting alterations. Fresh plans were made and re-submitted, which were eventually approved of. All these steps took time, but at last the present hospital was put in hand and was completed and occupied in August. 1882. The European Hospital (which was on a very much better site than that of the Tan Tock Seng's Hospital on Serangoon Road) was rebuilt at the Sepoy Lines on rising ground in a healthy place; but Tan Tock Seng's Hospital (which is only for the poor) remains in the swamps, and continues to claim its victims there to this day, in 1902.

The time of the receipt of letters by the overland route, at this period, was still very uncertain. In one week in February, for example, instalments for three mails came in, and in the very reverse order to that in which they ought to have been received. On a Tuesday, a portion of a mail posted in England in December, arrived by way of Calcutta; on the next day, a part of the November mail arrived by way of China; and four days leter, the brig *Sea Horse* from Bombay brought the October mail. So that the mail, not unusually, took over four months to reach here, which was longer than an average passage by a sailing vessed round the Cape. It was proposed to get the P. & O. service established to Singapore, and that "Pulo Labuan, near Borneo," should be made a point of call for British men-of war to coal on the voyage between Singapore and Hongkong when conveying the mails from here. The *Sea Horse* brought forty convicts from Bombay under an armed guard, being part of a famous robber gang known as the Bunder Gang.

The Races were held in March, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, the same days of the week as at the present time, but they took place in the morning. The evening before each race day a dinner was held at the Race Stand open to all members.

The steamer *Royal Sovereign* made a few trips to Malacca and Penang, but it was an unprofitable venture, and the natives did not appreciate the superiority of steam over sailing vessels. The fares were $12 to Malacca and $30 to Penang; and $2 and $5 for deck passages. Mr. Whampoa provided the meals, for which an extra charge was made. The steamer had been sent here in 1843 in the hope of forming a Company to purchase her. Syme & Co. were the agents of the steamer.

The following is an account, in a private letter, of a voyage overland via Calcutta, at this time, which was very different from the experiences of the present day:—"I left Calcutta for Europe by the steamer *Hindostan*. She is a splendid vessel, and everything from Calcutta to Southampton went on smoothly, the table was good, we had good wines, and everything in first rate style, even the passage across the desert down the Nile and on the canal, was comfortable. We had English coachmen to drive us through the desert, the stations attended by English women, clean and well provided. I took my passage back at Malta, and paid for myself and native servant to Alexandria £24.10. I have nothing

to complain of on board the *Great Liverpool*, I was comfortable, and the table and wines were good. I paid at Alexandria, for myself and servant, £25 to Suez besides £2 for extra baggage; you cannot imagine how bad was our scanty and miserable food. The transit was equally bad, we were driven by Arabs, of which they know nothing, and the consequence was, that some of the vans were capsized, some of the ladies had black eyes, and not a little burning, and I was once obliged to walk four miles, as the horses would not start. For economy's sake the stations are now managed by Arabs, and these people have such a tendency to dirtiness, that the rooms and everything else were swimming in their element. We had nothing but Irish stew all the way. At Suez, I found the *Hindostan*, and you will hardly believe that I was again obliged to submit to the greatest imposition; the purser made me pay down for my passage and for native servant, from Suez to Calcutta, the exhorbitant sum of £172, and this for a miserable dark cabin, rejected by every other passenger, without light and air, a single berth, and a sofa half under the berth, and only about eight inches lower, and only fit for a child or any one that had lost his legs. The fare was indifferent; the claret sour; the sherry muddy and bad, brandy and gin the worst that could be had. The passengers being more than there were seats for in the saloon, about ten or twelve of them were cast upon the deck, where their meals arrived generally cold; in any other part of the world, the captain or purser should in duty bound, apologize for it, and should have said 'Gentlemen, there is not room for the whole of you in the saloon, therefore, if you wish, some of the gentlemen below will take it by turns, and you will go down.' This would have smoothed our feelings. I am confident you would not like much the overland route."

In May, a Hindoo festival took place, which the *Free Press* described as follows:—"On Thursday last the Hindoo festival called Churruck Poojah was celebrated in the usual manner, to the disgust and serious annoyance, we doubt not, of all right-thinking persons. The horrible ceremony of swinging round a high pole suspended by a hook inserted in the back, was performed by two men, not only with the sanction of Government, but on a piece of ground at the race course allowed by the authorities for the purpose. We think that Government is blameable and altogether in the wrong in permitting this or any other cruel and disgusting native rite to be practised in these Settlements. There may be some appearance of reason in saying that in Hindostan the Hindoos ought to be allowed to practise their rites and ceremonies without molestation or hinderance, and that it might be dangerous and impolitic to forbid them. But even this argument, untenable as we deem it, and which in India, in the case of Suttee, a practice regarded by Hindoos as of the most sacred and paramount nature, has been successfully disregarded, does not apply with any great force here, since the Hindoos are mere foreigners in these Settlements, which may be looked upon as founded and settled by Europeans and therefore to be governed according to their laws and customs. Not only is the practice which we condemn, abhorrent to the feelings of Europeans, but we are afraid that it produces anything but a good effect on other classes of Asiatics who crowd to

witness it. On Thursday evening, the number of Chinese much exceeded the Hindoos or any other class. The practice is alike unchristian and inhuman, and we therefore trust that this is the last time that it will be permitted to pollute the island. In the evening, after dark, the Hindoos came along the Beach Road at Kampong Glam in procession with lighted torches making a great noise. It is surprising that serious accidents did not occur."

In June, the presentment of the Grand Jury contained the suggestion that the verandahs should be kept clear of obstructions. The paper said it was very desirable, but could only be done by an Act of the Legislative Council, except in those cases where proprietors of houses had exceeded their limits and constructed their verandahs on the public property, in which cases Government could impose such conditions as might be necessary.

H. M. S. *Samarang* arrived in Singapore in July, with her Captain wounded in an attack by pirates, the account of which shows how serious the piratical attacks were in those days. The *Free Press* described it as follows:—"H. M. Surveying Ship *Samarang*, Sir E. Belcher, K.C.B., arrived on the 2nd instant from Borneo. We understand that Sir Edward, while employed in the ship's boats making scientific observations off the coast of Gilolo, a considerable island lying East of the Northern limit of Celebes, was attacked by a large party of Illanoon pirates, consisting of ten prahus, with about sixty men in each. The boats of the ship had silenced several of the prahus which were afterwards taken possession of and destroyed, when a shot from one of them struck Sir Edward Belcher, passing through one thigh and lodging in the other, and knocking him overboard. Sir Edward was, we understand, in the act of directing a rocket against one of the prahus, when the shot reached him, and is the only one of the party who was seriously hurt, but it was not until considerable execution had been done among the piratical force, that the party returned to the ship, which immediately bore up for Singapore. The shot which struck Sir Edward, when cut out, was found to be an iron swivel ball, of more than an inch in diameter; but he is progressing favourably, and will, no doubt, be able to take part in the operations which the Admiral will, we trust, ere long, direct to be pursued against the pirates in that quarter of the Archipelago, whose repeated outrages against Europeans we have recorded of late."

An effort was made at this time to improve the town, and the following notice was issued by the Supreme Court. It referred to a very large number of houses in Teluk Ayer Street, Pekin Street, Market Street, Circular Road, Boat Quay, and neighbouring streets, and the notice, although very closely printed, filled nearly a column of the paper. In Chinchew Street, for example, it named thirty-seven houses:—

NOTICE.

Whereas, it having on the 15th of June last past, been presented to the Judges of Her Majesty's Court of Judicature of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca sitting as a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery at Singapore by the Grand Inquest then and there assembled, that the several houses or buildings, situated in several streets hereinafter mentioned in the town of Singapore, marked and numbered over the door or entrance of the said several houses or buildings, respectively, are public nuisances by reason

of the very decayed and unsafe condition of the said several houses or buildings, and whereas, it being desirable that the public nuisances should be speedily removed and abated, notice is hereby given to the several and respective proprietors, tenants, sub-tenants, occupiers or holders of the aforesaid several houses or buildings, as above specified, must be pulled down within the space of three months, from the date hereof, or legal proceedings will be instituted with the view of abating the said public nuisances."

Then followed the particulars of the streets and houses.

In August, a public meeting was held to establish a Library, to be kept in the Singapore Institution. Mr. J. C. Smith was the first Secretary and Librarian, and Mr. W. H. Read, Treasurer. The following were the first shareholders, who each contributed $30. The monthly subscription was $2.50. The rules, &c., will be found printed in the *Free Press* of the 15th August:—

Almeida, Joaquim	Dyce, C. A.	McMicking, G.
Bain, G.	Fraser, L.	Martin, M. J.
Butterworth, Col.	George, W. R.	Middleton, A.
Blundell, Wm.	Gilman, E. J.	Myrtle, J.
Caldwell, H. C.	Guthrie, James	Napier, W.
Church, Thos.	Harrison, C. H.	Purvis, John
Crane, T. O. B.	Ker, Thos. B.	Read, W. H.
Cumming, J.	Little, Dr.	Saul, R. P.
Davidson, M. F.	Logan, A.	Sorabjee, Frommurze
Drysdale, J. C.	Logan, J. R.	Stevenson, Captain
Dunman, Thos.	McEwen, Robert	

The following is an account of the first sale of horses from Sydney:—"On Tuesday, the 20th August, the recent importation of horses and sheep from Sydney was sold by public auction. The sheep were first put up in lots of five, and went off briskly at $4.60 to $5 each, which was considered a good price. As the time approached for the sale of horses "Tattersall's" became rather crowded with Europeans, Jews, Parsees, Arabs, and the various tribes of settlers, which presented an animated scene. The result of the sale was very satisfactory, the highest bid was $350, and the lowest $100, making an average of $211 each for 11 horses. Some Sydney potatoes were also sold at $2.30 per picul. We believe that the importation of these horses, &c., was, in some degree, experimental, and from the satisfactory result of the sales we may expect to see it repeated. We have no doubt that a small annual importation of horses, and a larger one of sheep, potatoes, &c., would always take, and there are, no doubt, other products of New South Wales which might also find a market here. The present importation has been made by Messrs. Boyd & Co., of Sydney, and we believe that various articles of Straits and other Eastern produce will be taken as a return. Although, perhaps, it may not be possible to make the whole of the returns in produce, yet a part of them might, we daresay, be very profitably made in sugar, spices, &c. Some gambier has also been taken, for the purpose of tanning, but we understand that the high price of labour in New South Wales forms a bar to the establishment of any extensive manufacture there, it being found more profitable to send the articles home in an unmanufactured state; and thus hides instead of being tanned and converted into leather on the spot, are sent to England as they

come off the cattle, with the addition of salt to preserve them from decay. We have no doubt that a considerable outlet for Colonial produce may be found in China, the Straits, and Continental India, and an increased intercourse could not fail of being mutually advantageous."

There was a dearth of bricks in the Settlement at this time, as there was so much building going on. The paper wrote as follows:—"We may notice the high price of bricks in the Settlement. We believe they are at present $18 per laksa, whereas a few months ago they were only $10 or $12. We believe this arises from a monopoly of the article having been secured, it is said, in anticipation of the wholesale destruction of the wooden houses in town, which, it was thought, would follow on the presentment of the Grand Jury. This expectation turns out to be fallacious, as it is discovered that only those houses which are really dangerous to the public can be ranked as nuisances, and, as such, are indictable, and, of these, we believe, the number is not large. It is very much to be regretted that the advance should have happened at this juncture, as it will enhance the cost of the two hospitals very considerably, to the public loss in one case, and, in the other, to that of the humane individual at whose cost it is erecting, Tan Tock Seng." Bricks in 1902, are selling at $50 to $140 a laksa.

In September Captain Faber, of the Madras Engineers, the newly appointed Superintending Engineer, arrived from Madras. Mount Faber was called after him. He was the gallant officer who, on being told that he had built a bridge over the river so low that the tongkangs could not pass under it at high tide, had the bottom of the river dredged under the bridge to float them through. Some of his architectural and engineering failures are alluded to further on in the year 1846. One of his gallant successors spent many vain efforts and no little of Mr. Tan Beng Swee's money in endeavouring to make water run up hill, when the first fruitless attempt was made to bring water into the town.

From time to time, attempts continued to be made to make planting pay on the island, and about this time sugar was being cultivated on a large scale at Serangoon on Balestier Plain and elsewhere, as was said in the last chapter; the paper wrote on the subject in October, as follows:—"In Singapore, the cultivation of sugar has been prosecuted by two enterprising and persevering gentlemen, Messrs. Balestier and Montgomerie, who have successfully established the fitness of the soil and climate of Singapore for sugar culture. The cultivation is rapidly extending, and large tracts of ground are being brought under the operation of the husbandman. The system of contracts with the Chinese has, by experience, been found to be the best plan of proceeding. By it not only is a better cane produced, but the crop is more abundant. The plan is this; the ground is cleared, planted, and the whole management of it undertaken by the Chinese, who bring the crop to maturity and cut it down. It is carted from the ground by the manufacturer to the mill, and the Chinese are allowed at a certain rate upon the out-turn. The sum at present given is about $1.50 per picul. An acre of cane produces from thirty to forty piculs of

sugar. The quality of the sugar, which is as material a point as the quantity, is first rate, consisting of a fine strong grain excellently adapted for the purposes of the sugar refiner.

"There is much land on the island well suited for the growth of the sugar-cane, and were parties encouraged, by a relaxation of the heavy duties, against which Singapore planters will now have to contend, to embark in the cultivation, Singapore could annually send home a very large supply of sugar to the home market. We may here take the opportunity of remarking that very erroneous and unfavourable ideas have been formed as to the adaptation of Singapore for agriculture. This, no doubt, may have in part arisen from some inferior soils having been at first selected for planting operations, and the result of the cultivation of which has been rather discouraging. It is admitted that the climate of Singapore is admirably suited for most kinds of tropical cultivation and the quality of the soil is, therefore, the essential point of enquiry. On this head, it might be sufficient for answer to instance the beautiful plantations of different kinds of fruit and spice trees which are to be found in the neighbourhood of the town. Whether the capabilities of the soil are to be availed of to any great extent will depend, in a great measure, on the amount of encouragement and protection which Straits agriculture may experience from Government." Subsequent experience taught a different lesson, as the plantations entirely failed. Mr. Balestier, the American Consul, had his plantation where Balestier Plain is now, and Dr. Montgomerie on the other side of the Kallang stream where Woodsville is now. It was called Kallang Dale, and Mr. R. C. Woods changed the name to Woodsville after he built the large house there.

On 18th September the following notification was issued by Government. It is inserted here because the matter has come to the front several times since:—

"Authentic intelligence having been received, that a naturalized British subject, but of Chinese origin, had incurred some risk of seizure, and persecution by the Chinese authorities, in consequence of his appearing at one of the Ports in China lately thrown open to British shipping as supercargo of a British vessel—and as the cases of the same kind are likely to occur from the growing trade in British ships between the Ports in China and the Straits Settlements, it is hereby notified, with a view to protect persons so situated, that the Resident Councillors at Penang, Singapore, and Malacca, will be prepared to furnish a certificate when required, intimating that they are naturalized British subjects. This document will be lodged with the Consul at the first Port the vessel may touch in China."

A letter from Mr. John Crawfurd at this time said that it was not improbable that a Royal establishment might be formed in the island of "Labuwan" off the Borneo river, for a steam station for coal. A notice was issued by the Police that shoals of sharks, of immense size, had been seen, and a great number caught in the roads in a few days in the middle of September, and warning sailors against bathing in the sea.

The following is the first reference we have met with to the possible annexation of the Native States:—"We consider the suggestion to acquire some of the neighbouring Native States for the purposes of agriculture as worthy of attention. There is no doubt that the change from the Native to the British rule would be very

beneficial to the States themselves, as at present they are in a condition very little removed from downright barbarism. Their rajahs are in general grossly ignorant and of the most puerile and depraved habits; when not engaged in some petty warfare with a neighbour, their whole time is spent in cock-fighting and gambling. Their subjects, insecure in their possessions, and without a motive to exertion, give way unrestrainedly to the indolence so congenial to a Malay, and with the exception of the scanty fields of paddy, which is to supply their food, and a few cocoanuts, which surround their villages, the soil is uncultivated. The only sign of activity displayed is in the working of the tin mines in some of these states, and these are carried on by Chinese from the British Settlements. Were these states to be under English Government, we might expect to see them exhibiting in the course of a few years, a very different appearance from what they do at present. Their soil would be made to yield those rich and abundant crops for which nature intended it, and their mineral wealth would be fully developed. A large and comparatively wealthy population would cause a large demand for the manufactures of England, and she would, in return, receive those supplies of sugar which she so much requires, besides an abundance of other tropical productions." All which has since been exemplified in the Protected Native States.

CHAPTER XXXII.

1845.

ON Saturday, the 18th January, a public meeting was held, having been called, as usual in those days, on a requisition to the Sheriff, Captain Faber and all the community attended. Mr. Thomas McMicking was the Chairman. The first part of the proceedings related to the Land Question, about which the Government had proposed to make more stringent regulations, to which the planters took exception. The next subject was the expenditure of the assessment fund, which Mr. W. H. Read brought forward, showing that the money was not properly applied, the Government paying out of the assessment funds for public works that properly pertained to Government alone. The following is the report of the latter part of the meeting, the rest of the report being too long to reproduce:—

"Mr. Read concluded by moving:—That the Hon'ble the Governor be requested to allow the assessment funds to be controlled by a Committee of three persons—one appointed by the Government, and two by the assessed. Mr. Lewis Fraser seconded the motion.

Considerable discussion ensued on the terms of the motion, and two amendments were brought forward, one by Mr. Dyce, to the effect that the assessment fund should be controlled by a committee of conservancy to be chosen by the payers of assessment exceeding a certain amount—the executive being still vested in the Government;—and the other by Dr. Little to the effect that the Governor-General of India in Council be memoralized to allow the assessment to be managed by the rate-payers. The three propositions were put to the vote, when Mr. Read's motion was carried by a large majority.

Mr. M. F. Davidson then, after a few appropriate observations, in which he remarked that it was not for the purpose of supplying an additional sitting Magistrate or Assessing Officer that the inhabitants agreed to the assessment being raised to 10 per cent., but in order that an increased efficiency of the Police might be secured by an improved and thorough superintendence, moved:—That it is the opinion of this meeting that the Deputy Superintendent of Police cannot effectively perform the duties of his situation, and at the same time those of a sitting Magistrate, and that the Government be requested to make such arrangements as will relieve him of all duties foreign to his office as Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Mr. Alexander Guthrie seconded the motion, which was carried *nem con.*

Mr. R. Bain proposed, seconded by Mr. Davidson:—That the Local Authorities be requested to alter the present foot-bridge over the river near Syed Omar's godowns [where Elgin Bridge is now]

into a Carriage Bridge with as little delay as practicable, which the meeting unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Guthrie, seconded by Mr. Crane, the following gentlemen, viz., M. F. Davidson, W. H. Read and C. Spottiswoode, were appointed a Committee to address the Governor on the three last resolutions, and to procure, so far as practicable, their being carried into effect.

The meeting was held at noon, in Mr. Read's house. There was no public building that could be used for the purpose in those days.

In January, the Chamber of Commerce addressed a long letter to Government on the subject of the copper currency which was in a very deranged condition as the Government had no copper coinage for the Straits at that time, and the change for a dollar consisted of all kinds of tokens which the merchants imported from England.

Sugar planting in the jungle in those days was not unattended with danger. Gang robberies were not unfrequent, and the following is an account of an attack on one of the planters:—"On Saturday morning, the 15th March, about half-past two o'clock, the house of Monsieur Beauregard, a French gentleman, who is forming a sugar plantation in Pyah Lebar district, and who resides on the spot, was attacked by a gang of about thirty Chinamen, who were headed by two Malays. They were provided with fire-arms, and fired seven times, wounding M. Beauregard, and six of his labourers slightly, but they did not succeed in getting possession of the house, being driven back by M. Beauregard, who fortunately had a good supply of fire-arms which he used with such success that, after he had fired six shots, the robbers retreated, carrying with them their dead and wounded. From the great quantity of blood which was afterwards observed upon the ground, it is conjectured that four or five men, at least, must either have been killed or desperately wounded. Two Chinese servants had their swords taken from them by the assailants, but they were not hurt, which, with other suspicious circumstances, renders it extremely probable that they were in the counsels of the gang. As soon as information was conveyed to the Police Office, Mr. Dunman, Deputy Superintendent, and a large body of peons, proceeded to the spot, where they arrived during the forenoon. They searched the jungle in the neighbourhood without finding any traces of the gang, although 120 men were employed in the search the whole day. The houses at the piratical village at Siglap were likewise searched, as well as all boats leaving the neighbourhood, but without success. "The coolness and courage with which Monsieur Beauregard withstood such a large body of men is deserving of the highest praise, and shows that, with resolution and a good supply of arms, a single European need not despair of beating off a gang of Chinamen, though thirty times his number, if only on the alert in time. At the same time we must observe that if it is wished that Europeans should settle in the island as cultivators, means must be taken by an improved system of Police to give them some security of life and property. At present there is no sufficient Police in the country parts; there are a few

Thannahs here and there, but it can scarcely be expected that two or three Klings should boldly face a large gang of thirty or forty reckless Chinamen, and we do not therefore blame the men so much as the system. There ought to be European constables with an adequate force stationed at some central place in the cultivated districts, whose special duty it ought to be to act as a night patrol, going in different directions in their beat in parties of four and five, and provided with the means of summoning others to their aid in the event of their falling in with any gang of evil-doers."

It was in this year that the Peninsular and Oriental Company made the first contract for the conveyance of the mails to China *viâ* Ceylon. The contract was for 140 hours from Ceylon to Penang, and 45 hours from there to Singapore, and 170 hours from there to Hongkong. The steamers were to remain 48 hours here. The service was once a month. The first mail steamer, the *Lady Mary Wood*, arrived on the 4th August, having been eight days from Galle. She brought the mails from London of 24th June, having taken 41 days. The paper spoke of this matter as follows:—"The arrival of the first direct Overland Mail for the Straits and China is an event of some importance, and deserving of special notice at our hands. It is a further addition to the great lines of steam-packets by which Great Britain is brought into such close contact with her more distant Colonial possessions. The American and West Indian Colonies have long had regular lines of steamers between them and the Mother Country, and now in the East it only wants an extension of the chain to Australia to render it complete. This we believe will not be long withheld, the growing importance of the Australian Colonies, and the advantages resulting to Government itself from quick and regular communications with distant possessions, will speedily bring about the accomplishment of this line. It seems almost certain that Singapore will be the station where the junction of the Australian line with the Indian one will take place, so that with the Dutch monthly steamer and perhaps the Manila one in addition, Singapore bids fair to become a steam-packet station of considerable importance.

The number of letters carried by the succeeding steamer, the *Braganza*, from Europe was 652, and newspapers 673; total number of covers 1,325. The number taken by the *Lady Mary Wood* on her return voyage homewards on 1st September, was:—

Europe	3,989
Penang	165
Ceylon	74
Bombay	242
Madras	281
Aden	6
Total amount of covers ...	4,757

The passage money was £160, including transit through Egypt and steward's fees.

There was a good deal of excitement in the Square because the prepaid letters by the first homeward mail were all left behind! and the following appeared in the paper:—"We regret to notice that a great number of letters sent to the Post Office and intended for despatch to Europe by the steamer *Lady Mary Wood*, although sent to the Post Office a few minutes before two o'clock (the advertised latest hour), were not forwarded to their destination, but returned to the senders. The letters in question were sent by two commercial houses whose communications and correspondence were extensive, and who throughout the day were dispatching letters to the Post Office so soon as they were sealed, in order that the Post Office servants might experience as little inconvenience as possible. In the instance of these letters some excuse is raised which is not withal very reasonable. The whole of the "rejected addresses" were epistles to foreign countries, and as such, had to undergo various entries in sundry books of the Singapore Post Office to ensure the certainty of reaching their destination. Although in good time, that is, several minutes before the advertised hour of closing the mails, the letters were returned; because, as alleged, there was no time to perform all the manipulations necessary in the instance of foreign letters. But a still worse casualty occurred: *the whole of the prepaid letters were forgotten!* They had been placed in a very snug corner, but were overlooked.

The Chamber of Commerce addressed the Governor very warmly upon the subject, and Mr. William Scott and Mr. Cuppage, who were in charge of the Post Office, got a good deal of warm language. The merchants made legal protests against the Post Office authorities, holding them liable for any loss that might ensue, but they were only waste paper, as the Indian Postal Act exempted them from responsibility. The paper said shortly afterwards that the energy of the Chamber had worked wonders. The forgotten letters were sent on by the steamer *Fire Queen* to Calcutta some days after, to go from there by any opportunity. Spottiswoode & Connolly were the first Agents of the P. & O. Company.

The *Lady Mary Wood* was built in 1842, her gross tonnage was 556, and the horse power 250, she was, of course, a paddle wheel steamer.

The following statement in the *Free Press* for March shows what the native trade by junks was at that period:—"Below we give a statement of the number of junks which have arrived this season up to the 24th instant, greatly exceeding the arrivals last year at the same time. The arrival of immigrants has also been very large, being at the 19th instant, 6,883, of whom 1,168 have come by square-rigged vessels, a new feature in the history of Chinese immigration, and 5,715 by junks. The number of immigrants last year was about 1,600, and the year before 7,000, but judging from the number who have already arrived, we may anticipate that this season they will not fall much short of 9,000 or 10,000. They are chiefly dispersed through the Straits Settlements and the neighbouring Dutch one at Rhio. In the Straits there will be an increased demand for labour for the sugar estates, which

ıll absorb some of the surplus, and we understand that the culti-ıtion of gambier is being carried on in Johore rather extensively r the Singapore gambier planters. We do not know what number › to Rhio, but we should think that it cannot be on the increase, ; we are informed most of the gambier and pepper plantations in ıe vicinity of Rhio have already been, or will soon be, exhausted ıd abandoned. The distance from the town at which operations ill consequently have to be carried on, by increasing the cost of ırriage, etc., will, no doubt, lessen the profits of the cultivation nd tend in some measure to check it."

Arrivals of Chinese and Cochin-Chinese junks during the present season from 2nd December to 24th March.

	Whence.	*Number.*	*Tons.*
From China.	Canton	5	737
	Shanghai	4	1,150
	Amoy	5	1,300
	Kongmoon	1	150
	Hongkong	1	62
	Honghoy	1	100
	Chonglim	5	1,700
	Chowan	3	325
	Macao	1	800
	Swathow	3	700
	Tywan	2	174
	Eagling	1	125
		32	7,323
From Cochin-China.	Long Loy	1	355
	C. China Proper ...	1	500
		34	8,178

In the same month, the paper spoke of the mouth of the river, which is still attracting attention: "The entrance to the river undoubtedly requires to be deepened, but how is it to be done? If we are not mistaken, the present Assistant Resident tried his hand at it, but after having broken in pieces a large stone at the entrance of the river, a famous historical relic, and one of the very few of which Singapore could boast, he abandoned the task." This is the famous stone that has been already spoken of at page 89.

The *Free Press* of 27th March contained the following remarks upon the expedition to Borneo:—"H. M. steamer *Driver*, of which we some weeks ago announced the departure for Borneo with a political mission on board, returned into the roads last Saturday morning, having effected the passage over from Sarawak in 48 hours. The mission, which consists of Captain Bethune of the Royal Navy, whose general and scientific attainments are well known, associated with Mr. Brooke, visited Borneo Proper, and, as we have been informed, met with the most favourable reception from the native rulers of that place, who have long been desirous to secure the

friendship and alliance of the British Government. Everything proceeded to the satisfaction of the mission, while the island of Labuan and the adjacent waters were carefully surveyed with a view to the advantage of forming an establishment there under the British crown, but what the ultimate determination on this head may be, or whether another locality will be finally chosen, has not transpired. Of Labuan we ourselves know only the geographical position, and a few other particulars which are, we believe, pretty generally known, but there is no island on the coast of Borneo of which we have received any information which appears to equal Labuan in the advantages it offers for a Settlement, not the least of its recommendations being that it yields excellent coals, of which a specimen has been brought over in the *Driver*. In connection with the affairs of Borneo, we ought not to omit to mention that Mr. Brooke has been appointed by Her Majesty's Ministers the Confidential Agent of the British Government in Borneo. What powers this designation includes we are not yet aware, but it will be a source of gratification to all those who feel an interest in the progress of civilization and improvement in these countries, to find that gentleman occupying a situation which will enable him to advance the great objects which he has all along had in view in his enterprising career on the Coast of Borneo—namely, the welfare of the inhabitants, by extinguishing piracy; the consequent security of property; and the extension of our commerce on principles which would secure the friendship and gratitude of the natives. There is no person of whom we have heard who possesses in the same degree as Mr. Brooke that union of qualities which fit a man to be at the head of a movement in this part of the world which has these great and important objects in view."

The Races were held in March, on two days in the afternoon. A "four-in-hand club (ponies)" turned out with a drag, as a novelty. Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane was here, in his flagship the *Agincourt*, and there was a large party from his vessel at the races. The Chamber of Commerce tried to induce him to allow one of the men-of-war to carry mails between Singapore and Ceylon for a few months until the P. & O. was properly established. The following was an account of the result:—

"His Excellency Sir T. Cochrane, in replying to the Hon'ble the Governor's letter forwarding the request of the Chamber, says that it will at all times afford him the highest gratification to render himself or the squadron under his command useful in forwarding the views and wishes of so respectable a body of gentlemen, and to find that he and the squadron have been made in any manner instrumental in promoting their interests or prosperity, and he therefore greatly regrets that on the present occasion he is unable to comply with their request. There are, His Excellency observes, only three large steamships under his command, one of which is stationed in India, another in China, and the third in the Straits of Malacca and Java Sea for the express purpose of protecting the commerce of the Straits Settlements, and the numerous vessels that trade to the Indian Archipelago; and one of the chief objects of his Excellency's

present visit to Singapore is to ascertain how Her Majesty's ships dedicated to the important duties of the Straits can best render their services to the commerce of their country; on which subject he looks forward to the Chamber affording him any suggestions which they may be able to offer.

"The Admiral is fully alive to the great inconvenience to which our Eastern and Northern correspondence is at present exposed, an inconvenience, he remarks, felt still more severely at Hongkong than in the Straits from its more remote position, and he would most willingly give his best endeavours to remove it, but he would not, under any circumstances, feel himself justified (without orders from home) in appropriating a steam-ship-of-war to Post Office duties, entailing a heavy expense, uncompensated by the profits on passengers and cargo available to a private steam-ship."

On the 7th April, the Rev. Edward White, M.A., the Residency Chaplain, died very suddenly at the age of 52 years. He was much respected in the place. The tombstone in the old church yard says that it was erected by the congregation of which he was in charge for eight years, and the tablet in the Cathedral has been noticed on page 298. It was a military funeral, and the service was read by Mr. Thomas Church. Mr. White died in Coleman Street. He was succeeded by Mr. Moule, who came from Calcutta, and commenced duty on Sunday, the 18th May.

The *Free Press* in June contained the following paragraph. The foolish action of the Government in condoning the mischievous and vexatious actions of Opium and Spirit Farmers (in order to keep them in good humour and maintain the revenue) continues to this day:—"On Friday the Spirit Farmer was charged before Captain Adam Cuppage, 27th Madras Native Infantry, Stipendiary Magistrate, and Messrs. John Purvis and James Guthrie, Magistrates, at the Police Office, by W. H. Miles, keeper of the Union Hotel, with having sold him spurious or adulterated Brandy. The Brandy was produced and was admitted by the Farmer to be the article that he had sold to Mr. Miles. Several respectable dealers were called who gave it as their opinion that the stuff was not Brandy at all, and Mr. John Steel stated that it appeared to him to be a compound of Arrack, burnt Sugar and Tobacco! The Farmer in defence said that he bought the Brandy from Mr. Purvis in bottle and emptied it into a cask. Mr. Purvis sent for a muster of Brandy of the same quality he had sold to the Farmer as second quality Brandy, which was found to be a wholesome spirit and quite different from the Farmer's compound. The Magistrates then fined the Farmer Rs 1,000. We are informed this is the third conviction of the Spirit Farmer for selling adulterated liquor, but that on the two former occasions the fines, Rs. 1,000 in each case, were remitted by the Authority in whose discretion the exacting of it or otherwise, is placed. This has no doubt tended to make the Farmer confident in following his evil practises, but we trust that for the protection of the public, the fine will be exacted to the last pie."

In July in the next year the following appeared in the paper, on the same subject, and is quoted here on account of the remarks by Mr. Church,

the Resident Councillor:—"On Monday an action was tried in the Court of Judicature before the Hon. the Resident Councillor at the instance of a respectable Chinese merchant named Ang Ah, against some peons of the Opium Farmer, who under pretence of searching his person for illicit Opium, had seized hold of him on the street, and were dragging him away by his tail to the Opium Farmer's Office, when he was with some difficulty rescued from their hands by Mr. Frommurzee Sorabjee who was passing at the time, and who compelled them to take Ang Ah to the Police. The peons alleged that they found in Ang Ah's purse a small box containing some Opium valued at 3 sucoos:—Ang Ah on the other hand asserted that while some of the peons seized him behind, he caught the hands of one of them in front who was endeavouring to convey the Opium into his purse. The case was heard at the instance of the Farmer by the Sitting Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, who after hearing the evidence for the charge, dismissed the Complaint, and thereupon Ang Ah brought an action against the peons to recover damages for the assault which they had committed upon him. After evidence had been given of the assault and for the defence the Hon. the Resident Councillor gave judgment for the Plaintiff, awarding $65 as damages. His Honor remarked that though it certainly was necessary that the Revenue should be protected it was also necessary, perhaps more so, that the public should be protected. Large powers were given to the Revenue peons under the Acts regulating the Farms, which it was necessary they should exercise with caution, and it had been proved that they had not done so in the present case, but on the contrary, had been proved to have committed a very gross assault upon a most respectable individual. The assault we have reason to believe was prompted by a wish to annoy Ang Ah, because he has recently become renter of the Opium Farm lately established in Johore by the Tomoongong, whose Chinese settlers daily increase, to the serious detriment of the Singapore Revenue Farmers; who between immigration and the suppression of gambling, experience a daily diminution of their receipts. Indeed we hear that the decrease in the sale of Opium and Spirits amounts to so much as clearly 100 dollars per diem respectively."

During this year, the Bukit Timah road was roughly opened up beyond Bukit Timah as far as Kranji. In May, Ellenborough Market was being built. Tan Tock Seng was making preparations for commencing the erection of the Ellenborough Buildings. The Seamen's Hospital on Pearl's Hill was completed. The following is taken from the paper in May:—"The preparations for removing the signal station from Blakan Mati towards Tulloh Blangah Hill are advancing rapidly to completion, the latter having been cleared, a convenient road to the top constructed, and huts for the accommodation of the convicts erected. It is a very good station, commanding an extensive prospect seaward as well as landward, and would form a desirable site for a bungalow. One of the reasons, and, if we mistake not, the chief one, assigned by medical men for the unhealthiness of Blakan Mati, was its being covered with pine-apples, the miasma arising from the decaying leaves of which was thought to be of a very injurious nature, yet the same cause is likely to render the Tulloh Blangah station as unhealthy, since the range along which the road runs, and till within a short

distance of the site of the intended flag-staff, is thickly planted with young pine-apples! We dare say the Tomoongong, who is the proprietor of the ground, would be easily induced to substitute some less obnoxious cultivation, were the reasons for objecting to the cultivation of pine-apples on that spot explained to him."

In July, the Government advertised that the hill would, in future, be named Mount Faber, which called forth the following remonstrance in a letter to the *Free Press*:—

"In the first place, who is the 'orrid cockney' who changed the pretty and appropriate Malay name of the Hill? and why, having done so, call it after one who, although he is the Superintending Engineer in the Straits, is not, and most probably never will be, much known to the good folks of this Settlement? Have we not sundry Governors and others high in office, from Sir T S. Raffles down to our most worthy Resident Councillor himself who are deserving of the 'honour and glory'? Or is it because the present nominee has constructed a stupidly narrow road to the top of the Bukit—two persons meeting can barely pass each other—that so much renown is bestowed upon him?"

An artist named Beverhaus visited Singapore during this year, and painted several portraits which are still to be seen. Among others one of Mr. Whampoa

The rate of postage *via* Marseilles on overland letters at that time was 2*s*. 2*d*. for a letter not exceeding a quarter of an ounce. The newspaper rate was 5*d*.

The gambier plantations in Singapore were becoming so thick, that the Chinese began to open up gardens in Johore, which have since grown to such a large extent. In June, the following was written about them:—"For some time past, it has been known that a considerable immigration of Chinese gambier and pepper planters from Singapore to the opposite country of Johore has been going on. From a memorandum made by a gentleman who lately visited the different points in Johore where the planters have settled, it appears that, within the last six months, 52 plantations have been commenced:—20 on the Sakodie river, 12 on the Sungei Malayu, 15 on the Sungei Danga, and 5 at Sungei Tambroh. There are about 500 people in all engaged in these plantations, and it is thought, and with probability, that the immigration will increase as the gambier and pepper plantations on this island wear out, which, from their age, many of them are fast doing. At Rhio, also, it is understood that most of the gambier and pepper plantations are nearly exhausted, so that the planters will be obliged to seek for new localities, which they will probably find in Johore.

At the end of August a public meeting was held on a requisition made to the Sheriff to consider entering into arrangements to obtain regular supplies of ice, and a committee of James Stephen, Lewis Fraser, and W. H. Read was appointed to see the Governor on the subject. As the Ice committee at Hongkong had arranged to have two vessels of Ice yearly sent from America, it was suggested that Singapore could compass one ship load.

The following letter in the paper in September, is the first mention of a country bungalow at Changhi:—"As the Changhi hut is now becoming the fashionable resort for pic-nic parties, I wish the Superintendent of Roads would take a ride down some morning to see the *holy* state of the roads between Arthur's Cottage and the river at Changhi; in fact 'tis almost unsafe for a conveyance to go there until it is repaired."

The following is taken from the *Free Press* of November:—"We are glad to learn that some intentions are entertained of forming a Company for making a dry Dock at Singapore, but we have not yet heard any particulars, nor how far the affair has progressed to a bearing. We understand, however, that the proposed site is in New Harbour, on Pulo Brani or some other island in that locality. New Harbour presents many advantages for a place of this kind, being smooth as an inland lake, and having a rise and fall of tide of about 12 feet. The undertaking, we should think, cannot fail to be profitable to the projectors. With so many steamers which already, and ere long will, arrive at our port monthly, and which will all, at times, have to encounter rough weather and adverse monsoons, a dry dock into which they can go and refit is almost indispensable. We shall, in all likelihood, before the lapse of another year, have steamers arriving here monthly from the following places:—Ceylon, Calcutta, Hongkong, Australia, Batavia and Manila. Indeed, steamers at present arrive from all these places except the two last, and, being generally vessels of a large size, there would be great difficulty in repairing one of them with the present means for the purpose in the Straits. A steamer, owing to her paddle boxes, cannot be hauled down upon the beach, and even for large sailing-vessels it is a very objectionable operation, exposing them to the risk of receiving much injury. Her Majesty's vessels, likewise, have at present no other place than Trincomalee to which they can go to repair, and a dry dock at Singapore would be peculiarly advantageous to them. They could come down from China, go into dock, refit, and be back at their station in a very short space of time. All these things considered, the scheme wears a most promising appearance—both of advantage to the public, and of remuneration to the undertakers—and it will therefore give us much pleasure to have it in our power on an early occasion to record that it has been commenced, or that active measures are in progress for its being so."

In January, 1846, it was mentioned again, and we publish the whole account, as it is interesting as compared with what has since been accomplished by our Dock Companies:—"Some weeks ago, we noticed that a proposal had been originated for constructing a Dry Dock at Singapore, and we are now happy to announce that the project has assumed such a practicable bearing as to enable us to lay a sketch of the details before our readers. The place pitched upon for a site is *Pulo Brani*, in New Harbour, almost directly opposite to the Tomoongong's House, a spot selected some time ago by Mr. C. Prinsep as a suitable location for a Patent Slip, but which, we believe, he has most readily ceded to the superior claims of the

Dry Dock. The situation has been carefully surveyed by practical persons, and is the most suitable and convenient in every respect in the neighbourhood of Singapore.

"It is proposed to construct a Dock of the following dimensions, by which it will be capable of accommodating vessels of the largest class:—

Length	300 feet.
Width	68 „
„ at Gate	48 „
Depth	15 „

"It will be approached by a canal 70 feet in width, and extending 280 feet from the dock gate. As the ground is soft, vessels will be able to lie in the canal for a tide if necessary. At the proposed entrance of the canal, there is a perpendicular bank running in a semi-circular form across the small bay in the centre of which the dock will stand; close to this bank the depth of water is 3½ fathoms, and at a short distance there will be placed mooring buoys, attached to which 8 or 10 vessels may lie in security free from the current. It is proposed to construct the masonry of the most substantial description. The bottom of the dock will consist of large logs of timber of the hardest description which can be procured, 120 feet long by 40 inches in diameter. It is proposed to build the dock on the same principle as that pursued in erecting the new Liverpool Graving Docks, with the exception of the gates, which will not be hung, but be one solid mass—which is considered a better plan than the others, being more easily worked, more durable, and less costly. As the rise and fall of water is only 11 feet, a small steam-engine will be required to pump the additional 3 or 4 feet out of the dock when necessary, but this, at the utmost, will not cost above £100 sterling. It is calculated that the dock would be so far ready in eight months after commencement, as to be available for the reception of sailing vessels, and would be entirely completed in twelve months.

"With regard to the financial part of the scheme, the following is a rough estimate of the probable cost and of the returns likely to be derived; and the latter, we believe, will be allowed by all our readers conversant with the subject to be a very moderate calculation.

"Cost of Construction and Annual Charges.

"A dry dock complete, with steam-engine, buoys, gate, capstans, posts, chains, counting-house, &c., it is estimated will not cost more than	$ 80,000
Interest on $80,000 @ 10 per cent. per annum ...	$ 8,000
Annual repairs	1,000
Clerks' salaries, $140 per month; Watchmen, $10 ...	1,800
	$ 10,800

RECEIPTS.

Entrance fee on 30 vessels a year @ $100 each ...	$ 3,0
Remain in dock 2 days each after the first 24 hours, 60 @ $40	2,4
Two Large Bombay Ships, entrance $200	4
Remain in dock 4 days each or 8 days @ $60 ..	4
Two P. & O. Co. steamers, China line, require docking every three months, 8 @ $500	4,0
Two P. & O. Co. steamers, Australian line, require docking every three months, 8 @ $500	4,0
Two Dutch steamers will bring in yearly entrance fee ..	1,0
Two H. C. steamers will bring in yearly entrance fee ...	1,0
Twenty-one steamers in dock, one day each @ $80 .	1,6
H. M. steamers and men-of-war, yearly, say	1,5
	$19,4
Excess of income	$ 8,6

or above 10½ per cent. clear annual profit, no doubt increasing in after years."

In September, the following was written:—"The Committee of Government *employés* nominated by his Honour the Governor to report on the proposal for the formation of a Dry Dock, have submitted a report to the local Government, which has been transmitted by the Governor to the merchants at whose instance the Committee was organised. In this report, is is stated that the Committee have fixed on a spot at Pulo Brani, which they recommend to be made the site of the proposed work, and which site they state 'whether for ease of construction or facility of approach at all times, may probably vie with any in the world.' Four estimates for the construction of the Dock had been submitted to the Committee, viz.:—

No. 1 of Wood	14 feet water, to cost	...	$ 76,290.28
No. 2 „ Brick	14 „ „ „	...	89,735.22
No. 3 „ Wood	18 „ „ „	...	87,658.52
No. 4 „ Stone & Brick	18 „ „ „	...	105,953.86

The last is the estimate which the Committee recommend for adoption, and they state that the estimate seems to possess such a degree of correctness as would allow the arrangements to be proceeded with, without any great chance of the actual cost being found to differ very widely from it. They have recommended the large size, as its adoption would probably lead to the P. & O. Company taking a considerable interest in the undertaking on account of the number of steamers they will have ere long plying in these seas."

It was in this year that the Esplanade was enclosed, as appears from a passage in the paper; the sea-wall was not yet built:—"We understand that it is in contemplation to enclose, with posts and chains, the whole of the space fronting the sea called Esplanade. This will be a decided improvement, and will secure pedestrians

within the enclosure from the danger attendant on the present not infrequent use of this open spot as a race ground."

The following account of the introduction of Freemasonry into the Straits was published in a Madras Review in March of this year, and is interesting to the large number of the craft in Singapore:—

"In 1809, a warrant of constitution was first received in Penang from the M. W. G M. the Duke of Athol, though Lodges of instruction had been held for three or four years previously, during which period two applications for charters had miscarried, it was supposed by capture by the French of the vessels the letters were sent in, with whom we were at that time at war. By this warrant of constitution the worthy Brother T. W. Court, was appointed Master, and Bros. A B. Bone and S. Stewart, Wardens. The Lodge met with only partial success, and never at any time numbered above fifteen members. The high rate of fees (three hundred and fifty dollars for the three degrees), and the exclusive spirit with which the Lodge was conducted, will readily count for its want of success; and though there were several worthy and very zealous Brethren connected with it, it gradually sunk into decay, and became finally extinct in 1819.

"In 1821, Brigadier O'Halloran, commanding the troops in Penang, assisted by Bros. R. B. Smith and P. Ogilvie, obtained a warrant from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bengal, and established a military Lodge designated "Humanity with Courage," and in a short space of time Masonry became so popular in Penang, that almost every civilian of respectability was ranged beneath its banners; but in 1825, Bro. W. Stewart, an eminent Mason, commanding the barque *Lallah Rookh*, of Liverpool, visited the Lodge, and pointed out its irregular and unconstitutional proceedings, in making civilians in a military Lodge. The result was an application, through Bro. Stewart, to the United Grand Lodge of England, which was graciously and favourably received by the M. W. the G. Master, H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, who renewed the warrant of the Atholl Lodge (Neptune, No. 344), and confirmed the proceedings of the military Lodge. directing all its members to be admitted on the register of the Grand Lodge. The craft after this continued to prosper, under the vigorous management of Colonel Sale, of the Madras Army (brother of the illustrious hero of Jellalabad), but after his return to the Coromandel Coast, in 1828, it fell into great disrepute, owing to the improper proceedings and intemperate conduct of the Brother who was elected his successor. The zealous and unwearied exertions of several eminent Brethren who afterwards presided in the Lodge, among whom may be named the late Bros. T. M. Ward, J. P. Grant, J. Wallace, G. Pinnock, of the Madras Army, Bro. A. B. Kerr, now of that service, and J. C. Smith, of Singapore. failed to meet with that success their abilities and distinguished conduct, as Masters of the Lodge, deserved. The odium of the past misconduct of a few appears to have been indelible, and at the time I am now writing, and owing to these causes, and the diminished commercial importance of the Settlement, with the consequent great reduction in the number of its European inhabitants, Neptune Lodge is again extinct, and little hope can reasonably be entertained of its ever being revived.

"In 1843, the Lodge voted a silver vase to Bro. J. C. Smith, as a mark of its high esteem of his character and services during the fifteen years he had been connected with it; and at the same meeting a special vote of thanks was tendered to the late Bro. F. Dunnett, then about to proceed to China: and those only who knew him and loved him as a man and a Mason can sufficiently understand the high claims of this most excellent Brother to this distinction. Honoured be his memory! for Masonry and friendship will very seldom meet with one so worthy of such laudation.

"In 1844, an absurd attempt was made to constitute the then decaying Lodge into a Provincial Grand Lodge, in order to preserve the fading honour of the notable P. G. Master of Sumatra, who by some species of ingenious sophistry, peculiar to himself, has managed to claim Penang as a portion of *his* province, "the Rising Sun" in Sumatra having set beneath the Masonic horizon for more than twenty years, and his only other Lodge, in the moon, being beyond the reach of human ken. This ridiculous attempt was very properly and effectually resisted by the worthy Bro. R. W. Stonehewer, then presiding as Master of No. 293, and the late Bro. W. Anderson, who ably supported him in protecting an unfortunate but honourable section of our ancient and honourable Fraternity from being decorated with the loathsome trappings of a corpse, and rendered the object of contumely and contempt to the Craft in general. The worthy P. G. Master, deputed a Master Mason, who had systematically withheld his support from this declining Lodge, to take upon himself the office of D. G. Master, or in the event of his being disposed to display a magnificent self-abnegation of the appointment, to nominate any other equally deserving Brother he might select for this exalted office. So much for the legality of the contemplated proceedings of this Provincial Grand Master. The attempt was met with the scorn and contempt it so richly merited; for verily the purple of Sumatra is at discount in the Malacca Straits, however much it may be esteemed at the Board of General Purposes, Grand Festivals and other high places in the metropolis of the Craft and of the world.

"The vase voted to Bro. J. C. Smith was sent to Bro. T. O. Crane, for the purpose of being presented to him at Singapore, with a request that he would assemble as many Brethren as he could to be present on the occasion; and Bro. Crane having then, in a very appropriate speech, expressed his regret that he had not an opportunity of doing it in a Lodge after the proceedings of the day were over, the practicability of establishing a Lodge in Singapore was discussed, and Bros. Smith and Crane were requested to draw up the necessary petition to the United Grand Lodge of England for a warrant of constitution. This was eventually obtained through the kind instrumentality of Bros. D. Davidson and H. B. Webb. Bros J. C. Smith, C. A. Dyce, and T. O. Crane were appointed the first Master and Wardens of Zetland Lodge, No. 748. Some unavoidable delay occurred in the receipt of the warrant, and the Lodge was not regularly constituted until the 8th December last, when that interesting ceremony was performed by Bros. R. Taylor, P. M. of Social Friendship, 326. He went down from Malacca for this purpose, and the new Master and Wardens were

then installed in due and ancient form. Zetland Lodge has been fitted up in a manner which does the highest credit to its members, and few stations in India, as I said before, can boast of a Masonic temple so creditable to themselves and the Craft. In four months there have been upwards of twenty initiations, and from the well-known respectability and indefatigable zeal of the officers and members of the Lodge, a permanent and most satisfactory career of success and usefulness may very reasonably be calculated upon. Zetland Lodge has voted a handsome Past Master's jewel to Bro. R. Taylor, in acknowledgment of his zeal and services.

"*List of the Officers of Zetland Lodge*, No. 748, established in Singapore, December 8th, 1845:—W. Bro. J. C. Smith, K.R.C., K.I. and M. W. Master; Bros. C. A. Dyce, S.W.; T. O. Crane, J.W.; J. B. Cumming, Sec. and Actg. Treas.; T. Smith, R.A., S.D.; W. Gibb, J.D.; J. Craig, I.G.; W. Rainford, Tyler."

On the 8th December, the first Masonic Lodge called *Zetland* was opened. The following account was given in the paper:—

"Pursuant to the Warrant of Constitution lately received from the Grand Lodge of England [dated February, 1845], 'Zetland Lodge, No. 748,' was opened in due form on Monday evening last, the Worshipful Master and Officers being installed and invested with their respective badges. There appears to be every prospect of this Lodge meeting with great success from the number of members already belonging to it, as well as from the numerous list of respectable candidates for *legitimate* admission to the mysteries and privileges of the ancient and honourable fraternity."

The Lodge was held in a house in Armenian Street. Mr. Wm. Napier was the first brother initiated, Mr. W. H. Read was the second, at the first meeting of the Lodge; and Mr. J. D. Vaughan at a meeting in the January following.

The following list of the Officers and Members was in the Directory at the commencement of 1846:—

W. Bro. J. C. Smyth	Worshipful Master.
Bro. C. A. Dyce, M.M.	Senior Warden.
„ T. O. Crane, M.M.	Junior Warden.
„ J. B. Cumming, M.M. ..	Secretary and Treasurer.
„ T. Smith, R.A.	Senior Deacon.
„ W. Gibb, M.M.	Junior Deacon
„ J. D. Scott, M.M.	Inner Guard.
„ W. Rainford, M.M. ...	Tyler.

Members:—E. A. Q. Apel, J. D. Booth, J. Chimmo, J. Craig, S. F. Cumming, C. J. J. Curteis, G. S. Darby, D. Davidson, T. Dunman, B. B. Keane, L. Fraser, W. S. Lawson, J. Myrtle, W. Napier, W. H. Read, W. Rodyk, W. Scott, J. Simson, J. Thomson, E. J. White and R. W. Wiber.

The *Singapore Free Press* had then been established ten years, and the following was written about it. In Mr. Horace St. John's *Indian Archipelago*, he said:—"The year 1835 is distinguished in the history of Singapore as that in which the *Free Press* was established. It is among the ablest and most influential journals in the East, conducted with remarkable vigour, and animated always by the

spirit of genuine liberality. It has made, indeed, a European reputation—among all, I mean, who turn their attention to the politics, commerce, or social progress of the British Settlements in that remote quarter of the world." Another writer said in that year:—"The *Singapore Free Press* is the most noted paper in the East. The central position from which it is published enables it to command the best intelligence from China, Australia and the Islands, for which reason a collection of the late numbers is the most acceptable present in an Indian port. Its liberal and rational views, just and moderate arguments, and the total absence of any little party spirit or prejudice, give it higher claims on our esteem, and render it decidedly one of the first British Colonial Journals."

On the 15th July, appeared the first number of the *Straits Times*. It had been advertised as a new Journal to be issued on the morning of Tuesday, the 15th July, and to be continued weekly. The printing material had been ordered from England by Mr. Marterius Thaddeus Apcar, of Apcar and Stephens, of Singapore, with the intention of starting a newspaper with Mr. Edwards as Editor; but he had died, and then the firm of Apcar and Stephens suspended payment, and Mr. Gilbert McMicking was the Assignee of their estate. Mr. Catchick Moses, to oblige Mr. Apcar, took over the printing material, and Mr. R. C. Woods came from Bombay looking for employment, having been obliged to leave there, and started the paper as Editor. It was not a financial success at first, and Mr. Moses, after a year or so, gave up his connection with it, letting the price he had paid to Mr. Apcar go against the deficiency, and Mr. Woods carried it on. It consisted of eight folio pages, the subscription was $1.75 a month, or $16 a year. The following is the commencement and some passages from the opening article:—

"Good morning to you, kind reader! So you expect from us some declaration of our 'intentions,' and the course we intend pursuing in the management of the *Straits Times*? Like a candidate for other honours than those we now seek, we proceed to declare our sentiments, whilst we aver the honourableness of our intentions. We have mounted our *Pegasus*, which is a quiet and well-disposed animal, such indeed as a gentleman of a certain age (like ourselves) ought to ride. We desire to travel smoothly along, and therefore pray the 'powers that be,' to keep the road of public economy in an efficient state; never allowing the ruts to get too deep, nor placing obstructions in the middle of the way, because our *Pegasus* is apt to shy, it might kick, or do even greater violence. We have said our quadruped possesses a good disposition, may it not be *crabbed*. What Tristam Shandy said of his *Neddy*, so say we of ours:—'It is, if you recollect, a quiet beast, he has scarce a hair or lineament of the *ass* about him.' We have gone astride on him frequently 'to canter it away from the cares and solicitudes of life'—now jogging, trotting, galloping; now 'going it' with the fleetness of an Arab. The *beau ideal* of a good-tempered animal, our *Pegasus* will be found to prick his ears and laugh or neigh as modestly as Aunt Cleary—but no more. We promise that its past training will not altogether be lost upon it, and, in the disinterested sympathy of our hearts, wish ourselves a pleasant ride of it."

In the middle of November, it turned into an issue twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, of four folio pages; but in January, 1849, it returned to its former mode of publication and appeared once a week only, on Wednesdays.

There was some correspondence in the newspaper about the keeping of St. Andrew's Day, which led to a Ball and Supper at the New Public Rooms (no doubt, including the new theatre) at which Messrs. Charles Carnie, C. A. Dyce, Lewis Fraser, Alexander Guthrie, Dr. Robert Little, R. McEwen, William Napier, Archibald and Charles Spottiswoode, and J. Stephen were the Stewards. The paper remarked that the Raffles Club, which had existed in the early days from 1825 to 1835, ought to be revived, as they used to have very animated festivities on the anniversary of the Settlement and other annual celebrations.

On the 25th November the Theatre which had been built by Subscription at the Assembly Rooms at the foot of Fort Canning, was opened with a comedy and a farce. The prices were $2 and $1, and the performance began at 8 o'clock. There is no description of the building, but the paper said that the stage was larger than that at the old theatre, which was in Dutrenquoy's Hotel, the Drop Scene, painted by one of the Amateurs, most likely Mr. Charles Dyce, was a view of Singapore from Sandy Point. There was an Amateur Orchestra, which was highly praised.

The following passages are part of an account of the progress of Singapore in the year 1845, which was written at the close of the year:—

"A new importance has been attached to Singapore during the past year from its having become the focus where steamers from different places periodically congregate with news from Europe and various quarters of the Far East. During the present year, these ramifications are likely to be increased by lines to Australasia and Manila. The Calcutta line, though for the present apparently suspended, will not, in all probability, be long unoccupied either by the Peninsular and Oriental Navigation Company or some other association, who will not fail to derive a handsome profit from it. The discovery of extensive beds of good coal in Borneo, adapted for the use of steamers, is of much importance, and will greatly facilitate the perfecting of the arrangements for steam navigation in this quarter of the world. Though nothing definite has transpired as to the results of Capt. Bethune's recent mission to Borneo, there is every reason to believe that during the present year a British Settlement will be formed in Borneo.

It is a subject of much congratulation to find, on casting a glance over our columns for the past year, that there exists almost no record of any cases of piracy in our harbour similar to those which, a year or two ago, were so frequent in occurrence and so detrimental to our native trade. This change has been brought about by the activity of Her Majesty's and the East India Company's vessels of war, which have always been on the alert, and is, no doubt, also greatly due to the terrible lessons read to the pirates of Borneo during the past and the preceding years by

His Excellency the Admiral, the Hon. Capt. Keppel, Sir E. Belcher. &c. The native traders may now resort to our port, even though unarmed like the Cochin-Chinese, with very little dread of violence by the way.

"The local Authorities having discovered that slave-dealing existed to a considerable extent in some of the neighbouring States, accompained by circumstances of much cruelty, have exerted themselves with much success in rescuing the unfortunate victims of it, and endeavouring to suppress the traffic.

"The recent visit of the H C. steam-vessel *Phlegethon* to Cochin-China has manifested the favourable disposition of the English and Cochin-Chinese Governments towards each other, and may have the tendency to encourage the resort of Cochin-Chinese trading vessels to this port, an event which the suppressing of piracy, from which the unarmed Cochin-Chinese traders who ventured to come to Singapore used to suffer so severely, may help to promote.

"In regard to more purely local subjects, the Post Office has been improved to meet the enlarged demands upon it, consequent on the extension of the overland steam arrangements to this port. It is still susceptible of much improvement, which will, no doubt, be effected during the present year. Renewed efforts are being made by the local Authorities and the mercantile body to procure the erection of a light-house at the South entrance of Singapore Straits. The heavy loss of property. even during the past year, attributable in a great measure to the want of such a conspicuous guide by day as well as by night, is an unanswerable argument both for its necessity and speedy erection.

"A majority of the Chamber of Commerce have declared an opinion in favour of the introduction of an Insolvent law into the Settlement—an opinion which is acquiesced in by the great majority of traders, European and Native. Unless, however, the Indian Law Commissioners are prepared with their general scheme of an Insolvent law for India, there is no probability of an Insolvent law being introduced into the Straits during the present year, as the existing Insolvent law in operation at the Presidencies is acknowledged to be defective, and the Supreme Government would therefore, we presume, be unwilling to sanction its application to the Straits, since the amended scheme for the whole of India will probably be ready in the course of a year or two.

"A considerable number of local improvements have been effected during the past year, the chief of which may be indicated as the extension of the roads in the interior. The line known as the Kranjie road, extending from Bukit Timah to the Old Straits, about 8 miles in length, was completed during the past year, and is now very extensively used by the gambier and pepper cultivators on the line for conveying their wares to town, instead, as heretofore, of transporting them round by the Straits in large boats. A similar line of road has been commenced from within a short distance of Singapore to a different part of the Old Straits, which promises to be a most useful as well as an exceedingly picturesque road. This road is the first the construction of which has been commenced by private contractors in terms of the permission accorded by the Supreme Government

some months ago. The contractors and labourers are all Chinese, and they are found to make the roads much more quickly, as well as cheaply, than has ever been effected by means of convict labour. The funds from which these roads are to be constructed are those derived from the sale of the Government lands, and we suppose that provisions have been, or will be, made from this source for keeping these and the other country roads in repair, otherwise they will soon become comparatively useless. It is hopeless to look to the assessments for this purpose, as they are found barely adequate to keep up the present avowedly inefficient Police force and effect the imperfect cleansing of the town. Besides, it does not seem at all fair to tax the inhabitants of the town for keeping up the roads in the country, and, therefore, until the increase and extension of cultivation allow of the levy of an assessment adequate for the purpose, which may perhaps be about 20 or 30 years hence, the roads ought to be kept up out of the proceeds of the land sales, which the making of roads is calculated greatly to promote.

"Improvements in town also proceed apace. Many—or we may say with truth, most—of the old wooden houses which in the beginning of the year gave such a ruinous and decaying look to the town, have now been replaced by handsome and substantial looking brick houses, and, ere many months more have passed, the principal streets bid fair to shew nothing but brick edifices, confining the wooden erections to the poorer parts of the town. The Seamen's Hospital has been finished and opened for the reception of patients; and Tock Seng's Hospital is approaching completion. A large space of ground, heretofore a swamp overflowed by the tide, and known to older residents by the name of Kampong Malacca, has been partially filled up and laid out into building lots, which will, no doubt, be exposed to sale during this year. A commodious public market [Ellenborough Market] is being constructed in this quarter, and Tan Tock Seng is far advanced with the erection of an extensive range of shops on a uniform plan and with more pretensions to architectural beauty than the general run of such *boutiques*. This quarter is to bear the name of "Ellenborough Buildings!" The improvements on Government Hill, comprehending the enlargement of the burying ground, are now nearly completed, and will add much to the beauty of this part of Singapore. A want of sufficient drainage is still apparent in many places in and near town, and there are one or two noisome swamps in town the filling up of which with wholesome earth would greatly conduce to the comfort and health of the inhabitants.

"The trade of the Settlement during the past year must, on the whole, be pronounced to have been prosperous; but it has been the quiet, monotonous prosperity of steady, moderate, or even low prices, with little of the excitement of speculation, or large losses balanced by large profits, which has so often prevailed in former years. The story told by the shop-keepers and small native dealers is that they have to encounter much rivalry for small profits, but at the same time their profits have been tolerably certain, affording, with judicious

management, a fair price for their labour and a fair return for their capital, which is generally of a very limited nature.

"The importing merchants and extensive native dealers give nearly the same report as regards their trade; the more sanguine and speculative will pronounce 1845 to have been a bad year, while the plodding and steady will probably admit it to have been "not so bad." Its characteristic may be said to have been low prices and want of speculation.

"It would be at best a delicate task to enter upon the moral statistics of the Settlement, and in this place it would not be much use as the changes which one year can effect must be very slight indeed. We may notice, however, that the Library has been in operation for some time past, and that, scanty as are its stores, the increasing number of those wishing to avail themselves of its benefits, augurs well for the intellectual and moral habits of the European portion of the community. It may, indeed, be remarked that here, as in other parts of India, an evident change is taking place in the general tone of society—a change which the diminishing number of old stagers deplore and exclaim against, while the recent arrivals from Europe are somewhat surprised and pleased to find here so little difference from the tone of good society among the middle classes at home. The regular and rapid intercourse now maintained with the Mother Country, by tending to keep alive home feelings and affections, and the constant supply of new intellectual food which every mail brings, keeping the sojourner in India almost on a par with those at home as regards the literature and science of the passing day, must contribute materially to bring about this alteration."

CHAPTER XXXIII.

1846.

IN March, a fire broke out in Market Street, at ten o'clock at night, just behind the Square. The Police gongs were beaten and the bell of St. Andrew's Church was rung. There was no water to be got for some time, and a deal of thieving went on. A general store of Ching Wan & Co. was burned down, also a godown of Chin Sing & Co., full of rattans, but as there was no wind, the fire was then stopped. The necessity of some organization like a Fire Brigade was again prominently discussed, but it was not formed.

The following is an account of a Hoey riot in March, which caused a good deal of talk at the time:—"On Tuesday last, the town of Singapore was comparatively in a state of siege, in consequence of some apprehensions on the part of the authorities that disturbances would arise on that day: indulgence in such fears, if not in a great measure the working spirit of the commotion, contributed greatly to extend it, by causing alarm in the breasts of the quiet, loyal, and well disposed. The Head of the Hoeys, a secret and powerful society of Chinese, expired about eighteen days ago, and an application was made last week to the Magistrates to grant permission to bury the body with due form, procession, and the outward display usual on the occasion of the funeral of the chief of the order. The Magistrates consented to allow a procession to be formed, provided the number of followers did not exceed one hundred, and with the condition that the procession would pass through the direct line of road to the burial ground. The Heads of the Hoey acquiesced in the arrangement. Early on Tuesday morning, the whole Police force was mustered, and was chiefly located near the Chinese Temple at Rochor, outside the town. About 10 o'clock a.m., information was received at the Police Office that several thousands of Chinese were assembled in front of the temple at Rochor, where the body of the deceased was placed, and that the whole of them were resolved on passing through the town, staying in such streets of it as they thought proper, to perform ceremonies, and alleging that they had received permission from the Resident Councillor to proceed the way they listed; a sanction neither applied for, nor likely to be granted. Captain Adam Cuppage, 27th Madras Native Infantry, who was Assistant Resident, and Mr. Dunman, Deputy Superintendent of Police, proceeded to Rochor, expecting that by confronting the procession at the place where it was forbidden to go, they would effectually deter the rabble from entering the town. As soon as the men with banners in advance of the procession diverged into the road leading to Kampong Glam, the Police Magistrates told them to

halt; they did so. In the meantime a parley was attempted. Captain Cuppage remained on the bridge at Rochor, where a party of Police peons was stationed, and Mr. Dunman, accompanied by a Chinese interpreter, proceeded to the front of the temple. Mr. Dunman addressed the chiefs of the Hoey and remonstrated with them on their want of faith in collecting together nearly six thousand persons instead of one hundred to follow the body to the grave: they, in reply, declared themselves unable to restrict the numbers or control them. Mr. Dunman was about to return to consult with Captain Cuppage when a Chinese cooly called out "*Pah-pah,*" meaning "beat." Mr. Dunman seized him by the throat, and dragged him away and gave him in charge to Captain Cuppage. The latter delivered him over to the constables to convey to the Thannah, but on the way a rescue was effected. As soon as the cooly was seized, the mob commenced beating the Chinese interpreter with the iron instruments they place on their hands, and also jumped upon him. Mr. Dunman returned to the assistance of the interpreter; with the butt end of a musket he drove off the people that were maltreating the interpreter, and brought the latter away in triumph; an act of humanity and gallantry that cannot be too loudly praised. The rescue of the cooly gave an impulse to the mass; the procession moved on, each member of the Hoey declaring that he would proceed along Kampong Glam. The order for the advance was hailed with a general shout, and on they went.

"Information was sent to the civil authorities stating to what length the Chinese had gone, and that the civil force was incapable of controlling the mass of people which was now fast increasing, threatening the town with pillage and destruction. An express was despatched for the troops, who were soon in readiness, and arrived in time to prevent the procession passing near the Court House and up Hill Street. The avenues thus being closed, the Chinese turned down Coleman Street into South Bridge Road, thence over the bridge to the burial ground beyond the Cantonment. By the judicious placing of the troops at the avenues leading to South Bridge Road, the procession was prevented from passing into the town, and, by stopping the lines of communication, any addition to the number of followers was prevented."

Long letters were written to the paper about the necessity of putting down the secret societies, and the peace of the town was considerably disturbed for a fortnight, when the Hoeys finally made terms with each other. The following proclamation was issued in Chinese, and posted up through the town and on the temples:—

"To the Chinese living in Singapore this notice is given, and they are to conform strictly thereto. The practice of assembling in large numbers and proceeding along the public roads with flags, music, or arms of any description is forbidden, and, if attempted, will be at their peril. No processions will be allowed having any connection with illegal societies of any description, and should this order be infringed, all guilty persons will be considered as disturbers of public peace, and if, on being duly warned, they fail to disperse, will be treated as such."

The following account of the attack on the house of Mr. Thomas Hewetson on Mount Elizabeth, appeared in the paper in April. Mr. Hewetson was a clerk to the Magistrates, and the event is still remembered in Singapore, although the particulars are forgotten:—

"On the night of the 30th March, a most daring and successful gang robbery was perpetrated in the house of Mr. T. Hewetson, about two miles from town. The house is situated on an eminence in his plantation, which is completely surrounded by a large hedge. It appears that a gang of 200 Chinese proceeded to Mr. Hewetson's a little after midnight, and after taking the most deliberate precautions by posting sentinels at the entrance into the plantation from the public road, the main body proceeded to the house, where they overpowered the watchman and other persons near the premises, beating and dispersing them. They then surrounded the house, which is a bungalow built of wood upon high posts. Mr. Hewetson, who had not long retired to rest, heard, between half-past 12 and 1 o'clock, a great noise under the house, stamping of feet and clashing of sticks, and his men calling out "China, China." This continued for about 8 or 10 minutes before the Chinese came up to the back verandah of the house, where they commenced battering at the door opening into the verandah, which was secured by a strong wooden bar. While they were trying to break in, Mr. Hewetson fired through the door, and continued doing so as fast as he could load, which kept them in check for about 20 minutes. They then succeeded in making an opening in the door of about one inch and a half by six inches, through which they thrust their spears, endeavouring to enlarge the opening, Mr. Hewetson at the same time firing through upon the robbers. In about ten minutes more the door was almost shattered to pieces, when Mr. Hewetson retired with his family to a loft in the top of the house to which access is had by a trap door. The Chinese, being undisturbed, soon broke the outer door, and at once proceeding to the door of a small room in which Mr. Hewetson kept his money and plate, &c., they quickly forced it and broke open a number of boxes, almeirahs, &c., from which they abstracted about 400 dollars, silver spoons, clothes, a box containing a number of papers, &c., &c. Having thus effected their purpose, they immediately left the house, being saluted by a parting shot of slugs from a blunderbuss, and would appear to have immediately separated, as Mr. Gilbert Angus, who lives about half a mile from the spot, and had been awakened by the shots and screams of the female members of Mr. Hewetson's family, on going up with some of his men, met about 15 armed with sticks coming from Mr. Hewetson's who, on his calling on them to stop, prepared to attack him, on which he fired a pistol, which appeared to drop one of them, and, drawing his sword rushed under their guard and endeavoured to cut some of them down. He was, however, immediately assailed by all the number, and receiving some severe blows on his head, shoulders, and hands, he was stunned, and dropped his sword, on which the men immediately made off. This was the only resistance, independent of that offered by Mr. Hewetson and his people, which they encountered, although it was near two

o'clock before they left the house, as the Police did not arrive until some time afterwards.

"They would appear to have proceeded with their attack with the utmost coolness and confidence. The room in which Mr. Hewetson stood when firing through the door was lighted by a lamp, which enabled the robbers to watch his movements. There were traces of blood in the verandah and on the ground, so that some persons must have been wounded, but to what extent is of course unknown. We are informed that the Klings, Malays, Javanese and other Natives residing in a circuit to the North West and South of Mr. Hewetson's were aware at 11 o'clock p.m., that something was in the wind, as they state that they heard the concerted signals made by the Chinese for assembling."

Three Chinese were convicted of being concerned in the gang-robbery, and the Recorder sentenced them to transportation to Bombay for fourteen years, and, in passing sentence, dwelt at length on the dangerous and unlawful nature of the secret societies with which it had been proved the prisoners were connected.

The house was the first built on Mount Elizabeth, near the top of the hill at the right hand side of the road. There is an attap bungalow still on the site, which is quite closely surrounded by tile-roofed houses.

In consequence of the Chinese riots, a proposal was made to establish a Volunteer Force, but it was not realised for nearly ten years afterwards.

At the Assizes in April, the Grand Jury in their presentment complained of the state of the Police, and of the continuance of certain nuisances in the town, such as the swamp in front of the gaol and the broken down foot-bridge. It would have attracted no particular notice but for the extraordinary behaviour of the Governor, Colonel Butterworth, who, as was usual in those days, sat on the Bench, as one of the Judges, with the Recorder, Sir William Norris. The Governor complained of the Grand Jury having spoken of the Police as *disgraceful*, and of other matters as *unfair* on the part of Government, lost his temper, threw the blame of any delay or shortcomings on the Bengal Government, and went into a long tirade on the subject of his own devotion, zeal and energy for the welfare of the Settlements. It was an explosion which caused a great deal of talk, and was spoken of as an "extraordinary performance, which, for the sake of the dignity of the Bench, as well as of public functionaries, it was hoped we ne'er may look upon its like again."

The following extract from the *Free Press* is interesting as the recommencement of the gambling farm argument:—

"On the 29th April, Charles Cashin, formerly a police constable, was found guilty of having received bribes from the keepers of gambling shops, to connive at their existence, and on the 1st instant, was brought up to receive sentence. The Hon'ble the Recorder, in passing sentence, said that it had been fully proved that the prisoner had been guilty of a gross neglect of duty. It appeared that he was well acquainted with the extensive gambling which was carried on, he knew of it, and ought to have informed against it that it might have

been put down, instead of which he received a bribe to sanction its continuance. The Court must therefore pass sentence upon him. It has been asserted by the public journals that it was impossible to put down gambling: his Lordship could not agree with them; he did not see the impossibility; he thought it could be put a stop to if the police did their duty. It was only through the corruption of the police that such sinks of iniquity were permitted to exist. If the constables were honest men, the evil would be put a stop to, but he must declare his opinion that not only the prisoner but all the constables had been guilty of receiving bribes for conniving at this system. (The prisoner here interrupted his Lordship and said that for three years past all the constables had received $20 each monthly, from the keepers of the gambling shops, that the evidence against him was all false, and that the constable who had brought the charge against him had himself received bribes. It was a conspiracy against him to deprive him of his situation, and get it for another person.) The Recorder then proceeded to say that he believed they were all implicated, and that if they did their duty, gambling might be put down. If the constables had any honesty they would come forward and confess their fault, and he was sure their doing so would be in their favour, if they resolved on pursuing a better course in future. The prisoner Charles Cashin was then sentenced to be imprisoned for eighteen months, and to pay a fine of 1,000 dollars, and to be further imprisoned until the fine was paid.

Some of the constables present then came forward and represented that they felt much hurt at his Lordship's observations regarding them. They denied their guilt, and said that they had endeavoured to put down the gambling shops, but that an order had been issued forbidding them to interfere with them! His Lordship said he thought there must be some mistake, he could not think how such an extraordinary order could have been given, but even if it had, it was their duty to disregard it, and to enforce the law. The constables explained that the order was verbal.

Mr. Dunman, Deputy Superintendent of Police, was then sent for, and admitted that such an order had been given. It was not given by him, but by Major Low, the former Superintendent of Police. Previously, orders had been given to the police to put down the gambling shops, and to stimulate them to do their duty and to counteract the effect of the bribery on the part of the keepers of the gambling shops, the police had been promised half of whatever money was found upon the table. They had accordingly gone to work, but it was found that the whole time of the police was engrossed by it to the total neglect of their other duties, and it was therefore found necessary to annul the order. In reply to an observation from the Recorder, Mr. Dunman said he considered it impossible to put down the gambling shops. They had communications with the neighbouring houses so that the persons engaged could always make their escape, but he thought the most insuperable obstacle was in the power which the keepers of the gambling shops possessed of corrupting the police. The Recorder observed that that was the very thing he thought ought to be remedied; the police ought to be honest. Mr. Dunman said with a

native police it was impossible, where could you get an honest native of the grade of a policeman? The police were in the regular pay of the keepers of the gambling shops, and it could not be prevented with the large means of bribery which the gambling shops in Singapore one hundred and ninety-one in number, afforded."

It appears from the following passage that gambling was permitted at the Chinese New Year:—

"The active measures taken against the gambling shops in consequence of the Recorder's remarks, have had a most serious effect upon the Revenue Farms, the Opium and Spirit Farms especially, the renters of which have experienced a very large decrease in their sales. Such an effect was to be anticipated, and perhaps a knowledge of this has been the cause of the leniency with which the gambling shops have heretofore been treated. It is well known that it is at the instance of the Opium and Spirit Farmers, that the fortnight's license for open gambling at the Chinese New Year is granted by those in authority. Would it not be better to have a gambling farm at once, than all these miserable shifts and inconsistencies, apparent disapprobation, and virtual countenance?"

In July, a suggestion was again made to establish a Savings Bank which Sir Benjamin Mulkin had advocated in 1833. There was some correspondence on the subject, but nothing was done.

There is a tablet in St. Andrew's Cathedral to Captain Maitland, R.N., as is said on page 298. The following is an extract from a lengthy report in the *Free Press* of his services:—

"We regret having to announce the death of William Maitland, Esq., Commander, R.N., at the early age of 44. Captain Maitland, who has commanded H. M. steamer *Spiteful* on the Indian Station for the last three years, was a nephew of the late Earl of Lauderdale, and also of the late Admiral Sir Frederick Maitland, entered the Royal Navy at an early age, and during the earlier part of his career served for several years in the West Indies, where he was actively employed against the pirates. In 1841, when 1st Lieutenant of the *Benbow*, he distinguished himself in the operations on the coast of Syria, and for his services there received his promotion as Commander. In December, 1842, Captain Maitland commissioned the steamer *Spiteful*, and arrived on the Indian Station in August, 1843. Since his arrival in the East he has been actively employed in various parts of the Station—in China, in India, and in the Archipelago. During the late war, in the Punjaub, the *Spiteful* was employed in conveying troops to various points, and only a month or two ago, in Borneo, Captain Maitland's duties were laborious and incessant. The flag of Rear-Admiral Sir J. T. Cochrane, was hoisted on board the *Spiteful* during the ascent of the river Bruni and the attack on the capital, and it is supposed that the fatigue which Captain Maitland underwent on this occasion may have assisted in bringing on the attack which carried him off. The *Spiteful* came up here from Borneo with despatches, and on the news being received of the wreck of the *Frederick IV.*, a few days after the steamer's arrival, she immediately proceeded to the spot to render assistance. The exposure and fatigue which Captain Maitland here underwent brought on a return of bilious remittent fever, under which

he had suffered severely about two years previously; the attack was of a most severe nature, and although at one time he rallied, and hopes were entertained of his recovery, these proved fallacious, and he sunk under the strength of the disease, having expired on board his vessel in the roads at midnight on Monday, 11th August."

The proceedings of the English Government and Mr. Brooke in Borneo, were attracting considerable attention in Europe at this time, the recent volumes of Captain Keppel—"The Narrative of the Expedition to Borneo of H. M. S. *Dido*"—having placed the whole subject in a clearer and more distinct light than formerly, and shown what were the precise objects which the English Government, or rather its agent, Mr. Brooke, had in view. The Dutch journals were filled with violent denunciations of the faithlessness of England, which was accused, in the negotiations regarding Labuan, &c., of having violated the treaty of 1824, and they called for an instant vindication of the rights of Holland; the English journals, on the other hand, generally upheld the necessity of our occupying Labuan, though some of them sided with the Dutch in their interpretation of the treaty of 1824, but contended that it did not apply to that part of Borneo to which our operations were confined; the French journals held the balance and arbitrated between the two parties. The subject was discussed in a lively and acute manner in the French periodical, the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, of 15th May.

It appears from a remark in the newspaper in June, that the neighbourhood of Mount Elizabeth was notorious for tigers at this time. The police peons making their rounds in Orchard Road one Sunday night, disturbed a tiger close to the road at Mr. Hewetson's gate, the present entrance to Mount Elizabeth.

It was in that year that the fire-wells were made near the Square, which were adopted as a precautionary measure in consequence of the frequency of fires, and the total absence of water at low tide. They were filled up twenty years ago. They were large wells in the centre of the roads, several in the Square and Malacca Street, covered by square plank flap-doors, which lay level with the road.

In Java, at this time, slavery was still openly recognised, and in the *Java Courant* advertisements of men, women and children for sale were mixed up with sales of horses, wine, &c. The *Free Press* printed some of these advertisements as an example; the following is one of them:—

To be sold by private contract; a family of very good slaves consisting of seven persons; other information will be given by

VOUTE & GUERIN.

Voute & Guerin will, at the auction, on Monday, 11th instant, at Rijswijk, sell on account of the estate of the late Mrs. Petel the following slaves, viz.:—

Dantong, aged 48 years, cowherd.
Pelo, otherwise *Constantie*, aged 37 years, washerman.
Malative, aged 17¼ years, lady's maid.
Mochamat, aged 14½ years, house-boy.
Antionetta, aged 13½ years, lady's maid; and
Selana, aged 2½ years;

together with an entirely new Brussells-waggon.

On Tuesday, the 31st August, the Sword of Honour, which the late Sultan of Johore carried with him on state occasions, and which was often seen at Government House on the Queen's birthday, was presented to the Tumoongong. The following inscription is on the

sword:—Presented in the year 1846 to the Tumoongong of Johore Sree Maharajah, by Lt.-Col. Butterworth, C.B., Governor of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca, as a testimony of the high estimation in which the services of the Sree Maharajah in the suppression of piracy are held by the Government of India. The following account of the ceremony was written at the time. Government House was then where Fort Canning barracks are now:—"In consequence of the assistance rendered by the Tumoongong of Singapore in the suppression of piracy, the Indian Government determined upon presenting His Highness with a Sword. His Honour the Governor, being desirous of fulfilling the wishes of the Supreme Government in the most public manner, invited nearly the whole of the community to be present at the interesting ceremony which took place on Tuesday last at the Government House. For the convenience of the public generally, several tents were pitched on Government Hill, and preparations made on the most liberal scale. The natives seemed to consider it a holiday, and at an early hour Chinese, Malays, Javanese, Chuliahs, Hindoos, &c., &c., were seen swarming into the town from all quarters, and long before the appointed hour Government Hill presented a very animated scene. Guns were taken from the Battery and placed near the House, two companies of the 27th M. N. I. accompanied by all the Officers and the band, were in attendance.

"At two o'clock, His Highness left the Court House, accompanied by the Resident Councillor, the Sultan of Johore, the Sultan of Lingin, Tuanku Jaffar, Major Carthew, &c., and on arriving at the foot of the hill proceeded in the Governor's carriage until he reached the guard of honour, when he alighted and walked to the Government House, a salute being fired. After a short interval, during which His Highness was introduced, with his friends, to some of the ladies, the Governor handed him to the verandah, the sword being placed on a table, and opposite the numerous followers of the Tumoongong were arranged. Another salute was fired on presenting the sword. The Tumoongong was evidently delighted with the attention of the Governor in inviting the ladies, and such a numerous company of gentlemen—including the officers of H. N. M. steamer *Merapi*, the Military, and Foreign Consuls, &c.—to meet him. Shortly after the ceremony, His Highness left with the same honours as on his arrival. About 3 o'clock the guests, amounting to 90, sat down to a splendid tiffin at the hospitable table of the Governor, who spoke as follows:—

"'It is almost superfluous to mention the purpose for which we are assembled here this morning, and more so to enter into details of the rapine and murders formerly committed in these seas by formidable bodies of what are justly termed the enemies of all mankind—pirates—now for the most part subdued and dispersed by the gallantry of our Navy, ever first and foremost to meet danger and difficulty in every shape.

"'Happily, for some time past, piracy has been rarely heard of in the vicinity of our own shores, and when isolated cases have occurred, the perpetrators have generally been apprehended, through the exertions of the local authorities, and the able and willing assistance afforded by the neighbouring chieftains of Pahang, Tringanu and Lingin, but more especially by the powerful aid of His Highness Sree Maharajah, the

Tumoongong of Johore, to whom I am directed to present this sword, in testimony of the estimation in which his services in the suppression of piracy are held by the Government of India.

"'I congratulate you, Sree Maharajah, on the high compliment that has been paid to you, and I can assure you that I experience the most deep and heartfelt satisfaction in being called upon to present you with this token of the esteem of our most just and ever generous Government.

"'Let me say a word or two, to one and all of the Malayan and Chinese people here assembled. The sole desire of the Government of India is, that you should live in peace and happiness, enjoying the benefit of the traffic which is carried on with all parts of the Eastern Archipelago; but this is impossible if piracy prevail, and I would therefore urge you to exert yourselves to discover and give information of the haunts of these enemies of all mankind, these pirates, if any still there be located at Singapore, assuring yourselves in so doing of the protection and reward of Government.'

"To which the Tumoongong replied 'Colonel Butterworth, in laying at your feet my sincere thanks for the high distinguished honour which you have conferred upon me, I am much pleased that my conduct should have met with the approbation of Government, and that my humble exertions should have been conducive to the welfare of this community. Highly do I value this splendid testimonial of your approbation, with pride shall I wear it, and as an heir-loom it will be handed down to my posterity. My gratitude for the good wishes which you have now uttered, it is difficult for me to express, and the kind consideration which you have always shown towards me is engraven on my heart; with pleasure have I witnessed the zeal with which you have carried out so many public improvements, and with admiration will future ages view these splendid monuments of your fostering care over all classes of this community. You govern wisely; may you govern long, and may He who rules the destinies of Mahometans and Christians watch over and aid you in all your wise and good works.'"

The total receipts of Singapore for the official year 1845-46, exclusive of military and convicts, which it was considered should be debited to India, amounted to Rs. 530,000, and the disbursements to Rs. 253,500. The latter included one-third of the Governor's and Recorder's salaries and of the expenses of the Colonial steamers, the other two-thirds being considered as debited to Penang and Malacca. The result of the year was an excess of revenue in Singapore alone of Rs. 276,492, or about $140,000. The excise farms produced Rs 425,000, being Rs. 2,500 increase over that of the previous year.

It was in this year that the Oriental Bank started. Mr. Cargill and Mr. Scrymgeour arrived in Singapore on the 8th February, to establish the Branch. The head-quarters of the Bank were then at Bombay, and branches had already been opened at Calcutta, Ceylon, and Hongkong. The following circular was issued in Singapore, and business began on the 1st May:—

ORIENTAL BANK.

Arrangements having been made towards establishing a Branch of the Oriental Bank in this place, the Office will be open for general business on the 1st proximo, in the meantime proposals to transact business will be entertained.

EXCHANGE.

The Bank draws as follows:—

On the Union Bank of London from one day sight fixed to six months sight fixed.

On the National Bank of Scotland and branches at one day sight.

On the Branches of the Provincial Bank of Ireland at one day sight fixed.

And on Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, and China at any term.

The Bank undertakes to remit money to Great Britain by each Overland Mail, free of charge, for Constituents, at the current Exchange, payable in any town where there is a Bank or Banker.

The Bank has also on hand Bank of England Post Bills in convenient sums for parties proceeding to Europe.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

On Fixed Deposits for three months certain, repayable on thirty days' notice, three per cent. per annum.

Ditto, for six months with ninety days' notice, four per cent. per annum.

On Current Deposits or Floating Accounts, no interest is allowed, and no commission charged.

INTEREST CHARGED.

On Loans and Cash Credits

For 2 months on Deposit of Goods and other securities, 11 per cent. per annum.

For 3 months on Deposit of Goods and other securities, 12 per cent. per annum.

DISCOUNT.

On Local Bills and Promissory Notes.

for 1, 2, and 3 months—10, 11 and 12 per cent. per annum.

The rates of advances on Goods and other securities, and particular rules as to current and other accounts, can at all times be ascertained on application at the Office.

WM. ANDERSON,
Interim Manager,
Singapore Branch.

Commercial Square, 21st April, 1846.

In October, the roof of the covered landing place which was being erected in the river, where the landing steps are now near the front of the Government Offices, gave way and seriously injured several workmen. The pillars were too thin and the roof came down with a rush. The paper in speaking of it said of the engineer in charge:—

"Captain Faber has hitherto been rather unfortunate in his architectural and engineering undertakings in Singapore. First, Faber's Bridge could not be made to maintain its proper position until after several attempts; next, the walls of the new market, after it was finished, were found to be cracking most alarmingly in several places, owing to the ends of the building proving too heavy in comparison to the sides, and, from the treacherous nature of the soil, which had not been sufficiently guarded against, beginning to sink very fast. The pediments, which were of an ornamental character, were therefore obliged to be removed, and the building now presents, when viewed from either end, a bald and meagre appearance. The next undertaking of any moment was the landing place, which has proved equally, or more, unlucky. The new gaol, we hope, will afford Captain Faber an opportunity of redeeming his reputation.

The paper in November contained the following paragraph:—

"We have much pleasure in noticing that a place for bathing is likely to be fenced in from the harbour in front of the Esplanade,

where the Singaporeans will be enabled to enjoy the delightful recreation of sea bathing. A meeting was held on Friday last to discuss the subject, and consult about the necessary arrangements, when a managing committee was appointed to carry out the views of the subscribers. We wish the project all success, and trust it will receive all the support that our community can give it." The proposal was never carried out, but sometimes on moonlight nights as late as 1870, a few young people used to go and swim off the centre of the Esplanade.

In November, a meeting was held of gentlemen favourable to the establishment of a Scotch Church at Singapore. The meeting took place in Little, Cursetjee & Co.'s godowns, and the following is an account of what took place:—

"A meeting of the Scotch Presbyterians was held on Friday, the 27th November, for the purpose of taking steps for forming a Presbyterian Congregation in Singapore and procuring a Clergyman of that denomination to settle amongst them; G. G. Nicol, Esq., being in the Chair. The meeting, which was pretty numerous, was of the most satisfactory nature. The following are the resolutions which were come to:—

"1st.—Proposed by Mr. Stephen and seconded by Mr. Fraser:—That for the sake of unanimity the minority accede to the wishes of the majority as to the proper plan for securing the services of a Presbyterian Clergyman.

"2nd.—Proposed by Mr. McEwen and seconded by Dr. Little:—That the London Missionary Society be requested to select a Clergyman for the European population of Singapore, on the understanding that one from *any* of the Evangelical denominations of Scotch Presbyterians will be cordially received without reference to his particular views in regard to Church Government.

"3rd.—Proposed by Mr. Thomson and seconded by Mr. Duff:—That the following be appointed a Committee to carry out the views embodied in the previous resolution, with powers to convene another meeting to report their proceedings: Messrs. Nicol, W. Scott, Robert McEwen and A. Logan.

"4th.—Proposed by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Logan:—That the Chairman be requested to intimate to the Revd. Mr. Moule that the present movement has not by any means originated in any feeling of personal dissatisfaction with him, and that nothing but a preference for a Clergyman of their own denomination would induce the meeting to take the present step.

"Thanks were then voted to the Chairman, and the meeting dissolved.

"The Committee, we understand, have taken steps to accomplish the duties confided to them, and, after the departure of the Europe mails, will commence ascertaining the extent of funds which will be available for the furtherance of the scheme. There can be no doubt that those who are in ability to do so, will subscribe liberally; and we should think that it will be very gratifying to those old Singaporeans who are Presbyterians, who have retired from the Settlement with competencies, to have it in their power to assist in securing for their

countrymen who have yet to pass a long period in the place, the aid and comfort which a clergyman of their own persuasion imparts, and the absence of which must have often been to them a source of regret. Should it be necessary to appeal to the community generally, the large contributions made by the Presbyterians towards the erection of St. Andrew's will, no doubt, be a motive with their brethren of the Church of England to the exercise of a similar liberality in purse and feeling."

In December, Captain Rodney Mundy, R.N., carried out a brief negotiation with the Sultan of Brunei, and the following treaty was made for the cession of Labuan; the island was formally taken possession of on the 24th December:—

"1. Peace, friendship, and good understanding shall subsist for ever between Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and his Highness the Sultan of Borneo, and their respective heirs and successors.

"2. His Highness the Sultan hereby cedes in full sovereignty and property to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, her heirs and successors, for ever, the island of Labuan and its dependencies, the islets adjacent.

"3. The Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland hereby engage, in consideration of the cession above specified, to use its best endeavours to suppress piracy and to protect lawful commerce, and the Sultan of Borneo and his ministers promise to afford every assistance to the British authorities.

"Done and concluded at Bruné the 18th day of December, 1846.

"(Signed) THE SULTAN OMAR ALLI.
(„) G. RODNEY MUNDY."

There is a copy in the Library of Captain G. Rodney Mundy's book, published by Murray in 1848, called "A Narrative of Events in Borneo and the Celebes from the Journals of Sir James Brooke, and An Account of the Cruise of H. M. S. *Isis*." He died as Admiral of the Fleet on the retired list about 1884. The book contains a picture of the signing of the treaty of 18th December. Captain Mundy was sixteen months in command of the squadron in the Straits and on the Coast of Borneo. His book contains a good deal about Captain Keppel and the *Dido*, which he says (page 100) made the quickest run on record from the Straits to England. He speaks of the kindness he met with from Mr. W. H. Read and Dr. Oxley, and of Captain Charles Morgan Elliot having remained two months with him at Sarawak, having taken over his observatory and all the apparatus of a man of science (page 335). There are a number of pictures in the two volumes.

The *Free Press* every year contained a long account of the annual examination of the Raffles Institution School, this year occupying nearly half of the matter in one issue. In 1846 it was conducted by the clergy and a gentleman from Sir Thomas Cochrane's flagship, the *Agincourt*, and some of the boys' papers are printed, of which the following is one, which will amuse some of our readers now, as the same "author" gave two lectures in 1878, which were printed, entitled "Singapore Thirty Years Ago" which contained very much more interesting and useful information than Mr. George Norris's first attempt thirty-five years before at describing the Settlements:—

"Singapore is a small island to the south of the Malayan Peninsula, and it is separated from it by a narrow strait. The principal productions of this island are nutmegs, gambier and sago. There are many Chinese here and one-fourth of them are said to be

robbers. Large junks come from China once a year to Singapore for the purpose of trade. Many of the Chinese are employed as carpenters. This island was discovered by Sir T. S. Raffles, late Governor of Bencoolen, and bought for a sum of money from the Malays. It is now a flourishing seaport, but since the war with China, Singapore has declined a little in commerce."

It was in this year that a long-remembered practical joke took place. The Editor of the newly established *Straits Times* boasted that he had the earliest information of every possible event, which was not the opinion of the community. One day he announced in his paper that he had received certain information from a Calcutta Opium clipper which passed through without anchoring, about the result of the recent opium sale; but as the Captain of the vessel had requested him to keep it secret he could not reveal it to the public until after the arrival of the next clipper. Now the opium market was worth watching in those days, and the movements of vessels carrying it either from Bombay or Calcutta were pretty well known, and the clipper that passed through could not possibly have had the news of the sale, as she had left Calcutta long before it took place. Two days afterwards, the *Antelope*, Captain Dumaresque, from Bombay, passed through, having left Bombay before the news of the sale could have reached there. So, as a number of merchants were looking at her, it was suggested to sell the Editor, and the joke being appreciated, a note was drawn up purporting to be written by the Captain of the *Antelope* with the result of the sale, &c., &c., and signed P. Dumaresk. The prices given were three hundred rupees over the probable sale prices, and the captain's name was spelt wrong, but the editor did not stop to consider this. A sampan boy was called for, and his part of the play explained to him; so he jumped into the water (there was no sea wall then) gave his clothes a squeeze, and ran to the Editor's godown. He opened the letter, gave five dollars to the boy (who bolted at once) rushed to the printing press, and announced to the astonished Square that he had been placed through the kindness of Captain Dumaresque in possession of the result, &c., &c. The sampan boy ran back to the jokers, who added a few more dollars to his store and sent him away to Pulo Damar, his home, for a fortnight. In the meantime the conspirators sent round the Square to tell all likely to be interested about the joke, so that no false speculation should take place, and when the famous slip came out all were prepared. The Editor, furious, inserted the following paragraph in the *Straits Times*, which made the joke all the better, and the writer went to see the "forged note," and to earn the fifty dollars if he could recognise the writing, but he didn't! The Editor soon learnt all about it, and did not raise another laugh against himself by trying to hang anybody, and became quieter afterwards.

"The late Opium Sale.—In a postscript to our last issue, we inserted what purported to be an account of the fourth Calcutta Opium Sale, addressed to us with the signature of Captain P. Dumaresque, late of the *Antelope*. In our anxiety to maintain the character of our journal for early intelligence, we gave insertion to the postcript which was received by us at an early hour: having experienced

kind favours at the hands of the Commanders of American vessels, we were led to believe that the note in question was genuine. We subsequently shewed the letter of Captain Dumaresque to Mr. Balestier, the American Consul, who at once pronounced the document to be a forgery. From this circumstance the note appeared to be a hoax, apparently written by some one in Singapore for the purpose not only of deceiving us, but also misleading the public. The affair, although perpetrated as a hoax, is a much more serious matter than the writer in his ignorance and affrontery suspected, and, under the old law, if proved against him would have subjected him to what he deserved—the gallows. In the present state of the law, the author of a forgery is liable to transportation for life, an amount of punishment richly deserved.

"We have endeavoured to trace the note in question to the source whence it emanated, without, at present success; but we do not yet despair of discovering the scoundrel who villainously suggested the hoax. To facilitate the enquiry, we hereby offer a reward of *fifty dollars*, payable on conviction of the party; for the information of the public, as well as to aid in the detection of the offender, we also notify that the forged note is open for inspection at our office. We are led to adopt the above course, not only on account of the enormity of the offence committed, but also in justice not merely to Captain Dumaresque, but all Commanders of American Clippers from whom we have invariably received every kindness, and a promptitude in conveying information worthy of the gentleman-like conduct and spirit of the worthy commanders of American Opium Clippers."

The practical joker was Mr. W. H. Read; reference to it will be found at page 136 of his little book "Play and Politics."

In this year was published in London Captain the Hon. Henry Keppel's "Narrative of the Expedition to Borneo of H. M. S. *Dido* for the suppression of piracy; with extracts from the Journal of James Brooke, Esq., of Sarawak." The book is in the Library. The *Free Press* had long extracts from it, and spoke very highly of it.

In this year also a small book of 312 pages was published in Leadenhall Street, London, by Madden and Malcolm, called Trade and Travel in the Far East or Recollections of 21 years passed in Java, Singapore, Australia and China. It was written by Gordon Forbes Davidson. There is no copy in the Library. He was in business for a time in Singapore, but not much is known of him, he lived where the Bethesda now stands in Bras Bassah Road, and was lame, one leg being short. There is an advertisement in the *Free Press* on 18th February, 1840, that he had started business as Davidson & Co., as a merchant and general agent. He left England, the book tells us, in 1823 for Java, and came to Singapore for the first time in July, 1826; and speaks of it as being in a lovely situation, and of great prosperity, but he was of opinion that the trade had reached its maximum and that the town had attained its highest point of importance and prosperity, and as its being a beautiful and healthy town, but over-built. His misgivings as to the trade arose from the recent establishment of Hongkong, and the opening of the China ports, which he thought

would divert the trade that came to Singapore, in the same way as the establishment of Singapore had very much injured Penang, giving to the streets there a deserted appearance which he thought they would never recover. His views, which events have proved to be unfounded, have from time to time been expressed by others, and the volume of trade and the value of property have been thought to have reached their highest, but still its prosperity continues to grow. The book speaks about Captain Keppel in the *Dido* and Sir James Brooke, then Mr. James Brooke, putting down the pirates in Borneo, and of the recent discovery of coal there. Also of heavy losses to the European merchants in Singapore by the unlimited credit given to the Chinese traders, and of an attempt, frequently suggested since, but not practicable, of insisting on a cash system. He wrote highly of the healthy climate of the place, saying that the European residents of sixteen and twenty years standing spoke volumes for it, and that during eighteen years in this part of the world he had never known any endemic disease to prevail, and that the cemetery was filled by the death of people from India, who came for health, and would have died six months sooner, had they not come to breathe the pure air of Singapore. The greater part of the book contains descriptions of Java, China and Australia.

In this year was published the first Directory. It was compiled by Mr. R. C. Woods, who had come from Bombay in 1845, and had started the *Straits Times*. There are only one or two copies of it. The part relating to Singapore took a few pages, and the greater part of it was a General Directory of the Habitable Globe, and an Epitome of the Universe, as the title page expressed it, and a reprint of a few of the Indian Acts in force in the Straits and Government regulations. Directories of the place continued to be published yearly from that time.

In this year the firm of A. L. Johnston & Co., consisted of A. L. Johnston, James Cunison Drysdale and W. H. Read, Mr. Robert Bain was a clerk and became a partner in 1848, as well as Mr. Michie Forbes Davidson. Mr. Bain left the firm in 1857. On 1st January, 1863, Mr. Robert Banlay Read became a partner, Mr. M. F. Davidson leaving the firm, and some time afterwards joining Boustead & Co.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

1847.

IN January, Sir Colin Campbell issued instructions for some officers of Artillery to proceed to Singapore to enrol Malays to go to Hongkong to be attached to the company of gun lascars of the Royal Artillery there.

Efforts were frequently made to promote agriculture, and in this year an attempt was made to establish sugar cultivation in Malacca, as appears from the following passage in the newspaper:—"Most satisfactory tidings, we are glad to say, have been received regarding the proposed establishment of an association for the cultivation and manufacture of sugar at Malacca. The plan has been taken up with much spirit in England. The names of the Earl of Harewood, Lord George Bentinck, Lord Howard de Walden, Sir Willoughby Cotton and others, who have interested themselves in the scheme, give a guarantee for the stability of the undertaking. We have seen the printed prospectus, from which it appears that the "Malacca Sugar Company" is to have a capital of £500,000, divided into 10,000 shares of £50 each. 1,000 shares are to be reserved for the Straits. It is proposed to commence the manufacture in the first instance by purchasing cane from the Chinese cultivators, and we believe that a gentleman may be expected to arrive in the course of two or three months hence from England, to have the necessary works erected. Four thousand acres of land on the Lingy river have been procured from Government, which will be cultivated by the company. The soil, we understand, is of the most fertile description and has been approved of by several experienced planters who have viewed it. A deposit of £1 per share will be made when the company is organized, which it is calculated will enable them to proceed so far as to manufacture 100 tons of sugar weekly. Not more than two calls of £2 each will be made afterwards, for carrying on the cultivation and manufacture of sugar, and this, it is estimated, will enable the company to produce 50,000 tons annually. From the cheapness and abundance of labour and other favourable circumstances, it is thought that the cost of production and manufacture will be so low that a profit on the outlay will secure splendid dividends at little more than half the present price of the article, thus holding out the hope of being able to afford to the consumers of this important necessary of life, the prospect of a large reduction in price. This is important news, and we trust that the company will prosper, not only for its own sake, but for the benefit its success will confer on the poor consumer at home, as well as on the Settlement of Malacca, and indirectly on the other Straits Settlements." It did not prove successful, however; any more than the large plantations in Singapore.

It was said in 1884, when a number of very serious cases of hydrophobia occurred, that it had been unknown in Singapore until

that time, but an account of a death from hydrophobia appears in the *Free Press* of February, 1847; it was the case of a Chinaman who had been bitten four months before, and died in the hospital. Two months afterwards, a boy died in the Pauper Hospital, one month after being bitten. In consequence of these cases, the following notice was issued by the Magistrates on 15th April:—

In consequence of the great increase of pariah dogs and several cases of hydrophobia having occurred within a very short period:—Notice is hereby given, that all dogs found straying in the Streets and Roads on the first three days of each month (Sundays excepted) will be destroyed, without further notice.

The *Free Press* of 11th February contained the following paragraph:—"It having been ascertained that Whampoa, the younger, whose name is known far and wide in these eastern parts, and is familiar to not a few even in distant Europe, was about to leave this by the next steamer on a visit to his native country, a few of his friends, amongst the European mercantile community chiefly, resolved to show their respect and esteem for him by entertaining him at dinner. The dinner accordingly came off on Monday evening at the London Hotel, when about 20 sat down, C. Carnie, Esq., in the Chair, and W. S. Duncan, Esq., Croupier. The health of their guests having been given, Whampoa returned thanks in a most neat and feeling manner in English; and on the health of Kim Seng, one of our most respected Chinese merchants, who was also present, being drank, Kim Seng replied in a clever and humorous speech in Malay which delighted all present. A number of other toasts were also given, and the evening was spent in much harmony and merriment."

"On the morning of Saturday, the 6th February, 1847, the foundation stone of the new gaol (afterwards the Civil Jail, within the walls of the Criminal Prison) was laid by the architect, Captain Faber, Superintending Engineer, in presence of their Honours the Governor and the Resident Councillor. Below the stone was deposited the following inscription engraved on a brass plate:—

This Foundation Stone
of
H. M. Jail at Singapore,
Was laid by Captain FABER, Madras Engineers,
Superintending Engineer, Straits Settlements,
On the 6th February, 1847—
The 27th Anniversary of the Formation
Of a British Settlement
On this Island.
The Hon'ble Colonel W. J. BUTTERWORTH, C.B.,
Being Governor of Prince of Wales' Island,
Singapore and Malacca,
and
The Hon'ble T. CHURCH,
Resident Councillor at Singapore.

VICTORIA,
Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Right Hon'ble Lord HARDINGE, G.C.B.,
Governor-General of British India.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

In a bottle, likewise placed below the stone, the following statistical information relative to the Settlements, written on parchment, was enclosed:—

The Trade for the year 1845-46 of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca, aggregated the sum of Company's Rs. 52,190,685 in Merchandize, and Company's Rs. 9,705,061 in Bullion and Treasure; making a grand total of Rs. 61,796,746 (exclusive of the trade between the three Settlements) as follows:—

		Imports.		Exports.		Total.
P. W. Island	Rs.	6,614,794	...	6,528,452	=	13,143,246
Singapore ...	,,	26,616,448	...	21,162,987	=	47,779,435
Malacca ...	,,	509,872	...	364,193	=	874,065
			Grand Total Company's	Rs.		61,796,746

The Revenue and charges for the year 1845-46 of Prince of Wales' Island Singapore and Malacca including Civil, Military, Marine, Judicial, Convicts, &c., &c., were as follows:—

Charges			
P. W. Island Co.'s	Rs.	402,783.15.11	
Singapore ,, ...	,,	497,186.14. 5	
Malacca ,, ...	,,	231,158.12. 5	
			Rs. 1,131,129.10.9
Revenue.			
P. W. Island Co.'s	Rs.	185,443. 2. 9	
Singapore ,, ...	,,	530,040.15. 7	
Malacca ,, ...	,,	64,408. 9.11	
			Rs. 779,892.12.3
Total deficit at the three Settlements		Rs.	351,236.14.6

N. B. 4 Company European Artillery, 1 Company Golundauze, 1 Regt. Native Infantry, 2,234 Convicts, 1 steamer and 4 gun-boats."

On the 12th February there was a large fire in Kampong Glam, of which the following is an account:—"About one o'clock in the afternoon it was discovered that a fire had broken out near the old Thannah at Kampong Glam. Exertions were used as soon as possible to suppress it, but the wind being very high at the time, and the attap and wooden houses amongst which it originated unfortunately offering every facility to its progress, it rapidly increased, and the flames soon extended across the road to the range of houses formerly belonging to the Sultan. In order to prevent the fire communicating to the houses of the Europeans on the Beach Road, it was resolved to pull down a number of attap houses immediately adjoining the bungalow occupied by Mr. Gilbert McMicking and this was immediately set about; but the wind shifting, the attap houses were soon in a blaze, and the kitchen in Mr. McMicking's compound caught the fire and then a bungalow situated in the adjoining compound belonging to Mr. William Wemyss Ker. The whole of this range of houses at this time seemed to be in very great danger, the heat and smoke rendering it almost impossible to work with effect. The excitement was general, and the occupants prepared for a move by packing up their plate and valuables. The heat of the houses was almost unsupportable and their destruction seemed certain,

but the wind fortunately abated and the engines were got to work in the compound where the fire was already in progress. Mr. Dutronquoy of the London Hotel and a party of French sailors mounted the roof of Mr. McMicking's bungalow, and by great exertions in throwing water on the tiles saved the building, and the fire was prevented from spreading further along this range. Another party of Europeans, headed by a number of the Magistrates, by great activity, and at considerable risk, succeeded, by pulling down houses, in saving Kampang Jawa from entire destruction. The Police engine was in this quarter, but could not be worked owing to the scarcity of water, and the flames extended so far across the road as to render it difficult to prevent the engine being destroyed by them. About half-past five p m. the fire was confined to a range of buildings belonging to Syed Omar, which were not entirely gutted before midnight. The number of houses destroyed is estimated at about 273, consisting of brick, wooden, and attap tenements. The value of these buildings was very considerable, and the quantity of property in them destroyed by the fire was very large, the amount being roughly estimated at from 80 to 90,000 dollars. The Governor and Resident Councillor were early on the spot, and were active in their efforts to render every assistance, by directing the demolition of houses where it was considered necessary. The former indeed exposed himself to considerable risk, having been at one time nearly surrounded by the burning houses, from which position the smoke and flames made escape a matter of difficulty. One European at considerable hazard went into a house and brought out a cask of gunpowder which was safely deposited on the beach."

In February, a general order was issued by Governor Butterworth, by instructions from the Governor-General of India, throughout the three Settlements, to the following effect:—

"1.—The Governor-General is pleased to direct that all public works carried on by order of the Government, whether under the direction of its own officers or through the agency of contractors, shall be discontinued on the Sunday.

2.—Cases of urgent necessity, in which delay would be detrimental to the Public Service, are to be considered as cases of exception, and all such cases will be immediately reported to the Military Board for their special orders, and for the information of the Government. The officer in charge of the work will act on his own discretion, where delay in waiting for the sanction of the Board would be attended with injurious consequences.

3.—The cessation of work on the Sunday shall be an understood condition in all future contracts for Public Works, whether an express provision to that effect be inserted in the deed of contract or not. No claim therefore of addition to the amount of the contract on account of the suspension of labour on Sundays shall be admitted in reference to any engagements executed subsequently to the date of this notification.

4.—An order to this effect has been enforced, since January, 1843, by the Bombay Government, and the Governor-General has much satisfaction in extending the rule which it enjoins to the other Presidencies subordinate to the Government of India."

In May, Sir William Norris, the Recorder, left the Straits, and Sir Christopher Rawlinson was appointed in his place. In the same month, Mr. James Brooke received despatches from the English Government appointing him H. B. M.'s Commissioner and Consul-General to the Independent States of Borneo. He left Singapore, under a salute, by the E. I. Co.'s steamer *Nemesis* for Sarawak and Brunei. The *Free Press* spoke of the appointment as follows:—"This appointment, besides the advantages which our interests in these parts may expect to derive from the experience and ability of Mr. Brooke, is satisfactory as marking that the British Government are not disposed to give way to the extravagant and unjust pretensions of the Dutch; but that, on the contrary, it is intended to maintain our right to an equal footing in the Archipelago, and to all the commercial and political advantages which may arise from the exercise of a legitimate influence. We hope that Mr. Brooke's appointment is only the first of a series of measures for effecting such a desirable end."

On the 6th July, Mr. Brooke went on a visit to England in the P. & O. Mail from Singapore. Before he left, he presented over one hundred volumes to the Singapore Library.

A meeting was called on the 20th May, in Mr. Carnie's office, for the purpose of making preliminary arrangements for periodical assemblies; and the paper, in giving notice of it, said:—"The proposal for these assemblies has our warmest wishes for its ultimate success, promising as it does to supply a defect in our social system in Singapore—that of the want of any means of periodically bringing together the members of its small society on a friendly and social footing. The plan, we hope, will meet with the countenance of those who, from position, are entitled to take the lead in Society, and who, no doubt, feel gratified whenever they have an opportunity of lending their aid to the promotion of a social and harmonious feeling in the different members of community. It may be added that extravagance will be eschewed in all things, so that subscribers will have no reason to fear that, in lending themselves to the plan, they will be led into expenses not compatible with a prudent economy." It was decided at the meeting that a ball should be given every two months.

The following passage in the *Free Press* referred to matters which did not come to any successful result; but the future of Borneo and the Native States was then becoming recognised:—

"Nearly every mail from home brings intelligence of the increasing interest which the Far East is exciting, and of the measures which are being projected for making her resources, natural and commercial, available through the capital and enterprize of Europe. Some months ago we had the "Malacca Sugar Company" projected, with a large proprietary and capital, to carry on the manufacture of the cane. Then we had the appointment of a Consul-General and Commissioner to Borneo, followed up by a Commercial and Political Treaty with the Sultan of Borneo, while last mail brought us the intelligence of the Government having at length resolved to proceed in earnest with the settlement of Labuan, Mr. Brooke having been appointed Governor of that place, and other offices being spoken of. We have heard that there is yet a further Association being organised

n England for carrying on operations in this part of the world on a large scale. The title of this body is, or is proposed to be, "The Company of the Eastern Archipelago," which proposes to go to work with a capital of £500,000. From what we can learn, Borneo is the contemplated field of operations, and it is probable that they will begin with purchasing the Antimony Monopoly. There can be little doubt that such a Company will find an ample scope for its enterprize, whether it is confined to Borneo, or embraces the wider range of countries which its title would seem to point out. Borneo, no doubt, alone offers the most varied objects to which the capitalist might direct his attention when in search of means for profitable investment. Her soil in some parts is admirably fitted for every species of tropical cultivation, whether we look to the rearing of spices, or wish to follow the less tedious cultivation of grain In other parts, her soil teems with mineral wealth—diamonds, gold, &c.—not omitting what now-a-days holds no mean place amongst minerals—coal, which is found abundant and good in various parts of Borneo. The forests of Borneo also abound in many valuable natural productions, which an active commerce would, no doubt, bring to light in abundance. If the Company should desire to extend their views to other places, the Malay Peninsula offers an ample field in its capacity for cultivation, its extensive deposits of gold, tin and coal, and its numerous other resources, many of which, up to the present time, have been but imperfectly, or not at all, explored. In short, it only requires that capitalists should deviate a little from the beaten path of buying and selling, and make use of the influence and opportunities which their wealth would give them to find in the Malay Archipelago almost unbounded stores of the most valuable articles of commerce ready to be called forth by an intelligent and prudent search for them."

