

**Some Account of the Anglo Dutch Relations in
the East at the Beginning of the 19th
Century Based on the Records pre-
served in the Colonial Secretary's
Office in Singapore, and, in the
Resident's Office, Malacca.**

BY A. C. BAKER,

Straits Settlements Civil Service.

At the beginning of the 19th Century, the East India Company held a number of trading stations on the West Coast of Sumatra of which the most important were Bencoolen and the two subsidiary Ports of Tapanooly and Natal. These ports, which had been acquired mainly as outlets for the pepper trade of the Rejang and Coast Districts had suffered from the falling off of the profits on the pepper trade, and had never grown to be really important and well established.

In 1760 the Settlements on the West Coast had been plundered and partially destroyed by the French Squadron under the Comte D'Estaigne and they now found themselves again threatened by the French ascendancy. Napoleon had practically acquired the control of Holland and was using the Dutch Fleet and the Dutch Colonies as important assets in a world wide struggle. Though after 1806 the French fleet had ceased to be a striking force in the home waters, a number of fast sailing frigates and privateers were still roving between the Mauritius Islands and the Dutch ports in Java. Marshall Daendels working from Batavia appears to have formed a wide spread scheme, for extending the French influence to Acheen and Burma, and establishing depots of naval stores, at native ports. His emissary Lieutenant Leon de la Houssaye was forced by stress of weather to land at Pulau Pisang and was sent by the Resident of Bencoolen under arrest to Penang. The incident is described in the two following letters from the Resident of Bencoolen.

To The Hon'ble

COLONEL MACALISTER, (¹)

Governor and Council,

Prince of Wales's Island.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to acquaint you that a French Officer of Rank, an Aide-De-Camp of Marshall Daendels, recently taken Prisoner on this coast, has mentioned to me that a corvette, which left Bourdeaux the 24th November passed through the Straits of Manilla last month bound to Manilla, the object of her voyage I understood to be the conveyance to the Government of the complete submission of the Spanish Nation and re-establishment of Joseph Bonaparte on the Throne, and to invite its acknowledgement of, and allegiance to the new Sovereign.

It has been mentioned by this Officer to a gentleman with whom he lodges at this place, in the apparent exhilaration of his spirits at table, that seven French frigates with troops were shortly expected at the Isle of France from Europe, and that they were ultimately destined for Batavia with a considerable part of that force. As to the degree of credit due to this communication, or how far it may have been influenced by a desire to mistate for purposes altogether injurious to British interests I do not presume to offer an opinion. The informant is certainly a very intelligent man and when he mentioned a piece of information of so much moment in a kind of confidential manner to a British subject, he could scarcely have imagined it could long be a secret to the government. It may not be immaterial to notice that the officer in question has shewn me an attested copy of a letter from General Decceise dated the 18th February to Marshall Daendels, (communicating the recent success of the French in Spain and Portugal) in which he adverts to a decree from the French Emperor, conformably to which all vessels are to be seized not carrying the particular passports described. Detailed instructions are referred to, but from the context of the letter I should conclude the vessels affected by the decree to be Spanish and Portuguese.

I have communicated the points of information noticed in this letter to the Governments of Fort William and Fort Saint George, and to His Excellency Rear Admiral Drury.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.

(Signed) R. PARRY,

Fort Marlbro', 15th June, 1809.

Resident.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing the officer above mentioned has informed me in a manner quite unreserved, that Vice Admiral Sercey (whom he states to be his brother-in-law) arrived at the Isle of France on the 4th January with seven frigates of 44 guns each.

(Signed) R. PARRY,

Resident.

To The Honorable Colonel Macalister, (2)

Governor and Council,

Prince of Wales's Island.

Gentlemen,

On board the Hon'ble Company ship Lord Castlereagh is embarked a French Officer named Leon de la Houssaye, who has a commission signed by Marshall Daendels of Lieut. Colonel and Aide-de-Camp, on his way to Fort William.

It appears from his own narrative as well as from the enquiries which have been instituted that he was proceeding from Batavia up this coast in a small prow, and had got nearly as far north as this place when the wind became contrary, and the prow leaking very badly, he was compelled to put into the first place of shelter, which was the Island of Pulo Pisang off the station of Croee, where he was made a prisoner, and sent up under a guard to this Settlement. This detail is confirmed by the people of the boat and his own servants, with the additional information that he was proceeding to Acheen.

Although it is stated by Lieut. Colonel de la Houssaye that he has laboured under a continued state of bad health for many months at Batavia, which his appearance sufficiently corroborates, it has not been assigned by him as the object of the present voyage. Indeed the route he has selected would afford ample grounds for concluding, that though the hope of deriving benefit from a sea excursion may have been one of its objects, it was not the exclusive one. But the additional circumstances of his possession of so large a sum of ready money as Ds.1,200 (which have been paid into the Treasury of this place) and of letters of credit from Marshall Daendels to an unlimited amount (which he has intimated to the Gentlemen in whose house he has been accommodated) leave little doubt that his voyage has been undertaken with some objects of a public nature, the accomplishment of which has been confided to him by the Government of Batavia.

As Acheen has been mentioned by those in whose company he arrived at this Settlement it is not at all improbable that those objects may be centred in that place. Whatsoever they may be,

if they really have existence, the information afforded in the present address will enable you to take such measures as may appear calculated to counteract them. It is not to be imagined that the interruption of the first mission will prevent the dispatch of another, if the object is of any moment, it is a more probable supposition that a further envoy will be sent to the same quarter as soon as the detention of the present is known at Batavia.

It may not be immaterial to mention that the officer in question was navigating this coast in a small and incommodious prow which was certainly well calculated to elude suspicion and search from any of His Majesty's Ships which might be cruising on any part of it.

The Commander of the Lord Castlereagh has been directed to acquaint you on his arrival, of this Officer being on board, and not to permit him to land without your permission for that purpose.

He has been treated during his stay here with all the attention due to his rank and to the situation he holds about the person of Marshall Daendels whose conduct to Capt. Pakenham of His Majesty's late Ship 'Greyhound' during his detention at Batavia was in the highest degree liberal and courteous. He has been accommodated in the house of an Officer, but permitted to quit it only in a particular direction into the Country.

I have the honor to be,

(Signed) R. PARRY,

Fort Marlbro', 20th June, 1809.

Resident.

P. S. Since writing the above Lt. Colonel de la Houssaye has mentioned in my presence in an unreserved manner that his destination was Acheen on a particular mission.

(Signed) R. PARRY.

Resident.

On arriving at Penang, de la Houssaye was kept on board the Lord Castlereagh under close arrest. His very emphatic protest: ⁽³⁾ "The captain of this vessel has communicated to you my bad state of health and you refuse to allow me to land. This is tyranny worse than that of the anthropophagi, for they either killed their victims or took care of them," only resulted in a report from a very prosaic minded Surgeon: ⁽⁴⁾ "Lieutenant de la Houssaye, through the judicious treatment of the Surgeon on board, is much better than he has been. Under the circumstances I consider it advisable that he should remain on board the ship where he has every

attendance and accommodation with free air which can so essentially conduce to the re-establishment of his health."

De la Houssaye's papers when seized and searched were found to contain Malay letters to the kings of Acheen and Ava with Dutch and French translations. Colonel Macalister, Governor of Prince of Wales Island at once warned Admiral Drury of the possible approach of the French squadron, and forwarded the following vigorously worded letter to the King of Acheen.

To His Majesty the King of Acheen, (5)

(After the usual Compliments.)

It is with much concern that I had occasion to remark for some time past a dereliction in the proceedings of your Majesty's Government from these principles of alliance and friendship into which the House of Acheen has so solemnly entered with the English.

There is too good reason to believe that your Majesty has contrary to good faith with the English admitted into your service persons well known to belong to the French, the enemies of the English, and that your Majesty has been induced to listen to the promises of that Nation—this Nation having destroyed their King and all the revered usages which had been handed down to them by their ancestors are too weak to meet the English (their Superiors) in Battle, but send forth their emissaries in the dark, and under the cloak of friendship and fair promises (which they can never fulfil) ensnare those who have no ability to discern their views, whilst they disseminate principles subversive of all Government.

I have in my possession documents proving the negotiation that has existed between your Majesty and the French, and an ambassador from the French to the Court of Acheen has actually been arrested by the English. I fear from this that your Majesty must not only have forgotten your alliance with the English, but remain in ignorance of the danger attending any intercourse with the French—by degrees they would obtain a footing in your Majesty's territories and when an opportunity offered, in defiance of all treaties and engagements, would dethrone your Majesty and give up your rich and valuable kingdom to plunder and rapine.

The English Government fortunately have kept a watch over your safety, and viewing with abhorrence the attempts of the enemy to undermine your Majesty's Government, now prove their friendship to your Majesty in warning you of your danger as it may be expected that other ambassadors may be sent. The English themselves have nothing to fear, for should the French effect their designs at Acheen, the English would immediately destroy them, but in doing so much innocent blood might be spilt which they wish to avoid.

It is the wish of the English to preserve the honor of all the Indian States in alliance with them, and in order that their trade may not be disturbed, it cannot admit any French interest to prevail in such States.

I therefore give your Majesty this timely intimation being desirous of continuing in terms of the strictest friendship with your Majesty. The English cannot allow that any French ship shall receive refreshment or repairs at Acheen or at any of the ports under your Majesty's authority; if such takes place, the English Admiral will of course deem it necessary to attend to such conduct. In assuring my friend of my affection and friendship, and promising on account of the English Nation every support my friend may require in protecting him from the evil machinations of the French who would undermine the safety of your Majesty's Kingdom, I have only to add my confidence and reliance in your Majesty's immediately taking effective measures for doing away the evils complained of.

Your Majesty must be aware of the power and superiority of the English Nation and that in this country, the French have no footing except in the Islands, Batavia, and the Mauritius, in which they are confined by the blockade of the English ships; they have no trade, and those people only can reach your Majesty's dominions, who are spies and emissaries of the French. The object is to stir up revolt and rebellion as they have done in their own country, to extend their dominions and to make vassals and slaves of all those who are foolish enough to believe them.

It is therefore as much the interest as the duty of your Majesty towards the English to discourage all such attempts on the part of the French and I trust your Majesty will immediately be induced to dismiss from your employ, all Frenchmen of whatever description.

As a mark of my friendship and esteem for your Majesty, I request your Majesty's acceptance of the articles which will be delivered by the bearer of this letter.....

The whole incident serves to show the alarm felt both by the Home Government and the Directors of the East India Company at the Franco-Dutch activity in the East Indies.

An exceptionally well provided expedition was sent against the Mauritius which was occupied in 1810.

In 1811 Lord Minto writes from Calcutta to Raffles: ("6") "The Mauritius and all the French Islands being now in our possession, there is nothing to retard the execution of our further views to the East"..... "I am now to acquaint you with my own intention to proceed in person at least to Malacca, and eventually, I may say probably to Java"..... "I must tell you in confidence that I have received the sanction of the Government at home for this expedition but that the views of the Directors do not go be-

yond the expulsion or reduction of the Dutch Power, the destruction of their fortifications, the distribution of their arms and stores to the natives and the evacuation of the island by our own troops."

The high minded energy of Lord Minto prevented this project from being carried out in its brutal simplicity; but, the ultimate recession of Java was inevitable.

The Home Government had accomplished their object by the destruction of the last refuge of the French fleet in the East, and with the fall of Napoleon all fear of a militant Franco-Dutch Colonial Empire had come to an end. The Directors of the East India Company were loath to undertake a large and costly extension of their already scattered settlements. Their whole policy was now one of concentration. Raffles himself in a letter to the Directors on the subject of his salary and allowances raises the question of the anomalous position of the new territories administered by the Company, yet outside the scope of their charter.

(⁷) "The objection which is so forcibly stated as a bar to what I consider my just due in this instance, namely, my having proceeded to Europe in the interim, which act by the provisions of the Legislature framed for the management of the Company's Territories in India, is considered an absolute avoidance of office and salary,—however it may stand good against similar claims on the part of those employed within the Territories of the Company, cannot legally be considered to apply to the possessions beyond the limits of their Charter, or to Countries circumstanced and situated as Java and its dependencies were, held entirely on a political and provisional tenure and in no way subjected or capable of being subjected at the time to the internal and detailed laws and regulations laid down for the Company's permanent Establishments and possessions in India. The Rules for salaries and emoluments as fixed by the Act of Parliament for *British* India were never attempted to be carried into effect in *Dutch* India, as the urgency, nature and peculiarity of the circumstances under which it was governed by us rendered it altogether impracticable."