At this time, there were very serious riots and much loss of life in the Dutch residency of Rhio between the Chinese Societies Quan Tek Hoe and Tau Tae Hoe, and the latter getting the worst of it fitted out expeditions from Singapore. Enquiry was made, and Constable Simonides, accompanied by a small party of peons, left Singapore for the purpose of making a tour of observation in the jungle. He gradually shaped his course towards Selitar, but so totally was he left without guide or any means of ascertaining his way in the jungle of Singapore, as it was then, that five days elapsed before the spot aimed at was reached. On arriving at a large *bangsal* on the Neo Yang Kwan, a branch of the Selitar river, the party stopped there under pretence of being tired and wishing to rest themselves. Quietly looking about them, they found in the river on which this *bangsal* was situated, six large boats, each armed with two *lellas*, while a large collection of other kinds of arms was observed in one of the boats, and there were also noticed traces of warlike stores in the house. The owner of the plantation immediately made his appearence, and was at once taken into custody by the constable, who threatened to shoot him if he made the least resistance or gave the least alarm. The house was then searched in his presence, and there were found in it five brass *lellas* (cannons) one of them about five feet long and of proportionate

bore, while the other two were each about four feet in length; five iron *lellas*, twelve matchlocks, several muskets, about four dozens of iron-pointed spears and triangles, battle axes, knives, long sharp-pointed poles, shields, &c.; a considerable quantity of gunpowder in barrels, and a number of priming cannisters. The owner of the house, Neo Liang Quan, in explanation of his having so many of these articles in his possession, stated that they had been brought shortly before by some of his friends from Rhio in his boats, in which they had taken refuge, the boats being then at Rhio for gambier. This explanation did not seem at all satisfactory to the constable, who brought the man away together with as many of the munitions of war as his party could carry. Subsequently three of the iron guns were recognised as being the property of the Yam Tuan of Rhio, by whom it appears they had been lent to Chinese of the Quan Toek Hoe, who were apprehensive of being attacked by the other party. It appeared that Neo Liang Quan was originally an inhabitant of Rhio, which he left many years ago on account of debt, and settled in Singapore, where he would appear to have prospered, being the owner of a number of valuable plantations, but was a person of very doubtful character who had been in prison for two years in Rhio.

It was then discovered that a Chinese expedition had left Singapore shortly before in two divisions, one party of boats leaving the Old Straits by the Changie entrance and making for that part of Battam Island at the entrance to the Straits of Rhio, while the other party emerged from the Old Straits by the Tanjong Goul entrance. Proceeding in this manner, they easily arrived at the scene of the intended operations, a small strait separating the island of Gallat or Gallang from the island of Gampang. This the two squadrons invested at opposite ends, and then swept rapidly inwards, destroying everything before them, until the two parties met each other. Their plans were laid with the greatest skill, and the effect was most complete. They took the inhabitants of the different *bangsals* or *kampongs* most completely by surprise, affording time neither for defence nor escape. The inhabitants were given to the sword, while everything in the different *kampongs* was destroyed, the houses and their furniture being burnt, and all the trees, pepper vines and gambier plants cut up and laid waste. Twenty-eight *bangsals* or plantations were thus treated in the course of one night, upwards of one hundred persons having been killed; their bodies having been found, in nearly every case, deprived of the heads, and shockingly mangled and disfigured.

In September, the Bengal Government authorised the construction of a wall along the front of the Esplanade to prevent the sea encroaching. There were very frequent complaints of the state of the roads, the Grand Jury at nearly every Assizes presenting them as very badly kept-up, and the following squib was put in the *Free Press* by a local wit:—

GRAND STEEPLE CHASE
For a purse of Fifty Dollars
Added to a Sweepstakes of $10 each
On Tuesday, the 16th Inst., 4 p.m.

The Course is from Coleman's Bridge along New Bridge Road over the unfinished Faber's Bridge and along South Canal Street into Upper Macao Street. passing over the Buffalo Carts and through or over the Palanquins in Macao or George Street, into South Canal Road, over the sand bank and brick heaps past Messrs. Purvis & Guthrie's godowns, into Market Street over the crockery and crates of earthenware, through Malacca Street into Commerical Square, over the logs of timber at Messrs. Syme & Co's., thence into Battery Road over the hills of the red earth and granite at Messrs. Fraser's and ditches and timber at Messrs. Middleton's into Boat Quay, past W. S. Duncan's and from that to the winning post at Bain's Bridge along Boat Quay.

The roads must have been sufficently bad even in the town, for Dr. Charles Curties, a private practitioner in High Street, in Singapore for many years, was driving one night along the road near Rochor Police Station, which the paper called "one of the principal roads of the town," and there was such a hole where the side of the road had fallen in, that the pony and buggy were thrown into the canal, the pony killed, and Dr. Curties injured.

During this year two Petitions were sent to the Houses of Parliament. One was regarding an Indian Act (No. III. of 1847) which took the appointment of the Police Officers out of the hands of the Court of Judicature and Quarter Sessions, and gave it to the Crown; and, secondly, asking that the Municipal funds should be placed under the management of a Committee chosen by the rate-payers, which had always been the case, but was rendered doubtful, in the opinion of the Recorder, Sir W. Norris, by another Act. The petition which was sent to Mr. John Crawfurd for presentation to Parliament, was as follows:—

"Unto the Honourable the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses in Parliament assembled.

The Humble Petition of the undersigned, merchants and others, inhabitants of Singapore,

Respectfully Sheweth,

"That on the 19th day of February last an Act was passed by the Legislative Council of India being No III. of 1847, entitled "An Act to provide for the appointment of Constables and Peace Officers, at the Settlements in the Straits."

"That on the draft of this Act being published for general information in October, 1846, Your Petitioners considering that it was unnecessary and uncalled for, and that if passed into law it would tend to impair the respectability and usefulness of the Magistrates, by stripping them of powers and functions wherewith they had been invested by the Crown; and that the public safety and comfort would also be diminished by the efficiency of the Police force being impaired through the operation of the said Act, addressed a respectful Memorial to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General of India in Council praying that the said draft Act might not become law; of which memorial and the documents appended thereto, copies are hereunto annexed.

"That, nevertheless, the said Act was in due time passed, and has now been in operation for some months, and your Petitioners from what they have observed of its effects upon the Police force, are still more impressed than before with a conviction of its tendency to impair the

efficiency of the Police, as well as to diminish the authority of the Magistracy.

"That your Petitioners would most respectfully suggest, that not only ought the entire appointment and management of the Police force to be vested in Her Majesty's Court of Judicature of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca in its General and Quarter Sessions of the Peace, as it was previous to the passing of the said Act No. III. of 1847, but that the Assessment funds which are raised for the payment of the Police force and for other strictly municipal purposes ought to be managed by a Committee of the rate-payers or other popularly elected body; and your Petitioners consider that the powers of management given to the Governor of Bengal, or his nominee, by Act No. XII. of 1839, by virtue of which the said Assessment is levied, are very objectionable, as confiding to one person the exclusive management of funds raised for municipal purposes, and over which the payers have no control.

"Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that it may please your Honourable House to adopt measures for repealing the said Act, No. III. of 1847: And also that the funds raised from the inhabitants of the Straits Settlements for the payment of the Police and other municipal purposes, may be placed under the management of a Committee chosen from the payers, or some other popularly elected body acting in conjunction with the executive officers of Government in the Straits. (Signed by 215 persons.)"

The other Petition, which was of great length, referred to the conduct of the Dutch Government in throwing all the hindrances and restrictions it could in the way of British trade with the Dutch possessions; an infringement of the provisions of the Treaty of 1824, which had perpetually been made a subject of complaint in Singapore since it was concluded. A memorial was sent at the same time to Lord Palmerston, and the following passages taken from it show the nature of the grievance:—

"That frequent complaints have been heretofore made regarding the conduct of the Authorities of the Netherlands Indian Government in respect to British Trade in the Eastern Archipelago, by which, in various ways, the provisions of the Treaty of the 17th March, 1824, which fixed the respective rights of the Governments of Great Britain and Holland, and of their subjects in the Eastern Seas, have been violated, and British subjects and trade deprived of those advantages guaranteed to them by the said Treaty.

"That, notwithstanding the many remonstrances and representations made by the British Government to that of Holland, on the subject of these violations of the Treaty of 1824, and by your Lordship in particular so lately as 1841, your memorialists regret that they have to complain of further acts on the part of the Netherlands Indian Government by which British Commerce is seriously impeded in the Indian Archipelago, and that freedom and equality of trade with the native powers, provided for by the Treaty, completely prevented, as regards British subjects.

"That your Memorialists, without entering into any lengthened specification of these acts of the Netherlands Indian Government, by

which they appear to be aiming at establishing an exclusive dominion and monopoly of trade in the Indian Archipelago, would respectfully request your Lordship's attention to the copy of a Petition which has been addressed by the mercantile body in Singapore to the House of Commons, and to the other documents which are annexed to this Memorial, from which it appears that British trade has been completely excluded from all ports but one of the large and important Island of Celebes, the effect of which is to deprive British subjects of the liberty of trading with one of the richest parts, as regards valuable articles of commerce, of the Archipelago, and the natives of which have ever shewn the strongest desire to cultivate a commercial intercourse with the subjects of Her Majesty.

"That, through the proceedings of the Dutch Authorities in the Eastern Seas, the trade of British subjects has been and now is impeded and hampered, and prevented from attaining that extent, and being of that profitable nature, which the desire of the natives for English manufactures, and their increasing commercial enterprize and ability to furnish valuable articles of produce in exchange, would, without doubt, insure, were no obstacles to interpose to that freedom and liberty of trade which the I., II., III., and IV. articles of the Treaty of 1824 were intended to secure."

The first number of the *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia* was published in June. It was the first attempt to promote a literary or scientific periodical in the British Settlements in the Far East; such works as the *Malacca Gleaner*, formerly published in Malacca, had missionary purposes for their chief end; and any notices of neighbouring countries, or their inhabitants, languages, &c., were made subsidiary to their main design. The *Chinese Repositary* partook in a large measure of the same character. The Dutch had scientific periodicals in Java, but very few English, even of the residents in Java, could read Dutch. The Straits newspapers had, in a large measure, supplied the want. The *Singapore Chronicle* had many valuable contributions on the history of the Archipelago, written by Crawfurd, Dalton, Medhurst, and others, a portion of which were (as has been said) collected by Moor; while the *Free Press* had many similar papers. Such articles, however, find a more appropriate and lasting place in the pages of a volume, which is in a handier form than the sheets of a newspaper. There is a note in the Journal which says that the publication did not nearly repay its cost, but this was to be expected in the small community of Singapore where it is easy to borrow a copy which some one else has paid for. But Mr. James Richardson Logan, like Mr. William Napier in regard to the *Free Press*, or Mr. Moor, or others after him, did not look for any pecuniary return, and was contented to bear the loss for the sake of the advantage to the Settlement. It may be useful here, as it is not easy to ascertain it elsewhere, to state how many volumes were published and the years. It was published in monthly or occasional numbers, as opportunity offered, and in bound volumes at the close of each year. Being edited by J. R. Logan who wrote very lengthy papers in it, it became known as Logan's Journal, which is the name used throughout this book for brevity's sake.

Vol.	Year.		
1	1847	429	pages and Index.
2	1848	848	„ and Appendix, 62 pages.
3	1849	766	„ and two App. 16 and 48 pages.
4	1850	767	„
5	1851	740	„
6	1852	699	„
7	1853	378	„
8	1854	504	„
9	1855	528	„ and Appendix, 48 pages.
New Series			
1	1856	317	„ and Appendix, 151 pages.
2	1858	458	„

It has been proposed several times to publish an Index to the volumes, but it has not been carried out. In the *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* for December, 1886, No. 18, there is an Index by Dr. Dennys to the headings of the various articles only; it does not index the names of the authors or any of the contents of the articles. The last named Journal was commenced in 1877 and has continued in a spasmodic way until the present time, as the matter available for such a publication is necessarily of a limited character.

It must have been somewhere about this time that a French Scientific Expedition, so called, was sent out from France. There is nothing in the book to fix the date except that Louis Philippe lost his throne after it was written. Nothing would be known of this expedition in Singapore but for the publication of a book in 1855, by James Blackwood, London, called "Six months among the Malays and a year in China" by an author, described as the Physician to the Scientific Mission sent by France to China, and author of "Romance of Travel." It would not be noticed here, except that it contains 200 pages about Malacca, Singapore, and Penang, with such ridiculous traveller's stories, and exaggerations, that there is nothing to be learned from it. There is probably only the one copy in the place on which these remarks are founded. The true object of this "Scientific Expedition" creeps out on page 201, after the preliminary chapters about the Straits. It says "On repairing to China, Mr. de Legrené received a special order from H. M. King Louis Philippe to select from the Malay Archipelago some beautiful perfumed oasis, bathed by the waters of the Indian Ocean, upon which it would be possible to found an establishment; the old King having an extreme desire that France should not be destitute of a spice island, but possess a pearl in the magnificent treasures of Oceania, the most precious of which were under the respective dominion of England, Holland and Spain."

The way the expedition tried to carry out the King's wish was to let a young lieutenant and two cabin boys go away up a river at the island of Basilan. They get into a row, reason unknown but may be surmised, and two of the Frenchmen were killed. The man-of-war afterwards bombarded the island, and the author says that they destroyed everything, left not a single blade of grass on the

spot, and burnt houses and boats. He winds up by saying that the return of the sailors on board was not the least interesting part of the affair, for they dressed and conducted themselves in a manner befitting a carnival, some carrying krisses, bucklers, and, on their bayonets, horns or other part of the buffaloes they had killed." This was the only result of King Louis Philippe's ambition in the neighbourhood of the Straits.

It is worthy of notice, however, that the French official, at the end of his three chapters on the three Settlements of the Straits, says:—"It must be confessed that the English people, who have ever been the guardians of freedom, and who have never employed any other than legal means for the establishment and maintenance of their rights and institutions, are, of all other nations, the most staunch protectors of human liberty in the present day." For which plain truth, as exemplified in the Straits, he may be forgiven his wonderful account of a great dinner at Mr. Balestier's modest house on Balestier Plain, which he describes as containing five immense rooms, lighted with wax candles contained in glass vessels (they were no doubt cocoanut oil lights in tumblers hanging inside inverted glass globes), and all the rarities and curiosities of India and China being contained in a long gallery (probably five glass-fronted almeirahs, which passed to Mr. Woods's house at Serangoon, close by) and a vast library, composed of valuable books in every European language, and of its being a fairy palace of the east, with Asiatic luxury all round, a soft perfumed atmosphere, and a young Chinese domestic in each corner employed in working very large fans! Then there is a ridiculous description of a visit to Whampoa's house close by, where the author passed the night; and these are fair samples of the contents of the book. Certainly some wonderful accounts of the place have appeared in books long since forgotten. Accidentally, while writing this very chapter, we came across a book, published in America, by a globe-trotter who spent three days in the place, and he says that Singapore was founded by Sir Stamford Raffles, "who married the daughter of the Sultan of Johore."

CHAPTER XXXV.

1848.

AT this time, encouraged by their success in the expedition to Rhio, mentioned on page 464, another regular Chinese expedition of over a hundred men started from Singapore on a marauding foray. Their pretended errand was to collect gutta percha on some of the islands in the Straits. They cleared out at the proper office and received the usual pass, and bent their course to Muar in the Peninsula, where they made an attack upon a *kampong*, but were repulsed. They then crossed over to Siak in Sumatra and tried their luck, but were again unsuccessful, being driven away. Thence they came down to a small island, Pulo Buru, south of Pulo Supang, to the southward of the Carimons, where they again experienced discomfiture in their attempts to plunder some houses, some of their party being killed and others wounded. The Malays who were in the houses also suffered, but not so severely as the Chinese. While near this island, they attacked a Malay boat, the crew of which, five in number, they put to death, and taking out the rice, &c., they scuttled the boat. After their last repulse, they appear to have thought that the fates were against them, for, after burying their dead on a small island on their route, they returned to Singapore as empty-handed as when they left. They then resolved to try their fortune on land, in Singapore town; and, on the morning of the 22nd May, a large detachment of the gang, about forty or fifty in number, attacked a house in Kampong Glam inhabited by Malays; and, after forcing open the door by an extempore battering-ram, and wounding some of the inmates, who thereupon all fled, they plundered it, carrying off about thirty or forty dollars and other property. Their ill-luck still, however, attended them, as, the alarm having been raised, they were followed by the mounted patrol, which had been lately established, the police being provided with some ponies for the purpose, who chased them along the Changie Road, wounded some of them, and recovered all the stolen property and some of their weapons, which in their flight they threw away.

In the month of February, there was much excitement one day in the Square by a report that a large body of Chinese had landed from boats and attacked Mr. W. W. Ker's house at Bukit Chermin, in New Harbour, where he lived. But it turned out to be a false report. A number of Chinese who had been in Singapore delivering gambier, &c., were returning to their plantation at Sungei Jurong, in two large *tongkangs* with a goodly provision of pork, rice, &c., intended for the celebration of the Chinese New Year. When in the narrow strait at Batu Blayer, they met two other large boats

with Chinese who were proceeding to Singapore. A number of Malay fishing boats were also in the strait, and in the confusion of the large boats meeting and passing in such a narrow passage, one of them got entangled in the fishing apparatus belonging to a Malay boat. One of the Malays in the boat struck a Chinaman, upon which a great clamour was raised by the latter, which induced some Malays, who apprehended an attack, to set off to Teluk Blangah with the intention of procuring assistance. The Chinamen, alarmed at this, resolved to appeal to Mr. Ker for protection. They accordingly brought their boats to anchor at the foot of the hill on which the house stood, and two of them ascended to the house, but were informed that Mr. Ker was in town. It would appear that they resolved on waiting his return, and that the servants left in charge of the house, alarmed by seeing so many persons collected near the house, beat a gong and gave the alarm. This speedily brought a number of the Tumongong's followers, by whom the Chinese were surrounded and taken into custody. Their story was, in some measure, corroborated by Eu Chin and other respectable residents in Singapore, and ultimately all were released.

A subscription was made in the Square to put wooden railings round the enclosure. Copper cents were very scarce, and were retailed at 82 to 85 for a dollar. The Chinese sent in petitions to Government on the subject, as it made things dear for the poorer classes.

At the beginning of this year, the closing of the P. & O. Mails was first signalled from the Government Hill [now Fort Canning] flagstaff—the red ensign being used for the Europe mail, and the yellow flag for China, and a gun was fired when the steamer arrived during the night. By the contract, the mail steamer had to wait in Singapore forty-eight hours. The first time the yellow flag was used, a report got about that a plague had broken out on board one of the Arab pilgrim ships, which caused alarm in the town among the natives for a few hours, from a belief that that signal was made to warn people of it.

It had been customary to allow gambling at the Chinese New Year, or at any rate not to interfere with it, and contributions were made by the Chinese for charitable purposes as a sort of consideration for allowing a violation of the law. Objections were made in the Square to its being permitted any longer and it was stopped. The firing of crackers was also objected to. The following is a translation of a Chinese placard that was posted about the town in consequence:—

We think that it is now more than twenty years since Singapore was established; and annually the firing of crackers during the Chinese New Year was allowed. But this year the constables on no account will allow gambling, or even the firing of crackers. We wish to ascertain why during the Kling and Malay New Year firing of crackers is allowed. Is it because we Chinese are not equal to the Klings or Malays? If there are any intelligent Chinese amongst us, they would have gone to the police and remonstrated about last night's affair, and also we can join in a body and put a stop to all business in the market, which will be but proper. But if that cannot be done, do not bid at all at the sale of the Farms this year. If any one shall bid he shall be reckoned worse than a dog.

The above was only one of a number of objectionable placards of a similar nature, which were issued, some of great length, and all having for their object to show that the Chinese were oppressed by the police. The following was part of another placard:—

The island of Singapore contains a great number of Chinese; some are shop-keepers, others are working-men; some of them rich and some are poor people, all of one nation. All the other natives together are not so numerous. The police watch the Chinese only; no other nation is watched. Kling amusements are not interfered with; the Malays play, fire crackers, and shoot and are not interfered with. The Police do not interfere nor apprehend them. The Chinese have a feast once a year; they have amusements, fire crackers and gamble, and are taken up. Chinese selling articles in the street (which they bear on the shoulder) are seized by the peons by their bajus, beaten, and knocked down, and then confined in the *Thanahs*; they are seized as thieves. When they are taken to the police, sentence is pronounced without the case being inquired into. People carrying night soil, &c., are fined one or half a rupee. These are jungle people, how can they bear such a rule?

Formerly, at Malacca and Pulo Pinang, there were many Chinese and nobody interfered with them.

Singapore is a new place. When it was first opened the Chinese could work and do what they liked, then it was well, and at that time Mr. Bonham was here and had a great name which was known in Europe and till now he retains his name.

The state of the island was very disturbed at this time, and murders were frequent. In one week in January, there were four, near the town. The grand jury in their presentment attributed the grave nature of the crimes at that time to the combination which existed among the Chinese secret societies, and suggested that strong parties of not less than twenty well-armed men, the most active and intelligent of the police, should be detached for the special purpose of patrolling the island.

The following are extracts from a forcible statement drawn up by Mr. John Crawfurd and presented to the members of Parliament to enable them to judge of the question raised in the petition from Singapore regarding the police, which was sent home the year before:—

"The industry of the inhabitants of Singapore has created the whole fund from which the whole revenues are levied. This is made evident enough when the fact is adverted to, that eight-and-twenty years ago the island, which has now 50,000 inhabitants, was a jungle, with 150 Malay fishermen, imbued with a strong propensity to piracy, and no wealth at all, unless it were a little plunder. At the present time, the entire revenues may be safely estimated at not less than £50,000 per annum, being equal to a pound sterling a head, which is equal to about five-fold the ratio of taxation yielded by the population of Bengal.

"The revenues are divided into two branches, although the division be, in reality, little better than arbitrary—the General and the Police; or taxes, and rates. The first consists of excise on wine, spirits, and opium; of quit-rents; of the produce of the sale of wild lands; of fees and fines; of postages, &c., The second is a percentage on the rental of houses. The general revenue amounted in 1845-46, in round numbers, to £14,000, and the local one to £7,000; making a total of £21,000—a sum which, if expended with a just economy, ought to be adequate to every purpose of Government in a small sea-girt island, with a population for the most part concentrated in one spot.

"From this statement it is plain enough that, whether the police force is paid wholly out of the police revenue, or partly from the police and partly from the general revenue, it must, in any case, be paid out of the produce of the industry of the inhabitants—a fund wholly created within the short period of twenty-eight years. I cannot see, then, with what show of reason it can be said that the Executive Government pays the police, simply because it is the mere instrument of disbursement.

"Singapore is not, like Hindustan, a country conquered, or one received by inheritance from a despotic Government. On the contrary, it is strictly a Colony planted in a desert, the offspring of British enterprise and capital—just as much as were New England or New York. The constitution of society in it, moreover, differs wholly from anything found in Hindustan, the practices followed in which have been, notwithstanding, quoted as precedents.

"If, indeed, experience had shown that the administration of the police of Singapore was most advantageously lodged in the hands of the Executive, expediency might be pleaded in its favour. The very reverse, however, has proved to have been the case; for it has been the corruption and inefficacy of the police, so managed for many years, that has raised the whole question. I cannot but think that what holds good everywere else, must hold good also in Singapore—that the administration of mere local affairs must, from its very nature, be best conducted by those who are in a position to understand it best, and who have the most immediate interest in conducting it efficiently and economically. These are, assuredly, the inhabitants of each locality, and not the Executive Government, which has abundance of other and larger matters on its hands. But it is not theoretically alone that I came to this conclusion. It is with me the result of a personal experience, gained on the very spot itself.

"The practice with respect to the colonies under the management of the Crown has, of late years, certainly been rather to extend than to curtail the privileges of the inhabitants; and it is to be hoped that the East India Company will feel disposed to follow a course which, by conciliating the people, secures harmony, strengthens the hands of the local Government, and consequently contributes largely to facilitate the conduct of the administration. I trust, therefore, that the home authorities will refuse their approbation to this Act of the Indian Government, abrogating the very small instalment of rights conferred by Royal Charter on the inhabitants of Singapore; of rights, it must not be forgotten, exercised by parties selected and named by the Indian Government itself.

"In so far as concerns the framing of laws for Singapore and our other Malayan Settlements, the Supreme Government is in a very different position from that in which it stands on the continent in India, where there is ever at its disposition, men of first-rate talent, and long and varied experience in every department of administration. Respecting the Malayan Settlements, on the contrary, the Governor-General in Council can obtain no information from parties on the spot; for, in reality, less is known of them in Bengal than in England, because there is less intercourse.

In legislating, therefore, for the Malayan Settlements, the Supreme Government must depend wholly on the degree of knowledge and enlightenment which may happen to be possessed by the local Governor, with the assistance, at each of the three Settlements, of a kind of Assessor, under the name of a Resident Councillor, but without Deliberative Councils, or a legal adviser, which are so ably supplied in every other part of India. The local Governor, then, who may happen to be, and most probably is, a Military or Civil Officer of the Indian service, without any knowledge of the languages, manners, and character of the great majority of the inhabitants of the Settlements over which he presides, and with a natural bias in favour of his own authority, is the only party from whom the materials for legislation are procurable. He, accordingly, transmits the crude drafts of Regulations for the Settlements to the Supreme Government. On the sole confidential recommendation, then, of such a party, laws are passed, as in the instance now under consideration, repugnant to the feelings and interests of the community at large, and in despite of their earnest and respectful remonstrances."

This statement of Mr. John Crawfurd was, possibly, the commencement of the state of feelings which led, twenty years afterwards, to the Transfer of the Settlements from India to the Colonial Office as a Crown Colony. The *Free Press* in commenting upon it, thus remarked upon the grievance which eventually became the *casus belli* with the Bengal Government:—

"How correct these observations are, will, we believe, be admitted by all unprejudiced persons having any acquaintance with the actual condition of matters in the Straits Settlements, although probably they will be questioned by those who are the objects of them. Too many instances, unfortunately, exist of the ignorance of the Supreme Government of the real condition of the Straits Settlements, to make their denial of the truth of Mr. Crawfurd's statements of much value; and it is to be hoped that, instead of attempting to palliate or conceal their ignorance, they will take the more manly and honest course of admitting it, and earnestly casting about for the means of effecting a change for the time to come, and procuring the information which they are so lamentably deficient in, and the want of which has betrayed them into so many blunders and acts of injustice.

"That our accusations against the Indian Government of neglect and incompetence in the administration of the Straits Settlements are not mere vague assertions founded on prejudice and misconception, we shall prove by adducing evidence from their own acts. For this purpose, it is not necessary to take a very long retrospect. The legislation and administration of the past year or two are quite sufficient to compel the admission of every impartial mind that the Indian Government is either very ignorant of, or unpardonably inattentive to, the real interests and well-being of the Straits Settlements.

"The Act for the Regulation of the Copper Currency of the Straits Settlements affords an illustration of the ignorance of obstinacy of the Supreme Government. In this Act they were not content with making the necessary provisions for introducing the new coinage, but by an ill-judged prohibition they put an entire stop to the circulation

of a currency which had been rendered necessary by their own long continued neglect, and which had for many years been the only one available for local purposes. This was found well adapted for many purposes, although an authorised coinage of a cent and its fractional parts was desirable as a legal standard of value, and for the use of those who did not require so minute a coin as the *doit*. All that was desirable would have been attained by making the cent and its fractional parts the legal tender, leaving it optional to receive or reject the *doit* as suited the convenience of the people. But this course was not pursued, the *doit* being totally prohibited, and the consequence of this prohibition is that, at the present moment, the poor experience a loss to the extent of at least 40 per cent. on their means of livelihood, by being compelled, in purchasing their daily food, to pay a quarter of a cent for what they used to obtain for the sixth or seventh of a cent.

"The Act to allow of the reception of the transported convicts of Hongkong into the Straits Settlements, is another instance of the most complete ignorance on the part of the Supreme Government of the Straits Settlements, or if that is disclaimed, of the most wanton tampering with the safety and welfare of the inhabitants. We believe the plea of ignorance will not avail the Indian Government in this instance, as the Straits Executive officers, much to their credit, most earnestly remonstrated against the measure, pointing out the grave objections which existed to it in the nature of the population and other circumstances. That their estimate of the characters likely to be introduced was just, is but too well confirmed by the catastrophe which it is our painful duty to record in another column as having befallen the *General Wood*, which was conveying ninety-two of these Hongkong convicts to undergo their sentences at Penang. We may be sure that these persons, when in the Settlements, would not have been found a whit less evilly disposed, or less anxious for their escape, than what they were on board ship; and the peculiar facilities surrounding them would have led to attempts, renewed until successful. In Singapore they are surrounded by their countrymen, all linked together by the oaths and bonds of the secret societies to which, nearly to a man, the Chinese here belong. These criminals also belong to the same societies, and once beyond the walls of the convict gaol, what more easy for them than to gain protection and assistance from their countrymen? The many plantations in the jungles of Singapore, as well as on the opposite coast of Johore, tenanted solely by Chinese, afford admirable places of refuge, at all times open to them. Thus the Chinese convict has every inducement to escape in the succour and assistance he is sure to find when once he has broken away—facilities which do not at all exist to the Indian convict. Can anything be conceived more stupid than to make such places as these the stations for Chinese convicts?

"The recent draft Act for the amendment of the existing Assessment Act betrays also the supreme contempt for the wishes of the inhabitants of the Settlements, which characterises many other Acts of the Indian Government. The communities of the Straits have expressed their desire to be allowed to participate in the adminis-

tration of the funds raised for municipal purposes. So far, however, from the Indian Government complying with this most reasonable request, they propose the miserable expedient of a Committee of persons to be nominated by the Chief Authority, who, of course, will take care to select only those perfectly compliant in all things; and even against the proceedings of such a Committee, fettered and bound as they would be, the Chief Authority may appeal to Bengal, and have them disallowed.

"Other instances might be adduced to shew that the Straits Settlements do not receive from the Supreme Government that attention which is required for their proper management, and for the well-being and comfort of the inhabitants. We do not cherish any hope that changes for the better will be made during the few years which have to elapse before the expiry of the present Charter of the East India Company, but it may be of use to give the subject prominence now with the view of its attracting attention when the time shall arrive for making provisions for the future government of our Indian possessions."

A short paragraph in the *Free Press* of the 10th February gave the key note to the story of the tragedy of the *General Wood*. It said, "The *General Wood* left this on 3rd January for Penang, with ninety-two convicts on board; there was no military guard with them. She had not arrived at Penang up to the latest dates. It is hoped she may be kept out by baffling winds."

The community of Singapore had protested against convicts being sent from Hongkong to Singapore, and it is a remarkable thing that on the 27th January, there had been a long article in the newspaper arguing again the reasons against it. Such as that the Chinese on Singapore composed 40,000 of the whole population of 60,000; that a vast majority of these belonged to the lowest class; many lived in the interior of the island, hardly accessible to the police; and that convicts from Hongkong would be of very much the same class, active and dangerous, and sure to open communication with the Chinese outside the Jail. This article was afterwards referred to in the London *Daily News* of 26th April, which spoke of the tragedy of the *General Wood* as a tale of piracy and murder, which the Oriental Seas alone could furnish. On the 2nd January, shortly after midnight, the British ship *General Wood*, belonging to Jardine, Matheson & Co. of Hongkong, of 740 tons, left Singapore for Penang and Bombay. She had come from Hongkong taking Chinese convicts from there to Bombay. She remained in Singapore from 23rd November to 2nd January, for vessels took their time in those days, and, after taking in a few transported convicts from Singapore, went on her way. In Singapore the convicts were loosed from their handcuffs and leg irons, and were employed in hoisting in cargo and other work. At night they were secured. It was pointed out to the chief officer that they seemed to try to ascertain the position of the ship's arms, &c., but he made light of it. Early in the morning of the 20th February three of the passengers landed in a native *prahu*, and the story went all round Singapore that the convicts had risen on the crew the night after the vessel left Singapore, and, after sailing about for twenty days, had wrecked her off Pulo Laut, North Natunas.

There were three passengers on board—Lieutenant Seymour, of the Indian Cavalry, and his wife, a daughter of Mr. W. R. George, and Mr. Andrew Farquhar, a grandson of Colonel Farquhar, who had all three gone on board at Singapore as passengers to Bombay. The Captain and the three European mates were all murdered. Lieut. Seymour was cut over the knee and thrown overboard, but he got hold of a rope and held on for some hours and eventually clambered on board. Mr. Farquhar tried to get on deck, but was attacked and jumped overboard, and held on to the rudder until the morning. At daybreak he tried to get on deck, but was struck with a cutlass on the hands and fell back again to the rudder, and after some hours he was allowed to come on deck. Nineteen lascar sailors were murdered, and three native passengers and several servants. A European sailor on board working his passage from Hongkong to Bombay in the ship, was fearfully beaten over the head, and afterwards went down in the vessel. Mrs. Seymour's ayah jumped overboard and was drowned.

The following account of the tragedy appeared in the *Free Press*, as well as a long letter from Lieut. Seymour, one of the three passengers:—

"The vessel sailed on the morning of the 2nd January, and after 6 p.m., came to an anchor to the eastward of the Carimons. Four of the Chinese convicts, who were employed to cook for the rest, eight who were sick, and a Malay and Chinese sent on board at Singapore, also convicts, had not the chain passed through their leg-irons as the others had. The key by which the chain was secured was in posssesion of the sepoy who kept watch over them at the main hatch. Two lascars were placed in the main hatchway, one on the forecastle and another on the poop The havildar stated that two sepoys were keeping guard over the convicts on the main, and one on the after-hatchway. The lascars on watch had no arms. The syrang stated that it was drizzling and he went to sleep under the fore-castle on the port side. About 1 o'clock a m. he heard the Chinese calling out, and he got up and ran forward. He met the sepoy from the after-hatchway running forward, and asked him what was the matter, and was told the Chinese had got on deck. He met the second officer at the main-hatchway, who ran forward, and he saw no more of him. It was very dark and he could find no weapon in the hurry of the moment. The Chinese made a rush forward and secured all the ship's arms. There were about nine muskets in the third officer's cabin, six boarding pikes on a rack between the stanchions of the poop rail, and a box containing cutlasses, bayonets, tomahawks and pistols, under the starboard poop ladder which were immediately seized by the convicts. A number of the crew got into the rigging, and many of them, including some native passengers, were murdered. The manner in which some of these were put to death is said to have been atrociously cruel, being tied to the mast, and literally cut to pieces by the convicts with savage exultation. The Captain, after displaying an utter want of presence of mind, tried to cut away one of the boats, but being unsuccessful hung on by a rope for some time and was then drowned.

The first and second Officers also, after receiving a number of wounds, jumped into the sea and were drowned. Others were thrown over, or themselves jumped over, some being drowned and others ultimately saved. After the convicts had got possession of the vessel they lighted up the deck with cups filled with oil and cotton. At day-light those of the crew who had taken refuge in the rigging were induced to come down on the promise, conveyed to them through two Chinese belonging to the crew, that the convicts would not harm them. They compelled the gunner's mate to bring up the ammunition and loaded all the muskets. A brig was lying at anchor at the distance of about a quarter of a mile, but she had no communication with the *General Wood*. At day-light about eighteen or nineteen lascars were missing, three Chuliah passengers, and two of the servants. The convicts ordered the lascars to loose the sails and get the ship under weigh. The syrang being told to heave up the anchor, intended to make a long job of it in hope of attracting the notice of the brig, but the convicts abused and threatened him, saying that a steamer would be sent after them, and he was delaying in order to get them secured again. They then slipped the chain and the ship got under weigh. One of the Chinese lascars said he knew the way back to China, and directed the ship's course, the gunner being made to trim sails and one of the seacunnies to steer. He took them through Durian Straits. About noon they passed a Dutch barque at about a mile's distance, which shewed its ensign, made a signal, but the convicts would not allow any flag to be hoisted in return. The ship anchored near a small island, and a number of the Chinese landed, taking four of the crew. While they were on shore a large junk hove in sight and the ship was got under weigh to speak her. The people who had gone ashore pulled out and boarded her. It seems the convicts tried to persuade the people in the junk to convey them to China, but they refused, as they were bound to Singapore. On the island they asked a Malay if he knew the way to Cochin-China. On the 19th, they hove to near another island and some of them landed and brought back some fowls and cocoanuts. They took a lascar as interpreter, but kept a vigilant watch over him to prevent his communicating unobserved with the people of the island. On the 21st, about 9 a.m., they struck upon a reef about a mile and a half from land. The sea at the time was quite smooth and a moderate breeze blowing. The long boat was hoisted out and the cutters lowered. The greater number of the convicts, passengers, and crew went to the island (Salaout) in the boats, about sixteen lascars and fifteen convicts being left on the ship to await the return of the boats. The water rose rapidly in the vessel, and at about 1 p.m. she slid off the rocks and went down in deep water. The gunner, syrangs, first tindal and lascars saved themselves in a small China boat and reached the shore about 3 p.m.; the rest left on the ship were supposed to have been drowned. The long boat and cutters also reached the shore in safety. The Chinese proposed killing the passengers, but were dissuaded from it by some of the lascars. The passengers got safely on shore, and found refuge in a Malay hut. The lascars made a

rush into the jungle. The next morning they found the long boat gone and some of the Chinese left, who were secured by the Dutch and Malays on the island. They were then taken to Sedanow or Boongooran, where the passengers and crew received every attention from the Datoh Kaya, and were at last sent to Singapore where they arrived on Saturday the 19th February.

Messrs. Jno. Purvis & Co., the agents in Singapore for Jardine Matheson & Co., asked the Government to send the E. I. Co.'s steamer *Auckland* to search for the convicts who had escaped in the ship's boats, and to endeavour to save her hull and cargo, and through the intervention of Mr. Church and Captain McQuhae of H. M. S. *Dædalus*, the *Phlegethon* was sent. In April, news came from Bangkok that Chinese, supposed to be some of the escaped convicts, cast-away there on an island named Pulo Ubi, had been seen by a vessel named the *Celerity*, and the *Phlegethon* went there to search. On the 26th April the trial of the nineteen men sent by the Orang Kaya took place. A temporary gallery was put up in the Court for the accommodation of ladies, many of whom, including Mrs. Butterworth and Mrs. Church were present. The Judges were Col. Butterworth, Sir Christopher Rawlinson (the Recorder), and Mr. Church. It lasted four days; the jury found all the prisoners guilty, but on the first count of the indictment only, which was for piracy simply, the other counts being for murder and piracy with violence. The following remarks then took place:—

The Recorder:—Then you find all the prisoners guilty of taking possession of the ship by violence?

Foreman:—No, my Lord; we find them guilty on the first count only.

The Recorder:—Then you mean to say by your verdict that the prisoners at the bar used no violence in taking possession of the ship?

Foreman:—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship desired to know if the jury entertained especial grounds for recommending some of the prisoners to the merciful consideration of the Court; the foreman stated that he had not been instructed as to the reasons, but some of the jury desired especial recommendations. His Lordship said that if the jury were satisfied there was but little or conflicting evidence on which to convict, they ought to have acquitted such of the prisoners.

The jury, while finding all the prisoners guilty, recommended a number to mercy and three of the prisoners "particularly to mercy." On which the Recorder remarked that the jury had taken a most lenient view of their case. They, the jury, as judges of the evidence, had arrived at the conclusion (he knew not how, he knew not why), that notwithstanding a number of murders had been committed before possession was gained of the vessel, still they, the prisoners, in the minds of the jury, were not guilty of the violence which was proved, if they believed the witnesses, to have been enacted on board the vessel. His Lordship did "*not believe that any human being present, except that jury, would have arrived at the conclusion they did.*"

On which the *Free Press* remarked:—"This verdict has excited considerable comment, and we have heard that some of the explanations of the Hon'ble the Recorder were misunderstood by the Jury. It is, however, better that they should lean to mercy, than that through any panic or other feeling they should convict indiscriminately. When it is considered that the trial lasted three days, the Court on each day commencing its sitting at 9 o'clock a.m., and continuing it to a late hour, that there were nineteen prisoners, the case of each of whom was to be viewed separately and distinctly, that the witnesses were numerous, and in some cases rather suspicious, that the evidence, from the very nature of the case, the revolt having happened in the dead of the night, was vague and inconclusive; taking all these into account, we conceive that, without much fuller and more accurate notes than we imagine any of the Jury took, it was almost impossible to return a very discriminative verdict, unless indeed the Jury had considered it consistent with their oaths to follow implicitly the summing up from the Bench. The Court met on Saturday at noon, when sentence of death was directed to be recorded against the whole of the prisoners, and five of them—the carpenter, the two Chinese sailors, and two of the convicts—who appeared to have taken an active part in the affair, were sentenced to be transported to Bombay for life. The Court took further time to determine what should be done with the others. In passing sentence the Hon'ble the Recorder made some strong remarks on the verdict of the Jury, which he said (although he could not arrive at the grounds on which they had formed their opinion of the case) the Court was bound to endeavour to give effect to it; that, although sentence of death against them all would be recorded on the first count, yet he felt so hampered by the verdict of the Jury, they he could not allow that sentence to be carried out. His Lordship hoped that his thus acting on what he believed to be the constitutional view of the law, would not be attended by evil consequences."

On Monday, the 8th May, the H.C. steamer *Phlegethon*, Capt. Niblett, returned from her visit to Pulo Ubi, having on board twenty-eight Chinese said to be part of the convicts escaped from the *General Wood*. The men offered some resistance when it was wished to apprehend them, and one or two were killed or died from the wounds then received. It appeared that fourteen of the convicts left Pulo Ubi in the long boat with the intention of trying to find their way to China, five went to Siam, and three took their departure for Singapore on board a junk. Most of the officers and crew of the steamer contracted fever while lying at Pulo Ubi, and their fuel and water had got very low on their way back when they fortunately fell in with H.M. Steamer *Fury*, which supplied their wants and took them in tow.

The *Phlegethon's* boats had rowed round Pulo Ubi, and found the retreat of the convicts in a joss-house near the shore, and a number of articles belonging to the *General Wood*, including the chronometer and a card-case of Mrs. Seymour's, which left no doubt that they were on the right track, and, after a great deal of trouble, and stratagem,

as the island was ten or twelve miles in circumference and abounding in caves and thick jungle, the captain pretended to give it up in despair, and the vessel went away, leaving some of the crew disguised as Cochin-Chinese; and thirty convicts were eventually captured. The account given by the prisoners was that they were about seven days at sea and arrived at Pulo Ubi early in February in two boats, sixty in number. After sailing about the island to reconnoitre, they landed well armed at the village and immediately took possession. The inhabitants, about thirty in number, fled to the jungle, and they helped themselves to everything. The largest boat, in which it is supposed most of the valuables and treasure were deposited, they never left without a strong guard, anchoring in deep water every night; this boat they decked over and otherwise disfigured. In the night, with about twelve of their number, they left, promising to send a junk for the remainder; the other boat was sunk on the appearance of the *Celerity*. Others had also left by various opportunities. The following seemed to be the end of the whole number:—

Drowned at Natunas	15
Captured by the natives	18
Gone to China in long boat	12
Do. Siam in Pukat	5
Do. Singapore do.	3
Do. Hainam do.	3
Do. Chinchew do.	2
Captured by the *Phlegethon*	30
Left on Pulo Ubi	5
Total Chinese convicts	93

A special criminal sessions was held, on the 18th May, to try the convicts brought back by the *Phlegethon*, and they were all convicted. The paper in remarking upon the execution of those convicts who were hanged (three men only, in consequence of the verdict of the first jury), made the following final remarks on the subject:—

"From the confessions of some of the convicts, made since sentence was passed upon them, it would appear the Chinese carpenter of the *General Wood* was the sole concocter of the desperate resolve to rise and seize the vessel. This arch-villain, who had joined the ship but a month or two before, was no sooner at Singapore than he communicated his design to some of the convicts, when the plot was readily entered into. From the confession made, it would appear that one prisoner, a cook who was hanged, was loose on the night of the disturbance, and prepared billets of firewood by tapering the ends conveniently to handle; it was then arranged that sixteen on one chain were to be released by the one at the head of the chain forcing the lock, and the duty of these sixteen was to separate themselves into four parties, and that the parties were to single out the captain and three mates as their victims. The sepoy in charge of the key was first killed, and the key taken from him; the other convicts were then released and they went on deck to carry out their desperate resolution. The captain, it would appear, was killed and thrown over-board, as also the chief mate; the

second mate was wounded but missed, and although search was made throughout the vessel no trace of him could be found. Lieut. Seymour at both trials stated that Chinese placed lights near his face apparently examining him for some one for whom they were in search, it forming no part of the original plot to kill the passengers, of whose presence on board they were scarcely aware. Prisoners Nos. 1 and 10 (the latter admitted as Queen's evidence) were of the party who killed the captain and mate. The unfortunate third mate, who, after manfully resisting the Chinese until nearly exhausted, managed to escape up the mizen mast into the mizen-top, was dragged down by Wong Ah Leang and despatched with a sword; a blanket was then thrown over him; at daylight, on observing a brig at anchor not very far distant, they were fearful of throwing the body overboard lest it should float and be discovered, so the corpse was rolled up in wax cloth and kept till the evening when it was cast into the sea. From all we learn it would appear that the prisoners pointed out as having taken an active part was substantially correct, and that amongst the worst actors in the dreadful tragedy were some of those convicted at the first trial, but by an unfortunate verdict permitted to escape the extreme penalty of the law."

The Government sent some handsome presents to the Orang Kaya and people of the Natunas for their assistance to the passengers and crew of the *General Wood*, and for the capture of the convicts; among other things was a six-pounder brass gun with a suitable inscription.

The tragedy of the *General Wood* raised an outcry against convicts being sent from Hongkong to Singapore; for a few years Chinese had been transported from there, and strong representations had been made on the subject. It was afterwards stopped. With reference to the previous cases of similar murders, the first case seems to have occurred on board the *Freak* in 1841; another on board the *Harriett Scott*, in September, 1843, which vessel was carrying convicts from Penang to Hongkong. The next case was the *Ariel*, in the following year, when the Captain was murdered. This was followed by the *Lowjee Family*, a large country-ship, in November, 1844. Another case of which the date has not been traced was the *Virginia*.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in March, a letter was addressed to the Resident Councillor soliciting the interference of the authorities for the protection of the freedom of the trade of the port against certain alleged encroachments on the part of the Tumonggong of Johore. The Chamber stated that, for some time past, complaints had reached them of the systematic proceedings adopted by the Tumonggong to monopolize the trade in gutta percha. That in declarations before them it was represented that native boats bringing supplies of gutta for sale in Singapore had been forcibly intercepted by the Tumonggong's followers. That, further, the Chamber was informed that the Tumonggong had boats stationed at different points to intercept all *prahus* with gutta destined for Singapore; that the latter were boarded by armed Malays, and every means taken by outward display and show of authority to frighten the natives

into compliance with the Tumonggong's terms. It was stated that the gutta trade had assumed considerable importance, amounting to between 10,000 and 12,000 piculs, valued at from $150,000 to $200,000 per annum, and that, of this, about nine-tenths of the import had been, in defiance of all opposition, secured by the Tumonggong, whence it was inferred that extreme influence of some kind was used, or some part of it would have found its way to parties who offered much higher prices for it than that which the native traders received from him. The Chamber then stated the serious and disadvantageous consequences likely to arise if such a state of things was permitted, and they remarked that they had been credibly informed that boats from Siak had actually gone to Malacca to dispose of their gutta percha to avoid being exposed to the interference they would experience were they to bring it to Singapore. The Chamber also represented that by the Treaty or Agreement under which the East India Company became possessed of Singapore, the Sultan and Tumonggong of Johore engaged to maintain a free and unshackled trade everywhere within their dominions, and to admit the trade and traffic of the British nation to all the ports and harbours of the Kingdom of Johore and its dependencies on the terms of the most favoured nation.

The *Free Press* remarked:—"It will be perceived that this is a serious question, into which it behoves the authorities to make a most thorough investigation. Should it turn out as represented, we trust the Government will make His Highness thoroughly aware that such conduct on his part, or that of his followers, cannot on any account be tolerated for a moment, and that should it be in future attempted, he will be visited with their serious displeasure."

In April, Mr. Balestier's estate was put in trust for his creditors. Mr. Balestier had been in Singapore since 1834, and in 1837 he had been recognised as American Consul. He had opened a large sugar plantation on the land still known as Balestier Plain, which swallowed up a great deal of money of Russell & Co. of China. The plantation was advertised for sale in April, by the Trustee, Mr. Joseph H. Weed, and the particulars show how different Balestier Plain must have been then from its desolate state now. The enterprise was a complete failure. Mr. Balestier's house has disappeared altogether. The following was the advertisement:—

"The sugar plantation known as the Balestier Plantation, situated two miles from the centre of the Settlement of Singapore, consisting of one thousand acres of ground, lying in one body, two hundred and twenty of which are planted with sugar canes. The soil is good and produces on an average from twenty to twenty-five piculs of raw sugar per acre, from cane juice standing at from 9½° to 11° of saccharometer. Two crops are obtained in two years, viz., one of planted canes and one of Ratoons. Every field is surrounded by a broad ditch serving the purpose of drainage by irrigation, and all communicating with a canal fourteen feet in width and upwards of two miles in length, running through the whole extent of the property, and on which the canes are carried in boats to the mills and the crops taken directly to the shipping in the roads, if required. One or two water wheels may be easily worked on this stream. The buildings consist of one two-story dwelling house for a large family and necessary out-houses in good repair. An out-house for the Superintendent, a boiling house with a set of flat bottom pans—two of thick copper and three of iron—all connected and communi-

cating with one another by means of valves, copper skimmers, filterers, &c., making five to six thousand pounds of sugar per day. An engine house and a ten-horse steam engine from the Low Moor Factory and a horizontal iron mill for crushing the cane, all in excellent working order; a curing or draining-house with an ample stock of earthen pots and jars, and 250 wooden draining boxes of the capacity of four piculs, or five hundred pounds of sugar each, in which the sugar is bleached. A store room is attached, with bins to receive the sugar after being dried on a drier close by. And of a distillery consisting of two copper perpetual Stills, Baglioni's patent, and fermentation vats, all in working order; adjoining is a godown and large receiving casks. The estate is stocked with two Sydney horses and a young elephant used in ploughing: bulls and bullocks used to the plough and carts; carts and ploughs of various sizes. English and American cultivators, extirpators, harrows and a great quantity of iron pipes and implements of husbandry useful on a plantation, including a rotary fire engine. In the garden, near the dwelling house, are many trees of China fruit, and rare plants and flowers. The property will be sold at a great bargain with the standing crop. Picked Chinese and Klings, male labourers, are to be had in any number at three Spanish dollars per month, they finding themselves in everything.

The London *Daily News* published at full length the petition sent by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce to the House of Commons on the subject of the encroachments of the Dutch on our trade, and wrote lengthy leading articles on the subject. Lord Palmerston deputed Mr. James Brooke, who was then in England, to enquire and report on the subject. The Dutch were much annoyed at the action taken by the Singapore merchants, Dutch papers calling it an unjustifiable proceeding, and using other strong adjectives rather than arguments.

Mr. T. W. Salmond, who had been Resident Councillor at Malacca, died in Penang on the 12th of March, in his forty-first year. He joined the Bencoolen service in 1824, and when it was broken up was transferred to the Penang Civil List, where he held various appointments until 1841, when he went to Malacca as Resident Councillor. He was much esteemed, and a large number of natives attended his funeral.

In April, Captain Russell succeeded Captain Ross as Master Attendant; he had been the Commander of H. C. steamer *Nemesis*. On the 25th May, H. M. S. *Dædalus*, which had been here and in China for some years, left for England. Captain McQuhae had constantly exerted himself for the protection of trade, and he was very popular in Singapore. On his way home, he met the sea-serpent, the first of its notoriety, which caused so much discussion in Singapore and England at the end of the year, and *Punch* laughed at so much. The story is told in Mr. Richard Proctor's book called "*Pleasant Ways in Science*" in the chapter headed "Strange Sea Creatures," and if the whole chapter is read, there may be found reason to think that such a thing may have a real existence; and that those who gave credit to "old McQuhae," as Admiral Keppel calls him in his book, were in the right and the wiseacres in the wrong. But he was called "Sea-serpent McQuhae" to the end of his life.

On Saturday evening, the 20th May, H. M. S. *Meander*, a 44 gun frigate, Captain the Hon. Henry Keppel, arrived from England, having as passengers, Mr. James Brooke, Governor of Labuan, Mr. and

Mrs. William Napier and their daughter, Mr. Hugh Low (in after years Sir Hugh Low, Resident of Perak), Mr. Spencer St. John (afterwards Sir Spencer), Secretary to Sir James Brooke, and some others. Miss Catherine Napier was married in St. Andrew's Church, Singapore, on the 12th August, 1848, to Mr. Hugh Low, and Admiral Keppel in his book, published in 1899, speaks of it as "a cheery wedding."

Mr. Brooke and the other Officers of his Government landed on Monday evening and were received with every honour. The Governor, Resident Councillor, European residents, and a large concourse of natives were present.

The *Free Press* wrote of Mr. Brooke's return as follows:— "We sincerely congratulate Mr. Brooke on his return to the scene of his labours in the East. The honourable post which he has been selected by Her Majesty's Government to fill, will enable him to give great assistance in advancing the general interests of commerce, as well as the welfare and civilization of Borneo, and we have no doubt that each and all of these objects he will devote himself to. The formation of a Crown Colony in the Indian Archipelago may be looked upon as the commencement of a new and most prosperous era in the history of British Commerce in the Eastern Archipelago. Already we have a foreshadowing and manifestation of it in the active commerce which has sprung up between this place and Bruni, since our relations with that country were re-organized. On Tuesday evening, the 23rd, the eve of the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday, the Government House presented a scene of great festivity in honour of the occasion. Invitations to a ball and supper had been issued to about one hundred and fifty, including the Officers of H. M. Ships now in the harbour. Dancing was kept up with great spirit till midnight, when the party sat down to an elegant supper, in the course of which his Honour the Governor proposed Her Majesty's health, which was drunk with the utmost enthusiasm. A novel and striking effect was produced by simultaneously lighting blue lights, at a given signal, on the different elevations round the town, causing the appearance of a sudden illumination. A number of the principal native residents, Chinese, Arabs, &c., were also invited, and numerous others gained admittance to the grounds, to witness a display of fire-works which had been provided for the evening's entertainment."

A Public Company, called the "Eastern Archipelago Company," instituted for the extension of commerce in the China seas, and for promoting the civilization of Borneo, with a capital of £200,000, was started in this year, and a notification was issued signed by James Brooke, as Governor of Labuan, that the island of Labuan had been formally taken possession of by Great Britain, and would be open to settlers from the 1st August, as a free port. An office of the Labuan Government was opened in Singapore. W. R. Paterson & Co. were the Agents.

The Eastern Archipelago Company was started with Mr. Brooke's sanction, but had at bottom a scheme to buy out his rights in Sarawak, and to make money out of the country for money's sake, of which Mr. Brooke was not aware. It was this that led to serious trouble for

him afterwards, as will be told later on. Admiral Keppel in his last book says that he had the opinion that Henry Wise, Rajah Brooke's agent in London, who was at the bottom of the matter, managed to get Brooke, Napier and other truthful witnesses away from England in order to further the scheme to float what was afterwards shown to be a fraudulent concern.

The following letter to the *Free Press*, in June, gives the particulars of a matter that is still remembered here, as an example of the extraordinary engineering feats that have been attempted by Government Military Engineers in Singapore:—"Allow me through the medium of your paper, to congratulate Singapore upon its possessing a genius in its Superintending Engineer worthy to rival the ingenious Paddy, who finding his blanket rather short for him cut a piece off the bottom to join to the top that it might cover his head. I have always admired the said Paddy with extreme veneration for the brightness of his conception, but he must for the future be content with a secondary place and give way to Major Faber. The Grand Jury presented that two Bridges across the Canal were, by their flatness, obstructive to the traffic during high water, and recommended their being raised in the centre. Major Faber set his face decidedly against any such alteration, but proposed that the bed of the Canal should be excavated, and so, of course, to lower the level of the water! A most admirable plan, if only the sea will reduce its level or change its nature, to please a Superintending Engineer of the Hon'ble Company; which perhaps Major Faber has already contracted with it to do. I firmly believe this must be the case, as I can hardly fancy that a Major of Engineers, and no doubt a scientific man, would have put forth such a proposition without some agreement of the kind."

The newspaper on 1st June said: "Mr. E. A. Blundell, formerly Acting Governor of these Settlements, and who was one of the victims of Lord Ellenborough's military furor, arrived here last week from Calcutta by the schooner *Eliza Penelope*, having been appointed Resident Councillor at Malacca. Mr. Blundell was sworn in on Tuesday, and took his departure for Malacca yesterday. We hope, for the sake of justice as well as for the interests of these Settlements, that Mr. Blundell's appointment to Malacca is only preliminary to his restoration to the Government of the Straits Settlements, and that our present worthy Governor (Colonel Butterworth) will receive an appointment in his own profession, in which he will be able to display, to the advantage of his country, those military talents which are comparatively lost in a civil employment."

It was in the *Eliza Penelope* that Mr. James Meldrum, now Dato Meldrum of Johore, came from Calcutta to Singapore for the first time, arriving there on 27th May, 1848, the only other passenger, the Dato now says, being Mr. Blundell; and it is curious to find that the *Eliza Penelope* was the famous old paddle wheel steamer *Diana* of Captain Congalton, under a new name, which has been described on page 281.

Mr. Joseph Harvey Weed, the Acting American Consul, who was the trustee of the affairs of Mr. Balestier, died in June.

On the 1st August, Mr. G. J. Dare and Mr. Alfred Bernard opened the firm of G. J. Dare & Co., as Auctioneers, Shipchandlers and Commission Agents. In the same month Mr. Alexander Dyce, of the firm of Martin, Dyce & Co., died at sea on the passage from Manila to Singapore. Mr. Alexander Dyce had been in Manila, and his brother Mr. Charles Dyce in Singapore; their brother was the famous Royal Academician who painted some of the frescoes in the House of Lords.

The following is an account, from the *Free Press*, of the launch of the little gun-boat *Ranee*, for Sarawak, into the river from where Hallpike Street is now:—"On Monday, the 4th August, there was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. Wilkinson, Tivendale & Co., in the presence of Sir F. E. Collier, C.B., Naval Commander-in-chief of this Station, the Hon. T. Church, Esq., Resident Councillor, and Captain Young, of the H.C. steamer *Auckland*, a small steamer of elegant proportions, designed by Mr. Bulbeck, Carpenter of H.M.S. *Meander*. Miss Church, the daughter of the Hon. the Resident Councillor, christened the vessel by naming her the *Ranee*. She is intended for immediate active service for the suppression of piracy in the Borneo and Sulu seas. She will leave this on Saturday next, in charge of Mr. Baker of H.M.S. *Meander*, in company with the H.C. war-steamer *Auckland* for Sarawak, where she will join the *Meander*, and be under the orders of Hon. Captain Keppel and Sir James Brooke. This small steamer is 60 feet in length, breadth of beam 8 feet 6 inches, fitted with a 4-horse power engine by Messrs. Seaward, of Limehouse, and with her armament and men, it is stated will not exceed a draught of 26 inches. She has a very handsome appearance afloat, is built entirely of teak, coppered and copper-fastened, and reflects the highest credit on her constructors and the Chinese artisans in their employment. Her armament is to be two long brass guns and rocket tubes. We wish her every success, although the power is stated by those conversant with steam navigation to be totally insufficient for the intended purpose."

The price of gambier was then very low, about 80 cents a picul, and the prospects of the Chinese planters were very bad, and the cultivation was, in a great many instances abandoned; in Province Wellesley the sugar cultivation was also in a very depressed state.

The new Insolvent Act of Parliament, for India, and extended to the Straits, was put in force here in September, and the Chamber of Commerce passed some resolutions which were entered in the Records of the Chamber; among them was the following:—

"The punishments to be inflicted by clauses 25, 50, 51, 52 and 70 form an important and most salutary feature in this Act. On the strictness and just severity with which these powers are carried out will mainly depend the success of the measure and its advantage to the Straits Community, for it cannot be denied that peculiar and local causes, the unsettled and migratory habits of native traders here, their generally low origin, the difficulty of detecting, and impossibility of punishing frauds as public crimes, have induced much laxity, recklessness and demoralization among many classes of traders, it being estimated that from two-thirds to three-quarters of native failures in Singapore are fraudulent. This may, for some time,

render necessary a vigorous and unsparing application of the powers of punishment now conferred. Henceforward imprisonment will become, not as now—incarceration of the debtors' body as security for debt—but a punishment inflicted upon him as a public criminal, and it will be most desirable that this broad distinction be clearly brought to the understanding of native traders coming within the jurisdiction of the Court."

A Masonic banquet was given in June, of which the following was an account, which we print as it contains reference to some well-known names:—

"On Saturday, the 24th June, being the anniversary of the festival of St. John the Baptist, the Brethren held a special meeting at high twelve for the purpose of receiving in due form James Brooke, Governor, and W. Napier, Lieut-Governor, of Labuan, who afterwards remained to witness the initiation of a new candidate for admission to the Masonic mysteries and privileges—Lieut. H. W. Comber of H. M. S. *Meander*." He is now a retired Rear Admiral. The Lodge was then in North Bridge Road on the West side, near where Hock Lam Street is now.

"In the evening these distinguished visitors, with Captain the Hon'ble H. Keppel, were invited to meet the Past Master and Brethren at a Farewell Banquet given to the Worshipful Master Brother W. H. Read, on the occasion of his expected early departure to Europe. The Brethren with their distinguished guests sat down to a sumptuous dinner at 7 o'clock. The Worshipful Past Master was in the Chair; the Worshipful Master on his right, Brother Brooke on his left. The Senior Warden acted as Croupier; the Hon'ble Captain Keppel on his right, the Hon'ble Brother Napier, on his left. All the other officers of the Lodge were in their appropriate seats and the other brethren took their places under the direction of the Stewards for the occasion, Brothers J. B. Cumming and M. F. Davidson. In front of the Lodge a beautifully illuminated square and compasses was exhibited, and the interior of the Banquet Room throughout the evening presented an unvaried scene of harmony and animated enjoyment. Much of the success of the evening's entertainment is to be attributed, we believe, to the delightful complacency of Brother Brooke. In the hands of a gentleman of his polished demeanour, it may be easily conceived he had no difficulty in exhibiting to perfection the beautiful masonic lesson—that all masons are, as brethren, upon the same level—yet masonry takes no honour from any man that he had before, for masons are bound not to derogate from that respect which is due to any brother, were he not a mason: these great truths and principles were most happily illustrated on this delightful occasion. We believe we may venture to say that this festival will be a Red Letter Day in the annals of 'Zetland in the East,' and in the memory of every one who had the gratification of participating in its enjoyment."

In July it was proposed to start a local Marine Insurance Company. There were then 18 agencies in Singapore for different companies, and it was ascertained that the amount of premiums received during the preceding four years had been between $112,000

and $123,000, yearly. It was said that a local company would obtain a large share of the business. It was never carried out, and it was not until over thirty years later that the first local assurance company was established, and was afterwards wound up.

The paper in August contained the following paragraph:—

"It is our duty this week to chronicle the disappearance of the well-known mass of rock situated on the Singapore side of the Western entrance to New Harbour, called by natives *Batu Belayer*, and by Europeans *Lot's Wife*. This rock, which was composed of a mass of very hard conglomerate, partially crystallised, has been known to navigators in the Straits for many hundreds of years, and we believe figures upon old charts engraved upwards of 200 years ago." It was blown up.

The following letter to the *Free Press*, in August, shows that the question of the necessity for the defence of Singapore was then quite appreciated by the mercantile community. Admiral Sir Francis Collier had just arrived from England in the P. & O. Mail and had hoisted his flag on Captain Keppel's ship the *Meander*:—

"The present is a favourable moment for calling attention to a subject which is of paramount importance to Singapore. I mean the great advantages which would accrue to this Settlement were it made the Principal Naval Station in these Seas. The arrival of the gallant Admiral, now here, is the most favourable moment that for years has offered for attaining the end in view. Seeing that not only is the Admiral enabled to form his own judgment upon personal examination, but that Captain the Hon'ble H. Keppel is also here, it would be presumption to call his attention to the concentrical position we hold in the direct route between India and China, and within three days' sail of the Straits of Sunda, which may be looked upon as the prison-house of our China trade whenever a European War shall tempt an enemy's cruisers, whether legitimate or ruthless Privateers, to lie in wait there, should the seas in that neighbourhood not be protected by the English Ensign.

"It is therefore the more selfish note of self interest that I would sound. This will not only be believed as sincere, but will relieve me from the imputation of offering him that which, if feasible, will no doubt have already been suggested by that distinguished officer, Captain Keppel, who is as highly respected for his professional talents as he is esteemed for that urbanity which has made him ever so deservedly popular in Singapore.

"The eclat which Singapore would derive from becoming the nominal head-quarters of the Naval Commander-in-chief would be understood by all, while the benefit arising from the circulation of money expended in the construction of Public Works, would be more substantial, especially if the docks, which *must* sooner or later be built here, should be taken in hand by Government instead of being deferred till private enterprise carry out the undertaking. But the most important advantage we should obtain would be the safety and security which would thus be conferred upon our Settlement whenever a war breaks out, as break out I fear it must ere long. The idea of fortifying Singapore, about which so much noise

was made, seems to be given up, so we must trust to the 'wooden walls.' Should this become the chief Naval Station, these natural guardians of a defenceless but valuable seaport like ours, and which will then probably become a rendezvous for our merchantmen when either waiting for convoy or in want of shelter from the enemy's cruisers; then these natural guardians will always be upon the spot in greater or less force."

On Tuesday, the 22nd August, Mr. Brooke was created a K.C.B., the Queen's warrant, addressed to Mr. William Napier, Lieutenant-Governor of Labuan, having been received in Singapore while he was still here, with instructions from Prince Albert to omit nothing in the ceremony that might evince the esteem entertained by the Queen for Mr. Brooke. The ceremony took place in the Public Assembly Rooms, at the foot of Fort Canning, and the *Free Press* contained a very long account of the most elaborate ceremonial that had ever taken place in Singapore; from which we take the following:—

"The investiture took place in the Public Assembly Rooms, which were fitted up in a suitable manner. At one end of the large room a dais or platform had been run across the whole breadth of the apartment, and, raised two steps above this, a chair was placed to represent a throne, under a canopy of crimson velvet edged with gold lace, the dais and steps of the throne being covered with red cloth. The whole apartment was very tastefully decorated with flags, while the main entrance of the building outside was ornamented with a variety of shrubs and flowers. The accommodation for visitors consisted of rows of chairs running down both sides of the throne-room on a graduated rise, leaving an open space in the centre which was also covered with red cloth, for the processions to advance towards the throne, comfortable seats for 240 spectators being thus provided. Facing the throne, the Royal Marines of H. M. S. *Meander* were ranged along the other end of the room, to act as a guard of honour, the Band of the same vessel being stationed in the gallery erected in the apartment. In the spacious portion which is on a level with this room, a flank Company of the 21st Regiment M. N. I. was stationed, to act as a guard of honour to Sir James Brooke, the Band of the same Regiment being also stationed in the portico. A little after 11 o'clock visitors began to arrive in considerable numbers, and at about half-past eleven Mr. W. Napier drove up to the rooms, and was shortly followed by Sir J. Brooke, who was received with the usual military honours by the guard of the 21st Regt. At 12 o'clock the Royal Standard was hoisted on a flag-staff on Government Hill under a salute of 21 guns from the battery on shore and the ships of war in the harbour, which was the signal for the ceremonial to commence. The procession now moved from the banqueting room, where they had assembled, entering the throne room by a side door at the end, and passing in front of the guard of Marines. The guard of honour of Royal Marines saluted the Lieutenant-Governor in the usual manner as he passed their front, and the Band of H. M. S. *Meander* struck up *God Save the Queen* as the procession entered, and kept playing as it moved up, until Mr. Napier had taken

his seat on the throne—when the music ceased. [Here follows a list of the first procession, which included Mr. John Connolly, the Sheriff; Mr. Hugh Low; Major Faber; the Rev. H. Moule, the Chaplain; and twenty others.]

After a little time Mr. Brooke's procession began to move, entering the throne room by the door opposite that by which the other procession entered, and passed in front of the guard of Marines, and up the centre towards the throne. [Here follows a list of the second procession, which included Dr. Treacher, Colonial Surgeon of Labuan; Mr. Thomas Dunman, Superintendent of Police; Mr. St. John, one of Sir James Brooke's Secretaries; Dr. Oxley; Mr. Behn, Hamburg Consul; Mr. Nicol, Danish Consul; Sir Jose d'Almeida, Consul-General for Portugal; Mr. C. Johnston (now Rajah of Sarawak) Aide-de-Camp to Sir J. Brooke; Mr. Thos. Church, Resident Councillor; and over twenty others; and was followed by Captain Keppel and Mr. Brooke himself.]

Mr. Low, Secretary to the Government of Labuan, then read and published the following letter from His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Great Master of the Order, communicating the Royal Warrant for the investiture, viz:—

Buckingham Palace,
23rd May, 1848.

Sir,—The Queen having been graciously pleased as a mark of Her Royal approbation of the services of James Brooke, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Labuan, to appoint him an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Second Class or Knights Commanders of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; I am to signify to you Her Majesty's pleasure that you should invest him with the Insignia of that Class and Division of the Order (herewith transmitted) in conformity to the enclosed Royal Warrant; and it being Her Majesty's intention that the same be done in the most honourable and distinguished manner that circumstances will allow of, you will concert and adjust with him such time and manner for investing him with the Insignia of a Civil Knight Commander of the said Most Honorable Order, and at the same time mark in the most public manner Her Majesty's just sense of the zeal and ability displayed by Mr. Brooke in the service of his country.

I am with consideration,
Sir,
Yours, &c.,
ALBERT,
Great Master.

To William Napier, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Lieut.-Governor of Labuan.

The Mandate of the Sovereign having been read, the Revd. H. Moule, Residency Chaplain, read an appropriate prayer. Mr. Napier after a long speech, eulogistic of Sir James, invested him with the order, after which Sir James Brooke made the following reply:—"The honour you have now conferred upon me by

command of Her Most Gracious Majesty has naturally excited in my breast feelings both of gratitude and of pride. I feel myself grateful to my Sovereign for this mark of distinction; and proud that the Queen should have deemed me worthy to receive it.

"With the approval of his Sovereign her grateful subject may be absolved from the task of speaking of his own service: he can only hope that the future may be as the past has been, and that he may be enabled faithfully to discharge his duty to his Queen and to his country.

"Were I to say, Sir, that this decoration could either stimulate or increase the loyalty I entertain towards Her Majesty, I should be doing less than justice to myself; for my feelings of loyalty, in common I trust with those of every British subject, are not susceptible of increase. I value this distinction, I value it most highly, as a token of her Majesty's most gracious approbation, and sanctioned by this approbation, I shall wear it with the proud consciousness of having won it in this far and distant part of the world.

"Sir, as the Representative of the Crown on this occasion, you will permit me to express my acknowledgments for the kind and flattering terms you have used in speaking of me; and to say that I trust our future career together may be distinguished by the confidence and good will which has ever existed between us. Sir, I beg to thank you for the manner you have discharged the duty which Her Majesty the Queen has done you the honour to entrust to your hands."

A numerous party assembled at the Ball in the evening given by the Lieut-Governor of Labuan to meet Sir James Brooke, and dancing was kept up with great animation until a late hour.

This was an occasion that was long remembered by the community of Singapore, and by Colonel Butterworth, the Governor, who lost his watch, and by Mrs. Butterworth, who had all her jewellery stolen the same night from Government House (on Fort Canning) after the Ball. The *Meander*, left on the following day for Labuan with Sir James Brooke.

The following letter from "An old Resident" (Mr. W. H. Read) appeared in the *Free Press* in 1884, the time some of these papers were first being published:—"The Ball-room in the Assembly Rooms was fitted up for the occasion, a dais was erected, and three chairs placed thereon, the middle one, as is usual on such occasions, representing the Royal Throne. Mr. Napier was an old resident in Singapore, and a general favourite; but his peculiar way of carrying his head, of brushing his hair, and swagger of body, had earned him the title of 'Royal Billy.' Fully impressed with the importance of the functions he had to perform (and, perhaps, a little bit more so than was necessary), the Lieut.-Governor endossed his uniform, begirt himself with his sword, and was marshalled into the room prepared for the ceremony, in 'due and ample form.' His head was higher than ever, his hair more wavy, and with the strut of a tragedy tyrant, he proceeded to mount the steps of the dais, and, to the horror of the assembled spectators, sat down on the Royal Throne! There was a general titter, and the Admiral, Sir Francis

Collyer, who was present, made an exclamation more vigorous than polite in its language. The ceremony proceeded, and Sir James Brooke made a suitable reply, which, as a local paper observed, 'alone saved the whole from becoming a burlesque' so utterly did 'Royal Billy' overact his part. Peace be to his ashes! 'A better fellow, and a truer friend, or a sterner enemy, did not exist, and one soon forgot his little failings in the society of a man of so amiable a character, and so well up in most subjects. He it was who started the *Free Press*, and was for years its Editor, handing over his pen to Mr. Abraham Logan, when he left for home in 1846 or 1847, coming out again in the *Meander* in 1848, on the Labuan Staff, with Mr. Low, now Sir Hugh, as his Secretary."

It was on May 30th in this year that Captain Keppel wrote in his diary, on board the *Meander*,

"In pulling about in my gig among the numerous prettily wooded islands on the westward entrance to the Singapore river, I was astonished to find deep water close to the shore, with a safe passage through for ships larger than the *Meander*. Now that steam is likely to come into use this ready made harbour as a depot for coals would be invaluable. I had the position surveyed, and sent it with my report to the Board of Admiralty; as it was, the forge was landed, and artificers employed under commodious sheds, all under the eyes of the officers on board."

These repairs of the *Meander* were, therefore, the first repairs done in New Harbour, on the spot where the Tanjong Pagar wharves now extend for some mile and a half, crowded with steamers. The diary on 24th August, 1849, while Captain Keppel was still in the *Meander*, contained this:—"Having reported to the Admiralty over twelve months ago the natural advantages of the inner Harbour of Singapore as a coaling station, and no notice having been taken of my letter, I now sent a similar statement, with survey to the Secretary of the P. & O. Company." So it was Keppel who first sailed through New Harbour, and Singaporeans often said that it should have not been called New Harbour, which meant nothing, but Keppel Harbour. This was eventually done on 19th April, 1900, when the old Admiral was on a visit to Singapore, and staying at Government House with the Acting Governor, Sir Alexander Swettenham, who made it an occasion of much pleasure to the old man in his ninety-second year, whose name had been at the very top of the Active List of the Navy for ten years. The road to New Harbour was called Keppel Road fifteen years before, which pleased the Admiral very much; and when the name of the Harbour was changed, the men of war, the Governor's yacht, a number of merchant steamers, and a great tail of steam launches, steamed through the narrow passage, through which the *Meander* first passed, and Sir Alexander Swettenham broke a bottle on a large iron buoy in the centre of the passage, and everyone near shouted when he called out the new name, and it was taken up all down the line. It may be mentioned that the *Meander* shoal in New Harbour was discovered by the keel of Captain Keppel's ship!

Captain Keppel had pointed out to the Admiralty and to the P. & O. Company the present site of the Tanjong Pagar Docks and

Wharves on the main island, but a wiseacre of a Naval Officer who came a few years after him managed to persuade the Admiralty to put their wharf on Pulo Brani, on the opposite island, where there are cross tides, and dangerous mooring. Perhaps it was as well for the trade of the place, and the great steam traffic that has grown up since, that Captain Keppel's advice was disregarded by the Admiralty, or a few men of war would have occupied the ground that is now invaluable for shipping. The Navy never use the site on Pulo Brani, but go to the Dock Company's Wharves on the site which Captain Keppel originally advised.

The *Meander* was in Singapore for several months in both 1848 and 1849, and the Admiral's book contains many references to what he did, and to former residents.

The following appeared in the *Free Press* on 4th September, it seems to have been somewhat prophetic of after times: "At various times we have had occasion to find fault with the Peninsular and Oriental Company and their behaviour towards the public, and, from all we can learn, the monopoly which they have acquired between England and her Eastern possessions has not in any way quickened their desire to meet the public convenience. On the contrary it has the usual effect of monopoly, an exclusive concern for their own interests, and a complete disregard for that of others. The passengers from China and the Straits especially suffer from the conduct of the Company, which having secured their money, gives itself no further trouble about them. There is no accommodation reserved for passengers from the East in the Red Sea steamers, so that if the steamer from Calcutta and Madras is full, the unlucky Far Easterns must wait in Ceylon for a month before they can have the chance of going on: and for this heavy expense the Company, as far as we are aware, make no allowance. Further, a person taking a first class passage is only entitled to a cabin on the orlop deck lighted by a scuttle, which in general is only opened in the Red Sea, and if there is an empty cabin on the main deck, £50 in addition is charged, or the cabin is locked up and kept empty. These facts may serve as illustration of the way in which the Company do business, and of the care they bestow upon the comfort of those who pay them all they choose to ask for passage."

A few weeks afterwards a correspondent asked the Editor why the P. and O. charged $25 passage money from Penang to Singapore, and $50 from Singapore to Penang; and the Editor gave it up.

The *Free Press* contained the following account of the celebration of St. Andrew's day, and of an exhibition of fireworks at New Harbour in the same week:—

"St. Andrew's day was celebrated on Thursday last by the patriotic sons of Scotia in Singapore with an enthusiasm and devotion which proved that they were scions of no degenerate race. A number met at dinner in the public rooms in the evening, where they gave a free vent to their feelings of nationality, and the song and pledge went round to a late hour. A number of eloquent and inspiring addresses were delivered by different gentlemen during the evening and the whole passed off with that cordiality and unanimity of sentiment and feeling, which give the chief charm to such festive meetings."

"The Tumonggong received the company in a rustic pavilion which had been erected at Pantei Chermin, on a rising ground overlooking the New

Harbour, and it was decorated with much taste. The building was soon filled by such an assemblage of the 'beauty and fashion' of the station, as we never remember to have witnessed before. The arrival of the Governor and Mrs. Butterworth, announced by the firing of a salute, was the signal for the commencement of the exhibition, and then firework succeeded firework in rapid succession, rockets, blue-lights, flower-pots, wheels, ducks, and last, though not least, the Chinese drums with their minute population, who spend their brief existence in public in the uncomfortable position of suspension by the pigtail surrounded by an atmosphere of squibs and crackers that would choke even a Salamander.

"The views interiorly and exteriorly were most striking, comprising as they did every degree of civilization from the wild *orang laut*, the excited Malay, the solemn Arab, and the grinning celestial, to the pale European beauty. A supper was provided for those who wished to partake of it, and was done due credit to, and about ten o'clock the whole party betook themselves to their carriages, and then came the tug of war. Many were the mishaps which ensued. The road, previously not in a very first-rate condition, had got dreadfully cut up by the passage of the numerous vehicles going to the village, and in returning many carriages fairly stuck fast, including, we have heard, those of high functionaries, who were thus, for once in their lives, practically convinced of the inconveniences which the public suffer when the roads get out of order. The only material injury we have heard of as resulting from this state of the roads, besides broken harness, strained vehicles and jaded horses, was that inflicted on the company by being deprived of the pleasure of listening to the music of the band of the twenty-first Regiment, it having been found impossible to get the instruments through. Notwithstanding these little drawbacks, however, those present were much delighted with the night's exhibition, and grateful to His Highness for the trouble he took in thus providing for their amusement."

The paper remarked on the improvements that had been made at New Harbour by the Tumonggong, as follows:—"The great changes, and in most instances improvements, which have taken place of late years in Singapore, both as regards the architecture of the town, and the cultivation of the country, are nowhere so strikingly manifested as at Teluk Blangah, the residence of His Highness the Tumonggong. There, within a few years past, but especially in more recent times, the whole aspect of things has been changed, and everywhere improved. A few years ago, Teluk Blangah only presented the appearance of a very dirty Malay village, the royal residence being merely distinguished from its neighbours by being of brick, and if possible dingier and dirtier than the rest. Now everything has put on a new face. The money, which has flowed so copiously into the Teluk Blangah coffers, through the successful dealings of His Highness and his followers in the gutta trade, has been more judicially applied than is generally the case when Malays become possessed of a little cash, and instead of being expended on evanescent shows and spectacles, or squandered at the gambling-table and cock-pit, it has been laid out in improving the outward appearance of Teluk Blangah. His Highness has built for himself several extremely neat houses and *baleis* in the European style, which are gay with green and white paint, and many of his followers have done the same, their smart, green venetianed, tile-

roofed houses, being an extreme contrast to the rude huts in which they formerly were content to live. The old palace, now the residence of the mother of the Tumonggong, has also been cleaned up and white-washed, and altogether has a very nice appearance.

"In addition to these Malay residences, several large European houses have also been constructed in the close vicinity of Teluk Blangah, and we have heard of others about to be erected. No less remarkable is the spirit of agricultural improvement which seems to have seized upon the Tumonggong and his followers. The hills overhanging the village, and which heretofore were covered with a thick jungle giving shelter and cover to the tigers, are now being rapidly divested of their coverings, and planted with fruit and spice trees. Much of this improvement is no doubt owing to the advice and example of the European gentlemen, whose opinion His Highness has the sense to ask, and still greater sense to follow; but even making allowance for all this, enough still remains to show that there must be a real desire to adopt the comforts and conveniences, and the more settled and industrious habits of civilized life, instead of adhering to the rude habitations and the idle and equivocal habits which formerly were the marks and distinguishing characteristics of the Teluk Blangah Malays."

In December, the paper wrote as follows, and the proposal was carried out thirty-seven years afterwards:—"Now that the Esplanade is nearly closed in and the green sward protected from the incursions of pony-racing, drunken sailors, we trust the crowning improvement will not be forgotten. In the centre of the Esplanade there ought to be placed a suitable monument to mark the achievements of the founder of this Settlement—Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. The example of that great and good man ought prominently to be set forth, and where so appropriately as the scene of his labours? What is so attractive to the imagination, as the memorial raised to a great man by his admiring fellow-citizens? Monuments are the appropriate rewards of virtue, the evidences of a country's gratitude. We throw out this hint in the hope that some of the influential members of society will take the initiative."

The following account of the Masonic Dinner on St. John's Day appeared in the *Free Press*. It is reprinted here as it will be interesting from the record it gives of some of the best known Singaporeans of the time. Mr. Robert Duff was then the resident partner in Shaw, Whitehead & Co., a firm established in 1834; Mr. Michie Forbes Davidson and Mr. Robert Bain were partners in A. L. Johnston & Co.; Mr. J. C. Smith was Head-master of the Institution Free School (the Raffles); Captain Charles Morgan Elliot, of the Engineers, was here on special duty for the magnetic survey department; Mr. Caldwell was Senior Sworn Clerk of the Court; Frommurzjee Sorabjee was a Parsee merchant; Dr. Charles Curties and Dr. Allen were Surgeons and Medical Practitioners; Mr. F. A. Cargill was the Manager of the Oriental Bank; Mr. G. H. Brown had come down from Penang in 1847 and was organist of the old St. Andrew's Church; Mr. Tivendale was a shipwright in High Street, under the name of Wilkinson, Tivendale & Co., and Mr. J. G. Barnes was third master in the Institution School:—

"The Annual Festival of the Sons of St. John was celebrated on the evening of the 27th December by the members of the Lodge 'Zetland in the East,' by a magnificent banquet, to which all the brethren on the island and a number of other guests, who did not belong to the craft of Freemasonry

were invited. The company sat down to dinner at half-past seven o'clock—the Band of the 21st Regiment, by the kind permission of the Officers, being in attendance. The room was brilliantly lighted up, and the arrangement of the table, strikingly elegant and tasteful, did much credit to the Brethren who had so well discharged the office of Stewards. The new canopy in the East was very beautifully fitted up, and, with the illuminations, transparencies, Master's pedestal covered with Masonic implements, and other suitable decorations with which the room was ornamented, presented a spectacle seldom, if ever before, equalled in this Settlement on the occasion of a public dinner."

In the course of the evening, a number of toasts were given with the usual honours and appropriate airs, and the paper contained a long report of the speeches made by those already mentioned.

"We should have premised that the members of Lodge 'Zetland in the East,' pursuant to summons, assembled on Wednesday morning, at 6 o'clock, for the purpose of witnessing the installation of the Worshipful Master elect for the ensuing year, and the investiture of the several Officers, viz.:—

Bro. J. B. Cumming	...	Worshipful Master.
„ M. F. Davidson	...	Senior Warden.
„ F. A. Cargill	...	Junior Warden.
„ J. C. Smith	...	Treasurer.
„ C. J. Curties	...	Secretary.
„ G. J. Dare	...	Senior Deacon.
„ H. A. Allen	...	Junior Deacon.
„ G. H. Brown	...	Organist.
„ T. Tivendale	...	Inner Guard.
„ J. G. Barnes	...	Tyler.

"There was a very full attendance of the Brethren on this occasion, as well as several visitors from foreign and other Lodges, and the arrangements for the imposing ceremony had been so well made, the Lodge Room so much improved by its enlargement to more than double its former size, and the fitting up of the chair and other decorations so tasteful and appropriate, that it was acknowledged by all to have been one of the most gratifying gatherings the craft had ever held in Singapore."

The *Free Press* at the end of the year in its review of the events of the preceding twelve months, which had been a very exciting time all over Europe, alluded to the local commerce of the year as follows:—

"The state of trade during the past year has not been of a very cheering character, although, fortunately, Singapore was unmarked by the fall of any of its mercantile houses, as happened nearly everywhere else. The disastrous events in England (the Chartist Riots, &c.) and elsewhere, by which trade for a time was almost paralysed, no doubt contributed in a great measure to bring about the depression in our trade complained of, although other local causes no doubt also existed. The great fall which took place in what may be called two of the principal staple productions—gambier and gutta percha—had a very injurious effect, influencing as they did so many, more or less, directly concerned in their cultivation, manufacture or collection. Another cause of the dulness of trade was a considerable

decrease in the China junk trade, and the non-arrival of anything like the usual number of Bugis boats, as well as the comparatively greatly less value of the cargoes of such as did arrive. These and other causes have produced a great exhaustion of means on the part of many of the smaller native traders—Kling and Chinese—amongst whom several failures took place. The very low price to which gambier fell, produced much distress among the planters, who found it almost impossible to obtain the means of existence. The price of rice fortunately kept at a moderate rate, otherwise it is probable that much severe suffering would have ensued amongst these unfortunate persons, and they might have been led to endeavour to procure the means of existence by having recourse to gang robberies and other dishonest courses. The cultivation of gambier has much diminished, while that of pepper is being increased as much as possible."

It was in May of this year that Mr. Robert Barclay Read first arrived in Singapore. He came out to A. L. Johnston & Co., when he was twenty years old. He became a partner when Mr. M. F. Davidson retired from the firm in 1862. He resided in Singapore for thirty-six years, and died at Yokohama, where he had gone in ill health, on 27th October, 1884, 56 years of age. He was very popular in the place, a leading spirit in all its affairs, like his cousin, Mr. W. H. Read, both commercial and social. He was Consul for Sweden and Norway, and during the absence of Mr. W. H. Read, he officiated as Acting Consul-General for the Netherlands. For his long services, the Swedish Government made him a Knight of the Order of Wasa, and the Dutch Government conferred on him the Knighthood of the Netherlands Lion for his valuable assistance in discovering and following up the threads of a conspiracy against their authority in Palembang in 1880. At one time he held a seat in the Legislative Council and he was a Director of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co., Limited. Socially, Mr. Read was, for years, the life and soul of the place. He had a good appreciation of the enjoyments of life, and, especially in his younger days, the capacity for inspiring and diffusing them. He was an enthusiastic yachtsman and took great delight in his cruises. He had also very good dramatic taste. In the Amateur Theatricals of those days he was always considered an indispensable associate. In all Club matters he invariably took the liveliest interest, and was always ready to assume his share of the duties which such institutions entail. He was for a long time President of the Singapore Club, and a handsome centre piece was subscribed for by the members after his death to be kept in the Club in memory of him.

The Court for the relief of Insolvent Debtors was established on 1st November, 1848. Mr. W. W. Willans was the first Official Assignee. There were four lawyers in Singapore, and ten Justices of the Peace, merchants; the police force consisted of a Superintendent, a Deputy, 5 European constables, and 187 natives.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

1849.

AT the beginning of this year the *Free Press* Office was moved from High Street to No. 1, Malacca Street, at the corner of Commercial Square, which the Oriental Bank had just quitted; and Mr. Abraham Logan had bought the newspaper, on 1st November, 1848, from Mr. W. R. George. The paper was published on a larger sheet.

Mr. John James Greenshields became a partner in Guthrie & Co.; and Mr. Charles Hercules Harrison in Middleton, Blundell & Co., at the beginning of the year. On the 2nd April, Mr. Henry Charles Rautenberg and Mr. Frederick George Schmidt, of Hamburg, established the firm of Rautenberg, Schmidt & Co. Mr. Rautenberg had been an assistant in a German firm here called F. E. Walte & Co., which was established in 1845. Mr. Walte, the sole partner, had died in Singapore on the 22nd September, 1847. In 1852 Mr. Schmidt was the sole partner and remained so until 1858. During those years G. Cramer, Otto Puttfarcken, and Otto Rheiner had been clerks. On 1st October, 1858, the partners were F. G. Schmidt Gustavus Cramer, and Adolph Emil Schmidt. In 1863 Mr. Franz Kustermann became a partner, and Mr. Conrad Sturzenegger in 1865.

On the 24th March, Mr. John Connolly, one of the oldest merchants in Singapore, died. He was a partner with William and Charles Spottiswoode in Spottiswoode & Connolly, whose offices were where the Oriental Bank was afterwards. Mr. John Connolly, Jnr., Mr. A. J. Spottiswoode, and Mr. William Mactaggart were assistants in the firm at the time of Mr. Connolly's death. Mr. Connolly was Sheriff of the Settlement in 1848.

On the 12th January, Mr. Simon Stephens (of Stephens & Joaquim) died, at the age of 45 years. He came to Singapore in 1829, and commenced business, which he carried on with much enterprise and varying success until 1845, when he failed and retired from business until 1848, when he commenced again under very favourable circumstances. He had great influence among the native community, who often went to him for advice and assistance. On the 17th February, Frommurzee Sorabjee died at Parsee Lodge, in his 43rd year. He was very popular in Singapore as the proceedings at the Masonic banquet in the preceding year show. He was the father of Cursetjee Frommurzee, a partner for many years with the Littles.

The sports took place as usual on New Year's Day, and to show how they were carried out at the time, we take the following account from the *Free Press* :—

"New Year's Day was celebrated with the usual rejoicings, the Esplanade being crowded with the natives who had assembled to enjoy the

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accustomed sports and pastimes. There was an abundance of amusement suited for every taste, from a well-greased climbing pole for those inclined to display their powers of perseverance, to dancing girls for those fond of the ballet. There were three hack-pony races with a number of entries, foot races, and a pig race, or rather a race after a pig. The most exciting sport, however, was a game at football in which all joined, and which was kept up capitally for about half an hour. The day was fine, a breeze for the most part prevailing, and the varied and gay costumes of the natives, and especially of the Malays, who were present in large numbers and dressed in their best, formed altogether a very animated and enlivening scene, enhanced by the good humour and spirit of enjoyment which seemed to animate all. The aquatic sports were no less well got up and successful. There were sailing races, yachts, sampans and tongkangs, as well as sampans, &c., rowing, which were all well contested, and proved highly interesting and exciting."

The Hon. Samuel Garling, the Resident Councillor at Penang, on leaving that Settlement had a number of cases on board a barque called the *Cape Packet* which was burnt in the harbour there. The paper remarked that Mr. Garling had a collection which could not well be replaced, and papers intended for publication, the loss of which resembled that of Sir Stamford Raffles at Bencoolen on board the *Fame*.

The same paper announced the death of Mr. Jackson, the Assistant Resident, Magistrate, and Superintendent of Police in Singapore, which was a mistake. A letter to the *Free Press* in speaking of it as being likely to inflict pain upon persons at a distance who might hear of it, spoke of the general indignation that was felt at the statement, and said that it was not the first of its kind, and, without some mark of reprobation, was not likely to be the last; and it was suggested to publish a "*Straits Times* Obituary" of personages who had been embalmed in its pages during the period of their natural lives.

The proprietors of the Singapore Library, which was kept in the Raffles Institution building, proposed to form a Museum, and a resolution was passed at their annual meeting on the 31st January "that a Museum with a view principally to the collection of objects illustrating the General History and Archæology of Singapore and the Eastern Archipelago be established in connection with the Singapore Library; that it be called the 'Singapore Library Museum' and that it be deposited in the rooms of the Library." The commencement of the collection was made by the presentation of two curious gold coins given by the Tumunggong.

Amoks were not infrequent in those days; the following account of one appeared in the *Free Press* in February: —"On Friday last a Bugis armed with five nebong spears (selegie) while in a state of frenzy, wounded one Chinaman in the knee and another in the abdomen, the latter case being one of some danger. He threw spears at several other persons, but without wounding them, and an alarm having been raised, Constable Taylor proceeded to the spot armed with a musket, and called upon the man to surrender. This he refused to do, and threatened the Constable with a spear, on which the latter fired and wounded the Bugis in the thigh, and being taken to the Hospital the man died the next day. A Coroner's inquest was held on the body, when a verdict of "Justifiable Homicide" was returned.

The number of persons killed in the jungles of Singapore by tigers at that time was very great. The paper said that the tigers seemed coming gradually nearer to town and increasing in numbers, so that unless something was done much more effectual than before, men and beasts might be carried off in the close vicinity of the town. The *Free Press* contained the following characteristic anecdote of a Malay :—"Two Tigers were noticed last week at Tulloh Buddoh. A person who saw them being asked, 'And what did you do on seeing them,' replied, 'Kalau saya tiada angkat saya punia kaki lakas, jangan kata saya punia nama Bujang'." Within a short time two persons were killed by tigers near Bukit Timah, two at Tanah Merah, and two at Tulloh Mata Ikan. The Government in April sanctioned an expenditure for the construction of tiger pits, and in August the *Free Press* said :—"The attention of his Honour the Governor having been directed to the continued deplorable ravages committed by tigers on this island, he has expressed himself ready to adopt any measures which may tend to remove the evil. It has been suggested that persons are to be found in the vicinity of Calcutta trained for the purpose of destroying tigers, and his Honour has writen to the Bengal Government requesting that half a dozen of these Shikarries should be sent to the Straits for a limited period, to be employed in the destruction of these animals. The Governor has also directed that in the meantime, should it be deemed expedient, a certain number of volunteers from the 3rd class convicts should be permitted to beat the jungle once every month, with tomtoms, horns, &c., which, if they do not lead to the destruction of the tigers, may frighten them away from the island, to which they come from the neighbouring state of Johore. The first of these measures may probably be productive of advantage, but we should be doubtful whether the last will be of much benefit. The tigers have too large a space to range in to be easily driven out, and the only effect will be to make them shift from one locality to another."

Singapore had then been established forty years, and some statistics may be useful :—

The public revenue of Singapore for the year 1848-49 amounted to Rs 393,232, consisting of :—

Excise Farms*			Rs. 327,257
*Opium	$7,030		
Spirit	3,050		
Siri	805		
Pawnbrokers	300		
Toddy and Bhang ...	115		
Markets	855		
Per Month ...	$12,155		
Fees, Courts of Judicature and Requests			Rs. 22,061
Quit-rents			„ 20,935
Sale of Lands			„ 5,056
Miscellaneous			„ 17,923
			Rs. 393,232

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 620,826 consisting of:—

Local charges ...	...	Rs. 169,874
General charges	...	„ 43,557
Buildings ...	...	„ 55,373
Contingencies ...	...	„ 34,148
Military ...	...	„ 263,754
Convicts ...	...	„ 54,120
		Rs. 620,826

The total imports into Singapore in 1848–49 amounted in value, according to the official returns, to $12,379,801, shewing an increase over the previous period of 1847–48 of $81,477. The total amount of exports was in value $11,049,969, being less by $138,887 than in the previous year. The number of immigrants from China to Singapore during the season 1848–49, was reported at 9,817, but it was supposed that not many of these persons remained in Singapore, most of them going to other places in the Archipelago. The agriculture of Singapore was then beginning to assume a considerable importance. The plantations of nutmegs and cocoa-nuts were coming rapidly into full bearing, and the planting of the former, to some extent, was carried on during 1849, both by European and Chinese planters. It appears from a statement of the cultivation then prepared by the Government Surveyor, that there were 1,190 acres planted with 71,400 nutmeg trees, the produce of which in nutmegs and mace, amounted to 656 piculs, yielding an annual value of $39,360. As a great part of the plantations were very young, this afforded no criterion of what the produce would have been if the whole had come into full bearing. There were 28 acres planted with clove trees. Cocoa-nut cultivation occupied 2,658 acres, the number of trees being 342,608, and the produce yielding a value of $10,800. The quantity of land planted with betel-nuts was 445 acres, having 128,821 trees thereon, and giving $1,030 annually. The fruit trees occupied 1,037 acres, and their produce was valued at $9,568. The gambier cultivation covered an extent of 24,220 acres and the produce was valued at $80,000. The pepper cultivation was stated at 2,614 acres, yielding $108,230 annually. The vegetable gardens covered 379 acres, and the produce was stated at $34,675. The siri or pawn vines extended to 22 acres, and yielded $10,560, while sugar-cane, pineapples, rice or paddy engrossed 1,962 acres, and the estimated produce was valued at $32,386. The quantity of ground under pasture was 402 acres, valued at $2,000 annually. The total gross annual agricultural produce of the island was valued at $328,711.

The total receipts by the Municipal Committee in 1848 were Rs. 68,519; of which about Rs. 43,000 were assessment on houses in town at ten per cent. under Act 12 of 1839; Rs. 1,500 taxes on land and country houses at five per cent.; Rs. 11,000 taxes on private conveyances and horses; and Rs. 6,500 police fines, &c. The disbursements were about Rs. 55,000 on the Police, which was entirely paid by the Municipality; Rs. 6,300 on roads and bridges; Rs. 6,000 on town cleaning. The receipts exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 6,000.

The *Free Press* in March contained the following paragraph:—"The Police having found themselves unable to compose the differences existing between the different societies of Chinese in Singapore, which for some

time past have been producing scenes of riot and violence, Seah Eu Chin has been called in to their assistance, and we are glad to hear has succeeded in effecting a treaty of peace, though probably not of friendship, amongst the belligerents, whom he has bound over in heavy penalties to keep the peace in time to come. This is only one of many instances in which Eu Chin's aid has been found of great use in controlling his countrymen, and it strikes us it might lead to good results were His Honour the Governor to include the name of Eu Chin, one of the best informed and most literate Chinese in the Settlement, in the next Commission of the Peace which is issued."

In the same month the paper said:—"Sultan Allie of Johore, who is at present at Malacca, has been lately treating with various parties for the sale of a portion of his territories. His first negotiations, we understand, were with Mr. Tock Seng, but they went off on some point or other. Since then, we are informed, certain arrangements have been made or proposed by the Resident Councillor at Malacca, for the cession by the Sultan to the East India Company of the district of Muar lying on the Southern boundary of our Malacca territory. The country is described to be generally a beautiful level plain, with a rich soil, admirably adapted in many places for paddy and other cultivation. It also abounds in tin, which if properly worked, would yield a large revenue to Government. The acquisition of this country would also give the command of the river Muar up to Mount Ophir. At present the navigation of the Muar is by no means safe, the river being infested by gangs of robbers, and the exactions of the petty Malay chiefs, who dwell upon its banks, are so intolerable that the trade between Malacca and Ulu Muar is almost extinct, although with proper protection it could not fail to be considerable."

In March the Insolvent Court was opened by Sir C. Rawlinson. Mr. Simonides, of the Police Force, J. H. Benjamin, and Mark Moss, traders, were the insolvents who opened the proceedings of the new Court. The second having been five years and a half in the goal was discharged. The others were granted orders of protection.

The newspapers used to publish a report of the Charge of the Recorder to the Grand Jury, and in March the Recorder fell foul of both the newspapers for not reporting correctly what he had said. The *Free Press* spoke of this as follows:—"We have given as good an outline as we could of the Charge the Recorder delivered to the Grand Jury, but it is necessarily much less full than the address itself. His Lordship more than once in the course of his speech complained (we beg pardon, his Lordship never complains, he only stated) that on previous occasions he had been misrepresented and said he must rely upon his growing character in the Settlement to vindicate him from the imputation of having said what had been attributed to him. It is true that we do not pretend to give the *ipsissima verba* of what falls from his Lordship's eloquent lips on the occasions when we deem it worth while to report him, but we listen attentively to what he said and take notes, and the statement which we give we generally find pronounced correct by others who have been present. Indeed, we think that our report of what his Lordship says is more likely to be correct than his Lordship's recollection of it, seeing that he does not commit his speeches to writing, and it is probable that he is led by a vivid imagination and an active fancy to say more than he intended, and to diverge considerably from the course he

had previously laid down, as well in the manner as in the matter of his address. It is a pity therefore that he does not take the plan which was generally followed by his predecessor, and is adopted, we believe, by the present Judges at Bombay and Madras, viz. :—to write down what he has got to say, and after he has delivered his charge, to allow a copy of it to be handed to the newspapers. By adopting this course all chance of misrepresentation is avoided, and the charge itself is ensured that correctness and judicial gravity which is befitting such an occasion, but which is apt to be lost sight of when there is nothing to trust to but the inspiration of a vivid and somewhat discursive imagination."

The following are a few paragraphs from the presentment of the Grand Jury in April. Mr. Charles Carnie was foreman. "The Grand Jury present as nuisances the parapets of solid masonry round the public wells in Commercial Square and at the crossing behind the Portuguese Church and in other similar situations, one of them having in addition a surrounding railing. These wells being situated on the public streets, the Jury consider as very likely to occasion dangerous accidents. They therefore recommend that the parapets be removed and the mouths of the wells be again made level with the street and covered in as before, and that they be provided with pumps placed at the side of the road for the supply of water to the public. The Grand Jury would further suggest that two or more wells for the supply of water to the public be constructed in the enclosures in Commercial Square, and that the water be drawn off by means of pumps which would prevent their becoming public nuisances from persons bathing at them." At that time there were wells in the centre of the streets near the Square with wooden covers on hinges lying flat with the road over which the traffic went. They were of great use in fires, as the hand engines could not suck the water from such a distance as the sea, and one engine was put to pump the sea water into the well, and another engine to pump from the well on to the fire. The Borneo Company's Offices and godown in Malacca Street were saved in this way, by the use of the well in the middle of Malacca Street, when the adjoining buildings were on fire.

"The Jurors present that the river's mouth still remains in the same obstructed state so frequently presented by previous Grand Juries. This causes so much detriment to the trade of the port, that the Grand Jury would earnestly suggest that some means be speedily taken to apply a remedy, and they urge this the more as they widely differ in opinion from views expressed by the Superintending Engineer to the Grand Jury, touching the importance of the interests involved.

"The Grand Jury regret to find that although a very considerable period has elapsed since Tan Tock Seng, Esq., presented a Chinese Pauper Hospital to the public, no apparent steps have been taken to apply this building to the purpose for which it was intended, and that diseased and starving paupers still abound upon the public streets. Former Grand Juries have, at the suggestion and request of the Chinese inhabitants, the countrymen of these paupers, pointed out the means of raising funds for the support of this Hospital by the re-imposition of a Pork Farm, and the present Grand Jury would reiterate the recommendation, believing it to be the most unobjectionable and unburdensome means of raising an ample revenue for this purpose.

"The Grand Jury fully concur with the Hon'ble the Recorder in condemning as a most serious public nuisance the practice of allowing native processions in the public streets, attended as these generally are by such large crowds, and accompanied by unwieldy machines, torches, &c., blocking up the thoroughfares and rendering them dangerous for persons requiring to pass along them on their lawful business. The Grand Jury further present that the privilege of these processions being allowed to pass through the public streets being confined to certain classes only of the native community, the Klings and Convicts, a feeling of dissatisfaction is caused on the part of the numerous portion of the inhabitants, namely, the Chinese, in many of whose customs such processions form leading features, and who therefore feel aggrieved that that should be rigidly denied to them which is so fully allowed to other classes of the population, and even to the Convicts. The Grand Jury recommend that all processions, firing of crackers, and such other dangerous practices in the public streets, should be rigidly prevented, the natives being required to confine their celebrations to those places where they will not constitute a public nuisance."

A Cochin-Chinese *prahu* on arriving here was boarded by a number of Chinese, who insisted on turning over all the goods and seeing every part of the vessel, and who on being opposed in attempting to go into a cabin in which was a French missionary, tried to do so by force, and otherwise conducted themselves in an insolent manner, evidently with the purpose of extorting money. They were prevented from succeeding in their designs, whatever they were, by the Missionary, and left the vessel uttering threats against the Cochin-Chinese, and saying that when the boat left Singapore on its return, they would take care to punish them, which was reported to the Police. When the boat was ready to sail a French Missionary took passage in it, and the Revd. Mr. Beurel, recollecting the threats held out against the Cochin-Chinese some months before, and alarmed for the safety of his countryman (the Cochin-Chinese being completely unarmed and several cases of piracy having lately occurred) applied to the Master Attandant, Captain Russell, to permit a gunboat to escort the *prahu* beyond Pedra Branca. He was referred to the Resident Councillor, Mr. Church, who stated that one of the gunboats had already gone to that quarter with four boats belonging to the Tumonggong, that the other gunboat in the harbour could not be spared, and that therefore the request could not be complied with, adding that it was nonsense to be afraid of an attack, there was no danger at all, and with this assurance dismissed the application. The boat sailed, the only weapons on board being two muskets, and a pistol in possession of the Missionary, which he had provided himself with, intending to throw it away after he had fairly passed the dangerous latitudes of Romania and Bintang, and got into the China Sea. When the boat had reached the narrowest part of the strait between Point Romania and Bintang, they unfortunately had a contrary wind which rendered their progress very slow, and they were alarmed by seeing a boat, numerously manned, push out from the Romania shore and rapidly approach them. Part of the men in her were pulling and part had arms in their hands, the crew consisting of Malays with two Chinese. When the boat came near, the Cochin-Chinese hailed them to keep off, but the only reply to this was a discharge of fire arms. The Cochin-Chinese fired their two muskets in return, and the

French gentleman also fired his pistol, but from being heavily charged it burst and knocked him down, inflicting a very severe wound in the face. The Cochin-Chinese on this, lost all courage, and would probably have surrendered, but the breeze fortunately carried them beyond the reach of their assailants, and they regained Singapore very considerably frightened, and but little disposed to put any further trust in the Resident Councillor's opinions on the subject of pirates, or the degree of danger to be apprehended from their attacks.

Bank notes were first issued in Singapore in May by the Oriental Bank. They were of $5 and $100.

In May the *Free Press* wrote of gambling as follows—"Last week we stated that public gambling shops were very numerous, and we believe that ever since the Chinese New Year they have been augmenting. At that time ten were opened, which have now increased to upwards of thirty, five of which are in the immediate vicinity of the new market. Several cases were brought before last Quarter Sessions, but the offenders were very leniently dealt with, the fines inflicted being of the most moderate description, and utterly inadequate to put a stop to the evil. It is well known that the persons interested in the gaming houses combine to pay the fines of persons convicted at Quarter Sessions for gambling or keeping gambling houses, so that fines of one, five, and ten dollars, are of very little moment to them. It is a pity that such a state of things should exist, as there is no doubt that it tends much to the increase of crime, and the Municipal Committee ought to try and devise some means of putting an end to it."

The following is taken from the newspaper of the same month; thefts of the kind described were continually being reported in the paper:—"The thieves are at present exceedingly industrious in providing their little consignments for the junks, previous to their annual departure, and there is the usual active demand for telescopes, clocks, watches, and other articles of elegance and utility, which prevails amongst the Chinese light-fingered gentry of Singapore at this season. It may not therefore be amiss to address a few precautionary words to our local readers on the subject. It is notorious that a person may walk through almost every European house on the beach in Kampong Glam, at certain periods of the day, without meeting a single inmate, or being exposed to challenge for the intrusion. This is well known to the thieves and taken advantage of accordingly. A number of Chinese boys neatly dressed (generally servants out of place) go with notes, written for them, to a gentleman's house and meeting no one below, proceed upstairs; if they encounter any person, this note is presented, and, of course, the boy is told the person to whom it is addressed does not live there, and the bearer takes his departure, having made some useful observations for future operations, and perhaps even picking up some little "unconsidered trifle." If no one is found upstairs, then the Chinaman takes as many useful, portable articles, such as telescopes, &c., as he can put his hands upon, with which he quietly makes off, and they are speedily stowed away in the capacious hold of a junk. Another class of thieves consists of respectably dressed Chinamen who visit houses carrying a carpenter's rule in their hand, and ask for work, or request permission to take the pattern of a table, &c. These

agents also help themselves to what they can find, if unobserved. Another source of the mischief is engaging servants without making any enquiries as to their characters of their previous employers. Written characters are plentiful amongst them, and are usually handed about from one to another, and afford therefore very little guarantee in engaging a servant that he is a trustworthy person, or that the character he produces was originally written for him. Means might easily be devised, through a system of registry, of keeping a check upon servants, and it would tend to improve their honesty were they to find that it was matter of much difficulty to procure employment with a black cross against them in the register."

A public meeting, which was very numerously attended, was held on the 20th July, Mr. W. W. Ker in the chair, to consider the proposed Indian Act on Excise law. In September, Mr. J. S. Sparkes, the P. & O. Agent, announced " a very considerable reduction in passage money from Singapore to Southampton." A first class passage for a gentleman in a general cabin was $590.40, and for a lady in one of the ladies' general cabins was $628.80.

It was in this year that the landing place was built, which was taken away about 1880, near the Dalhousie monument. The paper spoke of it as follows :—" It will be gratifying to our local readers to learn that the preliminary operations for constructing a ghaut or landing place on the beach have commenced. The place selected, the foot of High Street, is the most eligible that could have been hit upon." In July the new bridge over the canal at Boat Quay, adjacent to Messrs. Guthrie & Co.'s offices there, was opened with due ceremony.

In September, Mr. Blundell was made Resident Councillor of Penang, and Captain Ferrier, Resident Councillor of Malacca. There was a big fire at Kampong Malacca in September, which destroyed 210 native houses. A Police corporal was suffocated in it.

On the 22nd September, the mercantile community gave a dinner to the Hon'ble Captain Keppel of H. M. S. *Meander*, which had come down from China, and was bound to the Australian station. The following was the account of it in the *Free Press* :—" On Saturday, the mercantile and other friends of Captain the Hon. H. Keppel, of H. M. Ship *Meander*, gave a public entertainment to this highly esteemed officer on the occasion of his leaving the station. The dinner was given in the Masonic Hall, which the W. Master and Brethren of 'Lodge Zetland in the East' very kindly allowed the use of for the purpose, this mark of personal respect and public esteem being paid to a distinguished member of their Order. Between 40 and 50 gentlemen sat down to dinner at half-past six o'clock, J. Purvis, being in the Chair, W. W. Ker, Croupier. The arrangements were all of the most excellent description, and did great credit to the activity of the stewards, Messrs. J. Guthrie, M. F. Davidson, L. Fraser, J. B. Cumming, R. Duff and C. Spottiswoode, who had only a single day to complete them.

" As soon as the cloth was removed, the usual loyal toasts were given from the Chair, after which the Chairman rose to propose the health of the honoured guest of the evening. The Chairman prefaced the toast by a few well-merited complimentary remarks on the esteem in which Captain Keppel was held by the community of Singapore, and indeed by every community and every society in which he had mixed since he first came on the station. The Chairman then alluded to his own intercourse with Capt.

Keppel, and warmly eulogised his frank and affable manners both in private society and in matters of duty. He concluded by proposing—'Health, long life and prosperity to Captain Keppel, and may we at no distant period hail his return to these shores as Admiral Keppel.' The toast was received with deafening applause and nine times nine. [He did come back as Commander-in-Chief on the China Station on March 31st, 1867.]

"Captain Keppel returned thanks in a feeling and eloquent speech, his manner evincing that he deeply appreciated the warm manner in which the Chairman's remarks had been received by the company. He said he felt deeply gratified by the present proof of the approbation and regard of the mercantile community of Singapore. Among those present were several old friends, others, though known more recently, were not less entitled to his kindly remembrances, while to all were due his thankful acknowledgments for the cordial manner in which they had received the toast. He had spent many happy days in Singapore, to which he looked back with much pleasure, and he could assure them all that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to have it in his power to forward the interests of Singapore, which he hoped ere long to see attain that importance which its central position and its great resources would ultimately command. Captain Keppel concluded by saying that the marked kindness and attention he had constantly received from his numerous friends in Singapore, during the long time he had been connected with them, were indelibly fixed in his heart, and no change of scene or place could ever efface them, and he added that it would give him the highest satisfaction to renew this pleasing intimacy either here or in England, should he ever be favoured with an opportunity of meeting any of them again.

"Then followed the health of Colonel Butterworth and Lady Butterworth, Mrs. Keppel, and other toasts. Mr. Church in proposing the toast of the Merchants of Singapore said that little more than a quarter of a century had elapsed since Singapore was but the rendezvous of a few *prahus*, and now through the energy of its merchants it had risen to be one of the great commercial depots of the East, and an outlet for an immense amount of the manufactures of Great Britain, which benefited very largely thereby. This much it owed to its merchants, and were it deserted by them, it must return to its primitive jungle.

"The Band of the *Meander* was in attendance, and played suitable airs to the various toasts, and a beautiful selection of Opera music during the evening. The company began to break up about half-past ten, and thus terminated one of the most pleasant meetings which had ever taken place in Singapore."

A select committee of the House of Commons was appointed during the year to enquire into the steamers in the Navy, and the *Free Press* reprinted part of the evidence given by Captain Chads (formerly of the *Andromache* in Singapore, as related in page 279) as follows :—"Capt. Chads thinks iron very inferior to wooden vessels for warlike purposes, and that iron vessels ought to be avoided as much as possible. No iron vessel can be built to resist shot unless it is of such a weight that it will not float. The shot goes right through the vessel, and the fractures are such that they cannot be repaired, while should it strike a rib upon going out, the ship must go down."

In this year the Supreme Court in Singapore awarded £20,700 to Captain Farquhar of H. M. S. *Albatross* and other persons for the destruction of the Sarebas pirates in July. The expedition under Captain Farquhar had fallen in with a fleet of upwards of a hundred war prahus, manned by at least 3,500 men, and, which was proved on the confession of the pirates themselves, to have been committing outrages both by sea and land. Admiral Sir Arthur Farquhar, K.C.B., is still alive. He was promoted for his services against the pirates in 1849.