The short lived English occupation of Java does not appear to have improved the position of Bencoolen. And after the cession of Java it became very doubtful whether Bencoolen was worth retaining. The Settlement was an isolated one; the value of the pepper trade had fallen off and the cost of the establishment had risen.

When Mr. Raffles on his return from Europe first took charge of the Bencoolen Settlement the outlook was gloomy. In 1818 he writes to William Marsden:

(⁸) "This (Bencoolen) is the most wretched place I ever beheld. I cannot convey to you an adequate idea of

7. C. S. O. R.	..	..	Vol. 907	P. 66
8. Life of Raffles by Lady Raffles	..	..	..	P. 293

the state of ruin and dilapidation which surrounds me. What with the natural impediments, bad government, and the awful visitations of Providence which we have recently experienced, in repeated earthquakes, we have scarcely a dwelling in which to lay our heads, or wherewithal to satisfy the cravings of nature. The roads are impassable. The highways in the town are over-run with rank grass. The Government house a den of ravenous dogs and polecats. The natives say that Bencoolen is now a "tana mati." In truth I could never have conceived anything half so bad. We will try and make it better."

In so far as he was able Raffles tried to improve the position. In 1822 he forwarded to the Directors the following letter containing a proposal for a preferential tariff which he recommends, both in the immediate interests of the Company's settlement on the West Coast of Sumatra, and in the more enlarged interests of British Commerce in general.

To H. Dart, Esquire, (9)

Secretary to the East India Company,
London.

Sir,

It having been resolved at a late meeting of the spice cultivators of Bencoolen to petition the Hon'ble Court of Directors for their patronage and support in obtaining a remission in such portion of the duties on nutmegs, mace, and cloves imported into the United Kingdom being "bona fide" the produce of the British possessions as may enable them more effectually to compete in the market with the produce of the Dutch monopoly, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a memorial addressed by those gentlemen to the Hon'ble Court in consequence, the prayer of which I beg leave respectfully to recommend to the Court's favorable consideration.

2. The manifest and declared efforts of the Netherlands Authorities in this Country to injure and destroy by every means in their power, the rival produce of Bencoolen, are felt in so many shapes and directions that our planters feel themselves under the necessity of applying for the protection of their own Government. To meet the sacrifices which the Dutch have made in India, with a view to glut the market and undersell the produce of Bencoolen as well as to support them against a similar proceeding in Europe, the planters appeal for a still further protecting duty in favor of the British spices. They are at present able to deliver their Spices at a rate that by the latest price currents in Europe will realise a profit, but the Article in the present state of commerce hardly yields

sufficient advantage to encourage the intermediate party or merchant to enter on the speculation. The planters themselves having their whole capital invested in their plantations cannot lay out their money during the consignment to Europe without injury to the increasing cultivation, but they conceive that were a remission in the present duties on importation into the United Kingdom to the extent of one shilling, or even sixpence in the pound to take place, the merchant would find his advantage in the speculation, and that the additional advantage over the foreign spices would be adequate to enable them to compete successfully with the Dutch monopoly and eventually to destroy it altogether.

3. To this extent I consider the claims of the planters deserving of every consideration, whether the subject is received with reference to the immediate interests of the Company's settlement on the West Coast of Sumatra or to the more enlarged interests of British commerce in general.

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) T. S. RAFFLES.

Fort Marlbro', 28th February, 1822.

Bencoolen was too isolated to allow of its falling trade being bolstered up by any such expedients, it became more and more obvious that after the cession of Java the English trade was powerless against the quiet regular opposition of the Dutch. It was becoming abundantly clear that what was required was some port which whilst giving reasonable access to the Dutch Indies would control the routes of the steadily increasing trade with China and Japan.

After a conference with the Governor General of Bengal, Lord Hastings, Raffles writes in 1818, ⁽¹⁰⁾ "Lord Hastings is, I know, inclined to recommend our exchanging Bencoolen for Malacca and to make the Equator the limit." Next year 1819, acting on Lord Hastings' general instructions Raffles had secured in the island of Singapore, an ideal post both for trade and for defence. In 1822 Raffles is already able to write as follows.—

To Joseph Dart, Esqr., ⁽¹¹⁾

Secretary to the Honourable East India Company,
London.

Sir,

I have much satisfaction in transmitting for the information of the Honourable Court of Directors an abstract statement of the arrivals and departures of shipping via Singapore from the

10. Life of Raffles by Lady Raffles	..	..	..	P. 369
11. C. S. O. R.	..	..	Vol. 907	P. 3

date of its first establishment to the 31st August last, being a period of two years and a half, during which the port has been progressively advancing in importance.

2. From this statement the Court will perceive that during the said period no less than 2889 vessels have entered at the port, of which 383 were owned and commanded by Europeans, and 2506 by natives, and their united tonnage has amounted to Tons 161038.

3. From the returns in the Master Attendant's Office, it further appears that the value of merchandize in native vessels, junks, prows, etc., which have entered and sailed from the port during the same period, has amounted to about five millions of dollars and that the imports and exports by ships have not been less than three millions more, making in all a gross amount of eight millions of dollars, or two millions Sterling.

4. This proof of the extent in Commercial dealings at Singapore during the infancy of the establishment, *and whilst it has laboured under the greatest disadvantage from the uncertainty of its permanent retention*, must at once establish the importance and value of the Station, from a commercial point of view.

I have etc.,

(Signed) T. S. RAFFLES.

Fort Marlbro', 6th Feby., 1822.

As soon as the Settlement of Singapore was well established the exchange of Bencoolen for Malacca became one of mutual advantage. In Malacca the Dutch found themselves cramped between the English settlements of Penang and Singapore with very little chance of opening up a profitable trade with the Peninsula especially since Crawford's negotiations with Siam. On the other hand in Bencoolen an English settlement was isolated apart from the main trade routes of the East India Company and in a district in which the Dutch had the preponderating influence amongst the local native states.

Negotiations were entered into in Europe between the English and Dutch Governments and on the 17th of March 1824 the treaty of London was signed. The text of the treaty has been published in Singapore in 1889 by the Government Printing Office under the title of "Treaties and engagements entered into with or affecting the native states of the Malay Peninsula." It is also printed as an appendix of Neubold's *British Settlements in Malacca*. Both books are now somewhat rare and the text of the treaty is here reprinted for convenience of reference.

The treaty as published by the Government Printing Office is called the treaty of Holland. But as the treaty was signed in London and is referred to as the Treaty of London in contemporary correspondence it is referred to as the Treaty of London throughout this paper.

TREATY OF HOLLAND, 1824.

TREATY between HIS BRITANNICK MAJESTY and THE KING OF THE NETHERLANDS, respecting Territory and Commerce in the East Indies, signed at London, March 17, 1824.

ARTICLE I.

The high Contracting Parties engage to admit the Subjects of each other to trade with Their respective Possession in the Eastern Archipelago, and on the Continent of India, and in Ceylon, upon the footing of the most favoured Nation; Their respective Subjects conforming themselves to the local Regulations of each Settlement.

ARTICLE II.

The Subjects and Vessels of one Nation shall not pay, upon importation or exportation, at the Ports of the other in the Eastern Seas any Duty at a rate beyond the double of that at which the Subjects and Vessels of the Nation to which the Port belongs, are charged.

The Duties paid on exports or imports at a British Port, on the Continent of India, or in Ceylon, on Dutch bottoms, shall be arranged so as, in no case, to be charged at more than double the amount of the Duties paid by British bottoms.

In regard to any article upon which no Duty is imposed, when imported or exported by the Subjects, or on the Vessels, of the Nation to which the Port belongs, the Duty charged upon the Subjects or Vessels of the other shall, in no case, exceed six per cent.

ARTICLE III.

The High Contracting Parties engage, that no Treaty hereafter made by Either, with any Native Power in the Eastern Seas, shall contain any Article tending, either expressly, or by the imposition of unequal Duties, to exclude the Trade of the other Party from the Ports of such Native Power: and that if in any Treaty now existing on either Part, any Article to that effect has been admitted, such Article shall be abrogated upon the conclusion of the present Treaty.

It is understood that, before the conclusion of the present Treaty, communication has been made by each of the Contracting Parties to the other, of all Treaties or Engagements subsisting between Each of them, respectively, and any Native Power in the Eastern Seas; and that the like communication shall be made of all such Treaties concluded by Them, respectively, hereafter.

ARTICLE IV.

Their Britannick and Netherland Majesties engage to give strict Orders, as well to Their Civil and Military Authorities, as to their Ships of war, to respect the freedom of Trade, established by Articles I., II., and III.; and, in no case, to impede a free communication of the Natives in the Eastern Archipelago, with the Ports of the Two Governments, respectively, or of the Subjects of the Two Governments with the Ports belonging to Native Powers.

ARTICLE V.

Their Britannick and Netherland Majesties, in like manner, engage to concur effectually in repressing Piracy in those Seas; They will not grant either asylum or protection to Vessels engaged in Piracy, and They will, in no case, permit the Ships or merchandize captured by such Vessels, to be introduced, deposited, or sold, in any of their Possessions.

ARTICLE VI.

It is agreed that Orders shall be given by the Two Governments to their Officers and Agents in the East, not to form any new Settlement on any of the Islands in the Eastern Seas, without previous Authority from their respective Governments in Europe.

ARTICLE VII.

The Molucca Islands, and especially Amboyna, Banda, Ternate, and their immediate Dependencies, are excepted from the operation of the I., II., III., and IV. Articles, until the Netherland Government shall think fit to abandon the monopoly of Spices; but if the said Government shall, at any time previous to such abandonment of the monopoly, allow the Subjects of any Power, other than a Native Asiatic Power, to carry on any Commercial Intercourse with the said Islands, the Subjects of His Britannick Majesty shall be admitted to such Intercourse, upon a footing precisely similar.

ARTICLE VIII.

His Netherland Majesty cedes to His Britannick Majesty all His Establishments on the Continent of India; and renounces all privileges and exemptions enjoyed or claimed in virtue of those Establishments.

ARTICLE IX.

The Factory of Fort Marlborough and all the English Possessions on the Island of Sumatra, are hereby ceded to His Netherland Majesty: and His Britannick Majesty further engages that no British Settlement shall be formed on that Island, nor any Treaty concluded by British Authority, with any Native Prince, Chief, or State therein.

ARTICLE X.

The Town and Fort of Malacca, and its dependencies, are hereby ceded to His Britannick Majesty; and His Netherland Majesty engages, for Himself and His Subjects, never to form any Establishment on any part of the Peninsula of Malacca, or to conclude any Treaty with any Native Prince, Chief, or State therein.

ARTICLE XI.

His Britannick Majesty withdraws the objections which have been made to the occupation of the Island of Billiton and its Dependencies, by the Agents of the Netherland Government.

ARTICLE XII.

His Netherland Majesty withdraws the objections which have been made to the occupation of the Island of Singapore, by the Subjects of His Britannick Majesty.

His Britannick Majesty, however, engages, that no British Establishment shall be made on the Carimon Isles, or on the Islands of Battam, Bintang, Lingin, or on any of the other Islands South of the Straits of Singapore, nor any Treaty concluded by British Authority with the Chiefs of those Islands.

ARTICLE XIII.

All the Colonies, Possessions and Establishments which are ceded by the preceding Articles shall be delivered up to the Officers of the respective Sovereigns on the 1st of March 1825. The Fortifications shall remain in the state in which they shall be at the period of the notification of this Treaty in India; but no claim shall be made, on either side, for ordinance, or stores of any description, either left or removed by the ceding power, nor for any arrears of revenue, or any charge of administration whatever.

ARTICLE XIV.

All the Inhabitants of the Territories hereby ceded, shall enjoy, for a period of six years from the date of the Ratification of the present Treaty, the liberty of disposing, as they please, of their property, and of transporting themselves, without let or hinderance, to any country to which they may wish to remove.

ARTICLE XV.

The High Contracting Parties agree that none of the Territories or Establishments mentioned in Articles VIII., IX., X., XI., and XII. shall be, at any time, transferred to any other Power. In case of any of the said Possessions being abandoned by one of the present Contracting Parties, the right of occupation thereof shall immediately pass to the other.

ARTICLE XVI.