The entire police force in this year was 218.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

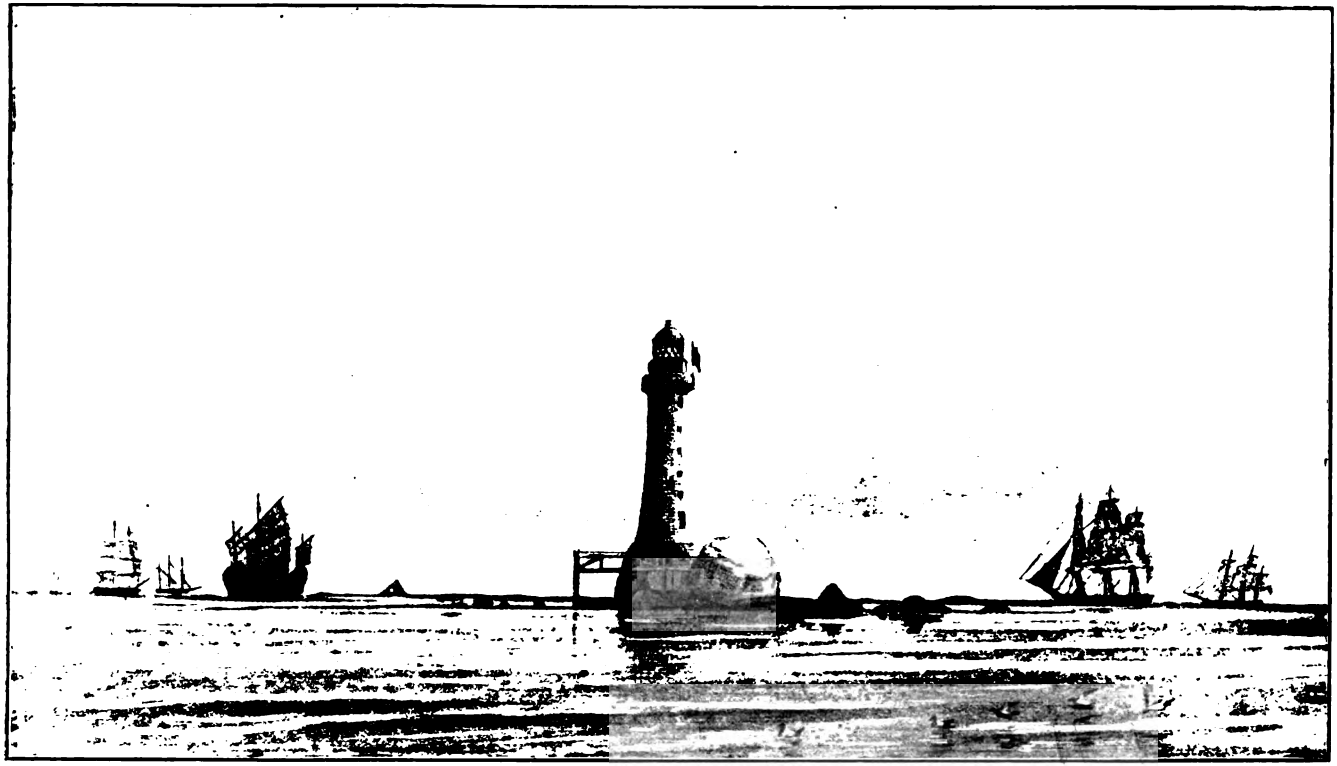
THE HORSBURGH AND THE RAFFLES LIGHTHOUSES.

ON 20th November, 1836, a public meeting had been held at Markwick's Hotel at Canton, at which Mr. Jardine presided, to consider the best means of making some lasting tribute of respect to the late Captain Horsburgh, and the great services he had performed for the cause of commerce and navigation. It was decided that a lighthouse on Pedra Branca in the Straits near to Singapore would be the most suitable. Subscriptions were made at Canton, Bombay and Penang. The list at Canton was headed by Mr. W. Jardine with $500. The rest of the subscribers were principally merchants and captains and officers of ships, the only considerable exception being the Chinese Security Merchants who contributed liberally. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce collected Rs. 4,299, and the Penang Chamber of Commerce Rs. 404. The Canton subscriptions amounted to $4,191, but Jardine, Matheson & Co. liberally gave compound interest until 1847, when the fund was paid over, and it had accumulated to $7,411.13.

James Horsburgh, F.R.S., was born at Elie, in Fife, Scotland, in 1762, and made many voyages to India and China, and, by the study of books and experiments, he familiarised himself with lunar observations and scientific subjects connected with navigation, and when in port occupied himself with constructing charts. In 1819 he was appointed Hydrographer to the East India Company. He died in 1836, in his 74th year. He was called "The Nautical Oracle of the World," and it was said by the East India Company that his charts and books had been invaluable safe-guards to life and property in these seas.

All vessels leaving Singapore for the East and China pass close to Pedra Branca. It was so called owing to its aspect of perfect whiteness, and Mr. J. T. Thomson said the name could not be more appropriate, because of its being covered with the dung of the numerous sea-birds that frequented it as a resting place. In the English translation made in the year 1598 of the work of the early Dutch voyager Van Linschoten, written in 1583, he speaks of "Pedra Bianque, or white rock, where the shippes that come and goe to and from China doe oftentymes passe in great danger and some are left upon it, whereby the Pilots when they come thither are in greate feare for other way than this they have not."

In November, 1844, Mr. J. T. Thomson prepared plans and estimate for a lighthouse on Peak Rock, which is part of the Roumania group; and afterwards the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and the India House thought it was too far within the Straits, which prevented it from being a good leading mark for vessels, while Pedra Branca from its advanced position was the first object that vessels ran for, and being clear of all dangers in its northern proximity could be approached by a direct course and closely passed. Peak Rock on the contrary had several out-lying reefs, and a vessel making for a light on it would have to alter her



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HORSBURGH LIGHTHOUSE, OCTOBER, 1851.



course as it was neared, and on a dark night run on the Roumania shoal on one side by keeping too distant, or on the out-lying rocks on the other side by keeping too near.

Nothing having been done for over eight years the Singapore Chamber of Commerce took up the matter again in 1845, and on 20th November a deputation from the Committee of the Chamber waited on His Honor the Governor. The Governor readily supplied the information sought. It appeared that a proposition by a former Governor involving a large establishment and the stationing of a detachment of troops on a small island, had caused the scheme to be temporarily laid aside. That funds subscribed in China to the Horsburgh testimonial, amounting to $5,513, were forthcoming and would be paid into the hands of Government whenever a pledge was given to construct a lighthouse in the vicinity of Pedra Branca. The Governor had in October, 1844, availed himself of the presence of H.M.S. *Samarang* to obtain a report from the distinguished scientific officer, Captain Sir Edward Belcher, C.B., who cheerfully gave his services to promote the erection of a testimonial to the hydrographer Mr. Horsburgh The Malayan authorities of Johor, in whose territory the Roumania island is situated, not only offered the island for a lighthouse, but expressed satisfaction at the prospect of its erection. The Governor mentioned to the deputation of the Chamber that he had visited the proposed site in the H. C. Steamer *Diana*, having with him the Superintending Engineer of Public Works in the Straits, whom he had instructed to make an estimate of the cost of the proposed erection. This officer considered that from one to one-and-a-half lacs of rupees would be necessary to complete the work of masonry. This being beyond the sum likely to be available, the Governor instructed Mr. Thomson, the Government Surveyor, to submit an estimate, which had been done by that gentleman with great care and detail, and which was accompanied by an offer from a Chinese contractor to erect a granite base of 16 feet for $2,667, and further, if required, a brick tower (exclusive of lantern and lamps) for $4,333 additional, or, in all, $7,000. The Governor seemed to think that an iron tower on the granite base would be preferable to brick, and had suggested the sending of one from England similar to one erected at Bermuda, at a cost of £1,500. Mr. Thomson described the rock as hard grey granite very suitable for building, and not liable to be washed away by the waves in bad weather. Mr. Thomson proposed the entrance to the lighthouse should be by a movable ladder, or basket and crane, from the top of the granite basement, thereby obviating the necessity of scarping the rock to guard against surprise by pirates. On the 1st November the Chamber of Commerce passed the following Resolution:—

"That the East India and China Association in London, the Calcutta and Bombay Chambers of Commerce, Captain Bedin of Madras, the subscribers in America (through J. Balestier, Esq., U. S. C.), and the subscribers in France (through the French Consul) be addressed with a copy of the report read this day, and be requested to make the funds subscribed available for the erection of a lighthouse as a Memorial to the late hydrographer, James Horsburgh."

T. O. CRANE,
Secretary.

On 21st June 1847, Mr. Thomson had instructions from Mr. Church to take steps for the erection of the lighthouse on Pedra Branca, and on 1st December before the north-east monsoon came on, he put up brick pillars on various parts of the rock to test the force of the waves. On 1st March, 1848, he found all the pillars on the north side, which were thirteen feet above sea level, entirely swept away. This was held to show that a brick building would be insufficient, and it was decided to construct it of granite set in the best hydraulic cement. This was the first lighthouse in this part of the world built in granite masonry, and it was certainly the crowning point of all good work done Mr. Thomson in Singapore during many years. There is a long account in 6 Logan's Journal of the building of the lighthouse, with the calculations as to the curves of the shaft, copies of the estimate, plans of the building and of the light apparatus, and elaborate details of the way in which the work was carried out under very considerable difficulties, from the absconding of the Chinese contractor with his advance; the difficulty of keeping up communication with the rock; and of obtaining water, to economise which they used to bathe in the fresh water (for Chinese coolies would not use salt water) before using it for making mortar. Three of the stone cutters were killed in a boat by pirates. Among other things there is a good account of the way in which the Chinese coolies lift very heavy weights by cross stretchers, by which means Mr. Thomson says stones were lifted weighing nearly seven tons. There is a little lithographed sketch pasted on to the page to illustrate this, in the manner we are familiar with when the Chinese carry their very heavy coffins through the streets. There is also a very full description of the tools used by the natives, and the way they work, and their wages, and the value of their labour as compared with European workmen, which would be of considerable interest and use to engineers in this part of the world. There are also some useful details about squalls and waterspouts, birds and fish, seen at the lighthouse while under construction.

On 4th December, 1849, Mr. Thomson was informed by Mr. Church that the Court of Directors of the East India Company had sanctioned the construction. On the 14th January materials were collected and by the end of March work was begun on the rock, Mr. John Bennett going with Mr. Thomson as foreman. The following is the account of the laying of the Foundation Stone on the 24th May, 1850, taken from the *Singapore Free Press*:—

"The Hon'ble the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Lieutenant-Colonel Butterworth, C.B., having requested the Brethren of the Lodge 'Zetland in the East,' to lay the Foundation Stone of the Horsburgh Testimonial, or Lighthouse For All Nations, with the honours of their craft, on the 24th May—the anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday—the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the above Lodge, in number about thirty, accompanied by several visiting Brethren, started for Pedra Branca on the morning of the 24th in the H.C. Steamer *Hoogly*, and the barque *Ayrshire* in tow of Her Majesty's Steamer *Fury*. Several distinguished visitors, including His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir F. Austin, C.B., Naval Commander-in-Chief and suite, the Hon'ble Thomas Church, the Resident Councillor, Lieut.-Colonel Messiter, Commanding the troops, several of the foreign Consuls, and merchants of Singapore, availed of His Honour

the Governor's invitation to witness the ceremony, and accompanied him in the *Hoogly*. The party arrived at Pedra Branca about 11-30 a m., and having disembarked, the Masonic body marched in the following order of procession to the summit of the Rock :—

The Band.
Tyler with drawn Sword.
Brethren not members of the Lodge.
two and two.
Cornucopia with Corn
borne by the Wor. Past Master Bro. J. B. Cumming.
Two cups with Wine and Oil:
The Wine borne by Bro. T. O. Crane and the Oil
by
Bro. Greenshields.
The Organist, Bro. G. H. Brown.
The Inner Guard, Brother Thomas Hewetson
bearing the Inscription Plate.
The Secretary, Brother T. H. Campbell
bearing the Book of Constitutions on a silk cushion.
The Treasurer, Bro. J. C. Smith
bearing the purse containing Coins to be deposited in
the Stone.
The Corinthian Light
borne by Brother H. Minchin Simons.
Brother W. Paterson, bearing the Mallet.
The Junior Warden, Brother R. Bain
bearing the Plumb Rule.
The Banner of the Lodge.
The Senior Warden, Brother J. Jarvie
bearing the Level.
The Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. F. W. Linstedt
bearing the Sacred Law on a cushion.

Junior Deacon bearing his Wand.	The Worshipful Master Bro. M. F. Davidson.	Senior Deacon bearing his Wand.

Having halted and formed a passage for the Worshipful Master to pass through, the Chaplain, the Past Master with the Cornucopia, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Brethren with the wine and oil, and the Deacons with their wands, followed the Worshipful Master to the Foundation Stone, where they were received by the Governor, who, in the following words, requested them to proceed at once with the ceremony:—

"Worshipful Master and Gentlemen of the Lodge Zetland in the East,—I have solicited the favour of your laying, on this the anniversary of our beloved Queen's Birthday, the foundation stone of the lighthouse to be erected on this spot for the safety of the mariner, and in commemoration of that celebrated hydrographer James Horsburgh, F.R.S., to whose labours the mercantile world is so much indebted for the easy navigation of these seas. The philanthrophic object of the building appears especially to call for the exercise of that craft which has charity and good-will to all mankind for its groundwork; and it affords me deep and unfeigned gratification to see so large an assembly of Masons here this day from the newly formed Lodge 'Zetland in the East' at our little emporium, Singapore, for the purpose of taking part in this day's ceremony, to which, Gentlemen, I will thank you to proceed with the least practicable delay."

The Worshipful Master having taken up his position on the East side of the Stone, with the Lodge Chaplain, the Revd. Brother F. W. Linstedt, on his right, and on his left the Past Master, with the Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and other office-bearers immediately around him, requested the Chaplain to open the ceremony with prayer, which he did in a suitable and appropriate form. The architect of the building, J. T. Thomson, Esq., now submitted his plans of the construction for the Worshipful Master's inspection, and having received his approval, they were returned to the Architect for his guidance. The Worshipful Master received from the Treasurer and Secretary a bottle containing the current English coinage, also an original edition of the Horsburgh Directory, a copy of the newspapers and the other publications at Singapore; he deposited the bottle with the coins in the cavity prepared for its reception. The Inner Guard then presented the Worshipful Master with a copper plate bearing the following inscription:—

In the year of Our Lord 1850
and
in the 13th year of the reign of
Victoria
Queen of Great Britain and Ireland
The Most Noble
James Andrew, Marquess of Dalhousie, Kt.,
being Governor-General of British India:
The Foundation Stone
of the Lighthouse to be erected at Pedra Branca and
dedicated to the memory of the celebrated
Hydrographer
James Horsburgh, F.R.S.,
was laid on the 24th day of May,
the anniversary of the Birthday of
Her Most Gracious Majesty,
by the
Worshipful Master M. F. Davidson, Esq.,
and the
Brethren of the Lodge Zetland in the East,
No. 748,
In the presence of the Governor of the Straits Settlements,
and many of the British and Foreign Residents of Singapore.
J. T. Thomson,
Architect.

The inscription having also been placed in the cavity, the Worshipful Master received from the architect a silver trowel with some cement with which he proceeded to close the cavity; this having been done and the stone lowered into the bed, he directed the Architect to see that it was properly adjusted. The Square, Level, and Plumb and Rule were then handed to the Worshipful Master, who applied each instrument successively to the stone, and having struck it three times with his mallet, said:—"May the Great Architect of the Universe grant a blessing on this stone which we have now laid, and by His Providence enable us to finish this and every other virtuous undertak-

ing." The Brethren replied, "So mote it be," and gave the usual Masonic salute. The Worshipful Master next called for the Cornucopia containing corn, and the cups with wine and oil, and having poured the contents of each successively over the stone, said:—"May the All Bounteous Author of Nature bless our Island, of which this Rock is a dependency, with Corn, Wine and Oil, and with all the necessary comforts and conveniences of life." The Brethren again responded, "So mote it be," and saluted as above. The Chaplain pronounced an appropriate prayer and the Worshipful Master then addressed the Governor and gentlemen present in the following speech:—

"It will be impossible to convey to you in adequate terms, the very high sense entertained by myself and brethren of the honour you have done us, in having thus publicly called upon us to assist with our Masonic art, in laying the foundation stone for the Lighthouse about to be constructed on this spot, in commemoration of the services of that distinguished Hydrographer, James Horsburgh, by whose enterprising genius and surpassing zeal, the navigation of these intricate seas has been so greatly facilitated. As a body, we feel justly proud of the distinction thus conferred upon us in having committed to our care the commencement of a work of such vast importance to every maritime nation in the world, and so perfectly accordant with those principles of philanthropy which form the basis of our ancient institution; and I shall ever esteem it one of the happiest circumstances of my life that the Brethren of Lodge Zetland in the East have been called upon to exercise their craft in so laudable and great an undertaking during the period that I enjoy, through their kind suffrages, the honour of occupying the Master's chair.

"All present must regard it as a most auspicious event that this noble work has been begun on a day held in the highest veneration by every British subject, as being the anniversary of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Birthday; and to you, Hon'ble Sir, is the credit due of having selected this most fitting mode of testifying our loyalty to our beloved Sovereign on the occasion; who I feel assured could desire no greater and more pleasing proof of our attachment to her royal person, than our being engaged, as we are this day, in laying the foundation of a structure which will tend to promote the welfare of so many of her subjects. It would perhaps, be a very difficult task to foresee the extent of usefulness to the commerce of our own country, and to that of equally civilized powers; but when we contemplate its effects in fostering our intercourse with the semi-barbarous nations of Eastern Asia which surround us, whose want of skill in the art of navigation render them so frequently a prey to the mysteries of the mighty deep, and tends so materially to restrict their advancement, we shall be lost in a maze of conjecture and surmise.

"The disastrous effects resulting from the absence of a Lighthouse in this locality, the loss of human life and the extensive destruction of property, have been too frequently and too severely felt within late years not to render it a matter of the deepest concern to all who feel an interest in the prosperity of commerce and the welfare of their fellow-creatures, that this work which, under your auspices, we have now so happily begun,

should have been so long deferred. I should therefore be doing you a great injustice, were I to refrain from noticing how much the world is indebted to you, Hon'ble Sir, for having brought the necessary arrangements to a conclusion, which, but for your unceasing and strenuous advocacy of the cause, might still have been protracted to an indefinite period. Nor can I permit this opportunity to escape me of offering you my most heartfelt congratulations that your long and useful career as the chief authority in the Straits of Malacca, which has tended so much to the improvement and embellishment of the Settlements under your rule, should be crowned by a labour calculated to be an era in their history, and to reflect everlasting honour on yourself. Doubtless the recollection of this day's proceedings will form, in after years, when you may be removed from the scene of your present labours, not the least pleasing of your reminiscences; and that you may long live to enjoy the contemplation of your past useful and honourable career, is my sincere wish. I feel that I should ill acquit myself of the task you have assigned me, were I to omit to pay a just tribute to the munificence of those merchants and mariners to whose liberality we are indebted for the nucleus of the fund raised for the erection of the edifice of which we have this day laid the foundation stone. Thanks are also due to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors of the East India Company for having advanced the remaining sum necessary to effect this desirable object.

"The merits of the distinguished man to whose memory the Lighthouse is to be dedicated, are too universally acknowledged to need any lengthened panegyric on my part. His comprehensive charts, and elaborate and invaluable sailing directions, the labour of years of untiring exertion and devotion, stamp him as a man of almost unexampled genius and industry. To the navigator of these seas, the name of Horsburgh is almost as familiar as his own, and among those who are engaged in commerce in this quarter of the globe, who is there that does not feel and acknowledge the deepest debt of gratitude to him? To the memory of one so devoted to the cause in which almost his whole life was spent, what more appropriate testimonial could be offered than the edifice now to be erected? And I supplicate the Supreme Architect of the Universe so to bless the work, that it may long withstand the ravages of time, and bid defiance to the billows of destruction that surround it, to be a tower by day and a light by night, to guide the mariner in his course, for ages to come, and that succeeding generations, whilst they admire the genius of him to whose memory it is raised, may have cause to regard with gratitude those to whom its erection is due."

The Governor replied as follows:—

"Worshipful Master and Gentlemen of the Lodge Zetland in the East;

"I thank you for the able manner in which you have been pleased to perform this day's most interesting ceremony. I have ever honoured the Craft of Masonry; and the solemnity which has characterised this day's proceedings has made me feel the deepest respect for what I had previously honoured.

"The kind terms in which you, Gentlemen Masons, have been pleased to speak of myself cannot fail to be deeply gratifying; and what has passed this day will indeed have a most prominent place amongst the many pleasing recollections which I shall take with me to my native land, when leaving the Straits, where, I may truly say, I have honestly laboured to the utmost of my ability for the advancement of the three stations.

"I should be wanting in justice to the mercantile community and mariners in China if I omitted to notice what you mentioned of their liberality for their donations towards the Horsburgh testimonial, which, magnified by the munificence of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., in allowing compound interest on the sum raised in 1842, most certainly enabled me to call upon the Government of India for aid in this matter. The call was readily responded to and favourably received by the Hon'ble Court of Directors as our presence here this day bears evidence. But, Gentlemen, there is one other person whose zeal in this cause must not be lost sight of. I allude to one of the oldest and most respected residents of Singapore, John Purvis, Esq., who has narrowly watched and earnestly aided the authorities on this occasion, and whose suggestions for the more safe and speedy navigation of the Straits of Malacca, subsequently enlarged upon and recommended by that excellent body, the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, I hope eventually may be carried into effect. Gentlemen, I entrust the completion of the building, of which you have now laid the foundation stone, to that valuable and indefatigable public servant and able architect, Mr. Thomson, with the utmost confidence; and I again thank you most sincerely for the labours of this day, and for the impressive manner in which you have exercised your Masonic Craft on the occasion; accompanied by the warmest expressions of loyalty to our most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, who, whilst some of the greatest Potentates of the Earth have either fallen from or tottered on their thrones, has remained firmly seated, supported solely by the affections of her people; and how far-spread and deep-rooted are those affections the sentiments promulgated by the little band here collected on this isolated spot, will still further testity to the world at large. Let us now unite in three hearty cheers to the health, prosperity and long continued reign of Our Queen: God bless her.

"The Brethren then opened a passage to allow the Governor to return and the party embarked at 2 p.m. on board the *Hoogly*, where a dejeuner was prepared to which His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, the Governor, and his guests, did ample justice; displaying their loyal attachment to our beloved Sovereign and acknowledging the kindliness of their host by enthusiastic acclamations."

On the 15th October the monsoon prevented any further work and on the 21st all that could be made secure was left and the rest left to be washed away; at 5 p.m. all took their departure. On the 5th April, 1851, work began again, and Mr. Church went out occasionally to see how it went on. In August the lantern and machinery arrived; and the men-of-war lent a hand; and on 21st September the lighthouse was completed. A fortnight before, an English barque the *Metropolis* laden with tea had struck on a rock, twelve miles from the lighthouse, and was abandoned by the crew.

On Saturday, the 27th September, Governor Butterworth accompanied by Sir William Jeffcott, the Recorder, Colonel Messiter, and a large party of gentlemen, including many of the oldest residents, proceeded to Pedra Branca in the *Hoogly* for the purposes of witnessing the illumination for the first time. The steamer left the roads at 8 o'clock in the morning, and anchored a little to the westward of the rock at 1 p.m. The afternoon was spent in inspecting the tower and lantern, together with the numerous conveniences that had been constructed for the comfort of the light-keepers, including a store and a kitchen cut out in the solid granite, and a jetty of timber, secured by guys of massive chain-work, to facilitate landing during the north-east monsoon; and the visitors anticipated that this first Pharos of the Eastern Seas would prove the great Lion of the Straits for a long time to come. The *Free Press* spoke of it as an edifice of which Singapore might well be proud, and described it in the following way :—

"The granite blocks which form the walls were quarried and shaped at Pulo Ubin ; the timber used in the building is the growth of our island ; the brass rails of the stair-case were moulded and turned in this Settlement ; and last not least the Architect and Engineer, Mr. J. T. Thomson, acquired the skill and experience, which enabled him to erect so rapidly this chaste and stately building, during a long and useful career as Government Surveyor at Singapore. The cast-iron dome and lantern are the only outside productions. For these we are indebted to Messrs. Stevenson of Edinburgh, the Engineers of the Northern Lighthouses, and from the completeness of the details there can be little doubt that all the modern improvements have been introduced. The lamps are arranged on the frame in three groups, and consist of three lamps each, backed by a silver reflector to concentrate the rays of light. The frame revolves horizontally, by means of a clock-work-like apparatus, once in three minutes, so that the brilliant flash which lasts about 15 seconds is presented to the distant beholder once a minute. The guests, in number about fifty, sat down to dinner on board the *Hoogly* at half-past five, and soon after the removal of the cloth, a simultaneous rising announced that the process of illumination had commenced. Three hearty cheers welcomed the light, the meteor-like brilliancy of which will probably serve to guide the midnight path of the mariner for a thousand years to come. The light was lighted regularly from the 15th October.

The lowest floor of the building is 16 feet 9 inches above high water, the centre of the light is 96 feet 9 inches, and the top of the tower is 109 feet 6 inches. The light is visible fifteen nautical miles. The expense to completion was $23,665.87 ; the lantern apparatus and lightning conductor cost £1,324.9.6. This exceeded the original anticipated outlay by $843.17 but was less than the amount sanctioned by $960.63.

It was at first a revolving bright light, which gradually attained its brightest period every minute. The rooms are reached by ladders, with brick partitions and doors to shut in the rooms. Since its construction $24,752 more has been spent on alterations and a new light. The total cost to date being $48,377. It is now a revolving

light of the new order, with a flash every ten seconds, visible for twenty miles. The shaft was originally painted white, but is now in black and white stripes. At the time it was erected it was the only lighthouse in India on a small solitary rock far out to sea. It is distant nine miles from Point Roumania, the nearest point of land; and thirty-seven miles from Singapore. There is a large reef of rocks, measuring about 450 feet in one direction by 200 feet in the other. At low water a number of detached rocks are seen in the locality; at high water Pedra Branca has the appearance of a heap of boulders loosely piled together. The proximity was long noted for its great danger to shipping. Between 1824 and 1851, sixteen large vessels were totally lost there, and two others were stranded, besides other minor accidents. A Portuguese Brig the *Dourado* went down with $500,000 on board, and a British Barque the *Sylph* went ashore with $557,200 worth of opium. It was also a favourite place of attack for pirates, the people in the vicinity as well as the crews of the Chinese Junks being notorious for committing depredations on all whom they thought they could safely attack, and having no compunction in murdering all their victims in order to destroy all traces of evidence against them.

The following inscriptions are in a panel in the wall of the Visitor's Room, which is on the sixth floor, just under the Light Room —

Pharos Ego
Cui nomen praebuit
Horsburgh Hydrographus
In maribus Indo Sinicis praeter omnes proeclarus
Angliae Mercatorum nisi imprimus indole
Ex imperii opibus Anglo Indici denique constructa
Saluti nautarum insignis viri memoriae
Consulo
A.D. MDCCCLI
W. J. Butterworth, C.B.,
Prov: Malacc. Proef.

A.D. 1851
The Horsburgh Lighthouse
is raised by the British enterprise of British Merchants,
and by the liberal aid of the East India Company,
to lessen the dangers of navigation,
and likewise to hand down,
so long as it shall last,
in the scene of his useful labours,
The Memory of the Great Hydrographer
whose name it bears.

Col. W. J. Butterworth, C.B.,
Governor in the Straits of Malacca.

J. T. Thomson,
Architect.

THE RAFFLES LIGHTHOUSE.

In July, 1838, it was proposed to build a lighthouse on some one of the islands at the western entrance of Singapore Straits; and Barn Island, Alligator Island, and the Coney (where the light now stands) were each suggested as the most advantageous. Mr. Coleman thought the Coney island was too small, having only a superficial area of seventy feet by twenty-two, and only thirty feet above the sea-level, while Barn Island was seventy, and Alligator Island one hundred, but the position of the Coney was considered the best of the three. Captain Begbie in his book written in 1834, said, "The cluster of islands on the sea; Barn Island, Alligator Island, the Rabbit and Coney (two small islands which bear a strong similarity in figure to the animals whose name they bear) present a labyrinth through which the mariner has to thread his way." The island on which the lighthouse is built is fifteen miles south-west of Singapore, and marks the outer and south channel round St. John's Island to the Singapore roads.

It was not until 1854 that the project was carried into execution and the following account of the proceedings at the laying of the foundation stone is taken from the *Free Press*:—"Wednesday the 24th May, being the anniversary of the birthday of Her Majesty, had been fixed upon for laying with Masonic honours, the foundation stone of the Lighthouse on the Coney, at the entrance to the Straits of Malacca. The Hon'ble Colonel Butterworth, C.B., Governor of the Straits Settlements, proceeded to the place in the H. C. Steamer *Hoogly*. Amongst the gentlemen who accompanied the Governor were the Hon'ble the Resident Councillor, the Hon'ble Sir W. Jeffcott, Recorder; Colonel Cameron, Commanding the Troops in the Straits; the Hon'ble Captain Elliot, H. M. S. *Sybille*; Captain Blane, H. M. S. *Rapid*; Captain Saunderson, H. M. S. *Lily*; M. D'Egremont, Consul-General for Belgium; M. Gautier, Consul-General for France; and the other Consuls, a number of the merchants, and the Worshipful the Acting Master, Mr. W. H. Read, and a party of the Brethren of Lodge Zetland in the East. About twenty of the Masons embarked on board the Sultan of Linga's Schooner *Young Queen*, which was taken in tow by the *Hoogly*, and the whole got under weigh about half-past ten in the forenoon. The day was singularly favourable for the excursion, being cloudy with light breezes, while only a very slight shower fell. The Band of the 43rd Regiment M. N. I. was on board the *Hoogly* and beguiled the time with music. The vessels anchored off the Coney about 1 p.m. when the Masonic party disembarked and proceeded to make arrangements for the ceremony. When all was ready the Hon'ble the Governor landed and was received by the Worshipful the Acting Master and the Masons who then proceeded to the spot in the following order:—

Tyler with drawn Sword.
Members of the Lodge and other Brethren
two and two.
Banners
borne by Brothers Gordon and Passmore.

Cornucopia with Corn
borne by W. Brother M. F. Davidson.
Two Cups with Wine and Oil
borne by Bro. T. O. Crane and Bro. C. Baumgarten.
The Architect, Brother J. Bennett
with the Plan of the Building.
The Inner Guard, Brother J. Baxter
bearing the Inscription Plate.
The Secretary, Brother F. H. Gottlieb
bearing the Book of Constitutions.
The Treasurer, Brother J. C. Smith, with a bottle
containing Coins and the Papers to be deposited
in the Stone.
Banners
borne by Brothers Macey and Frommurzee Cursetjee.
The Corinthian Light borne by Brother G. Shambler.
The officiating Junior Warden, Brother J. Sparkes
bearing the Plumb Rule.
The Senior Warden, Brother W. C. Leisk
bearing the Level.
The Square borne by Brother A. Middleton.
The Banner of the Lodge borne by Brother C. Perreau.
The Past Master, Worshipful Brother J. Jarvie
bearing the Sacred Law.
The Officiating Worshipful Master, Brother
W. H. Read.
supported by two Brethren bearing wands.

The company having arranged themselves round the foundation stone, the Hon'ble the Governor addressed the Masonic party as follows:—

"Worshipful Master and Gentlemen, I had the gratification four years since of enlisting your services, on the anniversary of our beloved Queen's Birthday, in the performance of a most philanthrophic work; and for a similar object I have again solicited the exercise of that craft, which, as I then observed, has charity and good-will to all mankind for its ground-work, and I have selected a return of the auspicious day for the present ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a lighthouse on this spot as a future guide to the mariner in the navigation to the entrance to the Straits of Malacca, and to the haven of Singapore, which Settlement owes its great and growing importance to that most eminent statesman Sir Stamford Raffles, whose name the building will bear. I now beg the favour of your proceeding with the work, and your acceptance of the Trowel which I have had prepared, as a momento of the call that has been made this day upon the Lodge Zetland in the East.

"The Revd. C. J. Quartley, M.A., late Chaplain at Singapore, then offered up prayers including the following:—O Eternal Lord God, who spreadest the Heavens, and rulest the raging of the Sea, be pleased to receive under Thy Almighty protection and gracious favour, the work which is here this day begun. Do Thou, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, preserve it during its construction from the fury

of the elements, and from the ill-designs of our enemies; and when through Thy goodness it shall be completed, grant that it may afford the means of security to all who shall be in danger in these seas. Do Thou hold their souls in life, rescue them from the jaws of death, preserve their ships and goods, hear their prayers when they call upon Thee, and save them out of all their distress. And when thus delivered by Thy mercy may they, knowing how terrible Thou art, and how greatly to be feared, adore Thy Divine Majesty, acknowledge Thy power, and implore Thy goodness. Help, Lord, and save for Thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ. Amen.

"The Acting Worshipful Master then gave three strokes with his gavel, and requested the Treasurer to deposit in the cavity a bottle containing an inscription on parchment and the current coins of the Settlement. The Secretary then read the inscription on the plate which was as follows:—

In the Year of our Lord
1854,
and in the Seventeenth Year of the reign of
VICTORIA,
QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,
The Most Noble
James Andrew Marquis of Dalhousie, Kt.
being Governor-General of British India,
The Foundation Stone
of the Lighthouse, to be erected on the
Coney, and dedicated to the Memory of
SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES, Kt.,
LL.D., F.R.S. and S.A.L.S.,
to whose Enlightened Policy, the Mercantile
World is indebted for the selection of
SINGAPORE AS AN EMPORIUM,
and for the Freedom of its Commerce from
all restraints,
was laid on the 24th of May, the anniversary
of the birthday of
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,
by the
WORSHIPFUL MASTER
and the
BRETHREN OF THE LODGE ZETLAND IN THE EAST,
No. 748,
In the presence of
COLONEL BUTTERWORTH, C.B.
The Governor of the Straits Settlements, and
many of the British and Foreign Residents at Singapore.

"The plate was then placed over the cavity, the cement was spread by the Acting Worshipful Master, and the upper stone lowered, the Band playing 'Rule Britannia.'

"The stone was then tested with the Plumb, Level and Square by the proper officers, who reported that the craftsmen had done their duty. The acting Worshipful Master then took the plumb, level and square and having therewith tested the stone, declared it to be correct and laid according to the rules of the ancient craft. The corn being then handed to the acting Worshipful Master he sprinkled it on the stone, saying:—'I sprinkle this corn as an emblem of plenty: may the blessings of bounteous heaven be showered down upon us and may our hearts be filled with gratitude.' To which the Brethren responded: 'So mote it be.' The cup containing the wine was then presented to him. He poured some on the stone saying:—'I pour out this wine as an emblem of joy and gladness: may our hearts be made glad by influence of divine truth and may virtue flourish as the vine.' To which the Brethren responded: 'So mote it be.' He then took the ewer with oil, and pouring it on the stone, said:—'I pour out this oil as an emblem of peace: may peace and harmony, good-will and brotherly love abound among us for ever.' To which the Brethren responded as before: 'So mote it be.'

"The following supplication was then offered up: 'Brethren, having now with your assistance laid the first stone of this building according to the rules of our ancient craft, let us implore the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe upon this our present undertaking, and may He be pleased to bless this building and grant that it may tend to His glory, to the advancement of science and to the promotion of the prosperity of this Settlement.' 'So mote it be.'

"The plans of the building having then been submitted to the acting Worshipful Master, he inspected them and said: 'Brother Architect, in the presence of this numerous and influential assembly and of these members of our ancient and honourable fraternity, I have much pleasure in expressing to you how well pleased I am with the plan which has been exhibited, and having ascertained that the foundation stone is fitly placed, I have to request that you will promptly bring this good work to a speedy termination, feeling sure that you will perform it so as to benefit your reputation.' The acting Worshipful Master, Mr. W. H. Read, then addressed the Hon'ble the Governor in the following terms:—

"Colonel Butterworth, as you observed, it is now four years since you called upon us to assist with our Masonic art, in laying the foundation stone of a Lighthouse about to be erected on Pedra Branca, in honour of that distinguished Hydrographer, James Horsburgh, and you have now, Honourable Sir, again requested our assistance at a similar ceremony, when about to raise a monument to the memory of that eminent statesman Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. If it was peculiarly gratifying to the Brethren of the Craft to meet your views when about to honour him, who had, by his indefatigable geographical researches and untiring perseverance, so greatly facilitated the

navigation of these seas, how much more must they feel honoured on the present occasion, when assembled to lay the foundation stone of a building, not only peculiarly useful in itself, but moreover destined to perpetuate to distant ages the name of him to whom England owes so deep a debt of gratitude for the political foresight and surpassing sagacity displayed in the selection of Singapore, as 'a great commercial emporium and a fulcrum whence we may extend our political influence,' and I cannot refrain from congratulating myself on the prominent part I am appointed to take in this imposing ceremony, when I call to mind the intimacy with the members of his family which I have so long enjoyed, and their friendship which I still continue to possess.

"Under the peculiar circumstances in which our native land is now placed on the threshold of a war of undoubted severity and uncertain duration, the selection of this day for the purpose to which we have devoted it, is not the least felicitous conception connected with its proceedings; it awakens with double force those feelings of patriotism and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty, which must ever animate the hearts of all true Britons; and sincerely do I trust that it will please the Great Disposer of Events to crown the arms of England with victory, and grant to our Sovereign many years of peace, happiness and prosperity, enshrined in the hearts of her devoted subjects, by unceasing watchfulness over their welfare. The continued exertions, which you, Hon'ble Sir, have so constantly devoted to the important object for which this building is designed, are now approaching a successful termination, and it cannot but be most gratifying to you to assist at this commencement of the second link of that chain of lights which will at no distant period illumine the Straits of Malacca, the safe and speedy navigation of which has now become of paramount importance, and it will ever be a proud reminiscence, when you have retired from these scenes of your active labours, that you have left your name prominently connected with one of the most beneficial public works in the East.

"It is beyond the imperfect powers of my abilities to give due praise and honour to the gifted statesman to whom this building is dedicated, and it would indeed be presumptuous to attempt to speak in adequate terms of his noble qualities, his varied talents, his ardent patriotism and his guileless philanthropy: his acts, his works, his letters, bear ample testimony of these. Here he established Free Trade in the midst of Monopoly, and with prophetic confidence looked forward to the day when the British flag should wave over these seas in protection of its freedom and in the promotion of its spirit. Here he fondly anticipated the time when commerce and civilization, joined hand in hand, should redeem the natives of these countries from their benighted state of barbaric ignorance. He looked upon this as the mission of his native country, as the glorious task of a people grateful for the blessings showered down from on High upon a favoured land." Mr. Read then quoted the words of Sir Stamford in his address on the founding of the Institution, which have already been printed at the end of the first chapter in this book, on page 16.

To which the Governor made the following reply:—"Worshipful Master and Gentlemen,

"The imposing and impressive manner in which you have exercised your craft, cannot fail to have left on the minds of all present a feeling of deep respect for the order of Masonry, and I thank you, Gentlemen, for having complied with my request. To you, Reverend Sir, I am most grateful for the solemn blessing you have invoked on the undertaking, through which and the acknowledged skill of the able architect, Captain Man, and his zealous assistant, Mr. Bennett, we may confidently hope it will realize the object contemplated. It has afforded me infinite satisfaction to mark the sense so universally entertained of the services rendered to the commercial world by the enlightened policy of the founder of Singapore, by dedicating the building to his memory, under the designation of the Raffles Lighthouse. To this circumstance and to the Masonic Ceremonies, I, in a great measure, attribute the large attendance here his day, but in a greater still to its being in honour of Her Majesty's birthday. I will therefore ask you, Gentlemen, to unite with me in three hearty cheers for Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and for the successful termination of the war, in which Great Britain is now engaged to support the weak against the mighty power of the oppressor."

"Three cheers were then given with right good will and thus terminated this very interesting ceremony. The company then re-embarked and returned to Singapore, the *Hoogly* again taking the Schooner in tow. Dinner was served on board at five, and after the excellent fare provided had been done ample justice to, the health of Her Majesty the Queen was drunk with all the honours, followed by that of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, and other appropriate toasts. M. Gautier, Consul for France, proposed the united Armies and Navies of the two powers, which was suitably responded to by the Hon'ble Captain Elliot, R.N., and Colonel Cameron. The party on board the Schooner appeared to be a very "jovial crew" keeping it up in famous style. The vessels came to anchor about half-past seven, and thus ended an excursion, at which every one present seemed thoroughly to enjoy himself."

The inscriptions placed on a Tablet in the visitor's room are as follows:—

Haec Pharos
ex Imperii Anglo-Indici opibus extructa,
STAMFORDI RAFFLES
oppidi in insula Singapura conditoris,
cujus per prudens consilium et munificum
isthæc regio fruitur
Porto immuni
et ad mercatoram maribus in Indicis agendam
opportunissime sito,
nomen et memoriam apud posteros servet.
A.D. MDCCCLIV.
Gul: Joh: Butterworth, C.B.,
Prov: Malaccæ Præf:

The Raffles Lighthouse
erected in the year of Our Lord
1854
by the Honourable East India Company
and dedicated to the Memory of
SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES,
The Founder of Singapore,
to whose liberal and comprehensive Policy
This Settlement is indebted for its
Free Port
and the unrivalled position it now holds
as an Emporium
in the Indian Seas.
Colonel W. J. Butterworth, C.B.,
Governor of Prince of Wales' Island,
Singapore, and Malacca."

The light which was lit from the 1st December, 1855, is a fixed bright dioptric light of the third order. The centre of the light is 106 feet above high water mark, and is visible about twelve nautical miles.

As compared with the Horsburgh Lighthouse it was a very easy work, there being ample surface on the hill at some height above the sea. Whereas on Pedra Branca there was scarcely two feet to spare round the building on the surface of the rock, and the waves washed right over it.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

1850.

ON Sunday night, the 17th February, shortly before midnight, the E. I. Company's man-of-war *Feroze* anchored in the roads, having on board the Marquis of Dalhousie, Governor-General, and the Marchioness of Dalhousie, attended by a numerous suite, which included Sir Henry Elliot, K.C.B., the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, and a brother of Captain Charles Morgan Elliot, of the Engineers, who was so well-known in Singapore. Lord Dalhousie had been in bad health, and came down here for a sea voyage. The following account of the three days' stay of the Governor-General in Singapore is taken from the *Free Press*. The Dalhousie Monument was erected during the year in commemoration of his visit:—

"At an early hour on Monday morning the Governor, Colonel Butterworth, C.B., repaired on board the *Feroze*, when it was arranged that the landing should take place at half-past nine o'clock. Long before that hour arrived, the roads leading to the landing place were thronged with natives, all in their gala dresses, hastening towards the scene of debarkation, where the 51st Regiment M. N. I. was drawn up. Two lines of sampans, manned chiefly by the Tumonggong's followers, in bright *bajus* and *sarongs*, formed a lane from the entrance of the river to the shipping, through which the procession of boats bearing his Lordship and suite passed to the landing place, where the great body of the European residents, H. H. the Tumonggong and sword-bearers, the Heads of the Chinese tribes, and other principal native inhabitants, were drawn up to receive him. It was altogether a very impressive scene, and calculated to produce a striking effect on those who were not aware how large and motley a population the blessings of free trade have collected together in this remote part of the world. Here were representatives of every commercial nation under the sun, assembled together to welcome one of the leading advocates of those principles of free trade under which our Settlement has prospered, and which now seem destined to effect a bloodless revolution throughout the world.

"During his short stay, the Governor-General was actively employed in visiting the public buildings and institutions, and making himself acquainted with the affairs of the Settlement. We understand that the general result proved highly satisfactory to his Lordship, who was lavish in his expressions of surprise at the evidently prosperous condition of our community; which, by the bye, seems to have been heretofore very little known and appreciated at head quarters. His Lordship's visit occurring during the season of Lent, prevented the display of those festivities which usually accompany the *progresses* of great personages, but the principal members of the community had an

opportunity afforded them, by the hospitality of Colonel Butterworth, of meeting the Marchioness of Dalhousie, whose amiable character and unaffected goodness and kindness of manner has left among the smaller circle in which her position threw her, an impression not less pleasing than that produced by the Governor-General.

"Tuesday was the day fixed by his Lordship for holding a general levee at the Court House, and receiving the various addresses. The first address was that of the Masonic Lodge 'Zetland in the East,' his Lordship being the Grand Patron of the order in India. The deputation presenting the address consisted of about forty of the members of the Lodge, who were most kindly received, and left deeply impressed with the courtesy of their Grand Patron. The next was that of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, which was presented by Mr. George Garden Nicol, the Chairman, and a numerous deputation. On the conclusion of the reply his Lordship addressed the Chairman, and after remarking on the wide circle of countries and nations represented by the members of the Chamber, took occasion to inform the deputation of the appointment by Her Majesty of Sir James Brooke to a special Mission to Siam and Cochin-China, with a view to place British trade there on a more satisfactory footing; and his Lordship expressed his hope that it would be successful. The Deputation then withdrew.

"The address of the Chinese merchants was then presented, and was answered in the same kind way, but, from some oversight, it was not interpreted to them in Chinese. From all we have heard, we may assure the Chinese merchants that his Lordship was greatly pleased with them, and much impressed with their peaceful and respectful manners, their great industry and enterprise, and the large share they have had in bringing about the prosperous condition of the Settlement. We understand he was greatly struck with the Chinese aspect which they have given to so large a portion of the town. After the levee was over, his Lordship, entering the Hall where the party was assembled, renewed the expression of the deep gratification his visit had afforded him, and his regret that, owing to the state of his health and the lateness of the season, he was reluctantly obliged to shorten his visit which he would otherwise have gladly prolonged.

"The forenoon of Wednesday, the day fixed for his Lordship's departure, was signalised by a display of feeling on the part of the Chinese community, which we believe to have been quite spontaneous. About 9 o'clock the road up Government Hill was occupied by a long train of toy carriages, splendidly painted and gilded, some drawn by ponies, others by men, which were filled with gaily dressed Chinese children, sent by their mothers to wait upon Lady Dalhousie. It was altogether a most pleasing spectacle, and as a display of feeling on the part of our large Chinese community, is not devoid of importance. Her Ladyship, as well as Lord Dalhousie, received their youthful visitors with the utmost kindness, and appeared to take great delight in the novel and interesting sight. The great kindness and personal notice bestowed by her Ladyship on the children during the visit, have, almost more than anything else, gained the hearts of the Chinese.

"Lord and Lady Dalhousie visited the Chinese temple at Teluk Ayer, and his Lordship also found time to visit some of the plantations in the vicinity of the town.

"Lord Dalhousie embarked at half past two o'clock p.m., under a salute of 19 guns, the attendance at the landing place being similar to that which had assembled to honour his arrival. His Lordship, after shaking hands with a few of the spectators, again expressed his great regret at the shortness of his stay, but hinted at the possibility of his return hereafter. Three hearty cheers followed his stepping into the *Feroze's* barge, and thus terminated what we truly hope is only Lord Dalhousie's *first* visit to Singapore. Perhaps no public man ever succeeded in producing so general a feeling of confidence and satisfaction among a large community as the Governor-General has done during this short visit. This may, in some degree, be attributed to his Lordship's kind and courteous manner; but the great cause is the matter-of-fact and business-like style in which his Lordship handled every subject that was brought under his notice, and the evident intention that he displayed of making his visit, not one of ease to himself, but of advantage to the community that he has been called upon to govern."

The *Free Press* spoke of the result of the visit as follows:—"The three days' visit of the Governor-General to Singapore, has, we trust, produced as pleasant an effect on the noble lord as it has done on the community of Singapore. The liberal policy so freely avowed by his Lordship, his manly frankness of address, and the sound and matured judgments which characterised his conversation and remarks, have gained him golden opinions, which we hope nothing hereafter may arise to disturb or alter. His Lordship has gained some knowledge, from personal observation, of the circumstances of the Settlement, and the inhabitants have gained some knowledge of his Lordship; better aids to a mutual understanding than could be accomplished by petitions, memorials, and dispatches discharged at each other at some thousands miles' distance, although of the utmost voluminousness and frequency.

"Although the visit of the Governor-General has been so short as not to allow him to do more than cast a very hasty glance at matters of business, yet the better understanding he must have acquired of the Settlement and its people must have convinced him of the great advantages which would result to the Straits Settlements from more frequent visits to them by high functionaries of Government. His Lordship cannot be expected to renew his progress through his Far Eastern dominions, but he might urge the Deputy-Governor of Bengal, under whose control they are more immediately, or some other members of council, to make the tour from time to time. Such an inspection, we are convinced, would be attended with the happiest results, in establishing and maintaining a more cordial feeling between the governors and the governed. It may be a matter of little consequence to the former, but to the latter of what vital importance.

"For many years past, the reception given to the representations of the communities in the Straits Settlements in high quarters, and in some instances the legislation on Straits affairs, have given

rise to a very general impression that there existed in the Supreme Government, or some member of it, an unfavourable feeling towards these Settlements; an impression which, whether well or ill-founded, it must be desirable to remove. That this feeling does not now exist with the Governor-General, or any of the Officers of Government who accompanied him, may be confidently hoped for, and that it should never again arise, would be secured by the personal experience in the members of the Supreme Government, of which a visit to the Straits, from time to time, would put them in possession. The Governor-General has learned from personal observation that Singapore is not a mere fishing village, and that it is something better than a convict station. May the favourable opinion that has been thus formed, be strengthened and perpetuated, and the result in time to come cannot fail to be beneficial to the Settlement."

The Governor-General presented one thousand Rupees to Tan Tock Seng's hospital during his stay. Tan Tock Seng died, at the age of 52 years, a fortnight after Lord Dalhousie left Singapore. He was a native of Malacca, but had lived almost all his life in Singapore, to which he came soon after its establishment, with no money, his only capital being industry and economy, like Eu Chin and so many of our best Chinese residents. Tock Seng started as a vegetable, fruit and fowl-seller, going into the country to buy and retailing in the town. Having saved a little money he opened a shop on the river-side. Afterwards he joined in some speculations with Mr. Whitehead, and it was chiefly by this means he made most of his money. He was made a Justice of the Peace by Colonel Butterworth, the only native who had been appointed up to that time, and was very often occupied in settling disputes between his countrymen. His charities were very extensive and constant, and he was accustomed to bear the expense of burying poor Chinese. He built the hospital of which there is an account in another Chapter, which was called after him, and it was said that if he had lived he would have left considerable sums for its maintenance, as well as for other charitable purposes. He left a widow, three sons and three daughters. His eldest son, Tan Kim Cheng, followed in the footsteps of his father. He carried on a large business, owning rice mills in Saigon and Siam, and steamers. He was Consul for Siam and had a title conferred on him by the King. He died in Singapore in 1892. His eldest son, or eldest male descendant, is a Statutory Member of the Committee of Management of Tan Tock Seng's Hospital, under the Ordinance by which the hospital was incorporated in 1880.

On Saturday, the 23rd February, a public meeting of the European and Chinese inhabitants was convened by the Sheriff to consider the best way of commemorating the visit of the Governor-General. Mr. William Wemmys Ker was in the Chair. Mr. G. G. Nicol and Mr. M. F. Davidson moved the first resolution as follows:—

"That it appears to this meeting the most proper mode of commemorating the Governor-General's visit to Singapore, would be by the erection of an Obelisk or triumphal Column on some part of the Esplanade (the centre being reserved for the intended monument to Sir Stamford Raffles) or such other conspicuous site as may be fixed on hereafter."

Mr. G. W. Earl and Mr. Joaquim d'Almeida proposed:—

"That the testimonials shall consist of two towers to be erected, one on or near the St. John's or eastern entrance, and the other near the Tree Island or western entrance of the narrow Straits of Singapore: the one to be called Raffles and the other the Dalhousie Light, and that the authorities be applied to apportion part of the funds raised by tonnage dues on shipping to the maintenance of their respective lights."

After a long discussion, Mr. Charles Spottiswoode and Mr. Lewis Fraser proposed:—

"That the recent visit of this Governor-General of India, and the addresses and discussion it has occasioned, are eminently calculated to call to mind the origin of Singapore, and all those great principles connected with the extension and freedom of commerce, which led to its establishment as a British Settlement and free port, and which principles are now for the first time fully recognised and acted upon by the Supreme Government; it is the opinion of this meeting that the most fitting mode of at once commemorating Lord Dalhousie's visit and the sound commercial views which mark his administration, is to erect a durable public monument, on a conspicuous site, to the memory of Sir Stamford Raffles, the founder of this Settlement, handing down to posterity, as such a monument must do, the high sense entertained by this community of the extraordinary sagacity and penetration of that great man in planning the formation of a British Settlement to the Eastward, and the indomitable energy and perseverance with which he overcame all obstacles and carried it into effect, while it will perpetuate the remembrance of the wise commercial policy which characterises the present Government of India under the administration of the distinguished nobleman who has so recently left these shores."

Whereupon Dr. Little and Mr. James Guthrie proposed that the meeting should be adjourned for a week, but Mr. Davidson and some others objected, and it was decided to continue, and after Mr. T. A. Behn had explained the proposal in Malay for the benefit of the Chinese, a committee was appointed to decide the matter; and the following correspondence took place:—

To the Hon'ble Colonel BUTTERWORTH, C.B.,
Governor of Prince of Wales' Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you, that the mercantile and other non-official members of our community, Europeans and Asiatics, deeply impressed with a sense of the great benefits the Settlement cannot fail to derive from the recent visit of the Most Noble the Marquis of Dalhousie, Governor-General of India, the auspicious circumstances attending it, the unfeigned gratification all classes derived from personal intercourse with one so distinguished by public character and private worth—and more especially his earnest recognition of those great principles of freedom from all commercial restrictions to which the prosperity of the Settlement is due, and with which it must ever be identified—resolved to commemorate the event by the erection of a Testimonial in honour of his Lordship, and we were appointed as a Committee to carry out this resolution.

The necessary funds being raised (by subscriptions limited to $5) we have now the honour to state that the plan of an Obelisk, designed by Mr. Thomson, and submitted to you herewith, has been approved of, and it being our opinion that the most suitable spot for its erection would be at the new landing place, at the point of intersection of the Beach Road and that leading to High Street, we request that permission may be granted for its being erected on that site.

We are also directed to convey to you the unanimous wish of the subscribers, that in further commemoration of the visit, the new landing place should be called the *Dalhousie Ghaut* and we confidently anticipate your compliance with this wish.

We have the honour to be, &c.,

G. G. NICOL,
M. F. DAVIDSON,
J. GUTHRIE,
TAN KIM SENG,
JOAQUIM D'ALMEIDA,
H. C. CALDWELL,
ANG CHOON SENG,
SEAH EU CHIN,
} Committee of the Dalhousie Testimonial.

To which the following was the reply:--

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 30th instant, intimating that the mercantile and non-official members of the Community at this Station, Europeans and Asiatics, have resolved to commemorate the advent of the Most Noble the Marquis of Dalhousie, Kt., Governor-General of British India, by the erection of an Obelisk, the funds for which have been raised by subscriptions limited to five dollars, and requesting that the new jetty may be termed the *Dalhousie Ghaut*.

I shall have great gratification in communicating to the Most Noble the Marquis of Dalhousie, Kt., Governor-General of British India, the high estimation in which his visit to this Station is held by all classes of the community, and the manner in which you have determined to commemorate that event.

The site selected for the Obelisk appears peculiarly well-adapted for the purpose, and it is a pleasing satisfaction to me to sanction its erection on the spot indicated by you, as also to authorize the new jetty being termed the *Dalhousie Ghaut*.

I have the honour to be, &c.,
W. J. BUTTERWORTH,
Governor.

Singapore, 31st May, 1850.

The list of subscribers was afterwards published in the *Free Press* it contained over 200 names, and amounted to $1.305.

It is curious to observe that in the first resolution of the meeting on 23rd February it was mentioned that the centre of the Esplanade was intended to be reserved for the intended monument to Sir Stamford Raffles, which was actually carried into effect in 1887. The Dalhousie monument was in the way when the Esplanade was widened thirty-five years afterwards, and it was proposed to do away with it, but Governor Sir Cecil Smith most wisely declined to accede to this, on the ground that the acts of former generations of this place should not be allowed to fall into oblivion, and it was replaced on the same line, as regards a harbour mark, but a little nearer the new sea wall.

The public revenue of Singapore for the year 1849-50 amounted to Rs. 386,119, and the proper local expenditure to Rs. 258,333. To the expenditure must be added Rs 200.892 for military, and Rs. 58,222 for convicts, making the total expenditure Rs. 517,447, and thus leaving a deficiency to be borne by India of Rs. 131,328. The total value of the imports into Singapore for the official year 1849-50 amounted to $13,313,041

Exports for the same period $10,455,521

Total value of trade 1849-50 ... ... $23,768,562

The total population, which was ascertained by a census in December, 1849, was 59,043, of which 198 were Europeans, 304 Eurasians, and 24,790 Chinese. This was a very trifling increase over the census of 1848, and was attributed to the decrease in the number of coolies working in the interior of the island, in consequence of the low price of produce and the exhaustion of much of the soil, for which reasons many had left and opened new plantations in Johore.

The number of Chinese immigrants who arrived from China for the year ending 30th April was 10,928, of whom 7,726 were brought by junks, and 3,202 arrived in square-rigged vessels.

Two of the earliest settlers in Singapore, and who were peculiarly distinguished by the aid they lent in advancing the prosperity of the Settlement, were removed by death during the year. One of them, Mr. A. L. Johnston, the contemporary of Sir S. Raffles, and who was much in the confidence of that eminent man, although he had resided in Europe for several years before his death, to the last took a most lively interest in Singapore, and by his will left a handsome donation to the Institution. The other, Sir Jose d'Almeida, resided in Singapore to the last, and pursued with untiring zeal those agricultural experiments to which he was always attached, and which assisted so much in inspiring others with a taste for similar undertakings. Accounts of both these old pioneers of Singapore have already been given in this book, on pages 62 and 184.

The *Free Press* contained the following account of a Masonic Ball given on the 25th January :—"The ball and supper given by the Brethren of the Lodge 'Zetland in the East' to the Singapore community, took place at the Masonic Hall on Friday last, and was very numerously attended, the company assembled having amounted to little short of three hundred. The front of the Hall was brilliantly lighted by variegated lamps arranged in Masonic devices, and the interior was decorated in a style which did great credit to the taste of the Committee of Management. Dancing commenced soon after eight o'clock. The full Masonic costume of the Brethren, and, above all, the presence of a Knight Templar and his page in the splendid full-dress of the order, added much to the brilliant appearance of the assemblage. The Governor arrived about nine o'clock, and seemed to be much gratified by the scene that presented itself. Soon after midnight the company adjourned to a spacious *salle à manger* which has recently been erected at the back of the Hall, (to which it is attached by a covered gallery) where the supper-tables were laid out, loaded with the delicacies that our Settlement affords. After supper the dancing was renewed and kept up with great spirit far into the small hours of the morning when the company dispersed evidently much gratified with their entertainment. We have been confidently informed by those whose experience of Singapore dates farther back than ours, that this has been one of the most brilliant and well-conducted assemblages that has ever taken place at Singapore. The Masonic brethren have great advantages in getting up affairs of this kind. They form an organised body, accustomed to act in concert, so that the making up of the committee, generally the most difficult part of the task, is to them, a work of comparative ease."

The list of members of the Masonic Lodge showed 91 members, including the Hon. Henry Keppel, and 5 honorary members, including Rajah Brooke.

In February, Sir Christopher Rawlinson, the Recorder, was promoted to the Madras Bench, and Sir William Jeffcott was appointed and took his place in April.

On the 1st March, Mr. T. A. Behn and V. L. Meyer dissolved partnership, and the firm of Behn, Meyer & Co. was continued under the same name by Mr. T. A. Behn & Mr. Frederick Albert Schreiber; Mr. Arnold Otto Meyer signing by procuration. In May, the firm of Middletons Blundell & Co. was dissolved, Mr. William Blundell leaving the house, and it was continued as Middletons & Co. by Mr. James Middleton, Mr. A. Middleton and Mr. C. H. Harrison.

In March the newspaper gave the following account of the weather; and of a duel in Singapore, an occurrence almost unknown here:—"During the greater part of last week the visitations of thunder and lightning were frequent, betokening that Dame Nature was breaking up the North-east monsoon. On Friday several loud claps of thunder took place immediately overhead, which caused much alarm amongst the natives. The electric fluid struck the flagstaff on Government Hill, and split the masts to shivers, peeling the copper off the heel. The electric fluid injured some of the venetians of Government House, as also the aviary, but without doing further mischief. Happily no lives were lost."

"On Thursday morning last an 'affair of honour' came off, in the neighbourhood of the Race Course, between two European gentlemen, Messieurs S. and P. Mr. S. fired and the shot whizzed close past his antagonist's ear; Mr. P. discharged the contents of his pistol into the air. The Police had received information, but were not on the spot until too late to save—powder and shot!"

In April the paper spoke of the hill now called Government Hill, as follows:—"Within the last few days that part of the high bamboo hedge encircling Mr. Prinsep's Estate, which bounds the low ground separating the public road from Bukit Selegie [this would be where Selegie Road is now], has been cut down, opening up a view to the lovers of the picturesque equally unexpected and enchanting. The dark masses of the fruit-trees growing in the low ground contrast agreeably with the lighter foliage of the nutmeg trees on the slopes, the large trees at the feet and on the sides of the hills, and the glimpses here and there caught of Mount Sophia and Bukit Selegie form altogether a picture as rare as it is pleasing, reminding the European resident of scenes in the old country, which he little expected to find so vividly brought to his recollection by anything in our tropical landscape. There are few properties in Singapore which can offer such varied scenery as that of Mr. Prinsep, most of them being still too new and wearing too formal and raw a look, yet there are none which would not form a more pleasing object to rest the eye upon than a close and high bamboo hedge, excluding at once the air and the light; and we, therefore, hope that the landed proprietors generally in the neighbourhood of the town will have sufficient philanthropy and consideration for the comfort of their fellow-citizens to follow the good example thus set them."

The following is a copy of the Minutes of the first meeting of the Committee to send exhibits to the Great Exhibition of 1851 :—

" *Proceedings of the Singapore Committee for the furtherance of the objects of the great Exhibition of 1851, under direction from the Bengal Government and Central Committee of Calcutta, held this 16th May, 1850.*

PRESIDENT :

Hon'ble Colonel Butterworth, C.B., Governor.

MEMBERS :

Hon'ble T. Church, H. C. Caldwell, G. W. Earl, Captain Man, G. G. Nicol, W. W. Ker, Tan Kim Seng, Syed Omar, and T. Oxley, Member and Secretary.

His Honour the Governor having opened the proceedings by calling attention to the importance of the subject, and thanking the members for the alacrity with which they had responded to his wishes, lists of various articles were submitted by several members of the Committee, each member being individually responsible for obtaining those articles he was best acquainted with, after which the following resolutions were passed :—

1st Resolution.—That the Secretary be requested to write to the Central Committee reporting the proceedings of to-day, and furnishing at the same time a list of the articles procurable, with the names of the gentlemen who have undertaken to procure them.

2nd Resolution.—That each party who has undertaken to procure the several articles be furnished with a a list thereof by the Secretary.

3rd Resolution.—That the prices of all the articles at the places where procurable be shewn on the final list to be submitted to the Central Committee, and transmitted with the article to be exhibited.

4th Resolution.—That each member furnish a short account of the several articles supplied by him.

5th Resolution.—That an outline map shewing the geographical position of each place from whence the articles are procured be forwarded for the information of the Central Committee.

6th Resolution.—That it is the opinion of this Committee, recorded for the information of the Central Committee, that the whole of the articles enumerated in the lists now before them cannot exceed a sum of three thousand dollars, inclusive of the arms and Malay musical instruments.

7th Resolution.—That the Secretary be requested to write to the Central Committee soliciting their opinion as to whether the products and manufactures of the Philippines are to be included in the operations of the Singapore Committee. These the Committee beg to observe will probably be costly and are not considered in their present estimate.

8th Resolution.—That the Committee take leave to point out that the Malay arms and musical instruments are by far the most expensive articles in the lists submitted, a set of the latter is likely not to cost less than 1,000 rupees, they therefore request the sanction of the Central Committee before purchasing these articles.

9th Resolution.—That His Excellency Sir James Brooke, K.C.B, be requested to favour the Committee by making his valuable services and influence available to them for obtaining specimens of Bornean products and manufactures, provided he has not received instructions from the Home Government to make collections for them."

In June, the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Austin, stopped the P. & O. Mail, as is related in the following extract from the *Free Press* :—"The inhabitants of Singapore on Monday forenoon were surprised at the report of heavy guns, immediately after the departure of the *Pekin*, which was soon ascertained from those cognizant of naval forms to be a "recall," or order for the detention of the *Pekin*, which vessel had made a few revolutions when the signal was made from the steam-sloop *Fury*, on board which ship the Naval Commander-in-Chief's flag is at present flying. These sounds, however, were imagined by those on board the *Pekin* to proceed from some junks saluting prior to their departure, and she held on her way without attending to them. It appears that important public despatches had been left behind, and it was therefore necessary that they should be sent after the *Pekin*. The *Fury* was at this time undergoing some requisite adjustment of her ponderous machinery, and one boiler was under repair, besides other causes of detention, the details of which we are not cognizant of, yet at noon she was ready for the chase, on which she started precisely 3 hours 7 minutes in arrear of the run-away mail. A stern chase is generally denominated a long chase, but in the present instance such proved not to be the fact. The *Pekin* was sighted shortly after 2 o'clock, and the distance between each rapidly decreased. When the *Pekin* was some five miles ahead "blank cartridge" from the bow gun, we hear, was fired, but no notice being taken, it was determined to send a shot in the same direction so as to fall on the starboard quarter, which had the desired effect, and the *Pekin* at last pulled up."

Such an occurrence was not unusual in former days. One Admiral, about 1862, we think it was Admiral Kuper, shot away part of the fore-rigging of a P. & O. steamer in Japan for not heaving to, when signalled to do so. The master of a P. & O. steamer in Singapore in 1867 having made some demur as to waiting a short time to take Admiral Keppel's despatches on board, was effectually prevented from going to sea, if he had intended to do so, by a manned-and-armed cutter being laid alongside the vessel at the New Harbour wharf; the letters, however, were on board before the advertised hour for sailing. Another steamer during the Abyssinian war, in 1867, neglecting to heave to when passing through the old harbour, when H. M. S. *Satellite* signalled to her to do so, had two blank guns fired at her, and then a shot was sent across her bows. The shot was so well in front of her, that it nearly hit the powder magazine, anchored outside the harbour!

The newspaper in September contained the following paragraph :—"A plan has been set agoing for building three bungalows on Bukit Timah by subscription, which has met with the cordial approval and assistance of the authorities. This scheme promises, if carried out, to prove of much benefit to the residents here, by providing the

means of a change of scene and, in a slight degree, of climate also, without the trouble and expense of a sea voyage. The subscription list is being rapidly filled up, and operations will be commenced as soon as practicable. Some six or seven years ago we pointed out the eligibility of Bukit Timah for the purpose to which it is now proposed to apply it, and as the favourable opinion which we then expressed of the spot has undergone no change, we have much pleasure in recommending those who may not have yet subscribed, and who are desirous of having the means of a seasonable change of scene, &c., at their command at a very moderate expense, to lose no time in putting down their names." The proposal was not carried out, and the Government bungalow was built on the top of the hill many years afterwards.

The following shews how the Secret Societies carried on their proceedings in those days:—

"A case which exposes to view the criminal and pernicious tendency of the system of the *hoés* was brought before the Criminal Session last Saturday, and Tan Ah Tow, one of the headmen and judges at the *Kongsi* house at Rochore, was put on his trial, charged with misprision of felony and an aggravated assault. It was fully proved by the evidence produced that five Chinamen, the owners of a boat which had been stolen, had succeeded after a search of fourteen days in finding it in the Serangoon river with a number of weapons in it, commonly used by our petty pirates, securing three of the thieves at the same time, whom they were conducting to the Police Office, when they met the prisoner at Gaylang, who ordered them to let go the thieves who were his men, and directed them to appear at the *Kongsi* house on the 9th of June, when he would decide upon the merits of the case. Fear compelled them to act as they were directed. On the appointed day they went all five to the *Kongsi* house, found there only one of the thieves, about thirty other Chinese, and the prisoner in the chair, who directed them to return all the articles found in the boat to the thieves, and to keep the boat, while they were told they would be punished. Not submitting to that decision, the prisoner directed them to be beaten, which was done with fists, stones, and the handles of umbrellas. Found guilty, the Hon'ble the Recorder sentenced him to imprisonment for six months and to a fine of 200 dollars."

"The Court House during that trial was crowded by a number of the leading men of the society, who, at the close of it, manifested great satisfaction at the penalty; some even were heard to say that the penalty being levied by a collection, the same would come to one cent a head, there being 20,000 members of the society in the Island. It ought to be noticed that each person on entering the society pays two dollars entrance fee, has not to pay any monthly contribution, but is bound to pay any sum when called upon by the *Kongsi*. It is of common occurrence to see the *hoé* raising sums of 500, 1,000, and 2,000 dollars in a few days, and it can easily be ascertained, the Police Authorities being acquainted with the fact, that 20,000 dollars were raised in 8 days on account of the disturbances at the burial of the late chief of the society, besides the burial expenses, which amounted to nearly 5,000 dollars."

The firm of Hinnekindt Fréres was established in this year by Eugene and Henri Hinnekindt. In 1854 Mr. L. Cateaux joined, and it was styled Hinnekindt Frères & L. Cateaux.

In the Singapore Directory for this year were the names of the officers of the 51st Regiment Madras Native Infantry, which had arrived in Singapore on the 28th April, 1849. The name of the youngest lieutenant, of whom there were ten, was William Dalrymple Maclagan, who had been stationed at Malacca, where he was still remembered by those alive there only a few years ago, but had just gone home on two years' leave to Europe. His father was a distinguished military officer. The Archbishop was born in Edinburgh in 1826. He left the army, and graduated at St. Peter's College, Cambridge, in 1856, and entered the Church, being first curate at St. Saviour's, Paddington, and in 1875 Vicar of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, then he was Bishop of Lichfield, in 1878, and in 1891 Archbishop of York. He still speaks of his pleasant recollections of the Straits. It is remembered in Malacca that the Archbishop wrote some music which was played there, and it may interest the choir of St. Andrew's Cathedral to know that he is the composer of not less than five of the tunes in Hymns Ancient and Modern, Nos. 280, 318, 445, 454, and 269; and is also the author of the words of four others, Nos. 116, 122, 425, and 428, "The Saints of God! their conflict past" which Sir John Stainer's beautiful tune has helped to make so well known. The Archbishop crowned Queen Alexandra in Westminster Abbey on August 9th, 1902.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

1851.

ON the 1st January, it was advertised that Mr. W. W. Shaw and Mr. Joseph Wise were admitted partners in the firm of Boustead & Co. Mr. Boustead went to England and never returned to Singapore.

In January the Bishop of Calcutta with Archdeacon Pratt visited the Straits and went on to Sarawak to consecrate the Church that had been built there. The Sunday morning when the Bishop preached in the old St. Andrew's Church, there was a regular downpour, and the rain made such a noise on the roof that his voice could not be heard, and complaints were already made about the building, which leaked so short a time after it had been erected. It may be worthy of note as a custom that has long ceased, that the paper said that the Bishop landed "under the accustomed salute due to his rank."

In a short manuscript note made by Mr. Braddell of a despatch by the Court of Directors on 15th January, it says that they had laid down, in concurrence with the Governor General, that the Indian Coasts could not be defended against a European enemy and even in salient points must depend as heretofore, and that hopefully, on the fleet. It was a sufficient object to defend against privateering and petty attacks in the absence of men-of-war; and approved of the suggestion that two Batteries of four heavy guns each (with one if necessary for Back Bay [?], would do for Singapore, and a few heavy guns be substituted for those now in position at Penang and Malacca.

The *Free Press* contained, in January, the following paragraph about the rainfall:—"The continued heavy rains, which fell last Sunday and Monday in torrents, caused the Brass Bassa Canal and the Rochore River to overflow their beds; the mass of water, being met by the rising tide, found no outlet, and reached a height unprecedented in men's memory at this Settlement. At the bridge at the Buffalo Village the water stood, for about three hours, 15 inches higher than at the inundation during last year. Considerable damage was done to public and private property, but the poor inhabitants are of course the greatest sufferers. The seawall along the Esplanade tumbled down into the sea for a length of about 80 feet, and at three other places the wall is in a most precarious state and threatens to tumble down; the whole will have to be rebuilt. A portion of the western wall surrounding the Pauper Hospital has also come to the ground, the foundation having been undermined, and giving way to the current of the water from the Brass Bassa Canal. In High Street the wall surrounding a gentleman's compound was

washed away. The roads are horribly cut up, all the soft parts are washed away, and the bare rocks appearing on the surface make them at some places nearly impassable. Bencoolen Street and Middle Road are in a sad predicament from these causes, a great number of native houses are destroyed, rice and vegetables were found on the public roads, having been washed and deposited there by the water of the currents. Large pieces of timber, cocoa-nuts, dead pigs, &c., were floating in our streets, and a number of policemen and convicts had enough to do next morning to remove all the obstacles which obstructed the thoroughfares."

On Monday, the 20th January, Mr. Thomas Dunman received his final appointment as Superintendent of Police for Singapore, which the paper remarked was a very tardy act of justice, which had been repeatedly demanded by the majority of the community. There were four European Constables in the Police Force at that time, namely, McDonald, with a monthly salary of $55; Shea, $50; Hale, $45; and Berthier, $40; which were considered by the Municipal Committee to be liberal salaries. A Mr. Hammond, of the Bengal Civil Service, was appointed in January to be Assistant Resident and Superintendent of Police and Police Magistrate. He seems to have been a curious example of the administration of injustice, and there were frequent allusions to him and his doings in the newspapers. He was removed after he had carried on his eccentricities for about a year and eventually took orders in the Church in England! The paper, after a lengthy comment upon some of his acts, concluded on one occasion as follows:—

"Now all this is very improper, not to say dangerous. Freaks and eccentricities which, exercised on another stage, would only be simply amusing, assume a very different aspect when perpetrated on the magisterial bench, and when the consequence is the illegal restraint of persons. The administration of justice is brought into contempt, and the public is the sufferer from the incompetence or folly of the Magistrate. It is high time that the Government should take the matter into its most earnest consideration. The interests of the community are involved in a most serious manner. All charges of crime and misdemeanour must come before the Magistrate in the first instance, and with him rests the duty of preparing cases for trial in the higher Court. No excellence in this higher Court will insure an efficient administration of justice, if the person with whom rests the preliminary arrangement and preparation of the evidence is ignorant of his duty or neglects it. The sitting Magistrate is, besides, invested with extensive summary jurisdiction, and for the proper exercise of it requires a sound judgment, competent knowledge of the law of evidence, and an acquaintance with the character of the population.

"Few, if any, of the persons who have filled the Magisterial office for some years past, have been at all qualified for the situation. They have been utterly wanting in the requisite knowledge, training and experience. They have been appointed beeause the office, or its emoluments, was convenient to them, not because they were suited for the office. Military officers, innocent of any knowledge of law, have been promoted to the bench, as if, from sitting in the seat of their

predecessor, they could by some mesmeric process be imbued with the requisite skill for discharging their duties. Young Bengal civilians have been turned loose upon the community, to work their will and play such antics as they chose, and wild work some of them have made of it. It is time this haphazard mode of filling the Magisterial chair should cease. The interests of the community are too much jeopardised by it, and experience has shewn its utter unfitness and danger."

The following amusing example of one of his proceedings was sent to the *Free Press* by one of the parties aggrieved:—" On Wednesday, a Chinaman was observed by two of Mr. Bernard's servants running out of the front entrance of Mr. Bernard's house. They immediately pursued him and caught him at the compound gate. The thief was given in charge to a peon, and taken to the Thannah at Buffalo Village The following day, 1st instant, Mr. Bernard attended the Police Office with the two servants who had apprehended the man. Mr. Hammond, the Sitting Magistrate, was on the Bench alone. The case was entered into, and the following were the facts sworn to:—The two servants deposed that they saw the prisoner running out from the front staircase of Mr. Bernard's house; that they caught him at the gate, and that they never lost sight of him. The peon deposed that the prisoner was the man given into his charge, that he was taken to the Buffalo Village Thannah, and on searching him there, a silver watch was found secreted in his baju. The silver watch was produced, was sworn to as being the one found on the prisoner, and identified by Mr. Bernard as belonging to him. Of course, it might naturally be concluded, that after such evidence, the Magistrate could have done nothing else than commit the prisoner for trial at next sessions; more especially as Mr. Hammond had been made acquainted with the fact of the prisoner being a notorious thief, and that he still bore the marks of his last whipping all over his back. Still more than this, the prisoner had not a word to say for himself, not even a question to put to any of the witnesses. Mr. Hammond, however, in the excess of his Magisterial acuteness had discovered a mare's nest; was pleased to say that there were great discrepancies in the evidence and therefore would discharge the prisoner, who accordingly was discharged! You may well conceive the astonishment of the whole court at the above decision, worthy indeed of a Squire Western, but most certainly unexpected in a Magistrate of the H. E. I. Company. Surprised as all those in court were, certainly the most astonished person was the prisoner, who required to be told a second time, before he would believe that he was discharged; then, not waiting to receive the congratulations of his friends, he immediately disappeared, and made himself so scarce that when a peon was sent to observe which way he went, the innocent and injured man was nowhere to be seen. As a climax to the absurdity of the proceedings, Mr. Hammond returned the property to Mr. Bernard! How he could reconcile that with the discharge of the prisoner, I leave wiser heads than mine to determine. Mr. Bernard, I am told, on leaving the Police Office waited on Mr. Church, the Resident Coun-

cillor, related to him the circumstance, and received a promise that he would enquire into the case and do whatever was in his power to remedy it. Now, when a man holding such a responsible position, commits an injury to the community by acting in the manner described, it becomes a public duty to expose him, and to teach him that his being clad with a "little brief authority" does not license him to act in such a way. Since the foregoing was written, the Chinaman has again been apprehended by virtue of a warrant, and on Tuesday last was brought before the Sitting Magistrate when he was committed for trial at next sessions, on the very same evidence that at his first examination had been deemed insufficient."

On the 7th February, by the P. & O. Mail s.s. *Pekin*, Sir James Brooke, K.C.B., returned to Europe, and among the passengers was Mr. W. W. Ker who had been (the *Free Press* said) a resident in Singapore for twenty-two years, and finally retired with a handsome competency and the best wishes of his numerous friends.

There was an epidemic of cholera in Singapore and the neighbouring Dutch ports at this time, which lasted for three or four months; the deaths in Singapore from this cause were supposed to approximate two or three hundred, almost all confined to Malays and Chinese. No records were kept in those days of any burials, so it was almost purely conjectural.

The Grand Jury, in their presentment in February (C. Carnie, Foreman), made the following complaint:—"The Grand Jurors again present those injurious Chinese Secret Societies. They do not deem it necessary to dwell at length upon the pernicious influence of these bodies, the cases that have been brought before the Court this Session, the depositions taken before the Grand Jury which are now handed to your Lordship, the well-known dread Chinese of all classes entertain of the power of these Societies, the illegal acts that have been lately perpetrated all over the island by these people, numerous *bangsals* belonging to Chinese Christians having been destroyed, exhibiting a most dangerous combination against public security and peace; and the more recent outrageous attack upon the police in the vicinity of Bukit Timah, must place this important subject in so strong a light before you, that in recommending that the most stringent means should be adopted to put a stop to such a nefarious system for once and for ever, the Grand Jurors feel confident that they but re-echo the sentiments of your Lordship and propose that which you have already determined to carry out."

The interior of the island had been in a most disturbed state, owing to an active persecution having broken out against the Chinese converts to the Roman Catholic Church, who were scattered over the island as planters, and whose numbers were steadily increasing. A very slight pretence was laid hold of for putting in practice a general sacking and pillaging of the plantations belonging to the Christian Chinese and for carrying off individuals and holding them to ransom in large sums. These proceedings were generally ascribed to the influence, more or less openly exerted, of the Tan Tae Hoè, and probably of the other Secret Societies, from whose ranks the

Christian converts were withdrawn, and whose power and influence were of course diminished in proportion to the success of the Roman Catholic Missionaries. Besides withdrawing members from these Secret Societies, the conversion of the Chinese in the interior had the effect of placing everywhere throughout the island, men who were subject to influences adverse to the interests of the Societies, who were thus deprived of that complete immunity from surveillance which constituted one of the sources of their power. With these Chinese converts disseminated throughout the island, the Hoès could no longer hold their meetings, or execute sentence on refractory or defaulting members with the same security which they had enjoyed when there was no check upon their proceedings. This led to a general attack upon the Christian Chinese thoughout the island.

The paper contained the following accounts, among many others, of the proceedings of the Societies:—"Everywhere, at Serangoon, Bukit Timah, Bookoh Khan, Lauw Choo-khan, Nam Tokang, Chan Chwee-kang, even at Kranji, Propo, and Benoi, the *bangsals* and plantations of the Christians have been attacked by sets of 20 to 50 men, who rob all the property and destroy what they cannot carry away. The Christians came to town from all parts of the country as to a place of refuge, and people yesterday in flourishing circumstances are to-day reduced to the greatest misery. No less than twenty-seven plantations have been attacked within the last week; and the list of planters ruined last Sunday, proves there exists a conspiracy throughout the whole island, following the directions of one set of headmen.

"The authorities, although only at the eleventh hour, after the devastation of so many plantations and the ruin of hundreds of industrious and quiet people, have taken some measures, which, it is hoped, will keep the robbers in check; the police force at Bukit Timah has been reinforced with ten policemen, twelve men taken from the crew of the gunboat are directed to patrol the country in every direction under the guidance of the youngest constable. The gun-boat is stationed in the Old Straits to intercept all property which the criminals might try to transport to the coast of Johore, and a reward of $25 for the apprehension of every robber has been promised by the authorities. I must however notice, that the Revd. Mr. Issaly who had gone to Sungei Benoi to attend a sick Christian woman, the wife of a Christian planter, being informed that a band of heathen Chinese intended to attack him, took refuge in the jungle, where he remained for 24 hours, and finally escaped on reaching the coast, where he met a boatman who, for the exorbitant sum of $8, carried him to town. It has been ascertained that during Mr. Issaly's concealment the plantation was attacked and robbed of all that was on it.

"The force of police and crew of the gunboat *Charlotte* under Mr. Henry Kraal [afterwards in 1886, one of the Bailiffs of the Supreme Court] went to execute half a dozen warrants issued on the application of as many Christian planters, who had been robbed of all their property. After securing some prisoners and stolen goods in the village at Sungei Kranji, *alias* Bookoo Khan, they.

were returning to their station with the prisoners and goods, when at a short distance from the village, being on the high road, they suddenly heard the Chinese alarm signals sounded with horns, tom-toms, and the firing of crackers; and in less than 5 minutes a crowd of Chinese, armed with swords, lances, forks, knives, headed by 8 or 10 leaders furnished with the well-known rattan shields (if new and well made impenetrable to a musket ball) commenced a most decided attack for the rescue of the prisoners. A few moments afterwards another party of about 50 Chinese, armed in the same way, but also provided with a few matchlocks and muskets barred the highroad. The Constable in the van, and Mr. Kraal in the rear, cautioned the rioters against any violence in the manner prescribed by law; this producing no effect, Mr. Kraal caused a few shots to be fired over the heads of the men approaching from the rear, which, however, produced no other result than to encourage them to advance faster. The Constable in the van, having to contend with a smaller force, picked out four men, and made a rush against the people who fronted him, and dispersed them, and they ran right and left into the jungle. They joined however, the party attacking the rear and came with a rush against the police, firing a few shots.

"A volley was then fired amongst them, which caused them to advance with more caution, and allowed the officers to continue their route; but repeated attacks, which required continual repulses, caused the march to be very slow. The rioters were most determined, and the firing lasted during an advance of more than two miles. Finally the death of three of their leaders, who fell at a distance of about 20 feet from the police force, stopped them, and the officers were able to reach their station with their prisoners and the goods. All the ammunition except a few cartridges had been expended. It has since been ascertained that five of the attacking Chinese were killed and a great number wounded.

"The authorities on being informed of these facts sent the gunner of the steamer "*Hoogly*" with twelve men of its crew to reinforce the police, and the crew of the gunboat and thirty convicts were directed to join this force, but by some misunderstanding only seven of the last reached the station in the early morning of Sunday. The force consisting now of 38 men, of whom 28 were armed with muskets, it was resolved to make a round to the sea to look after the gunboat, which was left with only 7 or 8 men in the Old Straits, to exchange some of the men and to take provisions and ammunition. The detachment, leaving a small reserve at the station, traversed in silence the distance of 7 miles during the night, and arrived a little after sunrise at the Old Straits, without meeting anything; but returning home, and approaching the village, the road was again found barred by a numerous band of Chinese, while the signals of alarm were again heard. Necessity again compelled the police to fire into these dupes of the Hoé, after all peaceful means to disperse them had been unsuccessful. They rushed on and were rewarded by the death of two of their number, and the wounding of some others, which caused them to disperse after carrying away their dead and wounded.

"On Monday evening the full complement of the convicts having come up, a detachment of fifty Sepoys headed by a European Officer, Lieutenant Wilson, also arrived. On Tuesday the police force, reinforced by Constable Hale and some peons, and followed by the military, departed to execute twenty-two warrants issued at the instance of the Catholic owners of as many plantations which had been pillaged. The force arrived at 4 o'clock in the morning at Kranji Village, without having been observed. Halting there for a few minutes, the light of a dammar carried by one of three armed Chinese was seen to descend a hill. The greatest silence was preserved until they were at a few yards distance, but still on the steep declivity of the hill; there they discovered the force, threw their light away and disappeared. At the same moment a shot was fired by a concealed rioter, and the noise and cries of a multitude of people from every direction, saluted the discovery of the police party, which succeeded in surprising a great number of "bangsals," in some of which robbers were identified and some stolen property recovered. It being however now about ten o'clock a.m., and alarm being everywhere given, the force returned by two different paths; the Sepoys took a short one to reach the high road, while the police returned by a circuitous route, in order to surprise and disperse the Chinese concealed amongst the bushes and jungle opposite the village of Kranji on the east side of the road. The Sepoys arriving first on the spot, halted, and were saluted by the customary Chinese alarm signals. The police coming a little later from the east, a number of about two hundred Chinese were surprised and dispersed without a shot being fired, decamping like hares chased by hounds. Here the Sepoys departed, there being no more than two *bangsals*, situated at the other side of the river and village, to inspect. Leaving a guard for the prisoners, Constable Hale, Mr. Kraal, and the special constable passed the village, which was for the greatest part deserted, but passing the bridge a great number of Chinese appeared on the different hills in a threatening manner, and two shots were fired by them at the party, by whom a volley was fired in return, and a chase commenced, to secure some of them and the white flag carried by them. Four men were shot by the volley, amongst whom was an old man, the guardian of the Chinese brick temple, who certainly had no lawful business in the centre of a crowd of such vagabonds, whose number is differently given up by the European officers, according to the different sections of the hills on which they were acting; for Mr. Kraal calculated the number to whom he was opposed, to amount to about fifty, while Constable Hale could discern on his side about eighty or ninety, and the special from his position, about one hundred and twenty or one hundred and fifty.

"A Christian planter named Tan Ah Choon, who had been informed that his plantation was to be attacked and robbed, took all the money he could collect, amounting to more than $80, and two piculs white pepper, and departed for the town with two or three coolies, but was stopped near Amokiah by some Chinese, who seized and carried him into the jungle with the decided intention to mur-

der him after having robbed him. The coolies escaped and reported the fact; on which Mr. Dunman with a small number of peons went himself in search. On the road a man informed him that Tan Ah Choon had been carried to Loh Siah's plantation. The chase was continued, some *bangsals* were passed, where Chinese were gambling to their heart's content; and Mr. Dunman finally succeeded in delivering Tan Ah Choon, who was in the custody of three of his captors in Loh Siah's premises, who himself was secured. The other criminals escaped, having been informed by the calls and cries of the nearest neighbours of the approach of the Police. Here is a most visible proof of the effects of the power of the Hoé. A man is kidnapped, carried through some crowds of Chinese, without any person interfering to prevent the crime, and these same men save the criminals by their calls and signals. Tan Ah Choon's plantation has since been robbed of nearly all its contents."

In April, a subscription was made for the purpose of making a steel engraving of the painted likeness of the late Mr. A. L. Johnston, of which there are now copies in the Library, and in several of the mercantile offices.

On the 22nd April, a meeting was held to establish a Sailors' Home, and a Committee appointed composed of Mr. James Guthrie, Captain J. S. Sparkes of the P. & O. Company, Mr. John Harvey, and Mr. W. H. Read as Honorary Secretary. It was proposed that a fancy dress ball should be given in aid of the funds, and it took place on the 15th May in the Assembly Rooms, single tickets were $5, and family tickets $7.50.

A new flag-staff was put up on Mount Faber in May, and within a month it was struck by lightning and destroyed; it happened before daybreak, before the signal-men had come to work. The mast was split into pieces and fragments of it were thrown to a considerable distance.

On the 17th April, Mr. H. C. Rautenberg, the senior of the two partners in Rautenberg, Schmidt & Co., and Mr. Hurtlaub, the junior assistant employed in Behn, Meyer & Co.'s, left Singapore with two other gentlemen for Rhio in a boat belonging to the Tumongong. They met with a strong current and a high sea in the Straits, and a squall caused the boat to heel over and take in so much water that she sank about two miles from the shore. One of the gentlemen clung to the mast of the boat and another kept himself afloat by means of a cushion and a mat, and were picked up by a fishing boat after being several hours in the sea. Mr. Rautenberg and Mr. Hurtlaub were drowned. The whole of the Malay crew and a Chinese servant got safely to shore. Mr. Frederick George Schmidt remained the sole partner in the firm until 1858, when Gustav Cramer and Adolph Emil Schmidt became partners.

In one week at that time several tigers were shot by natives in the jungle, and Dr. d'Almeida gave a reward of $50 in addition to the same amount given by Government. It was stated on good authority that in the Serangoon district alone more than thirty persons had been killed by tigers within a few weeks. The following account of deaths by tigers in the same month is taken from the *Free Press*:—"While

some Malays were collecting rattans and cutting wood in a piece of jungle near Mr. Dunman's plantation at Serangoon, they were alarmed by hearing a tiger making his approach through the underwood. They immediately commenced a retreat, but had not cleared the jungle when the tiger came up with them and singling out the fattest man in the party sprang upon him. It had dragged the body some distance ere the man's companions recovered from the fright into which they had been thrown, and pursued him with their *parangs*, on which the tiger dropped the body and retreated. The poor man was found in the agonies of death with his throat and face severely lacerated. The body was brought away, but the tiger, it would appear, was determined to have his meal, for the same night he carried off a Chinaman at a short distance from the scene of his morning's exploit. The Chinaman's friends on making a search found the body, with one of the legs wanting. The tiger is described as being of a large size and remarkable for having large white spots, from which it is conjectured that he is well advanced in years." The same animal killed another man in the next week.

The Rev. H. Moule, who was Chaplain longer than most of those who were sent from Calcutta to Singapore, died on 3rd June, 1886, at 81 years of age. He had left Singapore in 1851. He was Secretary to the Raffles Institution and was famous for good speeches at wedding breakfasts. He enjoyed his pension for many years and was Rector of Road cum Woolverton at the time of his death. He was a good judge of a horse, and it was said that as he would not go to the Races (as it was wrong) he stole a quiet look behind a bush when opportunity offered. He was afterwards the originator of the earth closet system which was known by his name, and which was extremely remunerative.

The Municipal Committee, as it was called, consisted in that year of Mr. Thos. Church, the Resident Councillor, Captain Henry Man, the Superintendent of Convicts and Commissioner of the Court of Requests, Mr. Mickie Forbes Davidson of A. L. Johnston & Co., and Mr. T. A. Behn of Behn, Meyer & Co. The following are parts of the Minutes in June :—

"It having been brought to the notice of the Committee that syces and others are in the habit of exercising horses on the reserved Plain [the Esplanade] to the serious inconvenience and danger of pedestrians, resolved, that a sum equal to a moiety of the cost of a chain sufficient to enclose the Plain be authorised, provided the Government will undertake to defray the other half, and that in the meantime measures be adopted to put an end to the dangerous practice alluded to."

"A letter dated the 19th June from Syed Ali Al Junied was read, stating that he had viewed with concern the great inconvenience to the public generally, and the suffering of the poorer classes in particular, from the want of an adequate supply of good and wholesome water during the dry months, and expressing a wish to be allowed to sink and construct at his exclusive expense, four capacious wells for the use of the community.

"The Committee deemed it right to record the high gratification they experienced at this mark of spontaneous liberality and benevo-

lence on the part of Syed Ali Al Junied, which will be the means of conferring a boon on the inhabitants of the town and insure (with the other wells) an ample supply of good water thoroughout the year. It was therefore resolved that Syed Ali's offer be accepted and a letter of thanks embracing the foregoing remarks written to that gentleman. It was also resolved that a transcript of Syed Ali's letter to the Committee be sent to his Honour the Governor, and that the local authorities be requested to allow the services of the Government Surveyor, in communication with Syed Ali Al Junied, to be made available in the selection of the most eligible sites for the wells."

One of these wells was that in Selegie Road near the Dhobie Green, one at Campong Malacca, one at Campong Pungulu Kessang, and one at Teluk Ayer.

The Court at this time was held in the building now attached to the Government Printing Office. The paper alluded to the arrangements as follows :—" Some time ago it was found that the existing accommodation for the Court of Judicature at Singapore was too limited, and it was therefore resolved to add several rooms to the existing Court-room, for the use of the Recorder, the Registrar and his establishment, &c. The present Court House is a badly ventilated room, built on to one end of the Government Public Offices, and bounded close on the other side by a private house and a ship-builder's yard. This inconvenient site was originally chosen, it is presumed, for the accommodation of the executive Officers of Government, who also generally officiated as Judges, and who having turned the proper Court House into public offices, probably still wished to have the Court-room under the same roof, that they might pass from their own offices to the Bench without having to quit the building. The Registrar's establishment was in some of the rooms belonging to the public offices, and thus had the appearance of being a mere department of the local Government, a circumstance which has led to considerable confusion of ideas in the minds of both Europeans and natives, not unattended with objectionable results. Of late it has been found very inconvenient that there should be no separate accommodation for the Recorder, the Registrar and his Establishment, Juries, &c., and plans were therefore prepared for additional buildings estimated to cost some Rs7,000. These it was proposed to erect in rear of the present Court-room, and although the many disadvantages of the site were pointed out, and it was urged that for a very trifling addition to the estimate, a handsome suite of buildings might be erected for the use of the judicial establishment, altogether detached from the Government Office, the original design has been adhered to. The result bids fair to bear out the strong objections which were made, the new rooms being ill-ventilated and dungeon-like receptacles, which would be more suitable for condemned cells, than apartments for the Recorder and the Officers of the Court."

A public meeting was held on the 22nd September to consider a proposal of the Government at Bengal to introduce a stamp tax in lieu of the *Siri* Farm which the Government proposed to abolish. Mr. John Purvis was in the chair, and some lengthy resolutions were passed, to the effect that the Settlements paid their own expenses, if the cost of the convicts

and the troops was borne, as it was said it should be, by the Indian revenue. The following were three of the resolutions carried at the meeting, which was very largely attended :—

"Proposed by Lewis Fraser, seconded by C. H. Harrison, and carried unanimously :—

3rd.—That Singapore was established, and is kept up, for the chief purpose of affording an outlet to the manufactures and productions of Great Britain and India, and is now yearly acquiring increased value to these countries as a naval and steam station.

Proposed by Gilbert McMicking, and seconded by Hoot Seng :—

5th.—That although a stamp tax may be a proper source of revenue in other places, this meeting considers that in Singapore it would prove burdensome and vexatious, especially to the commerce of the port, because the trade, unlike that in England or India, where goods are generally sold for cash, is here wholly carried on by a system of credit. That from the habits and customs of the native traders, who resort here in large numbers, the tax would prove especially obnoxious to this class, and would tend much to shake their confidence in that freedom from all imposts affecting trade, which they have hitherto been accustomed to meet with at Singapore, and this meeting therefore earnestly deprecates the imposition of a tax which would have such an injurious effect.

Proposed by William Paterson, seconded by Joaquim d'Almeida, and carried unanimously :—

6th.—That excluding the charges for Military and Convicts, there has been for many years past an annual surplus of revenue at Singapore (amounting according to the Government returns for 1850-51 to ₨195,000) and therefore any additional tax in lieu of the ₨25,000 at present derived from the *Siri* farm is quite uncalled for."

On the night of Monday the 21st July, the P. & O. Steamer *Erin* from Calcutta ran into the same Company's steamer *Pacha*, which had left Singapore the afternoon before, off Mount Formosa. The *Pacha* went down in a few minutes. The *Free Press* alluded to the circumstances as follows :—

"The *Pacha's* masts immediately fell over the side and she went down within less than seven minutes after the accident, in about 25 fathoms of water. The whole of the passengers, officers and crew were saved, except two cabin passengers (Dr. Briscoe and Mr. Hendowin) two Chinese deck passengers, the 3rd officer, the Clerk in Charge, and ten of the European crew, who were all drowned The *Erin* sustained considerable damage, and the water rushed in at her bows, but being built with watertight compartments, it was found that only two filled, and as the pumps were got to work with the engines, it was found that the water could be kept sufficiently under to enable her to reach Singapore. A considerable part of the goods in the *Erin* is of course damaged by salt water and the whole are being landed. She has upwards of 1,000 chests of opium for China, much of which is damaged. The extent of the injury to the *Erin* has not yet been accurately ascertained, but it will require some days before she can be sufficiently repaired to enable her to prosecute her voyage. The *Pacha* had on board upwards of $400,000 of specie shipped in China, and $30,000 shipped in Singapore, and very little of the latter, which belonged chiefly to natives, was insured. Considering the immense

amount of property in the *Pacha*, and the possibility of Malay divers and others endeavouring to remove it clandestinely, we are surprised that a vessel of war has not ere this been despatched to the spot. There were two steamers lying in the harbour yesterday, one of which surely might have been spared. The *Leitnitz* and the *Faize Allum* which arrived here to-day, picked up a quantity of China silk, piece goods, clothes, &c., near the scene of the wreck."

The damaged opium was sold in Singapore at auction at prices very far below its usual value, averaging about $315 a chest, and the purchasers here, of whom Thomas O. Crane & Co., were the largest, realised about a hundred per cent. on the speculation when it was sent on for sale in China, after having been opened and dried in Singapore. This led to much dispute and litigation, the Insurance offices refusing to pay. The *Erin* was repaired and sailed for China on the 9th August. The Calcutta and Bombay papers contained numerous proposals to form companies to raise the vessel, which was in 25 fathoms of water, for the large amount of treasure.

In 1853, Mr. Lovi, a practical engineer of much talent in cases of sunken vessels, and who had often been engaged by the British Government in cases of great difficulty, came out from England with the sanction of the underwriters, to try to recover the treasure, and entered into an engagement to raise it. He was unsuccessful for a long time. It is said that after searching for six months for the *Pacha*, he first ascertained her position from a peculiar quiver of his compasses as he passed over the ship. He fixed a buoy to it, and returned to Singapore for his diving gear and assistance. When he got back, the buoy had been stolen, and, as he had not taken the bearings, he dragged for four months more before he found the place again. The vessel was standing upright in the sand, which was nearly up to her bulwarks. A number of skeletons were on the stairs and the landing below, as if the passengers had been crowded together in trying to ascend. Mr. Lovi began to recover the treasure, but in April, 1856, while in an open boat going to his schooner the *Wizard* at anchor near the wreck, he had a stroke of the sun, and was forced to return to Singapore in an open boat, which took four days. He arrived on a Sunday, and died in Singapore on the following Saturday night, of congestion of the brain, while those whom he had left working on the spot were getting up the treasure. The dollars were sent to the Mint at Calcutta. The silver had become as black as ebony, and each roll was as firmly fixed as if it had been a bar, and not separate coins. Treasure and bullion to the extent of between sixty and seventy thousand pounds were recovered.

Mr. Thomas Scott, of Guthrie & Co., (who must not be confused with a former merchant of Singapore of the same name, mentioned in this book, who died at Calcutta at the age of 34 years on 7th July, 1848,) arrived in Singapore for the first time on 7th July, in the British Barque *Coaxer*, 316 tons, which had sailed from Liverpool on 16th February. He is the only passenger mentioned in the *Free Press* list of arrivals by that vessel. On the next day he went to Malacca with his uncle in a schooner, for a trip, and after being for a few months in another business, he joined Guthrie & Co., as a clerk, and became a partner in that firm in

1857. He died in Scotland on 28th June, 1902, having been a partner in the firm for forty-five years. In 1876 he founded the branch firm of Scott & Co., London. He was one of the promoters and afterwards largely concerned in the affairs of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company. He was one of the first unofficial members of the Legislative Council, when it was established in April, 1867, and he was Chairman of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for many years. His portrait given by Chinese subscribers is in the Town Hall. Mr. Scott married the elder daughter of Major McNair, who survived him, and he left one son and one daughter.

In September, the barque *Fawn* of Calcutta arrived here from China, on her first voyage, being quite a new ship. She had been aground and was hove down at Sandy Point for repairs. A great part of her crew of Bengal lascars quitted the ship and refused to proceed in her to Calcutta, although they had four months' pay to receive on arrival there. When the vessel was ready to proceed on her voyage it was necessary to get other men, and twenty-nine Singapore Malays were shipped, who were said to be a very superior set of men. The shipping master who procured them cautioned Captain Rogers as to his treatment of this new crew, warning him that Malay and Javanese sailors would not allow themselves to be struck like Indian lascars. The ringleader in the tragedy which afterwards occurred had sailed as tindal with a Captain sailing out of Singapore, who described him as a fine spirited fellow and a good sailor. The *Fawn* sailed on the 28th September, having on board, besides Captain Rogers and his first and second mates, four European passengers, Mrs. Rogers the Captain's wife, Mrs. Bechem and child, and Elphick a horse-keeper.

On the sixth day of the voyage, about four o'clock in the afternoon, the chief mate saw the burra-tindal smoking down the forehatch, and found fault with him for so doing, asking him if he wanted to set the ship on fire. He then kicked him, got him on the deck and punished him with a rope's end in presence of the whole crew, the Captain and his wife being on deck and observing what was going on. About midnight or a little after, the Serang and two Bengal lascars, who were sleeping forward, were aroused by the tindal, who told them that the Captain was killed and thrown overboard. It appeared that the Captain was asleep on the poop, and was killed without resistance. The Serang on being thus roused by the tindal ran into the caboose, one of the lascars on to the flying jibboom, and the other to the foretop. One of these lascars said that at daylight he saw the tindal and about 16 or 18 of the crew round the second mate, whom they were striking with hatchets. He made a most determined stand, but was eventually overpowered and killed. The chief mate and Elphick succeeded in shutting themselves up in one of the cabins where they defended themselves, and it is said that from twenty to twenty-four hours elapsed from the death of Captain Rogers before the chief mate was overpowered. Finding that he had taken refuge in the cabin, the crew made an opening in the deck, through which they poked at him with oars and other implements and wounded him; but at last, probably imagining that he would soon be overpowered, he jumped out of

the port and was drowned. In what manner Elphick met his death the witnesses did not say. Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Bechem and her child, and two or three native women, were then put into one quarter boat, the vessel going through the water at the time. Either through the falls breaking or from the boat being carelessly lowered, it was upset, and all in it, except the native women who laid hold of the falls, were drowned. When Mrs. Bechem was in the water she held up her child, and one of the men that was tried, asserted that he threw her an oar, for doing which he alleged he was beaten by the tindal. Mrs. Rogers sank immediately.

In the evening the tindal went round to each man asking what side he was going to be on, threatening that if he was on the Captain's side, the tindal and his people would kill him. In consequence of this, apparent unanimity was secured. The ship was scuttled on both sides and set on fire, and finally run on shore at Bruas, about forty-five miles south of Penang. She grounded in 1½ fathoms and about 200 fathoms from the beach. At this time a vessel was in sight going down the Straits, which was afterwards known to be the *Rajah*, of Liverpool, which vessel saw the *Fawn* run ashore and set on fire, but, strange to say, the Captain did not try to render any assistance, saying in Singapore that he did not think there was anything wrong with the vessel. If he had stopped, the unfortunate females, who were brutally treated by the crew before they were drowned, might have been saved. About nineteen of the crew, including the tindal, went on shore, and fourteen took to the long boat, in which they reached Singapore, on the 10th October. They anchored at Passir Panjang, and two of the Bengal lascars, finding the rest asleep, got out of the boat and came on shore. A Malay on board seeing them leaving, also joined them, and all three came into the town, where the Malay left the lascars, who then went to the Resident Councillor and reported what had occurred. The remaining men proceeded to Sandy Point where they landed, letting the boat go adrift. The Chinese carpenter gave himself up to the Police, and two Cochin Chinese, who had turned Mahomedans, and three Javanese, were captured. Rewards were offered for the apprehension of those still at liberty, and a most vigorous search was made for them.

Those of the crew who went to Bruas were captured and taken to Penang, and seven of the Bengal lascars and two women gave themselves up to the Police there. The H. C. steamer *Hooghly* with the gun-boat in tow, proceeded to Bruas, and succeeded in capturing the persons remaining there, amongst whom were the ringleaders. The vessel was found to have been completely destroyed and sunk, with only her stem and stern-post visible. Sixteen of the crew were tried in Penang before Sir Wm. Jeffcott, the trial lasting two days, and the Court sitting till 8-30 and 9 o'clock at night. Four of the prisoners, the worst of the men, were hanged, and the rest were sentenced to transportation for life. It is worthy of remark that the whole attack was confined to Malay and Javanese sailors; the Indian lascars took no part in it; and it was frequently remarked at the time, that while lascar seamen will not face a danger or difficulty, but rely more on prayers than any exertions during a storm, the Malays

act well in any such circumstances, but will resent any blows which the lascars will quietly submit to. In the case of the *Fawn*, it unfortunately happened that the ill-fated officers had been accustomed to Bengal lascars, and probably had a very imperfect idea of the danger to which they subjected themselves by continuing towards their Malay crew a treatment which the Bengalees endured without retaliation.

This is the case which is the subject of a chapter headed "An English ship taken by Malays" at page 293 in Mr. J. T. Thomson's "Life in the Far East," but the name of the ship was not given.

The following Proclamation was issued in Singapore on 6th September. The three settlements were placed directly under the Supreme Government of India instead of under the Presidency of Bengal, constituting, practically, a separate presidency like Madras, Bombay and Bengal:—

Fort William, Home Department, the 1st August, 1851.

PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the Hon'ble the Court of Directors of the East India Company have by Virtue of the power vested in them by Sec. 21 of the Act 6 Geo IV. cap 85, been pleased to declare that the settlements of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca shall cease to be subordinate to the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, and have invested the Governor of the said Settlements with the powers heretofore exercised therein by the Government of the Presidency of Bengal, subject to the control of the Government of India, it is hereby notified for general information that from and after the first day of September next ensuing, the Governor of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca will exercise those powers of local administration in regard to those settlements which have hitherto been exercised by the Government of Bengal.

The *Free Press* in November contained the following paragraph:— "During the past week the police have been informed of three men having been killed by tigers. It is estimated that at least one man is taken daily by tigers in this small island. The Government some years ago reduced the reward for killing these animals from $100 to $50, because they seemed to be then pretty well extirpated; but although they have again increased to an alarming and destructive extent the Government reward still remains at the minimum. Experience has shown that the reward of $50 for each tiger killed is not sufficient to tempt natives to devote themselves to tiger hunting in Singapore. Government ought therefore to try whether a higher reward will not lead to this. If it appeared that rewards of $150 or $200 had induced a number of natives to take up the trouble of rendering themselves expert in slaying tigers, the amount might then be reduced, and it would probably be found that 50 or 100 dollars was a sufficient inducement to the hunters to continue their search for tigers. At present the loss of life caused by these ferocious animals is really shocking, and we must say that it is a disgrace to a civilized Government that more urgent measures are not adopted to put a stop to it. We are aware that Government has caused traps to be constructed, but this is not sufficient, they must by the offer of a high reward induce more active means to be taken for ridding our jungles of tigers."

In November, Colonel Butterworth, after being eight years Governor of the Straits, went to Australia for the benefit of his health. A number of addresses were presented to him at the Government House where Fort Canning is now, from the Chamber of Commerce, the Consuls, Chinese merchants and others. In replying to that from the Chamber of Commerce, the Governor said that he owed his warmest acknowledgments to the Chamber for the terms in which his administration of the Government had been noticed by it, and that it had proved a great satisfaction to him to have such a body as the Chamber of Commerce to refer to in matters connected with the trade of the port, the entire freedom of which it had been his earnest endeavour most scrupulously to maintain. And among the passages in his reply to the Chinese was the following:—"I take the advantage of this opportunity to notice the obligation the Chinese community, and the public generally, are under to Seah Eu Chin for his management of the Pauper Hospital, which involved great responsibility, pecuniary and otherwise, prior to the establishment of the present very efficient Committee, one of whose members, my friend Tan Kim Seng, is at the head of this deputation. I commend to the special attention and liberal support of the Chinese community, the aforesaid institution, founded by Tan Tock Seng, whose premature death prevented his endowing it, as he had proposed, with funds sufficient for the maintenance of a given number of its inmates."

The Tumongong of Johore was absent at the time the Governor left, but his sons also presented an address, to which the Governor replied expressing his regret at the absence of the Tumongong, and his acknowledgment of the ready help he had always received from him in the suppression of piracy. Colonel Butterworth left in the British barque *Penelope*, 344 tons, for Adelaide, and returned by the P. & O. steamer viâ Ceylon in November, 1853, having been away for two years. Mr. Blundell, the Resident Councillor of Penang, officiated during Colonel Butterworth's absence, but remained in Penang, Mr. Church, the Resident Councillor, being in charge at Singapore.

The following is an account of the opening of Kim Seng & Co.'s new godowns in Battery Road, which are those that were occupied by Hamilton Gray & Co. for many years, later by Stiven & Co.

"Baba Tan Kim Seng, Justice of the Peace, one of the most wealthy and influential of our Chinese merchants, celebrated the completion of his new godowns in Battery Road, by entertaining the European community and his native friends with a ball and supper. The offices which occupy the upper floor of the godowns, were the scene of the entertainment, the front room overlooking the river being fitted up as a dancing saloon; and so admirably adapted did it prove, that we feel sure many of Kim Seng's fair guests regretted that so spacious and airy an apartment should ever be put to any other use. Dancing commenced soon after 8 o'clock, and was continued with great spirit until midnight, when the company sat down to an elegant supper at which the host presided, who welcomed his guests in a short but expressive speech which elicited thunders of applause from his audience. Kim Seng's health was proposed by

Mr. Thomas Church in appropriate terms and drunk with the greatest enthusiasm by his guests. Dancing was renewed after supper, and kept up until the small hours. So perfect were all the arrangements of this truly elegant entertainment, that it will not easily be forgotten by those who were present. The band, consisting of more than twenty performers, was brought from Malacca expressly for the occasion. Nor were the native friends of the host forgotten, some of the side rooms being laid out with tables of refreshments suited to their varied tastes, but they seemed to be chiefly occupied in gazing on the lively scene that was passing before them. The variety of costumes among the spectators added much to the striking appearance of this truly cosmopolitan assemblage."

In the 5th volume of Logan's Journal, published in this year, there is at page 254 a most curious and amusing description of the Durian fruit, there spelt Duryœn, translated from Linschottens's Voyages.

Mr. Jonas Daniel Vaughan settled down in Singapore and the Straits in this year. He had first passed through Singapore in January, 1842, when he was a midshipman in the East India Company's Steam Frigate *Tenasserim* on her way to China. He was engaged in all the naval actions to the end of the first China War, and the frigate then carried the despatches of Sir Henry Pottinger to the Governor General of India at Calcutta, announcing the peace concluded at Pekin at the end of that year. Mr. Vaughan then served on the Straits station as an officer of the Company's armed steamer the *Phlegethon* from September 1845 to the end of 1846. He was at the capture of the city of Brunei, and the destruction of the forts and strongholds of the Lanun pirates in several rivers on the north-west coast of Borneo, under Captain Rodney Mundy, afterwards Admiral, who mentions Mr. Vaughan in his book. He afterwards became Chief Officer of the Company's war steamer *Nemesis*, the "Fighting *Nemesis*" as she was called.

In 1851, when at Canton, he was offered by Colonial Butterworth, the Governor of Singapore, the appointment of 1st Officer of the *Hooghly*; afterwards he was Superintendent of Police at Penang, and he held it until June 1856. Then he was removed to Singapore as Master Attendant. From 1861 to 1869 he was Magistrate of Police and Assistant Resident Councillor, and in September of that year he retired from the service and practiced as an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court. During his absence on leave in England, he had, in June, 1869, become a barrister of the Middle Temple. For a short time he was acting as one of the Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court at Singapore.

The cause of Colonel Butterworth having sent to offer Mr. Vaughan the post in Penang was greatly to his credit. When passing through Singapore in 1842, he liked the place and set to work to learn Malay, which he afterwards knew very well and could read and write fluently. Colonel Butterworth came across him at Government house, and learned that the young man wished to come to the Straits; and seeing his knowledge of Malay, offered him the appointment, when he had the opportunity to help him.

Mr. Vaughan was a man of considerable ability. He wrote a good deal of useful matter in the newspapers in former days, and occasionally acted as editor for a time when others were absent, and with an unselfish object, for newspapers in those days did not allow of any pecuniary return. He wrote a very long and interesting paper on the Malays of Penang and Province Wellesley in Logan's Journal for 1857, at page 115. He also wrote a work on the manners and customs of the Chinese of the Straits Settlements. He was a good singer and musician, and a capital amateur actor, indeed he had remarkable ability in that direction. One anecdote may be told of this.

In December, 1866, when the community was much smaller than it is now, and the English and Germans mixed together a great deal in social life (though the Germans had their own Club and the English had the Tanglin Club as at present) the Germans had arranged to play a comic travesty of one of the old operas, and some English were to play a farce to fill up the programme in the Town Hall. It was for Tan Tock Seng's hospital. The morning before it was to take place, the Manager of the Chartered Bank, who then joined in Amateur Theatricals, went round to a clerk in the oldest mercantile house in the place, and told him that there had been a hitch about the farce, which the English had promised to play, so the Germans were dropped into a hole. This was to be avoided at any cost. After a hurried talk, the two went off to the Police Court and saw Mr. Vaughan, who said he knew of a farce for four people; two men, a lady, and a servant girl. In those days ladies never appeared on the stage, and it would doubtless surprise those of the present day to see how readily and successfully the female characters were played by young men. Costume and paint go a long way, if they can only remember to take short steps. Mr. Vaughan said he had to play an old London cabman, which it was clear would be very funny in any case. A fourth amateur was found in the Accountant of the Mercantile Bank. Mr. Vaughan sent to the house to ask his wife to send down the little book, and by eight o'clock all had roughly copied their parts. Farces in those days lasted about 25 minutes, just long enough to make people want to laugh more; and were not spun out, as they are now, for two hours or more, on no more material than then sufficed for the half-hour.