It is agreed that all accounts and reclamations arising out of the restorations of Java, and other Possessions, to the Officers of His Netherland Majesty in the East Indies,—as well as those which were the subject of a Convention made at Java on the 24th of June 1817, between the Commissioners of the Two Nations, as all others shall be finally and completely closed and satisfied on the payment of the sum of one hundred thousand pounds, sterling money, to be made in London on the part of the Netherlands, before the expiration of the Year 1825.

ARTICLE XVII.

The present Treaty shall be ratified and the Ratifications exchanged at London, within Three Months from the date hereof, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and affixed thereunto the Seals of their Arms.

.... *Done in London, the Seventeenth day of March, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-four.*

(L. S.) CHARLES WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN.

(L. S.) GEORGE CANNING.

The text of the Treaty was forwarded to the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, through the Governor-General of Bengal with the two following covering letters, containing the general instructions of the Directors.

1. ⁽¹²⁾ We have the satisfaction of transmitting to you a Copy of a Treaty, for adjusting the relations of the British and Dutch

Nations in the East, which was signed on the 17th instant, between His Majesty's Plenipotentiaries and those of the King of the Netherlands.

2. We also forward copies of two notes, delivered on the same day by the respective Plenipotentiaries.

3. As the Treaty cannot be laid before Parliament or made public in England, before the ratifications have been exchanged, you will retain the documents in your secret department until you shall have been officially advised of the ratification.

4. We communicate the Treaty to you, in its present state, in order that you may have full time for considering and preparing the measures which will be necessary for carrying into effect some of its provisions.

5. It is intended to propose to Parliament, that all the Dutch settlements on the Continent of India, and on the Peninsula of Malacca, which by the 8th and 10th Articles of the Treaty are to be ceded to Great Britain, should be transferred to the East India Company, you will therefore consider what arrangement will be necessary, with the Dutch authorities, for receiving possession of those settlements, on the day fixed, and you will determine upon the most expedient and economical mode of administering the affairs of the respective acquisitions. In reference to the first point, we refer you to the 13th Article which was framed with a particular view to avoiding the occurrence of differences, such as those which occurred on the restitution of Java to the Dutch.

6. As to the second we trust that you will find it possible to effect this, at a much less charge than that which attended the temporary occupation during the war.

7. We are not aware that any new arrangement will be necessary as to Singapore, which is also to be transferred to the Company.

8. But the most important matter, arising out of the Treaty so far as your proceedings are concerned, is the cession of Bencoolen, and the Company's possessions on Sumatra, to the King of the Netherlands. We request your particular attention to those passages of the notes exchanged by the Plenipotentiaries, which relate to the inhabitants of Bencoolen, and to the relations of England with the King of Acheen. You will take care that the intelligence of the intended transfer of Authority, shall be accompanied by a knowledge of the assurances which His Majesty's Government have obtained from the Dutch, in regard to the interests of the natives and without which the Court of Directors would not have thought themselves authorized to concur in the cession.

9. These interests, therefore, we recommend to your special care.

10. Towards the execution of the 9th Article, so far as it regards Bencoolen, you will receive, with the ratified Treaty, more particular instructions from the Court of Directors. It is intended

that the local debt of that factory should be paid off previously to the transfer.

11. With respect to Acheen it will not be necessary for you to take any step, until you shall have received the ratified Treaty.

12. Although the Treaty and notes which we now communicate to you, are to remain secret, yet it may be necessary that the general nature of the arrangement should be known to those, whose duty it will be to carry it into execution.

13. For your guidance in this respect we forward an extract from a communication made by the President of the Board of Commissioners for the affairs of India to the special secret committee, and by them laid before the Court of Directors. The information contained in this document may be given to any persons with whom you may find it necessary to communicate upon the subject of the present Dispatch; it may also serve for your guidance, in the event of imperfect information upon the subject of the Treaty obtaining publicity in India.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

(Signed) W. WIGRAM.

„ W. ASTELL.

East India House, (13)

London, the 20th March, 1824.

Our Governor-General in Council,
at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letter to you in this department was dated the

2. We transmit herewith copies of a Treaty for adjusting the relations of the British and Dutch Nations in the East which was signed on the 17th March last and the ratification of which have been subsequently exchanged. To the Treaty are annexed copies of two notes which were delivered by the respective Plenipotentiaries on the day whereon the Treaty was signed. We likewise forward copies of an Act passed on the 24th June last for transferring to the East India Company certain possessions newly-acquired in the East Indies, and for authorizing the removal of convicts from Sumatra.

3. The first Article of the Treaty stipulates for a reciprocal admission of British and Dutch Subjects into the ports of the other Power upon the footing of the most favoured Nation. We

are not aware that this stipulation will require any new measure on your part in favour of the Dutch or that it will entitle British subjects to any privilege at Dutch Ports of which they are not already in possession, you will take care that the reserve which the article contains as to the local regulations of each settlement is not abused. With this view you will inform yourselves of the nature of all existing regulations whereby the British trade is effected, either as to the facility of importation and exportation or as to the ports to which traffic may be limited and you will compare these regulations with those to which the Dutch trade is subjected in British India. This instruction is especially applicable to the ports of Java.

4. The second Article as to duties is conformable to the general principle which has been established for many years in British India though in some degree contravened since the last peace. The reduction of duty which it will be necessary for you to make in pursuance of the first part of this Article will necessarily be extended to those Nations which have acquired by Treaty the privilege of the most favoured Nation in the East Indies. These are in fact all the principal Powers which have intercourse with India. We are, therefore, desirous that the new regulation of duties should be applicable generally to all foreign vessels.

5. Care must be taken that the duties payable by British subjects or vessels in Dutch ports, shall not be raised above the stipulated proportion by any arbitrary or unequal mode of valuing merchandize previously to charging duties "ad valorem".

6. The third Article is especially directed against a practice, which, according to the statements of various persons who have been concerned in the trade with the Eastern Islands, has been carried to a considerable extent by the Dutch of inducing the Native States to make treaties whereby all Europeans but the Dutch are excluded from trade. These settlements have been denied by the Dutch, and we have certainly had no specific evidence of the fact, but however this may have been, the evil cannot exist in future, since all engagements having the effect of excluding British traders from the native ports are annulled by the present Treaty.

7. The fourth Article provides generally for the freedom of trade with the natives of the Archipelago which is in no way to be impeded by the Dutch or English respectively.