There was a rehearsal at Mr. Vaughan's house at 8 p.m., another the next morning early, and again at tiffin time in the Square in the tiffin room in the Bank, and lastly on the stage at 5 p.m.; and it was played with very great success that night. Mr. Vaughan had a very long, large, white beard which he tucked into a buttoned up great coat and put a great woollen comforter round his neck. The husband's dress was only ordinary clothes and false whiskers, and the two female costumes were easily fixed up with the help of two ladies, as amateur theatricals were common in those days. At the rehearsal it was found that there was a difficulty because the lady of the house (Chartered Bank) had to change her dress, and he declared it was impossible to do it in the time

allowed in the dialogue. Mr. Vaughan said he need not hurry because there was some luncheon on the table in the piece, and there could be something real to eat, and he and the servant girl could easily fill up the time. Accordingly they sat down in the absence of the mistress, not far from the footlights, and their gravity was much upset by hearing a remark by Governor Cavenagh, who was sitting in front, that the servant girl would get very drunk on the sherry; for it was well known that the individual in girl's clothes never drank anything but water, and does not to this day. The bottle had been filled up with tea and water to the required colour.

The paper the next day said that the success of the little piece was not alone due to the skill displayed by each actor, but also to the way in which they acted together; that the costumes were particularly good on the female side; and the farce was a great success. It was a case of four rehearsals, and thirty hours notice, and it may be taken as a suggestion that rehearsing for weeks and months, as is done at the present day by amateurs in Singapore, till every one is sick and tired of the whole thing, may be no advantage.

Mr. Vaughan died at sea, when on his way back to Singapore in a small steamer from a trip to the Native States, on 17th October, 1891. He was missed in the morning, and it was supposed that he had been standing during the night at the side of the vessel and had slipped and fallen overboard. He had always taken a great deal of interest in the place and its affairs, and had spared himself no trouble in assisting in public matters, and his unfortunate and sudden death was very much regretted in the place.

There have been several sensational trials in Singapore, but that which caused a greater excitement than any, before or since, was a murder trial in February in this year. The prisoner's name was Hajee Saffer Ally; he was the Malay and Tamil Interpreter in the Police Court, and a man of great importance among his own class and beyond it. Inchi Abdullah wrote, and Mr. Keasberry printed, a book in Malay, containing all the story of the murder, with a very good portrait of Saffer Ally in the dock as a frontispiece, but it is not obtainable now. The facts, which were very curious, and the means of discovery, which were very romantic, were briefly as follows:—In September, 1850, a little Arab (slave) boy of twelve years of age, in Saffer Ally's employ, was found by a policeman in the road shockingly maimed, burned with hot irons, and wounded. He said he had been ill-treated by Saffer Ally and others, and had escaped. The boy was sent to the hospital, and by means (as was said afterwards) of a false uniform and a false letter, the boy was taken away from the hospital, after Saffer Ally and his eldest son, and four others, had been committed for trial. When the Assizes came round in October, the boy was not to be found, and Sir William Jeffcott, the Recorder, who seems to have had a suspicion of foul play, said that it was a most horrible case, and that the utmost endeavours must be made to find the boy; he refused to hear the case in his absence; and the prisoners were committed to goal, in default of finding heavy bail.

Saffer Ally, however, did get bail, and was at large on a certain evening, which fact was proved at the subsequent trial for murder, with some difficulty, as it was Saffer Ally's principal line of defence. However,

it was at last proved beyond a doubt. Mr. Thomas Dunman, the head of the police, found that the boy had been taken in a sampan to Rhio, but brought back again, and then all trace of him was lost. A man who lived in a native house, only separated from the next one by a partition, heard a Kling man in the adjoining house, talking in his sleep, crying out that he had killed a boy. The listener went and gave information, and the Police learnt that the boy was likely to be found somewhere up the Singapore River. For two days the police rowed up and down, and at last observed a bad smell issuing from bubbles in the water which burst on reaching the surface. A peon dived down and eventually the whole body of the boy was found, with the head nearly cut off, the feet tied together, one rope round the neck, and another round the waist, made up into a kind of network, held down by a large stone. Then they found the boat, which Saffer Ally had borrowed (to carry some firewood, as he said) with all the boards blood-stained, close to his house on the river.

Dr. Oxley proved that the body was that of the boy who had been injured; Mr. A. J. Kerr the Registrar of the Court, Mr. R. C. Woods, Mr. Thomas Dunman, and many others, were witnesses at the trial, which was held before Colonel Butterworth, the Governor, Sir W. Jeffcott, the Recorder, and Mr. Church, Resident Councillor, in the building which is now behind the Government Printing Office. Mr. William Graham Kerr, book keeper to Martin Dyce & Co., was foreman of the Jury. The excitement was greater than had ever been known here, and although it rained heavily all day, an enormous crowd was congregated outside the doors all the time of the trial, which commenced at 9 a.m., and finished after nine o'clock at night; the prisoners charged being convicted. One of those concerned in the murder was made Queen's Evidence, and gave a circumstantial account of the murder, which was committed on the night of the great Hindoo festival. They were hung exactly a week after the trial, on the 21st February, 1851, at the (then new) gaol at the Sepoy Lines. Great preparations had been made to give much ceremony to the burial of Saffer Ally, but the Government, on Thomas Dunman's advice, refused to give up his body, and he was buried in the gaol, which grievously disappointed his friends, who deemed the absence of funeral rights as the heaviest punishment that could be inflicted. The body was buried secretly in quicklime in the jail, as it was thought an attempt might be made to remove it, and the knowledge of the spot died with Mr. Ganno, the jailer, many years afterwards.

Thirty-four years afterwards, Saffer Ally's son, named Akbar Ally, followed in his father's steps, as a complete rogue, and was tried in September, 1885, for forgery; and the natives crowded the court inside and outside, as on his father's trial. The case was again a remarkable one, for the prisoner had been for years a clerk in a certain class of lawyers' offices, where such men can do a lot of villainy, as the natives appear to trust them more than their masters. It turned out, as the Chief Justice said, that it was only one of a whole series of frauds, carried on under the cover of his employment, in the most audacious manner. A Kling named Aaron Pillay, Tamil Inspector in the Supreme Court, had died about twelve years before, leaving a widow and three sons. His mother and his widow took out probate of his will. One son was a spendthrift and asked the prisoner to borrow money for him. The prisoner asked him

where the mother kept the title-deeds of his father's property, so the son abstracted them, and a forged conveyance was made by the prisoner, who forged the signatures of both the women. It was found out because the mother had died two years before her signature was forged to the conveyance, but the prisoner had forgotten it! The case lasted till after dark, and the prisoner was convicted and died in the Jail.

CHAPTER XL.

1852.

ON the 26th January a public meeting was held in the Singapore Reading Rooms to consider the necessity of the appointment of a resident local Judge in the Settlement. The reasons for this were explained in the *Free Press* as follows:—"From time to time for many years past, we have pointed out the serious defects existing in the provisions for the administration of justice at this Settlement, and advocated a remedy being applied, by the appointment of a professional Judge for Singapore. The community, we are glad to find, have now become fully alive to the evils of the present system, and on Monday last at a very numerously attended meeting of the inhabitants, called by the Sheriff, the subjoined resolutions on the subject were passed. The large fixed population of Singapore, and her valuable trade, would of themselves warrant the demand for an improved judicial system, but when we consider the very great number of persons who resort here temporarily for purposes of trade, and the large extent to which the interests of merchants at a distance are involved in the commerce of Singapore, the necessity for an efficient and expeditious administration of justice, civil and criminal, becomes the more apparent. We trust that the representations about to be made to the Court of Directors and Board of Control, will meet with early and favourable attention, and that such arrangements will be made as will allow of the appointment of two professional Judges in the Straits, thus putting an end to the present absurd and anomalous system, which in practice leads to such an irregular and imperfect administration of the law.

Proposed by Joaquim d'Almeida, seconded by John Harvey, and carried unanimously:—

That, considering the population of this island is estimated at 80,000 inhabitants, of which 60,000 are residents, and that the trade aggregates upwards of six millions sterling per annum, it is the opinion of this meeting that this Settlement is of sufficient importance to warrant an entire revision of the present arrangements for the administration of justice.

Proposed by Robert Duff, seconded by Charles Spottiswoode, and carried unanimously:—

That whilst they record with pleasure their appreciation of the zealous ability with which the Resident Councillor has hitherto discharged his arduous duties as Judge in Civil cases, this meeting feel that it cannot be expected that either he or his successors can, without detriment to their other important duties, conduct the increasing business of the Court with that satisfaction to the public which they might expect from a professional Judge.

Proposed by Gilbert McMicking, seconded by James H. Adams, and carried unanimously :—

That, though three criminal sessions in a year, as now proposed, may be sufficient to meet the requirements of the resident inhabitants of this Settlement, yet, taking into consideration how often the ends of justice are defeated by the departure of prosecutors, which it is impossible to prevent, it is the opinion of this meeting that the services of a resident Judge are also in that department of Justice imperatively called for.

Proposed by W. H. Read, seconded by R. C. Woods, and carried unanimously :—

That, for the reasons already mentioned, it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting that the appointment of a resident professional Judge for this Settlement is of absolute necessity.

Proposed by Captain Sparkes, seconded by Wm. Paterson, and carried unanimously :—

That a Committee consisting of the Chairman, A. Logan, W. H. Read, and R. C. Woods, be appointed to embody these resolutions in a Memorial to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors and the Board of Control."

Nothing being done, another public meeting was held on 13th April, 1853, and it was decided to send a memorial to the Governor-General urging the immediate appointment of a Resident Professional Judge.

The paper contained the following notice of the death of Captain Elliot in August :—

"It is with much regret that we observe the death of Captain Charles Morgan Elliot, of the Madras Engineers, announced in the Madras papers. Captain Elliot resided for five years at Singapore in charge of the Magnetic Observatory, and subsequently made an extensive voyage through the Archipelago for the purpose of continuing his observations. The results of his labours were afterwards given to the world in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, which learned body testified their high sense of Captain Elliot's scientific character by electing him a Fellow. After residing some time in England, superintending the printing of his observations, Captain Elliot returned to the East for the purpose of continuing his magnetic pursuits and intended in the course of them to re-visit Singapore in 1853, for the purpose of revising his former observations. We are sure Captain Elliot's premature loss will be lamented by a very wide circle of friends, for wherever he went he secured to himself the attachment of those with whom he came in contact by his singularly frank and engaging disposition."

Captain Elliot was a younger brother of Sir Henry Myers Elliot, the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India; who came to Singapore with Lord Dalhousie as mentioned on page 527. Captain Keppel, Mr. W. H. Read, and Captain Elliot were great friends, and in his book "A Sailor's Life Under Four Sovereigns" Admiral Keppel mentions in volume 1, page 290, speaking of 1843, "visited Elliot at the Observatory." This was a building near Captain Elliot's house, which stood near the main road on the side of the Kallang

River, at the corner on the right hand side just before crossing the long iron bridge on the Gaylang Road. Part of the house is still standing, now occupied by the Chinese coolies of a saw mill. The observatory was a commodious shed, containing the usual meteorological instruments, with a tower, some 30 feet high, at a short distance, for observing the direction and velocity of the wind. A rain guage was also kept there, and the newspapers referred to the results of Elliot's observations for many years, as the only scientific records that had been taken. He was in Singapore from about 1841 to 1847, when he went to England and did not return. He was sent to Singapore for the purpose of laying down on the charts the position of Singapore and the surrounding countries by magnetic survey. All the neighbouring charts fifty years ago bore his name, and it is worth notice that he was very accurate, while the Dutch charts have been shown by the latest surveys to have been as much as four miles out at the southern extremity of the island of Lingga. Many years after Captain Elliot's death, an officer in the Royal Engineers, one of the sons of Charles Darwin, the famous naturalist, was sent to Singapore to lay down its position accurately and the telegraph lines were arranged to communicate at a certain moment direct through to Greenwich, which was the first chance of extreme accuracy for ascertaining Greenwich time. It was found that Singapore on the charts had been laid down a little over one mile out of its true position, which was considered remarkable under the difficulties of former days, dependent upon chronometers and observations. In the *Free Press* of 9th May, 1848, is an advertisement by Mr. J. T. Thomson that the house lately occupied by Captain Elliot on the banks of the Kallang River, surrounded by cocoanut trees, was to be let. It was described in the advertisement as most advantageously situated in the most thriving district in Singapore, and possessing excellent communication with the town both by land and water. In the appendix to vol. 3 of Logan's Journal there happens to be a description of the observatory, as Dr. Little and Captain Elliot were at cross purposes about the correctness of some of the thermometrical tables, and the controversy (from page xxxviii) is very amusing. Captain Keppel, when in the *Dido*, used to row up the river in his gig to see Captain Elliot. In volume 3 of Logan's Journal is an account of a voyage in one of the East India Company's steam cruisers in 1846, with Captain Elliot on board, to Borneo and Sarawak, when Captain Mundy took possession of Labuan. One of Sir Henry Elliot's grandsons, and a grand nephew of Captain Elliot, is now practising at the Bar in Singapore.

The Singapore newspaper reprinted this year from the *Madras Times* and other papers some observations on the P. & O. Company's treatment of passengers, including the following remarks of a military officer, who was many years in Singapore :—"I feel, for I know it is true, that the conduct of the P. & O. Company towards their passengers, is one of neglect and indifference. As long as they can obtain the present mail contract, they do not care one farthing about us or our comforts. For a rival company to start in England will be difficult, nay I consider impossible. It therefore must be a hopeless

monopoly, the English Government helping, and we must bide our time. But I am of opinion that it is derogatory to the dignity of human nature to submit to be treated like a bale of cotton or a box of bullion. The passage in the Red Sea was made on the very ancient steamer *Oriental* having boilers completely worn out, at 8½ knots an hour."

In September, there was a large fire in Kampong Glam, of which the paper gave the following account :—" On the evening of Thursday, the 16th instant, a fire broke out in 23, Arab Street, Kampong Jawa, at about 7 o'clock, which speedily spread among the attap and wooden houses in that quarter, rendering all attempts to check it in the outset unavailing. The Sultan's Mosque and a number of houses behind it were in danger at one time. The number of houses burnt amounted to 135, of which 101 were inconsiderable habited by Javanese, 21 by Malays, 8 by Chinese and 5 by Klings. The number of persons burnt out are reckoned at 1,500. A good deal of pillaging took place and several attempts were made to break into houses at a distance from the fire."

During a thunderstorm in the harbour the ship *Wigrams* was struck by lightning, but owing to her being provided with a copper lightning conductor she escaped damage. At the time when this occurred, two large cargo boats, laden with gunpowder, were lying alongside the ship, but fortunately they were not touched by the lightning and were immediately cast off and anchored some distance astern. There were no regulations then as to the storage of gunpowder. The attention of Government was thus directed to the subject. The *tongkangs* with powder on board used to anchor in the river.

On the 6th November, Syed Omar bin Ali Al Junied died at the age of sixty years. He had been in Singapore for 31 years and was one of the most respected of the native merchants. He was a native of Arabia, and carried on a most extensive business and realised a large fortune. He was a nephew of Syed Mahomed bin Haroon al Junied, who came from Palembang in the very early days of Singapore, and built the house in High Street, near where the Eu Chin family house is now, at the side of the river. His old house has been pulled down. He was buried in Syed Omar's cemetery at Victoria Street.

Syed Omar also came from Palembang and when his uncle Syed Mahomed died, he carried on the business, as Syed Allie bin Mahomed Al Junied, the son, was then only nine years old. Syed Omar bought the land at the southwest corner of High Street and North Bridge Road, and the house which he built is still standing. It was this Syed Omar that gave the large Mahomedan burial ground at Victoria Street which is generally known by his name, and he was buried there. He left five sons, but none of them are now alive, three died at Mecca and two at Singapore. There are about ten grandchildren now in Singapore. He also built the mosque at Bencoolen Street. His son Syed Abdulla built the mosque at Kampong Malacca.

Syed Allie bin Mahomed Al Junied lived in the house which was afterwards bought by the Eu Chin family, in High Street and carried on a large business in Singapore. He gave a large piece of land in Victoria and

Arab Streets to Tan Tock Seng's Hospital, and also gave the burial ground called Bukit Wakoff at Grange Road. He made all the wells behind Fort Canning, and at Selegie Road, Pungulu Kisang, and Teluk Ayer. They were very large wells, with granite sides, which the Municipality not long ago filled up and carried the granite away. This was a mistake, as the water near Fort Canning was very good indeed, with no houses near the wells, and in very dry weather it would have been a great help, to say nothing of destroying for no purpose charitable works which cost a good deal of money. The road called Syed Allie Road at Kampong Kapor was called after him. He bought it as a garden for Rs. 400 from Inchi Sidik, a Malacca lady, and he also bought about 70 acres of the adjoining swampy land. He died 44 years old, in Singapore, on 9th December, 1858. His estate was wound up by his son, Syed Allowie, the only survivor of his four sons, and he filled the land up by degrees, and formed Weld Road and Jalan Besar, while the Municipality built the three bridges at Bencoolen Street, Arab Street and Jalan Sultan at his expense. The land is worth now sixty or seventy cents a foot, and shop-houses on it let at $25 to $35 a month. The members of this family of Al Junied subscribed largely to the fund for building the present Town Hall.

Another old Arab family in Singapore is that of the Alkoffs. Syed Mahomed bin Abdulrahman Alkoff traded in Singapore with Java, and bought land and houses in Singapore when they were cheap. He had no sons, and his younger brother Sheik Alkoff came to Singapore, having inherited his estate, and traded. His son Syed Ahamed bin Sheik Alkoff, a man with very large landed property in the place, is in Singapore.

In the very early days of the Settlement an Arab named Abdulrahman Al Sagoff came to Singapore. He had gone from Arabia to Malacca, where he had traded, going in his own vessels to Java. He continued to trade from Singapore, and died at Grisseh, in Java, not far from Soerabaya. His son Ahamed married in Singapore one Raja Sitti, who was the daughter of Hadjee Fatima, a very well known Malay lady in Singapore, who was of a very good family of Malacca, connected with many of the Rajas in the Malay States in the Peninsula. She had married a Bugis Prince from the Celebes, the son of the Raja of those countries. She carried on a large trade, owning many vessels and prows, and it was only after her death that the business came to be called after her son-in-law, Syed Ahamed, being known by all Singapore as the business of Hadjee Fatima, although Syed Ahamed looked after it. Hadjee Fatima built a house in what is now known as Java Road, but was then country, in Campong Glam. It was twice attacked by robbers and set on fire, in the days when gang robberies were so alarming, as has been stated elsewhere. So after it was burnt a second time, she erected the present mosque on the spot, and built another house for her family. The mosque and several houses for the poor were erected in Java Road, and they are kept up by the family to this day, all the expenses for imaum and charity being entirely defrayed by the Al Sagoff family. Twice every year large feasts are held there at which several thousands attend, of all ranks and classes of the Mahomedan creed. One of these is held on the anniversary of the death of Hadjee Fatima, and the other on that of the birth and death (which both

occur on the same day of the year) of the Prophet Mahomed. Hadjee Fatima died at the age, as her descendants believe, of 98 years. Her son-in-law, Syed Ahmed bin Abdulrahman Al Sagoff, died in Singapore a very rich man, having carried on a very large trade, owning steamers and sailing vessels. He was buried in the private burial ground behind Hadjee Fatima's mosque. His son, Syed Mohamed bin Ahmed Al Sagoff, still carries on business in Singapore, but makes frequent visits to Europe, Jeddah, and other places, for the sake of his health.

Another Arab merchant who was for many years in Singapore and at one time owned several large trading vessels, and towards the end of his life some steamers, was Syed Massim bin Salleh Al Jeoffrie. He came with the nakodah of an Arab vessel, and saved a few dollars on some of the voyages, with which he opened a small shop in Arab Street and gradually made a great deal of money. But times changed, and towards the end of his life, he became nearly blind, and his business fell off, and he died in May, 1894, about eighty years of age. He was very well known and liked in Singapore by many of the European community.

The Government made at this time eight pits and nine traps for tigers in various parts of the island. In a pit at Serangoon on Dr. d'Almeida's plantation a tiger fell into a pit 20 feet deep, and succeeded in scrambling out again, although there were several feet of water at the bottom. The son of the headman at the village of Passier Reis was in the jungle cutting wood in January when he was seized by a tiger. Hearing his cries, his father ran out and found the tiger dragging him into the jungle. He grasped his son by the legs and tried to drag him away, but the tiger kept his hold, growling furiously, and it was only on several persons coming up and assisting him that he let go his hold and ran into the jungle. The unfortunate young man was quite dead when the tiger dropped him. The newspaper in February said that a Chinaman walking on the road near Kranji was sprung at by a tiger, but escaped by opening his umbrella in its face, and the tiger ran one way and the Chinaman the other. On 14th May the *Free Press* said that it had been usual to say in former years that at least one man a day was killed in Singapore, but it seemed to be much exceeded then, as no less than ten persons had been killed by tigers in the Kranji district in the course of only two days.

On 15th March a public meeting was held to protest against a tonnage duty being imposed, with a view to meet the expense of maintaining the Horsburgh Light House. It was a repetition of what had taken place in 1838. The first resolution, proposed by Gilbert McMicking and seconded by W. H. Read, was: "That as this Settlement was formed with the intention that it should be a free port, and as the East India Company have hitherto strictly carried out such intention, and as no grounds of sufficient importance exists to necessitate a departure from the liberal policy hitherto pursued—this meeting is of opinion that on no account, except in a case of most urgent necessity should the freedom which is so requisite for the existence and prosperity of this port be infringed."

The proposal was afterwards modified, and the light dues confined to square rigged vessels only, and not charged to native shipping.

Another public meeting was held on 14th August, which expressed satisfaction at the concession, but still objecting to the duty on any vessels at all. The Act was twice amended, and in January, 1853, the *Free Press* said: "If the Government committed a mistake at first in framing the Act, misled by bad advisers, every honour must be accorded to it for the readiness which has been shown to rectify its errors."

In August, two gentlemen went after a tiger at Bukit Timah and one of them fell into a tiger pit 24 feet deep, but escaped with severe bruises and dislocations. The police then ordered marks to be put up near the pits, so as to give warning of their position.

On 21st October the Tumongong gave a large ball in the Assembly Rooms, and on the 26th Captain Marshall, the P. & O. Agent, gave a ball in the recently completed offices at New Harbour, in honour of that and also of the opening of the line from Singapore to Australia; the *Chusan*, 700 tons, having arrived from Australia, the first vessel on that line. The vessel lay close by, and was illuminated, and there was a display of fireworks on board. The paper remarked that the *Chusan* brought only a small quantity of gold, but it realised such a high price that large exports were expected to be made from Australia to Singapore.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held on the 23rd November, the following resolution was passed:—

"The Chamber of Commerce, taking into consideration the present lax and irregular system prevailing, unanimously resolves that none of its members shall henceforth sell goods of any description at a longer credit than Three Months."

This resolution was rendered necessary by the facilities which the position of Singapore afforded to defaulting debtors to make their escape from their creditors, facilities aided very much by the imperfect working of the Insolvent Court, the sole Judge of which was resident for much more than half the year at such a distance from Singapore as to render it impossible to obtain his aid in those cases of emergency which every now and then occurred.

On 14th December a public meeting was held to take into consideration the measure contemplated by the Government to abolish the dollar currency and substitute rupees as the legal currency in the Straits. George Garden Nicol was chairman. It was decided that it would be inexpedient and would injure commercial interests very seriously.

It was towards the end of 1852 that a meeting was held to establish a Singapore Cricket Club.

The firm of Hamilton Gray & Co. had been estabished in 1832. In 1846 the partners were Walter Buchanan, William Hamilton, and William Macdonald in Glasgow, and Ellis James Gilman and George Garden Nicol in Singapore. In 1853 John Jarvie was a partner. In 1855 Reginald Padday and C. H. H. Wilsone were clerks and afterwards became partners.

Mr. G. G. Nicol left the firm in 1860, and was for many years the Chairman in London of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India,

London, and China, and a Director of the Eastern Extension and Australia Telegraph Company, and of the London and Joint Stock Bank. He is frequently mentioned in this book; he died in England on 16th January, 1897, at the age of 83 years.

The firm of William Macdonald & Co. started in 1852, the first partners of which were Robert Duff in Singapore and William Macdonald (who then left Hamilton, Gray & Co.) in Glasgow. In 1855 Garlies Allinson became a partner and Farleigh Armstrong was clerk. In 1858 William Ramsay Scott was a clerk. In 1859 John Earn Macdonald was a partner, and W. R. Scott in 1864. Mr. Whitworth Allen was a clerk from 1859 to 1864, after which he went to Penang.

CHAPTER XLI.

1853.

FROM the beginning of this year the monthly P. & O. Mail was changed into a mail twice a month. The first left London on the 8th of each month, which came direct from Galle to Penang, Singapore and China. The second left London on the 24th, and went from Galle to Calcutta and then to Penang and onwards. The first was due in Singapore about the 15th of each month, the contract time being 38 days. The second about the 10th of each month, the contract time being 47 days. The homeward mails left Singapore on the 17th and 28th the first *via* Bombay and the second *via* Calcutta; the contract time for both to Marseilles being 44 days. The steamers went on to Southampton. The passage money from Singapore to Southampton was $528, and it was raised soon afterwards, in consequence, as the advertisement said, of the increased cost of coal, &c., to $600, equal at the exchange at that time to £142.10. The delay occasioned by the steamer going round *via* Calcutta caused so much delay that the two mails arrived very near each other, and this was avoided in 1857 by the mail being transhipped at Galle. The P. & O. Company opened their office in Singapore at this time. Mr. Henry Thomas Marshall was the first agent, with John Say Sparkes as a clerk.

In January, Mr. Lewis Fraser of Maclaine, Fraser & Co., who was then living at the large house on Campong Glam beach, returned to Europe. The following is an account of a ball given in his honour on the 21st: "During the week that has elapsed since our last issue, Singapore has been more than usually gay. On the 21st the Freemasons of Lodge 'Zetland in the East' gave a ball and supper in the Assembly Rooms as a farewell token of their regard for our townsman Mr. Lewis Fraser and his lady, who are about to leave the Settlement. The assembly was numerous, and the rooms were most tastefully decorated with various masonic emblems. The Military band was in attendance, and everything went off in excellent style. At supper, Mr. W. H. Read, the present Master of the Lodge, proposed the toast of the evening in a short but appropriate speech, and after it had been drunk with masonic honours as well as the hearty cheers of the uninitiated, Mr. Fraser made a suitable reply. After the company left the supper table, the dancing was resumed and kept up with great spirit to an advanced hour."

The following paragraph was in the paper in February. "It will be seen from the proceedings of the Municipal Committee, that a very great improvement is projected in Commercial Square, by the removal of the ugly wall which at present surrounds the centre of the Square, the widening of the road and introducing a good drainage. We should think all the proprietors and tenants of houses in the Square will at

once give their assent to the measure, and we trust that ere many months elapse, the plan of the Committee will have been carried out."

In March the Governor-General sanctioned the erection of a screw pile lighthouse at the two and a half fathom bank in the Straits in place of the floating light, cost not to exceed Rs. 35,000; a lighthouse of masonry on the Coney Island, and also of fixed beacons on the Blenheim, Pyramid, and Bambeck Shoals.

In May, another of the cooly vessel piracy cases occurred, and was discovered by accident by a Kling boatman who was outside the harbour looking for in-coming vessels. He fell in with a vessel to the eastward of Pedra Branca which he was not allowed to board, but which he was informed by persons on board was an American vessel, with a crew of Manilamen, and that the Captain and the officers had been cut off by the crew. These facts were reported to the Police, but as no vessel was sent out by the authorities, who were under the impression that the ship had proceeded up the China Sea, the boatman again went out to the eastern entrance of the Straits of Singapore, and succeeded in falling in with the vessel near the place where he had first met her. This time he was allowed to get on board, and on being requested to conduct the vessel to Rhio promised to do so, but he brought her to anchor about ten miles on this side of Pedra Branca and on some pretence or other came to Singapore and reported that she was a cooly laden ship, and that all the officers and most of the crew were absent from the vessel. On this a merchant brig consigned to A. L. Johnston & Co., the *Rival*, Captain Franklyn, was induced to proceed in search of the vessel, and arrived in her neighbourhood about seven o'clock on the evening of Sunday, the 8th May. Captain Franklyn proceeded alongside in a boat and hailed the people on deck, requesting to be allowed to come on board, but this was refused. It was seen that preparations had been made for resistance, and Captain Franklyn was told if he did not keep off he would be fired upon, and he noticed that a man stood beside one of the guns with a lighted match in his hand. Captain Franklyn then returned to the *Rival* for assistance, and dividing his small party between two boats, again returned to the vessel, and boarded her at two points. The persons on board offered some resistance, but were driven back, and about twenty of the Chinese jumped overboard and were supposed to have been drowned. The rest were got below and a watch kept on board until day-light when the chain was slipped, and the two vessels being got under weigh they succeeded in reaching the harbour in the afternoon. During the night two attempts were made by the Chinese to rush on deck, but unsuccessfully. On investigation it turned out that the vessel was Spanish, bound from China to Lima with 200 coolies. Her officers, who were English, had been murdered.

The following paragraphs are taken from the presentment of the Grand Jury in August, of which Mr. Thomas Owen Crane was the foreman. "The Jurors present the necessity of adopting stringent measures to detain witnesses in very grave cases until the trial of the prisoners, particularly where Hoeys are concerned, as the Jurors have reason to believe that the witnesses are frequently tampered with and disposed of, as the secret societies may think proper; consequently

defeating the ends of justice and encouraging crime. The Jurors beg to recall your Lordships' attention to the oft-repeated complaint against the dangerous and increasing evil of the secret societies, and urge the necessity of ample authority being given to the Executive in the new Police Act, to put down effectually the growing power of a body of men, committing daily acts of daring violence and injustice, treating with contempt the wholesome laws of a British Settlement, and likely, if allowed to remain unchecked, to endanger seriously the peace and safety of this community.

"The Jurors again present the impropriety and danger attending the unrestricted sale of arsenic and other poisons in the bazaar.

"Having visited the Institution, the Jurors found the building apparently in good repair, but the grounds are much in want of efficient draining. They also examined the boys, and, as far as time would allow, endeavoured to ascertain whether the system pursued was adapted to the capabilities of the pupils. They see no reason to find fault in this respect, but attribute the falling off in the numbers attending, to the establishment of other schools and to the distance the Institution is situated from the populous part of the town. The Jurors therefore suggest that the present building and the ground belonging to it, be let out on building leases and a school constructed in a more central position—and they are of opinion that the Green in front of the Police Office is an appropriate spot for that purpose. The Jurors beg here to record their regret that the state of education among the Natives is not in a higher state of cultivation in this Settlement, and trust that the Authorities will take such measures as will promote that blessing among those who are so much in need of it, and which is the only effectual means of promoting civilisation and checking crime."

In August, Mr. John Turnbull Thomson, the Government Surveyor, left Singapore on sick leave, and did not return. The following is taken from the *Free Press* of that month:—

"A meeting of the European community took place at the News Room, for the purpose of considering the most appropriate manner of marking their sense of the public services of Mr. Thomson, the Government Surveyor, who is about to proceed to Europe on sick leave. The meeting was the most numerously attended which we have witnessed for some time past, and the strongest desire was manifested to testify in the most unequivocal manner the public appreciation of Mr. Thomson's valuable services. The eloquent remarks of Mr. Napier sufficiently showed what were Mr. Thomson's merits in regard to the designing and erection of the Horsburgh Lighthouse, but he could have pointed to many more of Mr. Thomson's undertakings, which show with what zeal and ability he has served his employers, and how much Singapore has benefited by his labours. Irrespective altogether of the duties of his office of Government Surveyor, which we believe have always been discharged in a manner calling forth the approbation of his superiors both here and in Bengal, Mr. Thomson designed and superintended the building of the two Hospitals, which are certainly the most ornamental of our

public edifices; he also added a spire to St. Andrew's Church, designed and superintended the Ellenborough Buildings, threw the bridge across Kallang, renewed Presentment Bridge, and lowered and repaired Coleman's Bridge. Several of the longest lines of roads were executed by him, besides many minor public works. Not content with his labours on shore, in conjunction with the late Captain Congalton, Mr. Thomson made a very elaborate survey of the Straits of Singapore, which was laid down by him and afterwards engraved. He also surveyed the Seebu Channel on the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula and New Harbour in Singapore, both of which have been engraved by the Admiralty. Such are some of the works which Mr. Thomson has actually carried into execution, but in addition to these, numerous and important as they are, he has furnished plans and estimates for many others. The most important to the public of such plans are perhaps those for a screw pile light-house on the Two and a Half Fathom Bank, and for a light-house of masonry on the Coney. It will be matter of regret should anything occur to prevent the early return of Mr. Thomson to carry out these and other important public works, to which the experience he has now acquired would enable him to do such ample justice.

"It must be in the highest degree gratifying to Mr. Thomson, that he not only carries with him the best wishes and fullest recognition of his merits, on the part of the community amongst whom he has spent the last twelve years, but that the Government which he has so faithfully and effectively served, also acknowledge his varied services in the most ample manner. This will probably compensate somewhat for the absence of more substantial reward, from the hope of which, no doubt, the rigid rules of Government exclude their uncovenanted servants, however great their deservings."

In acknowledging the testimonial, a piece of plate, Mr. Thomson wrote from Edinburgh in November, 1853:—"It was with feelings of deep regret that I was forced away from so beautiful and pleasant a Settlement as Singapore, where I had passed the best part of my life, and to which I was bound by so many ties of frendship, but I trust that, if my health be restored, I may not be long absent."

Mr. Thomson went to New Zealand and was Surveyor-General at Dunedin. While at Otago in New Zealand in 1873, he wrote the Translations from the Hakayit Abdulla, which have been mentioned on page 28, with comments of his own. The book was published by Henry S. King & Co., London, in 1874, and in the preface he speaks of the ever recurring interest he had in Singapore. He made the translations from a copy he had been given by Abdulla himself, and the translation is remarkable as having been made eighteen years after Mr. Thomson left the Straits, and he had been away from any Malay-speaking people. Mr. Thomson, whose name should always be remembered in Singapore, died in New Zealand at the end of 1884. He had a large family of daughters, about ten, most of whom were married. His first cousin, Mr. Thomas Scott Thomson, has been a resident in Singapore since 1859.

Search has been made in the Survey Office to try to obtain information about the town in former days from copies of old maps.

There is one made in 1842 by Mr. J. T. Thomson, and it gives the names of the Streets in Campong Bencoolen as they were then. North Bridge Road, Victoria Street, Queen Street and Bencoolen Street are still called by the same names, but the present Waterloo Street was then called Church Street, and Prinsep Street was called Flint Street. The Mission Chapel is shown on it, as standing at the north east corner of North Bridge Road and Brass Bassa Road, and the Institution building consisted of three blocks with two narrower portions connecting them.

The next map is also by Mr. Thomson, dated 1842–3–4–5. The Post Office is shown near the river, where the Government offices now stand, and Tanjong Mallang is marked between Fort Palmer and Tanjong Pagar village, about where the sunken hulks are now at the eastern end of Tanjong Pagar Wharves.

The next is a map lithographed in Calcutta in 1857, also by Mr. Thomson. Waterloo and Prinsep Streets were still called Church Street and Flint Street. What was called the Mission Chapel in the former map, at Brass Bassa Road, is now put as the English Chapel. Commissariat Office buildings, showing a considerable size, are opposite the site of the present Ice House in River Valley Road. A large building called the new Court House is placed exactly where the present Library and Museum stand on Fort Canning Hill, but it can only have been a proposed building (like the suggestion to build a new Court House next to the Roman Catholic Church, as mentioned on page 265) for no building was commenced on that spot before the present Library. The Masonic Hall is marked at the house vacated by Mr. Church, at the corner of the Esplanade and Coleman Street.

There is also a map lithographed in London in 1854, in a very dilapidated state. It is interesting as showing exactly where the old Assembly Rooms were, and the size of the building, which had been sought for in vain for some time when writing this book. It stood at the corner at the foot of Fort Canning and River Valley Road; that is, at the north-west corner of Hill Street and River Valley Road, opposite the present Ice House, facing Hill Street, not far from the road. The plan shews that it was about 150 feet long by 80 feet wide, and had a portico in the centre of the front. It was built of lath and plaster and attap, open beneath, with a large room to the left as you entered, for a ball-room, dinners, &c., and a room for a theatre, with a well for the orchestra next the footlights, on the right hand side of the building. It was constructed under the superintendence of Mr. McSweeney. It had been proposed to have a Masonic Lodge, and a Public Library there also, but they came to nothing. The two large banyan trees which stood towards each end of the building are still there.

Another of Mr. Thomson's plans was lithographed in Calcutta in 1846, but it does not give any further information than those already spoken of.

Mr. Thomson took trigonometrically the heights of a number of the principal eminences of the ranges in the neighbourhood of Singapore town and vicinity, above the level of low water, at spring tides.

The following are some which can still be traced by the same names. They have been arranged here alphabetically. The first name was that used by Mr. Thomson, and the explanations added are a description from which the different places are likely to be identified at the present time, in 1902:—

	Feet.	
Broad Fields	75	(W. Paterson) Paterson Road.
Blaken Mati large hill or Bukit Serapong ...	301	
Bukit Chermin	106	(W. W. Ker) Keppel Harbour.
Bukit Timah	519	
Cairn Hill	113	Orchard Road.
Claymore	74	Burial Ground, Orchard Road.
Draycott	84	Behind Tanglin Club, Steven's Road.
Dunearn	75	Bukit Timah Road.
Government Hill	156	Fort Canning.
Green Hill	67	(Caldwell's) Chancery Lane, Thomson Road.
Guthrie's Hill	106	Tanjong Pagar Dock, entrance, Manager's House.
Institution Hill	121	River Valley Road.
Lady Hill	108	Between Orchard Road and Steven's Road.
Lessuden	72	Teluk Ayer, Chinese Club House.
Line Hill	124	Sepoy Lines, General Hospital.
Monastery	72	Keppel Harbour.
Monk's Hill	78	(C. Carnie), Bukit Timah Road, 1¾ miles.
Mount Elizabeth	82	Orchard Road, corner of Scott's Road.
„ Emily	135	Now Government House.
„ Faber	300	New Harbour.
„ Harriet	103	(W. W. Willans) part of Tanglin Barracks.
„ Palmer	119	Near Tanjong Pagar.
„ Sophia	108	Sophia Hill.
„ Victoria	100	(Almeida's) Steven's Road, corner of Almeida Road.
„ Wallich	144	Blasted to fill up Teluk Ayer Bay.
„ Zion	45	(Keasberry) River Valley Road.
Pavilion	108	(Oxley) Tank Road.
Peak Island	101	Near St. John's Island.
Pearl's Hill	170	Commissariat and Water Reservoir.
Rosemary Hill	115	Opposite Mount Echo.
St. John's Island	189	
Sri Menanti	81	(G. G. Nicol) Junction River Valley and Tanglin Roads.

The paper in April said that tigers were particularly destructive then in Johore, several persons being killed every day. And that the alligators in the Gaylang and Kallang rivers were doing much harm; even snapping at natives sitting in boats, and carrying off many ducks and fowls.

It was at this time that a number of Europeans abandoned the diggings at the foot of Mount Ophir where they had been led into the belief, possibly by the name, that gold would be found. Several of them died there, some were in the hospital in Malacca in April in a precarious state, and the rest were forced to leave through illness. The paper remarked that the gold obtained was trifling in quantity if any at all, and that no better result had been anticipated. The paper in the same month contained a long account of the prospectus for a large Dutch Company to work tin mines at the Carimons, which was expected by the Dutch to do great things, but resulted in much the same way.

The state of affairs in the Native States was thus alluded to in the paper in June :—

"There seems to be a spirit of anarchy and confusion reigning throughout many of the Malay States at present, which may probably lead to considerable changes ere long. Thus, in the north part of the Peninsula, we have the Rajah of Pera, apparently hard pressed by his rebellious subjects and obliged to send to his neighbours for assistance. In the south of Sumatra, we have the Sultan of Jambi reported to be at issue with his liege lords, the Dutch Government, the end of which will most assuredly be the annexation of Jambi to the N. I. territories in Sumatra. In the same quarter, the Sultan of Lingga is reported to be on terms of most bitter enmity with his hereditary Prime Minister, the Viceroy of Rhio, and as the latter lives under the protecting shadow of the Dutch, we suppose he has considerable confidence in defying his superior's anger. The Viceroy in a fit of piety lately shut himself up for six weeks, during which he meant to devote himself wholly to meditation and prayer, absolutely excluding all cognisance of sublunary matters. On the east side of the Malay Peninsula, we have the Bandahara of Pahang renouncing his allegiance to his lawful sovereign the Sultan of Johore, and asserting an independent position. His power, however, is said not to be of a very stable nature, as his subjects are discontented with his rule, and are only kept quiet through the influence of his father who, although he has renounced his power in favour of his son, still commands the respect of his former subjects. The Pahang potentate is on bad terms, too, with his neighbour the Rajah of Tringanu, and as the latter is supported by his relative, the Sultan of Lingga, a struggle between the two would probably be protracted and costly. The Tringanu chieftain, on the other hand, has his own peculiar anxieties. He has incurred suspicion of being piratically disposed, and although the Government of India has peremptorily refused to take notice of his delinquency, the question has not yet been finally disposed of and may still be again re-opened."

And in October the *Free Press* contained the following on the same subject :—"In another column we give the observations of the

Earl of Albemarle in moving for the correspondence relative to the seizure of a Chinese junk at Tringanu, and the murder of its crew by orders of the Rajah of that place. His Lordship has stated the case with great accuracy, although he has fallen into a few errors regarding the statistics of Singapore. Instead of a population of 200,000, our numbers only amount to 60,000, of whom two-thirds at least are Chinese. The export trade is not entirely in the hands of the Chinese, although they have a good share in it, but is largely participated in by the Europeans, the Bugis, &c. His Lordship has probably been led by mistake to attribute to Singapore the whole population of the three British Settlements in the Straits of Malacca, which is estimated at from 200,000 to 220,000. It would be productive of great benefit to British interests could attention be drawn to the present state of our relations with the different Malay states on the Peninsula of Malacca. These states might be made very valuable to commerce from the immense mineral riches they contain, as well as from the fertile soil which exists in abundance, admirably fitted for tropical cultures of all kinds. These resources at present are almost wholly neglected, the native population, under ignorant and generally debased rajahs, being little addicted to habits of industry, the insecurity of life and property which prevails in these states destroying the motives to exertion. With proper management on the part of our government, and without directly interfering to any considerable extent with the internal government of these states, a great change for the better could be introduced. The proximity of the British Settlements would enable the government to exert such a moral influence on the rulers of these states that they would readily follow such a course as might be indicated to them. Some trouble might be found at first in teaching them the value of the advice tendered, but a judicious and patient representative of government would very speedily be able to bring them round to his views. No attempt of the kind has ever been made, our only mode of dealing with these states being, in general, utter neglect, and occasional threats and coercion when a powerful neighbour like Siam has required our interposition. The non-interference system, however, has been the favourite one of late years, and their determination to adhere to it, in all events, may be taken as the solution of the strange behaviour of government in regard to the outrage on the junk *Kim Eng Seng*. It is highly probable that other civilized powers may ere long acquire a knowledge of the value of the Peninsula of Malacca, and desire to possess a footing upon it, and our government will then find that it would have been wise to have obtained a wholesome influence over the neighbouring states, and to have been in a position to have practically in their own hands the power of determining whether it would be convenient to allow the establishment in their close vicinity of rival European or American settlements.

The following is an amusing account of a famous "head scare;" in addition to what has been said on page 337:—

"For about ten days past a most extraordinary delusion has prevailed amongst the native population, and especially the Chinese section. It is believed that the evil spirits which are said to have

their abode in St. Andrew's Church, have lately proved so restless as to oblige the Europeans to desist from having public worship there and take refuge in the Court House. It is further believed that the only way of pacifying these evil spirits is to make them an offering of a large number of heads of human beings, and that the Government has therefore issued an order to the convicts to provide the required heads by way-laying and murdering unwary passengers at night! Absurd as such an idea must seem to any one possessed of common sense, such is the little knowledge which the great mass of the native population apparently possess of the European character and institutions, and the gross superstition with which they are leavened, that this notion has obtained very general credence and a great panic consequently prevails. People are afraid to go out at night, and the most extravagant reports are circulating as to the number of victims who have already been sacrificed, some go so far as to reckon them above thirty. The Government, with the view of allaying the excitement, some days ago issued a notice declaring these reports to be false, and offering a reward of five hundred dollars for the discovery of the persons propagating them. This measure would not appear to have been productive of the end desired, as placards were thereafter posted up in Chinese denouncing the Government notice as an attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the people, and hinting pretty plainly the propriety of adopting retaliatory measures against the Europeans! Although it is not anticipated that any actual breach of the public peace will ensue, yet it has been deemed proper to take all reasonable means of allaying the uneasiness on the part of the native population, and amongst other steps we understand that orders have been given that the first class convicts, who are allowed to reside beyond the convict lines, must not quit their houses betwixt the hour of eight in the evening and five in the morning.

"Some of the more enlightened of our Chinese merchants have taken pains to disabuse their countrymen of the ridiculous impressions which have taken hold of them, and a Committee consisting of Messrs. Tan Beng Swee, Tan Kim Cheng, Tan Chin Seng, Seah Eu Chin and Hoo Ah Kay (Whampoa,) have prepared an address which has been signed by about thirty Chinese merchants, and which it is intended to have lithographed and distributed. The following is an abstract of this address, which, we believe, will prove interesting to our readers:—

"Reports have lately arisen about people being beaten to death at night, which are utterly false, yet they have obtained great prevalence, for it is the nature of such rumours that if one repeats them, a hundred persons believe them. These reports have, no doubt, arisen from thoughtlessness. A Chinese was lately beaten by some Malays when bathing at their well, this happened when these reports prevailed, and the occurrence was magnified and received as a confirmation of them, and they were therefore held as being quite true. At the moment when people heard this they did not reflect that Malays are not pleased that persons should drink or bathe at their wells; if it had happened at any other time it would have been thought nothing of. The Govern-

ment issued a notice telling the people that such reports were false and unfounded. This notice ought to have been believed and respected, but instead of attending to it, how could you put up such improper placards? You do not think of the paternal and compassionate character of the Government, which even offers rewards for the destruction of the tiger which kills people. How then could the Government order people to be killed under the pretence that they were to be offered to evil spirits? The Europeans do not believe in evil spirits.

"The English law is that if a man commits murder he must be punished by death. If this is so, how is it possible that it could be so much violated as it would be by people being killed without their having been guilty of any crime? It you will only reflect on these things it will be apparent that these reports are all nonsense. To persist, therefore, in affirming such absurdities is very wrong. The Government of this country is very benevolent; much more so than that of other countries. The law for all classes and nations in this island is the same. It is not as in other countries, where there are different laws for the different sections of the population. In this port vessels can freely enter, and they are not obliged to pay any duties, but only to report themselves. Persons can also go and cultivate land in the country, and gain a livelihood without paying any taxes. The privileges which the Government allows to the people are they not very extensive and of long continuance? How can you then be so ungrateful as not to acknowledge this, but on the contrary to put up these improper placards? You are people without reflection! You do not consider how high are the Heavens, and how deep the earth! You say that the Europeans dare not go to their Church for fear of the evil spirits, but we know that this is not the reason, but because the Church is out of repair and therefore dangerous. It must therefore be repaired before people can go to it.

"Another report is that twenty or thirty persons have been murdered. You do not reflect that men are not small objects which can disappear without being noticed! Just let us know from what street or place in Singapore persons are missing and cannot be found? If none are missing it is quite clear none have been killed. Were it true we also would have heard of it. The result of all these foolish reports is that poor persons cannot earn their livelihood being afraid to venture out in the mornings and evenings. We also are Chinese and consequently cannot see these things without taking notice of them. We have therefore framed this address to remove the false impressions existing in the hearts of the people, and also to point out the impropriety of adopting such coarse and objectionable language as that contained in these placards. If any of your friends are really beaten or murdered, let us know and we will take you to the Authorities, who will investigate the matter, but if you bring us false stories you will incur disgrace and punishment."

It was in this year that the different flags were first used to distinguish the closing of the various mails:—Calcutta by a blue ensign; Australia, a white; Europe, a red; and China, a yellow flag; which have been used ever since except that to Australia,

There was a small outbreak in the gaol in July of which the following was an account in the *Free Press*:—

"On the evening of Sunday, the 3rd September, a number of the Seikh convicts confined in the Convict Gaol made an attempt to escape, which, as far as regarded some of them, was temporarily successful. About one hundred of these men, who are generally powerful, daring fellows, had contrived to arm themselves with sticks and billets of firewood, and suddenly made a rush upon the peons on guard, whom they knocked down. Thirty of these desperadoes, although in irons, contrived to get through the door of the gaol before it was closed by one of the peons who had been knocked down in the first rush. Those of the Seikhs who were still in the gaol were quickly overpowered by the other convicts, who did not exhibit the slightest sympathy with them, even the class of heavy defaulters, who are kept in irons, giving their aid with alacrity in securing them. The peons and others than gave chase to the runaways, and soon overtook and secured twenty-seven, some of them receiving rather hard knocks when they would not surrender quietly. The whole have since been brought in. These Seikhs were forwarded from Allipore gaol and are described as insubordinate and dangerous characters. The ill-success which has attended their attempt to run away, and the severe punishment which it has brought down upon them, will, no doubt, prevent them from trying to make their escape for some time to come."

Piracy was still very frequent around Singapore, especially against the Chinese and other native trading vessels, and the Chamber of Commerce corresponded with the authorities and the Admiral of the station who promised to station a man-of-war at Singapore when he had one available.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Sailors Home:—

"So long as the number of Punch Houses continues so large, the Committee fear their efforts to preserve the improvident sailor from the pernicious effects of debauchery will not meet with such success as they would wish, but the gradual restriction in the issue of licenses to these haunts of vice by the Magistrates, leads them to hope that, by sure and certain steps, the object of their desires will be finally attained. Your Committee deem it right here to call the general attention to the low coffee houses and spirit shops in the outskirts of the town, where there is but too much reason to fear the unwary sailor is stupified by deleterious spirits, and unscrupulously robbed, and they hope that steps will be taken to mitigate this serious evil."

The Sailors Home had been commenced in High Street. An account of it is on page 125 of Mr. W. H. Read's book. The Government paid Rs. 100 for the rent. The house became too small for the purpose, and the present premises, which had been occupied by Mr. Balestier, were bought in 1857, the Government advancing Rs. 12,000, or ten years' annual subscription, and the building was formally conveyed to Government as a security. When the ten years expired, it was formally returned to the Committee. The building was much enlarged by extending the two ends in 1877.

In September, the supply of rice for local consumption was thus referred to in the *Free Press*:—"Considerable alarm was felt some days ago on account of the small stock of rice in Singapore for local consumption, the great bulk of the article having been shipped for China, or at least bought for shipment to that quarter. The retail price also rose to a very high figure, being equal to $100 per koyan, while at ordinary times it never much exceeds $60 and is often considerably below that rate. This high price, we believe, still continues, although some further supplies have come in and more are expected. At one time it was calculated that there was not above ten days' consumption in the place. The population of Singapore, and at the Chinese settlement in Johore, which is wholly dependent on Singapore for their supplies, amounts to 100,000 at least, and calculating the daily consumption of rice by this number at one catty a head, a very moderate estimate, will give us 1,000 piculs a day. For our supplies of rice we are wholly dependent on other countries, not a single grain being grown on the island, and it will therefore be easily seen how important it is that nothing should occur to prevent the market being at all times abundantly supplied. Should the supply be interrupted through any cause, and become exhausted, there is no means of averting a famine, since the island, unfortunately, produces no other articles of food which could serve as a substitute for rice even for a few days."

The following passages are taken from an annual retrospect of the year in the pages of the *Free Press*:—

"Notwithstanding the existence of various circumstances which were calculated to exercise an unfavourable influence on the trade of Singapore during the year, such as the disturbances in China, the ravages committed on the native trade by pirates, &c., it is a subject for congratulation to find, from the returns, that our commercial prosperity continues unabated, and that the large increase which we had to notice in the trade of 1852 has been fully equalled by that in 1853. The trade of Singapore appears to be augmenting at the rate of one million sterling a year!

"During the year, a very large trade was carried on with Australia, and although subject to considerable fluctuations, as was to be expected from the extraordinary state of things in the Colonies, we have no doubt that the permanent trade between Singapore and Australia will in future form a very important item in our commercial returns. Prices of produce generally ruled high during 1853, and a very large demand existed for most of our staple products. Gutta Percha, in particular, which a few years ago was sold at $10 per picul, in consequence of the active competition, was at one time run up to the high rate of $75 per picul. Prices have since receded, but gutta still brings $30 to $35, and appears again advancing in price.

"The *prahus* from the eastward, comprising the Bugis traders, &c., arrived in considerable numbers this year. Those parts of their cargoes which consisted of articles chiefly adapted to the Chinese market, such as tripang, agar-agar, birds' nests, rattan and garro wood, &c., had to be sold at very losing rates, while the produce adapted for the Europe and Indian markets, such as gold dust

coffee, oil, rice, wax, tortoise-shell, sago, gutta percha, &c., brought very remunerative prices.

"The revenue of Singapore during the official year 1852-3 amounted to Rs. 457,207, and the expenditure to Rs. 442,342, thus leaving a surplus of Rs. 14,865. In the expenditure, the charges for military and convicts are included. It would thus appear that the revenue of Singapore is advancing in proportion with its trade. The amount derived from the Revenue Farms (Opium, Spirits, Toddy, Market, Pawn-brokers, &c.) amounted to Rs. 340,089.

"The number of Chinese immigrants into Singapore during the official year 1852-3 amounted to 11,484. Towards the end of the year, large numbers of Chinese began to arrive in square-rigged vessels and junks. Many of these were from Amoy, and had taken part in the disturbances there. The rebels in that quarter are understood to have received very considerable supplies from Singapore, and more were on the point of being sent, when the news of their having evacuated Amoy reached this. Amongst the arrivals from Amoy were the wives and families of several of our most respectable Chinese merchants, and a number more are still expected. Should the practice of the wives and families of our traders following them from China hereafter continue, it may be expected to exercise a beneficial influence on the Chinese part of our population.

"In February, the draft of an Act was published to repeal that passed some time previously for levying tolls for defraying the cost and maintenance of the Horsburgh Light-house, &c. This draft made some desirable modifications in the manner of levying the tolls, and entirely exempted native craft, but it being considered that the rates proposed were unnecessarily high, and that they would unduly press upon the class of vessels called Straits Traders, memorials were addressed to the Governor-General in Council and by the Chamber of Commerce, praying for some modifications of the Act in these respects. To these representations a reply was received from the Supreme Government, promising to reduce the duty on Straits traders to one half of what will be exigible from other classes of vessels liable, and although refusing for the present to alter the duty as regards other vessels, yet distinctly pledging the Government to lower it, should experience show that the aggregate amount of duty levied is more than enough to meet what is legitimately chargeable to the lighting of the Straits. This promise and the resolution adopted by the Government to proceed without delay with the erection of other lights were considered satisfactory.

"A proposition was submitted to the Supreme Government to make the Company's rupee the sole legal tender throughout the Straits Settlements. This proposal was generally deprecated in Singapore, and the community were glad to learn that the Governor-General in Council had discountenanced the plan.

"During the course of 1853, the urgent necessity which existed for the permanent presence of a professional Judge at Singapore again engaged public attention, and the Grand Jury in April earnestly pressed the matter in their presentment. The Chamber of Commerce also addressed a Memorial to the Governor-General in Council on the subject."

The Governor and Mrs. Butterworth returned to Singapore from the Australian Colonies by the P. and O. Steamer on the 9th November, and

were entertained at a Ball on 6th December, at what Mr. John Purvis was Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. T. O. Crane proposed the health of Mrs. and Miss Butterworth. The next week Colonel Cameron and the officers of the 43rd Madras Native Infantry gave a similar entertainment. In February the Sultan of Lingga had given a large fancy dress ball to the European community in the Assembly Rooms.

It was in this year that Miss Sophia Cooke came to Singapore. The Society for the Promotion of Female Education in the East had been extended to Singapore in 1843. It had been founded in 1834, the first Society for sending Woman Missionaries to the women of the East, and Singapore was one of its first Stations and was the last to be transferred, when the Society came to an end on the 9th January, 1900, to the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society. In Singapore the School has always been known as the Chinese Girls School, and perhaps better known as Miss Cooke's School, as she was so much respected in the work which she carried on for forty-two years. The work was begun by Miss Grant, who reached Singapore in 1843, and took over a School which Mrs. Dyer of the London Missionary Society had begun. In 1853, Miss Cooke came out. The house was built in 1861, and the School was supported by half-yearly sales of work sent out from England and of other gifts. For some years there was a mortgage on the building which was finally paid off about 1898. In September, 1895, Miss Cooke died in Singapore. Her name is still a household word with many in the place, as she did a great deal of work among the European Police force and Soldiers and Sailors. After her death Miss Ryan, who had been for very many years associated in the work with Miss Cooke, carried on the School for two years until November 1897, when Miss Gage-Brown came from England. In the beginning of 1901 there were sixty-two Chinese Girls in the School.

CHAPTER XLII.

1854.

THE following is part of a long account of a ball given in th Assembly Rooms on Monday, the 6th February, by Governo Butterworth and Mrs. Butterworth to commemorate the celebration o the thirty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Settlement :— "The ball-room was very tastefully fitted up, the principal dece ration being a large transparency, representing, in one division, Singa pore as it might be supposed to appear before it became British possession, thick jungle clothing the whole landscape, and th only indication of the presence of man being one solitary fishin *prahu* in the bay, adding, if anything, to the feeling of lonelines and desolation. In contrast to this, the other division shewed u Singapore in 1854. The sombre jungle had disappeared and wa replaced by the warehouses and residences of our merchants ; an Churches, Court-houses, and Schools told that order and civilisatio had been firmly established, while the residence of the Governor on the eminence overlooking the town, presided over the whole Instead of the solitary *prahu* in the harbour, ships of every siz and form, from the graceful clipper to the clumsy junk, an numerous native crafts, crowded the foreground, and completed th striking contrast. The whole was executed by Captain Dun, of th 43rd M. N. I., and does great credit to his taste and abilities a an artist. In front of the transparency a pedestal supported th bust of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore Dancing was commenced at 9 o'clock, and at half-past eleven the company proceeded to supper, which was laid out in the lowe room, where two long tables afforded ample accommodation to the whole of the guests. After supper the health of the Queen wa drunk in the loyal manner which is characteristic of the Singa pore community. Colonel Butterworth then rose and spoke nearl as follows :—

"'We are assembled here this evening to commemorate the form ation of this Settlement; and when we picture to ourselves what I daresay is remembered by the honourable gentleman opposite me Mr. Purvis, as well as by my most highly esteemed and excellent colleague, Mr. Garling—whose signature I find attached to the first official document on the records of this Station, dated 6th February, 1819—I say when we picture to ourselves the appearance the island then bore, and contrast this with the aspect it has now as sumed, we cannot but feel profound admiration of the consummate judgment and wonderful foresight displayed by that eminent states man, whose name I mention with every degree of reverence and respect—Sir Stamford Raffles—a respect I propose to testify in a

manner which I am sure will be as pleasing to this community, as gratifying to myself. I refer to my intention of designating the lighthouse, about to be erected on the Coney, at the entrance of the harbour—the "Raffles Light-house"—in memory of the Founder of Singapore. Here there have been no adventitious circumstances, such as the discovery of vast mineral deposits, or any very favourable agricultural results, to aid the advancement of this Settlement—nothing, in fact, but what that great man foresaw and foretold, when he selected this spot for its geographical position, and, stepping in advance of the age, pronounced it to be a Free Port—looking to its becoming the chief emporium in these seas for British merchandise, and the produce of the Indian Archipelago. How fully this has been realised, a glance of our 'Trade Statements' will satisfactorily shew. It will therein be seen that at the expiration of the first five years, the Imports and Exports were valued at two and a half millions sterling; that at the close of the next ten years they amounted to three and a quarter millions sterling, and on the termination of the subsequent ten years, to five millions; and by the last returns, to six and a half millions, exclusive of goods transhipped—an advance regular and unprecedented—whilst in place of the few *prahus* which might be seen in 1819, no less than 1,068 square-rigged vessels and 2,360 native boats visited this island during the past year. At the close of the last Chinese war and the opening of the five ports, the culminating point of the Singapore trade was stated to have been reached. Since then, however, it has increased by a million sterling. Again, on the establishment of the colony of Labuan, the like evil prognostications arose, but Singapore is now more prosperous than ever, the Imports and Exports being greater at the end of the last official year than at any time since the formation of the Settlement. Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me ask you to drain your glasses, in drinking to the continued prosperity of Singapore with Free Trade in its fullest integrity.'"

"Mr. Purvis then addressed the company as follows:—'I am very sure that nothing can be more gratifying to a large portion of this company than the very interesting speech of our worthy Governor, and I beg to assure Colonel Butterworth that the sentiments he has generously and warmly expressed on behalf of Singapore are duly appreciated. The hoisting of the flag, thirty-five years ago, is to all of us a matter of history, inasmuch as none of us were present on that interesting and auspicious occasion, but as a very few days more will complete the thirty-second year of my residence here, I may be said to have known the Settlement from its infancy, and when I look back to the day of my first landing here and contrast the then state of the Settlement with what it is at this moment, I do indeed see much to astonish me; for it must always be borne in mind that we have had no auriferous soils to fall back upon, or to aid us in our forward march, and yet Singapore had a hidden treasure which has happily developed itself in industry and intelligence! For it is to those sources, aided by a liberal system of Government, that Singapore is indebted for the proud position she now holds, and so long as

that system shall be maintained, so long will Singapore continue to flourish and the Government be respected by every nation and people with whom we may hold intercourse. On a recent occasion I alluded to the 'true interests' of the Settlement, and I will now mention one of the most important. It is this:—To preserve Singapore in all integrity a Free Port! The principles adopted by Sir Stamford Raffles, he left as a legacy to Singapore for its rule and guidance, and as the Government are trustees to the bequest, I feel assured it will be faithfully carried out.'"

The following remarks in the *Free Press* in March, are worthy of notice in the light of the present day, and the progress that the Native States have made since Sir Andrew Clarke adopted the policy of assisting them:—"After Raffles and Crawfurd, we had a succession of officials who were either imbued with the prejudices and feelings of the higher authorities, or were of too little weight at head-quarters to induce any great degree of attention to their representations. They knew that the Supreme Government did not wish to have any trouble regarding the politics of a quarter so distant from the seat of Government, and they very dutifully shaped their line of conduct accordingly. Hence a course of utter neglect towards the Native States in our vicinity. These States have been steadily retrograding, and we have never made the slightest effort to arrest their decay, although it is very evident that a systematic and judicious interposition on our part might have told powerfully in promoting their welfare. The rich natural resources of these States have, therefore, remained utterly neglected, or only partially and most defectively availed of. And this has proved directly prejudicial to Singapore, for had these States improved in their resources, their produce would have been greater and their capability of consumption more extensive, and while their produce would have flowed into Singapore, to the same market they would have resorted for their supplies of those articles of luxury or utility which their own industry did not furnish, but which it enabled them to procure from elsewhere. In some cases the conduct of the Government has been even of a more reprehensible character. Witness the whole of the course pursued in regard to Keddah, which is so justly reprobated by Raffles in the extracts before us. In that case we not only refused that assistance to Keddah which we were bound by treaty to afford, but we actually joined with its ruthless oppressors in destroying it. The consequences have been that it has diminished in population and resources, that its government has been feeble, and that in place of benefiting us to any extent by its commerce and industry, it has only proved an asylum and hiding place for the bands of robbers who have for many years infested our territories in Province Wellesley. Everywhere else we find the Native States, which we have so completely neglected, feeble and despotic in their governments, their populations diminishing and their trade dwindling away. Yet in their fertile alluvial lands, forests abounding with valuable natural productions, and soils rich in minerals, might be found the sources of a solid prosperity were the energies of their inhabitants only stimulated by judicious encouragement from our Government, our relations with

them so formed as to allow others to turn these advantages to account with a reasonable prospect of security to life and property."

This was the year of the biggest Chinese riots that have been known in Singapore, which upset the whole island for ten or twelve days. It arose between the Hokiens, from the province of Hokien in China, and the Teo Chews from the province of Quantung, because the Hokiens refused to join in a subscription to assist the rebels who had been driven from Amoy by the Imperial China Troops. We proceed to give an account of them at some length, with the proceedings that subsequently took place in connection with them. The riots arose, as they have done since, without any apparent cause, as the small dispute which commenced them was not, of course, the real *casus belli*, which originated in the proceedings of the Secret Societies, with a predetermination to fight out their quarrels in spite of the authorities. There were 400 or more persons killed, a great number wounded, and about 300 houses burned. The police force proved to be in good order and quite equal to what could be expected from their small number as compared with the thousands of Chinese. The military in the Settlement only numbered about 300 in all, and after providing for the necessary guards there were only 150 to 180 men available. The whole community turned out as special constables, and to them, as in after times, the return to law and order was principally due.

On Friday, the 5th May, about mid-day, a dispute arose between two Chinese, the one a Hokien man and the other a Macáo man, about the weight of a catty of rice which the one was selling to the other. High words ensued, and the quarrel of each was quickly adopted by his countrymen among the bystanders. Blows followed, and the report being rapidly circulated through the neighbouring streets, the adherents of each faction came pouring in by hundreds to take part in the broil, which then assumed a very alarming character. The fighting spread into the adjoining streets, in all of which the shops were at once closed, and sticks, stones and knives were used freely on the streets, and bricks thrown from the upper windows whenever an opportunity offered of assailing their enemies on the street. Several shops and houses were broken into, rifled of their contents and the inmates maltreated, and the work of plunder once commenced would soon have become general throughout the town, had not the military made their appearance, after Mr. Dunman, the Superintendent of Police, had stated his inability to suppress the riot.

Governor Butterworth had, unfortunately, thought very little of Mr. Dunman's apprehensions, and, in spite of his remonstrance, mounted his white horse, and rode into the town. It was probably Hill Street near River Valley Road where he was pelted by the mob, who did not of course know who he was, and they had no quarrel with any Europeans; but he rode into the row, and had to retire, and a nephew of the Recorder, attempting to rescue a Chinaman who was being assaulted, was knocked down by a brickbat and badly hurt, and several others were roughly treated. The Governor then listened to Mr. Dunman's opinion, and the troops were sent for; when they came, quietness generally ensued, but, as they marched in a body, their effect was con-

fined to one street at a time, and the fighting began as soon as they had passed. The Governor and Resident Councillor, with some of the Magistrates, also passed through several streets where the riot had been greatest, and, as might have been expected, their appearance was almost always followed by a cessation of the fighting and plundering, and, by degrees, the presence of the authorities and the soldiers produced an air of quietness which seems to have generated a great misconception of the true nature of the disturbances that had taken place. The troops were dismissed to their barracks, and as the Chinese do not like to fight in the dark, the evening passed over without any signs of a serious intention to renew the riot. Many flattered themselves that the affair was at an end, and that nothing more would be heard of it.

The following morning, however, was calculated to undeceive all those who thought that the Chinese had had enough of it the day before. They must have been busy organising themselves during the night, for in the morning with day-break the fighting and plundering began in different parts of the town, and, in spite of the Police, the shops and houses of many of the Chinese inhabitants were broken and pillaged. Wherever, in fact, a few of the one faction happened to have their houses or shops in a locality inhabited chiefly by the other, they were set upon at once, their goods either stolen or destroyed, and themselves severely bruised or wounded and in some instances murdered. A gentleman who was assisting in escorting the goods of a Chinaman to a place of safety was knocked down and severely cut about the face and head. The military were again called out, a corps of Marines landed from H. M. Ships *Sybille, Lily,* and *Rapid,* and although the troops were confined to marching in a body through the worst streets as on the day before, the presence of an armed force operated as a check upon the rioting, and during the day there was comparative quietness, the rioting being confined to desultory attacks upon passers-by in the streets. At ten o'clock a meeting of the European inhabitants was called for noon, and in the meantime a deputation of them waited upon Colonel Butterworth to represent the serious character which the tumult was assuming. His Honour thanked the European community for their co-operation, and said that every exertion would be used by the authorities to put an end to the disorders that had occurred, and that with the assistance of the Senior Naval Officer, he did not doubt they would quickly succeed in restoring quiet. He did not consider that the matter was so serious as was represented, and thought he could manage it himself; another error which, as the result proved, was a serious one.

At noon the Europeans met and determined to offer their services as special constables. They proceeded in a body to the Police Office, where they were met by the Governor and Resident Councillor. About seventy gentlemen, comprising the greater part of the European residents and a few of the commanders of merchant vessels lying in the harbour, were sworn in, Mr. W. H. Read being the first to be sworn; he has written an account of the matter in his book at page 95, in the chapter called "The Chinese Secret Societies." The Governor thanked them for the manner in which they had come

forward to give their assistance and expressed his hopes that quiet would speedily be established. About fifty of the leading Chinese merchants and others were with some difficulty collected at the Reading Rooms, in Commercial Square, being escorted there by some of the special constables. They were addressed by the Resident Councillor, who exhorted them to use their influence in restoring order, and after some deliberation they signed a paper to that effect, but subsequent events proved that they either possessed very little command over their countrymen, or that they were afraid to exert themselves. None of the shops were open, and the Oriental Bank and all the godowns of the merchants were closed.

On Sunday, a strong body of the special constables was ordered to be on duty by 4 o'clock in the morning; and it was fortunate that this was done, as there were evident symptoms that an extensive system of depredation had been determined on for that day. Probably the Chinese calculated that the European community would observe their day of rest as usual, and not come into town at all, or only to go to church at 11 o'clock. As day-light began to dawn, it became clear to the gentlemen on duty that an extraordinary influx of people must have taken place during the previous day and night. The regular police were wholly knocked up with the work of the two previous nights and days, and the body of special constables on duty had almost the entire charge of the town. They were divided into parties, each numbering eighteen or twenty men, and headed by two Magistrates, and when day broke upon their patrols, appearances were anything but encouraging. Few Chinese ventured into the streets at first, but in Circular Road, the upper part of Market Street, Teluk Ayer, and other places in the vicinity, there seemed to be a complete ferment within doors. In some of these places the houses appeared to be crammed full of men, and all were convinced that but for the presence of the special constables, part of the town would have been pillaged, and not improbably burnt down by the hundreds of men whom the heads of the Secret Societies had called in from the jungles and the junks in the harbour. A little before six o'clock, an attempt was made to commence operations by plundering a house at the corner of Circular Road and South Bridge Road, but luckily one of the patrolling parties happened to be near, and were in time to prevent it, and to disperse the mob. Considerable rioting took place in Philip Street (where the rioters were armed with knives and swords), Market Street, and Amoy Street, where a party of seven special constables and four police peons took upwards of fifty of the rioters into custody.

Colonel Butterworth and the authorities now became thoroughly awake to the extent of the danger which threatened. All the *pukats* and other Chinese boats, which were swarming with men and afforded the most convenient receptacles for plunder, were ordered into the middle of the river to prevent communication with the shore, and seven boats belonging to the men-of-war were kept rowing about to prevent any attempt at landing, and other signs of more prompt action became apparent, should any further attempts at plunder be made. These measures and the attitude assumed by the

authorities and European community appeared to frighten the rioters from any further serious attempt in town, and they then betook themselves to the suburbs and country in the vicinity. In the afternoon a party of Hokien men, who had been to procure rice, were attacked by some Teo-Chew men and robbed of their provisions; but the Hokiens having got a reinforcement from some of the plantations near, and accompanied by the Police, succeeded in beating their opponents, one of whom was killed. Ten or twelve of the Teo-Chew men were taken into custody. The opium shop from which these men had rushed out was burnt down the same evening, probably by some of the Hokien men. About eight in the evening an armed party of Chinese with banners and gongs made their appearance at Rochore, defied the police to fight, and proceeded to break open and pillage the houses and shops of some of the inhabitants. The constables fired over their heads at first, but that having no effect the officer ordered his men to fire upon them before they would disperse. Two men were shot dead, and several were wounded. In the town all remained comparatively quiet during the night, both the Marines and Sepoys being posted in the town for fear of any outbreak.

The scene of operations appeared on Monday to have been fairly transferred to the country districts, and murder, burning and pillage prevailed in all directions. In the Tanglin district, a number of houses and *bangsals* were attacked and burnt, several persons were killed, and numbers wounded. In the Bukit Timah district the Police stationed at the village of Bukit Timah were threatened with an attack by a large body of men, and were at last so closely pressed that they were obliged, in self-defence, to fire upon the Chinese, several of whom were wounded.

Mr. Cluff, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, having proceeded along Thomson Road for some distance beyond the Police Station at Chan Chu Kang, to ascertain the state of matters in that part of the island, was met on the road by a woman who reported that her husband and child had been murdered and their house burnt down. She was put into Mr. Cluff's palankeen, and after proceeding a little further on the road three Chinese were met, whom the woman declared to be of the party which had murdered her husband. They were taken into custody by the Police. Several Chinese with arms were then met and apprehended, and Mr. Cluff returned towards the Station, but before he reached it a great many Chinese gathered round the small party and demanded the release of the prisoners, which Mr. Cluff refused, at the same time threatening to fire upon them if they continued to press so closely upon his party. The woman was then observed in the palankeen, and a rush made to get hold of her, the Chinese exclaiming that they must murder her also. The palankeen was much broken and battered in the attempt to get possession of the unfortunate woman, but Mr. Cluff at last succeeded in lodging her and his prisoners in the Police Station, which was an attap-covered building situated on the slope of the hill. Here the numbers of the Chinese rapidly increased, and they threatened to burn down the Station unless the prisoners and

the woman were given up. Mr. Cluff at length thought it prudent so far to comply with their demand as to release the men who had been taken with arms in their hands, refusing at the same time to give up the others on any terms whatever. Having sent intimation of his situation to town, two Magistrates, with a party of troops and some special constables, were sent in palankeens to his assistance. Being joined by Mr. Cluff they proceeded to a village about a mile and a half beyond the Station, where the woman stated that the persons who had murdered her husband resided. On approaching the village a few of the special constables proceeded in advance for the purpose of drawing out the Chinese, and the latter were inclined to fall into the trap, but some Sepoys made their appearance at the moment, and the Chinese dispersed into the jungle, where they could not be pursued. Some houses belonging to the rioters were burnt down and the whole party returned to town.

In the Payah Lebar district, the persons belonging to the two tribes which chiefly inhabit that locality had entered into a compact that they would not molest each other, but the Teochew people violated the agreement by turning out considerable bodies and attacking the Hokien Chinese, who were taken quite unprepared as they relied on the engagement which had been made. A number of houses were plundered, several burnt to the ground, and the immates killed and wounded. A large body went to the Station which had been recently established at the village of Gaylang, and told the Jemadar that they intended to burn the village, that if he did not interfere they would not harm him, but if the contrary, he and his party would all be put to death. The Jemadar refused to parley with them and on their attempting to attack the village, fired several times, after which the Chinese retreated. One man was killed and several wounded. All the Chinese *pukats* were that evening turned out of the river by a party of special constables.

On Tuesday, a number of houses were burnt in Tanglin, and persons killed or wounded. One of the magistrates on his way to town having learned that a party of some hundreds were advancing from Bukit Timah, immediately turned back, and assisted by four special constables and a few peons, Boyans, and Chinese, formed a barricade at the first Station on the Bukit Timah Road. They then advanced along the road towards Bukit Timah, and near Cluny encountered a large body of Chinese, armed, and having gongs and banners. This party was driven back for some distance, shots being exchanged with them. They, however, so greatly outnumbered the magistrate's force that the latter was obliged to give way for about one hundred yards, but Constable Berthier with a party of peons at this time came up, and thus reinforced they returned to the attack and succeeded in driving back the Chinese, who at last took shelter in a *bangsal* and some negotiations ensued. In the meantime, another party, consisting of a Magistrate, a number of special constables, and police peons, &c., went round by the hills and through the jungle. They met a very large body of Chinese, whom they repeatedly fired upon and at last forced to give way, some taking to the jungle, but the greater part retiring upon the other body of their

countrymen, whom they joined in the *bangsal*. Fifteen Chinese were killed in this affray, and many more must have been wounded.

A detachment of troops was sent out to help them, but being without a guide, missed its way and did not join the specials until the evening. In the Payah Lebar and Siglap districts, the unfortunate Hokien people continued to suffer severely, their huts being everywhere burnt by their enemies, who murdered men, women and children. The corpses in this and other localities were found in many instances frightfully mutilated. A Magistrate with a party of fifty Malays, &c., went out to Thomson Road, from whence they followed a number of armed Chinese to near Serangoon, but owing to the obstruction offered by the jungle they did not succeed in bringing them to a stand. Several prisoners were taken. In the evening a party of forty Malays were sent to Siglap to reinforce the police. A party of some hundreds of Chinese, armed, and having flags, gongs and horns, attempted to pass the Police Station at the fifth mile-stone in Thomson Road, in the direction of town, but the Jemadar and police peons stationed there opposed their progress, and on their still persisting, fired several rounds upon them, when they retired. They afterwards returned to within half a mile of the Station, but finding that the police were on the alert they did not attempt to advance. One of the special constables, Mr. Rohde, an assistant in Apel & Co., who accompanied one of the parties, received a stroke of the sun, from the effects of which he died the same evening.

In the evening, at about seven o'clock, the Police were fired upon from a house in Church Street at a short distance from the Police Office, on which Mr. Dunman, Sitting Magistrate, proceeded to the spot with a party of Sepoys and having read the Riot Act, the house was fired into and then entered, a quantity of arms being found in it, and several prisoners taken. One of the special constables, Charles Cashin, had the end of one of his fingers carried away by a shot from this house. In the next house, which was also entered, a Chinese trader of some influence and standing was apprehended, there being a large quantity of arms in it. At a later hour, some special constables detected a party of Chinese in the act of setting fire to a house in Teluk Ayer. The greater number escaped, but about a dozen were apprehended. In the course of the night two of the special constables, while on their way to Commercial Square, were fired at, one in Market Street, but they both escaped without injury. During the night, a Chinese was found murdered in Circular Road.

The following proclamations were issued by the Government on the 6th and 8th :—

Several evil disposed persons having caused a disturbance between certain classes of the Chinese population, the Governor of the Straits Settlements calls upon all Chinese interested in the peace and quietness of the town, to aid him in putting an end to this feud.

With this object in view, all persons found fighting with sticks or throwing stones will be apprehended and punished according to law, and all householders giving shelter to such persons either directly or indirectly, shall be forthwith apprehended and prosecuted.

The Governor does not wish to resort to the aid of the military, but if these disturbances continue the parties concerned must abide by the consequences.

During the present disturbances in town, all junks now in the harbour must anchor in the position which will be pointed out by the Master Attendant, who has authority to cause the removal of all such vessels as thereby directed.

On Wednesday, the 10th, the disorder in the country districts still prevailed. It was resolved to despatch the steamer *Hooghly* with Sepoys and Malays to be landed at different points round the island so as to co-operate with the parties which had been sent out, and especially with a detachment of Sepoys under Colonel Cameron, which proceeded towards Buddoh, information having been brought in that the Chinese had collected in force near that place. Colonel Cameron and his party therefore started by land, and the *Hooghly* left in the afternoon. It had been reported that the Chinese were on the town side of Buddoh, and it was intended that the party from the steamer should land at Buddoh and take them in the rear, while Colonel Cameron attacked them in front. It turned out, however, that the information was defective, as Colonel Cameron reached the convict lines at Buddoh without seeing any sign of the rioters. Here he was joined by the party from the steamer, and the convicts having stated that the Chinese were to be found further on, the party proceeded. The road about two miles beyond Buddoh was over a hill, and on the crown of this a barricade was found, placed across the public road so as to effectually stop all passage. It was not quite finished, but it was apparently intended to be made of considerable strength and was protected by an attap roof. No one was on the watch, or considerable resistance might have been offered. Colonel Cameron, who was on horseback on the right flank of the detachment, caught sight of about one hundred and thirty Chinese apparently waiting for dinner. For a minute they appeared stupified at the appearance of the military, and then bolted into the jungle in all directions. The soldiers came up at a run and immediately opened fire, but the jungle came so close up to the spot where the Chinese were found, that they were out of sight in a moment. Only four men were made prisoners. The place where the Chinese were found had a very large attap roof over it, apparently intended for a house which would hold some hundreds of people. Close to it was a new Chinese house made of wood, fitted up in a very neat style, with all the usual accompaniments of a Chinese dwelling, such as an altar, joss, &c. This, it is supposed, was the residence of the leader of the party. In a corner of the large building was found a kind of cage, consisting of two stories, and very strongly constructed, probably intended as a receptable for the more valuable plunder. A larger boiler was found full of rice, which was being cooked, and there was an abundance of fowls, pork, &c., besides two large barrels of arrack. A little further on, on the opposite side of the road, a new house was met with, surrounded by a strong stockade about twelve feet high, and from this and another hut near it, a number of Chinese were observed to flee into the jungle. The whole of these buildings were burnt down, and the stockade across the road having been destroyed, the party returned towards Singapore.

The following proclamation was issued on the 11th :—

The Governor of the Straits Settlements calls upon the Chinese to remember that the British Authorities are placed in this Country to afford protection to all classes, to whatever sect belonging, whether engaged as merchants, traders, shopkeepers, gardeners, gambier-planters, or coolies; from whom nothing further is required than to obey the Laws, and not disturb the peace of the community with their private quarrels, as some of them have been doing of late.

These people must fully understand that this is not their country, and they must learn to attend to their own business, instead of molesting each other by going about the country to destroy the houses and property of their neighbours, and that if they continue in the perpetration of these outrages, they must expect to be treated like madmen.

The authorities have not, and will not take part with any sect or class of Chinese, but they are determined not to permit fresh disturbances to take place, and it is therefore hereby notified by the Governor of the Straits Settlements that all persons found committing acts of violence on their neighbours or their neighbours' property, or assembling with arms in their hands, will be hunted from place to place, until they are taken or destroyed.

W. J. BUTTERWORTH,
Governor of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca.

On Thursday quiet prevailed in town. Business was being fast resumed, many shops were opened, and the handicraftmen steadily at work. From the country, the different parties landed from the *Hooghly* at Changi, Serangoon, Thomson Road, and Kranji, returned to Singapore. The Changi division came upon the remains of the stockade destroyed on the previous day by Colonel Cameron, which was still burning. The party which landed at Kranji found the Chinese gathered in force with arms, and about twenty armed Chinese having fired at them, they were obliged to return the fire. Two men were seen to drop down dead and one man was wounded in the arm. The headman of the village and some others were captured and brought to town. The people at the village said they had armed themselves, as they were afraid, having heard that the Hokien men were going to attack them that evening. This statement was so far corroborated by the fact that letters had been received in town from parties in the village in which the anticipated attack had been mentioned.

The other divisions did not meet any opposition. The whole of the roads radiating from Singapore to different parts of the island were thus traversed from one end to the other, and with good effect, as the Chinese are described to have been quite surprised at seeing these large parties of armed men approaching them from the back of the island. The Malays are said to have behaved very well under the European gentlemen by whom they were accompanied.

It being reported that the Chinese were again assembling at the *bangsal* in Bukit Timah Road, where they had come to a stand on Tuesday, the detachment of military stationed in that quarter, accompanied by a Magistrate and some special constables and peons, went to the spot. The Chinese, however, had retired, but having found extensive preparations for feeding a large body of men, an ox stolen from a neighbouring plantation having been slaughtered and great quantities of rice boiling, as well as arms and ammunition, the place was burnt. Twenty-two prisoners were taken.

In the morning, Constable Berthier proceeded to Siglap with ten peons, and when near Doctor Little's bungalow, a Chinese reported that his friend had been killed at a hut near the bungalow. The constable proceeded to the spot, and found that the man had been killed by a sword cut across the face. Another Chinese gave information of another man having been murdered, and this corpse was also seen by the constable. The person who was said to be the leader of the gang by which these murders were committed was captured. It being stated that the band of Chinese who had plundered the district of Gaylang lived about two miles from Mr. Caldwell's residence, Constable Berthier, accompanied by Dr. Little and some other European gentlemen, proceeded in that direction. As they approached Mr. Caldwell's house they met eight or ten Chinese, most of them armed with muskets and spears. They said that they were running away because a gang of plunderers had threatened to burn their property. They were sent to Dr. Little's bungalow. As they approached the *bangsal* in which the guide said the band was concealed, they came upon about thirty Chinese armed with spears, two of whom carried flags. The party fired upon them, when one fell, and it is believed that several more were wounded. The man who fell was taken up to be conveyed to the house but expired on the road. Another man was taken who had been hit on the head slightly. Both of these men were identified by the guide as having been of the party which had burnt his house and murdered his brother. In the *bangsal* a quantity of arms were found, and from its whole appearance it was supposed to have been a refuge of the plunderers, and was accordingly burnt down. The party then returned to Siglap and from thence to town.

In the evening about half past five o'clock a Bugis ran *amok* on Boat Quay, and stabbed no less than six Chinese, some of whom received very severe wounds. He then threw himself into the canal opposite Mr. Purvis' godowns, where he took shelter beneath the bridge. He was repeatedly called upon to come out of the water and give himself up, but refused, saying he wished to die and they had better shoot him where he was. As he was armed with a kris which he refused to surrender, and the tide was running up very strongly, rendering it difficult to approach him in a boat, the police were at last ordered to fire upon him, but although thirty or forty shots were aimed at him, none of them appeared to take effect, and he was at last captured, after being severely wounded, while in the act of getting ashore, having swum a considerable distance up the canal. He was taken to the hospital, where it was found he had received twenty-three sword wounds, but not one bullet had touched him. He died shortly after 10 o'clock.

On Friday, a Chinese was found murdered near the foot of Government Hill. Two Malays were also murdered by Chinese in the Payah Lebar district. Several parties of armed Chinese were seen in this district and chased, but took refuge in the jungle, where, for want of guides, it was found impossible to follow them. A large force was reported to have assembled in the jungle, between the Serangoon and Gaylang Roads. Four detachments of Sepoys, each

of twenty men, were stationed on Thomson Road near the fifth mile stone, in the Tanglin District, in Gaylang at Dr. Little's bungalow, and on the Bukit Timah Road at the house of Mr. M. F. Davidson, still called Dalvey.

On Saturday morning a Chinese was murdered in the Tanglin district. The police tried to beat the jungle between the Gaylang and Serangoon Roads, but all the paths were found to be obstructed by trees being felled across them, the logs, by which the swamps are crossed, removed, &c. In various districts, besides burning down the houses, the nutmeg, cocoa-nut, and other fruit trees were cut down by the rioters.

The riots subsided, after having lasted for ten or twelve days, and murder, fire-raising, robbery, and wanton destruction of houses, plantations, gardens, and fruit trees, having happened daily during that time.

There was great uneasiness at Malacca, all kinds of rumours being propagated there about what was occurring in Singapore. The Secret Societies in Singapore wrote to Malacca inviting their friends there to commence a riot, but without effect. A public meeting was held at the Residency. Mr. J. H. Velge in the Chair, and resolutions adopted calling on the Government to take immediate steps to prevent similar disturbances there.

In Johore, there was some trouble, as the coolies were short of rice, the supplies from Singapore being temporarily stopped, as all trade was suspended.

The lock-ups and gaol were crowded with prisoners, about five hundred men having been arrested, and a special sessions was held on Tuesday, the 6th June, before Colonel Butterworth, Sir Wm. Jeffcott, the Recorder, and Mr. Church. The following were the Grand Jury :—

Michie Forbes Davidson.—*Foreman.*

José d'Almeida.	William Stewart.
James Mottley.	Walter Scott Duncan.
Dunjeebhoy Hormusjee.	Henry M. Simons.
John S. Scrymgeour.	William Martin.
Clement Fabian Demée.	John Purss Cumming.
Cachick Moses.	William Mactaggart.
John Jarvie.	John Russell.
John Purvis.	F. Geo. Schmidt.
Thomas Owen Crane.	Leopold Catteaux.
Reinhard Rittershaus.	M. G. Mackertoom.
Charles H. Harrison.	A. James Spottiswoode.

The following are a few passages from the remarks to the Grand Jury made by Sir Wm. Jeffcott about the riots:—

"These people had hitherto lived peaceably together, transacting business with each other and living intermingled in the same streets. Without any apparent cause, however, a spirit of discord appears suddenly to have arisen amongst them, which on the 5th of May last broke out in acts of violence, riots occurring in different parts of the town, and at length resulting in houses being attacked and plundered. This state of things continued for seven or eight days, although after the first three days the rioting in town gradually

diminished. The police were incessantly employed, the military were called out, and the marines landed from the ships-of-war: and with a most praiseworthy alacrity, the European inhabitants came forward and offered their services as Special Constables and had afforded most valuable assistance in preserving order, for which they were entitled to the gratitude of the community.

"After the first two days, the disturbances spread into the country, where, his Lordship regretted to say, they assumed a very different character. The riotous proceedings there were much more serious and aggravated, and quickly led to the plundering and burning of property, and eventually to the destruction of life and the committal of excesses of every kind of the most barbarous nature. The Grand Jury could easily understand how this difference should have taken place. While in town the people are comparatively civilised, the mass of the population in the jungle consists of men who have never for any length of time come in contact with Europeans or with the more orderly part of the town residents, and who live in a state of secluded semi-barbarism in the jungle, with little or no idea of what law or order is. When, therefore, the disturbances spread amongst them, they naturally plunged at once into far greater excesses than had characterised the town population, and the consequence was, that for a series of days the rural districts were the scene of the most lamentable outrages—huts and villages being burnt down in every direction, and murders committed, many of which had come to their knowledge, while it was to be feared many more had been perpetrated but remained unknown. Another cause, perhaps, of the different character which the disturbances in the country had assumed compared with those in the town, might be found in the fact that while in the town the two parties were nearly equal, in the country one of them had a great preponderance, and had the other party in a great measure in their power."

The Sessions lasted seventeen days. Six men were sentenced to death, but only two were executed; sixty-four were sentenced to various terms of hard labour, and eight were transported for fourteen years. There were about two hundred and fifty prisoners tried.

In this year the Indian Council introduced a Bill to make the anna and pie of the copper currency in India, legal tender in the Straits for fractions of a rupee. The intention was to force out the dollar, and make a rupee currency; and for this purpose the Treasury in Singapore were told to substitute the rupee for the dollar in their payments, which was partially carried out from May to the end of the year, at the exchange of Rs. 220 per $100. The *Free Press* remarked on this as follows:—"The present Bill is but a step further in the same direction, and it behoves the community of this place, as well as the two other Straits settlements, to lose no time in offering their determined opposition to the progress of these mischievous and most ill-judged measures. We dare not hope that much regard will be paid to any remonstrances that may proceed from this, but it is due to the community itself to record its decided opposition to these measures, both in principle and detail, and the doing so will also prevent an argument which would otherwise certainly be brought up,

when the future and still more decisive steps are to be taken, that they had tacitly acquiesced in the change. A public meeting has been called for this day to consider the subject, and we sincerely hope it may result in unanimous and firm representation against such causeless and wanton tampering with the life-blood of our commerce—the circulating medium."

The rupee was first coined in 1835, and declared a legal tender throughout the territories of the East India Company, which included the Straits, but had no special reference to them. In 1844, the copper currency was extended to all the territories, but it never became actual currency in Singapore.

The dollar, which had been the coin of commerce in the Archipelago for centuries before we obtained any footing in it, became by necessity the circulating medium in English places when they were established, and it has continued ever since to be the *real* currency of the Straits Settlements. Subsequent to 1835, the dollar fully retained its place, and, so far as the Straits were concerned, the two Indian Acts of 1835 and 1844 were a mere dead letter. In 1847, the then Government of India (acting with rather more enlightenment than their successors in 1854), accepted the state of things which they saw was unavoidable, and as the want of an authorised copper currency to represent the fractions of a dollar, had long been productive of great inconvenience, and had led to the introduction of copper tokens or doits (manufactured by private individuals and of varying inferior value), coined in the Indian Mints the cents, half and quarter cents of a dollar for Singapore, and passed the Act of 1847 declaring them to be the *only* legal copper currency of the Straits. These coins quickly superseded the former tokens and doits, driving them entirely out of the market, and formed the only copper currency of the Settlement both legally and actually.

In this year therefore the Company's silver rupee was by law a legal coin in the Straits, but it never was used. The dollar was the only silver coin current in the Straits, and by the law of custom it was also a legal coin. The Company's cent, half and quarter cent, were actually and also by force of law, the only copper currency. No one was dissatisfied with this state of things. It worked well, and the commerce of the Settlement throve under it. The only thing desired was that the Hon'ble Company should coin a dollar of its own, with half and quarter dollars, and do away with some inconveniences which arose from the want of silver of a smaller denomination, but no one in the Straits desired to get rid of these insignificant inconveniences by the use of the Rupee.

In this state of matters, this Bill was brought forward to effect the following alterations:—

First.—The dollar and the rupee were to remain as before—both legal coins.

Second.—The cents of a dollar, and half and quarter cents, were no longer to be the *only* legal copper currency.

Third.—The Company's pice, double pice, half pice and pie, were to become a legal copper currency along with the cent and its parts.

Fourth.—Each of these two copper currencies was to become a legal tender, not only for fractions of its own representative in silver, but also for the other silver coin. That is, cents were to remain a legal tender for fractions of a dollar, and were to become a legal tender also for fractions of a rupee; and pice and pie, besides becoming legal tenders for fractions of a rupee (which at that time they were not in the Straits), were to become also a legal tender for fractions of a dollar."

A public meeting was held on the 13th October, at which the following resolutions were passed:—

Proposed by W. H. Read, and seconded by T. H. Campbell:—"That this meeting regrets that the former representations which have been submitted to the Bengal Government on the subject of the currency have not met with the attention and consideration to which, it is submitted, they were entitled, and it deprecates the introduction of the Company's Rupee as an unlimited legal tender, at a fixed rate, as injurious to the trade of the Settlement, and as inexpedient and impolitic under any circumstances."

Proposed by J. Jarvie, and seconded by W. Mactaggart:—"That this meeting objects in the strongest manner to the introduction of the copper coins at present current in continental British India, as cumbersome and totally unsuited to the requirements of the Straits Settlements, and opposed to the system of decimal currency now in the course of being introduced into Great Britain, and at present existing in this Settlement."

Proposed by M. F. Davidson and seconded by Mr. Allinson:—"That this meeting recommends that a petition embodying the previous resolutions be laid before Parliament, and that the following gentlemen be appointed as a committee to draw it up:—Messrs. Purvis, Jarvie, Read, Logan, and Guthrie.

A petition was drawn up to the Legislative Council of India, and the following is the substance of the letter sent with it to the Governor:—

"For many years past (and in regard to Penang and Singapore, it may almost be said, since their commencement) the currency of the Straits Settlements has been the dollars of 100 cents. Considerable inconvenience was occasionally experienced from there being no regular copper currency, the want of it, in Singapore at least, being supplied by tokens or doits, imported from England, and which had a very extensive circulation over the Indian Archipelago, having a varying value of from 360 to 600 to the dollar. In 1847, however, a convenient copper currency was furnished by the Indian Government in the form of a cent, half and quarter cent, and these have since been found perfectly adapted to the purpose required, the only matter of complaint being an occasional short supply. These coins are not only the exclusive copper circulating medium of the Straits Settlements, but have obtained a considerable currency in various Native States in the Archipelago.

"The Supreme Government has proposed at different times to introduce the Indian currency into the Straits Settlements, but has refrained from carrying this into effect in compliance with the strongly expressed opinion of the inhabitants against it. During the course of last year, the subject was again revived, but although all classes of the community were found decidedly opposed to the introduction of a rupee currency into the Straits, the Supreme Government has so far persevered in its intention as to make it imperative that all payments from, or sums received by, the local treasuries should be in rupees. This experiment has fully confirmed the unfavourable anticipations which were formed regarding the use of the rupee as a circulating medium, it having produced much general incon-

venience and inflicted serious loss on those parties who, from their position in regard to Government, have been obliged to accept payments in rupees.

"The rupee and its fractional parts, whether of silver or copper, we are convinced, will never become acceptable in these Settlements as a circulating medium, and any attempt to force them upon the community by legislative enactment cannot be too strongly deprecated, as it will, without doubt, seriously injure trade and give rise to very general inconvenience. The decimal system of currency and accounts has long been established in the Straits, and has been found greatly to facilitate commercial transactions. To introduce the rupee as the legal currency, would involve a complete change in this respect (for a double currency, so totally dissimilar as the dollar and rupee, we are convinced, would not be found compatible) and would be an abandonment of a system, the superior advantages of which are now so fully recognised and which it is so anxiously sought to introduce into Great Britain and other countries where a different one now prevails.

"If the Supreme Government, instead of imposing upon these communities a currency which meets with general disapproval and which can only be productive of serious evils, were to issue a Company's dollar, and fifty, twenty-five and ten cent pieces (similar to those coined by the Bengal Government in 1787 for Prince of Wales' Island) a boon of the greatest value would be conferred on these Settlements and (with the present copper currency of cents, half and quarter cents) as perfect a monetary system as could be desired, would be established.

"Not only, moreover, would this currency be of the greatest value to the Straits Settlements, but we have no hesitation in asserting that it would be found highly profitable to Government, as the dollar, and half dollar at least, would become popular not only over the whole of the Archipelago and adjacent countries, but would, in the opinion of the most experienced merchants, in a very short time become the chief circulating medium of European commerce in China if not of the whole Chinese Empire."

The question of the currency and of a British dollar for the Straits, continued to be agitated for some time, and caused great discussions in the Council in India. In England the old veteran Governor John Crawfurd, with a number of old Singaporeans, including Messrs. Nicol, Guthrie, Gilman, Fraser and Paterson, waited upon the Board of Control, and went a long way to convince the mind of the President; and on the receipt of the advice of their proceedings, a public meeting was held here on the 11th August, 1855, with Mr. James Guthrie in the chair, at which a long list of resolutions were passed, copies of which were sent to all the Chambers of Commerce in any way connected with the Straits, and petitions were sent in January, 1856, to both Houses of Parliament. Mr. Crawfurd took the matter up *con amore*, and the petition to the House of Lords was taken charge of by Lord Albemarle, Admiral Keppel's brother, by whom on Monday, 21st April, 1856, the following notice was given :—

"The Earl of Albemarle to present a petition from the European, the Chinese, and other Asiatic merchants of Singapore, remonstrating against the introduction by the Government of India of a novel and highly inconvenient currency instead of a long established, convenient, and satisfactory one; thereby throwing confusion into the commerce of that and the associated British Settlements in the Straits of Malacca."

The petition to the House of Commons was placed in the hands of Mr. Gladstone, and the *Free Press* remarked that it was hoped the Court of Directors would be convinced, by the steps that had been taken, that Singapore would never submit to having the barbarous monetary system of India (—1=16=12—) substituted for that (1=100), which had so long prevailed!

The Earl of Albemarle gave a very admirable explanation of the views of the mercantile community here, and state the case with much ability. On the 1st July, 1856, another public meeting was held, Mr. W. H. Read in the chair, and a number of resolutions were passed, among which were the following:—

Proposed by J. d'Almeida, and seconded by R. Padday:—"That the manifest advantages of the dollar over the rupee currency having been thus clearly demonstrated by experience, this meeting earnestly urge the Supreme Government forthwith to coin a Company's dollar, and the sub-divisions thereof, in silver, of the intrinsic value of the Mexican dollar, say, 416 grains troy of silver."

Proposed by A. J. Spottiswoode, and seconded by W. Howard:—"That the respectful and cordial thanks of this Community be tendered to the Right Honourable the Earl of Albemarle for the deep interest he has evinced in the Straits Settlements, and for the eloquent address to the House of Lords in which he so ably exposed the evils entailed by the attempted alteration in the currency."

The result was that the Bill did not pass, and the dollar continued to be the legal tender in the Straits, as it is to this day. The mercantile community gained their point, which was a vital one for the commercial interests of Singapore.

The Chamber of Commerce then attacked the Government on the question, and in January, 1858, the Grand Jury, with Mr. John Harvey as foreman, in their long presentment, spoke as follows of the matter:—"The Grand Jurors take occasion here to refer to a subject which has been frequently pressed on the attention of the Government by the inhabitants of this Settlement, viz., the propriety of establishing a Mint at Singapore, and the Grand Jurors are persuaded that such an establishment for the coinage of British dollars, half dollars and quarter dollars, in silver; and cents, half cents, and quarter cents in copper, would be found most profitable to the Government, at the same time that it would eminently conduce to the increase of its trade, and to the extension of commerce generally, throughout the neighbouring countries."

And the following was part of the letter of the Recorder, Sir Richard McCausland, sent into Government, as usual, expressing his own opinions on that passage of the presentment:—"The pressure upon the poorer classes arising from the scarcity of decimal copper coins, with which they are familiar, has long been felt, and loudly complained of; and so long ago as August, 1856, hopes were held out by the Hon'ble Mr. Allen that this should speedily be removed, yet the evil has ever since continued in an increased degree. With respect to the establishment of a Mint at Singapore, the coinage of British dollars with their subdivision in silver, would greatly increase the trade of Singapore with all the ports and islands of the Eastern Archipelago. The constant demand for a supply of silver in the East, as the circulating medium, would always keep it at a price that would amply repay the expenses of a Mint and the cost of coinage, whilst the very fact that British money could be procured for their produce would act as an incentive to the Native traders to resort in greater numbers than ever to the port of Singapore, and would add

considerably to the moral force and prestige of the British name throughout all the neighbouring states and countries."

To which the Governor, Mr. Blundell, replied as follows :—"The Government Mints, both at Calcutta and Madras, have been directed to do all in their power to remedy the evil complained of in the want of copper cents and fractions of cents, and the subject of establishing a Mint either here or at Hongkong is considered to be under reference to High Authority in England."

And in May the Secretary to the Government of India wrote to the Governor here :—"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 27, dated the 23rd ultimo, forwarding a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce at Singapore on the subject of the deficiency of copper coins in the Straits Settlements, and referring to your previous letters relative to the suggestion that a supply of cents and fraction of cents be obtained from private Mints in England, and that a Mint be established at Singapore for the coinage of dollars and fractions of a dollar.

"2*nd*. In reply, I am desired to inform you that the question of establishing a Mint in Singapore was referred in April to the Hon'ble Court, who informed this Government in reply that they had been in communication with the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury on the subject; that Sir John Bowring had recommended the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong, and that the subject was still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, promising to address this Government again when the decision of Her Majesty's Government was made known to them. A further communication will be made to you when the determination of Her Majesty's Government is made known to this Government by the Hon'ble Court."

In September, 1858, the *Free Press* contained the following article :—"We learn from the China papers that the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury have rejected the proposal of Sir John Bowring to establish a Mint at Hongkong for the coinage of British dollars. The reasons for this rejection are :—1st, that British sterling money has been adopted as a standard of value at Hongkong, and that to substitute a silver standard would render it necessary to re-adjust the rates at which the dollar should be received in payment of duties, &c.; 2nd, that Sir John Bowring has greatly under-rated the cost at which a dollar could be coined; 3rd, that the benefits of the measure would only or chiefly accrue to the merchants of Shanghai if successful, while, if it failed, the cost would fall upon the revenues of Great Britain; 4th, that the evils complained of might be solved by any united effort to adopt the Mexican dollar as the recognised measure of value and medium of exchange, and that there is no fear of the supply of the Mexican dollars failing.

"The Treasury seems to be aware that British sterling money can never become current in this part of the world, but it nevertheless refuses to give a British standard coin, regarding the success of which there can be no reasonable doubt, and prefers to leave the vast commerce carried on by its subjects in China and the Eastern Seas dependent for the supply of a circulating medium upon a distant foreign state. On this point the *North China Herald* well remarks :—The

supply of Mexican dollars may be at present unlimited, but we have no security that this will continue, and as little that the coin will be maintained at its present purity. Both of these contingencies are more than possible; we know that Brother Jonathan is, as he would say, "Bound to have Mexico one of these days," and even if this much coveted morsel should be long delayed, nothing will seem more natural to a Spanish-American Republic than to debase a coin for which there exists a great demand. Let either of these occur, and we are landed in all the evils formerly occasioned by the scarcity of the Carolus dollar, and that too at a time when our relations with China will probably be vastly more extended than they are now. At present the Mexican dollar comes to us by way of London, with very heavy charges in the shape of commissions, insurances, and costly overland freight. Most of this would be saved by having a Mint on the spot, and the Sycee silver would afford a large supply of the material for coinage."

In September was commenced the enquiry connected with Rajah Brooke and the pirates, which, though it had nothing directly to do with the history of Singapore itself, was a matter of considerable consequence to the place, and drew a great deal of attention in other places to the Settlement and the conduct of the residents.

In 1849 the London *Daily News*, the organ of Mr. Cobden and his party, being misled, commenced an attack upon Sir James Brooke, misrepresenting the operations by Captain the Hon. Henry Keppel and the Rajah as a brutal war of conquest, waged against tribes who were not at war among themselves; and asserting that the Sarebas and Sekarran pirates were innocent traders, and that the Rajah was using the English Navy for his own private ends. In September, 1849, the *Free Press* remarked that there was such a coincidence, even in words, between the statements in the *Daily News* and the Singapore *Straits Times*, that there could be no doubt they were both derived from the same source. In February, 1850, the *Free Press* spoke of the reckless misstatements and fictions of the Singapore correspondent of the *Daily News*, to which no credit was given by the Government officials, or by the merchants of Singapore.

In July a Court of Enquiry was held in Singapore on board H. M. S. *Hastings*, the flagship of Admiral Austin, C.B., on an officer of H. C. S. *Nemesis*, a doctor, for having furnished information to the *Straits Times*, relative to the proceedings on the coast of Borneo in March and April, 1849. It terminated in the officer's favour; he himself, and the officers who gave evidence, saying the statements contained in the communications to the *Straits Times* were false and calumnious and denying all knowledge of them. The inference was that the statements were concocted in the office of the newspaper; but the reason for doing this did not transpire for some time.

In August, 1850, the London *Times* reported that Mr. Drummond in the House of Commons had spoken of Henry Wise (who was a dismissed and discredited agent of Rajah Brooke) as having been an anonymous slanderer of Sir James Brooke for the preceding three years, and as wanting to turn Labuan and Sarawak into a means for his own aggrandisement, and to make Sir James a jobber with him in the promotion of a Company.

In a long article in the London *Times* of 23rd July, 1852, on the subject of the debates in the House of Commons about the Borneo pirates, it spoke of its having been the fashion to impute the inevitable slaughter that had occurred, as having been attributed by those who attacked Rajah Brooke, to the deliberate malignity and unbounded appetite for blood of the Governor of Labuan (Sir James). It went on to say that the whisper of private enmity soon increased to a public cry, and the manœuvres of a dismissed and discontented agent. It said that Pamphlets had been concocted, and a Clergyman or two incited to rouse the sympathies of peace meetings in favor of the pirates. It had turned out upon enquiry that the flotilla that had been attacked was manned by a set of as pitiless ruffians as ever sailed upon the sea, and the fact had been clearly established. And after referring at length to the facts in vindication of the Rajah's character, and quoting statements made in the debate, and remarking that Mr. Hume had made himself the common cesspool into which every slander against Sir James Brooke might be poured, and that a wicked and infamous libel, written by Mr. Wise, had been put into the hands of every member of the House; the article in the *Times* concluded as follows:— "Mr. Hume, as will be seen by reference to his speech allowed himself, unconsciously no doubt, to be made the organ of conveying Mr. Wise's misstatements to the House. But this is not all. It was stated in the House last night that Mr. Wise had falsified Sir James Brooke's journal. Even twisted from its real meaning, what has been made out? One single act of trading on the part of Sir James Brooke? Not one. Twelve years have elapsed since he left this country. The real fact is that so far from having been a gainer, Sir James Brooke has diminished his private fortune [The *Times* might more correctly have said had spent his whole fortune, £30,000], in his endeavours to carry out the civilization of the Archipelago, and the paltry salary he draws as Governor of Labuan is devoted to the same object."

The agitation went on in the usual Exeter Hall fashion, fomented by well intentioned people, no doubt, made catspaws and fools of; and on 4th August, 1854, a notification was issued in Singapore, signed in Calcutta on 7th July, by Lord Dalhousie, the Governor-General, Sir Barnes Peacock and three others, appointing Charles Robert Prinsep, Barrister-at-law and Advocate-General of Bengal, and the Hon'ble Humphry Bohun Devereux, of the Civil Service, to enquire into certain matters connected with, and arising out of the position of Sir James Brooke as H. M. Commissioner and Consul-General in Borneo. The notification was of some length. A few days afterwards a notice was issued, signed by K. B. S. Robertson as Clerk to the Commissioners, that the sitting would commence on Monday, 11th September.

As will be seen from a remark in an article in the *Friend of India* quoted further on, the attack had been founded on an old letter or memorial which had been taken round Singapore for signature by Robert Carr Woods in 1851. As has been said on page 438, he had come from Bombay six years before, and his anticipations of making his newspaper a pecuniary success had not reached his expectations.

The enquiry was held in what was then used as the Court House; the very building is still standing, filled up with bales of paper and

printing materials, being now used as the store room of the Government Printing Office, the new office having been built on to it in front, facing High Street.

How the signatures to the letter had been obtained, and the object of Mr. Woods in forwarding it, came to light in the enquiry, and afterwards. The paper which was struggling on its early way had been subsidised by the detractors of the Rajah.

The Commission was opened on Monday, 11th September, 1854, Sir James Brooke accompanied by Mr. W. H. Read entered and took his seat. Mr. Woods (Editor of the *Straits Times*) came forward and asked for heads of the charges. The Commission expressed disappointment at the attempted delay and adjourned to Thursday when the Court House would not be required for any other purpose. On Thursday they sat again, when Sir James Brooke was present. Mr. Woods did not come. There was a pause for some little time, after which no one appearing, Mr. Prinsep remarked "That it certainly appeared to the Commissioners somewhat extraordinary, that after the petition which had been sent from Singapore so numerously signed, and in consequence of which the present Enquiry had been instituted, no one should now come forward, either to bring a charge against Sir James Brooke or to offer any substantiation of the charges previously made. Her Majesty had paid a high compliment to those demanding this Enquiry against a servant upon whom she had conferred great distinction, and it not only seemed extraordinary to him, but must appear very unaccountable to people at home, that after they (the Commissioners), had been sent here at great expense to enquire into the validity of these charges, there should appear not a soul to bring them before the Commission. As for what Her Majesty's Ministers would think it was not for him to conjecture."

They adjourned to Tuesday when Mr. Woods came, and a great deal of evidence was taken. One gentleman well known here, was Captain George Todd Wright, of the Government steamer *Hooghly*. He said in reply to the Commissioners that he had signed the memorial. Mr. Woods had told him several of Sir James Brooke's friends had signed it, so he did so, saying "Anything for Sir James, I will willingly sign." He did not read it. Mr. Thomas Tivendale, also very well known here, was a witness. He had a shipbuilding yard on the river side, opposite where the Hotel de l'Europe is now, next to the present Government Printing Office. He said in reply to Sir James Brooke that he had signed the memorial; he would not have done so, but he was misinformed by Mr. Woods. He told Mr. Woods that he had no time to read it and asked him to call on Monday, but Mr. Woods said he need not be afraid to sign it, as it was merely for the suppression of piracy on the coast of Borneo, and had been signed by all the principal merchants in the place. He said if that was the case there could be no harm in signing it, and did so. He decidedly should not have signed it if he had known its contents. On Sunday he discovered its contents. On Monday he went to the Court House, to Mr. Woods, who was deputy sheriff at the time, and asked him to take his name out; he said it could not be done, it must go home with the others. Another witness, Mr.

George Julius Dare, said that he first sailed out of Calcutta to China in 1823, and between Singapore and China from 1840 to 1845, when he went home, and returned in 1846 and had been settled on shore in Singapore since 1848. He said that the description put opposite to his name on the memorial had not been made by him and he had never authorised it, and the statement in it was untrue, that he had traded exclusively with the Eastern Archipelago for ten years. Even witnesses called against the Rajah, whatever their private feelings against him, proved that he had been in the right. The proceedings as they went on, and they continued until nearly the end of October, became more and more decisive in favour of the Rajah, and the whole thing broke down after 56 witnesses had been called to support a case against him.

Years afterwards, in 1861, at the public entertainment given to the Rajah, which is spoken of further on, under that year, Mr. Woods, when everyone went up at the close of the evening to wish the Rajah good-bye, asked Mr. Read whether he thought the Rajah would shake hands with him. Mr. Read told the Rajah, who said "Let him come; let bygones be bygones." And as Woods walked back down the room with Mr. Read, he said "Well, it has not done him any harm after all, and it has educated my boys." Subsequent events shewed that the result was very unfortunate in each case.

Mr. Woods lived to do much good work in after years for the community in Singapore, and died much respected, but the result of his earlier days in Singapore is expressed thus by Admiral Keppel in his last book, in 1899, (volume 2, page 62) in a passage headed "Persecution of Sir James Brooke":—"I cannot close my diary for this year without mention of the sore trouble in which my friend Brooke was involved. The commencement, indeed, of the persecution from which he emerged stainless, but at the cost of mental anxiety which ultimately caused his death." The gallant sailor says also that Wise was improperly allowed access to the Rajah's journal which contained disparaging references to himself. Then came the formation of the Eastern Archipelago Company, without Brooke's sanction, which had only one object, to make money. A law suit brought by the Rajah against the Company in England ended in his favour, and a false certificate was shewn to have been put on the prospectus of the Company, out of which Wise had reaped a very large sum. He induced Mr. David Hume to take up the matter, being a man who liked to air a grievance, and tried to turn the tables on the Rajah. His object, it was thought, being to get the Rajah, Captain Keppel, William Napier and others, out of England in order to float the Company.