8. On the fifth Article respecting piracy we have nothing to observe.

9. Should any Establishment be formed by any English Authority in India, in contravention of the sixth Article, it will be necessary forthwith to direct the abandonment of such Establishment. On the other hand, should any Establishment be made without authority by the Dutch, the Netherland Government will be called upon to direct that it will be abandoned.

10. The seventh Article excepts the Moluccas from the preceding stipulations as to freedom of trade, this exception you will respect, but you will be careful to observe whether any attempt is made to extend the restriction beyond the limits within which it is confined by the note which accompanied the Treaty. You will inform us of any indications which may be perceived of an intention to relinquish the monopoly of the Spice Islands.

11. These seven Articles contain all the stipulations which it has been thought necessary to make with respect to commerce. It is clear that if carried into execution with good faith they will remove all the impediments which have been said to obstruct our commerce in the Eastern Seas.

12. If any complaint should reach you either officially or otherwise of any contravention of the Treaty by the Dutch you will carefully investigate it, and report to us, or to the secret committee the result without delay, but you must be aware, and cause it to be well understood, that no remonstrance, founded upon a complaint of this description, can be made to the Netherlands Government unless it be accompanied by specific allegations and proper evidence of proceedings not warranted by Treaty.

13. The Treaty contains no stipulation concerning the freedom of navigation as it has not been alleged that British vessels have met with any interruption in any part of the Archipelago.

14. The eighth Article accomplishes an object which has been repeatedly recommended from Bengal. The Dutch Settlements on the Continent of India ceded by this Article to Great Britain, having been transferred by the Act passed on the 24th of June last, to the East India Company, you will adopt the necessary arrangements in concert with the Dutch Authorities for receiving possession of those settlements on the day fixed, with special reference to the 13th Article of the Treaty and you will determine on the most expedient and economical mode of administering the affairs of the respective acquisitions and report to us your proceedings.

15. You will, in conformity with the ninth Article of the Treaty, make arrangements for delivering over to the Dutch, on the 1st of March 1825, the factory of Fort Marlborough and all the English possessions on the Island of Sumatra. With reference to the cession of Bencoolen, we request your particular attention to such parts of the notes exchanged by the British and Dutch Plenipotentiaries as relate to the inhabitants of Bencoolen. You will take care that the intelligence of the intended transfer of authority shall be accompanied by a knowledge of the assurances which His Majesty's Government have obtained from the Dutch in regard to the interests of the natives and without which we should not have thought ourselves authorized to concur in the cession. Those interests, therefore, we recommend to your especial care.

16. Arrangements must be made for discharging the amount of promissory notes outstanding at Fort Marlborough, and for adjusting so far as may be practicable all outstanding accounts between the Company and individuals.

17. You will give directions that all ordonance and military stores at Bencoolen be removed previously to the settlement being delivered over to the Agents of the King of the Netherlands. They may be conveyed to Prince of Wales Island, Singapore, or Malacca as may be thought most expedient.

18. The Fort Marlborough Records are to be sent to Penang, and you will request the Government of Prince of Wales Island to report to us the quantity of tonnage which will be required for conveying them to this country. Particular care must be taken of the baptismal and marriage registers which it is desirable should be transmitted to this country by the earliest opportunity.

19. The furniture belonging to the Bencoolen Residency it may be expedient to dispose of on the spot, but the Plate belonging to the Company is to be sent to Prince of Wales Island.

20. In regard to commercial stores you will receive our instructions from the Commercial Department.

21. As to the mode of disposing of our Bencoolen servants, the following are the only observations and instructions with which it is now in our power to furnish you.

22. The Lieutenant Governor is coming home.

23. The first Assistant (Captain McKenzie) belongs to the Bengal Army to which he may return on the relinquishment of the settlement.

24. The same is the case of Mr. Tyler, the Surgeon, of Mr. Colman, the Assistant Surgeon, and of Lieutenant T. W. Hule, the Superintendent of Convicts, etc.

25. The Chaplain may proceed to Singapore, taking along with him the communion plate and the church books lately sent from this country to Bencoolen.

26. It will hereafter be determined to what Establishment our twelve Civil Servants attached to the Residency of Fort Marlborough shall be transferred. But as a temporary arrangement it is our wish that they should be employed in discharging the requisite duties at Singapore and Malacca, and that such as may remain supernumerary shall continue to draw their present allowances until further orders.

27. There are about thirty uncovenanted Assistants and monthly Writers, who though they are not entitled to a permanent provision from the Company may, from the periods of their service, and the possible circumstance of their not having other dependence, have claims to our liberal consideration. We are desirous therefore that the most deserving of those persons may be employed in performing such duties as may be required of uncovenanted servants in the new settlements, and that moderate pensions

may be granted to such of the remainder as may appear from past service and good conduct to have claims on our bounty.

28. The office of Master Attendant is now vacant, and the services of the Assistants in that Department will probably be required at the other settlements.

29. In regard to the tenth Article of the Treaty, we refer you to our observations on Article 8, with the addition that you will take care that the Dutch conform strictly to the stipulation contained in the latter part of the Article.

30. Article 11 requires no observation.

31. Article 12, you will observe, puts an end to all questions between the British Government and the Dutch as to the title of the British to Singapore.

32. We have some reason to believe that the harbour of Singapore is partly formed of one or more Islets lying very near to the main Island, in order to prevent any difficulty or dispute respecting these Islets, we authorize and desire you to take possession of any such Islets or Islands in the Straits of Singapore at the same time that we enjoin you strict attention to the stipulations of the present Article respecting the Carimon Islands and the others laying *South* of those Straits.

33. The 13th Article of the Treaty was framed with a particular view to avoiding the occurrence of differences such as those which occurred on the restitution of Java to the Dutch.

34. By the 16th Article all accounts and reclamations arising out of the restoration of Java and other Dutch possessions in the East Indies will be finally settled on payment of the sum therein stipulated.

35. By the accompanying Act of the 5th of the King Cap: 108 Section 2 the Indian Governments are empowered to remove convicts who may have been transported to Sumatra to some other place whither they might have been sentenced to transportation for the remainder of the term of their sentence and to transport to some other place to which they might have been sentenced to transportation such convicts as may be under sentence of transportation to Sumatra. In pursuance of this enactment you will determine in concert with the Governments of Fort St. George, Bombany and Penang, on the Station, whether at Prince of Wales Island, Malacca or Singapore to which the convicts may be most conveniently removed with reference to the opportunities of employing them and the means of maintaining them at the least expense.

36. As by the Statute above referred to it has been enacted that the new settlements are to be "holden by the Company in such and the same manner to all intents, effects, constructions and purposes whatsoever and subject to the same authorities restrictions and provisions as the factory of Bencoolen and the possessions in the Island of Sumatra were vested in and holden

“by the said Company before the conclusion of the Treaty” and as in virtue of the powers vested in us by the 42nd of Geo. 3rd Cap: 29 we did by our separate dispatch to your Government dated 19th April, 1817, reduce our Establishment at Fort Marlborough to a factory only, subordinate to the presidency of Fort William. Singapore and Malacca will remain subject to your Government.

37. We shall transmit a copy of this Despatch to the Government of Prince of Wales Island.

We are,

Your affectionate Friends,

London the 4th August, 1824.

(Signed) W. ASTELL.
C. MARJORIBANKS.
GEO. SMITH.
JNO. MORRIS.
W. S. CLARKE.
N. B. EDMONSTONE.
S. TOONE.
JNO. G. RAVENSHAW.
I. PATTISON.
JNO. BEBB.
R. C. PLOWDEN.
C. MILLS.
JNO. MASTERMAN.

Copd. W. H. HUTCHISSON.
H. J. JOHNSTONE.

The Treaty still left some important matters to be adjusted locally, notably the actual transfer of Bencoolen and Malacca, the position of the Dutch Settlement on the Island of Rhio, and the treaty which had previously been entered into between the East India Company and the King of Acheen.

This last difficulty had been foreseen by the British Plenipotentiaries in a note addressed to the Plenipotentiaries of the Netherlands at the time of the signing of the treaty.

“A treaty concluded in the year 1819, by British Agents, with the King of Acheen is incompatible with the 3rd Article of the present Treaty. The British Plenipotentiaries therefore undertake, that the Treaty of Acheen shall as soon as possible, be modified into a simple arrangement for the hospitable reception of British vessels and subjects in the Port of Acheen. But as some of the provisions of that Treaty (which has been communicated to the Netherlands Plenipotentiaries), will be conducive to the general interests of Europeans established in the Eastern Seas; they trust that the Netherlands Government will take measures for securing the benefit of those provisions, and they express their confidence, that no

measures, hostile to the King of Acheen, will be adopted by the new possessors of Fort Marlborough."

On several occasions within the next year or so, the Governor of Prince of Wales Island received the most definite instructions from the Directors to abstain from any negotiations with the Native States within the Dutch sphere of influence.

The following letters will show how exactly this Policy of non-interference was carried out.

The President lays before the Board the following letter from the King of Acheen, with his reply thereto.

KING OF ACHEEN.

King of Acheen, 13th October, 1826. (¹⁴)

TRANSLATION.

of a letter from Sultan Ala-eddin, Mahomed Shah King of Acheen to the Honorable the Governor of Pulo Pinang.

(After Compliments).

Whereas the Sultan of Acheen makes known to the Governor of Pulo Pinang that the British Government has always been on friendly terms with, and assisted the King of Acheen and the present Sultan is very desirous to preserve the same friendly relations as formerly. Any thing which the King desired, such as ships, guns or muskets, etc., the Governor of Pulo Pinang kindly supplied and assisted him when in difficulty. The Sultan of Acheen therefore places great confidence in the Governor of Pulo Pinang. The Sultan of Acheen is bound to make a reciprocal return in compliance with the wishes of the Governor of Pulo Pinang. At present the Sultan is in some difficulty, and he therefore makes the same known to the Governor of Pulo Pinang.

It is reported that Seyed Akeel intends seizing upon Delli; and as Delli is the dependency of Acheen, the Sultan requests very earnestly, that the Governor of Pulo Pinang; will have consideration towards him, as Seyed Akeel is a subject of the Company, and the Sultan trusts that the engagement formerly made in the time of the late Sultan—will be observed, viz., that the enemies of the Sultan shall be considered the enemies of the Company. Dated the 18th of Dalhajee, 1241—on Sunday. Prince of Wales Island (A true translation) the 13th October, 1826.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON,

Malay Translator to Govt.

TO THE KING OF ACHEEN.

To the King of Acheen, 19th October, 1826. ⁽¹⁵⁾

LETTER.

from the Honorable the Governor to the King of Acheen.

The Governor of Prince of Wales Island has received the letter addressed to him in the name of Sultan Ala-eddin Mahomed Shah King of Acheen and informs him in reply that it has always been and continues to be his earnest wish and desire to cultivate and keep a true friendship, harmony and good will; with all neighbouring States—but as to affording assistance in the supply of ships, guns, muskets, or warlike stores; the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, must distinctly inform the King of Acheen that he cannot interfere in the disputes of States on the Island of Sumatra, in anyway whatever. As to the conduct and supposed intention of Seyed Akeel to seize upon Delli, the Governor of Pinang informs the King of Acheen, that Seyed Akeel, before he left this Island, on his own private concerns was expressly cautioned, and informed to abstain from all acts, of interference in the affairs of Delli; such therefore have no sanction from this Government and if Seyed Akeel is guilty of such, it must be at the risk and peril, to which such conduct will subject him.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON,

19th October, 1826.

MALAY TRANSLATOR TO SEYED AKEEL AT DELLI.

Letter to Seyed Akeel, 2nd November, 1826. ⁽¹⁶⁾

LETTER FROM THE MALAY TRANSLATOR TO SEYED AKEEL.

I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor to acquaint my friend that his stay at Delli has been protracted considerably beyond the period fixed for his return and a representation relative to my friend's proceedings having lately been received from the King of Acheen, I am instructed to express the expectation of the Hon'ble the Governor that my friend will studiously refrain from any measures calculated to produce collision with neighbouring states or any remonstrances, from the Chiefs thereof and that my friend will be prepared to quit Delli with as little delay as possible.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON,

Malay Translator to Government.

Penang, 2nd November, 1826.

15.	C. S. O. R.	..	..	..	..	Vol. 944	P. 155
16.	C. S. O. R.	..	..	..	..	Vol. 944	P. 188

There appears to have been a good deal of delay in informing the Acting Resident of Bencoolen of the terms of the Treaty and of the impending transfer of the Settlement.