Rather than refer to anything that was written in Singapore on the result of the enquiry, it seems better to turn to what may be fairly considered an independent expression of opinion. The London *Times* has already been referred to; the following passages are part of an article in one of the leading Calcutta newspapers, *The Friend of India*, on 9th November, 1854:—"Sir James Brooke after clearing the Northern Archipelago of pirates, and after establishing the only

orderly Government ever known in Borneo was suddenly assailed at home, by accusations of having butchered unoffending natives. The Aborigines Society took up the cause of the Dyaks. The unscrupulous malignity of a dismissed agent was aided by the mistaken philanthropy of hundreds, and by the incessant invective of a newspaper. The Rajah was supported only by the House of Commons, the Ministry of the day, and the Indian public. The House twice acquitted him. But the tide turned. The coalition Ministry were anxious to conciliate the Rajah's opponents. On the strength of an old letter signed in 1851 by many residents of Singapore, they requested the Governor-General to appoint a Commission to examine into rumours. They found, on their arrival at Singapore, that the Commission was an absurdity. Not only there was no ground for the charges, but there were no charges at all. One individual did not remember why he signed it, another had done so because he had read stories in English newspapers; while a Dutch Resident, who alike by instinct and policy was hostile to the Rajah, stepped forward in the name of humanity to defend him. At last Mr. Prinsep with just indignation reproved the conduct of those who on such grounds had asked for a Commission. A knot of individuals at Singapore have chosen to run down one of the most successful of British pioneers. They have accepted every calumny, rejected every reply, taken advantage of the clamour of a misguided section of the British public, and at last when the enquiry has been ordered, have shrunk from substantiating their charges. We leave them to the contempt they have so assiduously earned."

These last remarks, which make an effective tail-end to an article, were fair enough of the name of the editor of the *Straits Times* had been written instead of "a knot of individuals at Singapore;" and much stronger language might have been fairly used. It has been said that this calumny of Sir James Brooke, founded on falsehood and strutted up with newspaper lies, is the one big blot on the history of Singapore. The community, however, were, in part, to blame. As soon as it was seen that the paper was propagating falsehoods, as must have been apparent (see the case of the Court of Enquiry on board the *Hastings*) the community had the remedy in their own hands; but unfortunately experience shewed that, as in other places, a newspaper disseminating lies and slanderous remarks, even on those who are far above being affected by its knavery, finds a class of readers who support and pay for it, for the gratification, it must be supposed, of their own idle curiosity. The opinions expressed in a newspaper are only of the value which the knowledge or judgment of the writer can give to them, he is but an individual, whose opinion, unless there is the opportunity to judge of his competency, may be worth nothing at all. As the vast majority of the newspaper reading public have not the discrimination to realize this, and some are so foolish as to take statements of opinion as incontrovertible, because they read them in print, it is the duty of those with more intelligence to do what they can to prevent the mischief by withdrawing from the paper what they contribute to the sinews of war, without which it

cannot continue to misrepresent the truth, or the opinions of the public; unless, indeed, it is subsidised for evil purposes by those who are willing to expend money in such a manner, in the hopes of gaining much more, on the supposition that the world is largely composed of foolish or ignorant people.

Lastly the Calcutta *Gazette* of 28th October, 1855, reproduced in the *Free Press* of 29th November, in a notification as long as that appointing the Commissioners, conveyed the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on their report. It completely cleared Sir James from the charges so long and so virulently made. It is too long to quote, except one sentence:—"The enquiry which has ended in the complete exculpation of Sir James Brooke from the charges made against him, has, at the same time, brought to light abundant evidence of the beneficial results of his administration of the affairs of Sarawak, which are exhibited by the establishment of confidence and the increase of trade, and are such as to deserve the approbation of Her Majesty's Government."

The name of Charles Robert Prinsep was a household word in Singapore as early as 1842, though it is not known now whether he actually came here before he was sent with Mr. Devereux for the Brooke enquiry. It seems more than probable that he had been in Singapore many years before, because for years before this he had owned the Prinsep nutmeg estate, which Dr. Oxley estimated in July, 1848, at 6,700 trees. It extended from Stamford Road to Bukit Timah Road, as far inland as Cairn Hill, or thereabouts. Behn, Meyer & Co.'s people lived on it, in a bungalow on the hill where the Colonial Secretary's house is now; and Charles Scott who looked after the Prinsep estate, lived in an attap house on the exact site of the present Government House, where, after his time, Mr. W. H. Read and his cousin Mr. R. B. Read were living when Governor Ord had the land bought to build the present Government House.

When Mr. Prinsep came to Singapore for the Brooke Commission, he was almost in his dotage and died soon afterwards. He was much in favour of the Rupee currency, and had great arguments with Singapore people about the Rupee and Dollar question; Devereux, the other Commissioner chaffing him, and adding fuel to the fire.

At the time of the commencement of the Crimean War there were three men-of-war here, one corvette of 1,633 tons, the *Sybille*, and two sloops, the *Rapid* and *Lily*, of about 400 tons each. There was very little alarm felt here; fortifications, or rather the want of them, were talked of, and the three men-of-war went out cruising occasionally. One result of the big riots and the Crimean war combined was the formation of the Volunteer Corps. A meeting was held in the News Rooms on Saturday, the 8th of July, to consider the proposal to establish a corps. Mr. John Purvis was in the chair, and he said that the large attendance present showed in a favourable manner how the proposal had been entertained for the establishment of a Volunteer Corps. Believing that the feeling in its favor was general, he had taken upon himself to convene the

present meeting. Although he (Mr. Purvis) was not at liberty to mention names, he believed the establishment of a Volunteer Corps had been suggested by the highest authority in India; and he felt assured that a measure of this nature would receive the hearty concurrence and co-operation of Governor Butterworth; indeed, His Honour had intimated his readiness to head the corps. The object of the proposed Singapore Rifle Corps was, in cases of great emergency, to assist the Police in the preservation of order, and to resist the invasion of a foreign foe. The readiness which all had evinced, in the recent Chinese *émeutes*, to stand forward and prepare to act at once, had been of signal service to the Government. The manner in which the Governor had expressed his sense of the patriotism which inspired and prompted them cheerfully to aid in the suppression of the riots, was a sufficient guarantee that nothing would be wanting on the part of the head of the Executive in consulting the wishes of the meeting. They were all aware, and ready to admit, that however valuable their services in the late riots, the good effected would have been much greater had they been regularly drilled, and accustomed to act in concert. To meet any future emergency, and to act with effectiveness, he trusted those present were prepared to incorporate themselves and establish a Volunteer Rifle Corps.

After some desultory conversation, and the proposal and amendment of sundry propositions, the following resolution was finally passed:—

Proposed by H. C. Caldwell and seconded by M. F. Davidson—"That it is the opinion of this meeting that a Volunteer Rifle Corps will be of manifest advantage to the Settlement; that the following gentlemen do form a committee, viz., Messrs. Purvis, Guthrie, Napier and W. H. Read, to offer the services of the Corps to Government, and that His Honour the Governor be requested to propose a set of Rules and Regulations for the guidance of the Corps.

Before the meeting broke up thirty-two signatures were affixed to the Volunteer roll, to which twenty-nine were soon added, making the total number 61. The name of Mr. W. H. Read was the first on the roll.

The subscription in Singapore to the Patriotic Fund for the widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors employed in the Crimean war, was collected by Rev. C. Gladwin, the Chaplain of Singapore; and amounted to the handsome sum, in those days, of £900.

Sunday, the 16th July, was appointed by Royal Proclamation to be held throughout India and the Straits as a day of general humiliation and prayer for the success of our arms in the Crimea. A few days after, the ships went out to look for a Russian transport that was reported to be near. It was supposed that a squadron of six Russian vessels was cruising in the China Sea.

In the month of September, the P. & O. mail from London was delivered in thirty-four days, which was considered very remarkable; and the paper said: "When the lines of Railway through France and Egypt are

completed we may expect to receive our mails from England in thirty or thirty-one days." They have since been delivered on one occasion in twenty days.

The Assembly Rooms at the foot of Fort Canning falling into disrepair led to the building of the present Town Hall which was not completed until 1861. The following extracts from the proceedings of the Municipal Committee explain how the change began :—

"The Chairman submits the following letter with enclosure from the Trustees of the Public Rooms. The Committee highly approved of the suggestion, to substitute for the present frail structure, a handsome building (to be designated the Town Hall) commensurate with the commercial importance of Singapore, and will gladly, as Trustees for the public, take charge of the edifice when finished, and also contribute towards its construction, the amount to be thus appropriated to be determined by the Committee when the views of Government are known, and the extent of support which may reasonably be expected from the State and the community.

To the Honourable T. Church, Esq.,
Resident Councillor, Singapore.

Sir,—I am directed by the Trustees of the public rooms to communicate to you that in consequence of the dilapidated state of the Public Rooms, a meeting of the shareholders took place on the 9th instant, at which a Report drawn up by the Trustees, was read and the following resolution passed :—"That instead of rebuilding the public rooms by shares, a subscription be raised for the purpose of erecting a handsome building as a Town Hall, to which it is to be hoped the Government and Municipal Committee will subscribe liberally, and on which condition the present shareholders abandon all claim to the ground, and to what remains of the present building. The new building to be placed under the management of the Municipal Committee." From the Report mentioned above you will learn that the estimated cost of reconstructing the upper portion of the building amounts to about $3,300, but should the proposal for a Town Hall be adopted, a much larger sum would be necessary, as the building would require to be entirely new and of a size and appearance suitable to the wants of this increasing Settlement, and for this purpose five or six thousand dollars it is considered would be required. So large a sum as this there is no probabilty of raising without the aid of Government and the Municipal Committee, but it is thought if they will come forward and together grant one half, that the other moiety could be raised by donation from the public.

It is quite unnecessary to point out to you the great need there now exists for a building of this description in this Settlement, which may be applied to all public purposes, as that the want of it is very frequently felt.

Trusting therefore that the proposal will meet with your approval and support.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your obedient servant,
M. F. DAVIDSON,
Secretary, Public Rooms.

Singapore, 24th October, 1854.

On 15th November a meeting of the subscribers was held at the News Rooms, Mr. Crane was in the chair. The subscriptions had amounted to $5,089 and at least $500 more was expected. A Committee of Messrs. M. F. Davidson, T. O. Crane, A. T. Spottiswoode, James Guthrie and Dr. Little, were appointed as trustees, and to enter into communication with the Government and Municipality for the purpose of carrying out the object, and to use their utmost endeavours to obtain a site worthy of the importance of the proposed Town Hall.

The Government and the Municipal Committee agreed to give a sum of money for a Town Hall equal to that subscribed by the community, and the present site was suggested as the most suitable. The Post Office and powder magazine were then standing near it, and it was said that the former ought to be put on the Square side of the river, which was done many years after, and that the magazine ought to be removed from a place so dangerous to the dwelling houses in High Street.

The presentment of the Grand Jury in November contained the following paragraph regarding the Court House, which was part of the present Government Printing Office. Tivendale and Co., the shipwrights, had a yard where Hallpike Street is now. On one occasion when a Judge had newly arrived he sent the Sheriff to stop the hammering but the shipwrights sent to say that they were building a boat for Captain Keppel and had to finish it, and a compromise was arrived at by mutual concession so that the work of the Court might go on.

"The Grand Jury present this Court House as being in every respect unsuited for the purposes to which it is applied. It is, as your Lordship designated it, a mere shed, squeezed in between the building containing the Government Offices and the back wall of the compound, by which wall alone, at the distance of a few feet, it is separated from an extensive ship-building yard, and it possesses almost none of the accommodation proper to a Court-room. There is almost no space for the public, and in the little that does exist, the usual convenience of seats is wanting—wooden trestles of the rudest description being introduced when any furniture of that kind is deemed necessary. The place is enclosed on one of its sides by Government offices, and on another side by the Chamber (so called) allotted to your Lordship; and as the wall of the compound above-mentioned runs along the whole length of a third side, the consequence is that the Court-room is ill-ventilated, being in fact all but inaccessible to any current of air, and the atmosphere in the Court is frequently pervaded by an effluvium alike offensive and unhealthy. Another frequent and most unseemly result of the near proximity of this Court House to the ship-building establishment is that the voice of the Judge, the jury, the witness, or the advocate is occasionally so completely drowned by the piercing and discordant sounds, as to interrupt the business, and place this Court in the extraordinary position of being forced either to submit to this disturbance of its solemn procedure, or to interfere with the private and vested rights of the citizen; for the Grand Jury are informed, and believe, that the ship-building yard with all its noises, etc., existed on the same spot before the erection of this Court House."

Another presentment made by the Grand Jury in December alluded to a number of other grievances; the inconvenient position of the Post Office; the state of the old Fish Market at Teluk Ayer; the number of sago manufactories in the precincts of the town which then amounted to thirty, manufacturing nearly 8,000 tons a year; the want of bridle-paths across the island; the small proportion of native females, only one to eleven of the population; and

other matters. The three following paragraphs we reprint at length:—

"The Grand Jury again present the inefficient state of the drainage of the town. This, like many other subjects of public complaint, has frequently been presented by Grand Juries; and, although the Executive has as often expressed its desire to effect a reform in this respect, there has as yet been nothing done towards an efficient drainage upon a general and uniform plan. The air is still polluted throughout the length and breadth of the town by the sickening malaria arising out of a double row of open drains in every street, which are never thoroughly clean, and generally more than half full of filth. The Grand Jury are exceedingly sorry to feel themselves compelled to say that in this particular, which is universally admitted to be one of the most essential towards the health of large towns, as in all other and less important matters where the expenditure of a little money is required, there is a degree of dilatoriness and disinclination to act which is far from creditable to the Executive authorities, and which is undoubtedly one of the greatest misfortunes under which this Settlement has long laboured.

"The last three heads of the Presentment may be said to fall within the sphere of the Municipal Committee, and along with these long-standing nuisances, the Grand Jurors beg to present the body called the Municipal Committee of Singapore. The members of this Committee are all nominated by the Government, two of these members are Government officials, and the Resident Councillor is Chairman *ex-officio*, with a casting vote in every equal division. As might have been expected from its constitution, and as its action has proved, it is a mere Government Bureau, whose object and effect is to render the raising of money from the public more easy, and its extraction from the Government for the public use more difficult. It answers these purposes so well as to stand seriously in the way of the public welfare; and the Grand Jurors have therefore felt themselves called upon to present it, and to crave your Lordship's assistance in obtaining its reform; or, if that may not be, then its entire abolition. At present it serves only the purposes of a shield to receive and break the shocks which would otherwise fall directly upon the Executive authorities.

"The Grand Jurors present that, though the population of the town and suburbs of Singapore amounts to close upon 70,000, and the trade aggregates nearly £10,000,000, there does not exist a Government Educational Institution of any kind, at least such as deserves the name. The Grand Jurors are aware that small donations are given to the Raffles Institution; but that is a school maintained by public subscription, and is utterly inadequate to the wants of the Settlement. There are also other schools, Protestant and Roman Catholic, but all of them are provided for by private subscriptions; and the Grand Jurors are of opinion that it is most discreditable that a British Settlement which has so increased in population and in wealth, should have reached that point without any provision having been made by Government for the education and improvement of the mass of children who must be growing up in ignorance or vice."

It was in this year that the ice-house was first established, and stocked with ice from America, by Messrs. Whampoa & Co. Small quantities had occasionally being brought from Batavia shipped in tin boxes!

Some 56-pounder guns were mounted at Fort Fullerton, where the Post Office is now, and the concussion brought down the ceilings of the godowns, which led to a protest from all the mercantile firms near the Square, who said they should claim against the East India Company for any loss or damage to their property. The *Free Press* said that it was hoped that the Fort would speedily return to its former condition of a saluting battery, as it was useless against an enemy.

It was in this year that Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the well known author of "The Malay Archipelago" came to Singapore, and was backwards and forwards on his expeditions as a naturalist until 1862, when he returned to England, and published his book six years afterwards. It has run through a great many editions. He says in describing Singapore that few places are more interesting to a traveller from Europe, as it furnishes examples of a variety of Eastern races, and of many different religions and modes of life. Mr. Wallace used to live for weeks at a time with the Roman Catholic Missionary at Bukit Timah, going after birds and botanical specimens, and hunting for insects among the fallen trunks and old sawpits, which he says was nervous work, as tigers were heard to roar once or twice in the evening, and one might be lurking close by. He expresses the usual opinion, referred to more than once in this book, that tigers killed a Chinaman a day on an average. As bearing upon what has been said on page 257 about the stipends and means of living of the Roman Catholic Priests, there is a passage in the book in which he speaks of the work done by the Missionary in whose house he stayed. He says: "He was truly a father to his flock; he preached in Chinese on Sundays, had evenings in the week for discussion and conversation on religion, a school to teach their children, and his house was open to them day and night, and if they were in want he shared with them what he had. The result was his flock trusted and loved him, for they felt sure that he was their true friend, and had no ulterior designs in living among them." He says that the Missionary was allowed about £30 a year on which he lived, and the natives seeing him living with none of the luxuries of life, were convinced that he was sincere in what he taught, and had really given up home and friends, and ease and safety, for the good of others. The Rev. A. Manduit was the Vicar of St. Joseph's Church, at Bukit Timah, at the time Mr. Wallace speaks of having lived at the house attached to the Church. It was quite in jungle-land in those days.

The firm of Peres, Zapp and Ritterhaus began in this year. The three partners were Carl August Peres in Solingen, and Rudolph Zapp and Reinhard Ritterhaus in Singapore. In 1858 it was called Zapp, Ritterhaus & Co. Mr. Bauer and Mr. Staehelin were afterwards clerks, and in 1863 it became Zapp, Bauer & Co., and in 1867 Staehelin and Stahlknecht.

In this year Kerr, Whitehead & Co. commenced business; Mr. William Graham Kerr being in Singapore and Mr. William Cullen Whitehead in England. The firm continued until 1858. Mr. Kerr died many years afterwards in Bangkok; he had been a clerk in Martin Dyce & Co., before he started business with Mr. Whitehead.

CHAPTER XLIII.

1855.

IN January, Colonel Butterworth went on a visit to Calcutta, and Mr. Blundell, the Resident Councillor of Penang, took temporary charge there. The Governor was away about a month. In March, he resigned and left for Europe, and Mr. E. A. Blundell was appointed Governor; Mr. Lewis, Resident Councillor at Malacca, to take Mr. Blundell's place in Penang; Captain Henry Man, Superintendent of Convicts at Singapore, to be Resident Councillor at Malacca, and Colonel Ronald Macpherson, Superintendent of Convicts at Penang, to the same position in Singapore. A public meeting was held, Mr. Purvis in the chair, to prepare an address, and on Tuesday, the 20th March, addresses from the Chamber of Commerce, the Foreign Consuls, the European Community, the Chinese, Mahomedans, and others were presented to him. Shortly before he left, he laid the foundation stone of the present Town Hall, the account of which in the *Free Press* was as follows:—

"The foundation stone of the proposed Town Hall was laid on the afternoon of Saturday, the 17th March, by the Hon'ble the Governor, in presence of a large assemblage of the inhabitants.

"Before commencing the ceremony, Mr. M. F. Davidson, the Secretary to the Trustees for the building fund, addressed the Governor as follows:—'In the name of the Trustees and as Secretary to the Town Hall, I have the pleasing task of requesting you to lay the Foundation Stone of that building in which you have taken so great an interest, and the ultimate success of which will be so much indebted to you. When you first came to this Settlement, Singapore had no place of public resort, and for general purposes it was necessary to have recourse to the private dwellings of the inhabitants. Soon after your arrival, encouraged by your patronage, and the liberal support you afforded the measure, the Public Rooms were built. These being no longer adapted to the requirements of this Settlement, the project of a Town Hall was mooted, when you again came forward, and not only by the exercise of your influence procured a munificent donation from the Supreme Government, but it is to your exertions that we owe this highly eligible site for a building which, when finished, will, we trust, prove worthy of the situation. I now beg, Hon'ble Sir, that you will be pleased to proceed to lay the Foundation Stone of the Singapore Town Hall.'

"Colonel Butterworth then proceeded to lay the foundation stone, and afterwards made the following address:—'I feel extremely gratified at having been requested to perform the pleasing office now completed, of laying the Foundation Stone of your Town Hall; and I

desire most earnestly to impress upon you, Ladies and Gentlemen, the great satisfaction I must ever derive from the reminiscence of this day, in the knowledge that I am thus associated with a building which is to be devoted, not only to the grave deliberations of your Civic Senators, but also to the Graces, as well as to the Muses. I earnestly trust that all may lead, under Divine Providence, to the continued prosperity of this highly favoured Island, and tend still further to cement the unity of feeling at present existing in this happy community.' "

The following is a copy of the inscription on the plate which was deposited beneath the stone :—

In the year of our Lord
1855
And in the 18th year of the Reign of
QUEEN VICTORIA,
The Most Noble
The MARQUIS OF DALHOUSIE, Kt.,
Governor-General of India,
The Foundation Stone
of the
Town Hall,
Was laid on the 17th day of March,
By the
Honourable Colonel Butterworth, C.B.,
Governor of the Straits Settlements,
In presence of many of the
British and Foreign Residents
of this Settlement.

The site had been selected by a Committee composed of Messrs. M. F. Davidson, R. Little, C. Spottiswoode, T. O. Crane and J. Guthrie, and sanctioned by the Governor on 9th February. The Government of India gave a grant of $3,000, and the subscriptions were expected to reach $6,000.

In March, the Supreme Government sanctioned a loan to the Municipal Committee of the funds that might be required for the drainage of the town, at four per cent. interest, but nothing was done to any purpose. The very low level at which the town lies in regard to the sea being a serious difficulty, which, however, is ameliorated by the rise of the tide through such drains as there are, and their consequent frequent flushing.

A local Committee was appointed to send articles to the Paris Exhibition which took place in that year; and fifty lists of articles were forwarded, and expenses incurred to the extent of $324·57.

In the same month the celebrated singer, Catherine Hayes, came to Singapore and gave a Concert in the Public Rooms. The charge was $3, which was thought a high price, and the Concert commenced at 8 o'clock.

It was in this year that the treaty was made between the two Chiefs, Sultan Allie and the Tumonggong of Johore, which led to so much discussion afterwards. It provided for their rights ; and the Tumonggong was declared to be sole and absolute sovereign

of Johore except the Kassang territory now commonly called Muar, which is about 260 square miles, and withdrew all claim to that Kassang territory which was declared to be the Sultan's territory under a provision that he should not alienate it without offering it in the first place to the Hon'ble the East India Company and then to the Tumonggong of Johore.

Sultan Allie died in 1877, and on his death Muar passed to the territory of Johore, as the Straits Government declined to take it. Muar, during the rule of Sultan Allie, remained in a state of torpor, and under the hands of his successors it has become a flourishing and rising province.

As the signing of the treaty was carried out with much ceremony, some particulars are taken from the accounts in the newspaper:—

"On Saturday, the 10th March, in pursuance of instructions from the Supreme Government, the Sultan of Johore was formally recognised by the local authorities. This was Sultan Allie the son of Sultan Hoosain, not the ruler of Johore proper, who was then called the Tumonggong. The ceremony took place at noon, in the large room of the Government Offices. At the head of the room, on a scarlet covered platform, were placed three chairs for the Governor and the Sultan and the Tumonggong of Johore; above the chairs were the English Union Jack and the East India Company's flag; the Consular flags were drooping from the cornices round the room, other flags being arranged in festoons above them. Immediately behind the Governor's chair was the marble bust of Raffles, executed by Chantry, placed on a pedestal; on each side of the platform was placed a table, on one of which was a State sword, on the other was placed a silver inkstand, the State seals, and three copies of the treaty about to be concluded between the two native Princes. We ought to mention that the different national flags were so arranged that their respective Consuls sat beneath them. On each side of the scarlet platform, chairs were placed for the sons of the Sultan and the Tumonggong. The chairs on each side of the entrance to the platform were occupied by ladies. The lower part of the room was occupied by officers of the 38th and 43rd M. N. I. and other gentlemen. In the portico fronting the audience chamber was stationed a guard of honour of the 38th M. N. I., and also as many chairs for the public as the limited space would permit.

"At noon Governor Butterworth took his seat; the Sultan was led into the portico by Mr. Church and Major Campbell, and was received by a guard of honour. On Mr. Church handing the Sultan into the audience room, His Highness was received by the Governor; on shaking hands with the Sultan, His Honour, addressing the guests assembled, in a firm voice, said he took advantage of the occasion publicly to recognise his friend Tuanku Allie as Sultan of Johore, in succession to his father. The Sultan was then placed on a seat on the Governor's right, under a salute of 11 guns. After a short pause, His Highness the Tumonggong arrived, and the guard of honour in the portico again presented arms. The Governor received His Highness with a cordial shake of the hand, and introduced him to the Sultan under a salute of nine guns, whereupon the Tumonggong

made obeisance to the Sultan, and was then handed by the Governor to a seat on his left hand; the Tumonggong's sons Inche Aboobakar (afterwards Sultan of Johore) and his brother Inche Abdul Rahman were placed near His Highness. The Governor called upon Mr. Church to read the treaty.

"The treaty having been read in English by Mr. Church, and in Malay by Inche Bujal, it was signed and sealed in due form, another salute of eleven guns was fired, and the guard again presented arms."

Many important changes had taken place during the twelve years Colonel Butterworth had been Governor of the Straits. Direct steam communication with Europe was completed soon after he came. The Horsburgh and Raffles light-houses were both erected and a floating light placed on the North Sands, and a lantern for the harbour light at Singapore. He did much to obviate the unwise measures which the Bengal Government tried to force on Singapore regarding the silver currency in rupees. He abolished the Sireh Farm, which was considered an oppressive tax by all the natives. During his time, a Seamen's Hospital, a Pauper Hospital, and the new Gaol (now being pulled down) were erected, and also the new House of Correction; the sea-wall along the Esplanade was built; Johnston's Pier and Dalhousie Pier were erected; and many of the bridges and roads made. The Volunteer Corps was established, and a good deal done towards the foundation of a system of education both by himself and Mrs. Butterworth.

The following was the address presented to him by the Chamber of Commerce, and the Governor's reply:—

"The Singapore Chamber of Commerce, in common with the rest of the community, viewing with much regret the approaching termination of your official connection with these Settlements, are anxious before your departure to record their sense of the great benefits you have conferred upon the commerce of Singapore during the many years you have filled the office of Governor of the Straits Settlements.

Your earnest advocacy of every measure calculated to promote the interests of the trade of Singapore,—your readiness to receive suggestions for its benefits,—your prompt interposition in endeavouring to avert, by every means in your power, whatever may have seemed calculated to injure or interfere with that freedom from useless restrictions, which has been the peculiar characteristic, as well as the mainspring of the prosperity, of the commerce of Singapore,—the ready access to your presence which you have afforded to all,—and the courtesy which has invariably marked your intercourse with us—have all been fully appreciated by the mercantile community of Singapore, and we now beg to express, although inadequately, our grateful acknowledgment of them.

The very remarkable increase which has taken place in the commerce of Singapore under your Government, has afforded triumphant testimony of the soundness and wisdom of those principles of commercial policy which its illustrious founder Sir Stamford Raffles initiated from the first day he took possession of Singapore, then an almost uninhabitated island; and it must be extremely gratifying to you, Honourable Sir, who have so steadily maintained and upheld those principles, to find that during the course of your Government the trade of Singapore has risen from 24,620,243 Dollars, its amount in 1843, when you first assumed the charge of these Settlements, to the large sum of 36,655,557 Dollars, as shown in the official returns for the past year. This advance has been owing to no adventitious circumstances. It has been steadily progressive, resulting from the natural expansion of trade,—at first attracted by the peculiarly favourable position of Singapore and its entire freedom from imposts or restriction, and then fostered and encouraged by wise Government.

In now taking leave of you, Honourable Sir, the members of the Chamber of Commerce beg respectfully to offer their warmest wishes for your health and prosperity, and they venture to express the hope that those high qualifications for Govern-

ment, which has been so beneficially exercised for the well being and advancement of these Settlements, may yet find a still wider field of employment in the service of your country.

Signed in name of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce:

J. GUTHRIE,
Chairman.

Singapore, 20th March, 1855.

To which the Governor replied:—

"Gentlemen,—Your very flattering and most gratifying recognition of the deep interest I have ever taken in the commercial prosperity of Singapore, is more highly appreciated by me, than I can find words to express.

That illustrious statesman, as you have justly termed Sir Stamford Raffles, the Founder of all the growing greatness of this wonderful Emporium, has been my guiding star, and I have viewed as a legacy to his successors, the scrupulous maintenance of Singapore as a Free Port. I am grateful for your pleasing acknowledgment that I have not been unmindful of this great trust.

Receive, Gentlemen, my warmest thanks for the ready assistance you have afforded me from time to time, in many of the important questions that have been before us, and with a profound sense of the kind feelings which have dictated your good wishes I will say—Farewell!"

A public subscription was made to present General Butterworth with a testimonial and to have the portrait painted which is now in the Town Hall. The following account of the plate and of the Governor's career appeared in the *Illustrated London News* of 26th July, 1856:—

"A very gratifying testimonial of public esteem has recently been presented to General W. J. Butterworth, C.B., late Governor of Prince of Wales' Islands, Singapore, and Malacca. The gift originated in a public meeting held at Singapore on March 30th, 1855, when the inhabitants of the Settlement resolved to present General Butterworth with a piece of plate, of not less value than £500 sterling, as a mark of the high sense entertained by them of his valuable services as Governor of the above Settlements, for a period of nearly twelve years. It was also resolved by the ladies of Singapore, to present Mrs. Butterworth with a silver tea and coffee service; and, furthermore, General Butterworth was requested to sit for his portrait, to be placed in the Town Hall of Singapore, in memory of the esteem and respect in which he is held by all classes of the community. The portrait has accordingly been painted, and will be transmitted to Singapore by an early opportunity; and the plate, which has also been completed, has been presented to General and Mrs. Butterworth now in England.

"General Butterworth, who has received these distinguished honours, was trained at the Hon. East India Company's military establishment, Addiscombe, and passed for the Artillery. Previously, however, to his quitting England for India, actuated by the prospect of more speedy promotion, he sought and received permission to exchange into the Infantry of the Madras Presidency, whither he proceeded in 1818. On his arrival he obtained a Lieutenancy in the Second Battalion 19th (now 38th) Regiment and was appointed to the Rifle Corps.

"He subsequently joined the Light Field Division of the Mahratta Army, under the late Sir Theophilus Pritzeer, K.C.B., and was at the siege of Ghopart Droog. On the day of assault the company of the

Rifles to which Lieutenant Butterworth was attached not being detailed for duty, he earnestly volunteered, and was allowed to accompany the escalading party. For his services on this occasion he was in 1821 made Adjutant of the 38th Native Infantry.

"In 1822, he was compelled to proceed to England on medical certificate. On his return, having in the meantime attained the rank of Captain, he joined the army in Ava, under Sir Archibald Campbell, and in 1825-26 was in most of the skirmishes with the enemy, and at the taking of Moolawm. At the termination of hostilities he was nominated Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General of the Army; and, in 1828, promoted to the Assistant Quartermaster-Generalship, in which capacity he was posted in 1834 to the western column of attack on Coorg, under the command of the late Brigadier Sir David Foulis, K.C.B., and was three times wounded whilst heading the advance to the capture of the several stockades in the Higgular Ghauts. For his services at this period he received the special thanks of Government in general orders, and was recommended for the Order of the Bath.

"On the formation of the field force, under command of Brigadier-General Taylor, C.B., Captain Butterworth was again detached, as Assistant Quartermaster-General of that force, and distinguished himself on several occasions, particularly in the attack on the Khonds at Nowguan, on 1st June, 1836. During this campaign he attained his Majority. At the restoration of peace he returned to head-quarters, obtained the thanks of Government, and was shortly afterwards made a Companion of the Bath.

"Having from time to time acted as Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Army, Major Butterworth was in 1839 permanently appointed to that office. In 1841, he obtained the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of his regiment; and in the same year, being again obliged to seek the restoration of his shattered health, he went on medical certificate to the Cape of Good Hope. During his visit to the Colony he was presented to the Earl of Ellenborough, then on his way to assume the Government of India; by whom, in 1843, he was appointed Governor of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Butterworth was promoted to the Colonelcy of the 2nd Regiment during his tenure of that important office— a period of twelve years, two of which were passed in the Australian Colonies in consequence of the declining state of his health; which, eventually, in March, 1855, forced him to relinquish the Government of the Straits of Malacca, just as he had attained the rank of Major-General.

"The able manner in which Major-General Butterworth discharged the arduous duties intrusted to him is amply testified in a letter from the Government of India; and also by the addresses presented to him on his vacating the government for a time, and afterwards on his final resignation of it. The importance of this highly honourable post may be estimated by the fact of the annual trade of the three Settlements amounting to upwards of ten millions sterling.

"The plate consists of a centre ornament, thirty-nine inches high, and two side ornaments, twenty-two inches high; total value £700. The

centre ornament has branches for nine lights and four glass dishes for flowers, &c. The base supports a very rich group of figures, representing commerce exhibiting to Britannia a portrait of the General: with the figures of a Chinese, a Malay, and an Indian Jew, over whom Britannia holds her shield in allusion to her protection. The standard of the East India Company is also introduced. The inscription is as follows:—

"'Presented to Major-General W. J. Butterworth, C.B., by the inhabitants of Singapore, to mark their sense of the important services rendered to the Settlement during the period of his Government, to express their acknowledgment for the readiness with which he at all times identified himself with the true interests of the place, and to record their admiration of the ability and energy which characterised his administration as Governor of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca, from 1843 to 1855.'

"The two accompanying ornaments support baskets for flowers, and are enriched respectively with a group of tigers under pitcherplants, and a buffalo with two deer under fern-trees.

"The ladies' testimonial consists of an elegant silver tea and coffee service, and was accompanied by an address stating it to be presented:—

"'To Mrs. Butterworth, by the ladies of Singapore, whose names are hereon inscribed, to testify their regard, and in affectionate remembrance of her uniform courtesy and kindness to them during the period of eleven years in which her husband, Major-General Butterworth, C.B., was Governor of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca. December, 1855.' (Then follow the names of the several lady-subscribers to the testimonial.)"

Governor Butterworth was a handsome patron of sports on land and water. He gave a cup annually for the horse races, and kept a boat, an improved sampan, for sailing after office hours in the harbour, and he sailed his boat on New Year's Day. He was not popular at first in Singapore, as he began with much pomposity; and a joking remark in a private letter of Sir James Brooke, which unexpectedly became known, described him as "Butterpot the Great." Mrs. Butterworth was very good to the school children, and both she and her husband frequently passed an hour in the schools. The Colonel used to time his morning walk so well at 5.30, that he was said to be as good as a watch when the guard turned out to meet him. He had a great fancy for the two silver sticks, only to be seen now in Court, which used to follow him about on many occasions.

Like several other public officers who have left the Straits, the late Governor lived but a short time to enjoy his rest, for he died at Millmead House, Guildford, on the 4th November, 1856, eighteen months after he left Singapore.

He was spoken of in print by a well known Singapore an as "A perfect gentleman, though a good deal of a military 'bahadour.' He laboured hard to introduce black coats and continuations into our social habits, but, in those uncivilised times, white was the order of the day among 'men.' The ladies used to prefer clean white to dubious black. However, he laboured in vain, and except, of course, at Government House, white prevailed. One evening at some public dinner, at which he was present, and all were in respectful

lack, his health was proposed, and received a warm acknowledgment f cheers. Something had nettled His Excellency, and in reply he ave a lecture to all hands, winding up by informing the enthusiastic ublic that 'sincerity was not proved by loud applause!' This ather annoyed some of the audience, and two days after, at a heatrical representation, it was determined to pay him off. The fter-piece was *Bombastes Furioso,* and when that eminent General lismissed his troops, he exclaimed, in response to their loud acclanations :—"Silence in the ranks, cease, cease your braying; sincerity's ot proved by hip, hip, hip, hurraying." The Governor looked serious at first, and a thunder-cloud overspread his brow, but, immediately recovering himself, he burst out laughing, and applauded heartily. He told the actor afterwards: 'A very good hit, a very good hit! and well done too!!' Local allusions were often 'gagged' into the plays in those days, and Hongkong many years after did the same, to the intense annoyance of thin-skinned officials, especially H. E. Pope Hennessy, but to the intense enjoyment of the public. It is said that Mr. Balestier had one day a note from Col. Butterworth, whose caligraphy was shocking. He returned it with a remark "Can't read the Governor's handwriting."

The total trade of the three Settlements in 1853-54 amounted to Rs. 107,675,802, an increase over the previous year of Rs. 20,480,300, or above two million pounds sterling. These figures were dependent upon the returns of the mercantile community, and the real state of the trade was no doubt larger. The Opium Farm of Singapore was let in this year for Rs. 27,100 a month, and the Spirit Farm for Rs. 9,510.

On Thursday, the 8th March, there was a review of the newly enrolled Volunteer Corps, of which the *Free Press* wrote as follows :— "The Singapore Rifle Corps paraded on Government Hill on the afternoon of Thursday last, and went through a pretty stiff drill, after which they were reviewed by the Hon'ble the Governor, who then addressed them in complimentary terms on the efficiency they had attained, and assuring them how proud he should have been to have headed them in actual service. His Honour requested that his name might remain upon their roll, and concluded by reading some despatches from the Court of Directors and Supreme Government of India, noticing in terms of approbation the promptitude with which the Singapore Volunteers had come forward with the offer of their services, and expressing the hope that their example might be followed in other parts of India. The Corps, although they turned out on this occasion in somewhat diminished numbers, appeared, as far as an unprofessional eye could judge, to go through their manœuvres with steadiness and precision, and we have no doubt they will highly distinguish themselves whenever they may be called upon to take the field."

Mr. Edmand Augustus Blundell, the new Governor, joined the Penang Civil Service on 6th August, 1821, and was afterwards a Commissioner of the Tennaserim Provinces. He was Acting Governor of the Straits in June 1843, and then went to England. After he returned he was Resident Councillor at Malacca, and in 1848 he wrote a paper in volume 2, page 726, of Logan's Journal, on Malacca. In

1849 he was Resident Councillor at Penang, and Acting Governor in 1851. In 1855 he would probably have been appointed Governor but for Lord Ellenborough's attachment to Colonel Butterworth.

In April, during a squall, a house in Kampong Malacca was struck by lightning, and four natives were killed; they were lads sleeping near each other. Sir Wm. Jeffcott, the Recorder, who went to the spot, helped the mother afterwards with money, as the lads had been her chief support. She was with them in the room when they were struck.

This year was remarkable for an increase in piracy, the native trade suffering very severely from it. The most formidable pirates were Chinese, who waylaid and fired on the junks and other native traders, attacking them, in their voyages to or from Singapore, in the China Sea and the Gulf of Siam. The pirates resorted to Singapore without fear, and in May a public meeting was held to memorialise the Secretary of State. Mr. Guthrie was in the Chair and the following resolutions were passed:—

"Proposed by Tan Beng Swee, and seconded by J. P. Cumming, That this meeting views with deep concern the ravages committed by pirates, Chinese particularly, in the immediate vicinity of this port, to the great destruction of human life, and detriment to trade.

Proposed by W. H. Read, and seconded by Tan Kim Ching:—That in order to remedy the present insecurity of life and property, petitions be prepared and forwarded to the Supreme Government, the Houses of Parliament, and the Admiral on this Station, urging them to take vigorous measures to suppress piracy in these parts.

Proposed by R. Duff, and seconded by J. d'Almeida:—The Singapore community are so thoroughly convinced of the necessity of protection to the junks now about to leave for China, and so indignant at the long continued supineness of the Authorities on the subject of Chinese piracy, that—if the men-of-war now in the roads will not interfere—the community itself agree to subscribe to hire an English vessel to see the junks safely beyond the Gulf of Siam, and that the local Government be requested to license said vessel.

Proposed by Dr. Little, and seconded by T. O. Crane:—This meeting highly approves of the conduct of the local Government in detaining the suspicious junks now in the harbour until the trading junks are safely beyond their reach.

Proposed by J. d'Almeida, and seconded by A. J. Spottiswoode:—That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to carry out the foregoing resolutions:—Messrs. Guthrie, Read, Logan and Duff."

The paper was full of accounts of piratical murders, and the Government steam-vessel *Hooghly* was too slow to be of any use, and there were very few men-of-war near Singapore. Eventually orders came from the Admiralty to the Admiral on the Station to send a vessel to the Gulf of Siam. The Government at last began to take away the rudder of doubtful piratical junks in the harbour, and prevent them leaving until they were searched for arms. In some cases, junks were fully manned, but without any cargo.

The number of covers that passed through the Post Office in April of this year was 31,683.

It was in May of this year that the Bengal Government sanctioned building the new Church (the present Cathedral) as said on page 493. The *Free Press* said "The Government of India, has approved the plan submitted to them of the proposed structure, which is described as being a very handsome one and a great improvement upon the former building. If it is practicable to change the site of the building, we should recommend, in place of the present one, the piece of level ground half way up the Government Hill, and which is marked by a withered tree. This site is airy and at the same time easily accessible from all quarters, and would advantageously display the architectural beauties of the new edifice. It would, moreover, leave the whole of the present Church compound available for other public buildings, such as the new Court House, for which at present there seems some difficulty in finding a suitable locality." The suggestion was, fortunately, not carried out, and the new Church was built on the former site, which was much more suitable.

In the month of May it became known to the inhabitants of Singapore, that a European of the name of Thom, who had been convicted in the Supreme Court at Calcutta of murdering his wife, and sentenced to transportation for life, was to be sent to Singapore to undergo his sentence. The natural inference from this was that, as the Australian Colonies were no longer available as penal Settlements, the Supreme Government intended to convert the Straits Settlements into a receptacle for the European felons of India, as they already were for native convicts. A meeting of the inhabitants of Singapore was immediately held, which was numerously attended by the Europeans and Chinese residents. Resolutions were adopted energetically protesting against the further degradation, which it was anticipated, the Government intended to inflict upon Singapore. A memorial was drawn up, addressed to the Governor-General, which the Hon'ble the Governor refused to forward, as, in his opinion, it was couched in rather more violent language than seemed consistent with official usage, and it was, therefore, sent direct to the Governor-General. The Governor, at the same time, is understood to have pointed out the strong objections which existed to making this a penal station for European convicts, and the result of the agitation on the subject was, that the Government of India speedily intimated that it had no intention of transporting European convicts to Singapore, and that Thom had only been sent here in consequence of the Supreme Court having named it as the place to which he was to be transported. Petitions were made to Parliament, and Mr. John Crawfurd wrote a long memorandum on the subject, which was laid before Parliament, dated from the Athenæum Club, London, August 30th, 1855. The result was that the Secretary to the Government of India wrote to say that the Government had no intention to transport European convicts to Singapore and that a Bill would be brought before the Legislature to change Thom's sentence, which was done, and he was removed.

In May, Mr. Moniot, who had been Government Surveyor at Penang, was appointed to Singapore for the purpose of reorganising

the Survey Department here—a periodical attempt at settling an old grievance with the usual insufficient means to carry it out.

Deaths by tigers during this year became very numerous, and a great deal of attention was drawn to the subject. The Calcutta paper, the *Friend of India*, suggested that so many deaths were scarcely likely to be caused by tigers, and that it was possible the Chinese secret societies might imitate tigers' wounds on murdered persons! And the London *Punch* of October 27th had the following paragraphs:—

"A SCHOOL FOR TIGERS IN THE EAST.

"Rapid Depopulation of Singapore by Tigers.—Two deaths by tigers every week (says the *Singapore Free Press*) are read of in the papers, just about as much a matter of course as the arrival or departure of the P. & O. Company's steamers. It is notorious that during the last fifteen or twenty years many thousands of men have lost their lives from this cause. Yet the only measures adopted by Government, so far as we know, to prevent this enormous sacrifice of life, have been to dig tiger-pits in various parts of the island (which we are now told did little or no good), and to give a reward of one hundred Company's rupees for every tiger killed on the island. The reward is, for all practical purposes, ineffective; it ought to be increased to two hundred and fifty rupees; for the price of procuring the destruction of one tiger in the jungle of Singapore is a hundred dollars, and the thing cannot be done for one hundred and ten Company's rupees. Such is the position in which we are now placed.'

"If the population of Singapore is really being converted into food for tigers, and the inhabitants are departing as regularly as the steamers, it is high time that something should be done to save the remnant of the populace. Considering that the tigers have evidently got the upper hand, we think they show a sort of moderation in taking only two inhabitants per week, and there is consequently no hope of any further diminution, for it is clear that the brutes are already on what may be considered low diet. We cannot be surprised at the anxiety of the Editor of the *Singapore Free Press*, who may any day be selected as a moiety of the weekly allowance of the somewhat abstemious tigers, who appear to be practising the negative virtue of moderation and regular living. Since the Government will not, or cannot, take the matter up, and put the tiger down, we would advise the population of Singapore to enter into an arrangement with the brute-slayer at the top of the Haymarket, and we have no doubt that Mr. Cumming would be hailed as the Coming Man, if he were to offer his services.

"The Singapore journalist expresses his fear that the 'evil will go on increasing,'—or in other words, that the population will go on diminishing—and we fully sympathise with his editorial fears; for even should he be so lucky as to escape till after every other inhabitant is disposed of, it would be but a sorry consolation to feel oneself constituting the last mouthful at a feast of tigers.

"We suspect that our Eastern contemporary is either indulging in a little romance, or is agitated by fears that have grown up under the enervating influence of the climate, for we cannot suppose that the people and the Government are quietly submitting to the gradual consumption of the inhabitants in the manner described, and our friends at Singapore will excuse us, therefore, if we have treated somewhat lightly a subject that we should certainly regard as no joke, if we put faith in the statements on which we have commented."

On the 25th May, Mr. John Kinsey Salmon died, at the age of sixty years. He was a native of Flintshire, and one of the old Bencoolen Officers under the East India Company, and lived during the latter years of his life, with a pension, in Singapore.

In July, a subscription was made towards the Roman Catholic Church in Malacca, of which the paper spoke as follows:—

"We have now before us plans of a handsome and spacious Gothic Church in course of erection at Malacca, under the direction of the Rev,

Mr. Barbe, the R. C. Minister at that station. The cost of the building is estimated at $9,000 ; but such are the circumstances of the Roman Catholic Christians at Malacca, that only about 300 to 400 dollars have been raised there. The sum of about $1,100 was granted by the mission at Penang. Most persons would have despaired of ever accomplishing the completion of so great an undertaking ; not so the French priests, whose zeal in whatever they may embark knows no hindrance. By the personal exertions of the Rev. Mr. Favre, in the United States, the Mauritius, and elsewhere, more than $6,000 have been obtained which, with the sums above mentioned, have been expended on the Church. It appears, however, that the sum of $1,000 is required to complete the building, and to obtain this sum the Rev. Mr. Barbe is about to make an appeal to the Singapore community."

It was in this year that the nutmeg disease got to such a head. The *Free Press* of 12th July published long papers by Dr. Oxley and others, on the disease, and its possible remedies.

The following is an account of the total amount of Municipal Assessment and Taxes during the preceding six years, in round numbers :—

1849	.. $28,600
1850	... 28,800
1851	... 31,000
1852	... 32,000
1853	... 34,000
1854	... 40,000

The expenditure was always from $2,000 to $3,000 in excess. It was in this year that the cross road from Seletar to Bukit Mandai was made.

In August, the new clipper ship *Kate Carnie,* named after Mr. Carnie's sister, built under Captain Rodger's superintendence, came out from home. She made the best passage then known—88 days from England and 28 from the Cape. She was very well known here during the next ten years, being a famous opium clipper, and commanded by Captain Rodger, whose son was then in Martin Dyce & Co.'s firm and became afterwards a partner in that house, and to whose memory there is a window in the Cathedral.

On the 11th August, a public meeting was held in the News Rooms in Commercial Square at which nearly every European in the place was present. Mr. James Guthrie was in the Chair. It proved to be the beginning of the agitation for the Transfer from the East India Company. The primary cause of the meeting was the Act which had just been published introducing the copper currency of India in addition to the cents of the Spanish dollar. The second resolution proposed by Mr. W. H. Read and seconded by Mr. W. G. Kerr, was as follows :—

"2.—That by the passing of the Act 17 of 1855 this meeting is forced into the painful conviction that the Legislative Council of India, in treating with utter disregard the remonstrances of the inhabitants, have shewn that they are neither to be moved by any prospect of doing good, nor restrained by the certainty of doing evil, to the Straits Settlements, and that it is therefore the bounden duty of this community to use every exertion and to resort to every means within its reach to obtain relief from the mischievous mea-

sures already enacted, and to escape from the infliction of others of the same nature, more comprehensive, and still more hurtful."

In this year a table of precedence as regarded the East Indies was issued by the Queen, and proclaimed in India and the Straits. The Governor-General headed the list, of course, and it is only referred to here as showing where the Straits came—which was away at the foot, the Governor and the Recorder coming after the Puisne Judges of the Courts of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

Reviews of the troops were held several times during the year on the Esplanade. In December, a full dress parade of all troops was held, and the proclamation relating to the taking of Sebastopol was read and a royal salute fired.

In August, Mr. George Wahab, of the London Police, arrived and took up his position of Deputy Superintendent of Police. He was engaged in England by Mr. A. Guthrie, at the request of the Municipality. The following is an extract from the Minutes of the Municipal Committee in August:—

"The Committee notice with regret, the continued and increasing obstructions in the verandahs, some of them so completely closed in as to exclude the public. The early attention of the Police is requested to the evil, as it is apprehended that unless prompt measures are adopted, the rights, convenience and interests of the community will permanently and materially be impaired."

"At the suggestion of Mr. Harvey, the all important question of the drainage of the town is again brought under review. The increase of the town population, together with the densely crowded state of many of the houses, vividly and daily remind the members individually and collectively of the imperative necessity for an immediate amelioration of a state of things fraught with so direful consequences. The Committee have no hesitation in reiterating their deliberate opinion, that, considering the site of the town was selected by the Government Officials and a large sum has already been paid into the local Treasury for lands sold, and holders of property pay an annual quit-rent exceeding 20,000 Rupees to the State, it is for the Executive alone to undertake the efficient drainage of the town; this measure the Committee conceive cannot be deferred without imminent risk, and possibly loss of life, to an extent fearful to contemplate. Should the Government of India still withhold their aid after this representation, the Committee will then, under the exigence of the case, be constrained to accept as a loan a sum not exceeding 100,000 Rupees, to be disbursed as required. The Committee, however, can offer no positive guarantee for the regular payment of the interest or the gradual liquidation of the principal, this must necessarily depend on the amount of the funds available by the Committee at the close of each year."

On September 12th, a branch of the Mercantile Bank of India, London and China (as it was then styled) was opened here by Mr. Walter Ormiston as Manager.

On the 22nd October, the Recorder, Sir William Jeffcott, died at Penang at the age of 55 years. He was the second Recorder in the Straits who had died in office, the first being Sir Francis S. Bayley, who died at Penang in 1824, about two months after his arrival. Sir

William was only ill for a few days, and was at the same time suffering under considerable anxiety of mind as to his future position in reference to the new arrangements of the Judicial system in the Straits, and was annoyed at indirectly learning that the Singapore division of the Court had been assigned to him, as he much preferred Penang as a place of residence. He was an Irishman. A Dublin paper in 1842 said:—"As a lawyer, he was among the most rising on the Munster Circuit. Nearly related to the late lamented Chief Baron Wolf, he possessed much of his ability, integrity and sterling independence of character. Indeed, Mr. Jeffcott has established a reputation at the Bar of being a sound and safe lawyer."

In that year he went to Australia as a Judge, but returned to Ireland and resumed practice at the Bar, and held an appointment under the Attorney-General there. In 1849, he succeeded Sir Christopher Rawlinson as Recorder in the Straits, when the latter went to Madras as Chief Justice. During his residence in the Straits, Sir William Jeffcott sustained the character which in his earlier years he seems to have gained at the Irish Bar, of being a sound and painstaking lawyer, and, without evincing any extraordinary legal attainments, he commanded respect by the earnest manner in which he discharged his judicial functions. Any slight irritability he occasionally allowed to be seen was sufficiently explained and excused by the fact that he laboured under a painful internal disorder. Soon after his arrival in the Straits Sir William Jeffcott shewed his anxiety to administer justice in the most efficient manner that the circumstances of these Settlements would permit, and for that purpose made an alteration in the periodical circuits of the Court, by which Singapore was visited three times in the year, instead of only twice, as formerly. Sir William Jeffcott was highly esteemed in private life. He was of a generous and benevolent disposition, and never failed to respond in the most liberal manner to all appeals for assistance, whether on behalf of individuals or institutions, which were made to him, and these were by no means infrequent. He took a deep interest in the cause of education in the Straits, and embraced every opportunity which presented itself of promoting its improvement. He was offered a Judgeship both at Calcutta and Bombay while he was in the Straits, but he declined both. Minute guns were fired from Fort Fullerton in Singapore, on the news of his death reaching here. He was succeeded, in the following year, by Sir Richard McCausland.

As an example of the way in which the Municipality worked with the public at that time, the following is taken from their minutes in October regarding the way in which the present road to Tanjong Pagar was widened. It was then only used as a road to Mount Palmer and a small village.

"The Hon'ble T. CHURCH, Esq.,
Chairman of the Municipal Committee,
&c., &c., &c.

"Sir,—We beg to inform you that all the Proprietors of Land on the south side of the Tanjong Pagar Road, have agreed to give up a sufficient space of their ground, to form a ditch inside

of the present hedge, so as to follow the widening of the road to that extent. This would be of great convenience to the public, the present road being so very narrow and dangerous.

"This road, you are aware, has long been, and still is, in a very bad state, and we would therefore hope that no time will be lost in carrying out the above desirable improvement and putting it in a thorough state of repair.

We have, &c.,

J. GUTHRIE,

CURSETJEE FROMMURZE."

"The Committee fully recognise the desirableness of making the improvement and reform adverted to, and relying on the assurance that all parties are willing to surrender the requisite space, the Committee are prepared to commence on the work at an early date, in the hope and expectation that the Executive will contribute a moiety of the outlay, as the road in question leads to 'Lake's Battery' recently constructed on Mount Palmer."

There were three fires towards the end of the year, after the lapse of a considerable period without one. The first was a fire at Tanjong Ru, the second at Kampong Malacca, and the third, in November, at the corner of Kling and Philip Streets. At the latter eleven houses were burnt out, some of which were stored with very combustible materials—turpentine, oil, &c.; and twenty houses were pulled down or injured in stopping it. The whole of the burnt block belonged to Syed Ali bin Mahomed Al Junied; and the *Free Press* said: 'Being a Mussulman he is, of course, uninsured, but it is understood that he is better able to bear his loss than many of his less fortunate tenants. The loss was about $33,000."

In the beginning of December, there was a very unusual amount of rain, the country was flooded and the roads in many places were almost impassable. Serangoon district was a vast lake, and communication had to be made by sampans. It rained without intermission from 7 a.m. on the 30th November to 4 a.m. on the 2nd December. And as the tide continued about high water mark for three consecutive days, the rain remained on the low lands and overflowed the roads, to the depth of two feet in places. There was heavy weather in the China Sea, and the P. & O. steamer had to lay to off Point Romania for twenty-four hours, as the atmosphere was so thick with heavy rain, that no one could see half the length of the vessel.

In December, a schooner, the *Alma*, with gunpowder on board, was struck by lightning in Malacca and blown up, one man out of the crew of twelve being recovered. This again drew attention to the want of control of the storage of gunpowder in the town and harbour of Singapore.

The following account of the practices of small Kling shop-keepers in Singapore was published at this time by a Malay resident:—

"Many of my nation, the *Orang Malayu*, who come from sequestered localities and the interiors of rivers, people who are very simple, and men of the different tribes of Bugis, who are not accustomed to resort to Singapore to trade, are cheated and deceived in the cloth shops of the Klings because their shops being shut in by screens of cloth next the public street

are nearly quite dark, and the verandahs are also rendered impassable by benches and stools on which many persons sit. In the darkness and confusion thus produced, goods which are coarse become fine; good silver money is transmuted into copper; doits, which were sufficient in tale, lose part of their number; and measurement becomes deficient. The sellers are rude and overbearing to the simple buyers and insist on their purchasing. From these causes how often are people cheated and deceived and suffer loss. If they don't submit to the exactions of the Klings, then a row is kicked up and the buyers are hustled about by the Klings. Hence disturbances take place, but the police cannot readily find out the scene of disturbance on account of the screens of cloth which enclose the verandahs."

At this time the syces of private carriages and hacks always ran along with the pony and never sat on the carriage. Colonel Butterworth imported a large carriage and four horses, and when attending the evening service at St. Andrew's on dark nights, the syces ran at the sides of the horses with lanterns.

The North Western Bank of India, of which the head office was at Calcutta, opened a branch at 19, Malacca Street on 20th December. David Duff was the Agent.

CHAPTER XLIV.

1856.

ON New Year's Day a picnic party composed of a large number of the merchants went out on a trial trip, and the result is told in the following account in the *Free Press*. The steamer was afterwards sold to pay the damages:—"The screw steam-ship *Labuan*, Captain Browne, belonging to the Eastern Archipelago Company, previous to proceeding on her voyage to Labuan, made a trial trip in the direction of the Raffles Light-house; her machinery, &c., having undergone alterations and repairs since her arrival here. She left the anchorage about seven in the morning, and after having passed the barque *Zarah*, which sailed the same morning for Akyab, rounded the Light-house and steamed towards Singapore on her return. Soon after this, at about ten o'clock, the *Labuan* and the *Zarah*, which was coming towards her close hauled to the wind, came into collision, when the steamer took the barque directly amidship on the star-board side, carried away the barque's mainmast with her bowsprit, and, with her bowstay, which consisted of a strong iron chain, literally sawed the barque in two. The *Zarah* sank within three minutes of the contact. The officers and crew were all saved and taken on board the *Labuan*. The hull of the steamer was apparently uninjured and scarcely appeared to touch the other vessel, but her bowsprit was snapt by the collision, and becoming entangled with the rigging of the *Zarah*, was dragged out, together with the topmast and rigging, when the barque sank. The whole party were down below at a meal, and the Captain had been called down for a minute when they heard the crash, and only reached the deck in time to see the barque's masts disappearing beneath the waves."

In January the Rev. Mr. Sames who had kept a school in Malacca for some years and had a free school for native boys in Hill Street, at the old Assembly Rooms at the foot of Fort Canning, left Singapore in consequence of ill health and went to England.

At this time a question was raised by the Police about the horse sales in the Square, and the *Free Press* remarked that it was a practice as old as the Square itself and it would be a great injustice to stop them. The practice was continued until about 1890, when it ceased because of the large traffic through the Square. It had been a great convenience to all, as it was a good opportunity, after tiffin time, to see what was offered, and there was little difficulty in finding buyers.

On Tuesday evening, the 4th March, the Bishop of Calcutta laid the foundation stone of the present St. Andrew's Cathedral, as already stated on page 293.

The paper in April contained the following paragraph:—"The small cutter *Tear an' Ages* which left this about a month ago with the mails for

Java, returned on the 1st instant. She made the run down to Batavia in six days. The voyage altogether was a venturous one at this season of the year for a craft of her size, as she is not more than 40 tons burthen." In those days when the mail steamers broke down, mails were forwarded by any available opportunity, generally by men-of-war, but in default of anything better, the little Singapore yacht undertook the experiment.

The *Tear an' Ages* belonged to Mr. Cursetjee Frommurzee and Mr. W. H. Read. The name of the boat was to have been the *Ariel*, but at the launch, an officer of the Artillery, an Irishman, and a General Officer now, chaffing and laughing, did not notice the chocks being knocked away, and the cutter had already gone some distance, when he dashed after her, with a "Tear an' Ages," and broke the bottle over the bows. "By Dad," said he, "and what's her name?" It was too late to alter it then. She was afterwards sold to Bishop McDougall and named the *Southern Cross*, as a mission boat, and was subsequently bought as a gunboat by the Sarawak Government, and, as the *Badger*, fought a gallant action, under sail, with two Lanun *prahus*, crippling one, which was afterwards abandoned, and damaging the other considerably. The *Badger* was wrecked on the bar of the Bintulu river. Her run to Batavia would have been quicker, but the nights were dark and the skipper cautious, so he anchored. The residents at Batavia got up a handsome subscription to pay the expenses of the trip.

In April, the whole community gave a Ball to the Commodore and Officers of the French Squadron, which took place in the P. & O. Company's establishment at New Harbour. The English Admiral, Sir James Stirling, came from Hongkong the same afternoon, and, being about the time of the Crimean War, the proceedings were very enthusiastic.

In April the *Free Press* mentioned that Captain Keppel had been appointed to command the gunboat flotilla to proceed to the Baltic if the Crimean War should not be concluded; and printed parts of a speech by Sir Charles Wood, the First Lord of the Admiralty, in the House of Commons, in reference to the matter, in which he said "Captain Keppel has seen more active service than almost any other officer of his rank, and if my Hon. friend were to poll the entire navy, he would find its unanimous opinion to be that there is not a better, or more gallant, or more deserving officer in the service. Captain Keppel has distinguished himself on every occasion in which his services have been called into requisition, the most recent instance is during his command of the Naval Brigade before Sebastapol."

The Municipal Committee this year consisted of Mr. Church, the Resident Councillor, as Chairman, and four members; Captain R. Macpherson, Superintendent of Convicts, *ex-officio*; John Harvey of McEwen & Co.; H. M. Simons of Ker, Rawson & Co.; and H. T. Marshall, the Superintendent of the P. & O. Company. Mr. J. Moniot was in charge of the Government Survey Department.

The German Club, called the Teutonia Club, was started on the 28th June by about seven members, and the first committee was composed of Otto Puttfarcken, Arnold Otto Meyer, and Franz Kustermann. It was opened in a house in North Bridge Road, behind where Raffles Hotel now is, but a little way further towards Rochore than the end of that building. The Club was removed about six months afterwards

to Blanche House, which is still standing on Mount Elizabeth, near the present Club building. The first club house was built about 1862, and many entertainments were given in it. On 25th June, 1886, a celebration on a very large scale was given in it to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Club, and some excellent poetry in German, written by Mr. H. Ebhardt, was recited, a translation being given to the English guests. It was in this building that Prince Henry of Prussia was entertained by the Club in February, 1898. The building becoming too small for the increased German community, the present much larger and handsome building was built, and opened with a large ball on 21st September, 1900.

There were two Government bungalows at that time; one at Changie and the other at Bukit Timah, near the road; a Government Notification issued in September stated that they were expressly constructed for the use of officers on duty in the rural districts, but were open to the use of others at other times.

In July, it was decided to construct a wooden foot-bridge across the river a little above where Cavenagh Bridge now stands, the estimated cost was $9,835.49, which included a carriage way of sixteen feet wide. There were then only two bridges—Coleman's, built in 1840, and Thomson's, in 1844—and as the Post Office was across the river, communication from the Square had to be carried on in boats, which was very inconvenient. The projected plan was not followed out, and some time after a foot bridge only, with a toll of a quarter of a cent, was put up.

Mr. Carpenter, who painted the two well-known views of Singapore, was here in September. The *Free Press* spoke of him as follows:—Mr. Carpenter, an English Artist who has been resident here for some time, has just completed a view of Singapore, in oil colours, which is by far the best *likeness* of this place which we have ever yet seen. It is taken from Mount Wallich, and includes the whole of the town, while the back ground embraces an extensive panorama from Bukit Timah to Johore Hill. The foreground contains characteristic groups of Malays, &c. Mr. Carpenter proposes, if a sufficient number of subscribers can be obtained, to have this picture engraved in line, in the best style, and we are sure it will form a very desirable acquisition to all who are in any way connected with Singapore. The picture for the present is to be seen at the news-room in Commercial Square, but it will ere long be transmitted to London, so that those who have not yet had an opportunity of inspecting it should lose no time in paying it a visit." The lithographed copies, of which there were many for a long time hanging in the houses in Singapore, were made in 1858.

The curious way in which the convicts from India were kept under control, which led, however, to no evil results, and provided a body of men who did a great deal of good work in road making, building the Cathedral, Government House, and other public works, is shown by the following account of some of their proceedings in this year:—

"It appears that the authorities, having at last made up their minds to forbid the convicts from exercising privileges which are denied to some of the free inhabitants of Singapore, gave orders

that on the occurrence of the last Mohurrum the convicts should not be allowed to carry their *taboot* in procession through the streets as in former years, but that their demonstrations should on this occasion take place within their own lines. This did not please these men, who had been accustomed to enjoy a degree of license strangely inconsistent with their condition, and accordingly on the evening of Wednesday last, the 10th September, some hundreds of them forced their way out of the lines, and carrying their *taboot*, and lighted by torches, they marched in procession to the house of the Resident Councillor, where they vented their displeasure by noisy cries and excited gestures and afterwards proceeded to the Government Offices, where they were at last prevailed upon by two of the officers, who had previously in vain attempted to restrain them, to return to their quarters.

"Such an outbreak will no doubt appear strange to persons who are unacquainted with the way in which the convicts are managed in the Straits and the degree of license accorded to them. In former years they were allowed to indulge in their Saturnalia without restraint, their *taboot* was the gayest, and their processions the noisiest to be seen on the public streets. With only one or two European officers over them, the whole of the staff of Jemedars, peons, &c., are convicts, who must of course to a great extent be identified in feelings and interest with those over whom they are placed. Large gangs are dispersed over the country in open lines, without any adequate guard or control over them, and these persons can have very little feeling of restraint. They look upon themselves as superior to the rural population and fully demonstrate this by their behaviour. Whatever may be the theoretical rules for their management, practically they are allowed a degree of liberty and freedom from discipline which is inconsistent with their *status* as convicts."

On 21st March, by the P. & O. Mail steamer *Madras* the new Recorder, Sir Richard Bolton McCausland, arrived from England with Mrs. McCausland. Sir Benson Maxwell, who was the new Recorder for Penang, came at the same time. Sir Benson had been on a Commission concerning the conduct of the Crimean war, and in the *Free Press* was a quotation which had been taken from *Punch*, though it did not say so. The lines attracted general notice in England.

"Whom shall we hang
Is off to Penang
With a place of £200 a year;
The book was a sham,
and we think my Lord Pam
Buys his whitewash excessively dear."

Whether it was a misprint in the *Free Press* by printing £200 instead of £2,000, or whether the writer was mistaken, cannot now be traced, as there is no copy of *Punch* of 1856 to be found in Singapore ; but the salary of the Recorder of Singapore was Rs. 25,000, and that of Penang Rs. 20,000 a year.

The Court was opened on 22nd March by the Recorder, and the new Charter of the Court of Judicature of Prince of Wales Island,

Singapore, and Malacca was proclaimed; after which the Recorder took the oaths of office under the usual salute, Sir P. B. Maxwell being present on the Bench.

One result of the new Charter was that eight gentlemen, who were Justices of the Peace, wrote a long letter to the Governor dated 24th July resigning the office. They were Messrs. T. H. Campbell, T. O. Crane, J. J. Greenshields, C. H. Harrison, John Harvey, H. T. Marshall, W. Paterson, and W. W. Shaw.

A public meeting was held at the News Rooms in Commercial Square on 29th July, at 2 p.m., for the purpose of taking into consideration the Draft Municipal (Straits) Act and other matters of importance to the Settlement. Mr. W. H. Read was called to the Chair, and made some remarks on the objects for which the meeting was held. He then adverted to the proceedings which had recently taken place with reference to the appointment of peace officers, and which had led to the whole of the independent and unpaid Justices of the Peace resigning office. As this subject was not without bearing on the questions which they had met to discuss, and as he saw several of the ex-Justices present, he hoped they would allow the correspondence which had passed between them and the Governor, to be read for the information of the meeting, which was done, and the following resolutions were passed:—

Proposed by W. G. Kerr, and seconded by A. J. Spottiswoode:—

That the thanks of the Community be given to the ex-Magistrates, for their dignified and spirited conduct in resisting the despotic measures of the Government.

Proposed by J. B. Cumming, and seconded by D. Duff:—

That this meeting objects to Act XIII of 1856, as regards the Constitution and Management of the Police Force—being of opinion that the Rate-payers who furnish the funds for its maintenance, are entitled to a share in its control, and therefore earnestly protests against the arbitrary and unconstitutional measure which places the entire power in the hands of the Government.

Proposed by A. J. Spottiswoode, and seconded by R. C. Woods:—

That this meeting claims as a right that which has been already conceded by the Bengal Legislative Council in the preamble of Act III of 1847, to wit; that "it is expedient that all constables and subordinate peace officers and other persons appointed to perform duties of police should be appointed by the Authorities from whom they receive their pay and no others;"—this meeting therefore submits that if the appointment of police officers is vested in the local Authorities, the Government should defray the expenses thereof, and on no account should the assessment funds be applied to such purpose.

Proposed by J. Harvey, and seconded by T. O. Crane:—

That this meeting adheres to the opinion expressed at and adopted by the public meeting held on the 27th September, 1853, that the number of Municipal Commissioners should consist of seven elective and two Government members, it being of opinion that by a less number the interests of the Rate-payers would not be adequately represented.

Proposed by C. H. Harrison, and seconded by H. T. Marshall :—

That Section 16 of the Municipal Assessment Straits Bill, by which power is given to the Governor or Resident Councillor to fill up vacancies occurring in the Municipal Committee is decidedly objectionable, and this meeting is of opinion that such vacancies should be supplied by a new election.

Proposed by J. J. Greenshields, and seconded by T. H. Campbell :—

That this meeting indignantly protests against the insidious introduction of the Rupee Currency by the provisions of the Acts under review.

Proposed by T. O. Crane, Esq., and seconded by W. Howard, Esq. :—

That a Committee, to consist of the following Gentlemen, be appointed to petition Parliament against the objectionable Acts of the Bengal Legislative Council :—Messrs. Logan, Read, Woods, Harvey and Cumming.

A reference to events which occurred in former years may probably be useful in order to understand the reasons which induced the Justices to take such a strong measure.

By the Letters Patent from the Crown (popularly called the Charter) by which the former Court of Judicature of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca had been constituted, power was given to the Court at their General and Quarter Sessions to nominate and appoint constables and subordinate peace officers. The Justices of the Peace were authorised to sit at such General or Quarter Sessions, and to have a deliberate voice in the proceedings. For a considerable time no attempt seems to have been made to exercise the powers given to the Court in its General or Quarter Sessions to regulate the Police, the executive making appointments and exercising a general management through the Sitting Magistrate, who was usually the Assistant Resident, and who also officiated as Collector of Municipal Assessment, which was disbursed by him under the control of his superiors. Matters went on in this manner for a number of years, but in 1843 the daring outrages committed by the Chinese drew the attention of the community to the inefficient state of the Police, and a public meeting was held at which certain representations were made to the Government for the improvement of the Police force. These were given partial effect to, and amongst other measures adopted by the Government was the appointment of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, subordinate to and under the control of the Sitting Magistrate, who continued to act as Superintendent. This was soon perceived to be a very objectionable arrangement, especially as the Sitting Magistrate, as then appointed, might generally be expected to be a person of much less experience in Police affairs than the Deputy, who was liable to have his plans thwarted by a prejudiced or ignorant superior. This actually occurred, and in addition it was found convenient to transfer the collection and disbursement of the assessment to the Deputy Superintendent, who thus had duties imposed upon him which interfered very materially with a proper superintendence over the Police force. The evil effects of such a state of matters were not long in manifesting themselves, and in 1846 the Police as to discipline and efficiency was in as defective a state as it had been in 1843.

In opening the Criminal Sessions in April, 1846, the Recorder, Sir W. Norris, in his charge to the Grand Jury, adverted in forcible terms to the very inefficient state of the Police and made several suggestions for its reform. The Grand Jury in their presentment dwelt at considerable length on the subject, pointing out what they conceived to be the causes of what they did not hesitate to designate "the present disgraceful inefficiency" of the Police. One of the reforms recommended by the Grand Jury was the separation of the offices of Sitting Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, which latter office they were of opinion should be conferred on the Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Dunman, who ought to devote his whole time and attention to the duties of his office, being relieved from the collection of the assessment and from acting as a Sitting Magistrate. The Justices of the Peace, finding that by the Charter they were clothed with certain powers of control over the Police, conceived that it was time for them to undertake a duty which they had perhaps too long neglected, and accordingly a sitting of the Court of Quarter Sessions was held to consider the matter, which was attended by the Recorder, the Resident Councillor, and nearly all the Justices of the Peace. It was proposed at this meeting that the sole superintendence of the Police should be given to Mr. Dunman, the Deputy Superintendent, who was to have the entire management of the Police, subject only to the control and direction of the Court of Quarter Sessions. This was opposed by the Resident Councillor who considered it would be productive of much inconvenience to remove the Police from under the control of the Executive. The Recorder and the great majority of the magistrates did not adopt this view, and the proposed changes were accordingly made, the Resident Councillor protesting against them. Under the new system of management thus introduced, the Police force rapidly improved.

The Magistrates in Quarter Sessions were not, however, long allowed to exercise the power, of which their first use had proved so beneficial to the community. Without waiting to see whether the alterations made by the Court of Quarter Sessions would succeed or not, the Government of India hastened to publish the draft of an Act which, by the terms in which it was conceived, betrayed no small degree of pique at the course taken by the Court of Quarter Sessions. By that Act the appointment of Constables and Peace Officers was to be vested in the Governor of Bengal and the Governor of the Straits Settlements. The Community of Singapore petitioned the Governor-General in Council against this Act and prayed that the appointment and control of the Police might be left with the Court of Quarter Sessions. No attention was given to this memorial, and in due time the Act was passed and came into operation as Act III of 1847. Three of the non-official Justices immediately upon the Act being passed resigned their offices, and some of the Justices at Penang took the same step. From this time the office of Justice of the Peace in Singapore was held in little esteem, very few non-official persons being found willing to accept it.

Governor Butterworth would seem at last to have become aware of the mistake which had been committed by the passing of Act III of 1847, and in the end of 1853 he induced a number of gentlemen to allow their names to be put in the Com-

mission of the Peace on the understanding that the obnoxious Act was to be repealed, and there was also a prospect of the appointment and control of the Police being vested in a popularly elected Municipal body, a course which had before been recommended by the community, and which seemed equally satisfactory with restoring the power of the Magistrates, as in either case the Act would be repealed, and the management of the Police left with those in whom the community could place confidence for its right administration.

Things remained in this state when the Letters Patent reconstituting the Court of Judicature arrived from England, and as it was found that they contained the same powers as the former Charter in regard to the appointment of peace officers, it was conceived that the authority of the Court in its Quarter Sessions of the Peace was thereby revived, and the Justices were therefore prepared to exercise their functions in that respect. Mr. Blundell, the Governor, however, took a different view and thought that his powers under Act III of 1847 remained unaffected, and proceedings to try this question were taken in Court, with the result that the Recorder held that the opinion of the Governor was the correct one, and that the powers of the Justices in Quarter Sessions were not resuscitated by the recent Letters Patent. The Legislative Council of India in the meantime passed their Police Act, which extended to the Straits as well as to the Presidency Towns of India, and by it the complete nomination and control of the Police was committed to an officer to be appointed by Government with the title of Commissioner of Police, and which office in the Straits Settlements it was proposed to confer on the Resident Councillors. 9.

Whatever, therefore, may have been the grounds on which Colonel Butterworth conceived himself warranted in holding out hopes that the power of the Court of Judicature in General or Quarter Sessions would be restored, the Government of India did not do it, and the Justices of the Peace, who had held office on the faith of Colonel Butterworth's representations, had but one course left when it was seen that these representations would not be given effect to.

On 2nd June Captain John Russell, the Postmaster and Master Attendant resigned, and Mr. Vaughan, who was then Superintendent of Police at Penang, was appointed in his place; which gave, the paper said, general satisfaction, as he had every qualification for the office. A letter very numerously signed by the merchants, was sent to the Government, suggesting that the Post Office was becoming of great importance and recommending Mr. Cuppage, if the work could be separated from the duties of Master Attendant and Marine Magistrate, which were enough for one official. It was not done for many years afterwards.

In June the *Free Press* said "The Singapore petition about the Rupee Currency has been presented to the House of Lords by the Earl of Albemarle, and his Lordship appears to have made himself fully conversant with the subject, and to have stated the case of the petitioners with much ability. The reply to the elaborate exposition of Lord Albemarle made by Lord Granville is anything but satisfactory. Lord Granville says that the matter is not so simple as Lord Albemarle seems to think. We are at a loss to conjecture where the difficulty

lies. To any person possessed of common sense it must be very obvious that a purely decimal system, represented by a suitable silver and copper coinage, is infinitely superior to a barbarous currency like that of India. The difficult point is the strange infatuation of the Indian Government, including the Legislative Council, which induced them to persist in doing their utmost to overturn the decimal currency established in the Straits and to substitute the inconvenient Rupee system, in spite of the strongest remonstrances from those who were to be the victims of their meddling. Lord Granville states that the Spanish Dollar was never a legal tender and never had been authoritatively settled as such. There may never have been a distinct legislative enactment to that effect, but in every other way it was sanctioned and recognised as the legal currency of the Settlement. For many years all the transactions of government were in dollars, the Charters of Justice emanating from the Crown mentioned dollars, all suits in the Courts of a pecuniary nature referred solely to dollars, and merchants and all other sections of the inhabitants carried on their dealings and kept their accounts entirely in this coin. Moreover, government further recognised this currency by supplying a copper coinage adapted to it and to it only. These are facts which show that whether or not the dollar had ever been settled as a 'legal tender' in the Straits, there can be no doubt that it was long the actual and only currency."

A public meeting was then called by the Sheriff in the Square on Tuesday, 1st July, to take the question into consideration, and the objections by the whole community to a Rupee currency were insisted on as warmly as ever. The attempt of the Government in India to force a double currency had proved a source of general inconvenience to everyone, including the officials.

A member of the Legislative Council of India, known as Rupee Allen, who was supposed to have taken the Straits affairs under his particular care, came to Singapore from Calcutta in October, and was actually seen in the Square. So a few merchants sought an interview with him, to expose again the mischief which it was endeavoured to force upon the trade of the place, but he said he was not "at home" and went back as ignorant as he came; the newspaper remarking that he was one of these small minds who think it an affront to ask them to reconsider a matter after they have expressed their opinion upon it, and consider discussion a bore, and so gain the contempt of many and the respect of none.

Whampoa & Co. had been importing ice from America, but the consumption was only from 400 to 500 lbs. a day, and it required a sale of 1,000 lbs. to meet the cost and expenses, so they stopped it.

At a public meeting held in July a resolution was adopted by a majority but subsequently withdrawn, which proposed to appoint a committee for the purpose of drawing up petitions to Parliament with a view to an address to the Crown, praying Her Majesty to make Singapore a Crown Colony.

In September, Ker, Rawson & Co., advertised for sale by auction the late Dr. Montgomerie's nutmeg plantation at the junction of New Harbour and Tanjong Pagar Roads, with the dwelling houses called Craig Hill and Duxton, area about 32½ acres, with 1,700 nutmeg trees.

Mr. Thomas Church left Singapore, for the last time, on Monday, 22nd September, after having been Resident Councillor for over nineteen years, as already stated on page 326. Mr. Henry Somerset Mackenzie, a Bengal Civilian, from Penang, took Mr. Church's place, Mr. Braddell was Police Magistrate at Penang, and Mr. Willans at Malacca.

Two small gunboats, called the *Malacca* and *Singapore*, were launched in October. They were built by Tivendale & Co., and the paper said they promised to be very efficient craft, going fast either with oar or sail and being of very light draught in the water. They were manned by eleven men each, armed with pistols and cutlasses, and each boat carrying a brass 3-pounder gun. They were stationed so as to make a complete sweep round the island, and it was their duty to be constantly on the move, looking into the different creeks and rivers and other resorts of sea robbers.

In October the paper said:—"The Rajah of Siak has arrived here with thirty prahus and about 500 followers. His object, we understand, is to fit out an expedition for the purpose of bringing to submission a number of refractory chiefs who refuse to recognise his authority and who have kept Siak in a state of disorder for a year or two past. He has purchased a schooner and other vessels of smaller size, and is laying in a large supply of arms and ammunition of all kinds. As soon as he has repressed the civil commotions in his country, the Rajah intends to turn his attention to the development of the resources of his state, and for this purpose, we hear, he will avail himself of European agency. From the close proximity of Siak to Singapore the Rajah will have peculiar facilities for carrying his intention into effect, if he proceeds upon any well regulated plan. Coal, tin and gold are said to exist in considerable quantities, while the usual articles of produce which the Malayan forests yield, such as wax, rattans, gittah taban, canes, dammar, &c., &c., are found in abundance." All this came to nothing.

In December Mr. C. R. Rigg, who had been Coroner, was made the Secretary to the Municipal Commissioners, in anticipation of the passing of the new Municipal Act. He was Secretary until he left Singapore in 1866, and did a great deal of good work.

In December Mr. A. M. Aitken, who had in 1852 been admitted one of the Law Agents of the Court as they were then styled, and was afterwards called to the Bar in 1864, was appointed Registrar of the Court, in room of Mr. Caldwell. The cause of it created a great deal of excitement in the place at the time. The reasons for this can be seen from the following passages taken from an article in the *Free Press* of 11th December. Mr. Caldwell in after years paid off by far the greater part of his creditors in Singapore in full:—

"Some three weeks ago unpleasant rumours began to circulate regarding Mr. H. C. Caldwell, Registrar of the Court of Judicature here, to the effect that he had misappropriated a large sum of money entrusted to his care for investment, and that he had tried to conceal his defalcations by rendering false accounts to his principal, apparently showing that the money was out at loan on mortgage. Very little credit was at first given to these reports, as Mr. Caldwell had always borne the highest character

for integrity and there had been nothing in his mode of living, &c., showing any expenditure beyond what was amply covered by his official emoluments. About a fortnight ago, however, these rumours began to acquire consistency and strength, and were at last proved to be but too true, by Mr. Caldwell being deprived of his office, the Judges of the Court having called upon him for explanations which he was unable to give. Thus lamentably was terminated an official connection with the Court of 28 years, during the course of which Mr. Caldwell had enjoyed the confidence and respect of his superiors and of the public, who looked upon him as a most zealous and upright public servant.

"The enquiries which now took place on the part of persons interested in property entrusted to Mr. Caldwell's care, in the various capacities of agent, trustee, executor and, through his office, as administrator in intestate and other estates, revealed that his misappropriations had been extensive and general, not even his most intimate friends being spared. The confidence placed in Mr. Caldwell's integrity by every class of the community was so unlimited, that the property confided to his management, in the various capacities above mentioned, was very large, and from all that we can learn the amount which he has fraudulently made away with cannot be less than one hundred thousand dollars, and will probably be found considerably in excess of that sum. Although repeatedly pressed for an explanation, Mr. Caldwell would not give any intelligible account of the manner in which he had disposed of this large sum. Ultimately a criminal charge was made against him by one of the severest sufferers from his frauds, but on the officers proceeding to his house to take him into custody, Mr. Caldwell had disappeared, although seen and conversed with only a few hours previously, and, notwithstanding the most perserving search since, no clue has been obtained to his hiding place. Some persons think that he has succeeded in leaving the island, while others believe that he still remains in Singapore, concealed by some of his native friends. The shock which this occurrence has inflicted on the community has been great, for very seldom has any one enjoyed such universal respect and esteem as were accorded to this unhappy man. We have delayed as long as we could from alluding to this matter, in the hope that something might transpire which would give it a less repulsive aspect, but any such expectation appears now to be vain, and it would therefore serve no good purpose to remain longer silent."

Mr. Aitken held the post for a short time, and in 1857 Mr. Christian Baumgarten was appointed and held it until 1874, when he practised at the Bar, and Mr. Charles Eugene Velge, one of the sons of Mr. John Velge, spoken of at page 185, was appointed Registrar.

On the 18th December, a public meeting, very numerously attended, with Mr. W. H. Read in the chair, was held, and the following resolutions were passed:—

Proposed by W. Napier, and seconded by W. Paterson

That the imposition of tonnage or port dues on shipping is an unwarrantable attack upon the freedom of this port, which this meeting views with apprehension and regret; as being in direct violation of the principles upon which this Settlement was established, and calculated to endanger the very existence of its trade.

Proposed by J. Harvey, and seconded by J. B. Cumming.

That the following gentlemen be requested to form a Committee to draw up a Memorial to the Legislative Council in India, embodying these views:—Messrs. W. H. Read, John Purvis, Wm. Napier, A. Logan, Joaquim d'Almeida and W. G. Kerr.

The paper remarked on this as follows:—

"The feeling of the meeting, which was very numerously attended by the European and Chinese merchants, as well as other parties interested in the welfare of Singapore, was unanimous, and strongly expressed against the proposition. This is not the first time, by any means, that it has been sought by the Government of India to introduce duties at Singapore, in one form or another. So far back as 1826, the subject was mooted by the East India Company, but the proposal met with such a warm opposition in England, that it was abandoned for the time being. About ten years later, the Indian Government again brought it forward, the pretence for doing so being the great expense incurred in putting down piracy in these seas. The merchants petitioned both Houses of Parliament, and the result was, that although in the meantime the authorities in India had modified their scheme and restricted it to the levy of port or tonnage dues, positive orders were sent from home that no measure of the kind was to be attempted, and that if already in operation it was to be forthwith annulled. Statesmen of all parties in England have ever recognised the importance of maintaining in all its integrity the system on which Singapore is conducted, and which has been productive of such beneficial results to the trade of England as well as to that of India. Our immediate rulers in India, however, have never been able to regard the Settlement of Singapore through any other medium that a revenual one; and whenever, therefore, there has been an excess of expenditure over receipts, whether arising from ordinary sources of disbursement or from measures required for the protection of trade, they have frowned upon the unfortunate place, and the one sole remedy propounded—the only suggestion they have had to make on the subject—is the imposition of duties on the trade."

The result of this protest, supported by the action of old Singaporeans in London, who went to the Board of Control on the subject, was that the Directors at Leadenhall Street sent out positive instructions to Bengal to do nothing at all in the matter, and again in the history of Singapore the merchants maintained the freedom of the port.

In 1854 the local Presbyterians considered the advisability of having a Minister of the Presbyterian order in Singapore. A committee was appointed, and Dr. Guthrie, the famous Edinburgh preacher, was requested to find a suitable Minister, and the Rev. Thomas McKenzie Frazer, M.A., arrived in October, 1856. In the same year a Chinese catechist named Tan See Boo came from Amoy, recommended by Dr. Carstairs Douglas and other missionaries there. He worked in a small building, used as a Mission Chapel, in the compound of Miss Sophia Cooke's Girls' School in Sophia Road. Miss Cooke took much interest in the matter and had induced Mr. Humphrey, the Church of England Chaplain, to begin mission work among the Chinese some

months before the Presbyterians were actually at work. See Boo, who, was one of the earliest Presbyterian converts in China, had been working with the Episcopalians for a time, but was afterwards ordained an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. In September, 1860, Mr. Frazer went to Australia; and in June, 1861, the Rev. John Matheson arrived. He left for home in 1866, and died at Alexandria; having been very much respected in Singapore. The Rev. W. Jeffrey arrived from home in 1866, but not long afterwards he left the Presbyterian communion and joined the Plymouth Brethren in Singapore. Mr. Alexander Grant, M.A., a Presbyterian missionary from Amoy, and Tan See Boo, doing the same. In 1870, the Rev. M. J. Copland, the fourth minister, arrived, but he died suddenly in the following year, on 19th February, 1871.

The Rev. William Dale began his ministry in November, 1871 and in April, 1872, the Presbyterian Church took an important step and entered into the Synod of the English Presbyterian Church. Before that the local Church had had no direct ecclesiastical connection at home.

In May, 1872, as the Session had lost its Chinese Mission by the deflection of Messrs. Grant and See Boo, they decided to take over for a time Peter Tychicus and the Tamil congregation, and thus became more interested than before in Mr. Keasberry's Mission. On his death in 1875 the Bukit Timah Chinese Mission passed under the care of the Presbyterian Church, and ten years later the Presbyterians also took charge of the Chinese work at the Prinsep Street Chapel, which since 1885 had been under the charge of the Rev. J. A. B. Cook. Mr. Dale was succeeded by the Rev. W. Aitken, M.A., who left in 1883. The Rev. A. S. MacPhee, M.A., B.D., was then appointed and remained until 1889, when the Rev. G. M. Reith came, and was succeeded by the Rev. S. S. Walker in 1896.

The services were formerly held in the building known as the Mission Chapel, originally built by the London Missionary Society, at the corner of Brass Bassa Road and North Bridge Road opposite the present Raffles Girls School, and in 1876 that site, which had been purchased by the Presbyterian congregation from the London Missionary Society on 3rd August, 1866, was sold and the present Church in Stamford Road was built, the Government giving the land free for the use of the members of any denomination of Christians holding as their confession of faith the ecclesiastical documents received by the different branches of the Presbyterian Church and known as the Westminster Standard.

In December the screw steamer *Sir James Brooke* commenced to run between Singapore and Sarawak, and it was in this year that the steamers of Jardine Matheson & Co., and Apcar & Co., commenced to run between Calcutta and China. These steamers were the first regular vessels to trade with the Port in addition to those of the P. and O. Company.

A large number of new houses had been built during the year, but, notwithstanding this, rents rose very much and continued to advance, and the value of fixed property, whether in town or country, was double or treble what it had been three years before. The demand

or residences in the country exceeded the supply. A new Court House was proposed, and the side of Government Hill below the cemetery was suggested, but it would have been inconvenient. The Victoria Brick Bridge over the Rochore river was built in this year. A new steam wharf and coal shed for the use of the Borneo Company and Jardine Matheson & Co's. steamers (since called the Borneo Wharf) was building, and at the west of New Harbour Mr. Badenock commenced a dry dock under the superintendence of Captain Cloughton, the spot selected being where a patent slip had been commenced but had not succeeded. The premises were known afterwards as the New Harbour Dock. The construction of a dry dock at Pulo Brani was also being attempted at this time.

It was in this year that Lieut. John Frederick Adolphus McNair, R.A., came to Singapore. He left England for Madras in 1846, a little over seventeen years of age. One of those young Englishmen, of whom there were so many in the history of India in former days, who had the resolution to leave home when almost school-boys (and whose parents were brave enough to let their boys go), at a time when life in India was far different from what it is now; when such a voyage was a matter of many months; and when a return home was looked upon as a very distant and, perhaps, unlikely event, so much less was known about the country in those days. In 1853 he went to Malacca in command of the detachment of Madras Native Artillery stationed there. He made friends with Mr. J. B. Westerhout, who was so well known among the up-country natives, and was the person in Malacca to whom the Government looked for advice and assistance in dealing with the neighbouring Malay States. He used to go long journeys with him into the interior, and as he had been a student of geology in England with an eminent geologist, he sent to Calcutta specimens of various metals, &c., which he found in his journeys. He made a collection also of the woods and resins of the country, which was sent to the Government of Madras. He had been scarcely a year in Malacca when he was sent to take command of the Artillery in Labuan, and in July, 1856, he was called to Singapore to act as Adjutant to the Artillery in the Straits, with his head-quarters at Singapore. While he was in Labuan he had travelled over part of Borneo Proper, and made a valuable collection of shells which were afterwards placed in the Cuming collection now in the British Museum. The Governor of the Island there was an eager coadjutor in that work; he was Mr. Low, now Sir Hugh Low, afterwards in Perak. He had not been long in Singapore before he was appointed Private Secretary and A.D.C. to the Governor—a post very different in the days of the East India Company to what it is at present. The most analogous now is that of the Colonial Secretary; for all the correspondence of the Government then passed through the hands of the Private Secretary. It was while he was so employed that the Indian Mutiny broke out, and Lord Elgin was here on his way to China in 1857, as is related in the next chapter.

In December, 1857, he was appointed Executive Engineer and Superintendent of Convicts in the Straits. This involved the charge of all the public works, and what was quite as important, of the

Criminal Jail, holding, in very insecure walls, some three thousand prisoners from India, Ceylon and Hongkong. He had passed in Hindustani in India and spoke it well, and he acquired a remarkable personal influence over the gangs of prisoners, which was frequently noticed. He had been fortunate in succeeding two such officers as Colonel Man and Colonel Macpherson, who like himself had been in the Madras Artillery. They had brought the jail into order, and organised gangs of convicts as artificers in various trades. Those convicts were of much use to Singapore, at a time when labour was scarce and required for other than public purposes; for the long roads across the island were made by them, the Cathedral was built by them, and later on Government House, while they were in charge of Major McNair. In 1861, while he was in England, he learnt photography, so that he might teach others to take the pictures of the convicts, and he introduced it in the Government service here, and afterwards at Penang. It was no uncommon thing for ladies and gentlemen to go and be photographed in the Jail by the Major. There was not the competition in photography then that there is now, when it is so much better known. It is noteworthy that in the charge of so large a number of convicts (many times the number there is in our jail now), he was at one time assisted by only one European Warder, the remainder of the petty officers being recruited from among the prisoners. An account of this is to be found in the book lately written by Major McNair and Mr. W. D. Bayliss, who was his assistant and Superintendent of Works and Surveys for many years in Singapore, entitled "Prisoners their own Warders" published in one volume in London in 1899.

No doubt the system had its defects, and that there was a wide difference between the jail as it is now, filled with offenders sentenced in Singapore, and a jail which contained criminals who came from distant places and did not know the local language, and had no friends outside the walls to help them to escape from the island if they succeeded in getting clear of the jail; but notwithstanding, it was often a wonder to many to find so large an establishment of the worst characters of Indian kept in check by what was, practically, almost personal influence alone.

The jail was one of the most remarkable sights in the place, and no one came on a visit from India in those days without going over it before he returned. For all sorts of things—from coir matting and rattan chairs down to waste paper baskets—every one went to the jail, and the rattan lounging chairs the Chinese now sell here so largely were invented there, beginning with a cumbrous, heavy chair, which was the first pattern, down to the shapes we see now.

In 1867 the Major returned from a visit to England. He came out with Governor Ord, and was appointed Colonial Engineer to the Straits Settlements—the new name of his office in the Colony, which was then taken over from India. The first works he had to take in hand were Government House and the Water Works, which latter had been commenced, ignominiously smashed up, and been commenced again, and failed again, under other hands, and were at last constructed in his time. He made three schemes for the works, and one was approved

in England by Sir Robert Rawlinson and sanctioned by the Secretary of State. Though the Major had to bear the brunt of the credit (?) of the extra expense caused to the Colony, it should be said, in justice to him, that he was not in any way responsible for the former designs, and that the successful issue was due to his working while on leave in England with Sir Robert Rawlinson, who was afterwards made the responsible adviser of Government in the matter. By one of those who knew of the former fiascos, how one Engineer thought water would run up hill without a head on it, and another thought to lower the surface of a stream by digging away at the bed of it, it was said that the best epitaph for Major McNair's services in the Straits would be: "The Water-works were finished in his time, and the Water ran through the pipes." There is a road called after the Major behind Tan Tock Seng's hospital in Serangoon Road.

In 1868 he went with the expedition to view the eclipse at Whae Wan on the East Coast of the Peninsula, which caused the death of the old King of Siam, who went to the same place, and caught fever, of which he died, consequent, as some thought, on *curing* himself with too many Holloway's Pills. In 1875 the Major went as Chief Commissioner in Perak during the disturbances, an account of which is to be found in his book called "Perak and the Malays" published in London in 1878. He was afterwards Resident Councillor of Penang, and was obliged to give up the post in 1884, on medical advice, after thirty years of hard work, and has since lived at Brighton. His eldest daughter married the late Mr. Thomas Scott, of Guthrie & Co., and the youngest daughter Mr. Charles Stringer of Paterson, Simons & Co.

The Major went on several missions to the surrounding countries, besides the one to Siam, and was very well acquainted with all the neighbouring places and their inhabitants, and his name was well known among them. He was permitted to accept the order of the White Elephant of Siam, and made a C.M.G. in 1879. He belonged to several of the learned societies in England, and took a great deal of trouble to send curiosities and specimens of fruit and other products to Europe. He acted as Colonial Secretary in Singapore at one time, and there was scarcely any official in the service who knew as much as he did about the Straits. The always ready kindness and hospitality of himself and Mrs. McNair were known to all, and, especially in the old days, to young men just out from England in a strange place, to whom such friends were a world of good. His very courteous manner to everyone, and his consideration, especially for all those employed under him, will long be remembered.

Among the list of passengers who arrived from Europe on the 16th December by the P. & O. Mail is found the Name of Mr. Charles Dunlop, who came out from Glasgow to Maclaine, Fraser & Co., at nineteen years of age. He was afterwards a partner in that firm, and subsequently for some years in Powell & Co., and has now been longer resident in Singapore than any other European here.

CHAPTER XLV.

1857

ON the 2nd January all the shops remained closed, the markets were deserted, and the boatmen and hack-gharry syces refused to work. The Municipal and Police Acts had been brought into force without their objects being properly made known to or understood by the natives, and considerable misconception prevailed about them, which led to a general combination among the native population.

An attempt to induce a shop-keeper to open his shop, led to a riot in which the police were roughly handled, and as the state of affairs in China had given rise to some feelings of ill-will towards Europeans on the part of some of the lowest classes of the Chinese, matters began to assume a somewhat serious appearance. In those days there were very few Singapore-born Chinese in the place.

A public meeting was called by the Sheriff at one o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. John Purvis was Chairman, and a committee of nine European gentlemen, with Whampoa and Tan Kim Cheng, was appointed to wait at once upon the Governor, asking him to issue a proclamation calling upon people to return to their business, and saying that any acts of intimidation would be severely punished; and that the Governor was at all times ready to listen to proper complaints, respectfully made, and that the translations of the Acts would be revised.

The following proclamation was issued in Chinese the same day: "Now on account of all classes of the people closing their shops, and not wishing to do business because they have heard that the words of the new Act are not clearly understood; people do not understand it, therefore it is difficult for them to obey, and in consequence the present misunderstanding has arisen, and the closing of the shops has taken place. Now be it known that within one month hence the definitions of the Act will be more clearly explained, in order that it may be fully understood. If in the body of the Act there is anything objectionable to the mass of the population, such as know thereof may come within one month to the Court, and to the Governor may make known their complaint. Now you ought all to open your shops and transact your business as usual and do not disobey this. This is given to understand."

An adjourned meeting was held the next day, Saturday, at 3 p.m., when the greater part of the shops had been opened, and a long discussion took place incidentally about the probable advantage that would result, if the Settlements were transferred to the direct

rule of the Crown. Some amusement was caused by a counter-proclamation in Chinese being read. It had been found pasted over the Government proclamation; the purport being that no faith was to be put in the Governor's promise to have the law explained; that he only wished to gain time and secure provisions; while the Chinese were quite ready with guns to sweep away every barbarian from the island.

Mr. W. H. Read proposed, seconded by Mr. T. O. Crane, a resolution, which was carried unanimously, as to the danger of the Secret Societies, on whose headmen the people evidently relied in the disturbances; and the same committee as before was asked to wait upon the Governor, and satisfy themselves that the authorities were prepared to suppress any outbreak that might arise.

The Military and the Volunteer Rifles were in readiness, and some large guns were mounted on Government Hill (now Fort Canning) and Pearls Hill. An additional regiment was soon afterwards sent from Madras.

At the Assizes in the following week the Grand Jury in their Presentment at the close of the Session dwelt at considerable length on the dangers to the peace of the Settlement arising from the Secret Societies or Hoés amongst the Chinese being allowed to exist unchecked, and suggestions were offered as to the best means of dealing with these societies.

The enforcement of the Police and Conservancy Acts by the Police gave rise to another disturbance in February, confined however to one section of the Native population, the Klings, and was unfortunately attended with considerable bloodshed and loss of life. The Imaum of the Mahomedan Mosque in Telloh Ayer Street had obtained a license to celebrate a festival extending over several days, on the condition that the proceedings should terminate each evening at ten o'clock. On the evening of the 5th February, Arthur Pennefather, one of the Police Inspectors, going his rounds between ten and eleven, accompanied by a Police Sergeant and several peons, found a large assemblage of Klings at the Mosque, completely blocking up the road in Telloh Ayer and Japan Streets, there being also obstructions in the shape of stakes and plantain trees stuck in the ground. The Inspector ordered the obstructions to be removed by the peons, but this was resisted by the Klings. The Inspector then sent to the Police station for a reinforcement, he himself remaining on the spot with the Sergeant. Seven or eight policemen presently arrived, some of them armed with loaded muskets. The Inspector then again ordered the Imaum to remove the obstructions, and on his declining to do so, the police peons were ordered to take up the stakes. On their attempting this, the mob assailed them with sticks and stones, and the Sergeant and one of the peons were knocked down, the latter being rendered senseless. He was taken up by some of his comrades, and the party retired towards the Police Station in Telloh Ayer Street, followed by the mob, who continued to throw missiles. When near the Station the Police fired over the mob, who retreated, and the party then gained the Station. The mob then assailed the Station with brickbats, stones, &c., and the Police replied by firing from both the

ground and upper floors. One person was shot dead, one died next day from his wounds, and eleven others were so severely wounded that they were sent to the Hospital. Inquests were held on the bodies of the persons killed, and, in both, verdicts were returned of justifiable homicide. The Commissioner of Police (Mr. Mackenzie, the Resident Councillor) after the first inquest, with the consent of the Governor, dismissed the Inspector, Sergeant, and one of the peons, and reduced some of the native police, who had been concerned in the affair, in rank. This decision was come to because the Commissioner was of opinion that the conduct of the Inspector was most rash and precipitate, that fire arms had been used without sufficient cause and that this had provoked the riotous and illegal attack of the mob. Considerable excitement was induced amongst the European residents by this decision of the Commissioner; they thought it was not justified in face of the verdict of the Coroner's Jury, who had completely exculpated the police from blame, and they also conceived it was calculated to prejudice the interests of Inspector Pennefather, against whom proceedings had been taken before the Police Magistrate, which resulted in his being committed to take his trial for manslaughter at the next Criminal Sessions.

A public meeting was held on 26th February, at which over 80 Europeans were present, with Mr. C. H. Harrison in the chair, and remonstrances were addressed to the Governor, who however declined to restore the dismissed persons to the positions they had previously held in the Police force. The difference of opinion between the Governor and the European residents generally was so wide, that at one of the meetings a Committee was actually appointed "for the purpose of drawing up a resumé of the general policy of His Honor the Governor, pointing out the repeated instances in which it has been at variance with the true interests of the Settlement, and begging that the present serious difference of opinion between the Executive and the public of Singapore be taken into the earnest consideration of the Supreme Government."

This threatened indictment of the Governor was not however carried out; the Inspector was brought to trial at the Criminal Session held in April, and after a trial lasting eight days was acquitted of the charge against him.

The *Free Press* remarked that upon a review of the case it appeared that the police acted with a want of that forbearance and good temper which was requisite, and had recourse to unnecessary violence, calculated to provoke the mob, though it could not excuse it in the extremities to which it went. The conduct of the authorities in afterwards dealing with the case was undignified, and wanting in that spirit of fairplay and impartiality which ought to characterise those in high office towards their subordinates.

In February the petition against levying tonnage dues in the Straits ports was sent to Calcutta by the Committee appointed on 18th December. As soon as the information reached England in March, a number of gentlemen connected with the Straits had taken up the matter there with great vigour. A memorial to the President of the India Board was prepared and presented, and the deputation met with a most attentive hear-

ing. No positive assurances were given, but it was obvious that if it were pressed from Calcutta it would receive no countenance at the India office. A copy of the memorial was in the *Free Press* of 30th April. The names make a rough sort of directory of the old Singaporeans in England, and of the large firms in London connected with the trade of Singapore, at that time; so they are inserted here, in alphabetical order; first of individuals, and then of London firms, which comprised some very eminent houses :—

W. S. Binny
Edward Boustead
Thomas Church
J. A. Crawford
John Crawfurd
J. P. Cumming
Robert Diggles
James Fraser
Lewis Fraser
Samuel Garling
Ellis J. Gilman
Alex. Guthrie
James Guthrie
W. W. Ker
Geo. G. Nicol
J. Padday
W. W. Shaw
J. N. Smith
Chas. Spottiswoode
William Spottiswoode

Arbuthnot, Latham & Co.
Ashton & Co.
Borneo Co., Limited
Chalmers, Guthrie & Co.
Crawford, Colvin & Co.
D. Dunbar & Sons
Forbes, Forbes & Co.
Gregson & Co.
Harvey, Brand & Co.
R. & J. Henderson
Fred. Huth & Co.
Jardine Skinner & Co.
W. S. Lindsay & Co.
Matheson & Co.
Oriental Bank Corporation
Palmers, Mackillop, Dent & Co.
P. & O. Company
Wm. Jas. & H. Thompson
Rawson Sons & Co.
Small & Co.

On the 6th February a regatta took place in the morning, and in the evening the members of Lodge Zetland in the East, No. 748, gave what they modestly called an evening party, but was a most successful ball and elaborate supper.

On the evening of Saturday 14th February, the Singapore Volunteer Rifle Corps was presented with a set of colours which had been prepared for it by Mrs. Butterworth, the widow of the late Governor, under whom the Corps was embodied, and who continued its Colonel up to his death. Brigadier McLeod permitted all the troops in Singapore to be paraded on the Esplanade. The Corps wore a band of crape on the arm as a sign of mourning for their late Colonel. Governor Blundell presented the colours to Mr. W. H. Read, the Senior Lieutenant, and addressed the Corps.

Mr. Read replied; and the following is the final passage of his reported speech :—"We seek not the glory of the battle-field, nor to embroider the names of victories on these colours. Ours are less martial, more peaceful aims. Our object is to assist in protecting the lives and property of the public, and to shew the evil-disposed how readily Europeans will come forward in the maintenance of order and tranquillity. Should we ever be called upon to act, we shall be found prepared to do our duty, contented with the approbation of the Government and the applause of our fellow citizens."

In March the Dutch barque *Henrietta Maria* was brought into Singapore by part of the crew of an American merchant vessel,

having been found in a disabled state in the China Sea. The vessel had left Macao for Havana, with upwards of 300 Chinese coolies on board, but the coolies had risen during the passage down the China Sea, and seized the vessel. A great many of the Chinese had left the ship, and the Captain and the greater part of the crew were stated to have gone away in a boat. When the vessel was taken possession of by the American salvors, there were only four men of the original crew, together with about one hundred of the Chinese, on board. On the arrival of the vessel at Singapore, Governor Blundell communicated the circumstances to the Dutch Resident at Riow, and a Dutch vessel of war having been sent to Singapore, the Governor delivered the *Henrietta Maria* to her, in spite of the protests of the United States Consul; the American flag, which the Consul had authorised the salvors to hoist on the vessel, being hauled down by the Master Attendant. An American man of war arrived some time afterwards at Singapore to enquire into the circumstances, and some correspondence ensued between the commander and the authorities. The affair having been reported to the Supreme Government by the Governor, his conduct in giving up the vessel to the Dutch authorities was pronounced illegal, and he was desired to make proper compensation to the salvors.

A number of petty cases of piracy occurred in the waters near Singapore, and Chinese pirates as usual were busy in the Gulf of Siam and China Sea at the season when the junks and other native craft passed through on their way to or from Singapore. The state of affairs in China in this year prevented the promised measures being taken by Commodore Henry Keppel for an organised system of operations against the pirates in the neighbouring seas.

As the remarkable establishment of Sir James Brooke's Government in Sarawak had almost seemed part of the history of Singapore, great excitement was caused on the arrival of the schooner *Good Luck*, on 10th March, with the news of the very serious outbreak of Chinese there in February, attended with considerable loss of life and destruction of property, which did not, however, more than very temporarily interfere with the prosperity of the place. The Chinese acted with great secrecy and determination, and dropping down the river to Kuching in large numbers, on the night of the 17th February they attacked the houses of the Europeans connected with the Government and the stockaded posts in which were lodged the treasure, opium, ammunition, &c. The houses occupied by Sir James Brooke, Mr. Arthur C. Crookshank the magistrate, and Mr. Middleton were burned down. Sir James Brooke narrowly escaped with his life, Mr. and Mrs. Crookshank were severely wounded, two of Mr. Middleton's children perished in the flames, and Mr. Nicoletts, a relation of Sir James Brooke, and Mr. Willington, a metallurgist in the service of the Borneo Company, were slain.

The Chinese went up the river, but again returned to Kuching in large force on the 22nd, took possession of the town and burnt down a part of the Malay kampong. They did not long however enjoy their triumph, for the Borneo Company's Steamer *Sir James Brooke* having arrived from Singapore, she proceeded up to Kuching

on the 23rd and by the fire of her guns soon cleared the town of the Chinese. They retreated in much disorder, and the Malays and Dyaks having rallied and collected in great numbers, an unrelenting pursuit of the Chinese was kept up and they were finally driven into the Dutch territories.

In March Boustead & Co. advertised for sale the house of Mr. William Napier in the "Tang Leng" district, 3½ miles from town. It was afterwards, and is now, known as Tyersall. The house had been built in 1854, and the grounds had an area of 67 acres. The house was pulled down when the late Sultan Aboobakar of Johore built the present Istana on the site.

On 19th March, H.M.S. *Raleigh*, Captain Turner, bearing the broad pennant of Commodore Keppel, C.B., sailed into New Harbour. On the 24th she came into the roads and saluted the shore. As the old Admiral was in Singapore when this chapter was being written, he was asked (while he was sitting on an easy chair, looking across the Straits, from the verandah of Dato Meldrum's house in Johore) if he remembered how it came about that he sailed the *Raleigh* into New Harbour instead of into the Roads. He said that he did it because he had surveyed New Harbour while he was in the *Meander*, and had the same master, (navigating officer) with him in the *Raleigh* who had surveyed it with him, so he felt quite confident about it, although others had been afraid to go in! It seemed very curious to be talking in this part of the world, to the old Admiral of the Fleet, close on his 93rd year, hearing details of those old days. He said he thought that he came in late in the evening.

Admiral Montagu tells in his book, mentioned later on, how Keppel carried on to be at Hongkong in time for the fray, after leaving Penang, and the frigate was running with the main-deck guns dragging through the water, as the Commodore would not allow a scrap of sail to be taken in during the squalls.

An address signed by the whole of the mercantile community was presented to him on the 20th, and contained the following passage:—"We hail with pleasure your appointment as a guarantee on the part of Her Majesty's Government for the future efficient protection of trade and commerce, by confiding a high command to so distinguished and energetic an officer as yourself, whose experience in the East has been so extensive, while your appreciation of Singapore is peculiarly gratifying to us."

And the reply contained the following:—"It is with no small feelings of pride and gratification that I have to acknowledge the kind and flattering "welcome back" I have this day received in an address signed by the Merchants and other Gentlemen residents at Singapore. I plead guilty to a long standing and deep interest in all that concerns this rapidly rising Settlement. By zealously performing those duties for which I may be selected by an energetic and distinguished chief, I shall hope to retain the good opinion of my kind friends at Singapore."

The *Raleigh* was a magnificent frigate of 50 guns, the last of the old sailers! She was said to be the fastest sailing frigate afloat, and had a crew of 600 men, besides super-numeraries.

The vessel was nicknamed in Singapore the "House of Lords," as there were in her so many officers of illustrious family, who became distinguished men in after years. The first lieutenant was Mr. Good-enough, who was killed in Australia while Commodore, universally lamented. The second is now the Earl of Clanwilliam, who came here afterwards as the Admiral of the Squadron with which the two sons of the Prince of Wales came to Singapore. The third was Prince Victor of Hohenlohe. Among the midshipmen was Captain Keppel's nephew, his sister's son, now Sir Henry F. Stephenson, K.C.B., Equerry to the King, who was the Senior Officer in command of the Channel Squadron at Spithead at the great Jubilee Review in June, 1897. In the Admiral's last book he says that at the time of the bombardment of Bomarsund in the Crimean War: "On one occasion when my officers had taken my nephew Harry Stephenson on shore, a round shot buried itself within a few yards of them. They dispersed in haste, all but young Harry, who picked up a pointed stick and commenced digging at his first trophy." He came again to Singapore when he commanded the *Carysfort* in Admiral Clanwilliam's squadron with the Princes, the two sons of the Prince of Wales, and Admiral Keppel's only son was then a midshipman in his ship. Lord Charles Scott, the senior midshipman of the *Raleigh*, has been many times in Singapore since then. He was Captain of the *Icarus* and afterwards of the *Bacchante*, in which the two Princes were midshipmen. In 1902 he is Commander-in-Chief at Plymouth. There were others on board whose names are now well-known.

The *Raleigh* only stayed a few days, and on her way to Hongkong was passing near Macao, when she struck on a sunken and uncharted rock. The *Free Press* contained a long account of the accident. The Admiral tells us about her loss, and the well-known story of his saluting, as she was sinking, a French man-of-war that was near, and the French Admiral's exclamation, "*C'est magnifique!* A British frigate saluting the French flag while sinking!" But the Admiral does not say, what the old story told, that he was the last man up the ladder from the main deck when the last shot of the salute had been fired. The ship was never raised.

After the loss of the *Raleigh*, Commodore Keppel was in the Fatshan Creek action on the 1st June, 1857, what has been spoken of as "the greatest cutting-out action of modern times." In the Junior Army and Navy Club in London is a picture of Commodore Keppel in his boat, with his dog "Mike" barking in the bows. The boat was sunk, the bowman killed, a sailor cut in two, a third's arm shot off, and while Prince Victor was leaning forward to tie it up with his neck-cloth, a shot passed through both sides of the boat wounding more of the men. A long account of the action was in the *Free Press* on 29th October, 1867, and a copy of the picture was in one of the London illustrated papers on Jubilee Day in 1897. There is also a full account of it in Mr. W. H. Read's book called "Play and Politics."

In April Dr. Little advertised the land at Institution Hill for sale in lots of one or more acres each for house-building, but it was not sold.

In May, as in India during the two months before, rumours began to arise, in a vague uneasy way, about threatenings of coming trouble in India. There were only suspicions, apparently founded on nothing but talk in the bazaar. It now seems possible that the convicts in Singapore may have had, as many natives in India had, some news of what was in the wind. This seems to be likely, as on Friday, 7th August, a state prisoner, named Kurruck Sing, who had been released some time before from confinement in the Jail, and allowed to reside outside, was seized and taken on board H. M. S. *Racehorse*, a gunboat in the harbour. He had been detected in tampering with the Sikh convicts in the Jail, and was sent away to Penang.

On Sunday, 31st May, the opium steamer *Fiery Cross*, Captain Grant, arrived from Calcutta, and the first news reached Singapore of the Mutiny. The *Free Press* said that it was hoped the Mutiny might not spread, and added that if the European troops in India should not be thought sufficient to maintain order in the crisis, it was probable the whole or the greater part of the force, then on its way from England to China, might have its destination temporarily changed to India. And that however much the postponement of operations in China might be regretted, everything would have to yield to the paramount necessity of maintaining our power in India, and teaching the misguided sepoys that the only ultimate result of revolt on their part would be to ensure a certain and terrible retribution.

Mr. Abraham Logan was writing the *Free Press* at that time, and his words are noteworthy, as matters turned out. Lord Elgin had arrived the day before the paper appeared, and it is possible Mr. Logan may have heard that day what the Plenipotentiary had decided during the night to do. If he had not, the passage was a remarkable one.

The Right Hon'ble Lord Elgin, the 8th Earl, was afterwards a distinguished Viceroy of India. He had been appointed British High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary in China, and had left England with his staff, in the P. & O. Mail on 26th April, and arrived at Point de Galle, Ceylon, on 26th May. There he heard of the outbreak of the 3rd Bengal Cavalry and other native troops at Meerut in the Punjab, but it was thought that it might be a slight matter. He arrived at Singapore on Wednesday, 3rd June, to wait the arrival of H. M. S. *Shannon*, a steam frigate, Captain W. Peel, C.B., which had come round the Cape, as his Embassy Ship, to convey him to China.

On page 95 it has been said that there had been a tradition that he, Lord Elgin, walked up and down all night on the long front verandah of the old Government House, now Fort Canning, and decided in the morning to divert the troops going to China. As the sheets of this book have been printed, a copy has been sent to England in order that a few old Singaporeans there might read them and make any remarks. One of these was Major McNair, often spoken of elsewhere in this book, and just as this Chapter has to be written, letters have been received from him which put the matter beyond a doubt.

Whether Lord Elgin did or did not actually walk up and down the verandah (as tradition has said, and the writer, who heard it here

only seven years afterwards, believes) is not of any consequence; but the main fact, which has been doubted, as will be shewn presently, is now beyond question, for we have the story from one who was present. It may be remarked that Mr. John Cameron, who wrote his book in 1864, also seven years afterwards, said, at page 24, that Lord Elgin "all that night paced up and down his room in the Government bungalow where Fort Canning stands now, holding interviews with the naval and military officers of the expedition, and next morning at daylight a steamer was despatched to the Straits of Sunda with the order which, it is believed by many, saved the British Empire in India." This is confirmatory of the tradition spoken of, but it was not in the mind of the writer when page 95 was written, but has been noticed in hunting into the matter for this chapter.

The way in which a doubt arose as to this very important decision having been made in old Government House, was a passage in a book entitled "Life and Times of Sir George Grey" which stated that Lord Elgin had no knowledge of the diversion of the troops for China to India in 1857, until informed of the fact by Sir George Grey, at that time Governor of the Cape; and that the credit for the first "timely and invaluable aid," also mentioned by Lord Malmesbury as due to Lord Elgin, was really due to the action taken by Sir George Grey. This led to a letter of some length clearly disproving this, written by Sir Henry Loch, then Governor of the Cape, which appeared in the London *Times* in October, 1892 in which he said that it was the information in Singapore that decided Lord Elgin to take the course he did.

Mr. Loch was an Attaché to Lord Elgin's Embassy in 1857. He was afterwards Sir Henry Loch, Governor of the Cape, and later was created Lord Loch, the first Baron. He died in 1900.

Now follows a copy of what Major McNair wrote in December, 1901, to Mr. W. H. Read on the subject:—"Did you notice by the way, that in the description of the old Government House, on page 95, Buckley says that there was a tradition that Lord Elgin had walked up and down the verandah one whole night, thinking what was best to be done about sending troops to Calcutta to help to quell the Mutiny?—There was some truth in the remark, for I was present at the interview between Lord Elgin and Governor Blundell when the serious news came from Calcutta. Lord Elgin asked the Governor, who knew about India and its people, whether he thought the revolt was likely to spread; and when he replied in the affirmative, His Lordship decided to divert the troops to India then on their way to China. This was accordingly done, and orders were sent to turn the troop-ships on to Singapore en route to Calcutta.

"The late Lord Loch was Private Secretary to Lord Elgin and I was Private Secretary to Governor Blundell at the time, and we were present at this remarkable interview; which, it was afterwards said, had resulted in the saving of Calcutta by the timely arrival of re-inforcements from the Straits, the Mauritius and the Cape; and those from the Straits were the first to arrive on the scene. There is no doubt the anxiety might have caused Lord Elgin a sleepless night, but I cannot vouch for his nocturnal peripatetic walking about the verandah of old Government House."

With this testimony of Lord Loch and Major McNair in strict accord, there is no room for doubt; and it is very satisfactory that the mention of the tradition, in a casual way, while writing on another subject, has brought Major McNair's most interesting letter in time to insert it here.

Lord Roberts of Kandahar in the sixteenth chapter of his book "Forty-one Years in India" says:—"It was cheering to learn that Lord Elgin, taking a statesmanlike view of the situation, had diverted to India the force intended for the China Expedition." But he added this foot-note:—"Since writing the above, it has been brought to my notice that the promptitude with which the troops were diverted to India was due in a great measure to the foresight of Sir George Grey, the Governor of the Cape, who, on hearing of the serious state of affairs in India, immediately ordered all transports which touched at the Cape on their way to take part in the China Expeditionary force, to proceed directly to Calcutta, instead of to Singapore."

The letters of Lord Loch and Major McNair show that Lord Roberts was not correctly informed in the qualification he put upon what he had first correctly written. The matter seems clear, also, for other reasons. There was quick steam communication, for those days, between Calcutta and Singapore, by the opium steamers which had only commenced to run in 1856, and the news only reached here three days before Lord Elgin arrived, when the transports were probably past the Cape on their way towards Singapore and China. Whether there was steam-communication between Calcutta and the Cape at that time, cannot be ascertained in Singapore when this is written, but, it is extremely unlikely, and in the absence of direct proof to the contrary, it seems impossible that any definite news could have reached Sir George Grey in time to divert the transports. It also seems to the writer to be most unlikely that Sir George Grey would have taken upon himself the grave responsibility of taking them from under the orders of Lord Elgin, when the latter could divert the ships himself (as he did) if he saw sufficient reason to do so.

It has been said speaking of the responsibility which Lord Elgin took in this matter, that if the state of affairs in India had been exaggerated, as was quite possible, or if the Mutiny had been suppressed before the troops arrived, which was also possible, so far as could be known in Singapore that night, his reputation would have been ruined.

The *Shannon* arrived on the 10th, and left for China on 23rd June, and before her arrival the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine held a Levée at Government House, on Saturday the 6th, and was presented by Mr. W. Paterson with an address from the Chamber of Commerce, referring to the critical state of our relations with China. In his reply Lord Elgin said that it was gratifying to witness the progress of the community of Singapore, which, under the influence of wise and just laws, was daily advancing in prosperity and wealth; and comparing it with the sad condition of Canton where bad faith and misgovernment had paralysed trade, and spread hunger, desolation and ruin. The Chinese merchants also presented an address speaking of their great advantage of being under English Government.

On the morning of the 10th Lord Elgin went with a party of gentlemen to pay a visit to the Perseverance Sugar Estate of J. d'Almeida & Sons, and went over the works. On Friday evening, the 12th, the mercantile community entertained the Earl at a Ball and Supper at the Masonic Lodge.

On 28th July the *Shannon* with Lord Elgin, and the *Pearl*, both steam vessels, arrived together from Hongkong, and left for Calcutta on the 30th. They were the vessels from which the famous naval brigade was formed at Calcutta to go up-country in the Mutiny. The *Shannon* was commanded by the gallant Captain Peel, afterwards Sir William Peel, who was seriously wounded in command of a battery at Lucknow. An account of his death is at the end of Chapter XXIX of Lord Robert's book, "Forty-one Years in India." In the *Shannon* also was a young lieutenant, twenty-two years of age, now Admiral of the Fleet Sir Nowell Salmon, V.C., G.C.B., an account of whose exploit at Lucknow is in Chapter XXIV of the same book; he was afterwards in Singapore when he was Commander-in-Chief on the China Station in 1888.

The *Pearl* was commanded by Captain Sotheby, who died Sir Edward Sotheby, K.C.B., in January, 1902, a retired Admiral. After the *Raleigh* was wrecked, three of her midshipmen, Lord Charles Scott, the Hon. Victor Alexander Montagu and H. F. Stephenson were told that they were appointed to the *Pearl* in Hongkong, while they were having breakfast with Mr. John Dent, and left for Singapore and Calcutta the next day. Admiral Montagu, now retired, one of the sons of the Seventh Earl of Sandwich, has written a book called "A Middy's Recollections, 1853 to 1860," published by Adam and Charles Black, London, in 1900. It contains a great deal about Admiral Keppel, the Crimean War, the Fatshan Creek action, and the Indian Mutiny, and has a picture of the *Princess Royal*, of 91 guns, in the Crimean War, which was flagship in China in 1866, and pictures of the *Raleigh* and the battle of Fatshan, showing the sinking of Commodore Keppel's galley; and a picture of the *Pearl*. The Admiral says in his book that the three midshipmen thought then that following Keppel in China would have been more to the point, as they could not anticipate the Naval Brigade in India, which got them their promotion and the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, and a great reception in Calcutta when they got back to the *Pearl* in February, 1859, having left her to go with the Naval Brigade in October, 1857, a period of eighteen months away from their ship, which is probably unexampled in the service.

The *Pearl* was a steam corvette of 21 guns, 1,469 tons, 400 horse power, and was often in Singapore. It was of her that an amusing story was told of Captain John Borlase, afterwards a retired Admiral, who took her out to China under sail, and on entering Hongkong harbour, with all plain sail set, being one of the old school of course, he forgot the ship had got steam up. He took in sail as he neared the shipping in the most seamanlike way, but to his horror the vessel went on in spite of taking in sail after sail, and cannoned from the bows of one vessel at anchor against another vessel, and fought her way through the shipping, until it struck him there must be something more than the wind driving the ship, and he called out "Good ——, I forgot I was a steamer. Stop the —— thing down below." Little harm was done, and soon afterwards Captain Borlase

engaged the batteries at Kagosima in Japan, in 1863. This was the same ship which Commodore James G. Goodenough, in Australia, commanded at the time of his unfortunate death. The *Pearl* was also in Singapore, when she came again from England, from October, 1866 to April, 1867, when Admiral Keppel hoisted his flag in her on the day of the transfer on 1st April, and the *Pearl* accompanied his yacht, the *Salamis*, to Sarawak. She afterwards went north, and eventually went home by the Pacific, to be paid off, and was broken up long ago. As Sir Walter Besant made the old sailor say in "By Celia's Arbour," "it seems a shame to break such brave ships up, and they ought to be painted every year and kept for the boys and girls to see."

Lord Elgin was three times in Singapore in 1857; once on his way to China, then on his return to Calcutta, and again on his return to China from India. He died in November, 1863, on his way to Lahore, while Governor-General of India, in which he had succeeded Lord Canning. In Sir Algernon West's Recollections published in 1899, he says:—"Lord Elgin, Lord Dalhousie, and Lord Canning, fell victims to the climate and responsibilities of our Indian Empire: they were swept away, as Mr. Gladstone said, 'in the full maturity of their faculties, and in the early stages of middle life.' Someone has said that 'forty is the age of youth, and fifty the youth of old age,' and they, before they reached that age, had all sought their rest."

There were several accidents to the troopships. The famous *Himalaya*, that had been bought into the Navy from the P. & O. at the time of the Crimean War, and did such good work for some forty years, (she was broken up in 1896) brought out the 90th Regiment (the Perthshire Volunteers) and got aground on a shoal in Banka Straits, but got off again. When she arrived in Singapore "this magnificent steamer was an object of much curiosity at the P. & O. Company's Depôt, and the numerous visitors to her were very courteously received by her officers, notwithstanding the very hurried nature of her brief stay in port." The regiment's band, over 50 strong, played on the Saturday evening on shore at New Harbour.

A long remembered incident was the total loss of H. M. Steam Troopship *Transit*, 3,000 tons, 450 horse-power. The wreck was sold by auction at the Master Attendant's Office in Singapore on 10th September. She was lost on a sunken rock off Cape Oelar, Island of Banca. The troops were brought to Singapore in the Straits Steamer *Hooghly*, and a chartered American vessel the *Beaver*.

The troops on board were 193 Medical Staff Corps, 30 Royal Engineers, 286 of the 90th and 119 of the 59th Regiments. The ship went down so quickly that only part of the arms were got out, and the officers and men did not save any of their clothes, many of them leaving her without shoes or stockings as the decks were being washed when she struck. The officers and crew came to Singapore in the Borneo Company's steamer *Sir James Brooke*.

The *Transit* had a most unfortunate voyage all the way. She left Portsmouth on 8th April for China, and the next day returned in a sinking state, having during the night grounded on her anchor.

All hands disembarked, the vessel was repaired, and all on board ready to start again on 15th April. But in going out of the dock she ran into the gate, injured the propeller, and, as it was afterwards known, seriously shook and loosened her stern, which was not apparent at the time. Then she got into rough weather in the Bay of Biscay, and a lot of water got in at the stern post. She put into Corunna to repair, and set off again.

She made good weather as far as the Cape, as long as the wind was on the beam, but before the wind she rolled very much and took in lots of water. The injury at the stern showed itself again, the seams opened, and at each roll of the ship, water rushed in. In the course of one day no less than 600 tons of water were pumped out, and it was feared she would go to the bottom but fortunately the weather improved, and they made Java Head.

They were steaming at their best, number one, speed of 8 knots when the vessel ran hard on to a sunken rock not on the chart, bumped violently three times, and settled down about six miles from shore. Perfect discipline was maintained, the boats were got out but they only held 200 men, and the ship seemed likely to go down before half could be landed. Captain Chambers ordered them to be landed on a reef two miles away, which was uncovered as it was low water. So all went first to the reef, and then to the shore; and the last trip was accomplished just in time, as the tide on the reef was rising, and was up to the knees of those who remained to the last. The discipline was compared at the time to that at the memorable accident of the *Birkenhead*. The soldiers all went on to Calcutta in the *Shannon* and the *Pearl*.

Neil, Outram and Havelock Roads in Singapore town were, about this time, named by the Municipality after some of the heroes in the Mutiny.

One of the measures adopted by the Government of India for meeting the emergency in which the Mutiny had placed it, was the passing of a legislative measure by which the Press was subjected to the most rigid fetters. Although this Act was at first chiefly justified on the ground of the seditious character of the native publications, no exemption was made in favour of the English press. This Act was applied everywhere throughout British India without exception, and the newspapers in the Straits, although they could not possibly exercise the slightest effect on the mutiny in India, found themselves subject to all the provisions of this most foolish Act. A public meeting was held on 28th July, Mr. M. F. Davidson in the Chair, to publicly protest against the application of this law to the Straits. The Act excited so much disapprobation both in India and England that it ceased in June, 1858.

In May Mr. T. A. Behn, who had retired from Behn, Meyer & Co., gave $500 each to the Sailors Home, Mr. Keasberry's Malay Schools, Tan Tock Seng's Hospital, and the Seamen's Hospital, which the *Free Press* said was an example that might be followed more extensively by retiring millionaires of Singapore.

It was in this year that the Governors of the different Presidencies, and other heads of Departments in India were ordered to

make Annual Reports, and the first Report on the Administration of the Straits, during the year 1855-56, was made by the Governor.

It having been reported in August that the local government intended to allow the convicts the liberty of parading the streets during the Mohurram festival, the withdrawal of which in the previous year had led to very riotous acts on their part, a number of gentlemen addressed the Governor pointing out the inexpediency of allowing the convicts any such license. The Governor in reply stated that permission had been given to the convicts to parade certain streets outside their lines—and that this permission had been granted under the conviction that to refuse it would have the effect of needlessly exasperating the convict body, and of driving them to acts of desperation more dangerous to the peace and good order of the town than those which occurred the previous year. The convicts, after all, declined to avail of the permission given them! The large number of convicts in Singapore, and the reported intention of Government to send here a number of the most dangerous prisoners confined in Alipore Gaol, as well as sepoys and others convicted of participation in the mutiny in India, led to the inhabitants memorializing the Governor General in Council on the subject, protesting against such additions being made to the convict body in the Straits and praying that transportation to this quarter should be wholly discontinued. The Memorial was transmitted through the Governor, who was understood to be favorable to its general purport, having apparently considerably modified his opinions regarding a class whom in 1856 he had designed as "harmless settlers."

On 9th September it was stated in the *Free Press* that the Government would probably construct a Naval Dock at Pulo Brani, as it was under contemplation; which had been brought about by Commodore Keppel; and that considering the value of the services he had always sought means of rendering to Singapore, and in order to connect his name permanently with the benefit he had contributed to confer on the place, it was suggested that "the name of New Harbour be changed to Keppel Harbour." This was done in 1900, as has been said on page 493.

On 3rd October, a dinner was given to Commodore Keppel in the Hotel de l'Esperance, on the Esplanade, called afterwards the Hotel de l'Europe. Mr. John Harvey was in the Chair. The paper said that excellent speeches were made by Sir Richard McCausland the Recorder, who was a very witty, genial Irish speaker, and others. The *Free Press* remarked that the loss of his beautiful frigate the *Raleigh* has caused much disappointment in Singapore; that his gallant conduct in the Fatshan Creek action had added to the brilliant reputation he had already earned; and that the public dinner was characterised by a degree of enthusiasm not often witnessed on such occasions. The Commodore heard of his promotion to Rear Admiral and that he was made a K.C.B., just at the time. In his diary he said: "Waited on by a deputation of the merchants to invite me to an Entertainment. Grand dinner given me by residents. Their kindness prevented me responding as I wished." On the next day it said:—"Afternoon passed agreeably at Angus' small bungalow, where Whampoa and Harrison dined.

Mr. Gilbert Angus and Mr. Whampoa, just spoken of, were at one time partners. Gilbert Angus came from Lerwick, the capital of the Shetland Islands, and had been in Java before he came to Singapore. He was afterwards book-keeper to Shaw, Whitehead & Co., in which Captain James Stephens and Michie Forbes Davidson (afterwards of A. L. Johnston & Co., and Boustead & Co.) were partners. While Mr. Davidson was away in Europe, Stephens took Mr. Robert Duff then *per procuration* holder of Boustead, Schwabe & Co., as a partner and, in consequence, Angus left the firm and joined Mr. Whampoa in Whampoa & Co. Mr. Davidson returned, did not like the arrangement, and joined A. L. Johnston & Co. Mr. Angus had nutmeg plantations, and owned a number of the hills round Tanglin at different times, as well as land in other parts of the island. His name frequently turns up in title deeds relating to land in a most unexpected fashion. He also tried brick making after Mr. Hentig gave it up but he did not succeed; indeed it may be said that he was not fortunate generally in his business pursuits. He was a Municipal Commissioner for some time, and knew a great deal about the place. He never returned to Europe, and died at his residence in Armenian Street on 24th March, 1887, at 72 years of age, having been born on the day of the battle of Waterloo. He had been an auctioneer latterly, and was in failing health for some time. He was one of the oldest residents and left a large family.

It was curious how many of the well-known residents in Singapore in its early days came from Lerwick. Besides Mr. Angus, Mr. William Paterson of Paterson, Simons & Co., came from there. Also W. C. Leisk Lloyd's Surveyor and chronometer maker, and Andrew Hay, who was in A. L. Johnston & Co., and then a shipchandler with Duncan in Hay and Duncan, who also came from Lerwick where his father was Sheriff Substitute as mentioned on page 155. The two brothers Gilbert and Robert Bain, well known in the place, and partners at various times in A. L. Johnston & Co., Boustead & Co., and Maclaine, Fraser & Co. also came from Lerwick. It seems too late now to find out how it came about; probably one of the first was a sailor, or on board a vessel in the East as A. L. Johnston was, and he may have seen the prospective advantages of the place and sent the news to Lerwick.

Mr. Whampoa, whose name was Hoo Ah Kay, was certainly the best known and most liked Chinaman in the Straits. His father came to Singapore in its earliest days, and kept a shop to supply the shipping and town with beef, bread and vegetables, which grew into a large business. Mr. J. T. Thomson, in one of his books, says he first knew Whampoa when he was a young boy in his father's shop, which was at the corner of Bonham Street and Boat Quay in the direction towards Elgin Bridge. After his father's death, Whampoa carried on the business, and for many years, and after his death, the firm were contractors for the navy. He first had a plantation where the Tanglin Barracks are now; and long before they were thought of, he had bought a neglected garden two-and-a-half miles out of town on the Serangoon Road. He built a bungalow there and made a fine garden, and had curious dwarf bamboos, and plants cut into resemblances of animals. There was an aviary, and peacocks, bears, and other animals.

night or two at Whampoa's bungalow was a frequent treat to naval icers, with whom he was much brought in contact, and who had ıch admiration for him. There is a good picture of him in Admiral ɔppel's last book, who often mentions him. For example in his ary in 1848, Captain Keppel wrote:—"Our worthy old Purser, Simɔns, died while staying at Whampoa's country house. He was a ıe specimen of his countrymen; his generosity and honesty had long ade him a favorite. Whampoa gave sumptuous entertainments to ıval officers. At midnight, by the light of a full moon, we would, sit the beautiful *Victoria Regia*, a magnificent lotus in a circular ɔnd, a present from the Regent of Siam who sent it through W. H. ead." And nine years afterwards, the Admiral wrote:—"Put up at 'hampoa's and how comfortable the old fellow made me."

All visitors to Singapore had heard of him before they landed, ıd it was the first place enquired for when a drive was to taken ıt of the town. It was one of the most hospitable houses in Singaɔre. It was the custom in the early sixties for gentlemen going out ɔ dinner to dress in white, with the exception of Government House; ɔ a first visit soon after arrival in Singapore at a party where there 'ere ladies; or Mr. Whampoa's; where a black dress suit was always 'orn. It may have been noticed that at the first Race Ball, see page 87, the words *Full Dress* were at the foot of the advertisement. It ıeant evening dress, and not the white suit with jacket, as was usual n all occasions then, and for many years, until about 1870 probably, 'hen evening dress superseded it. At the dances in the old Assembly looms white dress was worn.

Mr. Whampoa was almost, the only Chinaman in Singapore in those ays who spoke English; which he did with ease, but with some urious mispronounciations; for example he asked Mr. Thomson to *cratch* his father's portrait, and he used to point to it, and tell how Ir. Thomson had scratched it for him. If he could be induced to ing a Chinese song, the only one he knew, it was very laughable, ınd he was as much amused, and laughed as heartily as any one lse. He was a very upright, kind-hearted, modest, and simple man, a riend to everyone in the place. Towards the later years of his life, ıe launched out into general business and speculations, in company vith some European merchants in the place, which got him into roublous times, without his own fault, but he weathered the storm, vith his fortune very much reduced, in which he had the sympathy of all.

Mr. Whampoa was born in Whampoa near Canton in China about 1816, and died in Singapore on 29th March, 1880, 64 years old. His father was in Singapore when he was born, but his mother never came to the place. He was for many years Consul for Russia, and possessed a consular uniform and sword, which he used to say he had only put on once, and that he looked so "ugly" and was laughed at so much, from his curious appearance in it, that he never wore it again. He was one of the first Unofficial Members in 1867 of the Legislative Council when it was formed, and was made a C.M.G. in 1878. He was certainly the most widely-known and respected Chinaman there has ever been in Singapore. His remains were taken to China and he was buried on Danes Island, opposite Canton.

The large brick house in the old garden was built in later years, and the large dining room at the back was finished just in time to give a big dinner to Admiral Keppel when he came out again as Commander-in-Chief in 1867. After Whampoa's death Mr. Seah Leang Seah bought the property, and then called it Bendemeer. Before that it had always been known as Whampoa's.

On 17th November a public meeting was held about the convicts and their treatment, Mr. M. F. Davidson in the Chair, and a number of resolutions were passed protesting against mutineers being sent as convicts to Singapore, the number of convicts being already too many for safety, and a committee was appointed to draw up a petition which was afterwards sent to Calcutta. There were then over 2,000 convicts in Singapore, besides others in the place whose terms had expired, and only a small number of military and of the European community. It was curious that the Singapore convicts sent to Bombay were returned to Singapore on the expiry of their sentences, whereas those sent from Bombay to Singapore were so well off here that they remained in the place.

The Straits Settlements at this time were in the diocese of Calcutta, as has been said on page 299. Singapore was too distant from India, for the Bishop there to take much interest in the place, with so many important duties close to his hand, and when it was necessary in 1851 to consecrate the first Church of St. Thomas at Sarawak, which Mr. McDougall, afterwards the Bishop, had built, Bishop Daniel Wilson of Calcutta came down to Singapore, and went to Sarawak for the purpose, with the authority, and in the name, of the Bishop of London, under whose jurisdiction the Church in Sarawak was assumed to be.

In the same way Bishop McDougall performed certain acts in Singapore in the character of Bishop, as, for example, the consecration of the new Cemetery in the year 1865, afterwards spoken of, which was done under the special power of a commission from the Bishop of Calcutta, Singapore being out of Bishop McDougall's diocese.

In connection with the matter of the bishopric, the following passage was written in September, 1857, in a letter in Sarawak by Bishop McDougall. It is to be found at page 167 of the Memoirs written by his brother-in-law, published in London in 1889. "Much as I prefer Sarawak as a place of residence, I feel more and more that Singapore ought to be the centre of the Church's Mission for these parts, and the site of a Missionary College and Cathedral Church. If, as it is anticipated out here, the Straits stations are turned over to the Queen's Government, my station ought to be Singapore, and the noble Church there now in erection, with the design of which I have had a great deal to do, ought to be my Cathedral. The present free schools at Singapore, Penang and Malacca, would be excellent feeders for a Missionary College, as they contain lads from all parts of the Archipelago, as well as from Siam and Burmah. Why should not our Church take up as large a field as the Roman Catholics, who are making the Straits their *point d'appui* for their Missions, not only to the different parts of the Archipelago, but also for Siam and Cochin-China.?... The more I think of these views, the more desirable I feel them to be for the Church's sake."

It is clear from this that the Bishop appreciated the result to be expected in the future of Singapore from the work of the Roman Catholic Church in the place. He could not anticipate the work that would be done by the American Methodist Episcopal Church to be started in the centre of the work of the Church of England thirty years later.

As has been said on page 299, Bishop McDougall resigned in 1868, and went to England, never returning to the East. He was a canon residentiary of Ely, then Archdeacon of Huntingdon, then of Winchester, and Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, besides holding two livings at various times in different parts of England.

In May, 1861, Bishop McDougall wrote to England in connection with the proposed transfer of the Straits to the Colonial Office, urging that the opportunity should be taken to separate them from the diocese of Calcutta. Among other reasons he pointed out that the average term of service of the Bengal Chaplains in the Straits had only been about two years, and that the missionary work had been left to the Roman Catholics, who had a Bishop, and a considerable body of French clergy, and Sisters of Mercy, while little or nothing had been done for the Church of England.

The seat of the diocese was transferred, as he had proposed, to Singapore in 1870, but the good that he anticipated did not result. What his earnest, sturdy character, (he was spoken of in England after the Lanun pirates' episode, as a good specimen of the "Church Militant!") would have done in Singapore, who can say? The Cathedral was built ten years before the change, and the work of thirty years has only to show a small Church with occasional services in an unfrequented part of the town; and the Mission Chapel, house, and school mentioned on page 300, largely due to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

If these are compared with all the churches, buildings and schools of the Roman Catholic Church; or with those of the American Methodist Episcopal Mission, a list of which, over a column long, appears each month in their *Malaysia Message*; it may well be asked what good has resulted from the change which Bishop McDougall expected to produce a great expansion of the Church of England in Singapore. St. Andrew's Cathedral is kept in repair, and the portion of the stipend received by the Bishop from the Straits Settlements, as well as the stipend of the Colonial Chaplain, are all paid by the Government, advantages which no other church possesses.

It has to be remembered, however, that the arrangement that was made in 1870, with the object of making Singapore the headquarters of the Bishop, could not have been anticipated by Bishop McDougall in one respect. The Bishop was consecrated in Calcutta as Bishop of Labuan, because a bishopric could not then be established in a foreign country, so Labuan was chosen as being a Crown Colony available for the purpose. The stipend was provided by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Rajah of Sarawak, and it was styled the Bishopric of Labuan and Sarawak. When the title was changed to that of Singapore, Labuan and Sarawak it was intended to give prominence to the position of Singapore as

the head-quarters of the work. But the stipend given by the Government of the Straits Settlements, one hundred pounds a year, is very small compared with that contributed by the S.P.G. and Sarawak, so that the Straits cannot reasonably complain that only a small portion of the year is spent by the Bishop in Singapore. A house was built by subscription among the congregation as a residence for the Bishop, in the expectation that he would be able to give more time to the Church here, but the house is let for some eight months of the year. The result of the work of the Church of England in Singapore and the Straits during the last thirty-two years, can be fairly judged by comparison with what others, with far less opportunities, have been able to do.

In 1882 the question of the disestablishment of the Church of England, which was carried out in Ceylon and other Colonies, came under consideration in the Legislative Council, but as the three Roman Catholic members of the Council joined with the rest in urging the Colonial Office not to make the same change in the Straits, matters have hitherto remained as they were under the East India Company.

In 1871 Mr. Thomas Scott, of his own motion, had brought the question of the disendowment of the Church before the Legislative Council, but it was not much discussed and was negatived (to use Mr. Shelford's words in 1882) as a premature step. In February, 1882, the question had again been raised by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the debate was noteworthy for the speech made by Mr. James Graham, which will be found at page 5 of the Council Proceedings for that year. The speech was spoken of as one of the most interesting and eloquent of those recorded in the Council. Mr. Graham, as he said on this occasion, was not given to speak at length or warmly in the Council, and this made it the more remarkable. No doubt he felt on other occasions that both time and patience are thrown away in discussing questions which have been definitely decided in advance, to be carried by an official majority. One passage in Mr. Graham's speech showing one reason, in his opinion, for upholding the establishment, was as follows:—"It is, therefore, wise and politic of us to insure that a man of education and high moral character, a man in whom the poorest—whether belonging to the church or not—can find a faithful friend, shall be placed in every one of our provinces, interested in the moral and intellectual welfare of our people, and with the sole object of doing good to them."

On 26th November it was said in the *Free Press* that the occupation of the Cocos Islands had been objected to by Holland as a violation of their rights, and gave an account of the way in which Mr. J. Ross, a sailor, a native of the Shetland Islands, had acquired his authority there. For some years before 1827, Ross had traded in the Archipelago, principally on the Coast of Sumatra, in a vessel called the *Borneo*, which he built with native labour at the Cocos, where a man named A. Hare had settled about 1823, upon the southernmost island. When the price of pepper was fluctuating very much, in consequence of the resort of Americans to Sumatra, Ross

bought, in conjunction with his principals in London, all he could get, whenever prices were low, and stored it at the quiet and uninhabited Cocos Islands, in order to take the accumulated stock to London when prices rose. He landed with his wife and children on the Cocos in 1827, and built a house. The chief mate went in the *Borneo*, and Ross remained on shore. The firm in London with which he was connected failed, and he was left with his family cut off from the world. Then Hare became very disagreeable, and seems to have gone a bit off his head, and at last left the Cocos. Ross remained on Direction Island, chief and master of the whole establishment, which gradually increased in extent and importance. Hare had taken a number of slaves there, whom Ross declared to be free. A Dutch ship went in there for repairs in 1842, and the Captain described Mr. Ross as a man of about 60 years old, of healthy and venerable aspect, intelligent, acute and deep thinking. In 1846 Sir Edward Belcher, R.N., paid a visit in his ship to the island, and found Captain Ross, as he called him, still in the house he had put together in a hurry with the remains of shipwrecked vessels, very dark, wholly overshadowed by cocoanut trees, and infested by mosquitoes. Captain Ross died soon after that. On 8th January, 1889, Christmas Island, on which the Ross family from the Cocos Islands had effected a settlement, was annexed to the Straits Settlements; the Cocos or Keeling Islands were placed under the Government of the Straits Settlements on 1st February, 1886.

A matter for congratulation during the course of 1857 was the receipt of orders from the Court of Directors ordering the complete resumption of the use of the dollar currency in all Government transactions.

There were a number of casualties to vessels this year. The Singapore barque *Penang*, with passengers from Singapore to Malacca and Penang, was lost near the Raffles Light house, having been thrown on her beam ends in a squall, and while in this disabled state was sunk by a waterspout. Thirty-eight lives were lost. A French Steamer was burnt, and sank while at anchor in the roads, and four Singapore vessels were wrecked in the Java Sea.

The increase in the value of real property noticed in 1856, was fully maintained during the year, and building was also carried on to a large extent both in town and country, notwithstanding a very large rise in the price of materials and labour. The building of the Church and Town Hall went on slowly, and all other public works were stopped in the course of the year, by order of the Supreme Government, the disordered state of the Indian finances having necessitated the most stringent economy in every department.

During this year the *Corps Dramatique* of Amateurs gave several performances to raise funds for a new theatre, and the *Free Press* said that it would be well to combine the Town Hall and the Theatrical funds, because in such a small place a theatre in the Town Hall would be sufficient for the purpose. This was afterwards done, and is so to the present day.

At this time Mr. Adam Wilson, who had been the chief clerk in Martin Dyce & Co., obtained from the Sultan of Siak a grant of the island

of Bengcalis. There had been a row going on between the Sultan and a Rival Chief, and Mr. Wilson and N. M. Carnie went over there in a schooner to help the Sultan. The Dutch, asserting a claim under the treaty of 1824, interfered, and some cannonading took place, Wilson's party opposing the rival chief, from the Sultan's house, and taking 3 guns and 38 *lelahs*, while the Dutch gunboat was firing. On the way back to Singapore Wilson and his companions, in three boats, were attached by two pirate prahus which fired into them, but finding that they had not unarmed traders to deal with, but Europeans and determined Bugis men, they made off as fast as they could. A sampan sent from Bengcalis to Malacca by Mr. Wilson had been attacked and four men killed shortly before.

The grant to Mr. Wilson, though it had been given with the knowledge of the Governor of Singapore when the Sultan of Siak had come for the purpose, came to nothing; and Mr. Wilson became Secretary to the Singapore Exchange and was also a broker and Auctioneer until 1866.

CHAPTER XLVI.

1858.

AT seven o'clock on the morning of 19th November, the Queen's Proclamation of 1st September, by which Her Majesty took upon herself the direct government of her Indian dominions, was read by the Governor. A platform under an attap covering, was erected for the purpose in the centre of the Esplanade, on which he took his place, surrounded by the Recorder, the Resident Councillor, and other officials, the Consuls of different nations, and several navy and military officers, and the Sultan of Johore being also present. The troops in garrison, the 43rd M. N. I., and Madras Artillery, and the Singapore Volunteer Rifle Corps were paraded, together with the Marines and a party of Sailors from H. M. S. *Amethyst* with the band of that ship.

The Proclamation was first read in English by the Governor, and a Malay version was then given for the benefit of the natives. A royal salute was fired by the Artillery, and a *feu de joie* by the troops. The Governor next proposed three cheers for the Queen. The day was observed as a holiday, but unfortunately it began to rain heavily early in the forenoon, and continued a perfect downpour until night, which interfered considerably with the enjoyment of the occasion. In the morning a number of yachts and ships boats were arranged off the Esplanade, under the management of Captain Marshall, the Agent of the P. & O. Company, tastefully decorated with flags, which added very much to the picturesque effect of the spectacle. The state of the weather had an unfavourable effect upon the arrangements for illumination in the evening, as Government House remained wrapt in darkness, and it was only at the Masonic Lodge and a few other houses in town, that any displays in the shape of illuminated emblems of loyalty were visible.

Captain Collyer of the Madras Engineers (after whom Collyer Quay is named) arrived in Singapore in January, 1858, for the purpose of reporting on the proposed plans for the fortification of Singapore. He was appointed Chief Engineer, and assumed charge of the office on the 1st August, 1858. The whole labour of the convict body, both skilled and ordinary, was placed at his disposal. Some of the military works comprised in the proposed fortifications were at once commenced, and the convicts were placed on Government Hill to form a battery; and on Fort Fullerton, with the view of rendering that Battery more serviceable by extending and widening it. The work executed by convicts in those two Batteries was considered to be of excellent quality, as good, if not probably better, than could have been obtained from free Chinese labour; and the convict body proved most useful in the new scheme of covering the hills and shores of Singapore with

Batteries, Redoubts, Barracks, Magazines, which, however, did not ultimately prove of any practical use, and they were, fortunately probably, never called on to justify their existence. Colonel Collyer left Singapore in 1862, as is stated under that year.

The Government started the *Straits Government Gazette* in January. The total amount subscribed in Singapore for the Calcutta Relief Fund was Rs. 14,000. In September, 1856, the German Club had given a Concert in the Masonic Hall for the fund. The Grand Jury, in January, suggested that the Post Office and Marine Magistrates Offices which were on the other side of the river, should be moved to Fort Fullerton, which was done, many years afterwards; and that a Court House should be built where the Post Office then was, behind the present Printing Office.

In February it was reported that the Governor, Mr. Blundell, had resigned. There were very conflicting reports as to the reason. In Penang, the moving cause was said to be the impossibility of his getting on with the Singapore people; while in Singapore it was said to be in consequence of the Governor General's despatches about the Chinese disturbances in Penang, in which Mr. Blundell's action was so strongly condemned that he said he could not remain unless the tone of the despatches was modified. There had been a collision, as it was called, in Penang between the Chinese and the Police about a temporary *wayang* (native theatre) that stood on the ground of a temple, and was roughly pulled down by an injudicious police inspector, which led to the use of firearms and several casualties, and then to a row in March, 1856. The *Pinang Gazette* said of Mr. Blundell's action that he had done many unwise things during his government of the Straits, but none which attained that which marked his treatment of the Chinese, or more undignified and childish than his reception of them. Mr. Blundell however remained until Col. Cavenagh was appointed in July, 1859.

In February Mr. Thomas Braddell, then Assistant Resident and Magistrate, went on leave to Europe, but before doing so he published a pamphlet entitled "Singapore and the Straits Settlements Described." It was written because of the agitation that was going on about the Transfer, and was highly useful and very opportune. He discussed the best way of governing and administering the Settlement, and several of his suggestions came into practice. He wanted the government of the Straits to be quite distinct from that of India, and that the sources from which the Officials were derived should also be distinct. On the latter point he said:—"It will be no easy matter to secure favour for a close Civil Service in the Straits, yet it seems difficult to provide for the necessary duties otherwise. If suitable persons were at all times procurable when vacancies occur, it would suffice. But it is well known that qualified persons are not so procurable; and without some previous training as assistants, it cannot be recommended that inexperienced persons should be at once placed as heads of important offices. The end is to secure for the public service the best men, the difficulty is how to arrive at this. Probably a mixed plan might be adopted, a plan which would at all times secure gentlemen qualified by previous education and training for the ordinary duties, without at the same

time preventing the employment of others not already in the service, who might show a peculiar aptitute for public business. The competition would doubtless act beneficially as a spur to greater exertion. Except in those cases, appointments could be made from young gentlemen sent out from home or engaged on the spot."

The Municipal Minutes of 8th March contained the following about the renaming of the streets, which is often a subject of enquiry on looking at old Maps of the town:—"The Canals not having names, and much confusion existing from the definitions of several streets and roads, the same name, in many instances, having been given to two and even three streets, it is Resolved: that the Canal from Ellenborough market to the Sepoy Lines be called 'Dalhousie Canal'; the road from the stone bridge over Dalhousie Canal to the police station on the River Valley Road to be the 'Havelock Road'; the road at present called Salat Road, from the corner where the Tanjong Pagar Road branches off, up to the junction of the old and new roads to New Harbour, to be called 'Neil Road'; the road from Neil Road at present called Cantonment Road, and that part of River Valley Road passing the present Sheriff's Jail to the Havelock Road police station, to be the 'Outram Road'; the quadrangle in front of the police office to be 'Trafalgar Square'; and Tavern Street and Commercial Square to be renamed 'Bonham Street' and 'Raffles Place' respectively. On the north side of the Singapore river the following streets (of which there are others bearing the same names on the south side) are renamed; Church Street to be 'Waterloo Street'; Flint Street to be 'Prinsep Street;' Market Street to be 'Crawfurd Street'; the street and road from Rochore Bridge to the Serangoon Road to be 'Lavender Street;' and the road between Seligie Street and Waterloo Street, which formerly was a side road into Rochore road, to be 'Albert Street.'

On 5th April the death was aunounced of Mr. Charles Scott, in Singapore, aged 56 years. The paper said he was one of the earliest settlers at Singapore and established himself as a merchant soon after the opening of the Settlement, and was for a number of years a member of the firm of Napier & Scott. He was one of the first Magistrates in 1823, and one of the earliest planters; the nutmeg plantation, called Raeburn, was commenced by him, and the Hill was called Scott's Hill, on the way towards New Harbour. Mr. *William* Scott's plantation was at Tanglin in Scott's Road; the two have often been mistaken for each other. Mr. Charles Scott afterwards went to Penang and was in business there for a long time, but finally passed the last days of his life at Singapore. He was a son of Mr. Robert Scott of Penang.

The Rev. W. T. Humphrey, who had been Residency Chaplain for three years, left for Calcutta in April. By his kindly and unassuming manners and earnest promotion of every good work among his parishioners, Mr. Humphrey (the paper said), had acquired the esteem of all who knew him, and his removal was very much regretted. In those days the Chaplains were frequently moved from one station to another, and only remained in Singapore for three or four years, an advantage when an undesirable Chaplain was appointed.

The paper a few days afterwards contained a notice of the death, at Bath, of the Rev. Charles James Quarterly, M.A., at the age of 48 years, who had been Chaplain in Singapore from 1852 to 1854.

Some Government correspondence on 13th April said that the European Artillery about to arrive in Singapore were to be put in the late Tan Tock Seng's Hospital pending the erection of the Barracks intended for them on the top of Pearl's Hill. They were eventually stationed on Fort Canning.

One hundred and ninety convicts, described as too dangerous to be kept in the Alipore Jail, arrived in May; and on Wednesday the 19th, a public meeting was held to consider the recent importations of convicts by the *Julia*, *John Bull* and *Carthage*. A Committee of Messrs. A. Logan, W. Howard, M. F. Davidson, R. C. Woods, J. J. Greenshields and John Purvis, was appointed to draw up a petition to Her Majesty's Government that no more convicts should be sent; and to wait upon the Governor to urge that the mutineer convicts in question should be deported from the place. The convicts were soon sent to the Andamans. The London merchants sent a memorial to the Board of Control in September protesting against turning the settlement into a convict station.

In May the Municipal Commissioners decided to appoint a Town Engineer, Surveyor, and Architect, and Mr. J. W. Reeve was the first Municipal Engineer. The Municipal Minutes of 27th May contained the following letter addressed to the Commissioners by Messrs. Marshall, Charles Spottiswoode, and T. O. Crane about the Assembly Rooms and the Town Hall, which contains an account of the growth of the scheme for the present Town Hall, and elucidates some points that have been raised from time to time about it:—

"Gentlemen:—A meeting of the subscribers to the Town Hall was held on the 8th current, when the Secretary and the Trustees furnished a statement of the progress of the building, and the accounts, estimates, and plans were laid before the meeting.

"The resolutions were submitted to the meeting and carried, to this effect:—

1.—That a deputation be appointed to wait on the Municipal Commissioners, at Singapore, for the purpose of ascertaining whether, in the event of the subscribers now making over the building in course of erection for a Town Hall to the Municipal Commissioners, the Commissioners will be prepared to raise money and complete the building according to the approved plan, and fully to carry out the original wishes of the subscribers.

2.—That the following gentlemen be requested to form a deputation to wait on the Municipal Commissioners for the purpose of carrying out the foregoing resolution, viz:—Messrs. H. T. Marshall, T. O. Crane and C. Spottiswoode.

3.—That at a Special Meeting to be convened by the Secretary, the deputation report the result of the interview with the Municipal Commissioners.

"In pursuance of these resolutions we now beg to lay before you a short account of the intentions of the Trustees and the extent to which they have been able to carry them out.

"About ten years ago the Assembly Rooms were erected by subscription at a cost of about $ 6,000, and two of the present Trustees of the Town Hall were appointed Trustees. This building was contracted for by Mr. McSwiney and passed by the Government Superintendent of Works, yet it was so imperfectly finished, so loosely put together, and constructed of such miserable materials, that first of all the tiled roof had to be taken off and an attap one put on, and before ten years had elapsed it was condemned by a professional builder as unsafe and not fit to be repaired. The Trustees in consequence came to the resolution that instead of repairing the building, it would be better to build another in a better situation, for the site of the Assembly Rooms was most objectional for many reasons.

"An arrangement was made with Government to give up the old Assembly Rooms, or their ruins, with the site, for one more suitable, and, when the river is bridged over at Whampoa's, more accessible to the commercial public; on the consideration that the building when finished would be given over to the Municipal Commissioners for the benefit of the Community.

"In 1855 a subscription paper to build a suitable Town Hall was put in circulation, and $ 5,923.75 was subscribed by the community, $3,000 were added by the Government in addition to $ 3,000 by the Municipal Commissioners out of their funds, these latter sums being in accordance with an understanding with His Honor the Governor that the public subscription would be doubled by the authorities. The sum of $11,999.75 was lodged in the Oriental Bank at 5 per cent. interest, which brought the whole amount to the credit of the Town Hall to $13,207.62. The Trustees bearing in mind the insufficiency of the Assembly Rooms, and how imperfectly that building represented the thriving Settlement of Singapore, advertised for plans for a Town Hall, not only in Singapore, but in Calcutta, and further instructed Mr. M. F. Davidson, who was going home, to put himself in communication with an Architect in England, in conjunction with Mr. W. Spottiswoode, whose long residence here would enable him to give much local information and whose architectural abilities were well known to the Trustees.

"No plans were sent from Calcutta; three were given in from Singapore, one of which was selected by the Trustees and the subscribers at a public meeting convened for the purpose. Some time elapsed before Mr. Davidson sent his plan from London. It was by Mr. Fergusson, who had been in Calcutta for many years and had visited Singapore, he is now the Manager of the Crystal Palace, and is the author of the popular book 'Handbook of Architecture.' His plan was so similar to Mr. Bennett's that had been selected, that the Trustees had no hesitation in adhering to Mr. Bennett's plan as the most appropriate one, and they were not a little proud that Singapore could furnish a design of such high Architectural pretensions. The Trustees had resolved that they would not be accessory to erecting a building which would only last a few years instead of many generations, or that from its unsightliness would be a disgrace to this rising town."

"On the 13th November, 1855, a public meeting of the subscribers was held and after an inspection of the plans, Mr. Bennett's was adopted; the amount subscribed was stated, and a rough estimate was given in by Captain Macpherson, the Government Superintendent of Works, of the probable expense of constructing a new Town Hall according to accompanying plan, No. 3, that is Mr. Bennett's; this amounted to $12,565.50, but if iron girders and a slate roof were adopted, it would amount to $15,315.50. Captain Macpherson further stated the estimate allowed a wide margin and he thought the cost would be somewhat less.

"On the faith of this, the Trustees commenced the erection of the Town Hall, considering that, even if the building should cost more than the amount raised, the Public would not be reluctant to supply the deficiency, either by individual subscriptions, or from the Municipal Funds.

"Mr. Clunis, Junr., was chosen to superintend the construction of the edifice and the selection of the materials, on account of his experience in the P. & O. Co.'s employment at the New Harbour, for which he was to receive the sum of $800 by instalments. Contracts were now attempted to be made with the Carpenters and Bricklayers, when Captain Macpherson's estimate was found too low, and Mr. Bennett gave in his, to the amount of $16,926.96.

"The Trustees could not find any one in Singapore who would contract for the whole building, so they necessarily had to divide the contracts, into those for materials and labour. The first contractor for timber received a small advance, disappeared, and has not been seen since. The present Carpenter, who contracted for the work at $3,000, and to supply timber at certain rates, has acted up to his contract, and will probably finish his work to the satisfaction of the Trustees.

"For the Bricklayers' work they could not get a workman to engage who could get guarantees, except one, who asked what we at that time considered to be ridiculous. After much consideration on the part of the Trustees it was decided to contract with a Chinaman called Goh Khoy, who, though he could give no security, was well known to the Trustees as a most skilful workman, and under Mr. Clunis's superintendence the work, it was thought, would be of a superior quality to what could be got by ordinary contract.

"Goh Khoy agreed to furnish labour to finish the buildings for $4,000, and it is likely that amount will not be exceeded, as he has only received about one half and the building is half finished, yet the amount subscribed is all expended save $78, and the Trustees have every reason to believe that every dollar has been faithfully laid out. From Mr. Clunis's statement now produced, it appears that the sum of $13,129.62 has been expended, and that at the present prices of materials and labour it will require $12,371.93 more to finish the building.

"The Trustees think that Mr. Clunis's estimate is rather over than under the mark, from a prudent fear of again under-estimating. Yet, at the least, $12,000 will be required to finish and paint the building according to the plan. To take into consideration the ways

and means, a public meeting of the subscribers was called on the 8th ultimo, and in consequence of the resolutions already quoted, we now appear before you to request, that as the Town Hall is intended for the use of the public, and a portion of it especially for that of the Municipal Commissioners to whom, at its completion, it is to be handed over, that you, the Municipal Commissioners, will take over the building as it now stands, fulfil the contracts made by the Trustees, and finish it according to the plan now laid before you, from the funds of the Municipality, either raised by a loan expressly for the purpose, to be paid off by the next generation who have not subscribed but who will derive all the benefit from the building, or in any other way the Commissioners may think fit.

"Trusting this request may meet with your approval, we beg to lay before you our plans, estimate and papers.

H. T. Marshall, C. Spottiswoode, T. O. Crane."

The Commissioners assured the deputation that the application should have their most favourable attention, and resolved that the Chairman should solicit an interview with His Honor the Governor to consult on the subject of raising the necessary funds for completing the Town Hall, under the provisions of Section XXXV of Act XXV of 1856. Should this preliminary be satisfactorily arranged, the Commissioners would submit the plans and estimates to their Architect and require him to report on the work already executed and on what remained to be done; the Commissioners would then decide on their answer and lose no time in communicating it to the deputation.

On 17th June Mr. Charles Spottiswoode died at the age of 46 years. The *Free Press* spoke of him as one of the oldest and most respected merchants in the Settlement. He was living at Spottiswoode Park at the time of his death.

At this time the Municipal Commissioners gave notice that their meetings were open to the public, they were held at 2 p.m. on the 7th and 27th of each month, unless it fell on a Sunday, in which case the meeting was held on the Monday following.

At this time occurred the death of a Roman Catholic Priest at Penang, which is mentioned as it has often been spoken of in connection with the stories of deaths by tigers in the Straits. Father Louis Marie Couellan, who had been fourteen years in the Straits, had celebrated early mass at day-light on the first Sunday in Advent and was walking to take the service at Bukit Mertajam when he was faced by a tiger in the jungle path. He opened his umbrella to frighten it, and had time to climb up a tree. The tiger remained at the foot. The congregation at Bukit Mertajam, finding he did not come, set out to meet him. When they got near he called out to them that there was a tiger there, and it was then frightened away. Father Couellan died in Penang shortly afterwards of tetanus, from the effect of the encounter.

Mr. John Harvey, who was a prominent resident in Singapore left there in this year, having first arrived in 1843. He died, at the age of 50 years, in 1879. There is a tablet to his memory in the south aisle of St. Andrew's Cathedral.

In this year the firm of Busing, Schroder & Co. commenced business; also Lorrain Sandilands & Co. in which the partners were G. M. Sandilands in Penang, and John Buttery in Singapore. Mr. Walter Scott Lorrain was in Glasgow.

On 1st January Puttfarcken Rheiner & Co. commenced, the two partners being Otto Puttfarcken and Otto Rheiner, who had both been in Rautenberg, Schmidt & Co. since 1854.

The firm of Reme & Co. was also commenced in this year, by G. A. Reme. In 1861 Edward John Leveson, a very well known resident, joined as partner, and it was styled Reme, Leveson & Co. in 1862. They had both been clerks in the German firm of Apel & Co. which began in 1845. The firm was afterwards Reme Brothers.

In 1858 Mr. Philip Robinson, first established the business of Robinson & Co., which has grown into such a large shop. He came to Singapore in 1857 from Melbourne, where he had been in the firm of Passmore, Watson & Co. He was at first an assistant in Cursetjee & Co.'s shop for a few months, and in 1858 he joined James Gaborian Spicer, under the name of Spicer & Robinson. Spicer was keeper of the Jail for some years from about 1845, and then was in a shipwright's business called Spicer & Morrison. He did not remain long in the business with Mr. Robinson, and in 1858 he left it, and Mr. Geo. Rappa, Jnr., who is still in Singapore, joined Mr. Robinson as a partner. The business continues under the name of Robinson & Co., until the present time, his son Stamford Raffles Robinson taking his father's place, after he died in London in 1886.

Mr. Philip Robinson was one of the founders of the "Gospel House" in Bencoolen Street, which led on to the Bethesda in Bras Bassa Road. There was a library attached to the Gospel House for some years. The "tea meetings" which came into vogue afterwards in Singapore were first introduced by him. His family was well known in the west of England, and one of his brothers was Mayor of Bristol.

CHAPTER XLVII.

1859.

IN January attention was called to the action of the States General of Holland protesting against the proceedings of Rajah Brooke at Sarawak, which they said was contrary to the Treaty of 1824, and that it was of paramount importance that the Netherlands Government should oppose with all its might, if necessary, every British Government Settlement on Borneo.

So far from the Treaty supporting the interpretation put forward, it seemed to furnish very clear evidence, in the 3rd and 6th articles, that Great Britain could form new settlements in Borneo or elsewhere, whenever the British Government should deem it expedient to do so. The 8th article ceded to England all the establishments on the Continent of India, but the next article, in place of ceding all English establishments in the Eastern Seas or renouncing the right to form them thereafter, merely ceded the possessions in Sumatra and engaged that no British settlement should be formed on that island, and in the next article engaged that no British establishment should be formed upon any of the other islands of the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago, of which Singapore forms part, but to which the Dutch withdrew any objections they had made to its occupation by the English.

So far from England contemplating any such abandonment of the Indian Archipelago to the Netherlands, as was now contended by the Dutch, the British Plenipotentiaries, in the note subjoined to the treaty, stated that they "record, with sincere pleasure, the disavowal, on the part of the Dutch, of any design to aim either at political supremacy or at commercial monopoly in the Eastern Archipelago." Great Britain had the best right to complain of the numerous infractions of the treaty by the Dutch, which had often been allowed to pass without notice.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China was established in Singapore on 19th February, and filled the blank caused by the withdrawal of the North Western Bank. Mr. James Fraser, of Maclaine Fraser & Co., was on the Board of Directors in London, and several of the most influential of the retired Singapore merchants were connected with it. Mr. David Duff was the first Manager, then called Agent, in Singapore.

On 28th March, Captain H. T. Marshall, for many years the agent of the P. & O. Company in Singapore, then called Superintendent, being about to leave for England, was entertained very handsomely at a large dinner of upwards of sixty persons, by the Freemasons at their Hall on the Esplanade, at the corner of Coleman Street. The chaplain the Rev. T. C. Smyth, M.A. (Cantab.), a high Mason, who was Chaplain for two years at that time, was in the chair. The P. & O. wharf and establishment at New Harbour, which

were said to be superior to any other of the company on the line, was due to him, and he had done, the *Free Press* said, a great deal in the place in very many ways, Municipal, Educational, &c., and would be a great loss.

In April the Government steamer *Hooghly*, George Tod Wright, commander, attacked two Chinese pirate junks which had taken a junk the day before off the coast of Tringanu, and rifled her of opium and all she contained. The pirates were too heavily armed, and the *Hooghly* was drawing off, when the Siamese steamer *Chow Phya* came in sight at 6 p.m. on her usual run from Bangkok to Singapore. She had no guns, but she lent boats to attack the pirates in shore the next morning; when it was found the boats manned by native seamen could not advantageously attack the pirates, who were too strongly posted, so they withdrew. The fact was, the *Hooghly* was so old that she could only steam five to seven knots, and the Chinese junks could do more with a fair wind.

H. M. S. *Esk*, Captain Sir R. McClure, 1,175 tons, at once went out from Singapore, taking Mr. Warwick, the chief officer of the *Hooghly*, and not being able to find the two junks, lay in wait, by his advice, in Condore Bay, and on the second day the two pirates came sailing in. Between them they had 28 large guns. A Special Criminal Sessions was held on 4th June to try the pirates, 52 of them were tried, were all convicted, and sentenced to various terms of transportation to Bombay.

Sir Robert Le Mesurier McClure, K.C.B., of the *Esk*, had been knighted for services on an Arctic voyage. His book "Discovery of the North-West Passage by H. M. S. *Investigator* 1850-54" was published in 1857, and is in the Library.

The steamer *Chow Phya*, just mentioned, is worthy of notice, as she seems to have made a wonderful record of steamer life in Singapore. She was built at West Hartlepool in 1858, and was running for years between Bangkok and Singapore, owned by the King of Siam or his Prime Minister, after whom she was named. She was sold in what was thought to be her old age, many years since, but is still running regularly in the Straits, to Malacca and Klang, but is close to the end of her life now. She was built of very good half-inch iron plates, and there has been no vessel in the Straits like her.

Her captain in the Bangkok trade was very well known in Singapore; he died here in 1885, 62 years of age. He was the brother of the famous claimant in the Tichborne case. A very hard working, persevering man, quite a character in Singapore. The Engineer of the *Chow Phya* at the beginning was Mr. Hargreaves, one of the founders afterwards of Riley, Hargreaves & Co.

The beginning of submarine telegraph lines from Singapore was very unfortunate. In May the Dutch Government determined to lay a cable to Batavia, and obtained leave to lay it from Singapore. The line was completed on 24th November, and the merchants in Singapore sent a congratulatory message to which the Batavia merchants replied. The second message was from the Governor-General of Netherlands India to Governor Cavenagh, to which the latter replied. Then it snapped! A ship's anchor was thought to have broken the cable. It

was repaired, but only remained a short time in operation, and after having been once or twice more repaired, it remained obstinately mute, and on examination was found so much injured, and in so many places, that the attempt to repair it was abandoned. An office, a two-storied building, had been erected on the left bank of the river, about where the back of the Government Offices are now, and was used afterwards as the Master Attendant's Office.

In May, Government Hill was undergoing a rapid metamorphosis from the peaceful and historical seat of the Governor's residence from the first days of Raffles, into what the newspaper described as a strong and extensive fortification, intended to be called Fort Canning after the Governor-General. The top of the hill was raised several feet to afford sufficient level surface, and when finished was to enclose an area of about seven acres. By the middle of May seven 68-pounders were in position facing the sea. The work was carried out with 400 Chinese coolies. After it was completed, it was noticed that Pearl's Hill was higher, so the Government Military Engineer proceded to cut down the top of that Hill!

Fort Fullerton was also being enlarged to nearly three times its former extent, and was being armed with 56 and 68 pounders. It extended from the river to Johnston's Pier, with a house for the officer in the centre, and barracks for the soldiers along the roadside, and was planted with trees. The estimated cost of the works was said to be $840,000. Smaller works were contemplated on Pearl's Hill and Mount Sophia, but were not carried out.

The Governor on leaving Fort Canning Hill went to live at the Pavilion on Oxley Estate. Mr. Schreiber of Behn, Meyer & Co., had been living there, and was away in Europe. He came back, and Government House was moved to Leonie Hill, Grange Road; the same house is still standing. It was rented from Mr. Thomas Hinton Campbell, of Martin Dyce & Co., who had gone home, and was vacated when the present Government House was ready for occupation in October, 1869.

Governor Blundell, just as he was about to leave, provoked a good deal of odium by proposing to sell part of the land in Campong Glam, lying between the road and the sea in front of the houses of the Europeans, on the Beach. There was a long correspondence in February, and meetings about it, and it was said that it was not only a question between the Governor and the owners of those houses, but one for the public at large, who were as much entitled as the house-owners to the use of the beach, which they had enjoyed since the formation of the Settlement. The plan was dropped, Mr. Blundell having first made the suggestion that the land should not be sold as long as the properties on the inland side of the road were used as European dwelling houses.

A serious misunderstanding arose in Penang between Mr. Blundell and the Recorder of Penang, Sir Benson Maxwell, about the illegal detention of a woman by the police in Province Wellesley. Both sides appealed to Lord Canning, the Governor-General. The eventual result was, that an enquiry was ordered to be held by Governor Cavenagh, and the woman was compensated.

In July it was announced that Mr. Blundell had sent in his resignation. He had been Governor since 1855. Sir John Inglis, the defender of Lucknow in the Mutiny, was mentioned as likely to be his successor, but Colonel Cavenagh was appointed, and arrived on Saturday, 6th August, from Calcutta, and Mr. Blundell made over to him on the Monday, and left for Calcutta, retiring on pension, but having been granted leave of absence for one month to visit Calcutta preparatory to resigning his office, Colonel Cavenagh to officiate as Governor during his absence on leave.

Colonel Orfeur Cavenagh received from Lord Canning the appointment of Governor of the Straits. He had twice distinguished himself in India; he had been actively engaged in the Punjab war, where he lost a leg, and when the Mutiny broke out, he was Town Major in Calcutta. When he accepted the appointment he thought it would only be a short one, as the transfer was likely to take place, and he remarked in his book, written in 1885, and referred to hereafter, that he then little anticipated that his official career would be brought to an early close in 1867, when he naturally entertained expectations of succeeding to one of the posts of the Indian Service. His term of office, however, extended quite as long as that of most of the Governors of Singapore, being only exceeded by those of Mr. Bonham and Colonel Butterworth.

In the *Free Press* of 7th July is a copy of a long "Memorandum on Pulo Penang," without date, signed by Arthur Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington, relating to its position, need of defences, means of revenue, &c. It is a pity that such a thing should be lost. It contains a good deal of interesting matter, and, at a guess, was probably written about the beginning of last century, before Singapore was founded.

The construction of St. Andrew's Church went on so slowly that several jocose letters appeared in the *Free Press* upon the bankruptcy of the Government finances. Among others was this poetry:—

"If then would'st view the Church aright,
Go visit it on a moonless night,
For the gay beams of lightsome day
Gild, but to show, the sad decay,
Then roofless porches, choir, aisle, nave,
Are silent as the ocean wave.
Then the warm night's uncertain shower
Pours through the ruined steeple tower;
Then from the roof, in puddles, flop
The rainy streamlets, drop by drop;
And make one sigh in these hard days
At the dire waste the view displays.
Then go at once, nor wait the while,
Would'st view St. Andrew's ruined pile,
And, home returning, softly swear
Never was scene so sad as there."

In September José d'Almeida & Sons advertised Mount Victoria for sale, "with an area of over 100 acres of beautifully situated hillocks well adapted for country residences, consisting of three or more sites



GOVERNOR ORFEUR CAVENAGH.

ides the house occupied by José d'Almeida, Esq., with a beautiful w of the country round and part of the harbour; only a few minutes ve from town; and the land planted with fruit and nutmeg trees bearing." And in December, Hamilton, Gray & Co. advertised for e "the valuable and extensive nutmeg plantation in Claymore and nglin, called the Sri Menanti Estate, belonging to G. G. Nicol, Esq., sisting of six hills, about 150 acres in all, with one of the most nmodious and substantially built residences in Singapore, on a hill out two miles from town, and a small bungalow on one of the ier hills."

On 18th November, 1857, Tan Kim Seng had offered $13,000 for purpose of bringing a sufficient supply of good water into the town, ich was much required, and to show the interest he felt in the place. said in his letter that he was told good water in sufficient quantity uld be got from and near Bukit Timah and there would be an ample pply to be laid on to the principal thoroughfares in the town. The cretary of State for India, among others, expressed his warm acknowlgments for the public spirited liberality of Tan Kim Seng.

He was a native of Malacca and began life in humble circumstances. his perseverance, intelligence and integrity, he rose steadily in the orld and left a large fortune to his children. He was for many years a stice of the Peace, and was constantly referred to by his countrymen in e settlement of their disputes. He took a warm interest in the welre of the place in which he had thriven so successfully, and in addition this gift for supplying water to the town in Singapore, he gave the rge iron bridge over the river close to the Stadt House at Malacca, a w feet only above the spot where Albuquerque's bridge was, as shown the old maps of Malacca.

Tan Kim Seng died at Malacca, at 59 years of age, on 14th March, 864. His eldest son, Tan Beng Swee, took his place in many ways, nd used to go to Malacca once a year, and was said there to be a enerous man, but he did not follow his father's example as regards ingapore. He died in Singapore at his house in River Valley Road on th November, 1884, and was buried in Malacca.

Nothing was done with Kim Seng's money until just before his eath. Plans had been made, and schemes suggested, and a great eal of talk went on at the Municipal Meetings, and there was much orrespondence with Government about the delay, and several places ere proposed for the reservoir, such as New Harbour, Bukit Timah, nd Thomson's Road. A serious drought seems to have brought matters to a head, and the plans were sanctioned by Calcutta about December, 1862, and it was said in 1864 that the work would be finished n a year, but it never was.

Kim Seng's money was spent on a lot of earthenware drain pipes which turned out no use, and for some time a number of hem lay at Kandang Kerbau, and could be had for the taking way. And there was an advertisement in the paper that unless a arge quantity of water pipes on board a ship in the harbour were taken delivery of, the master would get rid of them in some other way. The only result of Kim Seng's gift was that the money was all wasted by the Government Engineer, who hoped to make water

run up hill through the pipes, and in 1882 the Municipality erected the large fountain close to Johnston's Pier with the inscription: "This fountain is erected by the Municipal Commissioners in commemoration of Mr. Tan Kim Seng's donation towards the cost of the Singapore Water-Works."

Rules were published towards the end of the year requiring persons seeking employment in the Government service to pass in the Malay language within twelve months after appointment.

The enhanced value of land, noticed in 1858, was fully maintained for a considerable part of the year, but towards the end there was a re-action. The demand for land in town and country seemed to have been fully satisfied, and it was difficult to sell at all.

In this year the business of G. Kaltenbach & Co. was established. In 1862 F. Engler joined and it became Kaltenbach, Engler & Co. They had a large store at the south west corner of the Square, where Katz Brothers, Limited are now, but a much smaller building than the present one.

The Netherlands Trading Society opened their branch in 1859, and Mr. H. J. van Hoorn was the first Manager in Singapore, where he died in November, 1865, at 46 years of age. Mr. Richard Owen Norris was the first clerk, and has continued in the office to the present day, his long local knowledge of, and warm interest in, the history of Singapore are well known, and he has been of very great and most ungrudging service in the compilation of this book.

The firm of Smith, Bell & Co., also began business in Singapore this year, John Knox Smith being the resident partner.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

1860.

ON 10th March official notification was received by the Government that the port and river of Saigon were opened for trade. There was an anchorage duty of two dollars a ton, and an import duty of 20 per cent. on the value of opium, but no other duties at that time. It would have been well for the place if it had remained so.

Orders were received from Calcutta in March to push on the completion of the barracks on Fort Canning Hill, and steps were taken to acquire the present land at Tanglin for European barracks.

Mr. Carrol shot a very large tiger at Sungei Lunchu in Johore, which had killed a number of people.

In this year John Baxter and John Lawrence Kirby started as Marine Surveyors for Lloyds and other Insurance Companies. Mr. Baxter had been in Siam, building vessels for Tan Kim Ching, and was afterwards a partner in Tivendale & Co., shipwrights at Singapore river next the Court House. He was a native of Port Glasgow in Scotland, and was a well-known character in Singapore for many years and died here in October, 1892, leaving money to the Presbyterian Church to provide a manse, from which the house in Cavenagh Road was purchased and rebuilt subsequently. He was the honest, bluff old Scotsman, of whom an anecdote is told on the last page of Mr. W. H. Read's book "Play and Politics."

Mr. Kirby had been in Duncan Dunbar's famous Indian merchant service between England and India. He was very popular in Singapore, and famous for his good natured jokes. The following is an example.

At that time there was, of course, no direct telegraphic communication with Europe, and as everyone was eager to hear the news on the arrival of the mail, and as it took some time to sort the letters and newspapers at the Post Office it was arranged that the large parcel of copies of the *London and China Express*, with a sort of *precis* of the latest news, should be sent by post to Colombo. There the purser of the P. & O. took them from the Post Office, and on reaching Singapore, when the mail got near the wharf, they were thrown from the steamer, and taken up to town in a hack gharry to John Little & Co.'s, where people used to wait to get them as soon as they were likely to reach there. There was a somewhat irascible manager in the shop on the occasion in question, which Captain Kirby took advantage of. Just as the mail had come in one morning, he took an old copy of that paper off the file, and asked another person to go with him with another old copy. They stood at Little's door and pretended to read. Very soon some one came running up, "What, got the papers already?" and, not waiting

for an answer, rushed inside where the manager was sitting near the back. More came up, and ran in. Then a loud dispute was heard inside, the people asking for the *China Express*, and the manager very angrily saying that they were not come, to what the equally excited reply was that they were, as Kirby was reading his at the door. Kirby, when the dispute got warm, pocketed his paper, and walked quickly away round the corner to his office.

On 6th June, Dr. Charles Julius Curtis died in Singapore. He had been a medical practitioner for many years and coroner. He was succeeded by Dr. John Scott, who came from Penang, and accompanied Tumongong Abubakar to England in 1866.

On 20th July a public meeting was held at the News Room about the proposed extension of the Indian Income Tax bill to the Straits. Mr. W. H. Read was in the chair. It was shewn that the revenue was more than equal to all the expenditure which could with justice be charged against the local government, and that there was no necessity for any additional revenue, and that the surplus in Singapore, which was about £35,000 (Rs. 356,030) was more than sufficient to cover any deficiency that might exist at Penang or Malacca.

The following resolutions were agreed to by the Meeting:—

Proposed by Joaquim Almeida, and seconded by R. C. Woods:—

That the inhabitants of these settlements have a constitutional right to be consulted before a tax, arbitrary, impolitic, and inexpedient, is forced upon them.

Proposed by J. Davidson, and seconded by Joze d'Almeida:—That an income tax is of a nature especially unsuited to the natives of these settlements, who are peculiarly averse to all inquisitorial measures, and view with deep distrust all new taxes of an unknown nature.

Proposed by C. H. H. Wilsone, and seconded by N. B. Watson:—That the provisions of the proposed Act are framed in total ignorance of the financial position and resources of these Settlements, and the character of their inhabitants.

Proposed by J. J. Greenshields, and seconded by W. Paterson:—That the imposition of the Income Tax on the Straits Settlements, under present circumstance,—besides being unconstitutional—is unreasonable and unnecessary: 1st., because the revenue is already sufficient to meet all legitimate charges, and 2ndly., because the transfer of these Settlements to the Colonial Office has been already determined upon, and will be carried into effect so soon as the necessary arrangements can be made: these Settlements are now virtually one of Her Majesty's Colonies.

Proposed by Dr. Scott, and seconded by W. Paterson:—That Petitions to the Houses of Parliament and the Legislative Council of India, embodying the resolutions of this meeting be drawn up, and transmitted with as little delay as possible."

A Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, was formed for the purpose of drawing up the Petitions to Parliament and the Legislative Council of India, namely, the Chairman, A Logan, R. C. Woods, J. J. Greenshields, Wm. Paterson, James Davidson, A. M. Aitken and C. H. Harrison.

A copy of the Petition was printed in the *Free Press* of 2nd August. The Calcutta Government soon afterwards dropped the question.

In the accounts referred to in connection with that matter it is noticed that at that time an annual sum of Rs. 24,245 was spent for house rent and batta (extra pay) for the Senior Naval Officer, and Rs. 8,539 for batta to H. M. Ships.

In October the newspaper said:—"Orders are said to have been recently received from the Government of India for the erection of a battery at Sandy Point. It will probably be an expensive work, owing to the difficulty of making a secure foundation at that place. This will be another item in the bill which the Indian Government is running up for the fortifications at Singapore, and which has already been found such a serious obstacle to the transfer of the Straits Settlements to the Colonial Office. The extensive scale on which these fortifications are being constructed is wholly uncalled for and will prove a source of embarrassment to the colony in the future." The battery was never constructed.

In October Mr. Charles Emmerson came to Singapore, and advertised that he had commenced to practise as a member of the College of Veterinary Surgeons. He was the first to practise in Singapore. He afterwards commenced a very small tiffin room in Battery Road, in addition to his other occupation, and it grew into a hotel on Beach Road, occupying two large houses, and to the tiffin rooms at Cavenagh Bridge which are still known by his name. He was a very popular amateur actor for many years in low comedy characters. He died in Singapore in 1883.

The first performance in the theatre in the Town Hall was given on 24th October in aid of the funds required for completing the building. The plays were a comedy called *The Folies of a Night* and the farce *A Storm in a Teapot*. It was repeated with *Bombastes Furioso*, which was often performed in Singapore, in place of the farce.

In October the Rajah of Pahang and the Rajah of Kedah, with a number of followers, paid visits to Singapore.

In November the Calcutta Government sanctioned the erection of a lighthouse on Cape Rachado.

The Indian Penal Code having been passed, Mr. Willans, the Magistrate of Police wrote the following letter to the Resident Councillor on 3rd November. The recommendation was forwarded to Calcutta with the Governor's entire concurrence. "Having perused the Indian Penal Code recently passed by the Legislative Council of India, I much regret to find that the Straits Settlements have been excepted from its provisions. The Code in question is a most important enactment and contains within itself a full and lucid exposition of its provisions. Its application to this Settlement would I feel assured be of infinite advantage and I would respectfully submit for the consideration of His Honor the Governor the desirability of procuring, if possible, its extension to the Straits; such extension would I believe be acceptable to the inhabitants. I am aware that these Settlements were at the last moment excluded from the provisions of the Act in consequence of their probable transfer to the Colonial Office, but as such transfer, if at all, may not take place for a considerable time, I would most respectfully urge that it is undesirable this Community should be debarred from so important an improve-

ment in the Law for an indefinite period. Should such transfer be carried into effect earlier than expected and a Legislative Council granted for the Colony, some length of time would possibly elapse before such Council could prepare and pass so complete a measure of Criminal Law, while if the Code was in force at the time of transfer, any alteration that might be considered expedient could be easily made by Council."

Mr. Willans proved quite correct, for the Code was not introduced into Singapore until 1871.

The following was in the newspaper in November, 1860:—"On the evening of Monday, 26th November, 1860, the Singapore Volunteers were reviewed by the Hon. the Governor, Colonel Cavenagh, on the Esplanade. The volunteers mustered in full force under their commandant, Captain Read, and on the arrival of His Honor, accompanied by Brigadier Burn and Staff, presented arms. They then marched past in slow and quick time, and went through a number of Light Infantry manœuvres, advancing, firing, halting, changing front in one direction and in the other, forming square, retiring, and finally, having fired two volleys with remarkable precision, they formed up in their original position and again presented arms.

"The Governor then addressed the corps in animated language. He alluded to the formation of the corps, which had the honor to be the first enrolled in India and was therefore entitled to bear upon its colours the inscription *Primus in Indis*. He dwelt upon the great utility of volunteers in general, and adverted to his own experience as having commanded the Calcutta volunteers during the Indian rebellion, when they were found so eminently useful in preserving confidence and order in the Capital, and in allowing the regular troops to be employed in active operations against the mutineers. His Honor adverted to the great and wonderful progress such institutions had made in the mother country of late, and as in these days no dependence could be placed in the duration of peace, the gallant speaker said he thought it behoved all good and true subjects to stand forward in the general defence. Colonel Cavenagh then eulogised those of our fellow citizens who, though not British subjects, yet showed their appreciation of the protection bestowed by our laws and of the benefits they thereby derived, by swelling the numbers of the volunteers, and he concluded by expressing a hope that those young men who had not yet joined the corps would no longer hesitate to enrol themselves as members of the Singapore Volunteer Rifles.

"The Governor complimented the volunteers on their soldierly appearance and the steadiness and precision with which the various manœuvres had been gone through. Much of which was owing to the indefatigable exertions of the gallant Captain and other officers of the Corps, who were no doubt highly gratified at the result of their assiduity having elicited the commendations of so competent an authority in these matters as Colonel Cavenagh. The spirited address of the Governor was followed by three hearty cheers for His Honor. The spectators then gave three cheers for the gallant corps, which marched off to the Masonic Lodge. The excellent Band of Her Majesty's 40th Regiment M. N. I. attended, by the kind permission of the officers of the Regiment, and added much to the gaiety of the scene."

The screw steamer *Sir James Brooke* owned by the Borneo Company, Limited, was totally lost on the 17th September, on the rocks off Point Romania. She was on her way to Singapore from Bangkok with a cargo of rice.

In the latter part of the year a number of failures occurred among the Chinese traders. In most cases private arrangements were made, and a composition accepted with security, but it was thought that in some cases insolvency had been declared while the parties were quite able to pay in full, and that it was done to save a considerable percentage on their liabilities, and was not weighed against the effect which such a course might have upon their future credit as traders. Credit was obtained so very easily, that even repeated insolvency only operated against a trader for a time.

A census was taken by the Police during the year, the total population being reckoned as 80,792, of whom Europeans and Eurasians were 2,445, and Chinese 50,043.

The new General Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum at Kandang Kerbau were completed and occupied. The whole expense of the former had been Rs. 51,086; and of the latter Rs. 46,259. The foundations of Cape Rachado Lighthouse were cut and materials collected, the expense being Rs. 20,200.

The Agri-Horticultural Society was established in this year, the Government giving the large extent of ground at Tanglin, where the gardens still are, for the purpose. They were supported for some years by private subscription, but were afterwards taken over by the Government.

The rendezvous at Singapore of the vessels carrying troops and stores for the operations in China, both from Europe and India, caused much activity in the harbour, and the war was prosecuted so quickly that before the close of the year a number of transports with troops who had been engaged in the hostilities, passed westward again through the harbour. Besides visits from the Earl of Elgin and Baron Gros the French Plenipotentiary, on their way to China, Singapore was visited by the Russian Envoy and Plenipotentiary to China, Japan, and Siam with a numerous suite, who remained in Singapore for some days waiting for the Russian man-of-war which met them in the harbour.

The firm of Stelling, Hooglandt & Co., was begun on 1st February, 1860, by G. H. P. Stelling, and Willem Hooglandt the partner resident in Singapore.

CHAPTER XLIX.

1861

AT 7-30 p.m. on 16th January an earthquake was felt at Singapore, lasting about a minute; the direction appearing to be from S. W. to N. E. There were two shocks, the undulations being very distinct, and producing in many persons a feeling of nausea, and the idea that the house was going to tumble down; doors rattling and hanging lamps swinging about, for some minutes. Those who were upstairs ran down. It was felt also in Malacca and Penang.

As far as is ascertained, there had been three previous instances of earthquakes felt in the Settlement. The first at 9 p.m. on Sunday, 24th November, 1833, when a shock lasting upwards of a minute was felt, and followed by two more; one at 3, and the other at 4-30 a.m. That was also felt at Malacca and Penang.

The next was in 1837, when a large wave broke on the sea-shore at Teluk Ayer. The third was half an hour after midnight on 6th January, 1843, which was also felt in Penang.

Earthquakes are of so frequent occurrence in Sumatra, Java, &c., that it is well to give these instances to show how little effect they have had at Singapore, where the oscillation is always attributed to a volcano in some of those directions, that of 1833 having been attributed to Gunong Berapi in Sumatra.

The most noticeable occurrence of this kind heard in Singapore was, of course, that of Krakatoa, in the Straits of Anjer, about 500 miles from Singapore, on 26th to 28th August, 1883. On Sunday afternoon, the 27th, about 5.45 o'clock, during the chanting of the Psalms in St. Andrew's Cathedral, a loud explosion was heard, which was the first to be noticed. It was thought that, contrary to rules, the blasting of the rocks in a hill at Tanjong Pagar, which had been going on for some time in order to reclaim Teluk Ayer Bay, was being continued on Sunday; and faint rumblings and explosions, heard at intervals that evening and during the night, were thought to be caused in the same way. Those in the country thought it was saluting, or signals from the Fort, and some natives thought it was a battle between the French and Chinese. But about 11 a.m. on the Monday morning a very much louder report was heard, which was the last, and when some one in the Supreme Court suggested that the noises must be occasioned by an eruption, the speaker was laughed at. Shortly after noon a telegram came from Java that the natives were all flying, the sky in darkness, and general consternation. Then the telegraph cable broke, and nothing more was heard until a day or two afterwards,

when a Dutch gunboat, which had been near the mountain at the time, came into Singapore, and the Captain said it had been an awful experience, describing it by saying that they thought they were in hell: with the fire, the smoke, the thick darkness, except for the flashes of the fire, and the great weights of pumice stone and ashes that had to be constantly cleared off the ship's deck, or they would have sunk her.

Not long afterwards pieces of pumice stone, as big as a hat, were floating about outside the harbour, and Mr. George Dare brought pieces to the Club in his canoe. There was a scientific account of the disaster by Dr. Treub in the "Annals of the Botanical Gardens of Buitenzorg in Java," vol. 7. The tidal wave caused by the fight between fire and water, in which the water was the conqueror, was twenty-five metres high. It was thought that at least thirty thousand natives perished, but the loss of life could not possibly be ascertained.

Singapore lies in the centre of a circle, in peace and safety so far as human experience has hitherto shown; but on the circumference of that circle, there are volcanic eruptions in Java, causing widespread death and destruction; earthquakes in Manila, tumbling down buildings like houses of cards; typhoons in Hongkong, tossing large vessels on to the shore, destroying heavily built sea-walls in the Praya, and blowing away massive stone verandahs on the most solidly constructed buildings on the sea-front; cyclones in Calcutta, sinking ships and causing great damage and loss of life—while, in Singapore, convulsions of nature are unknown, and a Sumatra squall blowing away the attap roof of a house on a hill overlooking the present Ladies Lawn Tennis Ground on to the old Dhoby green, some thirty-five years ago, on the morning of the day when there was to be a dinner party in the evening as a house-warming, is, possibly, the worst that can be alleged against the forces of nature.

On 1st February the P. & O. advertised a rise in passage fares. To Southampton first class was $552, with $33.60 for the transit through Egypt. The Singapore paper remarked that in addition to the permanent complaints of bad fare and overcrowded vessels, there had been an extraordinary number of breaks down in their steamers. The Calcutta *Friend of India* said at the same time that much grumbling, many threats, and frequent denunciations had been met by one virtue "the public can depend upon us for punctuality"; but even this consolation had been taken away.

During the race week in May, Tan Kim Seng gave a ball in the Masonic Lodge on the Esplanade to all the Europeans. In the same month it was reported that Sir James Brooke might be the Governor, if the transfer took place and Colonel Cavenagh returned to India. The paper said that the Rajah would govern the Straits with the vigour and sagacity that had distinguished his career in Borneo.

On 24th May, the Queen's birthday, the Volunteers paraded with all the troops on the Esplanade in the morning, and a salute was fired at the same time from the new Fort Canning.

In August there were very heavy wind and rain squalls on two days and a large three-storied godown which was being built on

the left-hand side of Almeida Street, about half way down after leaving the Square, for José d'Almeida & Sons, which had just been roofed in, fell down; one man sleeping inside was killed. Busing, Schroder & Co., were the tenants.

An ice-making machine was set up in August, but it did not work satisfactorily. After the ice-house was built, a private company imported ice *pro bono publico*, and charged five cents a pound, which resulted in a heavy loss. The house then remained empty for a considerable time, when Mr. Tudor, an American, tried to keep up a supply; but it was constantly failing, and often at the hottest times. It was said in the newspaper that he lost $20,000 over it. When the ice failed, liquids used to be cooled by turning the bottles in pails with saltpetre. It was not for many years after this, that the supply of ice could be depended on. The local consumption was then so small, and there was no demand for steamers, except for the mails.

In May, Drs. Little and Robertson advertised that their Singapore Dispensary in the Square was put under the entire management of Mr. Robert Jaimie, who had come out from Edinburgh for the purpose. He lived for many years over the Dispensary in the Square, in the same building as at present, but latterly he lived at Serangoon on the large cocoanut plantation he bought there, as has been said on page 185. He is now living at Edinburgh.

On Monday, 7th October, Sir James Brooke was entertained by the whole community at a ball in the Assembly Rooms. It had been proposed to have a dinner but the ladies wished to take part in it. Sir James was on his way home on account of ill-health. He returned to Sarawak afterwards for a short time, and left there for the last time in October, 1863, and died at Burrator in Devonshire, on 15th June, 1868, where he is buried.

In this year the fortification and barracks on Fort Canning were completed, and the European Artillerymen were removed from the buildings on Pearls Hill, which were from that time occupied by the Commissariat Department. The attap barracks at Tanglin were so far advanced as to be capable of affording ample accommodation for a European regiment, but the newspaper said that they would probably remain empty and deteriorate rapidly in consequence; which proved to be the case. The sea-wall, now called Collyer Quay, from Fort Fullerton to the old Teluk Ayer market, was nearly completed at the end of 1861, and the space behind it was being gradually filled in to allow of godowns being built, which it was said would greatly improve the appearance of the town; as they did five years afterwards.

The annual report for 1860-61 stated that Rs. 21,784 had then been spent on St. Andrew's Church, and that the building of the tower was in abeyance owing to the settlement of its foundation, and that the design would probably have to be changed for the sake of a lighter superstructure.

The German Club gave a performance in the Town Hall in September, in aid of the building fund. There was a heavy rainfall this year, as in other parts of the Indian Archipelago, greatly

damaging the roads. The new Agri-Horticultural Society held two shows of fruit, vegetables and flowers, in June and December.

The Sultan of Tringanu and the Bandahara of Pahang visited Singapore; and the Prime Minister of Siam, Chow Phya Sri Surywongsie and two sons of the First King of Siam, with a large retinue, came in July on their way to Quedah, from where they went overland to Siam. There were then two Kings of Siam called the First and Second Kings.

In December the *Free Press* said that the Town Hall was assuming an appearance very creditable to the Settlement, but the work had been brought to a stand for want of funds, as the Treasurers were under an advance of $5,000, and the Committee would have to apply to the public for further money. The great advance in the cost of building materials which took place during its erection, caused the original estimates to be much exceeded.

In 1886, Mr. James Guthrie wrote from London, because he had heard that some question had arisen about the purposes for which the Town Hall had been built. He said, "As I had a good deal to do with it, perhaps my information may be useful. The ground was *given* by the Government—a free gift. The whole of the money was subscribed by the European and other residents, all of whom gave liberally, but, as often happens, the building cost a good deal more than estimated, so the movers in the good work had rather a troublesome time of it, but, I am happy to say, were again and again most kindly received, when appearing with an empty bag—never in my remembrance being refused a further subscription to the good work, in which all were interested. The building was at last completed, and an arrangement was made with the Municipal Commissioners, to take over the responsibility and management of the Town Hall, in consideration of which they were to occupy *one* or *two* of the rooms behind the dining-room for offices—the dining-room being available for theatrical perfomances, &c., the large room upstairs being intended for balls, &c., &c., and the small rooms for libraries, which it was thought might be more convenient there than at the Institution. In those days the Municipal Commissioners had a room for their Secretary in the Police Office, and held their meetings in the old Court-house."

On 26th December the *Free Press* remarked that the London papers said there was some prospect of the Prince of Wales passing through Singapore on his projected visit to India and Australia; but the Prince did not, of course, go further than India.

CHAPTER L.

1862.

IN January the Chamber of Commerce presented Captain Stanton of H. M. S. *Saracen*, surveying vessel, with a gold pocket chronometer which Mr. James Guthrie had selected in London, as an acknowledgment of the services rendered by him to commerce, by his surveys in Banca Straits in 1860.

The Tumongong of Johore, Daing Ibrahim Sri Maharajah, died at his residence at New Harbour on the 31st January, in his 52nd year. He was the second son of the Tumongong with whom Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819 entered into the negotiations which led to the Settlement. The *Free Press* said:—"This native chief, during the course of his long rule, conducted himself with great prudence and secured the friendship and support of the British Government, by whom he was presented with a sword of state for his exertions in putting down the piracy which at one period was so prevalent in the vicinity of Singapore. For many years he devoted himself to the improvement of his territory of Johore, in which he was very successful, the revenues at his death amounting to a very considerable sum, derived principally from the Chinese population that under his encouragement had settled in Johore and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was succeeded by his eldest son, between whom and the Bandahara of Pahang a treaty was entered into at Singapore in June, with the sanction of the British Government, to regulate the countries of Pahang and Johore, their boundaries, jurisdiction and government, to prevent disputes hereafter and to perpetuate the amity existing between them."

Tumongong Ibrahim was succeeded by his eldest son, Ungku Wan Abubakar, who had been administering the Government for some years, as his father's health had been declining. Mr. Cameron in his book speaks of him as an amiable and high-minded gentleman, more desirous of peace and quiet than of great power, which was very true of the late Sultan Abubakar, as he was afterwards styled. Both he and his father have been referred to on page 45.

There were a number of cases of cholera amongst the native population in the beginning of the year. With the view of driving away this scourge the Chinese expended large sums in getting up processions, which for some days completely obstructed the principal thoroughfares in the town, and were accompanied by the burning of joss paper, the explosion of crackers and the beating of gongs, making it dangerous to attempt passing along the streets in carriages. The police were much blamed for the complete immunity they seemed to allow the Chinese in the perpetration of these nuisances, no attempt apparently being made to preserve any semblance of order.

In February, Colonel George Chancellor Collyer, who was styled Chief Engineer, Straits Settlements, retired from the service and left

for Europe. The principal works he had carried out were Fort Canning, the reconstruction of the works at Fort Fullerton, the erection of the attap barracks for European troops (who did not come until the buildings had to be re-attaped) at Tanglin; and the sea wall from Johnston's Pier to the old Fish-market at the east end of Teluk Ayer, which was called Collyer Quay after him. It had been designed by him in 1858, but was not completed when he left. Colonel Collyer, as regards the forts, could only carry out the orders from India, and they were not considered of any use. The Colonel, although he was a very busy man, always found time to give the benefit of his advice and suggestions to the Municipal Commissioners when they asked him, as they were often anxious to do, in which respect he was a favourable contrast to Colonel Faber, who acted for a time during Colonel Collyer's absence on sick leave, and declined to give such assistance. It was probably as well for the rate-payers, judging from the result of the public works Colonel Faber spent public money on.

Some people wanted to know why the good old Malay name of the hill at the New Harbour was changed to Mount Faber, who, a newspaper correspondent said, deserved no record in the place.

Colonel Collyer bestowed much pains on preparing a plan and estimate for a pier which he proposed should run out from the new sea-wall at Collyer Quay into 17 feet of water. His scheme was received with favor by the mercantile community, and it was proposed to carry it out by means of a Company, but it was afterwards said that that depth of water was too shallow for the class of vessels for which such a pier would be of the greatest utility, and the project was postponed for further information regarding the additional expense that would have to be incurred to extend it into the depth of water considered necessary.

As will be seen later, the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, which probably sprung out of Colonel Collyer's scheme, began in the next year. At the time he proposed the pier, the godowns along Collyer Quay were just being planned, and goods landed from ships on to such a pier could have been readily stored near the shore end; but the value of the property now, and the large traffic in the streets leading from the Quay to Boat Quay and the Chinese business portion of the town, would render such a scheme very inconvenient at the present day.

The Annual Report of the P. W. D. in June, 1862, said that the cost of Collyer Quay was defrayed by the merchants, the Government giving a certain amount of convict labour. The foundations could only be proceeded with once a fortnight, as it was built in one foot of water in ordinary tides. About two-thirds was completed at the beginning of 1861, and the work was not completely finished, and the roadway filled in for carriages to pass, for some three years afterwards. All the carriage and goods traffic was in the Square.

On 28th March a public meeting was held, which came to be called the Battle of the Bridges. It was held because it was given out that the Municipal Commissioners intended to place across the Singapore River at Flint Street an iron bridge that was coming out from England to replace the dangerous wooden bridge at Kallang.

Mr. John Purvis was in the chair, and he said a bridge at Flint Street should never have been thought of. Mr. N. B. Watson said a bridge near the mouth of the river would not help traffic to any extent, would prevent boats coming up the river, and injure the property on the river side, with which Mr. Reginald Padday agreed. Then Mr. Greenshields said the proper place for an additional bridge was at Market Street, as it was a wide street [it would not be thought so now, but it was wider than Flint Street] and Mr. M. F. Davidson agreed with him. Dr. Little said it would be a shame to use the new iron bridge at any other place than Kallang for which it was ordered, and much wanted [he had a plantation in that direction]. In his opinion the best site would be half way between Bonham Street and Market Street, with which Mr. José d'Almeida agreed. Then Mr. John Cameron said Bonham Street was the best place, as it was higher up than Flint Street, and boats would have more time to lower their masts.

Votes were then taken; 15 for Market Street, 13 for half way, and 12 for Bonham Street. Mr. Adamson then proposed that a bridge across the river near Ellenborough Market would be a great convenience, and tend to relieve the traffic over the other bridges, and that the iron bridge might be erected from Tocksing Street to East Road, which was carried by a majority.

The result was that the iron bridge ordered for Kallang River was erected there as first intended, and another iron bridge was placed where the first bridge had been, called Thomson's or Presentment Bridge, but was afterwards called Elgin Bridge after Lord Elgin. Both these bridges are still standing, but have been widened, the former when the steam tramways were made, which were afterwards abandoned. Both bridges were erected and opened during the year.

In May, Governor Cavenagh returned from Penang and occupied Leonie Hill House in Grange Road. Complaints were made about the inconvenience of the Governor's office being removed to the house, in place of being in town with the other public departments, as had before that been the case. The Governor's office was for a time at Leonie Cottage, a wooden house with an attap roof, which was said to be unsafe in case of fire; it was not likely, however, as fires in the country districts were almost unknown. The change led to much of the business which had before been transacted directly with the Governor in town, being passed through the hands of the Resident Councillor; but Colonel Cavenagh could always be seen at any moment in his office at Leonie Hill where he was always to be found without any ceremony, during office hours, working in a room downstairs.

The *Free Press* of 5th June contained a long account of the famous fight between the Sarawak steamer *Rainbow* and the six Lanun pirate boats on 22nd May. About 160 of the captives from Celebes, Pontianak, and other places, and two from Singapore were rescued, and testified their joy by kissing the hands and feet of those on board the *Rainbow*. Very many more were drowned, some of them having had their feet tied together by the pirates, who had treated their prisoners very brutally. The pirates fought to the last, and even after they were in the water would not allow themselves to be taken, and the destruction was most complete.

A great deal of notice was unfortunately attracted to the matter by the "extremely imprudent" (to use what was then spoken of as the mildest phrase) letter of Bishop McDougall of Sarawak. He sent a highly coloured narrative of his exploits, which filled three columns of the London *Times*; and praised his new double-barrelled gun, which never missed fire once in *eighty rounds*, without wanting to be cleaned; and more in the same way. No doubt the sinking of the *prahus* was perfectly just, and captives were released from inhuman captivity, and the pirates were as the Bishop styled them "pests of the earth."

The Singapore newspaper said that although there were some strange rumours in Singapore, at the time, about the exploits of the Bishop, the letter in the *Times*, and his desire to boast about his own warlike exploits, from behind the shelter of a bulwark, and in such language, came as a surprise to his acquaintances in Singapore, who had hoped that the knowledge would be confined to a few, and would never come to be the subject of very undesirable comment in the newspapers, such as the *Spectator*, *Examiner*, and other papers contained.

The Dutch Government sent a handsome gold chronometer to Captain Hewatt of the *Rainbow*, with an inscription that it was given in acknowledgment of his gallant and able conduct on 22nd May, 1862, by which a great number of Netherlands India subjects were delivered from the hands of pirates. It was publicly presented to him by Mr. W. H. Read at the Club House.

On 12th June a public meeting, called by the Sheriff at the written request of thirty-three of the principal European residents of the place, was held at the Town Hall to take into consideration the most efficient measures to adopt in order to control, if not repress, the vice of gambling then so prevalent. There was a large attendance, and it was admitted generally that gambling was carried on to a large extent, that it was very prejudicial to the place, and that bribery of the police, to obtain their connivance in allowing it, also prevailed.

Some said that it was not possible to prevent it, and to secure the integrity of the Police, without a farm. Others said it would be useless to propose it because of Exeter Hall and the House of Commons, and that Singapore would be disgraced in the eyes of the civilised world if it were allowed. Others said it was a social vice, not a crime against the public, and could not be stopped. A Chinese gentleman suggested that licensing should be tried for a limited time.

There was so much difference of opinion, that it was agreed a committee should be appointed to collect information, and report to an adjourned meeting. The matter seems to have ended there, as no report is to be traced. Notice had been drawn to the subject, because during the fortnight after the Chinese New Year, the police had allowed gambling to go on unchecked, and no satisfactory explanation of this circumstance had been given.

In the middle of this year a half holiday was first observed on Saturdays. The movement was started by Mr. Gilfillan of the Borneo Company and Mr. A. T. Carmichael of the Chartered Bank.

In September the Singapore Library was removed from the Raffles Institution to the Town Hall. It was in two rooms on the south side, downstairs.

Mr. Thomas Tivendale, who was for many years a very well known shipwright in Singapore, died on board the P. & O. Mail on his way home on 10th September.

On 1st July, 1863, Mr. Wm. Cloughton, the Director of the Patent Slip and Dock Company advertised that that Company had purchased the property and goodwill of the business of the late firm of Tivendale & Co., for repairing ships at Sandy Point alongside the Heaving down Hulk; and that the Dry Dock at New Harbour which had been opened in March, 1859, was 400 feet long, with 15 feet 6 inches depth of water.

In September the sum of £1,160, subscribed in Singapore for the relief of the Lancashire and Cheshire operatives, was sent to the Lord Mayor of London in aid of the Distress Fund, consequent on the effect of the American Civil War on the cotton trade.

In November the bombardment of Tringanu occurred, which led to a discussion in the House of Commons on 16th July, 1863, and was for some time a subject of comment.

In 1851 a Singapore trading junk had been seized and destroyed at Tringanu and thirty-five of the crew and passengers were put to death. Mr. Thomas Church, Resident Councillor at that time, went there to enquire into it, and made a demand for compensation which the Rajah of Tringanu refused to pay, and, unfortunately, no further proceedings were taken. This had nothing to do with the subsequent trouble, but it was thought that the misplaced leniency led the Rajah, who was still the chief of the country in 1862, to think that his disregard of the representations of the Straits Government would not involve him in any troublesome consequences.

An ex-Sultan of Lingga had gone to Tringanu, and repeatedly instigated attacks upon the neighbouring state of Pahang, which was invaded by one Wan Ahmad, acting under his orders, with a force from Tringanu, asserting that he was the only legitimate successor of his grandfather, Sultan Mahomed, as the ruler of Johore, Pahang, &c. The Siamese Government were informed of the inconveniences to trade arising from the man living at Tringanu, which was alleged to be a tributary of Siam, and of a Siamese gunboat having taken him from Bangkok to Tringanu on his way to join Wan Ahmad.

The King of Siam disclaimed all intention of supporting the ex-Sultan in attempting to disturb the peace of the Peninsula, and said he had given orders to the Rajah of Tringanu to send the ex-Sultan back to Bangkok, where he would be sent to reside in one of the interior Siamese provinces, so that he would be out of the way of stirring up mischief in the Malay Peninsula. As this was not done and the Siamese evidently intended to talk and do nothing more, and the approach of the north-east monsoon required that a stop should be put to the matter without delay, Colonel Macpherson, Resident Councillor, left for Tringanu on the 6th November in H. M. S. *Scout*, a 21 gun corvette of 1462 tons, for the purpose of removing the man and taking him to Siam.

Colonel Macpherson sent a letter on shore to the Rajah, saying what was wanted, and that he would land the next day. A long interview took place then, the Rajah alleging that the man was too ill to be moved, but a doctor of the *Scout* saw him and said there was nothing much the matter with him. Colonel Macpherson said it was desired to convey him in the manner most consistent with his own convenience, and he could go in his own state barge with his flag and that of the Rajah of Tringanu, in tow of a steamer, if he liked, but the Rajah positively refused to give him up.

Colonel Macpherson then said that if he were not given up by a certain time on the following day, he would resort to force. The time expired, and three guns were fired, and then a pause of some hours was allowed in the hope the Rajah would come to terms, but as he did not make any sign, the *Scout* and *Coquette*, a sloop of 677 tons which had also gone, opened fire upon the Rajah's *Kotta* or fort. The fire was kept up at intervals until dark, care being taken as much as possible to avoid injury to private property. A letter afterwards came from the Rajah professing great penitence for his conduct, and saying that the ex-Sultan had disappeared from Tringanu, and it was not known where he had gone to. It was understood that he was afterwards taken to Bangkok by the Siamese.

Mr. W. H. Read wrote to the *Free Press* at the time, saying that about twenty men had been killed at Tringanu, of whom eight at any rate had nothing to do with the matter, and suggesting that the object could have been realised by seizing the ex-Sultan, by which many innocent lives might have been saved; and that sufficient opportunity was not given to the King of Siam to take action himself. It was on these grounds that Lord John Hay brought the matter before the House of Commons.

Mr. John Cameron, at page 137 of his book, makes a passing reference to this occurrence, and says:—"Our moral influence, added to a few days' vigorous bombardment [he is wrong here it was only a few hours] was used in favour of one claimant to the Bandaharaship of Pahang, whose family has after all been set aside, and the man whom we opposed now reigns peaceably and quietly, by the people's choice."

How this occurred may be found in the following paragraph taken from the *Free Press* of 2nd July, 1862:—"By last accounts from Pahang we learn that Wan Ahmad has been left in indisputed possession of the country. After the death of the Bandahara at Pahang on the 2nd ultimo, the followers of his younger brother Tan Abdulrahman (or Ahman) installed the latter as Bandahara, but the greater part of the chiefs and people refused to recognise him, as he had long made himself very unpopular by his lawless conduct and his addiction to opium smoking. The support of the Johore Government was withdrawn, and under these circumstances he found himself unable to make head against his uncle Wan Ahmad, and he therefore withdrew to Kalantan, leaving the latter the only person then in Pahang in a position to assume the government. It will, we presume, depend very much upon Wan Ahmad's own conduct whether he will be left in undisturbed possession of Pahang or not. It is fortunate for him, as increasing

his chances of ultimate success, that the ex-Sultan of Lingga is at present at a distance from Pahang, and not in a position to interfere in its affairs. If Wan Ahmad is wise enough to rid himself of his connection with the ex-Sultan and to endeavour to govern Pahang with moderation, maintaining at the same time peaceful relations with his neighbours, he will probably remain unmolested; but if he lends himself to intrigues of the ex-Sultan or any one else against Johore he will certainly involve himself in much trouble and probably endanger his position as ruler of Pahang."

The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury in England had raised questions about the sufficiency of the revenue of the Straits to meet the expenditure, and the transfer to the Colonial Office was hanging off in consequence. With the object of overcoming the objection, the Calcutta Government sent imperative orders in very curt terms to enforce the Stamp Act in the Straits. On some previous occasions the Government of India had expressed its desire to raise additional revenue by means of stamp duties, but on the remonstrances of the inhabitants it had as often abandoned the design.

In May, a notification appeared in the *Government Gazette*, stating that under instructions from the Supreme Government the provisions of the Stamp Act would be brought into force in the Straits Settlement on or about the 1st of November following. The Singapore Chamber of Commerce immediately memorialised the Governor-General in Council on the subject, setting forth that the imposition of stamp duties would be a heavy and peculiar burden on the trade, from the fact that in the Straits goods were always sold on credit, for which promissory notes were taken, whereas in India and elsewhere such sales were generally for cash, and that the taxation already levied in the Straits Settlements was not only much higher than what prevailed in India, but that it was more than sufficient to cover all the expenditure that with any justice could be charged against the local revenue. In answer to this, the Governor-General in Council caused it to be intimated that in his opinion there was no sufficient reason for exempting the Straits Settlements from the operation of the Stamp Act, and that he was therefore unable to comply with the prayer of the Chamber.

On Thursday, 10th July, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall on the subject, and was very largely attended. The meeting expressed regret that the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce had not met with more consideration from the Viceroy of India; and as the revenue of the Straits was sufficient to pay all the legitimate expenses, the imposition of additional taxation was vexatious and uncalled for. It protested against the Settlements being saddled with the whole of the military expenditure, and a committee of Messrs. W. H. Read, W. Paterson, J. J. Greenshields, Abraham Logan, James Davidson (Mercantile Bank), W. Mactaggart and Joaquim d'Almeida, was appointed to draw up a Memorial to the English Ministry on the subject, and to the Viceroy.

The assistance of gentlemen in England interested in the Straits was sought, and efforts were made by Mr. Crawfurd and others to induce the Secretary of State for India to reconsider the matter, but without result. The Governor-General in Council declined to

accede to any delay pending these appeals to the Home Authorities, and adhered to his resolution that the Act should be brought into force at the time originally named. Officers were therefore appointed for carrying out the Act, but it was found that their arrangements could not be completed by the time fixed, and the Governor of the Straits Settlements, on his own responsibility postponed the period for bringing the Stamp Act into operation until the 1st of January, 1863, when it was accordingly initiated.

The determination thus shown by the Supreme Government to carry out the behests of the Secretary of State for India, in spite of all remonstrance, let to a renewed effort being made to have the Settlements placed under the Colonial Office, and thereby obtain such a degree of self-government as would be secured by having a Legislative Council on the spot.

The hurried way in which the Calcutta Government attempted to introduce the measure was amusing. It had to be postponed more than once for causes which showed how little was understood there about the Straits. The stamps sent were all in rupees, and there were no rupees in the place, and no rate of exchange was provided for. Then the number of stamps sent was altogether inadequate, and the natives could not understand about them. It all worked well enough after a time, but it always remained a question whether the community were not right in their objection, on the broad ground that it was an infringement of that free trade policy of Sir Stamford Raffles, which had made the place what it is, aud which it is so essential to maintain, and for which the community has fought so many battles. It was looked upon as the thin edge of a wedge to be resisted to the utmost. It undoubtedly led more quickly to the transfer.

The French mail line of the Messageries Imperiales, as it was then termed, began to run towards the close of the year. Messrs. Hinnekindt Freres and L. Cateaux, a Belgian firm of very good standing, which began as Hinnekindt Freres in Singapore in 1849, were the Agents in the preliminary arrangements.

The first steamer of the company to arrive from Suez, bringing the mails from London of 18th October, was the *Imperatrice*, which arrived at Singapore on the 21st November. The steamer *Alphée* going homewards about the same time. It was then and for some years afterwards a monthly service, and was due to the opening of Cochin-China and the Port of Saigon by the French. Emperor Louis Napoleon took a great interest in the line, and it was said that the arrangement for the building of the steamers was due to him. The first steamers were built at La Ciotat near Marseilles by Scotch shipbuilders engaged from the Clyde to work there, and after a few vessels had been built, the French workmen went on alone, and built very fine steamers. The *Imperatrice* was afterwards called the *Provence*, on the downfall of the Emperor.

By that steamer on the 21st November, Mr. Paul Brasier arrived at Singapore to arrange to take over the Agency from Messrs. Hinnekindt. Mr. Brasier lived in Singapore for many years, and died here on 24th September, 1887, having been Agent for the Company all the twenty-five years, and it is not too much to say that the

success of the line, and especially as regards the number of English passengers from Singapore who travelled by the French mail, was largely due to his being very much liked.

He lived with his family for a great many years at St. James, Keppel Harbour, where he died. He and Mrs. Brasier and their three children, who were all brought up in the place, attracted the friendship of all Singapore, with their amiable, courteous, and gentle characters. It was often said that Mr. Brasier, who was always cheerful and obliging, passed through a life of much trouble here. Mrs. Brasier died, and then his elder daughter who had married a French gentleman who was afterwards the Agent of the Company at Madras, then the younger daughter, who was very much liked in the place, died here; and when he died his son Réne, his only remaining child, was away at Hongkong. Mr. Réne continued in the Company's Agency here, and latterly was Agent, but he left Singapore in 1900 for Sydney, where he was appointed Agent, as the most important Branch in the East.

On 15th May, James B. Cumming, Simon F. Cumming and Hugh R. Beaver advertised that they had started the firm of Cumming Beaver & Co.

It was in this year that Mr. Thomas Braddell came to reside in Singapore. He had been Assistant Resident Councillor in Penang, and returned from leave after having passed for the Bar, and commenced practising in Singapore. He had been heard of in Singapore, as he had been in Penang and Malacca for eighteen years. He was one of the most useful and hardworking men that ever came to Singapore. It was said of him, after he died, that if he had had a longer education, he would have been a very eminent man. He left Ireland, where he was born, in 1823 at sixteen years of age, and went to a plantation in the West Indies. About 1844 he came to the Straits from Demerara, to manage the sugar estate called Otaheite in the Ayer Etam Valley at Penang, which belonged to Messrs. Brown & Co. About that time an alteration had taken place in the sugar duties in England, putting the British Indian produce on the same footing as the Colonies. This gave a great increase to the development of Province Wellesley; therefore in 1846 Brown & Co. and Mr. Nairne formed a Company and opened the Batu Kawan Estate in Province Wellesley, of which Mr. Braddell became manager and owner of four-sixteenths of the property, Brown & Co. furnishing the funds. The venture was unfortunate, as the estate got inundated in a very high tide and the crop was lost.

Mr. Braddell left the estate, and was on 1st January, 1849, appointed Deputy Superintendent of Police at Penang, and a few months afterwards was transferred to the Municipality as Secretary. From that he took charge of the Police of Province Wellesley, and in 1851 was sent to Malacca, where he was for three years. Until this time he had been heard little of in Singapore, and he used to tell how he went between Malacca and Singapore in schooners and sampans. In 1856 he returned to Penang as Magistrate, and in 1859 he was called to the Bar in England by the Society of Gray's Inn.

He resigned his appointment in Penang in 1862, and came down to Singapore to practise in the Supreme Court. He joined Mr. Abraham Logan in 1862, and they had offices behind Battery Road at the rear of John Little & Co.'s premises. They worked together until Mr. Logan went to Penang.

In January, 1864, he was appointed Crown Counsel of the Straits Settlements, and prosecuted for the Crown at the Assizes. He held the appointment, continuing his large private practice, until April, 1867, when he was appointed Attorney General of the Straits Settlements, on the Transfer, and held the position until he retired on 31st December, 1882, on a pension of $4,090 a year, and died in London on 19th September, 1891, at 68 years of age.

A very great deal of work was thrown upon Mr. Braddell as the first law-officer after the transfer. Many new Ordinances had to be drawn, and the law officers of the Crown in London gave him great credit for his ability in dealing with many difficult subjects. This was especially the case with the Crown Suits Ordinance. He was a man of great quickness of perception, great energy of purpose, and unwearied industry. He was, in his comparatively younger days, when he first came to Singapore, one of the most popular men of the place. He was a capital billiard player, and was to be seen in the theatre when any travelling company gave performances there, which were poor enough; but he used to say that it passed an evening occasionally, however bad the players were, and made a little diversion from work.

It was always pleasant to the jury to hear him conducting the cases at the Assizes, for he was most essentially a kind-hearted, straight-forward man, with a very pleasant, perfectly audible voice, and a fluent, but very simple, speaker. He had a very pleasant face and manner, and it was said of him after the Transfer, that he was the only official who could carry off the civil service uniform which came into use then among some, but not all, the officials, for he had a fine figure, and was over six feet in height.

Mr. Braddell was a most indefatigable worker, and used to sit up very late at night at his work. At one time he intended to write a history of Singapore similar to the present work, and he filled a great number of foolscap sheets of common Chinese writing paper with rough copies of old documents and *précis* of the contents of many others. Some few of these were printed in Logan's Journal, but there are several hundred sheets of other matter, which have been very largely made use of in compiling this book, as they were given into the author's possession. There are some who wonder why Mr. Braddell, who was a very busy man, should have spent so much time and taken so much trouble, about the stories of this place; but he was one of those, like Mr. Crawfurd, J. T. Thomson, G. W. Earl, John Cameron, and others, who were very willing to use their spare time in endeavouring to record the history of the place, the growing importance of which they foresaw and appreciated. Mr. Braddell wrote a number of papers in Logan's Journal, which did not all give his name, but among the sheets above spoken of, (which with similar papers, although not so voluminous regarding Penang and Malacca would make a small volume of themselves) is

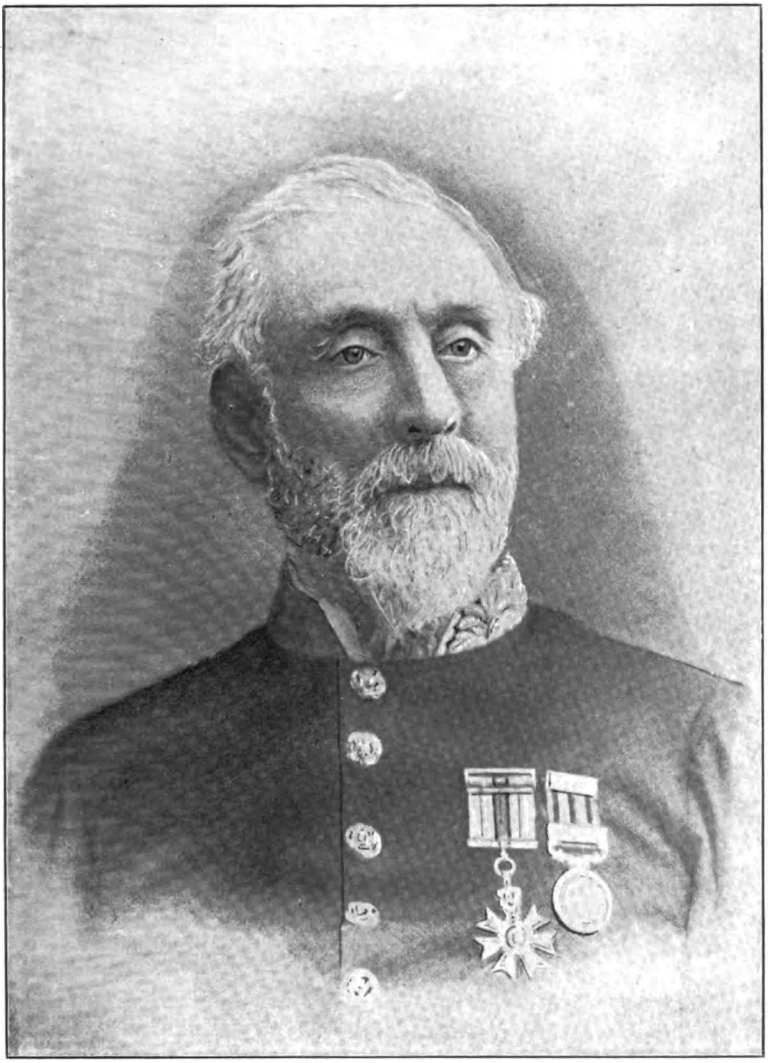
a list in his own writing of his contributions to the journal, which were as follows:—

Vol.	4	1850	Translation, Acheen Annals.	page 598
			Do.	„ 728
„	5	1851	History of Acheen	„ 15
			Translation Majellis Ache	„ 26
			Sijara Malaya—8 papers	
„	6	1852	Do.	„ 33
			Translation about Tay Tae Hoey	„ 545
			Do. about Colonel Farquhar	„ 585
			Do. about Abdulla's Schooling	„ 643
„	7	1853	Notices of Singapore	„ 325
„	8	1854	Do. 3 papers pages	97, 329, 403
„	9	1855	Do.	page 53
			Geneological Tables of Johore	„ 66
			Translation. Malayan Laws of Johore	„ 71
			Notes on the Chinese in the Straits	„ 109
			Life and Services of Raffles	„ 306
			Notices of Singapore	„ 442
New Series		Vol. 1	Notes in Malacca	„ 43
			Gambling and Opium Smoking	„ 66
			Notes of Dutch History in Acheen	„ 141
			Notes on Naning	„ 194
			Raffles and the Indian Archipelago	„ 266
			Map of Malacca	„ 296
Do.		„ 2	Sultan of Johore	„ 46
			Ancient Trade of Indian Archipelago	„ 237
			Europeans in 16 and 17 Centuries	„ 313

It was Mr. Braddell's manuscripts, which were in many cases only decipherable by the compiler of this book, who was well accustomed to his writing and method of contracting the words, that led, more than anything else, to undertaking this book. It seemed impossible to let all his useful, voluntary, and persevering labour go to the white ants for want of some one to turn it to the best account he could. It is much to be regretted that he did not live to read the proofs of this book, for he would have made it very much better.

As will be understood from the long translations of Malay works which he published in Logan's Journal, he was a very good Malay scholar, at a time when there were few residents who read and wrote it. The Malays had great respect for him, and the chiefs in the Peninsula looked to him, as they did to Mr. W. H. Read, as a friend to go to for advice. He was largely concerned with Mr. Andrew Clarke, in the Settlement of the Native States about 1874, and the appointment of the first residents.

He received the thanks of Government for his services on many occasions, and had the Perak war medal. He was made a C.M.G. in 1882. Three of his children are in the Straits now, one daughter and two of his sons, the latter following his profession, one of whom was for a time acting as Attorney General, while the holder of the office was on leave. Thomas Braddell is a name that should always be remembered with gratitude in Singapore, for it owes him much in many ways.



THOMAS BRADDELL, C.M.G.

CHAPTER LI.

1863.

IN January the Supreme Government directed the Governor to submit to the Chamber of Commerce, for their opinion, a Bill to authorise the levy of port dues in the Ports of the Straits Settlements. The opinion of the Chamber of Commerce was that the measure was totally uncalled for, and that if persevered in it would be highly damaging to the welfare of the ports in the Straits, which would thenceforth lose all claim to be called "free ports." The proposal was a favourite one with the Indian Government and had been frequently mooted by it, but as often had been discountenanced by higher authorities at home. The last occasion had been in 1857, when the Court of Directors objected to the levy of port dues in the Straits, and since that time nothing more had been heard of the subject until 1863. It was thought that the Secretary of State might have withdrawn the prohibition given by the Court of Directors, in which case the Indian Government would doubtless try to carry the measure through.

Colonel Cavenagh wrote to Calcutta supporting the view of the Chamber of Commerce, his despatch containing the following passage:—"Unlike the Ports of India, which are the natural portals of the commerce of the country, and to which therefore its carriers are compelled to resort, Singapore is a mere depôt, where goods, the produce of other countries, are stored, until a favourable opportunity for their reshipment to their final destination; hence it is requisite to offer some inducement to vessels to enter and discharge their cargoes. This inducement has hitherto been its freedom from all port charges. Doubtless Singapore is much favored by its natural position, standing as it does between the China Sea and the Straits of Malacca, and surrounded by Native States, still its position alone would not have led to its prosperity, had vessels been deterred from visiting its harbour by the fear of being called upon for heavy payments in the shape of anchorage dues."

In March several of the Singapore merchants then in London saw Sir Charles Wood, the Secretary of State for India, on the subject, and he was reported to have said that it was in consequence of the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce that the prohibition sent by the Court of Directors at Leadenhall Street to Calcutta in 1857, against the levy of Port Dues in the Straits, had been withdrawn by him. The Chamber had always protested in the strongest manner against any Port Dues in the Straits, and strongly objected to Sir Charles Wood's statement.

In August the *Free Press* contained the following:—"Sir Charles Wood remains obstinate in his refusal to withdraw his sanction to the levy of tonnage dues in the Straits. This is probably not of much

importance, practically, as the Government of India is pledged not to take advantage of the permission given to it by the Hon. Baronet to injure the trade of the Settlement, but it must make us all the more anxious to be removed from under the control of a person who has shown himself so wrong-headed and who has it so much in his power to damage our interests. The following is the latest appeal to Sir Charles Wood on the subject, and his answer:

To the Right Hon. Sir Charles Wood, Bart., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India.

Right Hon. Sir. By late advices from Singapore it appears the Supreme Government of India has suspended the act for levying Tonnage duties at Singapore and intimated its intention of abandoning it altogether; under these circumstances I trust you will see the inutility of persisting in cancelling (to the injury of many holders of property) the long standing prohibition to levying duties on the commerce of the Settlement, and that you will reimpose it, and thus replace Sir Stamford Raffles's proclamation in full force and integrity, as until that is done, the proprietors cannot feel secure in their property.

I have, &c., &c.,
C. R. READ.

8th June, 1863.

INDIA OFFICE, S. W.,
19th June, 1863.

Sir, I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., and to inform you in reply that Sir Charles Wood does not see in the circumstances therein represented any reason for reimposing the prohibition against the levy of Tonnage duties in the Settlement of Singapore.

I am, &c.,
HERMAN MERIVALE.

C. R. READ, Esq.

In February a petition signed by eighty-six of the European inhabitants was sent to the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking that Singapore should be transferred from the diocese of Calcutta, and made the centre of an Ecclesiastical policy as it was of a commercial system, and that with the Straits Settlements should be incorporated the bishopric of Labuan, with Singapore as the Bishop's residence.

In the *Free Press* of 16th July is a copy of a long report made by Captains Fraser and Forlong upon the proposed route across the Isthmus of Kraw to connect the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Siam; and on the 6th August some lengthy notes by Mr. J. D. Vaughan on the report, which had been read at the Royal Geographical Society on 26th January. It was said that there had been a tradition that there had formerly been a canal across the Isthmus. Mr. John Crawfurd, who was present at the meeting in London, made some lengthy remarks in objection to the scheme, from which the following extracts are taken:—

"Mr. Crawfurd said he had never visited the locality of the projected railway, but he knew pretty well what the nature of it was. Though this

peninsula was called by the authors of the Paper a strip of land, it was in extent about twice the size of Ireland, containing an area of 60,000 square miles. The greater part of it was thick forest, and the land was not by any means fertile except in minerals, a little tin, iron and gold.

"He could not, however, agree with the authors of the Paper in believing that the projected plan was in the least degree feasible; on the contrary, he was sure it was impracticable. The distance from shore to shore was 65 miles, of which 15 miles were described to be navigable by the so-called Pakchan River. This in reality was not a river, but an estuary of the sea, with only four or five fathoms of water for half the distance, and but a fathom and a half on the bar at low water. Then came the projected railway of 50 miles, at the terminus of which, on the eastern side of the bay, there happened to be no harbour at all. Such a terminus would never do to carry on the great trade of Europe and India with China and Japan. Then, with respect to the monsoons, the rough monsoon in the Bay of Bengal is the south-west monsoon, just the very opposite of that which prevails in the China Sea and along the whole of the eastern coast of the Malay peninsula, where the north-east was the boisterous one; its strength is frequently that of an eight or nine knot breeze. A ship could not with safety lie at the terminus, and even a small vessel of about 120 tons had not been able to come inside the bar.

"As to the alleged dangerous navigation of the Straits of Malacca, the Straits of Malacca are about 500 miles long and about 300 miles wide at the broadest part. There are no storms: there are variable winds and squalls, called "Sumatras," because they always blow from the coast of Sumatra, which last about a couple of hours. The Peninsular and Oriental Company have been carrying the mails by this route for the last eighteen years. During that period their ships have made between 600 and 700 voyages through the Straits, and have met with only one accident, which was caused by two of their ships running against each other in the dark, when one of them went to the bottom. The merchants of Calcutta and Bombay send their opium to China by this route, and out of 300 voyages made by their steamers not a single loss has occurred. Steamers belonging to the Royal Navy are constantly passing and repassing through the Straits of Malacca, and he had never heard of one of them being lost. For the last ten years also the Dutch Government have been sending a vessel once a fortnight, and during the whole of that time have never lost a vessel. He, therefore, took it for granted that the navigation of the straits was not so dangerous as had been alleged."

In this year an iron steamer, the *Pluto*, was sent from Calcutta to take the place of the old worn-out *Hooghly*; she had more accommodation, but her speed was hardly any better, and she required as much tinkering as the *Hooghly* did. The Calcutta Government saddled the Straits with an inefficient craft that caused "more expense than a new vessel." There were at this time two old Thames penny-steamboats, called the *Tonze* and *Mohr*, of about 80 to 100 tons each, which used to lie in the harbour, and were supposed to be useful against pirates.

The shipwrights, Buyers and Riach, built a vessel called the *Singapore* for the Netherlands India mail line of Mr. Cores de Vries, she was 600

tons, the largest vessel constructed in Singapore at that time, 186 feet long, 24 feet beam, and 16 feet deep; of teak and copper fastened. The engines and rigging were to be supplied in Java.

In May the Chamber of Commerce sent Petitions to the Government and the Governor-General of India, pressing upon the Government the advantages that would result from coining a British dollar. It suggested that instead of the coins having the effigy of the reigning Sovereign on the obverse, it should only have the Royal Arms, and that on the reverse there should be an inscription indicating the nature of the coin, such as "One Dollar," surrounded by scroll work. By adopting this plan the general appearance of the coin would remain the same during successive reigns, the only change at different periods would be in the date of issue. The suspicion and distrust which any considerable change in the appearance of a coin would be apt to raise in the minds of the Chinese and other natives would thus be avoided, and the Chamber trusted that this would be held a sufficient justification for their venturing to suggest such an innovation in the usual practice of making the effigy of the reigning Sovereign a part of the design impressed on coins issuing from the Royal Mints."

A Memorial was also sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking for the abolition of the heavy duty on pepper.

At this time the Oriental Bank was always known among the natives as the "Bank Besar," and the paper in June published statements made at the meeting in London in April, from which it appeared that the Bank was still very successful notwithstanding the great competition it had met with of late years. A dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 3 per cent. were declared, making, with a previous payment in the course of the year, a total distribution of 15 per cent. for 1862. The Chairman stated that during the 12 years they had been in existence they had paid 160 per cent. to the shareholders; and had thus paid back the whole of the Capital and 60 per cent. besides. It is a pity it did not go on in the old way, and there was a very considerable stir in Singapore in 1884, when it stopped payment.

An excursion party was made up in June to Gunong Pulai, and they were away four days. The result of their observations was unfavorable to the idea of establishing a sanatorium there. The reduction in temperature was not found to be great; and the distance from Singapore would present serious obstacles in the way of procuring supplies and, in the case of invalids, medical assistance. For a mere change of scene it was thought that Bukit Timah presented nearly as great advantages as Gunong Pulai, and its accessibility from Singapore was a great recommendation in its favor. The height was taken by the mean of two aneroids as 1906 feet, and by boiling water as 1833 feet. The difference by thermometer was taken as 8 degrees.

The only way at this time to cross the river from the Square to the Post Office and Stamp Office without going round over Elgin Bridge was in little *tambangs* or sampans, and the Municipal Commissioners (who must have been desperately anxious for funds, to descend to such small game to raise a revenue), farmed out the right of the ferry, and the farmer caused a strike among the sampan boys by asking too much from them for permission to ply. A wooden bridge on trestles, with a charge of a quarter of a cent (doit) was soon put up, and Europeans crossing over to

the Esplanade after office, used to give a cent or two every now and then. All carriages drove down Kling Street and Circular Road from the Square.

A very bad case of *Amok* occurred on 1st July in Shaik Madarsah Lane, Campong Glam. A Javanese Sailor ran amok, cutting a woman nearly to pieces, mortally wounding a man and a child, and inflicting wounds more or less severe on three other persons. He then set fire to the house in which this took place, and brandishing a kris in one hand and a large knife in the other, defied all attempts to capture him. Inspector Cox having arrived on the spot repeatedly called upon him to surrender, but he refused and attempted to break through the partition into the neighbouring house. Inspector Cox then fired at him through the venetians, intending to disable him, but the ball went through the heart.

The following paragraph on the paper in July looks like the first symptom of the interminable Acheen war of a few years later:—"There is a report that the Rajah of Acheen,—not approving of chiefs on the East Coast of Sumatra, whom he considered as his vassals, hoisting the Dutch flag—intended to try to bring them back to their allegiance by force, should softer means fail, and the Dutch government is of course prepared to assist those who have shown themselves so willing to come under its sway. If there is really any truth in this, we are afraid the Achinese monarch is only precipitating his own destruction, and giving the opportunity so eagerly longed for by our astute neighbours, of bringing the whole island of Sumatra under their exclusive dominion."

A very large fire broke out on the afternoon of Wednesday, 19th August, in the neighbourhood of Upper Circular Road, which cleared away a great number of old houses, and led to the wide, open street that now stands there. The fire cleared away nearly the whole block of buildings as far as Carpenter Street, and did a great deal of good to the town.

On 1st September was issued a little prospectus, the beginning in a very small way of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, Limited, which has grown to such large dimensions. It stated that the Company with a capital of $125,000 in 1250 shares of $100 each with power to increase, was started, and that applications for shares could be made to Mr. M. F. Davidson, before the 10th instant, when a meeting would be called, allotment made, and directors appointed. On 14th September an advertisement signed by Mr. Thomas Scott (then a partner in Guthrie & Co.) as Acting Secretary, appeared, giving the names of the Committee as Messrs. G. Cramer (Rautenberg, Schmidt & Co.), M. F. Davidson (A. L. Johnston & Co.), S. Gilfillan (Borneo Co. Ltd.), C. H. Harrison (Middleton, Harrison & Co.), Tan Kim Ching, C. P. Lalla, Thos. Scott (Guthrie & Co.), and C. H. H. Wilsone (Hamilton, Gray & Co.)

Mr. Cameron in his book written in 1864 says:—"One plan was to build a series of wharves at the nearest point of New Harbour, where ships can lie alongside, and connect these with town by a tramway or railway. Another was to construct a pile-pier running right out from the busiest part of the town into deep water, to enable ships of all sizes to come alongside and load and discharge

into trucks, which could afterwards be conveyed on tramways to the various godowns. The latter plan is one upon which Colonel Collyer, for some years Chief Engineer, spent a good deal of time and reduced into shape. Either plan appears to me feasible, and likely to prove profitable to the capitalists who would undertake it, and valuable to the town. The first has not many engineering obstacles, and the works connected with it could be made permanent, but the cost would be very great. The second plan, on the other hand, requires very limited outlay and though a considerable sum would have to be spent on renewing piles, yet similar undertakings in other parts of the world have, I believe, generally proved more successful than costly permanent erections. The water of Singapore harbour is never so seriously disturbed as to interfere with even the largest vessels lying safely alongside such a pier, and from the soundings obtained upon the site proposed, the bottom was found to consist of soft mud, so that ships might without danger ground at low water, should a pressure of business compel them to do so."

It was in 1865 that the works for the Naval Coal Depot at Pulo Brani were completed on behalf of the Admiralty. They consisted of two coal sheds, to hold 8,000 tons of coal, a small house for the Superintendent, and a quay wall and short wooden pier having 27 feet of water alongside at low tide. The site was ill-chosen, as the tides were dangerous, and in 1868 the famous transport *Himalaya* was in great danger owing to one of the mooring hawsers giving way and swinging round on the shore in the little bay ; it was said that her having steam up at the time was all that saved her.

The beginning of the present extensive works at Tanjong Pagar on the opposite side of Keppel Harbour was very unfortunate, but it led on to very great results. An earth and rock embankment, was being run out from the shore, and one afternoon about 3 p.m. a message came round the Square that there was a sight to be seen at Tanjong Pagar. All went down in gharries. The monsoon was just set in, and waves came rolling into the entrance from the old harbour. As each successive wave came, several yards of the embankment were swept away, and piece after piece went, until all the work that had been done disappeared, and nothing whatever remained to show for all the money that had been spent.

In September, 1865, some excitement was caused by the report that in blasting a hill at Tanjong Pagar for the Company gold had been discovered, but it proved not to be gold at all.

On 28th July, 1865, the following letter was sent to Governor Cavenagh :—"1st.—We have the honor to apply for the right to construct and erect an Iron Screw Pile Pier from the vicinity of Princes Street extending into the Harbour in a southerly direction for a distance of about 2,200 yards, with a view to afford wharfage to vessels loading and discharging their cargoes at the port of Singapore.

2nd.—We have the honor further to apply for the right to build a seawall from the vicinity of Princes Street to that of Tanjong Mallang and to fill up the seashore so reclaimed, with the view of constructing warehouses and other buildings necessary to the aforesaid pier, and to render the same otherwise available for general building purposes.

3rd.—We purpose to provide the funds for the above undertakings by means of a Joint Stock Company, with a capital of £200,000 now being formed for this purpose, and to which the rights granted under this application are intended to be conveyed.

W. H. Read,
Whampoa,
E. J. Leveson,
H. M. Simons."

This did not come to anything, but it will be noticed that the reclamation of Teluk Ayer Bay was then part of the scheme.

On 14th September the Bank of Hindustan, China and Japan, of London, established an Agency in Singapore, in charge of Messrs. Paterson, Simons & Co., which continued for many years.

The verandah question, which has reached such an acute stage at various times, commenced in October, when the *Free Press* said "The Municipal Commissioners have postponed carrying into effect their order that all the verandahs in town should be completely cleared from all obstructions, until the 1st January next. In coming to this resolution they have shown their wisdom; and we trust that during the interval they will consider whether it will not be prudent to modify somewhat the terms of their order, and confine themselves to enforcing what we believe the Court of Judicature has declared to be the right of the public in the verandahs, namely, a right of way or free passage along them. The Court has not said that the public has an exclusive right to the verandahs—or that the occupants of the houses, of which the verandahs form a portion, may not make such use of them as they find convenient, as long as they do not thereby prevent pedestrians from passing along them. That such use has been made of them for more than twenty years past, we can testify from personal experience, and we do not therefore very well see how the Commissioners can *legally* insist on their being entirely cleared.

"If it is considered desirable that the verandahs should be wholly set apart for the use of the public the aid of the legislature must be invoked. But the legislature in depriving the owners of town houses of part of their property will take care that they receive proper compensation for it. To do otherwise would be to commit an act of downright spoliation, to which we do not think any British legislature, however absolute its constitution, would lend itself."

In February, 1864, the Commissioners contented themselves with establishing the right of the public to a free passage along the verandahs; the rough and ready rule being that sufficient room should be left for two persons to walk abreast. This was in general readily complied with in places where people wanted to walk in the verandahs, and the owners of small shops had still the use of part of the space to show their goods, which was undoubtedly an advantage to the trade of the place, when the natives, and especially the Bugis traders, went walking in single file about the town, on the look out for bargains.

In the month of October a collision took place in the early morning in the Straits of Malacca between the steamer *John Bright*, on her way

from Singapore to Bombay, and the French barque *Salazes*, bound from Singapore to Penang. The barque sank in a few minutes but no lives were lost. It led to a lot of litigation.

The Chinese, in October, gave a great deal of trouble to the police by their clan and faction fights and several murders occurred in the course of the disturbances. One of the most effectual means of repressing these broils was found to consist in calling on the more respectable Chinese traders to act as special constables. A large number of females arrived from China during the latter part of the year, several of them, it was stated, being imported by some of the Secret Societies as a means of increasing their influence. The attention of the Government and the Police was called to the abuses likely to arise from permitting this, and they were urged to take some steps to ameliorate the condition of these immigrants, which was represented as being a species of slavery of the worst description.

On 18th November the startling news was received that the Confederate cruiser *Alabama* had come out to this end of the world, and had burned two American ships near Sunda Straits. The paper said it was to be hoped that she might fall in with some of the Northern men-of-war, so that her career of semi-pirate, by attacking and burning defenceless merchant ships, might be put an end to. The vessel arrived at Singapore on the night of Monday, 21st December, and the next day she went into New Harbour to coal, and great numbers of natives went down to see her. She left on the morning of Thursday the 24th, and proceeded up the Straits of Malacca. About 2 p. m. of the same day she fell in with the British barque *Martaban*, Captain Pike, from Moulmein to Singapore, laden with rice. The *Martaban* was formerly an American vessel called the *Texan Star*, belonging to the port of Boston, but she was sold at Moulmein to a British merchant and obtained a Certificate of British Registry. When she met the *Alabama* she was about ten miles away from Mount Formosa. The *Alabama* fired a gun across her bows and sent a boat on board, the officer in charge of which demanded the ship's papers. The master of the *Martaban* produced his Register, Port Clearance and other papers, and was then requested to go with them to the *Alabama*. He refused to do this, on which the Confederate officer said he would take charge of the vessel until he could communicate with Captain Semmes. Two armed men were then called on board and the boat was sent back to the *Alabama*. It soon returned bringing Captain Semmes, who at once proceeded to the cabin where he sat down and called for the ship's papers. The Master handed the Certificate of British Registry to him which he perused, reading out aloud the name of the owner and the date of the Certificate, 10th December. Captain Semmes said that he was not to be humbugged by any sham papers and that Captain Pike ought to have had a Certificate that the transfer was legal, and mentioned some other documents that ought to have been produced. He then turned to Captain Pike and said "I shall burn your ship." Captain Pike protested against this, and said that his papers were legal, but Captain Semmes called his officer and said "You will burn this ship, Sir" and immediately returned to the *Alabama*. The first Lieutenant of the *Alabama* then came on board and took charge of the *Martaban*. In the meantime the officer who first boarded the barque ordered the

lascar crew to hoist out one of the ship's boats and proceed in her to the *Alabama*, which they did. Captain Pike and his officers were told that they might take some clothes with them. Captain Pike was allowed to take two small trunks and the others one bag each, and they were assured that the property they took with them would be respected. Captain Pike placed in his trunks a bag containing Rs. 400 and some papers. The first lieutenant of the *Alabama* ordered the *Martaban's* anchor to be let go and the sails clewed up, and he directed some of his men to haul down the British flag which had been flying at the peak. The skylights were broken and tow steeped in tar was placed in the cabin and in the fore part of the 'tween decks. The officers of the *Martaban* were then ordered to proceed to the *Alabama* in their own boat, which had returned. Shortly after they reached the *Alabama* they saw the *Alabama's* boat returning and flames burst out from the *Martaban* at both ends. The *Alabama's* boat brought from the *Martaban* four bolts of cotton canvas and some twine, two chronometers, all the nautical instruments of the Master and Officers, a deep sea line and lead, two hams and all the poultry, an unfortunate cat being the only living thing left on board the *Martaban*. At 5 p.m. the *Alabama* proceeded up the Straits under steam and about midnight came to anchor about five or six miles off Malacca. At daybreak of the 25th Capt. Pike was called on deck and ordered to produce the keys of his trunks which were opened and the contents turned out. The rupees, a small toy pistol, a marine binocular and some papers were taken possession of. The bags of the officers were searched. Captain Pike and his officers were required to sign a paper stating that they would not serve against the Confederate States until regularly exchanged. The officers and crew of the *Martaban* were then embarked in one of the *Alabama's* boats under charge of two officers and proceeded towards the shore. One of the Confederate Officers landed to communicate with the authorities, and in about an hour he returned, when the persons belonging to the *Martaban* were put on shore. It was understood that Captain Semmes sent a letter to the authorities at Malacca stating that he was sorry to burn a vessel under the English flag, but he had his reasons for it! Captain Pike and his crew received every attention at Malacca and arrived in Singapore on the morning of the 29th. The paper said that Captain Semmes had committed a bold act in capturing and destroying a vessel sailing under a British register, and that his conduct savoured very much of downright piracy.

On the morning of the 26th December the *Alabama* captured two more American vessels in the Straits. These were the *Senora*, Captain Brown, and the *Highlander*, Captain Snow, both in ballast and bound from Singapore to Akyab. Both ships were destroyed within a mile and a half of each other off Pulo Loumat. The people who had been taken from the two ships were offered the choice of taking a cruise in the *Alabama* and being landed at the first port touched, or going adrift in their boats. They chose the latter alternative, and the *Alabama* was quickly steaming ahead leaving all the boats to get to land as they best could. During a squall which blew shortly after, one of the boats with eleven Africans, a portion of the *Senora's* crew, parted company

from the rest and was not heard of again. The remainder got on board a small native craft, but afterwards were taken on board the French ship *Pujet* going from Singapore to Madras, which put them on board a vessel for Penang. The *Alabama* then cleared right away to avoid two American ships, the *Wyoming* and *Vanderbilt*, who were after her, and, five months afterwards, she was sunk by the *Kearseage* off Cherbourg harbour in France, on a fine Sunday morning in May, while the good folks were going to Church.

At this time there was a little shed, about twelve feet square, in the centre of the south side of the middle road crossing the Square, in which was a telegraph line to the New Harbour Dock Company and the P. & O. wharf. It was the first telegraph line in Singapore, and was on a very small scale.

In November Mr. George Mansfield died in London. He had carried on business in Flint Street as a shipchandler as George Mansfield & Co., since 1861, and the business was continued under the same name by his manager, Mr. R. J. Wright, as a partner with Mr. William Mansfield.

CHAPTER LII.

1864

AS a great many reports were made of persons in the jungle in one locality having been killed by tigers, some pits were dug, and a party of police went out in January to a place where a cub had fallen into one of the pits. While they were standing in a circle round the pit, the tigress suddenly sprung out upon them, and one peon was shot, and died the same day, and the Deputy Commissioner had a bullet through his coat. The police then went away, and the cub being still in the pit, Neil Martin Cranie, who has been spoken of on page 221, went out. He sat down alone near one side of the pit, with his rifle handy over his knees, and threw some earth or stones into the pit. The growl of the tigress was heard, and she appeared in the jungle, on the opposite side of the pit, and sprung towards him over it. He fired while she was in the air, and she fell almost close to him. It was said at the time that it was no part of the duty of the police to kill tigers, which they did not understand, and that it would be better if they attended to their own business more, and if they were not sent out and allowed to shoot each other. A few days afterwards two men were killed three miles from town, and a tiger was seen at the second mile on the bridge at Bukit Timah Road.

The Siamese Government at this time was renewing its attempts to acquire rule over Perak, and it was said that the Rajah of Tongka, a Siamese feudatory, proposed to the Resident Councillor at Penang that the British Government should allow Siam to take possession of Perak, on the understanding that one-third of the revenue should be applied to pensioning the Perak Chiefs; one-third paid to the British Government; and the remaining third be retained by the Siamese. This was, of course, rejected, and the person who made it was warned that any attempt to disturb Perak would be resented by the English Government. It was looked upon as another attempt to assume rights over the whole of the Peninsula; and this was borne out by the way the ex-Sultan of Lingga had been twice allowed to leave Bangkok to stir up trouble in Pahang, notwithstanding the disclaimer of Siam that they were unable to prevent it.

A native was sentenced to six months imprisonment in Penang for having deceived by borrowing $200 on a piece of land, for which he had paid $23, and inserting $220 in the conveyance, in order to borrow a larger sum of money. It is mentioned because the practice is not unknown, and is a warning to those who lend money to natives on mortgage. Sir Benson Maxwell, in passing sentence, spoke strongly upon the conduct of the borrower.

Captain Nelson of the Madras Presidency, induced by the unceasing accounts appearing in the newspapers of the dreadful destruction of human beings in Singapore occasioned by tigers, wrote to the Government to suggest that an attempt might be made to poison the brutes by means of strychnine. He mentioned a case in which he succeeded in destroying a tiger, together with a great many vultures, jackals, dogs, &c., by putting strychnine on the carcase of a buffalo which the tiger had killed and only partly consumed, and to which he returned to complete his meal. The method recommended by Captain Nelson was to be tried here by Mr. Dunman, although he had doubts on the point, as repeated attempts had been made in Singapore to poison tigers, without any good result. Dogs had been tied up in the jungle in places resorted to by tigers, their necks having been previously shaved and rubbed with strychnine, means being taken to prevent their licking off the poison. Calves had also been tethered in the jungle with their necks prepared in the same manner, but none of the experiments succeeded, although from the marks of tigers' feet all round the bait in several instances, it was apparent that their notice had been attracted to it. In one or two cases strychnine had also been placed on the bodies of persons killed by tigers, but the tigers did not again touch them; and it had been generally observed in Singapore that the tigers did not return to eat bodies, whether of men or beasts, which they had only partly consumed.

On the Queen's birthday, 24th May, the gas was lighted in the town for the first time. The Gas Company had made a push to have the mains laid in the principal streets to allow of this being done. When the lamps were lighted, natives were seen going up to the lamp-posts, and touching them very gingerly at first with the tips of their fingers; they could not understand how a fire could come out at the top, without the post getting hot, which was by no means unreasonable, as they could not know what gas was.

The Singapore Gas Company, Limited, a London Company, did very good work for the town for thirty-eight years, and sold the business to the Municipality in 1901. Soon after the gas was introduced, petroleum oil came to the place, about 1868, and the first lamp came up from Batavia to Mr. W. H. Read. It was a chandelier in his drawing room, with six lamps, and astonished the natives not a little. Mr Read had to get the oil specially from Batavia, but its use became general before long, and no doubt seriously affected the Gas Company.

Mr. Whampoa had gas laid on all the way to his house at the 2½ miles on Serangoon Road, in June 1866; and it was proposed to light Tan Tock Seng's Hospital opposite with gas, as it was said by some of the Committee that paraffin oil lamps would set fire to the attap and plank wards, which others doubted. It was not done, and oil has been used to the present time, some thirty years, without any accident, and at a very considerable saving of expense. The native shops and dwelling houses in town used gas pretty freely at first, but it was replaced by oil in most instances in course of time.

In June the Parsee firm of Byramjee Hormusjee Cama & Co. opened a school in Tanjong Pagar Road in the bungalow that had been formerly occupied by Mr. Cama. He established the school which was carried on for many years, and was kept up at his expense, as a free school for Chinese and others. At the end of the month there were 103 pupils, mostly Chinese.

Mr. James Guthrie some years before had established at his own expense a school for Malay boys at Tanjong Pagar, the average attendance in 1864 being about forty pupils, the instruction being in Malay only. At the Cama School the boys were taught English.

There were some very large mercantile failures this year, two among the European firms, one of the oldest in the place having suspended payment with liabilities of over a million of dollars. Trade in Singapore had never had such a shock and there was almost a stagnation in the market as far as selling manufactured goods was concerned. Very heavy failures among the Chinese firms occurred in June, and in that month there was a foolish panic among the natives about the security of the bank notes, and there was a run upon the banks for silver in place of them. At the Chartered Bank they had a lot of dollars, so they insisted on paying cheques in silver only, and those who cashed the cheques found they had to take away a heavy load of dollars, instead of the convenient, and easily locked up bank notes, and the rush to cash the notes gradually ceased.

There were four Banks in the Square at this time. The Oriental Bank in what were called Spottiswoode's Buildings in the centre of the East side, where Wm. Spottiswoode & Co.'s offices formerly were, of which Mr. John S. Scrymgeour was Manager.

The second was the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China in what was called Almeida's Buildings, at the centre of the south end of the Square, where Dr. Jose d'Almeida's offices at one time stood, and where the Mercantile Bank of India now stands; it was always spoken of as the Mercantile Bank, and Mr. James Davidson was Manager at this time; he left the Bank in consequence of its being heavily involved in the failure of the European firms just spoken of, and became a broker, the beginning of them in Singapore. The brokerage for a short time, till competition speedily set up, was one quarter per cent. each way! The mercantile community gave a large ball in the Town Hall to Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, who had been very generous hosts in the days when the guests used to sit down at a large dinner party at their house at 7 o'clock, the hour in those days, and did not rise until nearly midnight. It was the first ball, it is thought, in the Town Hall.

The third Bank was the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China at the north corner of the Square and Prince Street, of which Robert Duff was the first Manager, and Charles Smith Sherwood was Manager in this year, and Mr. James Greig was Accountant. This was always known as the Chartered Bank, to distinguish it from the Mercantile. These three Banks all carried on business for many years.

The fourth Bank did not remain long. It was the Asiatic Banking Corporation, with its office at the opposite end of the Square to the Mercantile Bank. Mr. John Steel of the Mercantile Bank was the first Manager, and John Jamieson Winton was Accountant, and afterwards Manager.

In consequence of the great loss by the failures of the Chinese firms, it was decided at a General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on 13th June, that from the 1st July the term of credit allowed to buyers of Imports should be reduced from three months to two, and those firms which were not members of the Chamber should be invited to carry out the resolution. It was generally agreed to, and it was hoped it would have a wholesome effect, but as happened before and since, some of those whom it suited to secure business by breaking their promise, unknown to their neighbours, soon broke up the rule which was really made for the advantage of all, if all had honestly abided by it. It was suggested that cash sales only should be made, but the proposal was not actually brought forward in the Chamber.

In the early days the Europeans had capital to use to find outlets for goods, and the Chinese dealer, who not seldom had a short time before been a cooly or salesman in a shop, or perhaps a "boy" or servant to his master in a European firm, had acquired special knowledge of the wants of some neighbouring markets, and perhaps had special opportunities of access to them. If this was carried on honestly, credit could be given with comparative safety. But times had changed, the few dealers had grown into many, and a composition of thirty per cent. was found by some of them to be a profitable way of winding up a business; to begin again when the trouble had blown over. At times there was an epidemic of failures in the bazaar, which spread like typhus fever. The competition for business in the European, and especially in the German firms, led to more and more extended credit, and holding over of promissory notes after they were due, and then came the collapse, and the acceptance of a percentage of as much as could be squeezed out of the defaulter, rather than pottering over wretched insolvent estates for several, or many years, with an even worse result.

On the 24th November, in the evening, the French Mail Steamer *Hydaspe* left Singapore for Batavia. She was the commencement of the line of the Messageries Imperiales between Singapore and Batavia in connection with the mail steamer from Europe. She was in charge of a Dutch Pilot, and next morning there was some excitement in the Square at the news that the steamer had run hard and fast on the well-known Pan Shoal at the entrance of the Straits of Rhio, only 22 miles from Singapore. A large rock went right through her bottom, and several steamers tried to tow her off, but it was an impossibility, and she remained there afterwards as a warning to fools. She was sold by auction on 30th November, six days afterwards. A Samarang paper said that the pilot on board the *Hydaspe* was an Englishman, and that he had been bribed by a Singapore firm to put the steamer on shore. The Batavia newspaper however said that the pilot was a Dutchman, and that the latter statement was ridiculous.

On the 28th December, to provide funds for laying out the Gardens, a horticultural fete and fancy fair was held in the Mess House of the Tanglin Barracks, which was still unoccupied. It was held in the forenoon, and was made a good deal of.

This year ended up badly, with the first fire that was known to have occurred in the European quarter of the town, but by no

means the last, and at a place close to which serious fires occurred several times afterwards. At midnight or shortly after, on Saturday morning, the 31st December, McAlister & Co.'s shipchandlery store at the corner of Battery Road and Flint Street, where the Chartered Bank stands now, was burned out, nothing but the walls of the two large buildings being left standing. How the fire was occasioned there was nothing to show. The adjoining building was occupied by Charles Wilson & Co. as a sail loft, who had lately begun the business. The fire communicated with the loft by the beams in the roofs. Their shipchandlery store on the other side of Battery Road was not on fire, but the sail loft was burned out. The next godown was that of Mr. Richard Brennand, who had been a clerk in Smith Bell & Co., and commenced business in his own name in 1863, while the next building was the shipchandlery store of George Mansfield & Co. There was one continuous roof over the whole of these premises, and the fire quickly spread along them, before there was time to check or control it. People came hurrying in from Tanglin, for there was no fire brigade at this time, and every energetic person gave all the help he could under the direction of Mr. Thomas Dunman of the Police and Major MacNair the Engineer. The doors were forced open, some boat crews landed from the ships in the harbour, and a number of Artillerymen came down from Fort Canning, but the merchant sailors and the soldiers could not resist the sight of so much liquor within reach, and were committing so much wanton destruction, that they did more harm than good, and the officers were asked to remove them. The Police had two hand fire engines; Guthrie & Co. had another; the convicts brought theirs from the Old Jail, and the marines and sailors from H. M. S. *Perseus* brought a small engine; but with rope, tar, oil, and all the combustible materials in shipchandlers stores, they did not do much. McAlister & Co.'s loss was about $45,000, the loss of the others was not so serious. A good deal of their goods were removed, but they were so much damaged by water that they had to be sold, and it was more than doubtful whether it was an advantage to carry them out, as they blocked up Battery Road, and sold for very little after all.

The annual Government Report for this year said that the convicts were employed in filling up the swamp at North Campong Malacca. That the old Court House [now the store room behind the Printing Office] had been fitted up and converted into the Post Office. That a Government Bungalow had been built at Changhi, and that the Dutch Telegraph Office [on the river-side near where the back of the Public Offices are now] had been purchased from the Netherlands Indian Government, and was used for the offices of the Master Attendant and Shipping Office. The spire of Andrew's Church had been completed, and four handsome iron gates had been purchased for the entrances to the compound.

On 4th July, the foundation stone of the new Court House was laid. Owing to the site selected having been part of the old river bed, the foundations gave a great deal of trouble. It was used for a few years as a Court, while the old portion of the present Court House was used for the Public Offices. An exchange was then made, and the large Court room was turned into the present Council Chamber, and afterwards the building was largely extended both back

and front, at various times, to its present dimensions. Alexandra Road, connecting Passir Panjang and River Valley Roads was made in this year. In addition to being a useful line of communication, the side ditches improved the drainage of the neighbouring country. One half of the cost was contributed by Mr. Lozé, who had been book-keeper in Hamilton Gray & Co., and other land-owners; and Tampenis Road, formerly a mere bridle path was made into a cart track; and the A. B. C. or Ordnance Bridge, to connect North and South Campong Malacca, as well as Fort Canning with the Arsenal at Pearl's Hill, was completed.

In May there died an old inhabitant of Singapore, Syed Abdulrahman bin Mahomed bil Fagi, better known as Tunku Tingga, about 90 years of age. He was a younger son of Syed Hussain, a wealthy Arab merchant of Penang, whose eldest son Syful Alum Shah, through his father's influence, became king of Acheen in 1815, the reigning sovereign being deposed by his subjects. Syful Alum Shah did not, however, long enjoy the kingly state, as the legitimate sovereign was restored to authority in 1819 by Sir Stamford Raffles, under the auspices of the British Government, Syful Alum Shah being allowed to retire to Penang, on a pension. Syed Hussain left considerable property, part of which, by his will, he devoted to charitable purposes. According to Mahomedan usages this ought to have been expended in alms, prayers, &c., but the then Recorder of the Straits, Sir W. Norris, directed that the money should be invested and the interest applied in annual grants to the Penang Free School and the Singapore Institution. This and other family matters so mortified Tunku Tingga, who was one of the executors of his father's will, that he left Penang and settled in Singapore about 1840, never afterwards revisiting Penang. To the last he always expressed a keen sense of the injustice which he conceived had been perpetrated by the decision of the Court. Tunku Tingga was a person of mild and pleasing address and was much respected by his countrymen and co-religionists. The Raffles Institution draws a share of the income to this day.

In this year Mr. John Cameron published his book "Our Tropical Possessions in Malayan India," being a descriptive account of Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca; their peoples, products, commerce, and Government." The book is very readable, and the descriptions are very good and not highly coloured, as is too often the case with works of the kind. It was very useful in connection with the agitation for the Transfer, as it drew attention to the prosperity and value of the Straits Settlements, which were then little known or appreciated in England. The book was of most interest to those who wished to know something of Singapore, or intended to come here, and Mr. Cameron had the thanks of the community for his trouble. It had seven coloured lithographic illustrations.

It does not contain many details of the History of Singapore, but is full of matter which will always be interesting to those who reside in the place. There is one mistake about the History of Singapore which it may be well to notice here, as it was pointed out at the time, and would no doubt have been corrected if a subsequent edition had been issued. On page 206, it says that, after being a dependency of Bencoolen for four years,

it was placed under the Bengal Government, and in 1825 Singapore and Malacca were united to Penang, and the incorporated settlements continued the fourth Presidency of India until 1829 when it was again placed under the Bengal Government *in which condition of dependency* it remained to the time the book was written in 1864. The fact was that the Straits were not a dependency of Bengal, but were exactly in the same position as the Governments of Bombay, Madras, and Bengal, though it was not styled the fourth Presidency of India. There was no connection after 1851, when the Governor-General of India in Council relieved Bengal of her "dependency" and made the Straits quite as much a Presidency as they had been from 1825 to 1829. They had no connection with the Bengal Government, the Governor corresponded direct with the Supreme Government of India just as the Governors of the other Presidencies did, and it continued so until the Transfer in 1867.

At the end of the book is a useful table of the fruits of Singapore, with their use, characteristics, and botanical names. Attention was called to the title of the book, as Malayan India, which some considered a misnomer, as the Malay Peninsula is not India; it arose it was suggested, from the Straits being associated in its Government with India.

John Cameron was a well-known and popular resident in Singapore for thirty years. He was a master mariner, commanding ships trading in Australia. He was so unfortunate as to lose two vessels, and after the second, some friends in Singapore in 1861 helped him to become editor of the *Straits Times*, which they bought; and soon afterwards Captain Edward Maher Smith and he became joint proprietors of it. They also carried on business together as John Cameron Co., in the Australian trade. He continued to edit the newspaper until 1867, when Alexander Duff joined him. Mr. Cameron died at Monk's Hill on Bukit Timah Road on 29th December, 1881, at the age of 46 years. Captain E. M. Smith also commanded sailing vessels, trading out of Singapore, from 1850, and he was for a year, in 1856, in the ship-chandlers' store of Campbell & Co. For several years up to 1861 he commanded the *Louisa*, and in that year he settled on shore and was official assignee, and a ship surveyor, until 1866, when he became the first manager of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, and the great success of the undertaking was largely due to him in its young days. As a partner in John Cameron & Co., he had become responsible for a serious loss occasioned by the sinking in the harbour of a gunpowder-hulk which was owned by them, for which they were held liable in an action brought by the owners of the powder. This had caused the loss of all his savings, and he joined the Dock Company. He left the dock in 1881, and was succeeded by John Blair. Captain Smith retired to England, but came out again to Singapore after a few years to look after some investments that had been made by his agent, and he died in St. Thomas Walk on 29th July, 1886, at the age of 64 years.

The first Malacca steamers began to run in this year. They were two small steamers, 54 and 56 tons respectively, built in Singapore, called the *Enterprize* and *Fair Malacca*, and were very remunerative. They were always filled with passengers, and soon superseded the schooner trade between the two ports.

CHAPTER LIII.

1865.

AT this time the hotel at the corner of the Esplanade and High Street, opposite the Court House, was called the Hotel de l'Esperance, and was kept by a Frenchwoman. At the beginning of the year Mr. Casteleyns, a Frenchman who had kept a hotel on Beach Road called the Hotel de l'Europe, removed from there to the site of the former, and took the old name with him, and it has been known to this day as the Hotel de l'Europe. The hotel then had the two houses, to which the "barracks" were afterwards added, and the Freemasons' Hall occupied the third house at the corner of Coleman Street.

The bridge across the river at Hill Street, called Coleman's Bridge, was finished in February. It was of wood, not well constructed. It cost about $10,000, and was built by Government, who had a difficulty in getting the Municipality to take it over—they said it would not last, and they turned out right. An iron bridge, it was said, would have cost $25,000, and lasted many times as long.

On 24th February a proclamation was made by beat of gong that the Sarawak cents, which had been coming into circulation in Singapore to the great financial advantage of the Sarawak Treasury, and to the corresponding disadvantage of the Straits finances, would not be received in payment by the Treasury or the Municipality. The coolies called them *man* doits in contradiction to *woman* doits, as the former had the head of Sir James Brooke, and the latter the head of Queen Victoria. Some Chinese traders in Sarawak made a regular practice of shipping cents from there to make payments in Singapore, obtaining them at a large discount in Sarawak, where dollars were in request. It was a long time before the mischief was put an end to, but it was largely due to the apathy of the Singapore Government in not obtaining a sufficient supply of subsidiary coin, a mistake which continues to the present day. The profit on it might be made a constant source of revenue if the Government made it as easily to be obtained as postage stamps, in various parts of the town.

On the 15th March a meeting was held in the Exchange Room to consult as to the establishment of a local Marine Insurance Company in Singapore—Mr. James Davidson in the chair. It was proposed and carried "that a Marine Insurance Company should be formed in the place, and that it should be called the Singapore Insurance Company, Limited." It was proposed also that the capital should be $1,000,000 in a thousand shares of $1,000 each. An amendment was made, that the arrangement should be 2,000 shares of $500 each, but the former proposal was carried. A provisional

committee was composed of the following gentlemen :—Messrs. G. Cramer, J. Davidson, C. H. Harrison, S. Gilfillan, C. H. H. Wilsone and Seah Teck See. The proposal was dropped as it was found that the Indian Act relating to Limited Companies expressly excluded Banks and Insurance Companies from its provisions.

It was in April this year that the first burials took place in the new cemetery in Bukit Timah Road. The cemetery on old Government Hill, mentioned on page 96, ceased to be used, and the Commissioners, in 1863 and 1864, had acquired the new site.

The tombstones in the old cemetery on the hill-side seem now like a memorial of the fading-out of memory in Singapore of many of the oldest inhabitants, rather than a monument of those who were laid there. The tombs which are still standing are fast falling into pieces and the inscriptions becoming illegible. From time to time, by private persons and the help of the Public Works Department, the inscriptions have been cleaned or repainted, and the fallen brick work or granite stones replaced in position. When Sir Frederick Dickson was Colonial Secretary he had this done, about 1886. It seems a pity these old inscriptions should be lost, and the Government might, perhaps, employ a clerk for a month or two, to copy such as are still legible, and then have then written alphabetically in a book to be kept in the Library, the more so as the registers of burials in that cemetery are not to be found. There may be copies in Calcutta, but it seems very doubtful. The great dearth in general of all the documents before the Transfer in 1867, is very remarkable.

On the right-hand side close to the entrance through the big archway is a very large, decaying tomb, which should always be kept in order. It has inscriptions on four sides. On the front it says that it is erected by Captain the Hon. Arthur A. Cochrane, C.B., and some of the officers and crew of H. M. Ship *Niger*, in memory of their fallen comrades. The other three sides explain it. On one side the inscription is headed "Drowned," with four names, ages, and ratings. Another side has "Died of Disease" with fourteen names, eight having died in Singapore. The remaining side is "Killed in Action," and four names; two names of those killed in Commodore Keppel's famous action at Fatshan Creek, on "The Glorious First of June," 1857; and two at Canton on January 5th, 1858. The inscriptions can only be read with much difficulty, but a little paint and a little care will easily renew them, as they are cut into granite slabs.

On one occasion the compiler of this book, going to try to ascertain the date of the death of an old Singaporean, found the native care-taker using an old tombstone with an inscription on it, as a curry grinding stone. The wall up the centre divides the Protestant from the Roman Catholic portion, about which there was much correspondence between Padre Beurel and Governor Butterworth. For some years no difference had been made, as was said to have been the practice in India. When the new cemetery in Bukit Timah Road was laid out, the two divisions were again separated by the broad centre path leading from the present turnstile, which, within

the last few years, has taken the place of the large central archway, through which the coffins always used to be carried.

The area purchased for the new cemetery was acres 23-1-0, and on 17th February, 1875, the Municipality bought from the Administrator of Mr. Lozé's estate, as he had then died, a further area of acres 22-2-11.

According to the printed records of the Municipal documents, the cemetery had been purchased from the East India Company on 22nd January, 1864, by Indenture No. 72, of the District of Claymore, for one Rupee, for ever. But this does not represent the truth, and Government and Municipal Records should not contain suggestions of what is incorrect.

The following passage in the *Free Press* of 8th June, 1865, remarking upon the Municipal Expenditure for the preceding year, first drew attention to the matter; it is speaking of the Municipal accounts, just published, of the year before :—

"The second item we have to censure is the outlay of $10,000 for the purchase of the piece of land now laid out as the New Christian Cemetery. The price to us appears exorbitant; we do not believe it would have fetched one fourth the sum at auction. We suppose the Commissioners had set their hearts on the land, and the proprietor knew it. Surely as much land could easily have been obtained in more suitable sites for a mere fraction of the sum."

On making enquiry it is found that on 30th June, 1859, the East Indian Company granted the land in question for ever to C. R. Prinsep, spoken of in several places in this book, in consideration of a payment of Rs. 255.12.0. On 30th December, in the same year, his Singapore Agents leased it for 9,999 years to Syed Abdulla, and on 14th January, 1864, Syed Abdulla and C. R. Prinsep surrendered it to the East India Company. No consideration is stated for that surrender, in the note that is made of it on the back of the original lease in the Land Office Records, and the original deeds are not to be found, but eight days afterwards on 22nd January, the grant already mentioned was given by the Government to the Municipal Commissioners, who had before that paid $10,000 for the land.

The amount mentioned in the *Free Press* is correct. This is clear from the Municipal accounts for the year 1864, on page 307 of the *Government Gazette* for 1865, which shows that a loan of $28,000 was raised upon the Rates and Taxes, from which $10,000 was paid for "Purchase of Land for the Cemetery," and $1,005.94 for "Account of Drainage, &c., of the Cemetery." The other side of the account shows that $1,900 was received as "Government contribution towards the Cemetery," the reason for which is not traced, and $500 for "Price of a small piece of the Cemetery sold to Mr. Lozé." The Municipal Minutes also show that in October, 1863, there had been an arbitration awarding $10,000 as the value of the land. There is no doubt that there was some reason for the suggestion in the *Free Press* as to an excessive value having been paid, and the persons chosen as arbitrators seem not to have been selected on account of their impartiality. The matter was the subject of unfavourable remark for many years, as it was certainly a bad site, and a very dear bargain indeed at that time.

When this Cemetery was first used, it was a very dismal place, with no sufficient drainage and water-logged within a few inches of the surface. Mr. R. C. Woods, one of the Commissioners, took the matter in hand, and gave much of his spare time for several years to planting trees and laying out the ground, for horticulture was his favourite hobby. The community have been much indebted to him for making the place as ornamental as it could be made on such a site. This Cemetery is now, in its turn, about to be closed, as the parts still without graves are so low as to be quite unsuitable. It was only by heavy expense for drainage that the place could be used at all. When it was consecrated by Bishop McDougal, of Sarawak, the choir walked round the Protestant portion of the ground, and in places were stepping through water several inches deep.

In connection with this matter there is a minute to the Commissioners by Mr. MacRitchie, the Municipal Engineer, who, unfortunately for Singapore, died here in 1896, which in the light of the present day is remarkable and prophetic. It was dated 4th May, 1893, and little or no attention seems to have been paid to it then. At that time the Chasseriau Estate on Bukit Timah Road was being sold, and it was disposed of by a Bank who held a mortgage on it for $30,000. Mr. McRitchie sent large plans with his minute, and said that 750 acres of the land would be a good site for another cemetery, and advised its purchase, on account of the bad and low state of the ground on Bukit Timah Road, which he condemned as unfit for use as a cemetery. He also recommended, and it was the principal object of the minute, that a large part or the whole of the Estate should also be purchased for the water-works reservoir. He said that the daily supply was 3,500,000 gallons a day, and that he expected it would in time reach 5½ to 6 millions, which would far exceed the storage in the then existing reservoir and adjacent extensions. As a matter of fact, on one occasion in the present year, 1902, the supply on one day reached over 6,000,000 gallons. The result of not following the suggestions in the minute which were, no doubt, equally due to the late Mr. Howard Newton, the Assistant Engineer, is that the Commissioners have lately made two purchases of a portion only of the same Estate for about $58,000, and will have to spend a very large sum to purchase another piece of land elsewhere for the cemetery.

The first funerals in the new cemetery were the result of a terrible accident now to be related. On Saturday afternoon, 15th April, there occurred the worst accident that had been known in Singapore.

The Tumongong of Johore had ordered a steamer from England. It was the first he had, and it had been suggested to him by Mr. James Meldrum of Johore that he should buy a steamer with a twin screw that was for sale by Lairds of Birkenhead. If he had done so, Johore would have possessed the first twin screw vessel. The agents in England, however, bought an iron screw steamer of about 75 tons, built at West Hartlepool, and she was named the *Johore*.

She arrived at Singapore in March, and was at the New Harbour Dock, always called in those days Cloughton's Dock, to be overhauled. She had been a very long time on the passage out, and

it was thought afterwards that this was the fault of the engineer, and of the crew having been engaged by the month instead of for the voyage. She had actually been over as far as the Coast of South America on the way.

Easter Sunday was the 16th April, and in the preceding week the Tumongong had asked the Governor, and a number of the officials and leading people in the place, to go on a picnic round the island in the steamer on Easter Monday, to start from Dalhousie Pier at 8 a.m. Johnston's Pier was then a small place, little used; the men-of-war boats used to land at Dalhousie Pier, which was in front of the Dalhousie monument.

On Saturday all the silverware, &c., was taken on board the *Johore*, and arrangements made for the picnic. On the Saturday the engines were to be tried, and the steamer taken out into the Roads to lie off Dalhousie Pier, ready to start on Monday morning. A steamer was a new toy to the Malays, and a number of them were looking forward to the run out to the harbour, as a Saturday afternoon's amusement.

Steam was got up at noon and it was intended that the vessel should leave at 2 p.m. At that time Inche Wan Abdulrahman, a younger brother of the Tumongong, went on board, and found there Mr. Wishart, the Superintendent of the New Harbour Dock Company, and Mr. Hugh Bain, the Engineer of the Company, who were seeing after some carpenters who were fixing seats for use on the Monday. They went on shore, and Inche Abdulrahman asked the Captain of the *Johore*, a Malay named Abdul Talip, why she did not start, and he replied that there was something wrong with the engines. Abdulrahman looked into the engine-room and saw them pulling at the starting lever, but the vessel did not move. At this time Hussein bin Abdullah, the eldest son of Abdullah Moonshi, the writer of the Hikayit Abdullah, who had come on board for amusement, came upon the bridge to Abdulrahman and said there was something wrong with the engines, and that the engineer, Mr. Miller, wanted to call Mr. Bain. There was a boat passing in which was Captain Cleghorn, the master of the Dock Company's tug steamer *Henrietta*. He was called on board and the boat was sent to fetch Mr. Bain, who came at once. Soon afterwards an explosion occurred, the effects of which were very remarkable. The boiler blew up, and the deck was covered with dead and dying men, the only persons who altogether escaped were those standing right in the bows. The bridge was entirely blown away; the funnel was blown on to the top of the port paddle-box, the mainmast was blown into pieces over the stern of the ship, the after-cabin was entirely destroyed and everything in it smashed to pieces, a gun which lay abaft the boiler was blown overboard with its carriage, &c., and all the platedware and tableware, which the Tumongong's table boys had been putting ready on the table, was blown overboard though the stern ports. The engines were broken and twisted, the engine-rooms, the engineer's cabin, and the house over the fore-cabin staircase were entirely blown to pieces, the port paddle box being smashed by the funnel and casing which had been blown on the top of it. The boiler was an extraordinary sight, the outside shell was blown open right against the foremast, the after part of the deck was blown entirely away, and the remainder of the deck

raised 9 or 10 inches above its usual position, and the vessel's topsides opposite the boiler were blown out from 6 to 10 inches.

The number of persons killed was about thirty, of whom five were Europeans, two Chinese and the rest Malays. The vessel had been anchored about one hundred yards from the shore, and as soon as the report was heard, boats and sampans hurried off to the vessel. Captain Wishart was the first there, he picked up Inche Wan Abdulrahman and a Malay in the water. Abdulrahman was one of the few who escaped. He was standing on deck, when he heard to use his own words, " a hissing sound for a few seconds, and then a crash which threw him down, and he received a blow on his head from something, he could not tell what, because (a curious expression) everything became extremely dark." No doubt he was stunned and thrown overboard, though he thought he jumped into the sea. Inchi Jaffer bin Hadjee Mohamed, the present Dato Muntri, or Prime Minister, of Johore, was also thrown into the sea. He received severe wounds on his face and neck which covered him with blood; the large scar on his face was caused by this accident. He was picked up by another boat. Hussein bin Abdullah, the eldest son of Abdullah Moonshi, was killed.

His younger brother Ibrahim, the present Dato Bintara Dalam of Johore, escaped by an accident. He was schoolmaster then at the Telok Blanga Malay School, and had shut up the school, and was going to his house to change his coat before going on board. On his way to the wharf he stopped to look at some boys playing marbles, and spoke to Abdul Rahman bin Andak, a young boy, now the Dato Sri Amar d'Raja, C.M.G., who was crying, and this delayed Inchi Ibrahim, who heard the explosion while he was standing talking to the boys. Inchi Mahomed Yahya bin Abdulla, the Tumongong's cashier, was killed, his body was never found, nor was that of Mat, the Malay servant of Captain Abdul Talip. Captain Cleghorn's body was not found till Sunday morning. Inchi Abdulrahman went with a party of Malays, and recovered it in 5 fathoms of water close to where the vessel blew up. Inchi Abdul Talip, the Captain, was very much hurt but recovered; he died many years ago. Inchi Abdul Samat, now Dato Barat, was on board and unhurt.

Five Europeans were killed. Captain Cleghorn was the master of the *Henrietta*, John Young was the gunner of the *Johore*, the only European seaman on board, Henry Sandhurst was a boiler maker of the Dock Company who went on board with Mr. Bain. These three were buried on Easter Sunday afternoon, the 16th April, at 3 o'clock, the Rev. C. J. Waterhouse, M.A., taking the service. With the exception of a Dutch seaman, who had been buried the previous afternoon, these were the first burials in the new Cemetery. The graves have no headstones, but are situated at the corner of the first plot of ground on the right of the centre path after passing the path that turns to the right leading to the Chapel. That is to say, as you walk into the Cemetery, you first pass at once on your right the path along the boundary hedge, and then the plot on which the Chapel stands, then on the right is the path leading towards the Chapel door, and at the corner on the other side of that path, on the left hand if you turn down the path to the Chapel, is the site of these first graves. On the following day, Monday 17th, John Miller and Hugh Bain were buried close by in the same plot.

The explosion was no doubt caused by cold water being turned into an empty and red-hot boiler, the fault of the engineer, who was said to be unsteady on the voyage out and to have been the cause of the great delay. The steamer was made over to the Dock Company, for the Tumongong would have nothing more to do with her, and became a tug, in which way she was used for many years.

In May there were three flagships in the harbour, which probably never occurred before or since. Admiral Kuper was on his way home after the actions in Japan, in the *Euryalus*; Admiral King in the *Princess Royal* had arrived here from England to relieve him; and Commodore Montresor had come from India in the *Severn*, as Singapore was then on the Indian Station. There was a large dance given on board the *Severn* at Tanjong Pagar. She was a steam frigate, 35 guns, 2,767 tons, 500 horse-power. The *Princess Royal*, famous in the Crimean War, was a two-decker, 73 guns, 3,129 tons, 400 horse-power. The *Euryalus* was a steam frigate, the second of her name in the century. The first was at *Trafalgar*, the second at the Bombardment of *Svenborg* in the Crimean War, and at the Bombardments of *Kagosima* and *Simono-Saki* in Japan in 1863 and 1864; she was broken up a few years afterwards.

The barque *Ruby*, Capt. Harrison, sailed from Hongkong for Singapore on the 4th May. About 3 o'clock one afternoon three junks were seen approaching towards the ship, and they were immediately recognised as Pirates. In order to know exactly what these junks were, the *Ruby* deviated from her course by 3 points; but the junks followed her; she again altered her course, and they still followed. All the sails that could be employed at the time were set, but their endeavours to escape from the pirates were in vain. The wind falling light, the junks availed themselves of the use of their oars to reach the ship. The *Ruby* had two guns which were placed in the after part of the ship, and all the firearms were loaded and every preparation was made for defence. The junks commenced to fire, and the *Ruby* kept up a smart fire upon them in return, until about 7 p.m. when they found their ammunition was exhausted. They then held a consultation, when they agreed to abandon the vessel. They lowered their boats and shortly afterwards left the vessel to her fate, having done everything in their power to keep her from falling into the hands of the pirates. After being five days at sea, in the boats, they were picked up by the French Gunboat, *Merillas*, and they received from the officers the greatest kindness. They arrived at Saigon on the morning of the 20th and to their great surprise saw the barque *Ruby* lying in the harbour, having been recovered by the Hamburg barque *Canton*.

In 1864, Chinese pirates had attacked the brig *Louisa*, belonging to Singapore, and murdered the master and all on board except three persons who contrived to escape to a passing vessel. The same pirates also attacked a French gunboat which was obliged to retreat.

In June the newspaper contained the following paragraph:—"We trust the complication of affairs in Perak will lead to the Rajah appealing

to our government for assistance; we could scarcely interfere without. There is not the slightest doubt that the natives would hail our arrival with pleasure. For several years a civil war devastated the kingdom, and since the rule of the present sovereign has been established, his efforts to restore order have been fruitless. Would not this be a favorable opportunity for us to offer to purchase the country? It would be a valuable acquisition to this Settlement, and we fancy the royal family of Perak would be delighted to get rid of it at any price." The country continued in such an unsettled state that ten years afterwards the matter settled itself in another way, and it undoubtedly became the valuable acquisition that was suggested.

One of the old liberated Bengal convicts died in July leaving fifty thousand dollars to be divided between his sons.

It was in this year that the Honorable Henry Stanley wrote a book containing various inaccurate statements about Singapore. One of them was an attack upon the judgment of Sir William Jeffcott in the case in which he had decided many years before to apportion some of the funds under a Mohamedan's will to the Free School in Penang and the Raffles Institution in Singapore. The author had paid a visit to Singapore not long before, and lived with an Arab, refusing the society of Europeans. The natives in Singapore believed him to be a Mohamedan, and he dressed as an Arab.

On the 15th August the first vessel passed through the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, but the Canal was not completed and opened for traffic until 17th December, 1869.

For some years there had been trouble at times arising from Secret Societies among the Klings, both Hindus and Mohamedans, called the Red and White Flag Societies, which led to street fights and bloodshed, for the two societies were always at variance, although the Mohamedan members of both had the same religious tenets. In 1864 serious disturbances had taken place during the Mohurrum Festival, and in May this year Governor Cavenagh and Mr. Dunman forbade the procession. In October what was called the Great Conspiracy Case against six of the head members was heard, two of whom were men of standing, Mr. Dunman and Mr. Weir giving them remarkably good characters in matters of business. They were all convicted, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. This broke up the societies practically, which had been established after the Chinese Ghi Hin and Ghi Kok Societies, with which it was supposed they were connected.

The appearance of the harbour at this time was very different from what it is at the present time. The subsequent steamer traffic through the Suez Canal quite changed the shipping. The sailing vessels used to remain for several weeks, or even two months, discharging and loading in the Roads. There are now only about four of the long five-oared Malay or Kling sampans at Johnston's Pier, while at this time there were nearly a hundred. The masters of the ships, in order to avoid the European crew rowing in the sun, engaged a sampan to wait on the ship. There were so many vessels lying in the harbour that the horizon could not be seen for their hulls. Now, in 1902, there are only a few sailing vessels, and a small number

of the local steamers. The wharves in Keppel Harbour, which were commenced about this time, have changed the appearance of the harbour, the steamers only remaining one or two days, and then speeding on their way. No doubt the harbour in the old days had a more imposing appearance. To form some idea of what it was, the shipping list for one day in this year has been counted. There were three small sailing ships discharging at the Borneo Company's wharf, no doubt with coal; and one small Swedish brig in Cloughton's Dock. At Jardine's wharf, which was alongside the Borneo Company's, was a barque of 484 tons, no doubt having brought coal, and loading for Bombay. In the harbour were 154 square rigged vessels, of which 3 were British men-of-war, one of which was the *Princess Royal*, already spoken of. There were two British merchant steamers, the *Reiver* of Apcar & Co., running between Calcutta and Hongkong, and the Siamese steamer *Chow Phya*. There were two American steamers of about 160 tons each, apparently going to Shanghai, probably river boats; and two small Dutch steamers. The remainder were:—

80	British merchantmen.
19	Hamburg.
9	Bremen.
8	French.
5	Danish.
5	Prussian.
4	American.
4	Dutch.
3	Oldenburg.
2	Hanoverian.
2	Swedish.
1	Norwegian
1	Belgium.
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From time to time in Singapore small parties for practising music had been formed, but had never attained any length of life. In this year the Amateur Musical Society was formed among the English community, and mustered about thirty to forty members. The German Teutonia Club had had its Liedertafel for some years before. The high tenor voices of Mr. Otto Puttfarcken and another member were of invaluable service, and the singing of the club was unusually good. After they left, the Liedertafel was fortunate in having Mr. Bremer among their number; he had a powerful high tenor voice, and used to sing the leading melody clearly, over the voices of the other twelve or fifteen members. There has rarely been a singer like Mr. Bremer in Singapore, and he was always ready to help. On one occasion in the Town Hall he sang Balfe's "Come into the Garden, Maud" in a way those who heard it often spoke of afterwards.

The Amateur Musical Society was conducted at first by the organist of St. Andrew's Cathedral, but the mainspring of it was Mr. Neil Macvicar, who came out in 1860, at the same time as Mr. Arthur Knight, and was book-keeper in Martin, Dyce & Co. He was

three years in their house in Batavia, and then came to Singapore. He used to play the piano accompaniments, and keep things going. The Singapore newspaper in December, 1865, said that the Trustees of St. Andrew's Cathedral had presented him with a watch and chain as a slight memento of their gratitude for his kind service to the congregation in playing the organ during ten months in the Cathedral. There was a small amateur orchestra also at this time, which played at the Amateur Musical Society's Concerts. It arose in this way :—

In the early days of the settlement, as has been said on page 185, the D'Almeida family was the musical nucleus of the place, and when an Amateur Dramatic Society was formed in 1860 or thereabouts, the amateurs, which included two of the D'Almeida family, got together a small orchestra for the purpose of playing at the performances.

The Dramatic Society was called The Savage Club, and was due to Mr. Steel, the Manager of the Mercantile Bank. They rented Barganny House, close to Tank Road, which had a large centre room, and used to give performances at more or less regular intervals for several years, and performed good standard plays, including some of Shakespeare, and modern comedies like "Still waters run deep" in a very capable way. Dr. Allen, a medical practitioner in the place, and Mr. Barclay Read and several others, were famous at this time. As the room would not hold at one time all those who were invited, for it was a private entertainment for the subscribers only, the performance was given twice, and the first part of the alphabetical names were asked the first time, and the remaining part to the second performance. Mr. José d'Almeida played the viola, Dr. Robertson, Mr. Edward d'Almeida, and Mr. G. H. Brown, the violins, and Mr. Knight the violoncello. There were one or two more; but their names are not remembered. This first amateur orchestra did not consist of more than about six players.

This little enthusiastic band played at the first concert of the Amateur Musical Society on Thursday, 28th December, and played the afterwards well-worn overture to the "Caliph of Bagdad" and Haydn's first quintett. Then the Society, which consisted of male voices only, sang four glees or part songs. In these days they seem as rather curious musical efforts, for they were sung from the usual setting for unequal voices, so that the tenors were often, if not usually, singing above the music written for the trebles, and the basses above the altos. However, it was thought satisfactory for "the good old days," as Mr. R. O. Norris always expresses it. The German Club singers on the other hand sang from music arranged for male voices, and having Mr. Bremer's powerful voice to lead, it was musically correct. There was a quartett; and a duet *The Larboard Watch*, well sung by the two brothers Thomas and Charles Crane, who are both now living in England; and the newspaper paid a compliment to the singing of the one solo, *The Village Blacksmith*, in which the compiler of this book made his first appearance and sang the first solo, it is believed, in the Town Hall; but he was soon afterwards eclipsed at the future concerts of the Society, by Mr. William Hole, at the present day in Johore, who had a much better voice. A negro melody, and Locke's old music to *Macbeth*, sung in the remarkable manner that has been described, ended this, the first concert in the Town Hall, and it is

seen that the amateurs were informed in print, by the musical critic of the newspaper, that it was a splendid treat!

A few months afterwards, in September, 1866, the German Liedertafel and the Amateur Musical Society joined together in the Town Hall in a concert of sacred and secular music for the benefit of the Singapore Institution School, and on turning over the files of the old newspaper, it is remembered that the singer already spoken of as singing at the previous concert, sang the bass recitative and air "The people that walked in darkness," from Handel's ***Messiah***, which obtained, the paper said, the first encore. It is remembered on account of a remark that was made by Mr. David Rodger, mentioned elsewhere in this book, who was not a musical man and probably attended the concert to please Mr. Macvicar, who was book-keeper in his firm. He said that he did not think anything of that song, for it sounded like a man groping about in the dark, and there was no tune in it. A curious appreciation, quite unintended, of the genius of Handel. Such were the musical efforts of Singapore thirty-seven years ago.

CHAPTER LIV.

1866.

IN March, very early on a Sunday morning, a large fire broke out in Battery Road, just as the fire at McAlister & Co.'s godowns close by had commenced on a Sunday about a year before. The godowns and offices of William Macdonald & Co., and the shipchandler's store of Barsoe & Ottzen were burned.

There was an American firm in Flint Street called Hutchison & Co., which was commenced in 1862. Mr. G. H. Dana, who was only a few years in Singapore, was a partner in it at this time. He was some relation of the author of the then well-known book "Two years before the Mast." His name has been remembered here by some occasional jokes he wrote in the newspaper under the name of "Extinguisher," which were published more than once afterwards in book form. They were not, perhaps, always in good taste, in consequence of the style of the composition, as will be understood from the following specimen, which was the first of them; but were certainly witty, which goes far as an excuse. Mr. Dana was popular in the place, of a merry and humourous turn of mind, with quaint Americanisms in his conversation.

The occasion which caused the commencement of the "Letters of Extinguisher" arose from Lieut. Henry Burn, the Master Attendant, having fined a number of Captains of vessels in the harbour fifty rupees each for not having a light burning at night on their vessels. There was a very angry correspondence in the papers, at his putting in force some old, useless and long-forgotten regulations which had never been made known, and were not applicable to the particular case, as the Captains said their ships were not in a fairway, properly understood, as required by the rule. The fines were all returned to the Captains by instructions from Governor Cavenagh.

The Master Attendant has been an officer in the then defunct Indian Navy, and was a younger brother of Mr. James Burn, who was the Resident Councillor and a very useful official. Mr. Henry Burn died a few years afterwards from the effects of a carriage accident, at the foot of the hill leading down to the town from River Valley Road. The carriage was thrown down into a swamp that existed there at the time, but has long been filled in, and substantial houses and engineering yards built over it. To show how the appearance of the place has changed, Dr. Little about 1866 had a large pond made and closed in at the foot of the hill, on the right hand side coming towards town, to supply water-boats with water for the shipping. The boats came up the river.

The following letter of "Extinguisher" caused a great deal of amusement at the time:—

"In the Island of Singapore, that lieth over against Malacca, which is in the far Indies, in the days of the reign of Col. Cavena', there dwelt many great and good men who were called Government Officials, because that they *fished* all they could out of the Government.

"But among these was one possessed of a little soul, who thought himself larger than other men, and wished others to think even as he did.

"And he said unto himself: 'What shall I do that I may cause my name to be heard, and make myself to be great, even above my brother officials?'

"And he went about seeking how he might encompass his designs.

"And it is so happened that this man, whose name was Mustirattindint, of the tribe of the Scots, had among his other duties with the vessels which traded in merchandise with far countries (and which lay in the harbour near Singapore), to see that the lamps of these vessels were trimmed and lighted when darkness covered the face of the Earth.

"Now this was done on the land by Celestials, which resembled men, save that they have tails, but on the water was it this man's work.

"And as he wandered along the shores of the Sea he espeid many of these carriers of merchandise with no light.

"And he said unto himself. 'I have not told unto those men who command these vessels that they must show a *burning* light, so to-morrow they will do even as to-day, and I will come down upon them in the dead of night with a lead pencil, and I will take the names of these vessels, and of their wicked masters (who, peradventure, are like unto the foolish virgins), and I will bind them that they pay unto me fifty shekels of silver, even fifty pieces of silver from each vessel, so that my name may shine like a *burning* light throughout the land.'

"Now it all came to pass even as he had said unto himself, and the men of the sea did pay each man fifty shekels of silver, but a cry went up from among these men, because of this unjust deed.

"Now it came to pass that this wail reached even to the ears of the Governor, who was a just man in all his walks, and who was called Cavena' (after the manner of the Scots) because that he would *never "cave in"* to the wrong.

"And he sent for Mustirattindint and said unto him. 'Why hast thou done this wrong thing?'

"And Mustirattindint answered and said. 'Lo, I thought to do that which was pleasant and good in thy sight, and now thou upbraidest me.' And the Governor answered him, saying, 'Give back unto these men of the sea every shekel that thou hast taken so unjustly from them.'

"Then Mustirattindint subsided: And he went out from the Governor's presence, and wept bitterly.

EXTINGUISHER."

On 8th March an extraordinary general meeting was held of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company. Mr. C. H. Harrison was in the chair. Mr. John James Greenshields, of Guthrie & Co., said that it was found necessary to double the capital if the undertaking was to be proceeded with, as the original cost of the undertaking had been greatly underestimated. The capital which had originally been fixed at $300,000 was to be increased to $600,000. Mr. Samuel Gilfillan and Dr. Little then proposed it, and it was carried unanimously. No one then anticipated what the Company would grow into in the next thirty years.

There was an old Kling Mohamedan in the place who died at this time, who was a character. His funeral was a curiosity; a great feast was prepared in the Square at the house of one of the Mohamedans, and he was buried at Tanjong Pagar, with a great crowd following. He was thought to be a prophet for about fifty years, and used to go into shops and take what he wished, even from the money changers, which he invariably distributed among his poorer countrymen. All the hack-gharries were free to him, the syces being prevented from asking for their fare by the awe with which he inspired them.

On St. Patrick's Day, 17th March, a farewell dinner was given in the Town Hall to Sir Richard McCausland, the Recorder, the like of which, it was said, had not been seen in the place before. Tables were laid round three sides of the room, and were all occupied. Mr. W. H. Read was in the chair. A number of farewell addresses were presented to him by all classes of the community, and he left for Europe on the 22nd March, in the same mail as Tumongong Abu Bakar, of Johore, who went to England for the first time, accompanied by one of his cousins and the present Dato Muntri Besar, and Dr. Scott. They returned to Singapore in November.

Sir Richard McCausland was ten years on the Bench. In the first volume of Mr. Kyshe's useful and carefully compiled "Reports of Cases heard in the Supreme Court of the Straits," it is said that Sir Richard last sat on the 25th August, 1866, but this is a mistake. He retired on a pension, and lived for many years afterwards in Ireland. He was a very kind-hearted genial Irishman, a sound and experienced lawyer, and a thoroughly courteous gentleman on the Bench, in which he was an example to some of those who have succeeded him in the Courts of the Straits. It is a very necessary qualification, if justice is to be done to suitors in the Court, for the possibility of witnesses being insulted from the Bench is very detrimental to justice, as it renders it difficult to obtain their evidence.

The judges sent out from England to the Straits during the time of the administration of the East India Company undoubtedly did great credit to those who selected them. It is noteworthy that most of the judges before the Transfer, became in after years distinguished men. Of the six who sat in Singapore before Sir Richard McCausland, three became Chief Justices in Calcutta or Madras, and Sir Benson Maxwell, who has now to be spoken of, succeeded Sir Richard.

Sir Peter Benson Maxwell came to the Straits in 1856, as Recorder of Penang, as has been said on page 631, at the same time as Sir Richard McCausland came to Singapore. In 1866 he was appointed

to Singapore. In that year he published his book called, "The Duties of Straits Magistrates," and the *Government Gazette* in May notified that all civil servants would in future be subjected to an examination as to their general knowledge of the rules laid down for their guidance in this book instead of "Saunder's Practice of Magistrates Courts," as had been prescribed in 1859.

The book was printed at the Government Printing Office, Singapore, and in Penang, and was written because one of his sons was appointed a Magistrate. It was a remarkable book, and of the greatest use to the legal profession. The fifth chapter on The Construction of Statutes, consisting of 39 pages, led in after years to Sir Benson's text book of the same name, first published in London in 1875. It has run through several editions, and has been referred to with approval in the House of Lords. Chapter vi. the last 132 pages in "The Duties of Magistrates," was on the law of evidence, and it was said that those who mastered it, had a grasp of the whole subject, so accurately and concisely was it written. A larger second edition was published in Calcutta, adapted to the Criminal Procedure Code in force there. This is still largely used; the old Singapore edition is rarely to be seen.

Sir Benson was a most industrious man. His copy of "Chitty on Contracts," for example, was a mass of marginal notes and interpolated pages, which he wrote week by week from the reports in the London *Times*, as well as other Reports. His celebrated judgment in Regina *v.* Willans, in May, 1858, about a decision of Mr. W. W. Willans, when he was Police Magistrate in Penang, on a subject of the liability of a native labourer for a repeated act of breach of contract, went far beyond the point necessary to be decided in the case, but it proved of great use afterwards; for Sir Benson having time on his hands, as work was slack at the time in the Court, took occasion to go into a wealth of study upon what law had been introduced and was applicable to, and in force in the Straits. He had so much reliance on his knowledge of the law, and his readiness to alter his view of it, if it were shown to be in doubt, that nothing that arose was left undecided, and the temptation of a weaker mind to avoid any doubtful or troublesome question, by deciding a case upon some point which had never been raised, as Sir Benson's successor did, never occurred to him.

Sir Benson used to be somewhat worried by some of the practitioners at that time who had been admitted to practice without examination as to their qualifications. He used often to say that "he wished they would read their Roscoe before coming to Court." One day a case was called on, and Mr. James Guthrie Davidson was for the plaintiff and Mr. John Simons Atchison for the defendant. Mr. Atchison had not arrived. Sir Benson said the case must go on, so Mr. Davidson began opening his case very slowly and at quite unnecessary length, repeating what he had to say, and when Sir Benson remarked that he understood it when Mr. Davidson had mentioned it before, Mr. Davidson commenced explaining it again still more lengthily until he saw Atchison coming hastily into the Court, when he suddenly pulled up, and said he would call his witnesses. Sir Benson said to him afterwards that he could not

think what he was driving at, until Atchison came in, and Davidson replied that he thought it would have been better to wait until Mr. Atchison came, and they both had a good laugh.

These two lawyers were both men of whom Sir Benson had a very high opinion, and they did the bulk of the work at the bar. Atchison came out in 1859, being a relation of Mr. H. M. Simons, and had his office in Paterson, Simons & Co.'s godowns. He was a man, like Mr. Davidson, of exceptional ability. He was remarkably stout, and drank enormous quantities of soda water, taking two or three bottles at a time. Mrs. Atchison died on her way home, and was buried in Egypt; and Mr. Atchison died not long afterwards in Bangkok, where he had been retained in a heavy law suit. It was thought that he had had a stroke of the sun under the awning of the *Chow Phya* steamer, as he would not, or could not on account of his size, get easily below the deck.

Mr. J. G. Davidson was a nephew of Mr. James Guthrie, his mother being Mr. Guthrie's sister, and came to Singapore in 1861, joining Mr. R. C. Woods. He was a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Scotland. He practised at the bar for many years, and in 1874 was appointed Resident of Perak after the death of Mr. E. W. W. Birch. In 1876 he resigned the appointment, preferring to practice at the bar, and joined Mr. Bernard Rodyk in Singapore. He was killed suddenly in a carriage accident in Orchard Road as he was driving from Ardmore to Church early on Sunday morning, 8th February, 1891, at 53 years of age. He was one of the foremost men in Singapore, taking a leading part in all that went on, especially in public matters, though he always declined to accept a seat on the Legislative Council. His sudden death was very much felt, and his loss was a serious one to Singapore. The newspaper spoke of him at the time as one of the oldest and most respected residents of the place. The remembrance of these two, the leading names in the bar in the Straits, arose naturally from reminiscences of Sir Benson Maxwell, in whose Court they figured so largely.

Sir Benson retired on 26th July, 1871; and in 1882 was appointed Judicial Commissioner, or under some similar title, to organise the Courts in Egypt after the British occupation; a post of great importance at that time.

Four of his sons were well-known in the Straits. The eldest, called after his father, was a Magistrate in Penang, and went to the West Indies in the Colonial service, where he died not long afterwards. The second son, Sir William Edward Maxwell, K.C.M.G., died at sea on 14th December, 1897, on his way home to England in ill health from the Gold Coast, where he was Governor. He was for many years in the Straits and the Native States, and at one time Acting Governor in Singapore, shortly before he was appointed to the Gold Coast.

The third son, Robert William Maxwell, was for many years in the Straits Police Force, and when he retired from ill health in August, 1894, he was Inspector General of Police. He died in England in 1895. The fourth son was Francis R. O. Maxwell, who became a cadet in the Sarawak service in 1872, and was Resident at Sarawak in 1881. These three brothers, who were very much liked in the Straits, all died, strange to say, within a year or so of each other. There are several sons of Sir William in the Straits and the Indian Army. One of Sir Benson's daughters married Mr. E. E. Isemonger of the Straits Civil Service, now retired.

There was at this time a fresh-water swimming bath which Mr. W. R. Scott allowed the use of to certain subscribers, at Abbotsford; it was the only one in the place, but it was very little used. A meeting was held, a subscription made, and a bath was made of stakes on a sand bank off the beach, some way from the shore, at Tanjong Katong, with a dressing room at one end, on posts in the sea. It was only used for a year or two, as it necessitated a row of over a mile in a sampan from Johnston's Pier. Mr. Charles Crane was the working hand in it. A swimming bath in the sea was proposed many times in the older days of the Settlement, but this was the only attempt to carry it out.

Aitken, De Souza & Co., who were shipchandlers, had a short pier called De Souza's Pier on Collyer Quay, near the foot of Prince Street, which was useful for some years.

A large Fancy Fair was held in May at the unused Mess Room in the Tanglin Barracks, for the benefit of the Botanical Gardens, which were then supported entirely by private subscriptions under a Committee of the Agri-Horticultural Society. Mr. Lawrence Niven was the Superintendent of the Gardens, which were on the present spot. The Government in after years took it all over, but in Mr. Niven's days there used to be many more large beds of pretty flowers which made the Gardens look very attractive.

Mr. Jacob Clunis died suddenly in Singapore on 12th June. He came, it is thought, from Shetland, and was the P. & O. pilot. He is to be remembered here, like Captain Cloughton, as a very useful pioneer of docks in Singapore, as was written by an old Singaporean in 1885, "He, with the perseverance worthy of a better cause, started the project of a Dock, and, what is more, excavated one on Pulo Brani, but was finally ejected therefrom by the then Resident, Thomas Church, on the plea that the ground was required by the Naval Authorities for coal sheds. In vain did Jacob plead for compensation. He was told to whistle "jigs to the mile-stones," while his letters were sent from pillar to post, between the Hon'ble the E. I. C. and the Admiralty. He died, the grand old enthusiast, but never got a red cent."

His son, John Clunis, was a Civil Engineer, living in Oxley Road. He built the unusual looking house at the corner of Lloyd Road, which he intended to be the first of a row of a terrace of houses, adjoining each other. So that at first there was no window on one side. He built the present Town Hall, which has in it the one room in the place which is in proper proportions. The upper room is seventy-three feet long by forty wide, and is an accurately proportioned room. It has been usual to speak of the Town Hall upper room as being too small, some people being under the impression, apparently, that it is possible to build a room in a town, large enough to hold all those who may wish to come into it. It is needless to say that the largest buildings in London, or the world, would only hold a very small proportion of the population. It is of course practicable to build a larger room, as is to be shortly

done by its side, but to speak of the present hall as a small one is a mistake. It is easy to compare it with well-known rooms in London; and those who think it small may probably be surprised to hear that it is a few inches longer and only five feet narrower than the House of Commons, and only two feet shorter and two feet wider than the famous large dining hall of the Fishmongers Company, on the north west corner of London Bridge. A place as large as the Colosseum at Rome, intended solely for spectacular purposes, can be reasonably enlarged to the length along which the furthest spectators can see sufficiently what takes place in the arena; but a room to be used for meetings, concerts, and public speaking, must be bounded, if it is to be used by people with ordinary voices, by the necessary size in which they can be heard. Even in the House of Commons complaint is often made of the voices not being heard in the Reporter's Gallery. The room is just of the right size for the principal uses for which it was intended, and it has been the scene of many historical events in the history of the place, and the large hall that is intended to be built on to it is intended to be 120 feet by 60, or 7,200 superficial feet, against 2,920 of the present hall. The larger room will, no doubt, be better suited for a Ball Room now the place has grown so much bigger, but that again will not hold all who wish to be present on such an occasion as the late visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, and there must be an end somewhere to the size of a ceiling without interior supports. The Town Hall in Bombay looks a much larger room on paper, but it is partly supported by large masonry pillars in the room, and the available space inside those looks little if any larger than the present Town Hall upper room. Mr. John Clunis went to Bangkok about thirty years ago, and did a great deal of work for the King or the Government there, where he died.

Another old resident in Singapore like Jacob Clunis, who died in July, 1885, was spoken of by an old resident in that year as follows:—

"During this week there has passed away in Singapore an old resident who certainly deserves a tribute of remembrance from Singapore. Mr. George Lyons came here many years ago, and at one time had a ship-building yard at Tanjong Rhoo with his brother. He had formerly worked in the Government dockyards in England, and had very high certificates for his ability there. He built the big iron bridge at Kallang river, beyond the gas-works, and also Elgin Bridge, which has stood so well. There is a story about that which is almost forgotten now. He put the whole bridge together bodily on North Bridge Road, and said he would run it across the river. Everyone laughed at him except one or two persons, old residents, who said that "Lyons was slow but sure." He got everything ready, and one morning there was no bridge to be seen; in four hours he had walked it across, and at midday the two sides were bridged over. He is said to have been one of the first who caught at the idea of Tanjong Pagar, and he began the first work of the present Dock Company there, about 1864. He also did a great deal of the work at the Borneo Company's wharves. He was a very hard-working, capable man, but times went hard with him;

he went to Deli, and did a good deal of road and bridge making there very successfully. He returned to Singapore, and undertook work at the light-house that is now being built on Pulo Pisang. He came to Singapore a short time ago saying that the place would be the death of him, and died on Tuesday last."

CHAPTER LV.

RAINFALL. CLIMATE. OLD AMATEUR THEATRICALS.

AFTER the last chapter of this book had been written it was suggested that something would be useful about the rainfall, &c.; and from another source it was said that little or no notice had been taken of the amateur theatricals, which were one of the most popular amusements in former days, when golf, lawn-tennis, football and other athletic occupations (rather than recreations ?) were unknown. So this chapter has been added.

RAINFALL, &c.

The first particulars of the rainfall are to be found in a passage written by John Crawfurd, about 1828, as follows:—"In a place little more than eighty miles from the Equator there is of course little variety in the seasons. The greatest quantity of rain falls in December and January, but refreshing showers are experienced throughout the year. In 1820 rain fell on 229 days; in 1821, on 203; in 1824, on 136; and in 1825, on 171; giving an average, in four years, of about 185 rainy, and 108 dry days. The rainy months are the coldest, namely December and January; and the dryest months, April and May, the hottest. The lowest range of the thermometer within the year 1825 was 71 and the highest 89 degrees."

In George Windsor Earl's book published in 1837, he gave the rainfall for the year 1835; and Dr. Little in a paper in the second volume of Logan's Journal, gave the rainfall taken by Captain Charles Morgan Elliot in the years 1841 to September, 1845, which are as follows; they have been placed in the same columns as Mr. Earl's for 1835:—

MONTH.	1835	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845
January	18·5	3·7	22·6	18·0	10·2	5·7
February	1·5	6·7	10·9	3·0	6·9	4·2
March	10 8	5·0	7·2	8·0	4·1	3·0
April	3·2	3·1	10·0	5·6	12·3	7·2
May	5·0	6·1	9·0	9·0	7·8	5·0
June	6·5	7·5	6·3	2·3	6·0	5·3
July	4·6	7·4	5·0	8·5	5 8	3·4
August	6·9	7·0	6·0	5 5	5·7	6·7
September ...	3·6	4·2	4 2	4·0	5·0	10·2
October	10·8	4·0	21·0	12·1	10·2	...
November... ...	7·4	12·2	9·4	9·6	6·0	...
December	20·7	6·2	4·4	6·4	8·7	...
Total ...	99·5	73·1	116·0	92·0	88·7	

On which Dr. Little made the following remarks:—"Taking the average of the completed four years we have 92·5 as the annual fall of rain in Singapore from 1841 to 1844. The greatest fall of rain was in the month of January to the amount of 22·585, and the smallest in the month of April to the amount of 3·19. The year 1842, Dr. Little

said, was considered a very wet year, 116·247 inches having fallen, against 73·126 in the preceding year. The months in which most rain fell were January and October, then April and November, and the least in March. Most rain falls in the north-east monsoon, and the dry weather may be said to exist in the south-west monsoon. No particular quarter of the wind seems to have much influence on the fall of rain. The tables show there is the greatest fall when the north-east is the general direction, nearly the same quantity when the south-west is the quarter, and not less during the continuance of the wind from the north-west. The only inference that can be drawn is, that when the wind is from the S. E. less rain falls. Many tropical countries have an equal quantity of rain, and even more, annually falling; but owing to the fall being confined to one part of the year, an equal benefit with Singapore is not received, nay even it is the occasion of much disease when the rain is followed by great heats. The rain in Singapore falling in showers throughout the year, and not confined to one season, gives a perpetual verdure to vegetation, cools the surface of the earth, and precipitates, as well as tends to diminish, the generation of any atmospherical malaria."

There is an interesting paper, written in 1887 by Mr. Vaughan (spoken of on page 555) on this subject; from which the following is taken :—

"We have now had observations upon the rainfall and temperature of Singapore regularly taken for a quarter of a century without a gap; by myself from 1862 to 1866, tables published in the *Government Gazette*; by Mr. Arthur Knight of the Audit Department from 1864 to 1886; and by the Medical Department from 1869 to 1886. We have also records of the rainfalls and temperature kept by Lieut. Charles Morgan Elliot, of the Madras Engineers (a brother of Sir H. M. Elliot, Secretary to the Government of India), from 1841 to 1845 at the Singapore Magnetic Observatory, which stood near the Kallang Bridge, not far from the Gas Works; I believe the ruins may still be seen. Elliot was one of the most promising men in the service of the East India Company, and would have made his mark in India had his life been spared; but he died young, shortly after leaving Singapore, at the close of 1845.

"The annual rainfall for the twenty-five years was as follows :—

1862 - 99·51 inches.	1871 - 109·45 inches.	1880 - 111·08 inches
1863 - 86·62 „	1872 - 75·30 „	1881 - 94·00 „
1864 - 86·92 „	1873 - 85·60 „	1882 - 88·16 „
1865 - 78·06 „	1874 - 87·05 „	1883 - 75·30 „
1866 - 90·52 „	1875 - 93·96 „	1884 - 80·13 „
1867 - 90·01 „	1876 - 89·91 „	1885 - 67·32 „
1868 - 75·55 „	1877 - 58·37 „	1886 - 95·19 „
1869 - 90·65 „	1878 - 103 16 „	
1870 - 123·24 „	1879 - 116·14 „	

"Captain Elliot's record gives an average of a little more than 92 inches per annum; which has been quoted by John Turnbull Thomson and Dr. Little and other writers on the subject, and may fairly be considered the average annual rainfall to this day. The above table shows with what regularity the annual rainfall ebbs and flows in decades.

"The greatest number of rainy days in one year was recorded by Mr. Knight at Mount Pleasant, *viz.*, 244 days. The greatest monthly fall was recorded in December, 1869, inches 20·66, and the lowest in February, 1864, 17/100 of an inch, was recorded by Mr. Knight, whilst no rain fell in town during that month. The lowest annual rainfalls occurred in 1877 and 1885, when 58 and 67 inches fell respectively. The greatest rainfall in twenty-four hours was 7·10 inches in 1884. The normal range of annual rainfall lies between 85 and 95 inches. In eleven years out of twenty-five, it kept within this range, rising in other seven years by thirty-eight inches, and falling below it for seven years more by twenty-seven inches. The average of annual rainfall at the Criminal Prison, Brass Bassa Road register, kept by Mr. Wheatley from 1870 to 1881, was ninety-two inches. If you will take the trouble and add together the falls of the three years 1869 to 1871, and again the falls of the three years 1878 to 1880, you will find only a difference of a few inches. If you will add the rainfalls from 1866 to 1874, four years on each side of the maximum in 1870, and the falls from 1875 to 1883, four years on each side of the maximum in the next decade, you find only a difference of three inches, and the average of the falls in each period to be about 92 inches. The maximum of wet days in one year was 244 in 1879 and minimum 119 in 1877.

"Droughts occur periodically, and are worth noting. The first during the twenty-five years lasted for thirty-five days, from the 27th of January to the 2nd of March, 1864, with the exception of the fall mentioned above of 0·17 of an inch at Mount Pleasant. The price of water in the Town rose to five cents a bucket, and much distress prevailed in consequence amongst the poor natives. These droughts, I have no doubt, led Mr. Tan Kim Seng to present the Government with his munificent gift of $13,000 towards the construction of water-works. There was a drought in 1877 that lasted from the 22nd September to the 23rd October, thirty-one days, and the natives suffered much. The water-works were finished in 1877 and opened in 1878. A drought of forty-nine days with slight sprinklings of rain, of no consequence, lasted from the 28th of January to 17th March, 1883, but happily the water-works were in full play and no evil consequences resulted. The water supply had, however, to be cut off for a few hours daily for several days."

For the sake of comparison with former years, the following figures are given as the rainfall for the three years 1890, 1895 and 1900 taken at the Kandang Kerbau Hospital:—

	1890.	1895.	1900.		1890.	1895.	1900.
January ...	8·77	5·47	7·98	July ...	20·76	8·91	5·58
February ...	12·47	2·88	4·14	August ...	8·09	7·72	9·59
March ...	9·91	6·05	6·73	September ...	8·29	4·15	2·42
April ...	7·97	12·78	17·91	October ...	9·07	9·69	5·54
May	3·37	7·34	6·13	November ...	13·43	11·68	12·72
June	6·61	7·78	8·53	December ...	11·67	13·96	4·11

Total for the years 1890, 120·41; 1895, 98·41; 1900, 91·38.

It has been mentioned on page 338, that in 1839 there was a very rainy month, over 4 inches having fallen in one day, which was then considered a remarkable record; but on Sunday, 29th May, 1892, 9·25 inches fell between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. The heavy downpour flooded the town, and particularly Orchard Road, where the water was 2 ft. 6 in. deep at Government House Gates. In fact Orchard Road as far as the police station, except in one or two of the higher parts, was quite under water. The depths of the different parts of the road were taken and printed in the *Free Press* of May 30th; a gentleman had swum down Orchard Road with a three foot rule to gauge the depths; and the same day a gentleman canoed from Tanglin to the sea. Singapore lies so low that heavy rains bring up the water level temporarily to that of the sea. The storm waters can only get out of the big channels at low water, and the multiplication of these would have no effect in that respect, although they would assist materially in clearing away the storm waters at low tide. In 1892, when the tide went out, the water in Orchard Road fell no less than four inches in an hour.

In John Cameron's book he says:—"In 1863 rain fell on 184 days, and the quantity was considerably in excess of that of temperate countries generally. It seldom rains a whole day through; the greater part is discharged in short but heavy showers, and in big drops like those from thunder-clouds at home. The effect of these is very refreshing; they generally come when the air is unusually close and warm, and though not lasting perhaps more than half an hour or an hour, they leave it both cool and purified. Another good point in the climate is the rare absence of a good stiff breeze from one quarter or another during the day, and of the soft land airs breathing out from the jungle at night, when all more boisterous winds are hushed to rest. To these land winds is due in a great measure the coolness of the nights, which will generally admit of good sound slumber, a *sine quâ non* to health here as elsewhere.

"By resorting to the neighbourhood of the jungle a degree at least of reduction in the temperature may be secured. In such places as Selitar, lying well in the interior, and with the primeval forest all round them, the additional coolness is palpable, and cannot be less than two or three degrees. Sea bathing is also a relief within easy reach, and is often availed of; but the neighbourhood of coral banks which are exposed at low water is avoided, as the exhalations produced by the heat of the sun have been found to be very unwholesome. The climate is also one in which more out-door amusement can be enjoyed than in that of most other tropical countries. From sunrise till eight o'clock in the morning, and from half-past four in the afternoon till sunset, the sun is comparatively harmless, and even in midday Europeans walk about the Square in town with apparent impunity. To be safe, however, the head should always be kept well covered, and with this precaution, the more out-door exercise indulged in the better."

As regards the climate, Mr. Crawfurd wrote in 1828 that it was hot but equable; but, from the absence of distinct seasons, necessarily monotonous. He added that the town was remarkable for its salubrity, the fevers and dysenteries of ordinary tropical countries being of very rare occurrence, and that he had no recollection of any European having fallen a victim to the climate in the long period of nine years since the formation of the settlement.

George Windsor Earl says in his book, published in 1837, that from his first arrival in Singapore, during twenty-two months, only two deaths occurred among the European residents, and neither of these arose from the effects of the climate.

G. F. Davidson in his book published in 1846, but probably speaking of about 1840, when he was carrying on business as Davidson & Co., said:—"Of the state of public health in Singapore I am able to report most favorably. Let any one go and see the European residents of sixteen and twenty years standing, and he will be able to judge for himself. During my acquaintance of sixteen years with this part of the world, I have never known any endemic disease to prevail; never heard of more than one European dying of cholera, or of more than three Europeans being attacked with that disease; never knew but one or two cases of liver-complaint in which the sufferers had not their own imprudence to thank for the attack; and, as far as my memory serves me, cannot reckon up two deaths among the European inhabitants in that long period. Some one may here whisper, "Look at the state of your Singapore burial ground." My reply is, that it is filled by the death of numbers who have, from time to time, arrived from Calcutta and other parts of India in a dying state, and who would have died six months sooner, had they not come to breathe the pure air of Singapore."

The following paper on the temperature of the place was written by Mr. Vaughan in 1887:—"Captain Elliot's tables are most useful in enabling us to come to a definite conclusion as to the changes in temperature that have taken place in Singapore during the last forty-five years. They may be put down as *nil*.

"Elliot's register gives the following means of all the observations of each hour for every day of the month from 1841 to 1845:—

January	... ...	79·55
February	... ...	80·25
March	... ...	81·22
April	... ...	81·47
May	... ...	82·31
June	... ...	82·29
July	... ...	82·24
August	... ...	81·80
September	... ...	81·76
October	... ...	81·21
November	... ...	80·63
December	... ...	80·24

The mean temperature for ten years, 81·25.

"The means for the years 1885 and 1886 were as follows:—

January	80·3	The mean temperature for the two years, 81·50.
February	80·0	
March	81·9	
April	82·4	
May	82·5	
June	82·0	
July	82·0	
August	82·0	
September	82·0	
October	82·0	
November	80·9	
December	79·2	

"The mean of the means of temperature for the last 17 years (1870 to 1886) given by Dr. Rowell is 81·20.

The mean temperature by Elliot for each year was as follows:—

1841	1842	1843	1844	1845
81·28	81·66	81·09	80·82	81·66

Mean of five years, 81·3.

"Let us take five consecutive years, 1881 to 1885, and the figures will be nearly identical—

1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
81·6	81·7	81·3	81·1	81·7

Mean of five years, 81·4.

"Or let us take another five years—

1871	1872	1873	1874	1875
80·8	81·5	81·3	80·7	81·0

Mean of the five years, 81·00

"As in Elliot's time the heat increased gradually from January to June, and decreased from July to December, so it does now. In 1886 the range was as follows:—

January	80·7	July	82·6
February	80·9	August	81·2
March	82·4	September	81·8
April	82 5	October	81 9
May	82·3	November	80·4
June	82·9	December	78·6

"The coldest years were 1869, 1870, and 1879, when the greatest rainfalls were recorded; the warmest were 1872, 1877, and 1885, when the lowest falls were recorded. It is a noteworthy fact connected with the climate of Singapore, that the warmer the day the cooler the night.

"The mean maximum of heat is about 87 degrees, and the mean minimum about 73°, the maximum in Elliot's time was 87·5° and minimum 74·7°; the maximum in the twenty-five years was 94° in April, 1878; and 93° in February, 1885, a warm year.

"The range of barometer is so trifling that it is scarcely worth noting. It was lowest in the wettest years, and highest in the driest. We have literally no season. There is very little difference in the rainfall in the two monsoons, a mere difference of about six

inches in the year in favour of the N. E. monsoon; nor is there any perceptible difference in the temperature during the two monsoons. The N. E. monsoon prevails from November to April, and the S. W. monsoon from May to October. Singapore lies right athwart the track of both ; the one blowing across a vast expanse of water like the China Sea ; and the other across the Indian Ocean, both wafting clouds laden with moisture across the island, shedding their contents in the form of rain as they pass over. So long as the monsoons endure, so long will Singapore enjoy the refreshing showers, although every tree in the jungle should be levelled to the dust."

With this very interesting paper of Mr. Vaughan, who, from his experience of sea-faring life and his scientific accomplishments, was always listened to with respect on these subjects, we now turn to the remaining subject of

Old Amateur Theatricals.

The earliest record of amateur theatricals in Singapore appears in the issue of the *Singapore Chronicle* of the 21st March, 1833. The theatre was in Cross Street, Teluk Ayer. Tickets were sold at $2 and $1 ; doors opened at 6, and the performance commenced at 7 o'clock. The amateurs soared high in those days. The play was Dr. Young's celebrated and much admired tragedy of *The Revenge*. It was followed by the laughable farce of *The Mock Doctor*, also by comic and sentimental songs, and a recitation from Campbell's *Pleasures of Hope*. No money was received at the door, but tickets were sold at Merryweather & Co.'s and other places.

The tragedy was an utter failure, and the amateurs, for their ambition, received severe castigation at the hand of the Editor. This is a portion of the article :—" On Monday evening last a company of amateurs performed, or rather attempted to perform, Dr. Young's celebrated and much admired tragedy of *The Revenge*. Considering the *quality and attainments* of the several actors, we must own we did not experience much disappointment in witnessing this performance, as it required no skill in vaticination to predict a failure. We must certainly allow them credit for their presumption in having fixed on so difficult a piece, but for no more. Instead of lachrymose effect, as is proper, the acting produced a very contrary one on the risible nerves of the audience, and, excepting the tedium produced in listening to a continued series of unintelligible dialogues the piece altogether afforded some amusement from the burlesque character of the performance. Tragedy is altogether beyond the reach of the present company of performers ; and if they wish to attract future audiences, they must confine themselves to the *low* comedy which seems to be their proper forte."

This proved a perfect damper, and the amateurs collapsed. On the 30th of July, 1834, sixteen months after, they essayed a comedy, and were more successful. The play was Goldsmith's admired comedy *She Stoops to Conquer*. Tickets were to be had at Messrs. Merry-

weather's at $3 each, and the performance commenced at half-past seven o'clock. The following significant paragraph appeared in the advertisement :—" N.B —The Manager pledges himself to the Ladies of Singapore that no improper characters will be admitted." The performance was thus reviewed in the *Chronicle* of July 31st, 1834 :—" The performance of *She Stoops to Conquer* took place on Wednesday evening, and, judging from the loud and continued plaudits of a respectable and well-filled house, it afforded universal satisfaction. To say that the amateur performers acted their parts well is only doing them bare justice ; indeed there were several who entered fully into the spirit of their parts, and acted much better than could have been anticipated." A few lines in this critique, which we quote, show that fifty years ago the amateurs could furnish a respectable orchestra, and that their services were as much appreciated then as those of Mr. Salzmann and our present musical amateurs are now. The Editor wrote :—" To the amateurs, who, though few in number, delighted the audience with several Italian overtures and some of Rossini's best airs, the community must feel much indebted. Their kindness is the more to be felt, as, had they not volunteered their services, the manager must have had recourse to those indefatigable scrapers of cat-gut, commonly known as the Malacca Fiddlers, whose exertions, we know well, would have destroyed all the harmony felt on so agreeable an occasion."

The theatre in Cross Street was abandoned for what was known as Chong Long's House in Kampong Glam, (see page 216) where the next performance took place. On the 27th of September, 1834, the much admired plays of *The Apprentice* and *The Mock Doctor* were brought out. Doors opened at 6, the performance commenced at 7, the price of tickets was reduced to $2 for boxes, $1 for gallery, and $0.50 for the pit. The performance, in consequence of the indisposition of some of the amateurs, had to be postponed to the 30th of the same month. It proved an utter failure, and was thus criticised by the *Chronicle* on the 2nd October :—" Estimating the performance by the quantity, we have some reason to talk—but as to the quality 'the least said the sooner mended.' We refer more particularly to last Tuesday's performance, which afforded abundance of amusement to some, both off and on the stage. The two farces are very humorous in themselves, and some of the characters on the part of three or four of the performers were well sustained ; but the whole would have gone off much better had several of them kept *sober,* and others remembered their parts better. The arrangements of the house were so good and made with so much attention to the modesty of the ladies, that not a single one was to be seen. The gentlemen, therefore, had the house to themselves, and many amused themselves in a variety of ways, of which we need take no notice. Such another exhibition, and farewell to Singapore theatricals say we." It was the death knell of amateur theatricals in Singapore for a time.

On the 14th of March, 1844, there was a revival performance under the management of Vincent Crummles, who was Captain Calbeck of the Madras Army. The plays were *Charles the Second* or *The*

Merry Monarch and *The Spectre Bridegroom*. In the second piece appeared for the first time Miss Petowker as Lavinia, and Mr. Johnson as Dickory. The theatre was in Dutronquoy's Hotel, then called the London, where the Adelphi now stands in Coleman Street. Miss Petowker for several years played ladies' parts. She had the smallest waist, and smallest foot, of any lady in Singapore, and was the envy of all the sex, for it was acknowledged she was the prettiest little chambermaid on the stage and a clever little actress, and played everything she attempted most successfully. One night, after a performance, she was taken to the house of a lady friend, where there was a lady visitor, who talked to the actress for some time and seemed much impressed with her ladylike bearing, &c., when the pert little woman came out with a rather strong expression which aroused the old lady's suspicions; so she walked up to Petowker and said in tragic tones, opening her eyes as wide as she could, "Why you naughty creature, you are a man," and so it was—Mr. W. H. Read! Since that he has played important parts in his own character on another stage quite as successfully, but he probably often looks back with pleasure to the days when he tripped the boards in petticoats. But when speaking of the "Soubrette" the *Prima Donna* should not be forgotten. Pretty, graceful, always well-dressed and careful in her acting, Miss Ledbrook for several years took the leading female parts, and was a decided public favourite. Some still alive remember the then well-known voice of Archie Spottiswoode. Lieut. Dunlop also took to the petticoat, but it took so much chalk and care to tone down his "black muzzle" to "maiden's blush" that he had to return to male attire. Mr. William Napier, the lawyer, afterwards the Governor of Labuan, Mr. C. A. Dyce in Martin Dyce & Co., Captain Scott, and others, enjoyed themselves in amateur theatricals that have not since been surpassed. The other amateur, Mr. Johnson, was Mr. Tom Dunman, the greatest low comedian Singapore has ever seen. In his amateur days, he was an assistant in Martin Dyce & Co.'s. His theatrical career was cut off after he assumed charge of the Police Force, when, on his appearance in the character of Captain Copp, he got a hint from the powers that he had better drop the stage. Colonel Butterworth and Mr. Thos. Church could not believe that private theatricals and the midnight watch after the Chinese thieves could go together. Mr. Dunman was also equally successful in his official career, which has been spoken of on page 394, and left Singapore one of the most popular men of the day, when he retired upon a well-earned pension.

The following are the remarks of the *Free Press* of the 14th March, 1844, on the above performance:—"On Tuesday evening, a few gentlemen amateurs performed the play of *Charles the Second* and the farce of *The Spectre Bridegroom* to a crowded audience. It is now some years since anything of the kind has been attempted in this Settlement, and although occasional efforts have been made to excite public attention to the subject, some obstacle has always been presented to the establishment of a theatre; the spirited proprietor of the London Hotel, Mr. Dutronquoy, has, however, at length

converted a portion of his house into a small theatre, and we certainly think he deserves every encouragement from a liberal public."

In these two pieces, appeared Mr. Napier, Mr. Dyce, Mr. W. H. Read, Mr. Spottiswoode, and Mr. Dunman of Singapore; and Captain Calbeck and Lieutenant Dunlop of the 4th Madras Native Infantry, and Captain J. D. Scott of the Madras Artillery. Here is a short criticism written at the time by one who was in Singapore in 1887.

"Calbeck as Copp and Aldwinkle was splendid; also Dunman as Dickory. Napier as Charles the Second brought the house down by answering Lady Clara when she asks him at the commencement of the second act how His Majesty passed the night? 'Vara restless, vara restless,' in broad Scotch. Scott as Nicodemus kept his countenance wonderfully, and his 'I never eat cold pudding' elicited rounds of applause. Such a galaxy of amateurs has never been equalled in Singapore."

On the 18th of April, 1844, was performed *Miss in her Teens* or *The Medley of Lovers*, and *Fortune's Frolic*. Mr. Johnson (Tom Dunman) playing Robin Roughead, the principal part in the last; and Miss Petowker, Tag, the maid in the first. Here is the review of the *Free Press* on these two:—"Miss Petowker as Tag, the Maid, also displayed great cleverness. Mr. Johnson in the part of Robin Roughead was the star of the evening, and his acting was truly excellent. The hearty bursts of applause which the audience repeatedly granted him testified how successfully he had identified himself with the honest rustic whose sudden elevation to rank and fortune affords so many opportunities for the ludicrous and whimsical display of his untutored goodness of heart. The manner in which Mr. Johnson sustained this character would not have disgraced a practised actor. The pleasures of the evening were much enhanced by the performance of the Amateur Orchestra, which played some beautiful overtures with great skill and effect. It is seldom indeed that a small place like Singapore can boast of such a large number of really scientific and accomplished musicians as the gentlemen who so kindly lent their aid on Thursday."

In May, 1844, was played *The Haunted House* and *Bombastes Furioso* by the same company, Captain J. D. Scott being Manager. In June, Mrs. Deacle of the Theatre Royal, Dover, who had been starring in Calcutta with James Vining, the well-known London Tragedian, came down on a visit, with Captain Andrews and Lieut. Crossman of the Bengal Army—Calcutta amateurs—and gave several performances assisted by the amateurs. She built a theatre for herself, and called it, after the Calcutta Theatre, "Sans Souci." Singaporeans enjoyed a treat for some months, *Macbeth, Venice Preserved, Merchant of Venice* and other tragedies were played, and many farces and comedies. Before she concluded, she managed to secure the Theatre Royal, which was more suited for her performances than the temporary stage erected by her. Alluding to *The Merchant of Venice*, the Editor of the *Free Press* said:—"We will only say that it was an enjoyment of the very highest and most intellectual description. The character of Shylock was played by one of our Singapore amateurs, and was a most unexpected pleasure. Dress, look and delivery were all perfect, and from beginning to the end it was the Jew and nothing but the Jew." This was J. D. Horrocks, then employed in Shaw, Whitehead & Co.'s office. During

this performance, Mr. W. Rodyk, afterwards for many years the Registrar of the Supreme Court in Malacca, sang *Billy Barlow* with great effect. An incident occurred to show that the opposition then shown by some clergy to the stage was in full force. One of the cloth, a clergyman of the Church of England, preached a powerful tirade against the stage and actors in general, and said that no modest woman should appear in such a character as Portia. This Revd. gentleman was severely handled in the papers by several writers, and the result of the sermon is thus recorded in the *Free Press* of 25th July, 1844:—'One good resulted from the sermon on Sunday, although not the one exactly intended by the Revd. gentleman, viz., persons who never visited a theatre before, went on Monday, and the house was crowded!"

Mrs. Deacle returned to Calcutta shortly after, and completed her engagement there. Admiral Keppel in his Diary on 23rd July, 1844, printed in his last book, vol. 1, page 339, said "Amateur Theatricals, 'The Merchant of Venice.' Read performed. Supped with Portia." And Mr. R. O. Norris on reading the above wrote this:—"How time flies! I remember the days of 1844 very well, and read the recollection of old theatricals with great interest. The Theatre Royal was then in Coleman Street, and Padre White lived in the next house. Mrs. Deacle took for a time, the house, which was Mr. Kim Cheng's (south corner of Coleman Street and North Bridge Road), for her theatre. We, that is the boy-boarders at the Institution School, and the girls from Mrs. Whittle's School, used to go every month to Mr. White's, who, with his good lady and three big girls, used to be kind to us all; magic lanterns, and lectures on botany, chemistry, and such things to amuse us and teach us what we could not learn in school. The boys were sent home with bread and jam, but the girls remained longer with tea and sweets as their share. One evening we were there, and a clergyman, Mr. Taylor, from Madras, when unfortunately Mrs. Deacle & Co. were rehearsing next door, and the Padre told us the house was a house of devils! Rather strong that, but what a change now when Padres patronise theatres and horse races. I remember that we heard that evening the voice of Mr. Napier rehearsing. There were two good actors in the 21st Madras Native Infantry, named Bolton and Rideout, and the Square was represented by Messrs. Greenshields and Robert Duff, I do not doubt that some of the young ladies at Mrs. Whittle's school, now aged matrons, still among us, will recollect those days."

The year 1845 proved a dull one for amateur theatricals. After Mrs. Deacle's departure, Dutronquoy left Coleman Street for the Esplanade, taking his sign-board with him. He was the proprietor of the London Hotel—now the Hotel de l'Europe—for a few years. He disappeared, mysteriously, murdered it was whispered, whilst gold digging up in the Muar, and the hotel was carried on by his wife and son for several years. The Theatre Royal, Coleman Street, disappeared, and the Assembly Rooms were erected in the vacant spot at the foot of Fort Canning in Hill Street, not far from High Street. This building was distinguished by its ugliness. It possessed, however, a spacious ball-room, and a very passable theatre—the scenery for which was painted by C. A. Dyce. Mr. Dyce was a brother of the R. A. and an excellent artist. His drop-scene—a view of Singapore—was used for many years.

At the new Theatre Royal in the Assembly Rooms the first performance took place on the 25th of November. The play was *The Conquering Game* and the *Mummy*. Tickets at $2 and $1. Performance commenced at 8. We quote portions of the critiques from the *Free Press* of the 27th November, 1845:—"The stage is more spacious than at the old theatre, and the accommodation for the performers combines more convenience and comfort. There are complaints, however, regarding the imperfect transmission of sound, the performers being quite inaudible in the back part of the theatre. The drop scene—a view of Singapore—does great credit to the amateur artist by whom it was painted. We also noticed a street which was exceedingly well painted. Our old friend Mr. Folair (Capt. J. D. Scott) as Charles XII, King of Sweden, sustained the character admirably. Miss Petowker (W. H. Read) as Baroness Ormsdoff was tastefully dressed and wore her honours with becoming self-possession and dignity. Miss Ledbrook (Spottiswoode) is always perfect, and as Catherine Ormsdoff was excellent. In the *Mummy*, Mr. Johnson (Dunman) as Toby Tramp, kept the house in roars of laughter. He met with a most flattering reception, which he well deserved, from the recollection of the many hours of laughter he created at the old theatre. The amateur gentlemen who attended the orchestra deserve the highest praise, the music was exquisite, and perhaps no part of India, of the same limited extent as Singapore, can boast of an equal number of efficient performers. The proprietors of the theatre ought to be, and we have no doubt are, very grateful for the assistance of these gentlemen. It gave us great pleasure to see the house so well filled (not a vacant chair to be had) and graced with the presence of all the beauty and fashion of the Settlement." The performance was repeated a week after.

The year 1846 proved a dull one, except that in it certain admirable actors made their first appearance in Singapore, to be mentioned hereafter. On the 25th May were played *The Little Back Parlour, Bombastes Furioso,* and *Nothing Superfluous*. On the 27th September, were played the farces of *Damp Beds* and *My Young Wife and Old Umbrella*. We take, from the *Free Press*, portions of the critique on the performance, which alluded to amateurs who are still well remembered in Singapore. The *Free Press* at this time was edited by Mr. William Napier, an accomplished actor :—

"After a considerable blank, the performances at our little Drury were revived on Friday evening last, and although we only recognised two of the *old stagers* on the boards, the whole went off with much spirit; in fact, we confess ourselves to have been agreeably disappointed. The pieces chosen were humorous in the extreme, and the first, viz., *Damp Beds*, abounds with jokes, many of which, however, were omitted or rather forgotten, but what we heard were so palpable as to send us into roars. The acting of Mr. Jingle (J. D. Vaughan) as Whisk, was excellent throughout, and the complete self-possession and modulation of his voice convinces us that although new on the boards here, he is an old hand elsewhere. Jingle would prove a most valuable auxiliary to the little band; such, however, we fear cannot be, as the duties of his profession call him hence

in a very few days. Our old favourite Miss Quilp (W. Rodyk, of Malacca) was, as he always is, very effective in his part of the pert Abigail. Mr. Titmouse's first appearance (Lieutenant Sweet of the 21st Madras Infantry) was an admirable hit, his acting throughout of the vulgar upstart cockney who 'ain't to be done at no price,' was really good, and we hail this, his first appearance, as the promise of many future merry laughs; his appearance and manners are particularly droll, and we hope the manager will select a piece for next performance where the veteran Johnson and Titmouse can play together. We are sorry to see Mr. Fitzsnook (W. H. Read) playing in a new character, and sincerely trust he will again resume the old name, and captivate us as he did as the *Countess Ormsdoff* or as *Mrs. Pontifer*; the more especially, as Miss Ledbrook appears to have deserted the cause.

"In the second piece, Messrs. Fitzsnook, Snodgrass, and Jingle, and Miss Quilp, had almost nothing to do, the whole burden falling on Blueskin (Farleigh Armstrong's first appearance). *Gregory* was an admirable piece of acting, and kept the audience in a roar throughout; in fact, as we said before, all were mightily pleased. The excellent music of the 21st Regiment's Band added not a little to the evening's entertainment. With all due deference to Messrs. Crummles & Co., we decidedly object to their bamboozling Her Majesty's lieges by changing the actors' names so often—such mystification serves no other end than to puzzle people."

On November 24th, 1846, was performed *Charles the Second*, with Dunman as *Captain Copp*, his last appearance; and the farce of *State Secrets*, in which Tidman played the *Tailor of Tamworth*, the principal character. With the exception of the acting of these two, the performance was a failure. Dunman, as has been said, never played again. Miss Petowker's last performance was as *Fantine*, a low lodging housekeeper, and she looked the part to perfection. Archie Spottiswoode was Miss Ledbrooke and made up and played ladies' parts excellently well. The late Mr. William Rodyk, Registar of the Malacca Court, was the third female, and also played very well. One night when the *Dido*, Sir Harry Keppel's ship was here, after a performance, her Captain, Officers and amateurs, and Miss Petowker, played at leap-frog on the stage, and after their game adjourned for supper to the Navy House, which stood on the site occupied now by the Masonic Hall. The house belonged to Mr. Read's father.

In 1847, but one performance was advertised—On the 21st December, the laughable farces of *Animal Magnetism* and *But However*. No programme or critique appears in the *Free Press*, which was at this time edited by Mr. Logan, who was not a theatrical man, and the files of the *Straits Times* for this and other years were burnt.

In 1848, there were two performances—on the 29th August and 29th September. The programme of the first is given, but we cannot trace the amateurs. The plays were *His Last Legs* and *Twice Killed*. On the second night, the *Irish Lion* and *Meet Me by Moonlight* were played. There was no critique published on the performance.

During the next decade, the amateur performances were few and far between. There were none in 1851 and 1852. In 1853,

The Three Cuckoos, Little Back-Parlour and *Friend Naggles* were played. The performance was unfavourably reviewed by the press. No performance in 1854. In 1855, the amateurs revived, and performed in February, April, August and October. *Victorina, Mrs. Bunbury's Spoons, The Critic* and *Did You Ever Send Your Wife to Camberwell ?* were the plays. Nothing in 1856. In 1857 the amateurs were very busy playing in aid of a fund for fitting up a new theatre at the Town Hall. They played *The Prisoner of War, A Thumping Legacy, Helping Hands, John Dobbs, Paul Pry* and *Slasher and Crasher.* In June of that year, the performance was under the patronage of Lord Elgin, who was on his way to India to help Lord Canning. There were no performances in 1858 and 1859; and one or two in 1860. *Folair,* Captain J. D. Scott, left with his battery for India, and for several years Mr. W. H. Read was the President and Stage Manager of the *Corps Dramatique.* Mr. Bono (Farleigh Armstrong, then in William Macdonald & Co.'s) improved on every appearance, and eventually became a worthy successor to T. Dunman; and for many years was the best low comedian on the stage. As the deaf ostler in *Deaf as a Post,* and many other characters, he was inimitable. During these ten years, the amateurs who played women's parts were Mr. McCleland of Spottiswoode & Co. as *Miss Glendiggings;* Mr. George Dare, *La Brani,* now in Singapore, and Mr. Julius Dare, his brother. Mr. McCleland was exceptionally good. The tragedian was Mr. E. J. Leveson of Remé Brothers, who, as *Mr. Gower,* played, as often as he could, parts suited to his talents. Unfortunately this was not often, as the amateurs wisely eschewed tragedies. He made a decided hit in the *Prisoner of War.* He was an accomplished actor and reciter. Of light comedians, none excelled Mr. Barclay Read of A. L. Johnston & Co., and Mr. William Adamson, then of the Borneo Company, now in England, and a C.M.G., the head of the London firm of Adamson, Gilfillan & Co., and taking much trouble in looking after the interests of Singapore, like others of the old Singaporeans. Mr. Weir, of Spottiswoode & Co., was also very good in this line; F. M. Goss of Ker, Rawson & Co., John Steel of Martin Dyce & Co., and afterwards of the Mercantile Bank; and last, though not least, *Perkyns* (John Armstrong) known as the kindest hearted amateur ever seen, and a dear good fellow off the stage. He was always ready to oblige the Manager, and played any part that wanted filling up. He dressed carefully and played everything he took in hand well. There were also Franklin Richardson Kendal, of the P. & O. Office, and others, all good actors.

In 1861, on the 4th April, there was *A Phenomenon in a Smock Frock* and *Mrs. Bunbury's Spoons.* On July the 26th, *Our Wife or The Rose of Amiens* was performed. In this appeared for the first time *Jupon* (Mr. F. D. Barnes of the P. & O. Company, who died lately the Managing Director of the Company in London), an actor possessing great powers in the famous Robson's line, and was much admired. In all these pieces, the two Armstrongs, McCleland, and Dare played. On the 18th October, was performed *The Chimney Corner* and *Boots at the Swan.* In the former piece *Jupon,* Barnes,

played Robson's part very well indeed, but the critics did not flatter him. It was an exceedingly difficult part, abounding in passages of humour and pathos that are well known to those who have seen this piece and the *Porter's Knot*, both written for Robson, who was not less than a genius, and night after night brought tears into everyone's eyes in these homely characters, in the old, ill-appointed Adelphi theatre in London. No wonder if an amateur did not come up to so high a standard.

Mr. Vaughan as *Whisk* made his second appearance on the Singapore stage in the *Chimney Corner*; his performance was thus criticised by the *Straits Times* of the 19th October, 1861:—"The only difference, in fact, which the *Chimney Corner* presents (alluding to the *Porter's Knot*) is in the introduction of the *Deus machina* in the person of the honest son's grandfather, an old man of ninety, most beautifully played last night by *Mr. Whisk*. We have not had the pleasure of seeing this gentleman perform before, but we heartily welcome him as a very great addition to our little *corps dramatique*. His assumption of the feeble, bed-ridden, half-blind, old man; his rendering of the broken, interjected sentences, which, having no reference to each other, but simply showing the fancies flitting through the old man's brain, yet so powerfully point the wit of the general dialogue, his make and gait, were admirably worked out, and we must assign to *Mr. Whisk* the place of honour in last night's performance." Farleigh Armstrong was the hero of the second piece; and played *Boots* exceedingly well. This was written by the late John Cameron who had assumed the editorial charge of the *Straits Times* on the 20th August, 1861.

A decided "sell" perpetrated by the *corps dramatique*, in 1861, deserves recording, as it caused a great deal of merriment at the time, and no little annoyance in some quarters. The *corps* advertised early in the year a performance of the *Merchant of Venice*, and a crowded house was the result. Instead of Shakespear, the audience had *The Merchant of Venice Preserved*"—a burlesque—which in the hands of *Bono* and others proved a success, but many were indignant, and the press levelled its thunders at the heads of the unfortunate amateurs. The critique called forth a number of letters abusing and defending the amateurs, and after a few indignant letters had been published on both sides, the storm subsided.

During 1856, the old Assembly Rooms at the foot of Fort Canning had been demolished, and a temporary theatre erected on their site, in which the amateurs performed to the end of 1861, chiefly in aid of funds required for the scenery, dresses and properties for the new Theatre in the lower room of the Town Hall. Mr. Barclay Read assumed the duties of Stage Manager and President of the *Corps Dramatique*. At the end of 1861, the Savage Club was started by Wm. Steel of the Mercantile Bank, and its birth was thus noticed by the *Straits Times* on the 7th December, 1861, in a leader headed "The Drama." We extract the following part referring exclusively to the new club:—"We are heartily glad to see the establishment in Singapore of a club, whose ostensible purpose is the furthering of theatrical performances in our Settlement. The Savage Club is

by no means meant as an antagonistic body of performers to our old and justly esteemed corps at the Town Hall. It is simply designed in a graceful and generous spirit of rivalry, to incite the former corps to still further efforts, and to give to our European community an evening's entertainment which will afford them pleasure, and to the furtherance of dramatic performances in the East. The comparative dullness of the life we lead here, even as regards the Indian Presidencies, cannot be denied, and we joyfully hail another accession to our public fund of amusement."

During 1862, amateur theatricals flourished. The *Corps Dramatique* played two or three times at the Town Hall, and the Savage Club performed frequently. Mr. Steel of the Mercantile Bank, gave up his residence, the late Barganny House, for the performances. A pretty little theatre was fitted up in the drawing room and the admission to the performances was secured by a subscription of one dollar a month. With very few exceptions, all the European residents subscribed. Mr. Vaughan was President and Stage Manager, and Mr. Steel Secretary and Treasurer, a committee of three or four members assisted in the management. Barganny House being too small to accommodate all the subscribers at the same time, each performance had to be repeated. The Club played once in every month except during a few months in the middle of the year.

We give the following copies of the only two advertisements of the Club that we have been able to lay our hands on, which will give a fair insight into the Club's arrrangements:—

NOTICE.

"SAVAGE CLUB."

SEASON 1862.

The fourth performance of the season will take place at Barganny House on the 21st and 22nd proximo, at eight o'clock each night.

The following pieces will be presented:—

"ON AND OFF"

"NUMBER ONE ROUND THE CORNER,"

"COOL AS A CUCUMBER."

The Singapore Amateur Instrumental Association will kindly assist on this occasion.

N.B.—Subscribers whose names commence with the letters I to Z are expected on the first and from A to H on the second evening.

Singapore, 3rd March, 1862.

"SAVAGE CLUB."

SEASON 1862.

The concluding performance of the season will take place at Barganny House, on Thursday and Friday evenings, the 11th and 12th December, 1862, when will be presented the much admired Drama in three Acts.

"PLOT AND PASSION"

and the Burlesque of

"FRA DIAVOLO OR THE BEAUTY AND THE BRIGANDS."

With original music and new scenery, dresses and appointments.

The Singapore Amateur Instrumental Association will lend their valuable assistance.

Order of attendance: Subscribers I to Z on first and A to H on second evening of performance.

Singapore, 20th November, 1862.

The small subscription above mentioned sufficed to pay all the expenses of the Club, including scenery, dresses, properties and refreshments for the audiences. Besides the plays mentioned in the above advertisements, the following pieces were played during the year, also others that cannot now be ascertained: *Still Waters Run Deep, A Fearful Tragedy in the 7 Dials, Othello Travestied, The Turkish Bath,* the drama of *Robbers in the Wood,* and the burlesque of the same title; *Don Cæsar de Bazan, Burlesque of Medea, The Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare's), *Fish Out of Water.*

The Club was the means of introducing a number of first rate actors to the public. The tragedian was the late Dr. H. A. Allen, a private practitioner, as *Mr. Courtney.* In melodrama De La Feuillade of the Borneo Company, as *Mr. Delaf,* excelled. In *Don Cæsar de Bazan* and *Desmarets* no one in Singapore could have touched him. He was for many years in John Little & Co., and afterwards in the Borneo Company. His father was French and his mother English. He was a very clever actor where a Frenchman had to speak broken English, such as "*The First Night.* In his way he was, probably, the best actor in the place. As a delineator of female characters, Mr. William Mulholland, of the Borneo Company as *Miss Booth* was never surpassed. He was afterwards for several years the Manager of the Company in London. He is now dead. As *Maritana* in *Don Cæsar* he was exquisite, and no stranger visiting the performance would have supposed that the character was represented by a man. His *Portia* was excellent. The late Mr. Winton, of the Hongkong Bank, as *Miss Wilton,* made his *debut.* The low comedian *par excellence* was Mr. Charles Emmerson as *Mr. Emery;* he was quite equal to any of his predecessors, and afterwards, at the Town Hall, proved an able successor to Farleigh Armstrong. Mr. Emmerson was a veterinary surgeon and hotel and tiffin-rooms proprietor.

Mr. Steel in *Still Waters Run Deep* and *Cool as a Cucumber* was very good. He changed his theatrical name from *Mr. Wills* to *Mildmay,* the chief character in the first piece. Mr. Vaughan played the leading character in *Fish Out of Water, On and Off, No. 1 Round the Corner,* and other farces. He changed his name from *Whisk* to *Sam Savory,* the hero of the first piece.

We here quote from the *Straits Times* of the 13th December, 1862, a portion of the critique on the last regular performance of the season, in order to show what an outsider thought of some of the actors:—

"The last performance has certainly proved the best of the season at Barganny House. At a time when their claims to support and consideration are about to come before the public, the Savage Club do well to strain themselves to the utmost, and their efforts of the last two nights will prove, we think, not to have been altogether in vain. Labouring under considerable disadvantages in stage accommodation

and scenic machinery, they are able to place on their boards a three-act drama in a style that certainly has not been surpassed by anything we have yet seen in the Town Hall Theatre. If there were fewer appliances, there was a greater exercise of taste and judgment, and the scenes 1 and 3 in Fouché's Closet could scarcly have been improved. *Plot & Passion* is placed in the period of the first Empire, when the schemes and intrigues of Fouché first taught the world the great value and enormous power of a well organised police. The plot of the piece is simple ; Marie de Fondanges is one of Fouché's agents, and is sent to decoy to Paris M. de Neuville, who has offended Fouché and fled to Prague; during her residence there she falls in love with Neuville, and in the end is enabled to save him from the toils of the wily Minister of Police. The principal character in the piece is Fouché, and the part was sustained by *Mr. Courtney* (Dr. H. A. Allen), who has only once before appeared on the Barganny boards. To great coolness, admirable ease and complacency, a good voice, and a very perfect French pronunciation, *Mr. Courtney* added sufficient passion and excitability to make his rendering nearer perfection than we are ever likely to see in Singapore again. *Mr. Delaf* (De la Feuillade of the Borneo Company) as *Desmarets* showed out to great advantage; his acting was good, and his delivery was slower, and more distinct than on previous occasions; we are inclined to divide between him and *Mr. Courtney* the first merit in last night's performance; though the acting of the latter was decidedly the most masterly. *Mr. Mildmay's* (W. Steel) acting was good; better than we remember it before, and the scene between him and Marie in Fouché's Closet, after his arrest, was really well done, and deserved the applause that followed it. The other male characters were subordinate ones, but were well enough rendered not to detract from the general effect of the piece. *Miss Booth* (Mr. Mulholland), *Prima Donna* of Barganny House, if not of the Singapore stage, sustained the only important female character in the piece—*Marie de Fontanges*. The part was a very heavy one, and required a more than usually retentive memory, together with a great deal of very fine acting. In all these essentials, however, *Miss Booth* was not wanting, and by her acting last night she adds another to the many laurels she has already gained upon the Amateur stage. Taking last night's performance of *Plot & Passion*, and considering it is a whole, we are ready to confess that we believe it by far the best piece that has been given on the Barganny boards—if not the best in Singapore. The burlesque that followed should have been left out. It was past eleven before it commenced, and the manner in which it was played did not justify the detention of the audience. The parts were very imperfectly committed, and the piece consequently broke down in several places. It would be unjust, however, not to record the praise which is due to *Mr. Emery* (Charles Emmerson) for his peroration of *Beppo*, which was really inimitable. 'Tis hard to put the hand where the tart can never be' was splendid, and richly deserved the encore which was given. *Miss Wilton* (Mr. Winton of the Hongkong Bank) also promises to be a valuable acquisition to the female strength of the Savage Club."

The Savage Club had a brief, but glorious career. Mr. Steel left Singapore for Bombay in 1863, and the performances collapsed,

Attempts were made at intervals to resuscitate the Club without success; and some of the members joined the rival corps. Others declined to do this on account of a little ill-feeling that arose between the two *corps* in consequence of the older one declining to let the Savage Club play at the Town Hall, because they had a claim to the theatre there, they having played to pay the expenses thereof; which was quite true. The Savage Club had to yield, but the ill-feeling engendered by the correspondence that appeared in the *Straits Times*, never wore off, and lost to the amateur stage several prominent actors who never played in public again.

In 1862, the *Corps Dramatique* played the *Critic*, *Catching a Mermaid*, and *Robert Macaire*. The first was got up regardless of expense, and gave great satisfaction. Mr. Barclay Read played *Puff* with eclat; but as the handsome, bold and rollicking highwayman *Macaire*, he surpassed himself. Mr. Tidman of the Borneo Company played the cowardly *Strop* splendidly. Mr. Vaughan was *Pierre*, The farce was very amusing, Farleigh Armstrong playing the chief part. Mr. Paul Frederic Tidman was the leading light comedian for some time after his debut and by far the cleverest actor of his time. He was in the Borneo Company, and afterwards in partnership with Mr. Wm. Mactaggart in London, as Mactaggart, Tidman & Co. He was the first Honorary Secretary of the Straits Association in London and was created a C.M.G., and died in 1891.

More than sufficient, perhaps, has now been collected from old papers to show the nature of the amateur theatricals in former days, and the subject may end here, as the names have been mentioned of all the leaders in an amusement which certainly did credit to the community.

CHAPTER LVI.

THE TRANSFER.

THIS chapter contains an account of the transfer of the Straits Settlements from the East India Company to the Colonial Office. It was always spoken of as "The Transfer," and was considered the most important event in the history of Singapore since the day when Sir Stamford Raffles founded the Settlement; and the prominent date of division in the history of the place. The causes which led up to the change will appear in the various petitions, letters, and papers that are reprinted here.

It has not been unusual of late years to hear it said in Singapore that there is little public spirit in the place, and that it would not exist if occasion arose when it might prove of much advantage. Whatever may be the case at the present time, it could not have been said with truth of the early days of the Settlement, as this book has clearly shown; and the patience and perseverance of the mercantile community during ten years in urging the importance of the Transfer, and in persistently following it up in spite of frequent discouragement, is proof that there was no lack of public-spirited members in the community at that time.

The principal cause of the movement was the feeling in Singapore, which had been growing for many years, that the Supreme Government in Bengal was able to give very little attention to the affairs of a place so far from Calcutta and so different from India in many respects. One small matter of grievance, for example, was that for more than twenty years the community had been complaining of the inconvenience of there being no regulations for the control of public conveyances, and no redress could be got, even in such a small matter, from Calcutta. A second point was the little attention that could be obtained with regard to the commercial relations of Singapore with the Native States in the Peninsula and Archipelago, the promotion of which had been one of the principal objects of Sir Stamford Raffles.

The Governor-General of India, with the engrossing duties entailed upon him by the Government of India, could ill spare the time to consider not only the internal government of the Straits Settlements, but also the matters of foreign policy connected with them. The French were commencing to take a peculiar interest in Cochin-China, which ultimately led to the occupation of Saigon. The Netherlands and Spain both had colonies close by, with which the interests of Singapore were connected, and all the correspondence on such matters had to reach the Foreign Office in London through the Governor-General, who might be at Simla, which caused delay for many weeks or months.

After the Indian Mutiny the Europeans in Calcutta had agitated the question of the Government of India being placed directly under the Crown, and the Straits Settlements being then part of the administration of India, this fact led to the opportunity of raising the question as regarded the government of the Straits.

A public meeting of the European inhabitants was held at the News Rooms on 15th September, 1857, called by the Sheriff on a requisition very numerously signed, for the purpose of considering the advisability of joining in the movement which had originated in Calcutta.

Mr. Joaquim d'Almeida, the Sheriff, was called to the chair, and after some discussion on minor points, the Meeting, being unanimous that it would be highly advantageous to transfer the management of India from the East India Company to the Crown, passed the following resolutions:—

Proposed by R. C. Woods, seconded by C. Spottiswoode:—"That this Meeting records its hearty concurrence in the prayer of the Calcutta Petition, dated 3rd August, and resolves to petition Parliament to present an address to the Crown, beseeching Her Majesty to place the whole of British India under the sole Government of the Imperial Parliament."

Proposed by J. J. Greenshields, seconded by J. Harvey:—"That the petition to Parliament set forth the grievance under which the Straits Settlements have laboured during the Government of the East India Company, and pray to be placed *directly under the Crown, with a separate Government*, and not as at present under a delegated authority in India."

Proposed by W. Paterson, seconded by J. B. Cumming, "That the following gentlemen be named a Committee to carry out the resolutions of the Meeting, Messrs. A. Logan, R. C. Woods, R. Bain, A. M. Aitken, and Joaquim d'Almeida."

The words above, here printed in italics, seem to be the first mention *in print* of what ended in the Transfer on 1st April, 1867.

The following was the Petition which was addressed to the two Houses of Parliament by the European inhabitants of Singapore, and was very numerously signed:—

"That your Petitioners have long felt aggrieved by the manner in which Singapore is governed by the East India Company. For a considerable time it was subordinate to the Bengal Presidency, and although of late years the Straits Settlements have been nominally a separate Government, placed directly under the Supreme Government of India, there has been little alteration in the system of management. Ignorant, apparently, of the many circumstances in which the Straits Settlements differ so widely from Continental India, the Supreme Government has almost invariably treated them from an exclusively Indian point of view, and shown a systematic disregard to the wants and wishes of their inhabitants, however earnestly and perseveringly made known. And only by appeals to the Imperial Government and Parliament, have needful improvements desired by the inhabitants of the Straits Settlements been brought about, or redress obtained for injustice inflicted on them by the Government of the East India Company.

"When, a few years ago, Parliament established a Legislative Council for India, your Petitioners hoped that a beneficial change would take place in the manner of dealing with questions affecting the welfare of the Straits Settlements, but they found that such expectations were fallacious. Unlike the several Presidencies and Governments of Continental India, the Straits Settlements are not represented in the Legislative Council, by any person having a competent knowledge of their requirements. On various occasions when proceeding to deal

with matters connected with these Settlements, the members of the Legislative Council have confessed their complete ignorance of Straits affairs, but this has not induced them to hesitate in their action—or to take effectual means for acquiring the information acknowledged to be wanting. They have, on the contrary, passed Acts most detrimental to the interests of the Settlement, in spite of the earnest remonstrances and prayers of the inhabitants.

"The Straits Settlements are placed under the charge of a Governor, appointed by the Governor-General of India in Council. Without any Council to advise or assist him, this Officer has paramount authority within the Settlement, and by his reports and suggestions the Supreme Government and Legislative Council are in great measure guided in dealing with the affairs of these Settlements. It may, and indeed does in reality frequently happen, that this functionary, from caprice, temper or defective judgment, is opposed to the wishes of the whole community, yet in any conflict of opinion so arising his views are almost invariably adopted by the Supreme Government, upon statements and representations which the public have no knowledge of and no opportunity of impugning.

"In order to show that these assertions are not vague generalities, or made without sufficient facts to justify them, your Petitioners humbly submit the following statements:—

"The Settlement of Singapore was established as an outlet for British Commerce, and the preservation of its integrity as a Free Port has always been recognised by statesmen as essential to its prosperity and the full development of the objects contemplated in its formation. Thirty-nine years ago it was a haunt of savage Malay pirates and now it has a Trade of the annual value of ten millions of pounds sterling, steadily increasing from year to year. The Honorable the Court of Directors and the Government of India have never cordially recognised or appreciated the advantage which the free port of Singapore has afforded to the Commerce of Great Britain and India. Influenced solely by the desire to protect their revenue and ignoring all other considerations, they have at various times proposed to adopt measures that if carried out would have had the effect of ruining or seriously injuring the trade of Singapore. At one period they wished to impose Import and Export duties, at another Tonnage dues, and, passing over other projects never realised, they adopted measures in 1854 for introducing the Company's Rupee into more general circulation in the Straits Settlements, where hitherto a Dollar currency had almost exclusively prevailed. The Copper currency, consisting of Cents of a Dollar, previously supplied under the provisions of an Act of the Indian Government passed in 1847, was withheld, and the Indian copper money, which it is impossible to adapt to a Dollar currency was substituted in its place. The inhabitants of the Straits Settlements repeatedly and in the most earnest terms memorialized the Legislative Council and Supreme Government of India against these changes, setting forth the inconvenience and injury their adoption would occasion, but their representations were not listened to. In all these instances, the evil was only averted or redress procured by appealing to the Imperial Government or Parliament, from which that attention and justice were obtained which had been in vain prayed for at the hands of our more immediate rulers.

"From the very first establishment of Singapore the trading vessels, and more especially the native craft, resorting to it, have been much exposed to the attacks of pirates. No systematic measures of protection have ever been adopted or carried out by the East India Company, who have been content to leave the service to be performed by the Royal Navy. Her Majesty's Naval forces being liable to be called away to other duties, can only act at intervals; and hence for long periods the neighbouring seas have been left wholly or very slightly guarded and have at such times swarmed with pirates, to the great injury of the trade of this port.

"The Supreme Government of India has uniformly discouraged the local Government at Singapore from interfering with matters beyond the limits of the Island. The cultivation of friendly relations with Native States and Chiefs has been neglected, and the Government does not possess that influence in the Indian Archipelago which the interests of British commerce require, and which might have been acquired and maintained by a very slight exertion on the part of the Indian Government.

"Upon Singapore and Malacca being annexed to Prince of Wales' Island, the Recorder's Court established at the latter place was extended to the three stations, which were designated "The Settlements of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca." The Recorder resided at Prince of Wales' Island and made

circuits to Singapore and Malacca twice in the year and at times even at longer intervals, principally with the view of discharging the Gaols, the civil suits at Singapore being nearly all tried and disposed of by the Governor or Resident Councillor, Civil Servants of the East India Company. In course of time the judicial business at Singapore increased largely, in consequence of its great commercial prosperity, and the officers of Government found that the discharge of their judicial functions interfered inconveniently with the performance of their other duties, while the community was dissatisfied at having the Law administered by unprofessional persons, at best very imperfectly acquainted with it. The Indian Government was besought to make those changes in the judicial system of the Settlement which had now become imperatively necessary. Much delay ensued, and some impracticable schemes were propounded, having for their principal object to dispense with professionally trained judges and to vest the administration of justice almost entirely in the local Officers of Government, Civil or Military servants of the East India Company, and at last the subject was postponed indefinitely. The inhabitants of Singapore, after much delay, petitioned both Houses of Parliament for redress. when two Recorders were assigned to the Straits, one of them being stationed at Singapore, with Malacca under his jurisdiction. Owing, however, to the long delay which had taken place, and the rapid increase in the wealth and population of Singapore, the judicial establishment that had been considered suitable ten years previously, and which was adopted in framing the new Charter, has been found very inadequate for the altered circumstances of the place, and the amount of judicial business has so much increased as to make it impossible for one Judge to dispose of it although sitting almost uninterruptedly in Court, from day to day, throughout the whole year.

"The native population of Singapore comprehends persons from all parts o the Continent of India, Arabia, the Indian Archipelago and China. In most instances, coming here solely for the prosecution of trade, or to acquire a competency, and without any intention or wish to become settlers for life, they do not feel that desire to conform to our institutions and laws which would no doubt arise were they bound to the place by family or other permanent ties. This is more peculiarly the case with the Chinese, who constitute the great bulk of the population. The Chinese residents are in most cases male adults, the females being in the proportion of one woman to eighteen men. Belonging chiefly to the lowest class, the Chinese immigrants are ignorant and turbulent, bringing with them from their own country those prejudices and feelings which animate their nation generally against foreigners. Here they find their secret societies and confederacies in full operation, and they fall into that system of self-government which, in this as in other Europeans Colonies to which the Chinese emigrate, is found to interfere so seriously with public order and the proper administration of justice. The principles on which these Societies are constituted and worked have a most baneful influence. They assume to themselves a jurisdiction extending even to life and death, and they exercise the great powers which their organization gives them, in hindering the constitutional administration of justice by shielding criminals and by suppressing and concealing evidence. The rivalries of hostile societies and clans give rise to disturbances and outrages, often of a very grave nature. To control such a population requires a firm and consistent though conciliatory course of action on the part of the Government. This has in a great measure been wanting in the Straits Settlements. At one time the attitude assumed by the officials is harsh and irritating; at another, finding or imagining themselves unable to control the Chinese, they have recourse to undignified compromises most damaging to their authority. For many years past the European inhabitants have urged upon the attention of Government the imperative necessity of measures being adopted for remedying this undesirable state of matters; they have suggested means by which the relations of Government with the Chinese population might be improved, and the effect of their peculiar habits and institutions in a great measure counteracted, without any violent interference with them; but such remonstrances and suggestions have been generally received with indifference, and sometimes without the slightest acknowledgment of their having been made.

"Although Singapore was established exclusively as a commercial emporium, yet from a very early period of its existence it has been used by the Indian Govern-

ment as a station for the Convicts of Continental India; the felons sent here being those whose crimes are of the deepest dye and their period of transportation of a lengthened nature, frequently for life. Of late years, the number of such transported felons stationed at Singapore has been much increased, and your Petitioners are seriously apprehensive that it is the intention of the Government to make this Settlement a penal station on a large scale, and to send to it the worst and most dangerous of the criminals confined in the Indian Gaols. With such a large body of convicts there is no adequate provision for the protection of the life and property of the inhabitants. The convicts are only guarded by a few Sepoy troops who in courage are far inferior to the desperadoes they are set to watch over. The system of convict management and discipline has from the very first been of the most defective and loose nature. Large gangs of convicts are stationed in different parts of the island, in open lines, and with only native officers or peons (themselves convicts) to control them. They style themselves "servants of government" and their behaviour to the rural population is insolent and oppressive. Whatever may be the condition, morally or otherwise, of the native population, there can be little doubt that the presence of a large body of convicts, especially with such an imperfect state of discipline as that prevailing, must exert a decidedly injurious influence. Irrespective, however, of such considerations, your Petitioners entertain a strong feeling that a Settlement established and kept up as an Emporium of Trade should not be converted into a Penal Station for the felons of India. They earnestly desire to be freed from what they must ever consider the contamination arising from such a body of felons being placed amongst them.

> "Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, that your Honorable House will be pleased to adopt such measures as may be necessary for removing the Government of British India from the East India Company and substituting in its place the direct Government of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen; and further, that the Straits Settlements may be constituted a separate Government, directly under the Crown, and not, as at present, under a delegated authority in India.

In March, 1858, it was said that the Home Government had decided on the change, and to make the Settlement a Crown Colony, and the principal naval depot in the East. It was also reported that Sir James Brooke had been named as the first Governor of the Colony. This was, however, very premature, for it took nine years before the Transfer was carried out. The English Government had, at that time, a number of important matters in hand, while on the other hand Singapore was very little known or appreciated, and it was no doubt considered a very subordinate question which might very well stand over.

In the same month the Petition from Singapore was presented to the Houses of Parliament. Lord Albemarle, the elder brother of Admiral Sir Henry Keppel, was to have presented it in the House of Lords, but he was absent in Italy, and it was presented by Earl Granville. What he said on the occasion was not reported in the newspapers, owing no doubt to the crowd of what were thought much more important matters by the London daily papers. In the House of Commons the Petition was presented by Lord Bury, the eldest son of the Earl of Albemarle. The *Times* of 14th April contained a report from which the following is condensed.

"Lord Bury rose and said that the Straits Settlements were situated on the great highway of commerce between the east and the west, and the matter was one of national importance. He spoke of Sir Stamford Raffles having appreciated the valuable resources of Singapore and, after great trouble, having obtained leave to establish the Settlement, which in the course of a year had transferred to itself the trade before carried on at Penang. Singapore progressed most favourably under the East India Company, but when the trade of the Company with China ceased to be a

monopoly it was consequently no longer a matter of importance to India whether Singapore continued to flourish or not. In proportion, however, as the interests of the East India Company in the place declined, it became a matter of national importance to England that its position should be maintained. The Straits Settlements were, in the strict sense of the word, Colonies; their population was not composed of conquered races but of bodies of men who had been attracted there by the security afforded by British rule. The trade had increased enormously, from £4,000,000 in 1840, to £15,000,000 in 1857. The Straits Settlements had properly no connection with India, they had ceased to be of any importance to that Empire since India had ceased to trade exclusively with China. In fact they appeared to be only regarded by the Indian Government as useful for a convict station, the whole of the convicts of Bombay, Madras and Bengal being sent there. The Company had wished to establish one uniform currency, and introduced the rupee and smaller Indian coins into the Straits, but great confusion had resulted. They had also attempted to impose tonnage dues upon shipping, and had only been stopped from inflicting this injustice by the remonstrances of the Home Government. All these things proved that the interests of the Settlements were much more Imperial than Indian, and would be better governed if they were brought immediately under the control of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The population had no means of forwarding their views to head-quarters, and questions were decided entirely at variance with their feelings. Another point was that Singapore required protection against the aggressive policy of the Dutch, who prevented the native places from trading with the place and diverted their trade into Dutch ports.

"He said that since the Singapore petition had been sent home, all public works in the Straits Settlements had been stopped, because of the events which had happened in India, which was very hard as the Straits had nothing to do with India. These were the principal grounds for removing the Straits from the control of the East India Company, and placing them directly under the authority of the Crown. Looking at the enormous progress they had made in a few years, the large European community there, and the peculiar position and advantages for trade, he hoped to hear from the Government a satisfactory answer, and moved for copies of the correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and the East India Company, in order that the House might have the advantage of listening to any discussion that might arise."

Mr. Baillie (the Secretary of the Board of Control of the East India Company) was free to confess, as the noble lord had stated, that the subject which he had brought under the notice of the House had not sufficiently occupied the attention of the Government. The fact was that they did not consider it necessary, at a time when the whole government of India was about to be discussed in the House, to deal with questions of detail respecting what must at present, at all events, be considered a portion of the Indian empire. Then, again, it would have been necessary, in taking this subject into consideration, to communicate with the home Government of India and the Governor-General; for, as the noble lord had stated, this Colony was one of the great penal stations for Indian convicts. With regard to the complaints

made in the petition, he (Mr. Baillie) could not altogether admit their justice. It was alleged, first of all, that the Indian Government had made repeated attempts to impose duties on the trade of Singapore, which attempts had only been frustrated by appeals to the home authorities. Now, the petitioners could hardly complain that their interests were unattended to, when their grievances had thus been redressed. Again, with regard to the complaints about their currency, it was very natural that the Governor-General should desire to establish a uniform currency throughout the whole of the territories subject to his authority. But, after the complaints made at Singapore, this grievance also was redressed, and the currency which had been imposed on the Colony was changed back to the dollar currency. He thought that this, therefore, did not give the petitioners a right to complain. The only just ground of complaint which, in his opinion, those colonists could urge, was that Singapore had been made a penal settlement, and that no doubt was a complaint which was well entitled to consideration. (Hear, hear). It should, however, be borne in mind that Singapore had been made a penal settlement before it had risen to its present importance, and that the prosperity which it now enjoyed was to no small extent the result of convict labour. But, although he was prepared to admit that the complaint to which he had just adverted was one which was deserving of notice, he could by no means concur in the justice of the statement which had been made by the noble lord, to the effect that the expenses connected with the maintenance of the military establishment at Singapore were entirely defrayed by the colonists. Such was by no means the case, and he might add that the military defences of the colony involved a question of the utmost importance for the consideration of the Government; because, if Singapore were to become a Crown Colony this country would have to take upon itself the onus of defraying the charge for its military defence, a charge which could not be estimated at a less sum than £300,000 per annum. The House would recollect that at the commencement of the Chinese War great excitement prevailed in Singapore, inasmuch as there were 40,000 or 50,000 Chinese at the time in the Colony. It had, therefore, been deemed expedient to increase to a considerable extent its military defences, and he believed that there were at the present moment no less than three regiments stationed in the Settlement. At no period, indeed, could its garrison, in his opinion, be estimated at less than two regiments and a battery of artillery, the maintenance of which would cost this country nearly £300,000 per annum at the very lowest calculation; for that was an amount of expenditure which could not be thrown upon the resources of the colony itself, inasmuch as its revenue was barely sufficient to defray its ordinary civil expenditure and to admit of its furnishing £15,000 a year towards the outlay for military purposes. The subject, therefore, was one which was well worthy of serious consideration, and before Parliament proceeded to take any active steps with respect to it, it would do well, he thought, to bear in mind that the commerce of Singapore had within the last six years increased at least 75 per cent., a fact which afforded the best evidence of the prosperity of the Colony. (Hear). Under these circumstances he trusted that the noble lord would be satisfied with the explanation

which he had given in reference to a subject which had not as yet been brought under the special consideration of the Government, and which, when the future Government of India was settled, might at any time press itself upon their attention. (Hear, hear).

Mr. Horsman (who at one time had large sugar plantations at Province Wellesley) said that, from all the information which he had obtained upon the subject, the case of Singapore appeared to him to be one of those instances in which a want of sympathy with the position of the inhabitants of our foreign settlements was exhibited, which was by no means creditable to the Legislature. (Hear, hear). He believed that history furnished no record of the advance in prosperity of a colony more rapid than was that of Singapore. Forty years ago it had been the haunt of pirates, and one of the most lawless districts which could well be conceived. It had within that period, however, risen to the possession of a trade of £10,000,000 *per annum*, a trade which had, as had been stated by the Honorable gentleman who had just spoken, increased 75 per cent. during the last six years. Now, the obstacles which had opposed themselves in the way of that remarkable progress had been overcome despite of the action of the Government of this country, and although the Honorable gentleman opposite seemed to think that nothing was more natural than that the Governor-General of India should deem the circulating medium of that country suitable to Singapore, the consequence had been that that step had led to the complete disturbance of the commerce of the colony. But a measure much more objectionable was that which had converted a small, but active and thriving, colony into a penal settlement for the very worst class of criminals in India, and imperilled its security by intrusting the guardianship of those criminals to a regiment of Sepoys. The real question for the consideration of the House was, what had Singapore to do with India? Why should that colony be governed in India? (Hear, hear). It carried on a larger trade with China than with India, and was inhabited by thousands of Chinese. As well, therefore, might Ceylon or Hongkong be placed under the Government of India (hear, hear), instead of under the control of the Colonial Office. The question was one which he thought was well worthy of the consideration of the Government, and he trust it would receive at their hands that degree of attention to which it was entitled.

Sir J. Elphinstone (the Member for Portsmouth) said, as one possessing some knowledge of Singapore, he wished to say a few words upon the occasion. He certainly had never until now heard any suggestion that Singapore should be placed under the control of the Colonial Office, and he was not at present prepared to give an opinion on the point. He had been at Singapore in 1820, when the Settlement was just formed. At that time it was an island inhabited only by a few Malay fishermen, but, being singularly well adapted by its position to intercept the whole trade of the Eastern Archipelago, Sir Stamford Raffles, one of the ablest men who ever visited the East, recommended its settlement. In consequence of its advantageous position the progress of the Settlement had been extraordinarily rapid, and it was now a vast entrepot for the commerce of that part of the world. At first it was

necessary to send thither convicts to perform public works, and a very small military force was required to guard them; but as the Settlement increased in importance the elements of disorder increased likewise, for the population which resorted to Singapore was drawn from the most lawless and savage of eastern races; the Bugis, the Sarawak Dyaks, the Syaks, inhabitants of Sumatra, and other wild races, furnished their quota to the population of Singapore. In addition, however, there was a large Chinese population who resorted to the Settlement in order to make money, with which to return to China. Those men came unaccompanied by women, and they associated with the native women of the country, from which connection had sprung a race called Kling, a most disorderly people. It had become necessary to increase the military force to preserve order among those people, and not on account of the convict population in the Settlement, of whom he had never heard any complaints made, but from whom, on the contrary, the residents usually selected their domestic servants. (A laugh.) He once knew a lady, the wife of an Officer in high position, who told him she always selected her servants from that class, and upon his asking whether she preferred thieves or murderers for service in her nursery, replied that she always chose murderers (great laughter), their crimes having been generally committed from motives of jealousy, and, those motives ceasing, they were very desirable servants. He had never heard that the convicts were at all disagreeable to the residents in the Settlement, but he knew they were useful in constructing roads, bridges, and other public works, which otherwise would not be performed. He was inclined to agree with the Secretary to the Board of Control that it would be a great burden for this country to take upon itself the charge of maintaining peace among that mixed and lawless population. He had no doubt there might be defects in the management of the Straits Settlements, but there was one insuperable obstacle to the colonization of the island of Singapore, and that was the immense number of tigers which swam over from the opposite shore, from which Singapore was separated only by a small stream. The opposite coast was an impenetrable jungle tenanted by vast numbers of tigers, more bold and ferocious than any to be found in other parts of India; and scarcely a day passed without some native being carried off bodily by those animals. That circumstance operated to prevent the cultivation of spice and sugar, for which otherwise the country was excellently adapted.

Mr. Mangles (the Member for Guildford, a Director of the East India Company) did not wish on the part of the East India Company to put forth a decided claim to the control over the Straits Settlements, but he wished to correct some statements which were contained in a pamphlet written by an esteemed friend, Mr. John Crawfurd, the author of "Our Eastern Archipelago." In that pamphlet it was stated that the revenue of the three Straits Settlements, Malacca, Penang and Singapore, were burdened with charges which were never imposed upon the local revenues of any colony, and that out of it were defrayed the expenses of the military and naval services, and also for the maintenance of transported felons from Madras, Bombay and Bengal. The fact, however, was that the charge for the convicts was borne by the presidencies whence they were sent, all the military and naval expenses were also defrayed by India. (Hear, hear.) The gross revenues of the Straits

Settlements in 1855-6 was £97,904, the local charges, independent of the cost for military and naval purposes was £74,753, leaving only a balance of £23,151 to meet those expenses. The right Honorable member for Stroud had stated that the settlement of Singapore was exposed to danger from the convicts, but the last speaker had shown how unfounded was the apprehension. The real danger, and a most serious one it was, arose from the large Chinese population in the Straits Settlements, and he would warn the Honorable gentleman opposite and the House, that unless strong measures were taken, such as the Government of India were now considering, with respect to the Chinese population and their secret societies, the safety of those settlements would be greatly jeopardized. (Hear, hear). He did not know that the control of these settlements was of great importance to the Indian Government, especially as having lately taken possession of the Andaman Islands, they were no longer needed as a depot for their convicts, but he would advise the Government not to deal with this matter without consulting the Governor-General. If that officer should see no objection to the change, he did not know that the East India Company would be at all unwilling to part with its control over those settlements.

The motion for the production of correspondence was then agreed to.

The London *Times* thus remarked on the discussion :—"The leading idea of the speakers who took part in the discussion seemed to be that the authority over Singapore should be entirely taken away from the Government of India, and that it should be brought directly under the authority of the Colonial Office. What has Singapore to do with India? It carries on a larger trade with China than with India. The true idea of the settlement, colony, or by whatever name it may be called, is as the centre and citadel of British power in the Eastern Seas, and the great house of call between Great Britain and China. It is from this point chiefly that the ceaseless intrigues of the Dutch to exclude us altogether from the Indian Archipelago can be defeated. With the Straits of Malacca and the North-Western coast of Borneo in our possession, as long as we retain our naval supremacy, we could be secure of our communication with China."

There was a long article on the subject in the London *Examiner* of 24th April, which spoke of Lord Bury's speech as abundant in matter and lucid in manner, and ably supported by Mr. Horsman, but had been answered by orations which had neither of these qualities. Mr. Baillie had mistated the force of Sepoys in the Straits at more than seven times the actual garrison. The paper spoke of Sir J. Elphinstone as having outdone the Secretary of Control by still more extravagant statements. That honourable member, it said, had visited Singapore on a trading voyage the year after the place was founded, and laughed at all his statements about the population of Singapore consisting of the most lawless and savage of the Eastern races, the convicts, the *Syaks* of Sumatra, the race called Klings, and the tigers. It said that Mr. Mangles was more rational, as he was a man of ability and knowledge, but he was Chairman of the East India Directors, who were sure to find excuses.

The *Singapore Free Press* said:—"Straits matters begin to attract considerable attention and it is hoped that the subject will not be allowed to rest during the discussion of the change in the Indian Government, with which it is bound up, like a pamphlet on free trade or colonization, at the end of a huge volume on the annexation of Oude. The Singapore petition was presented to the House, and the views of the petitioners were warmly seconded by many speakers, but the majority know nothing, and care less, if possible, about the "Straits," thinking perhaps for the first hour or so that the island of Perim and those "Straits" are in question, while some members exhibited all the characteristics of military heroes two or three centuries ago, and were not ashamed to argue that—as Singapore was originally a penal Settlement, and could in no way be looked upon as a colony, that as the large majority of the residents were aliens and the place was a mere resort for money-making traders, the claim to be considered separate from India was untenable. Such stuff as this is however being well answered out of doors. Sir James Brooke and Admiral Keppel dined the other day at Manchester, at a magnificent entertainment in their honor, when Sir James put the case in a very forcible manner. The *Times* too has taken up the matter very warmly and there is now a chance that our legislators, and the public, will learn something about the Indian Archipelago, and English, Dutch, Chinese and other interests. The Chinese war and the Indian rebellion have heated the iron, and it remains for those interested in the Straits Settlements, and in British commerce in the East, to hammer away incessantly until they obtain by clamour, if necessary, what is refused to reasoning."

The *Free Press* of 10th June, 1858, contained a copy of parts of a long memorandum drawn up by Mr. Crawfurd and circulated amongst Members of Parliament and others taking an interest in the Straits. It is too long to print here, and gave a number of statistics, which are mostly to be found elsewhere in this book, regarding the Settlements, their inhabitants, trade, and revenue. He showed that the revenue of the Straits, if taken per head of population, exceeded that of Continental India as 43 to 30, and that if the revenue were not burdened with military charges which were not made against the local revenue in any of the British Colonies, there would be a surplus at Singapore of £23,529, at Malacca of £3,840, and at Penang of £4,448.

Lord Canning, in a remarkably able minute on the proposed Transfer, written in November, 1859, said:—"It must not be overlooked that the revenues of the Settlement have been steadily increasing, and that while the receipts have risen from 873,692 rupees in 1854-55, to 1,323,368 rupees in 1858-59, (being an increase of 51 per cent. in four years) the disbursements for civil charges, not including the cost of the foreign convicts, have in the same interval risen from 722,107 rupees to 821,913, being an increase of 14 per cent. only. As there is no reason why the civil charges of the Settlement should be further increased, it may be anticipated that if peace should happily be maintained between England and the great European powers, the revenues of the Straits Settlements will in no very long time equal their full charges, military as well as civil. But even if it prove otherwise, and if it should be necessary for England to make some sacrifice in this respect, I

hold a clear opinion that it ought to be made in justice alike to the Settlements and to India.

In another passage Lord Canning wrote :—" It is not easy to see any sound objection to the proposed transfer to the Colonial Office. Mr. Blundell, the late Governor, who was consulted, has urged none to which I can attach weight. He thinks that the native community, more particularly the Chinese, might, when informed of the change, be seized with suspicion and alarm. It is not apparent, however, why this should be the consequence of a change which would be attended, in the first place at all events, with no actual alteration of things in the Settlement itself. But even if Mr. Blundell's opinion be well founded, nothing beyond a little temporary inconvenience need be apprehended, for the Chinese are a very practical people, bent upon making money, and very indifferent to matters in which this is not concerned. As such, they are not likely to contend seriously or for long with a fancied grievance in which no substance or reality will be perceptible to themselves.

" But whether the main system of Government be altered or not, that under which officers are provided for service in the Straits is, so far as civil administration is concerned, a positive evil, which ought in any case to be remedied. Indian officers have no opportunities of acquiring experience of the habits or the language of either Malays or Chinese, and accordingly, when officers are sent to the Straits, they have every thing to learn. The Government of India is unable to keep a close watch upon their efficiency ; the field is so narrow as to afford little or no room to the Governor of the Settlements, for exercising a power of selection in recommending to a vacant office ; and there is consequently so complete an absence of stimulus to exertion, that it may well be doubted whether Indian civil officers sent to the Straits ever become thoroughly well qualified for, or heartily interested in the duties they have to discharge.

" The character of the Chinese, the most important and at times a very unmanageable part of the population of the Straits Settlements, is quite different from that of any people with which Indian officers have to deal. Democratic in spite of the outward form of their own government, enterprising and persevering, the Chinese are imbued with a strong tendency to self government, and are, therefore, the very opposite of our Indian fellow subjects. I am satisfied that if the Straits Settlements are to remain under the control of the Indian Government, it will be absolutely necessary to devise a plan, by which the persons employed in administering the civil government shall receive a special training ; and that without this the Indian Government cannot do justice to these Settlements."

And further on :—" Another very important point to be considered is the defence of the Straits Settlements, for which, in the event of danger from any formidable enemy, the Government of India could not with justice be made answerable. The past security which these settlements have enjoyed affords no guarantee of our capacity to defend them, for we have not been at war with any great power in these seas since the Government of India held the Settlement. It is necessary, of course, that Singapore should always be garrisoned, and this can be

done by India in ordinary time without difficulty; but it is certain that the Settlements, if threatened with external danger, must be protected by the naval strength of Great Britain. It may be said that this is in a great degree true of India itself. So it is, but with this material difference, that whereas our Indian empire cannot, so long as we are strong in the interior of it, suffer from the enemy's ships anything worse than temporary insult and the ravage of its ports (very few, considering the extent of its seaboard), our settlement in the Straits might be wrested from us altogether if, even for a short time, a hostile fleet were stronger than our own in those waters."

The *Singapore Free Press* in May, 1864, in referring to Lord Canning's minute, said:—"We hope the Home Authorities may be able to understand thoroughly the state of the case, and that the exigencies of Singapore and the other Straits Settlements do not require any very costly military force. In the event of the Transfer, a man-of-war would probably be stationed in the Straits, and in the event of any disturbance with the Native States or a serious riot in the Settlements, the sailors would form the best force."

In January, 1859, that newspaper said that it was understood that no objection existed on the part of the Governor-General of India to the Transfer, and that the question was so far decided that only the details of the arrangements required to be settled and to receive the sanction of Parliament.

In the meantime a feeling had been gaining ground amongst some of the European residents in Singapore, that it might be more advantageous for the Settlements to be placed under the management of the Secretary of State for India, rather than under the Secretary for the Colonies. The chief reason formerly for desiring a change had been the interminable delay which arose from the multiplicity of channels through which representations from the Straits had to pass, before they found their way to the President of the Board of Control. This objection, it was suggested, would still to a great degree exist were the Straits Settlements to remain subordinate to the Government of India, but that it would be done away with, were they placed in direct relation with the Secretary of State for India, and furnished with a constitution which should embrace legislative powers. The petitions sent from Singapore to Parliament in October, 1857, had not contained a specific request to be placed under the Colonial Office, but only prayed "that the Straits Settlements may be constituted a separate Government, directly under the Crown, and not, as at present, under a delegated authority in India." The complete change in the whole form of the Indian Government which had since taken place, was not at that time anticipated, and as matters stood in January, 1859, it was said that it would not be inconsistent with the prayer of the petitions of 1857, to request that the Straits Government should be subordinated to the Secretary of State for India.

Whether such a course would be advisable was said by others to be very doubtful. The Secretary of State for India, for years to come, would find in the reorganization of the Indian Government, finances and army, sufficient matters to engross all his time and attention, and it was questionable whether he would be disposed to give much

care to the concerns of the Straits Settlements. The Colonial Office, on the other hand, although at first sight it might appear to have an immense deal of business to attend to, had now comparatively little to do in the case of Canada, Australia, the Cape of Good Hope, &c., where the whole of their internal management was left to the Colonies themselves.

At one time a petition was drawn up to petition Parliament that the Straits should be disjoined from India and placed under the direct management of the Secretary of State for India, and that the Government of the Colony should have power to make laws and regulations for the government of the inhabitants. After a few signatures had been affixed to it, it was abandoned, and the general opinion was again in favour of a connection with the Colonial Office.

In February, 1859, the mail brought a report that Her Majesty's Government had finally decided on the transfer of the Straits Settlements to the Colonial Office, and that a Bill for the severance of their connection with India, and the creation of a separate colony would be immediately passed through both Houses of Parliament with as little delay as possible. It was also rumoured that the higher offices of Government, at present filled by officers of the Indian Army, would be occupied by gentlemen sent from England, the present incumbents returning to their respective presidencies.

It was said at this time that the East India Company had, uniformly discouraged, from a want of proper appreciation of the subject, the local Government of Singapore from dealing with any matters beyond the limits of the island. The cultivation of friendly relations with the neighbouring native countries had been neglected, and the Government did not possess the influence in the Archipelago which the interests of British Commerce required, and which might have been easily gained by a very slight exertion on the part of the Indian Government, and it was hoped that the transfer to the Colonial Office might lead to more attention being given to the subject.

The intention of Raffles in founding Singapore was to establish such an influence in the Archipelago, as would compensate for the return of Java and the other Dutch possessions. But since their restoration the Dutch had perseveringly and energetically applied themselves to the accomplishment of their long cherished design of extending their rule over the whole of the Indian Archipelago. They had acquired the Moluccas, the Key and the Arru Islands, and (on maps at least) claimed the greater part of New Guinea; and reduced Bali, Lombok, and Sumbawa to the rank of feudatories; claimed jurisdiction over the greater part of Borneo, and been very active at Jambi, Siak and other places in Sumatra. The Spaniards in a much smaller way, had followed this example, seized Sulo and adjacent islands, and formed a station on Palawan and elsewhere close to the coast of Borneo. The French were casting longing eyes at this part of the world, and having failed at Basilan in the Sulo Archipelago, to which place they had sent an expedition, referred to on page 468, they were laying the foundation of an extensive and important colony, having since 1857 carried on a troublesome contest with Cochin-China, and at last taken possession of Saigon.

It was added, to look much nearer home, that no systematic attempt had been made by the East India Company to carry out the views regarding the States in the Malay Peninsula alluded to in the address of Sir Stamford Raffles on the 1st April, 1823, when he contemplated founding the Institution. No systematic attempt had been made to keep up a friendly intercourse with the chiefs of the States on the Peninsula, and their power instead of becoming stronger, as the result of the education Raffles has wished to provide for their sons and the higher order of natives, had gradually become weaker, and confusion and misgovernment were the result.

During the course of 1860 it was known from England that Mr. Blundell, the late Governor of the Straits had written against the scheme, but Lord Canning had strongly recommended it, and his views had been adopted. Various reports reached Singapore regarding the matter. At one time it was assserted that Sir George Clerk, the Permanent Under-Secretary of the India Department would initiate the changes, with the appointment of Governor-General of Her Majesty's Insular Possessions in the Eastern Seas. Sir George Clerk, however, accepted the offer of Governor of Bombay.

The Colonial Office was making enquiries on various points. Among other things the Duke of Newcastle, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, enquired about the propriety of licensing gambling shops. Several of the old Straits residents in London expressed an opinion favourable to a Farm, chiefly because they thought that controlled and open gaming was better than clandestine, and to abolish gambling in such a population was an impossibility.

On 16th June, 1860, two Members of Parliament, Mr. Gregson, the member for Lancaster and Chairman of the East India and China Association, and Mr. Buchanan, with Messrs John Crawfurd, Alexander Guthrie, and James Guthrie, waited upon the Duke of Newcastle, and he received their suggestions very favourably.

Afterwards it was stated that the large sums required for the fortifications in progress at Singapore, repayment of which was claimed by the Secretary of State for India, prevented the Ministers proceeding with the Transfer, as in the state of the Finances they were averse to go to the House of Commons and ask a vote for the necessary expenditure. At a later date it was reported that the matter was proceeding, that a department of the Colonial Office had been assigned to Straits affairs, and that the Transfer would certainly be accomplished in 1861.

A public meeting was held in the Exchange-rooms on Wednesday, 22nd May, 1861, to consider important matters connected with the proposed Transfer. Mr. W. H. Read was called to the chair, and explained at considerable length the topics which would be brought forward. The following resolutions were then passed:—

Proposed by J. J. Greenshields, seconded by R. MacNeil:—1. That it is the opinion of this meeting that the revenues of the Straits Settlements are sufficient to meet all legitimate expenses.

Proposed by W. Paterson, seconded by R. C. Woods—2. That the greatly increased expenditure for military purposes, entailed by the extensive system of fortifications now in progress, should not be borne

by these Settlements, as it is undertaken for Imperial and not local interests.

Proposed by José d'Almeida, seconded by C. H. Harrison:—3. That the surplus revenue, exclusive of military outlay, estimated at £ 50,600, is more than sufficient to defray the cost of a local corps of 1,200 men, which is considered ample to meet all the requirements of these settlements.

Proposed by R. C. Woods, seconded by A. E. Schmidt:—4. That it would prove injurious to British interests in these seas that the Governor of the Straits Settlements should also hold the appointments of H. M. Commissioner and Superintendent of Trade in the Eastern Archipelago.

Proposed by J. d'Almeida, seconded by R. MacNeil:—5. That a Committee composed of Messrs. W. H. Read, J. J. Greenshields, W. Paterson, R. C. Woods, and C. H. Harrison, be appointed to carry out these resolutions.

Notwithstanding the most persevering efforts of the friends of Singapore in London, the Transfer could not be accomplished before the adjournment of Parliament in August, 1861. The Officials more immediately concerned in the matter were anxious to facilitate it. The India Office was willing to part with the Settlements, and the Colonial Office to receive them, but the expense of the fortifications, on which India insisted, stood in the way. Mr. Gladstone, who delayed bringing the matter forward, perhaps saved himself a defeat in the House, for after a decisive report which had been made by a Committee on general colonial military expenditure, there did not seem much chance of a vote being carried for military works at Singapore. That Committee had fully supported, as applicable to many of the Colonies, the views expressed for many years in Singapore, that the principal mode of defence should be naval, and that it was inexpedient, if not impracticable to rely upon land works, as Fort Canning and Fort Fullerton would not protect the town from an attack by sea, and the probable result of their attempting to annoy a hostile fleet would be the destruction of the town.

The fortifications that were then referred to must not be confused with the forts of the present day. Fort Canning had seven 68-pr. guns, eight 8-inch shell guns, and two 13-inch mortars, with a few 14-pr. carronades, at a height of about 200 feet, on the hill over a quarter of a mile from the beach. Fort Fullerton was on the beach, with nine 68-pr. guns and one mortar. It began to be dismantled in 1865, as it was then admitted that it would draw the fire upon the most richly stored warehouses in the place. Fort Palmer was a small earthwork overlooking the eastern entrance to Keppel Harbour, and had five 56-pr. guns. Fort Faber was also an earthwork, halfway up Mount Faber, overlooking Keppel Harbour, with two 56-pr. guns, and two mortars on the top of the hill.

The total number of guns in the forts was thirty-six. The distance of the guns at Fort Canning from the beach put them at a great disadvantage against an enemy's ships at sea, and both that and Fort Fullerton would have drawn the fire right upon the centre of the town, while the two small works at Mount Palmer and Mount

Faber were of very little use. The military expenditure was, in consequence, regarded by the mercantile community as very unsatisfactory, and it swallowed up in 1863 nearly one half of the revenue.

The present defences (commenced about 1885) of New Harbour, and to a considerable extent of the Roads, were not then in contemplation. It was thought in those days, with much reason, that the money expended on what turned out to be obsolete and practically useless forts should have been spent on the formation of a dock and other works requisite to make it a first class naval station.

A memorandum, dated 21st April, 1862, was sent by Mr. John Crawfurd to the Colonial and India Offices, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c., in order to shew that the revenue was amply sufficient to cover the expenditure, and that a large military force was not required for the internal safety of the Settlement, while it would be comparatively useless against an external enemy.

He said the public revenue, not including that of the Municipality, according to the official returns of 1860-61 were

Singapore...	£ 96,568
Penang	36,776
Malacca	16,454
	£ 149,798

and it steadily increased year by year, having been nearly £20,000 more than in the year preceding. The total revenue, on a computed population of 225,000 gave a rate of taxation of over 16*s.* a head, which was double the rate of any part of India, and higher than any of the Queen's fifty colonies, the more flourishing Australian ones excepted. After deducting the expenditure there was a balance for military purposes of £33,070; but among the civil charges of Singapore had been included £30,000, contributed towards the building of expensive barracks [Tanglin] for European troops, which had not been sent; so that the actual balance available for military purposes was £63,070, a sum quite adequate in his opinion for the payment of any garrison necessary for the safety of the Colony, which was only capable of effectual defence by a naval force.

It is remarkable that Mr. Crawfurd here named the very sum (£63,000) that was, after much controversy, not always of a very peaceable nature, settled as a fair proportion of military contribution by the Colony nearly thirty years later.

The memorandum went on to say that the interests of the Straits would be better understood in England than in India, while England had a much greater interest in them than India had.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 17th July, 1862, and W. H. Read proposed, seconded by C. H. Harrison:—"That the interests of Great Britain, both political and commercial are so intimately connected with the security of these settlements, that their transfer from the Indian to the Colonial Office is an imperative necessity."

Proposed by J. J. Greenshields, seconded by W. Mactaggart:—"That the present attempt to impose an objectionable tax upon these Settlements, notwithstanding repeated and urgent remonstrances on the part of

the inhabitants forms a just ground for a renewal of their appeal to have the Straits Settlements transferred from Bengal and placed under the Colonial Department."

Proposed by Joaquim d'Almeida, seconded by W. Paterson:— "That Petitions be forwarded to Parliament, praying for the immediate transfer of the management of the Straits Settlements from the Government of India to the Colonial Office."

It was then proposed by J. J. Greenshields and seconded by Dr. Scott:—"That the following gentlemen form a Committee to carry out the foregoing resolution:— Messrs. W. H. Read, Abraham Logan, Joaquim d'Almeida, William Paterson, and William Mactaggart"; to which the name of Mr. Greenshields was added.

In April, 1863, a deputation of gentlemen interested in Singapore had an interview with Sir Charles Wood, the Secretary of State for India, which was not very satisfactory, as he raised questions about a harbour-master and establishment, pointed out the kind of tax that seemed to him most suitable for paying it, and insisted that the proposal had come, in the first instance, from the Chamber of Commerce in Singapore. This was not correct, as was shown in the next year, when the question cropped up again in the House of Commons.

On the 8th May, 1863, a number of gentlemen connected with the Straits waited upon the Duke of Newcastle, on the subject of the transfer of the management of the Settlement from the Government of India to the Colonial Office. The deputation consisted of Messrs. S. Gregson, M. P., W. Buchanan, M. P., J. Crawfurd, A. Guthrie, J. Guthrie, E. Boustead, L. Fraser, G. G. Nicol and F. Richardson. His Grace expressed his readiness to take charge of the Settlement, but said that it would be necessary to have the consent of the Treasury. The improved financial prospects of the Settlement were pointed out, and the Duke put a number of questions regarding different items of the expenditure which were answered by the members of the deputation, and the explanations appeared to be satisfactory. The courtesy of the Duke and his manner of discussing matters with the deputation was said to have offered a strong contrast to the demeanour of his colleague the Secretary of State for India.

On 15th October, 1863, the *Singapore Free Press* said:— "From all accounts, the arrangements regarding the transfer of the Settlement to the Colonial Office are proceeding satisfactorily and there appears every prospect of the measure being carried through early next year. The statements which have been submitted, official and otherwise, have given sufficient evidence that the revenue of the Settlements will be fully adequate to meet all ordinary expenditure, and the only hitch which is likely to occur is in regard to the Tanglin Barracks, on which, it would appear, it is reported some £20,000 will still require to be spent."

On 4th December, 1863, Sir Hercules Robinson, the Governor of Hongkong, on his way from home in the P. & O. mail to China, was directed to remain in Singapore, and in conjunction with the Governor and other officials to report upon certain points on which more information was thought desirable. The points in question were supposed to be financial. The most important one being whether the revenue

was, or could be made, equal to the expenditure, so as to prevent the necessity of the Home Government applying to Parliament for a vote in aid of the Straits Revenue. Colonel Freeth of the Royal Engineers, stationed in Ceylon, had also received orders from England to proceed to Singapore. The military element in the Commission was predominant, Sir Hercules Robinson being the only civilian upon it.

The *Free Press* said "We trust this will not lead to the military force for the Settlement being fixed on such a scale as to swamp the transfer. The present force is sufficiently large and its expense might be materially diminished without impairing its efficiency. There is no necessity for a Brigadier, or a Colonel of Artillery, to command three companies. The Chief Engineer is an appointment which might also be dispensed with, as there is no part of his duties which could not be equally well discharged by the Executive Officers in the Straits, and if it is necessary that there should be a responsible chief of the Public Works Department the Executive Officer at Singapore could easily combine that duty with his own."

On 11th December, 1863, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, and a pamphlet says that, among others, there were present:—

Joaquim d'Almeida	...	J. d'Almeida & Sons.
Gilbert Angus	...	Auctioneer
John Armstrong	...	George Armstrong & Co.
John Simons Atchison	...	Advocate and Solicitor
P. W. Auchincloss	...	Borneo Co., Limited
John Bennett	...	Executive Engineer
Alfred George Farquhar Bernard		Auctioneer
James Berwick	...	Accountant, Oriental Bank
Richard Brennand	...	Merchant
Byramjee Pestonjee	...	Parsee Merchant
John Cameron	...	Proprietor *Straits Times*
Francis D. Cobb	...	Hutchinson & Co.
Thomas Owen Crane	...	Land Proprietor
James Guthrie Davidson	...	Woods & Davidson
Thomas Dunman	...	Commissioner of Police
William Renshaw George	...	in Jozé d'Almeida & Sons.
Henry Hewetson	...	Head Clerk, Land Office
Parsick Joaquim	...	Stephens & Joaquim
A. Letham	...	in Dahlmann & Co.
Matthew Little	...	John Little & Co.
W. Manford	...	in Wm. Spottiswoode & Co.
Arnold Otto Meyer	...	Behn, Meyer & Co.
Catchick Moses	...	Sarkies & Moses
James Murray	..	Syme & Co.
John Purvis	...	John Purvis & Son
Otto Rheiner	...	Puttfarcken, Rheiner & Co.
David Rodger	...	Martin Dyce & Co.
Dr. J. Scott	...	Medical Practitioner
Thomas Scott	...	Guthrie & Co.
John S. Scrymgeour	...	Manager, Oriental Bank.

Charles Smith Sherwood	...	Manager, Chartered Bank
Seah Eu Chin	...	Chinese Merchant
A. Velge	...	in Jozé d'Almeida & Sons.
Ernest Theodore Wagner	...	Busing Schroder & Co.
James Watson	...	Guthrie & Co.
J. J. Winton	...	Assistant, Mercantile Bank.
Robert Carr Woods	...	Woods & Davidson

Mr. Joaquim d'Almeida was in the Chair, and a Committee consisting of himself, Dr. Little, Messrs. Abraham Logan, H. M. Simons, A. O. Meyer, Thomas Scott, John Cameron and R. C. Woods, was appointed for the purpose of collecting information regarding the finances, resources, and commerce of the Straits Settlements, and, if expedient, to put themselves in communication with the Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty's Government to report upon the proposed transfer.

A long report, dated 9th January, 1864, was drawn up, and was published in pamphlet form, reiterating matters of complaint that have already been referred to in this book, and setting out a number of tables of statistics to shew that there was an excess of receipts over the expenses of the Settlement, and ending by saying, "While the freedom of its trade remains intact, uninterfered with by injudicious legislation or the introduction of unwholesome restrictions, its prosperity must be progressive, and its inhabitants be as happy as they are loyal and enterprising."

In June, 1864, a new obstacle arose in a demand by Sir Charles Wood that the Straits should take upon itself the whole of the local debt, on the ground that the Indian Government had consented to forego any claim for the money laid out in late years for public works. The local debt was mainly composed of money ordered by the Court to be invested by the Accountant General, and consisted of the property of minors and suitors. Instead of being invested in Indian public loans, it had been paid into the local treasuries on loan certificates, bearing interest at four per cent. and withdrawable on three months' notice. The local revenues were unable to meet the very heavy charges for military and convicts, and, for the convenience of Government in order to avoid drawing on India, this money of the Court was applied to the expenditure. It was, therefore, the debt of the Indian Government, and so Sir Hercules Robinson considered it.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer very reasonably objected to the Straits being saddled with a loan that would absorb for its interest the whole of the surplus revenue shown in the estimates of the Straits.

This trouble was got over, and soon afterwards the Treasury, the War Office, the India Office, and the Colonial Office were at last agreed on all details. A deputation of merchants of the Straits accompanied by Mr. Gregson, the member for Lancaster and Chairman of the East India and China Association, and by Mr. John Crawfurd, had an interview with Mr. Cardwell, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. They were as courteously received by Mr. Cardwell as by the Duke of Newcastle, and that was saying a great deal. It appeared that the Colonial Office was ready to take

charge of the Settlements at once: nor, indeed, did there seem to be any difficulties in any other department, those that existed at the Treasury and War Office having been overcome. An Act of Parliament of a few clauses was, however, necessary: and as, considering the lateness of the season, there would be some difficulty in getting it through the House of Commons during that sessions, the transfer had to be delayed until the commencement of the next.

Further difficulties, however, occurred, and in the debate in the House of Commons on the India Budget on the 21st July, 1864, Sir J. Elphinstone said, "He understood an important alteration was to take place with regard to the Straits Settlements, and he wished to know what it was to consist of. When Sir Stamford Raffles established the colony of Singapore in 1819, it was guaranteed as a free port. He (Sir J. Elphinstone) was there in the year 1820, and he had been there occasionally during the next 17 years. A more extraordinary increase in any port had never occurred, except in some of the mushroom places in America, than what had taken place at Singapore. The whole of the trade of the Eastern Archipelago had been centred in that port, and the progress of the colony had arisen from its immunity from all port charges. He understood it was the design of the Indian Government to introduce port regulations for Singapore. Was that so? If so, it would be most prejudicial." Sir Charles Wood replied, "That no alteration in the position of Singapore was intended: but questions had been raised by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce as to harbour masters and also as to moorings, and it was stated that no objection would be made to the levying of some small duty by the Indian Government if those alterations were made."

Mr. W. H. Read, who was Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce at the time the correspondence took place between Government and the Chamber on the subject, exposed in the letter we quote below, the inaccuracy of Sir Charles Wood's statement. It is almost unnecessary to state that the Chamber uniformly opposed the proposal to levy port dues in the Straits Settlements, and in 1863 in consequence of Sir Charles Wood having made a similar statement to that which he had repeated in the House of Commons, the Chamber had addressed a letter to the local Government, explaining the circumstances out of which it was conceived Sir Charles Wood's misconception had arisen and protesting strongly against the levy of port dues. It was requested that this letter should be brought to Sir Charles Wood's notice, and it no doubt was so, but the Secretary of State for India seemed to be one of those unreasonable persons, who when they once make an assertion stick to it, in spite of all explanations, and however clearly it may be shown to have been founded on mistaken grounds. Fortunately for Singapore the Supreme Government of India was more amenable to reason, and abandoned all intention of making use of the permission given to it by Sir Charles Wood to interfere with the freedom of the port:—

To the Editor of *The Times*.

"Sir,—I have to request that you will allow me to correct a statement made by Sir Charles Wood when replying to Sir James Elphinstone in the House of Commons yesterday evening.

"According to the report in *The Times* of to-day,' Sir Charles Wood said 'that no alteration in the position of Singapore was intended: but questions had been raised by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce as to harbour-masters and also as to moorings, and it was stated that no objection would be made to the levying of some small duty by the Indian Government if those alterations were made.'

"This is not strictly correct. The facts are these, viz:—It was the local authorities who proposed levying a tonnage due to meet the expense of a harbour-master's establishment. The opinion of the Chamber of Commerce having been sought by the Governor of the Straits Settlements, the members unanimously rejected the proposal as an infringement of the liberty of the port, and have ever since energetically protested against the measure.

"The Indian Board will best meet the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce by leaving the port in the full enjoyment of that freedom which was guaranteed by Sir Stamford Raffles and confirmed by the Imperial Government.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

W. H. READ,
Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce at the time the proposal was submitted by the Governor of the Straits."

Oriental Club, Hanover Square, July 22nd, 1864.

In October, 1864, it was reported that the Treasury had interposed its veto to the transfer on the ground that the estimated surplus of revenue over expenditure, shewn by the report of the Commissioners (£2,040) was not large enough to provide for contingencies, and that there was therefore the possibility of a demand being made upon the Imperial finances. It seemed strange that matters should have been allowed to advance so far before this objection was discovered. So late as the beginning of July it had been stated by the Treasury that there was no impediment in that department to the transfer, and the same statement was made by the War Office. Why this sudden distrust of the financial stability of the Straits Settlements should have been aroused it is difficult to conjecture. All the statements that had from time to time been submitted on the subject of the revenue of the Straits showed that for many years past it had been steadily augmenting, and there seemed to be no ground for supposing that it had reached its highest point, or that it would thereafter remain stationary or decline.

The following letter was then written, on 1st February, 1865, to Sir Frederick Rogers, Under-Secretary of State:—

Sir,—We, the undersigned Merchants and Owners of land in the British Settlements in the Straits of Malacca, now in England, on behalf of ourselves and of our fellow Colonists, European and Native, have once more the honour of bringing their case under the notice of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, and to entreat the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the embarrassment and inconvenience to which their commercial and other interests have been subjected, through the long delay which has taken place in the transfer of the Straits Settlements from the Indian to the Colonial Branch of Her Majesty's Administration, earnestly trusting that the measure which they have so earnestly desired may be accomplished in the course of the ensuing Session of Parliament.

"Having recently received a copy of the Annual Official Report on the Straits Settlements, we beg to submit some important facts contained in it, which fully corroborate the statements and views which on a former occasion we had the pleasure of laying before the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State. As usual, the Revenue has continued its progressive course. For the year 1862-63 it had been £186,572, while in 1863-64 it was £211,870, a rise of £25,298, equal to from 14 to 15 per cent.

"This improvement is the more remarkable, since the year in which it took place was one of considerable commercial embarrassment.

"The increased Revenue now quoted is exclusive of a Municipal one raised entirely for local objects. In 1862-63 this fund amounted to £40,817, and last year it had increased to £41,449. The two branches of Revenue united give for 1863-64 a total of £253,219, equal to a taxation of a pound a head on the highest estimate of the population of the three Settlements. This may be compared with the rate in the Colony of Ceylon, which, notwithstanding the great improvement which has of late years taken place in the financial condition of that Colony through the administration of a skilfull and prudent Governor, has a revenue of no more than £800,000, a sum which on its computed population gives but eight shillings a head.

"The evidence now given in addition to the testimony formerly adduced will, we earnestly hope, satisfy Her Majesty's Government that the Revenues of the Straits Settlements are possessed in a very eminent degree of the quality of elasticity.

"It is easy, however, to show that if fiscal justice were done to the Settlements, the small surplus exhibited in the Public Returns, namely £2,129, might be raised to a very considerable one. Although several others are obvious, we confine ourselves to two subjects for retrenchment, namely the Convicts and the Military.

"The Convicts not only of Continental India but of Ceylon and Hongkong are a charge on the Straits Revenue. In the last year of the Public Account their number was 3,511, and their cost £26,450, exclusive of Superintendent, medical attendance and rent of expensive barracks. Some of the local officers seem to be of opinion that the convicts by their labour make a full return for this large expenditure incurred by them, but this notion will not bear examination, and is readily dissipated by a comparison of their work with that of free labourers. In England, it is well ascertained that it takes five convicts to perform the work of three free labourers. This proportion would reduce the numbers of the Straits convicts to about 2,100. But even from this reduced number there would of course have to be deducted 200 women, who are not called upon to work, the old, the infirm and the sick, so that the actual labourers would be reduced to a very inconsiderable number. The wages of a day labourer of Continental India or of Java, reckoned by the year, is about £9, and of a Chinese labourer £11. The money bestowed on the Indian Convicts, therefore would defray the cost of 2,716 Indian or Javanese free labourers or of 2,406 Chinese labourers, doing the same amount of work as the Indian or Javanese.

"According to this view nothing is gained but, on the contrary, much loss incurred, through the employment of convict labour, and the whole sum disbursed under this head, ought in fairness to be debited to the Governments transporting Convicts to the Straits, and consequently added to the surplus Revenue, raising the latter to £28,579.

"With respect to the Military expenditure, we very respectfully submit that it is inordinate and uncalled for. According to the Public Report the garrison of the three Settlements consists of two Batteries of European Artillery, a company of Native Artillery and two regiments of Sepoys of the Madras Presidency. The entire force numbers 1,811 persons, embracing the unusual number of 46 Commissioned Officers, among whom there are no fewer than seven Field Officers. The cost of this force, as far as it is borne by the Settlements, is no less than £63,400 a year, but this is exclusive of provisions and transport.

"For illustration we take the liberty of comparing the force thus described with the garrison of the Island of Ceylon, and we think it will be apparent to the Secretary of State, that it is far beyond what necessity and a just economy calls for. Ceylon is a country nearly as large as the Kingdom of Scotland, with a population of two

millions or eight-fold that of the highest estimate of that of the three Settlements. The garrison of Ceylon according to the Public Returns amounts to no more than 2,400, being but 600 beyond that serving in the Straits Settlements. In Ceylon the Force is disposed over ten different and remote stations, the active portion is, it is understood, frequently employed in mere police duties. In the Straits, on the contrary, the Military duties are confined to three stations, the towns of the respective Settlements, all within range of the fire of shipping and they are not employed on any police services.

"Even if the present class of Native troops should be continued, there seems no reason why one Regiment of sepoys might not be dispensed with. One Regiment, with an exceedingly limited number of Commissioned Officers with it, was thought sufficient before the Sepoy rebellion, and now that it has been long quelled, two Regiments, with above forty Commissioned Officers, cannot be indispensable.

"We have the honor to submit to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, our view of such a Military establishment for the Straits Settlements as, we venture to believe, would be adequate to the discharge of all the duties which could be reasonably looked for, having regard to their geographical and strategic position. Throughout the whole Indian Archipelago and in its neighbourhood there is not the remotest risk of invasion or attack from a native power, but this fact is so transparent that it need not be insisted on. Conspiracy against the Government in a heterogeneous population, consisting of many nationalities and differing in race, language and manners, and consequently incapable of combination, may be said to be next to impossible. If the inhabitants of the Straits Settlements cannot in a strict sense of the word be called loyal, the intelligent portion of them are unquestionably attached to the ruling Power by a thorough conviction of the advantages which they derive from its protection. The only danger incident to the Settlements would be from an European enemy in time of war. An enemy's cruisers might bombard and destroy any one of the Towns of the three Settlements, and most easily Singapore and Penang, the most valuable. From such a disaster our Fleet must always be our chief protection, for no amount of land force would be a security against such a catastrophe.

"The garrison required for the Straits Settlements is not one therefore which should aim at protection against foreign aggression, but one that will give confidence to its peaceful inhabitants, preserve internal order, and give security against lawlessness to property in goods, houses and warehouses, the value of which may be estimated by the fact stated in the Public Reports that the joint exports and imports of the United Settlements for the last year recorded amounted to the sum of £15,845,000.

"A certain portion of the garrison of the Settlements it is indispensably necessary should consist of European Troops of one kind or another, for it is their presence, and not that of a native force, whatever it may number or its quality, that gives both European and Native inhabitants a firm reliance on the stability of the Government.

"We respectfully repeat our former suggestion, that for this purpose a detachment of the Royal Marines, trained to the use of Artillery, and probably not exceeding two hundred in number, would be most eligible, efficient, and easily relieved description of troops. This Corps would receive valuable assistance from the drilled Volunteers, composed of Europeans and their descendants, which now exist at the three Settlements. It appears to us that all the duties at present performed by two regiments of Sepoys, numbering 1,475 men, might be as safely and effectually performed by a well organised native police corps, with an ample allowance of European commissioned and non-commissioned officers, after the organisation of the Metropolitan Police. Such a corps would consist of natives of Continental India and of Malays, in proper proportion, and of both descriptions there are ample materials to choose from on the spot; or a force similar to that recommended in the suggestions laid before His Grace the late Duke of Newcastle, dated 20th April, 1861, might be adopted: the cost of rations for which, including 200 Europeans, would, as therein stated, amount for the three Settlements to £44,250. Supposing, however, the Police force to be preferred, the cost could not exceed that amount, and deducting the above ample sum from the

present Military expenditure of £63,400, a saving would be effected of very little short of £20,000. There is, however, we observe by the Public Report, a sum of £4,221 spent by the Government on Police objects exclusive of the large expenditure on Police paid by the municipal fund, and if this also is deducted, a saving would be effected of no less than £24,000. Should the retrenchments now suggested be considered practicable and carried out, the Straits Settlements would exhibit a surplus Revenue of £52,579, consisting of the following items namely:—

Present Surplus	...	£ 2,129
Abolition of convict Charge	...	26,450
Military saving	...	24,000

"Even, however, without adopting the scheme now exhibited, the reduction of the present garrison even by a single Regiment of Sepoys would reduce the Military expenditure by full one-third part of its present amount: that is, by the sum of £21,133, so that even in this case we should have a surplus of £49,712.

"Without adverting for the present to any other subjects for retrenchment, we feel ourselves obliged to remark that, however great has been the increase of the Revenue, within the last 12 years, it has increased by full 70 per cent; the increase of expenditure has, without any obvious good reason, always taken care to keep pace with it, and indeed often to encroach beyond its limits.

(Sd)	J. Crawfurd	(Sd)	W. W. Shaw
„	A. Guthrie	„	J. Harvey
„	J. Guthrie	„	F. E. Pereira
„	W. Mactaggart	„	W. H. Read
„	H. R. Beaver	„	G. Lipscompe
„	J. K. Smith	„	J. M. Little.
„	E. Boustead		

The *Singapore Free Press* contained the following remarks upon this letter:—"The letter contains a very clear statement of the financial position of the Straits Settlements, and it ought to dispel any doubts that may have still existed as to the sufficiency and elasticity of the revenue to meet all legitimate charges upon it, present and prospective. Before this letter reached its destination, however, it appears that the question of the transfer had again been taken up by the different Government departments having to do with it, and it was expected that the transfer would be carried through in the course of the present session of Parliament; one report says early in the session. There was still some little haggling about the so-called local debt, but the real nature of that debt having been at last ascertained, the Indian Office is disposed to give in, and take upon itself the burthen of what was in reality a loan from the suitors and depositors in the Court of Judicature to the Government of India, and which has since been paid off by that Government, so that it no longer exists. The only other matter of discussion, we understand, was on the subject of the military charges, the War Office stipulating for a larger European force than was considered necessary for the wants of the Colony. If this force is not to be for strictly local purposes, but is to be available for service in China or India in case of need, it seems scarcely fair to make the Colony bear the whole of its cost, as it might be withdrawn at the very moment when its services were most required; in the event, for instance, of some great movement amongst the people of China, the agitation of which would naturally be communicated to the Chinese in the Straits. If the Colony had no other military force than that so withdrawn, the public safety might be imperilled, and it is therefore obvious that it would be imprudent to expend the whole sum that can be applied for military purposes upon such a force. The garrison of marines

suggested in the letter to Sir Frederick Rogers, would be liable to the same objections, and we believe, moreover, that the Admiralty would not give its consent to marines being employed in permanent shore duty in this part of the world. The sum proposed by the Commissioners in their report for military expenditure (£63,000) if judiciously applied, will be sufficient to provide for a proper permanent garrison and to allow of part of it being appropriated as a contribution towards the expense of any troops the Government may station here for general service. A further sum of £8,200 is allowed for the suppression of piracy, but as this duty could be much more efficiently performed by the Royal Navy than by the present local squadron, the latter might be safely abolished and the money appropriated for it could be added to the military contribution. With reference to the charge for convicts which it is properly proposed to disallow, we observe that the reduction will not amount to the whole sum disbursed; as while the places from which the convicts come will be charged with their maintenance, the same rule will have to be applied to the Straits Convicts sent to Bombay. Their numbers are however very much smaller than those of the Continental and Ceylon convicts in the Straits, and after a proper adjustment of the account the saving will still be very large."

In March, 1865, it was stated in the *London and China Express* that the obstacles to the transfer of the Straits Settlements had been satisfactorily cleared up, and a bill would be introduced in that Session of Parliament to effect the transfer from the Indian Government to the Colonial Office. And it was mentioned that the India Office had afforded every facility and that the Treasury made no further objection; and it was confidently expected that the Transfer would be an accomplished fact before the lapse of many months.

But in the House of Commons on the 6th May, 1865, Lord Stanley (the present Earl of Derby who had been giving his assistance to the Straits Merchants in the matter, being personally known to Mr. W. H. Read), asked the Secretary of State for India whether it was his intention to bring in a bill during the present session for the transfer of Singapore, Malacca, and Penang from the Indian to the Colonial Administration, and Sir Charles Wood was understood to say that he could not give a positive answer to the question of the noble lord. He assured him that, as far as the Indian Government were concerned, they had been quite ready to meet the wishes of the people of Singapore, but the Colonial Office had thought it requisite to institute certain inquiries to satisfy themselves that no burden would be imposed upon the estimates, and the final determination of the Department had not as yet been conveyed to him.

In April, 1866, Lord Stanley in the House of Commons asked Mr. Cardwell, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to give some explanation as to the tedious delay which has been experienced in the transfer of the Straits Settlements from the Government of India to that of the Colonies. He said that for the past two years there had only been just one little difficulty to get over, but unfortunately when surmounted, the one little trouble was found to be hydra-headed. Mr. Cardwell admitted that the question of the military defences was still the stumbling block.

At last, on 13th June, 1866, the Bill was read a first time in the House. The following is an extract from a Treasury letter, dated 2nd June, "In order to avoid further delay, my lords consider it best that the fixed contribution of £59,300 a year should be adopted for the first five years, and, on this understanding, they assent to the introduction of the Bill into Parliament for the transfer of these Settlements. As regards that portion of your letter which refers to barrack accommodation for any troops stationed in the Settlements for Imperial purposes, my lords agree that no charge on this account ought to fall upon the Settlements. The only condition they have to make upon the subject is, that after sufficient barrack and hospital accommodation has been provided at the expense of the Settlements for the troops stationed there for local purposes, any existing barracks or hospitals which may be in excess of such accommodation, and which may be required by the War Department, shall be handed over to that department free of any charge, to be maintained at the Imperial expense during their occupation thereof. As regards the public debt of the Settlements, my lords conclude that the arrangement with the Indian Government, as explained in the Colonial Office letter of the 24th March, 1865, is to be carried out; that, as regards the convict expenditure, the whole of it from the date of transfer will be repaid by the Indian Government and that the notice for the removal of the penal establishment within three years of the date of such notice will be given not later than the date of transfer, which should take place, as recommended in the 65th paragraph of Sir Hercules Robinson's Report upon the Settlements, at the close of the colonial financial year, viz., December, 1866 or 1867, according as the necessary arrangements can be completed. As regards the civil establishment to be sanctioned for the Settlements, my lords will be prepared to approve of an establishment on the basis of that suggested by Sir H. Robinson, in Enclosure No. 6 of his report, subject to such modifications as experience may have since dictated, or which any change as regards the municipalities of the Settlements may hereafter render necessary."

The Act of Parliament of the 10th August, 1866, intituled "An Act to provide for the Government of the Straits Settlements" was Chapter 115 of 29 and 30 Victoria. It recited that it was expedient that the Islands and Territories known as the Straits Settlements, namely Prince of Wales' Island, the Island of Singapore, and the town and port of Malacca and their Dependencies should cease to form a part of India, and should be placed under the Government of the Queen as part of the Colonial Possessions of the Crown; and enacted that the Settlements should at a time to be specified cease to be part of India, within the meaning of the Act of 21 and 22 Victoria, Chapter 126, which was an Act for the better Government of India.

By an Order in Council dated 28th December, 1866, the 1st April, 1867, was ordered for the Act to come into operation. By Letters Patent, dated Westminster, 4th February, 1867, the necessary authority was given constituting the new Government of the Straits.

The next and last Chapter of this book gives an account of the ceremony in the Town Hall, on Monday, 1st April, 1867, when the Indian Government formally transferred the Straits Settlements to the Crown.

CHAPTER LVI.

1867.

ON New Year's Eve, between 8 and 9 o'clock there was a fine display of fireworks on the Esplanade, and the usual sports took place the next day. The *Straits Times* remarked that, probably from the management having devolved upon younger men, the amusement of the natives was made subordinate to competitions for Europeans, artillerymen and others, which should be avoided, as the object of the sports had, from the first, been the amusement of the natives, and not the entertainment of the Europeans.

The Government holidays this year had been from 24th December to 1st January, but the merchants only observed half that time, and the Government arrangement tended to disorganise business, as the offices were all closed.

In January it was known that Colonel Ord was likely to be appointed the Governor under the new régime, and the paper said that one of the Ministers, in a conversation regarding the Straits, had said that he hoped Colonel Ord would keep quiet, and be guided in his administration of the government by the local authorities. It was a pity Colonel Ord did not do this. It had been intended to send out new officials from home to take charge of all the superior offices, but fortunately for the place it was not done, and Colonel Macpherson, the Resident Councillor, remained as Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. W. Willans the Accountant General was Government Treasurer, Major McNair was Colonial Engineer, and Mr. Thomas Braddell was appointed Attorney General, from 1st April.

In April for the formal ceremony for the assumption of the government of the Straits by the Colonial Office, Colonel Henry Man came down from Penang to represent the East India Company, as he was the senior official in the Straits after Governor Cavenagh had left. He had been Resident Councillor at Penang from 1860. He had entered the Madras Native Infantry as an Ensign in 1834, was Lieutenant in 1838, Captain in 1848, and died a General in England, after he had retired. He was in two campaigns in India in 1836, and there is a note by Mr. Braddell that he was in the second Burmese War in 1853, so that he must have rejoined the army again for a time in that year. In 1845 he was Superintendent of Convicts and Executive Engineer Officer in Singapore, and Major McNair speaks in his book "Prisoners Their Own Warders," in several places, of the good work Captain Man did in consolidating the work of the convicts. When he went to Malacca, as Resident Councillor, Captain Ronald Macpherson, of the Madras Artillery

succeeded him as Superintendent of Convicts in 1855. He had joined the Artillery in 1836 and attained the army rank of Colonel in 1851. He was for several years Resident Councillor at Malacca from 1858 and in Singapore in 1860. He is also spoken of in Major McNair's book. Both Colonel Man and Colonel Macpherson did much good work in the Straits, and were very much liked. Colonel Macpherson was the first Colonial Secretary, but he and Governor Ord were not able to work harmoniously together, and the feelings of the community were with the Colonel. He died, much regretted in the place, on the day the Duke of Edinburgh was paying a visit to Johore, on 7th December, 1869, at 52 years of age, and there was a very large attendance of the military and of the community, at his funeral, which was also attended by the officers, sailors and band of H. M. S. *Galatea,* of which the Duke was Captain. He was buried in the cemetery in Bukit Timah Road, and a monument was erected in the compound of St. Andrew's Cathedral, of which he was the architect; a window was also put up in his memory over the west doorway of the Church, as has been mentioned on pages 294 and 298. The Colonel said in a speech which he made at the farewell dinner to Governor Cavenagh in this year, when his health was drunk:—"When I first visited Singapore, on my way to China, in 1841, I was so charmed with the place that I resolved to make, if possible, the Straits my Eastern home. In this I have very nearly succeeded. Here, the best and happiest portion of my life has been spent, here I have made many sincere and life-long friendships, and with the Straits are associated all the dearest and most cherished memories of the past."

On 22nd January the newspaper said that the appointment of Sir Henry Keppel to the command of the China station as communicated by telegram (part of the way) had given very general satisfaction in Singapore; and that it had been at one time expected that he might have succeeded Major-General Cavenagh as Governor, and his nomination as Admiral was less welcome. If the Admiral had come, matters would have gone much more smoothly, a great deal of irritation would have been avoided, and the Native States in the Malay Peninsula would have made a start, to the great benefit of the trade of the Settlements, several years before they did.

The following letter was addressed by the Municipal Commissioners (Colonel Macpherson, Thomas Dunman, J. D. Vaughan, W. H. Read, and R. C. Woods,—Henry Hewetson was Secretary) to Government about Cavenagh Bridge:—

"Sir:—I am deputed by my colleagues to request you will be good enough to ask His Honor the Governor to do us the favour of permitting the new Bridge which is proposed to be constructed across the river opening into Collyer Quay, to be called 'Cavenagh Bridge.'

"The reclaiming of the submerged land from what was in former years the rear of an unsightly mass of buildings, and the constructing of a line of massive structures with an imposing sea frontage and a wide carriage way, is a work for the conception and

execution of which the public are indebted to the enlightened taste and liberal support of His Honor; and the Commissioners feel assured that they express the wish of the public generally in desiring that the connection link between the land so reclaimed and the opposite side of the river, may be handed down to the future residents of Singapore as the Cavenagh Bridge. If his Honour will therefore do them the honour of acceding to their request, it will be the endeavour of the Commissioners to have a Bridge constructed in every respect worthy of the name."

The submerged land referred to was the sea-beach from Johnston's Pier to Prince Street. Until the land was reclaimed, the buildings had faced the Square, and only out-houses and sheds were on the sea-shore. In 1866 almost all the present line of buildings on Collyer Quay had been erected. A. L. Johnston & Co. occupied the site where the new building of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank now stands. Where Guthrie & Co. are now was Martin Dyce & Co.'s; Guthrie's godowns having been for some 35 years on Boat Quay, at the corner of Guthrie's Canal. Paterson, Simons & Co. were already in their present offices.

Cavenagh Bridge was opened in 1869, and it was then suggested by Governor Ord that it should be called "Edinburgh Bridge" because it was first used about the time the Duke visited Singapore, but, quite properly, it was called, and still bears the name, of the last of the Indian Governors. It was opened without any ceremony whatever, carriages driving over it into town on the morning that it was said to be ready for traffic.

On the afternoon of February 27th, the steamer *Agamemnon*, the first of Holt's steam line to China, left Singapore for Hongkong. At 8 p.m., twelve miles from Singapore, there was a collision between her and the Labuan Company's steamer *Mona*, on her way from Labuan to Singapore. The *Mona* was afterwards held to blame. There had been a circus troupe in Singapore, called the Lenton Troupe, and they were on board the *Agamemnon*. The stem of the *Mona* crushed into a cabin of the *Agamemnon* in which two young children, who used to perform on a trapeze, were asleep, without injuring them; while the Boneless Boy, who was a prominent feature of the circus, and was asleep in the next cabin, had his leg broken!

On the 28th February, a public meeting was held in the Exchange, with Sir Benson Maxwell in the chair, and it was decided to offer a public dinner to the Governor, and afterwards subscriptions were made for a portrait of him to be placed in the Town Hall, which was carried out subsequently. The dinner took place in the Town Hall on the 12th March, Mr. W. H. Read being in the chair; and Colonel Macpherson, Sir Benson Maxwell, the Maharajah of Johore, and others proposing various toasts.

On Friday the 15th, Governor Cavenagh left Singapore for the last time in the Straits steamer *Pluto* for Penang. An Address by the Chamber of Commerce was read to him at the Pier by Mr. W. H. Read, and there was a guard of honour of the Volunteer Corps; and a number of other addresses were presented to him.

Colonel Cavenagh had assumed the Government of the Straits on 6th August, 1859, and was therefore seven years and eight months in the Straits. He took a great personal interest in his work, and was indefatigable in his efforts for the promotion of education, and identified himself with all the interests and the progress of the place. He stubbornly stood out against any attempt from Bengal to impose prejudicial taxation, such as an income tax and tonnage dues. He was especially known for the readiness with which he invariably made himself accessible to all classes of the community, who wished to lay their views upon any public matter before him, and he was a very liberal supporter of amusements and private enterprise. One evening when there was an amateur entertainment in the Town Hall for a charity, it was a regular Singapore wet night, and Governor Cavenagh sat alone in the front row, and there were only about six other people in the hall besides him. The amateurs, who had intended to give it all up, had a good laugh, and seeing him there, went through the concert with all the spirit possible.

In 1884 a book entitled *Reminiscences of an Indian Official*, by General Sir Orfeur Cavenagh, K.C.S.I., was published by W. H. Allen & Co., London, but it did not prove of much interest in the Straits. It is true that the last chapter, of 122 pages, related entirely to the former Governor's career in the Straits, but it was largely made up of reported speeches which he was accustomed to write out. Singapore expected to have found mention of those who worked here under him—a theme on which a good deal of local interest might have been gracefully said—but there was scarcely a mention of any one except Whampoa, of whom it was written "I paid him a visit to see his curiosities."

There was not much of general information concerning the Straits. The opening of the first telegraph cable to Batavia was duly chronicled, but it did not state that it broke down altogether almost immediately afterwards, and the congratulatory message which was despatched from Singapore, which was printed at full length, was therefore rather premature. The General took credit, fairly enough, for having established the Government Scholarships for the Boys' Schools, and those who had undertaken the task of conducting the examinations laughed in their sleeves at the story of how he had the examination papers printed at the Government Press "in the presence of my secretary, and then brought back to my private office," and yet (in the next page) how the Brothers' School spread a report that copies had been furnished to boys in the other schools. The most interesting passage was at page 352, in which he compared the Indian system of government with that of the Colonial Office, and the deductions he drew were certainly not in favour of the latter. The passage is as follows:—

"Under the Indian Government there were comparatively few officers, but they were well paid, and expected to do good work. The Governor was supreme, the whole of the patronage being in his hands. Officers felt, therefore, that their promotion must depend mainly on their own exertions, by showing that they were fit for advancement, for, as he was vested with great authority, so equally the Governor incurred

great responsibility; as he selected his own instruments, he was in a great measure responsible for any failure on their part, hence he did his best to secure efficient men. Under the Colonial Office the officials were more numerous, but, upon the whole, not so well paid. The patronage rested with the Colonial Office, and consequently an officer did not look to his local chief to reward him acccording to his deserts, but to political friends at home who might have influence with the Secretary of State, and it was, therefore, within the bounds of possibility that an official might be promoted from whom the Governor had never experienced that cordial support which, to ensure due efficiency, every head of an establishment has a right to expect from his subordinates."

The other part of the book contained an account of his services in India, and of his assuming political charge of the Nepaulese Embassy to England, and was interspersed with a number of anecdotes, some of which are much more amusing than the concluding chapter on the Straits, where the General's career finished; he remarked that when he accepted the office of Governor here, he little anticipated that his official career would be brought to an early close at a time when he naturally entertained expectations of succeeding to one of the prizes of the Indian Service.

Governor Harry St. George Ord, C.B., for he was not then knighted, arrived in Singapore in the P. & O. Mail on Saturday, 16th March, the day after Governor Cavenagh had left for Penang. Major McNair accompanied Colonel Ord from England.

It was unfortunate that Governor Ord and Sir Benson Maxwell fell at once upon disputable ground which caused a good deal of talk, as the Recorder was generally known to be correct in the position he took up towards the Government, and because of his perfect independence, which was, as Mr. Cameron remarks in his book, a distinguishing mark of the Judges under the East India Company. The new Governor considered that he had the right to be styled His Excellency, even before he was sworn in, and a further cause of contention was the position of the Governor on the assumption that he represented the Crown or the Sovereign. Many years after this, in 1889 when a Singaporean met Sir Benson Maxwell in Rome, he referred to the subject, and it was amusing to hear how he remembered the cases, for he was a great case lawyer, as has been said on page 730, and prided himself on his memory. As to the first question, Sir Benson was technically correct; but by common consent and by courtesy, for so many years that it is beyond reasonable discussion, Governors of Crown Colonies have been addressed while in the Colonies by the style of Excellency. It is said that it is only certain Viceroys, Ambassadors to the Great Courts, and Plenipotentiaries, that can claim it as of right; and the Colonial Office does not address a Governor as His Excellency, but by his name.

The second contention was peculiarly within Sir Benson's knowledge. The point arises from time to time in many of the Colonies, where the newspapers speak of the "Sovereign's representative" or of the "Vice-regal party." The matter has been raised and swept aside in the Privy Council several times, as in the cases Sir Benson referred

to. In the case of Cameron *v.* Kyte, an appeal from the Colony of Berbice, heard in 1835 before Lord Brougham, Baron Parke and others, it was laid down that the Governor was an officer, merely with a limited authority from the Crown, and his assumption of an act of sovereign power outside the limits of the authority given to him, would be purely void, and the Courts of the Colony could not give it any legal effect. And in the case of Sir George Hill, who was Governor of Trinidad, against Bigge, heard in the Privy Council before Lord Brougham, Lord Campbell, and two other Judges; Lord Brougham who delivered the judgment of the Court, said "If it be said that the Governor of a Colony is *quasi* Sovereign, the answer is that he does not even represent the Sovereign generally, having only the functions delegated to him by the terms of his commission, and being only the officer to execute the specific powers with which that commission clothes him." In that case the Governor pleaded in reply to a claim for a debt to some London jewellers, that he could not be sued. The Privy Council upheld the judgment of the Colonial Court which had been given against him for the amount of the debt, with interest, and all costs. But the Privy Council seemed to consider (though the point was not judicially decided, as it was not then in question), that though judgment was given against him, his person could not be taken in execution while he was actually on service as Governor.

On Sunday afternoon, March 31st, Admiral Keppel, who had been appointed Commander-in-Chief on the China Station, arrived in the P. & O. Mail from England. His flagship, the *Rodney*, which had flown his Commodore's flag in the Black Sea in the Crimean War, and when he was in command of the Naval Brigade, some 5,000 men, on shore, was on her way out by the Cape. He was accompanied by his flag-lieutenant, Harry F. Stephenson, spoken of on page 650, and Mr. William Bond Risk, his secretary. He went to stay with Mr. W. H. Read in the house where he was then living, which was pulled down when the present Government House was built on the same spot a year or two afterwards. In the Admiral's Diary on the following day was the following, which appears in his last book "A Sailor's Life under Four Sovereigns," (the old Admiral can now say Five):—

"On looking out in the early morning from the verandah, an extensive view in front of the town and anchorage, and from behind of the country inland. How many associations of bygone days—some sad, but many more pleasant—were brought to mind. At noon repaired to Town Hall to assist in the inauguration of the new Governor and the transfer of the Straits Settlements from the Indian to the Colonial Government; an event in the history of Singapore."

The formal inauguration of the new government took place in the Town Hall at noon on Monday, the 1st April, and no public ceremony in Singapore had ever, probably, attracted so much interest. There was a great crowd of natives round the building and along the roads. Inside the hall there was a striking example of the much smaller number of the European population as compared with the present day, for there was room and chairs for all that wished to attend. The abolition of the time-honoured East India Company with its long and great history appealed to all, both Europeans and

natives, and to this day the Government is still spoken of among the latter as the "Company." At the upper end of the room a sort of dais had been erected, just in front of the line of the gallery. The Volunteers formed a guard-of-honour in the front verandah. Among the naval and military officers in the room were Captain Ross of H. M. S. *Pearl*, Captain Edye of H. M. S. *Satellite* which was in the next year in the Red Sea in the Abyssinian War, and Captain Edye (who had been much liked in Singapore) heard while he lay dying in Hongkong, where he was buried, on the return of the ship to the China station from Abyssinia, that he was made a Companion of the Bath; Captain Suttie of H. M. S. *Salamis*, Admiral Keppel's despatch vessel; and Commander Menzies of the gun-boat *Osprey*; and Major-General Studholme Hodgson, Brigadier Ireland, Colonel Grant, R.A., Colonel Lovell, C.B., R.E., Colonel Cooke of the 8th Madras Infantry, and many other naval and military officers.

The first to enter, a few minutes before noon, was the Acting Governor, the Hon'ble Colonel Henry Man, a fine soldierly looking man. He was received with a salute of 17 guns from Fort Canning, and by the guard of honour of the regiment downstairs and the Volunteers upstairs. Colonel Man went round the room shaking hands with the ladies, and waiting for the new Governor.

Then, under another salute, stalked in Governor Ord, without removing his hat, and sat down on a chair on the dais without taking any notice of any one. The impression thus created was never removed and was justified in the years that he remained in the Straits. Then another salute was heard, and a very short man, in an Admiral's uniform, his breast covered with medals (there was not room to put them all on) and the Order of the Bath over all, came up the verandah on the side facing the Esplanade, and, as he walked into the room through the last side door, taking off his hat with a bow to the company, with his smiling face, bright eyes and long eye-lashes, everyone stood up delighted to see him. He had only arrived the afternoon before. He went round a table that was placed in front of the dais, shaking hands with the ladies, Mrs. Jozé d'Almeida and others that he knew. As he was coming back Governor Ord motioned to him to come on to the dais, and sit on one of the three seats that were placed upon it. But the Admiral laughingly shook his head, and taking up a Town Hall chair, put it down on the floor near the dais, and sat down on it, and remained there.

The Order in Council constituting the Straits a Colony of the Crown was then read. It was dated at Westminster, 4th February, 1867. Then the Commission appointing Harry Saint George Ord, Esquire, Colonel in the Army, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Royal Engineers, and Companion of the Order of the Bath, was read. Sir Benson Maxwell administered the oaths of office to H. E. the Governor, and then to the newly appointed members of the Legislative Council, viz., the Hon'bles W. H. Read, F. S. Brown (of Penang), Thomas Scott (of Guthrie & Co.), and Dr. Robert Little. Mr. Whampoa was appointed subsequently. The Company then left the Town Hall, the members of the Council remaining to pass certain formal acts before separating.

Conclusion.

Singapore having been founded in the year 1819, the same year as the birth of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, has been spoken of as "Her Birthday Isle;" and it has also been written that its success has been due to the "Magic of Free Trade," which is no doubt largely true. But there has been another kind of magic, which Sir Stamford Raffles, in a passage to be quoted presently, spoke of as "The energies of her sons."

In 1864, a Children's Evening Party at Christmas time, such as is common in England, was begun for the school children in Singapore, and has been continued year by year to the present time. It began with a small party of about twenty children, and has grown with the place to a large party of seven or eight hundred, until the Town Hall is not large enough to hold all. In 1887, there was a Fairy Play called "The Talisman of the Enchanted Island," written for the occasion, and acted by about seventy of the children for the amusement of all the rest. At the end of the play, in the great Fairy Palace of the Enchanted Island, with three little Fairies high up in the scene with electric lights on their dresses to represent the constellations of the Southern Cross, Mars, and Orion, which had been alluded to as part of the story, the Midshipman, the hero of the play, spoke the "tag," and these were the last lines:—

And this our tale of Sailor and Princess,
In depths of time, shall bring it sweet success;
Until our Isle, Enchanted then no more,
Will to the world be known as Singapore;
A Magic Island still, its Magic then,
The energy and work of Englishmen.

This book began by speaking of Sir Stamford Raffles, and it is fitting that it should close in the same way. He was in the service of the East India Company, and on the 1st April, 1867, India ceased to control the destinies of Singapore, which was the period fixed to close the records in this book. To what Singapore has grown since his day, it only remains to write.

Sir Stamford Raffles when, to use his own words, "it seemed possible that the English Ministry might sacrifice him, honour, and Singapore, to the pretentions of the Dutch," was cheered by a vision of what Singapore might become. It is difficult to suppose that he can possibly have imagined then, what we see now.

But suppose that some Seer had led him up to the Forbidden Hill (Bukit Larangan) now called Fort Canning, and had shown him the jungle and the mangrove swamps transformed into a large and busy town; the river flowing near the hill hidden by long ranges of buildings, large engineering shops, and godowns filled with produce; and the harbour and all the wharves occupied by shipping, stretching far away before him. And if he had been told that the

few Malays in the little attap campong, on which he was looking down, were the nucleus of a population of over a quarter of a million inhabitants; that the yearly shipping was over six million tons, taking the arrivals only; and that the trade of the settlements would become actually the third among the printed returns of Trade for the years 1900-1901 of all the British Colonies and Dependencies: *—Surely, the sight would have surpassed even his far-seeing conception of what the place was to be.

But some of the passages in his letters already quoted in this book must lead those who understand the importance of Singapore at the present day to wonder at his remarkable foresight, his tireless energy, and his great sagacity. They read like a prophecy. Some of these passages (on pages 6, 67 and 78) will bear repetition here :—

"This is by far the most important station in the East, and as far as naval superiority and commercial interests are concerned, of much higher value than whole continents of territory :—If no untimely fate awaits it, it promises to become the emporium and pride of the East.—It would be difficult to name a place on the face of the globe with brighter prospects. This may be considered as the simple, almost magical, result of that perfect freedom of trade, which it has been my very good fortune to establish."

There is a passage in the very long and eloquent Minute of Raffles (referred to on page 122) at the founding of the Raffles Institution, which has not been quoted in this book, and which it now seems a pity to omit:

"The acquisitions of Great Britain in the East have not been made in the spirit of conquest. A concurrence of circumstances not to be controlled, *and the energies of her sons*, have carried her forward on the tide whose impulse has been irresistible. Other nations may have pursued the same course of conquest and success, but they have not, like her, paused in their career and by moderation and justice consolidated what they had gained. This is the rock on which her Indian Empire is placed . . . . Our influence must continue to extend; the tide has received its impetus, and it would be in vain to attempt to stem its current; but let the same principles be kept in view, let our minds and policies extend with our Empire, and it will not only be the greatest, but the firmest and most enduring, that has yet been held forth to the view and admiration of the world. While we raise those in a scale of civilisation, over whom our influence is extended, we shall lay the foundations of our dominion on the firm basis of justice and mutual advantage, instead of on the uncertain and unsubstantial tenure of force and intrigue . . . . . Commerce is the principle on which our connections with the Eastern States is formed. . . . Education must keep pace with commerce in

* At the beginning of The Statesman's Year Book for 1902 is a Table which gives the total imports and exports of the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Empire for 1900-01. Total India, including the Feudatory States, is given as 151 millions ; then follows Canada with 78 millions ; and the third is the Straits Settlements with 57 millions sterling, the exchange being taken as 2/-. The next are New South Wales, 55 ; Victoria, 35 ; Cape Colony, 27 ; New Zealand, 23 millions ; with all the other Colonies tailing behind. Hongkong has no complete trade returns. Singapore is not given separately from Penang and Malacca.

order that its benefits may be ensured and its evils avoided; and in our connection with these countries it should be our care that, while with one hand we carry to their shores the capital of our merchants, the other shall be stretched forth to offer them the means of intellectual improvement."

Sir Stamford Raffles died, as has been said on page 12, at the early age of 45 years, and he had himself written, four years before, that he was "A little old man, all yellow and shrivelled, with hair pretty well blanched." To borrow some of the pathetic words in the concluding sentence of his Life by Mr. Hugh Egerton, mentioned on page 14, we cannot wonder that the end came so soon; but if men live not by the length of their days, but by the good they have done around them and by the work which they have accomplished, the memory of Raffles will survive as long as the Empire lasts.

And on the 6th of February (which may be called the 'Founder's Day' of Singapore) as year by year rolls by, and his memory is kept by the holiday that has become part of the history of the place, some of those in Singapore may well be reminded of some passages in the First Lesson for the day which had been read for centuries in the old chapel of Winchester College, at the service held in memory of its Founder over five hundred years ago, (*Ecclesiasticus* xliv, to verse 16):—

"Let us now praise famous men.....

Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding.....

Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent in their instructions.....

All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times.....

The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will shew forth their praise."

THE END.

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