A good deal of loss and inconvenience was caused by the hurried transfer as the following correspondence shows.

To J. Dart, Esquire, (17)
Secretary to the H. E. I. Company,
London.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, copy of my address and Enclosures to the Supreme Government, on the present state and value of the Honorable Company's spice plantations at Bencoolen, judging that the subject may be interesting and of some importance on any discussions which may take place regarding their Establishments on this Coast.

I embrace this opportunity of stating, that most unexpectedly we have received information through various channels, of the intended transfer of the Hon'ble Company's possessions on Sumatra to the Netherlands Government on the 1st Proximo for which intelligence we were totally unprepared, and I have to lament the difficulties I experience in the absence of all information upon the arrangement, affecting the interests of every individual, both European and native on this and the subordinate Settlements, and request to inform you, that up to this period the local Government, have not been favored with the receipt of any instructions from the Hon'ble Court, or the Supreme Government, on the detail of the Public Stock or of the future destination of the servants in the employ of the Hon'ble Company.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) J. PRINCE,
Acting Resident,
General Department.

Fort Marlbro', 12th February, 1825.

To J. H. Dart, Esquire, (18)
Secretary to the H. E. I. Company,
London.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Hon'ble Court of Directors that on the 20th ultimo, I received a duplicate letter from the Supreme Government under date 14th October of which the annexed is an abstract.

17.	C. S. O. R.	..	..	..	..	Vol. 907	P. 140
18.	C. S. O. R.	..	..	..	..	Vol. 907	P. 126

"You will be pleased to adopt arrangements for removing from Fort Marlbro' all stores and property of value previous to the day appointed for the transfer of Bencoolen, and abstain from making any further advances on account of pepper, or other articles of commerce, which cannot be realized with security before the day of transfer."

In exculpation of any future consequences I beg to state, that on receipt of the above instructions, (only eight days previous to that fixed for the transfer) I had no means of fulfilling the first part of them, not a vessel of any description being in the Roads applicable to the public service, and, with regard to the latter part, the advances for the purchase of the Hon'ble Company's pepper agreeable to your instructions under date 2nd January 1823, and 6th January 1824, had been previously made, and the greater part came in, with the exception of an advance of 30,000 Spanish Dollars to Captain Tabor of the *Eleanor* who had contracted for the delivery of the pepper at Tappanooly, and where in consequence of these Instructions, I have sent directions to offer him freight to carry the same to Calcutta.

Four days after the receipt of the above letter from the Supreme Government I have the honor further to report, that the H. Company's Chartered Ship *Layton*, arrived at Bencoolen 24th Ultimo with final instructions from the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council, desiring me to embark all the ordnance, military and civil stores previous to the day of transfer, and on that day to cede to the constituted Authorities of the Netherlands Government, the territorial possessions of the Hon'ble Company on the Island of Sumatra.

I beg to state that the total absence of Agents on the part of the Netherlands Government, prevented my fulfilling on the part of the British Government the stipulations of the Treaty, as far as they concerned this Factory and its Dependencies, on the day fixed, and also that the same deficiency and want of tonnage to transport the military and civil stores then existed and continues to exist.

I have the honor to present for the information of the Hon'ble Court, copy of a declaration I considered myself called upon to make, on the 1st March last in consequence of the peculiar situation I was placed in, and confidently trust that the Hon'ble Court will exonerate me from the responsibility and consequences which may ensue therefrom.

In pursuance of authority from the Supreme Government, I am adopting measures for securing Tonnage from Batavia to transport the pepper and coffee to Europe, and the convicts, etc., to Prince of Wales Island, and am in hourly expectation of ships from Calcutta to transport the military stores.

I have the honor also to report, that by the latest advices received from Batavia and Padang, it appears that the Netherlands

Government, is so much engaged in hostilities in their Eastern Possessions, that it has not at this moment sufficient Troops to spare for the occupation of the stations ordered to be ceded to that Flag.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) J. PRINCE,

Acting Resident,

Commercial Department.

Fort Marlbro', 9th March, 1825.

Certain points still remained to be settled, especially with regard to the 14th Article of the Treaty. As some long drawn out negotiations had not come to any clear result, Ibbetson was sent on a special Mission to the Governor-General at Batavia.

After several Conferences, Ibbetson was able to obtain the following letter which at once put the matter on a satisfactory footing.

TRANSLATION.

To The Hon'ble R. Ibbetson, Esq., (¹⁹)

British Commissioner,

Batavia, 16th January, 1829.

With reference to your letter dated the 6th December last to His Excellency the Commissioner General of Netherlands India, and to the Conference that took place between you and Messrs. Goldman, Councillor of India, and Du Puy, Acting Chief Secretary to the Government, relative to the emancipated convicts and others at Bencoolen, I have the honour to inform you.

That the three points proposed to be settled by previous mutual arrangement in the letter from the British Government dated the 17th April, 1828, with the view of giving due execution to the 14th Article of the Treaty of London in so far as Bencoolen is concerned, are acquiesced in and agreed to by the Netherlands Govt. under the following explanation for the better understanding of the same, viz.

With regard to the first point being as follows.

That no objection shall be made by the Netherlands local officers to the departure in such vessel or vessels as may be provided by the British Government of any description of persons declaring their desire to remove when called upon to make their election in the manner proposed by this Government nor to their wives and families accompanying them.

"That the Summons to appear before the British Agent and the Assistant Resident shall be confined to the liberated convicts and Caffrees, with their families and that the free Bengalees and other persons shall not be included therein, it being understood that all such among the latter as may be desirous of availing themselves of the privilege conceded by Article 14th of the Treaty shall be permitted to appear before the joint Authorities, although not called upon to declare such desire, in which case they will be proceeded with in the same manner as the convicts and Caffrees who shall have been summoned as above."

With regard to the second point being of the following tenor.

That if local debts are proved against any of these persons it shall be necessary that the creditors be satisfied for their just claims, before permission to depart be granted, but that it shall be left entirely to the British Agent to aid them in the adjustment of their debts by advance of money, or otherwise, and that such assistance shall not be made a ground for refusing permission to depart to such as have a right thereto by the Treaty.

"That it is previously understood and agreed to, by both parties that such of the persons in question as do *not* discharge their just debts, shall not be allowed to remove."

The third proposition is as follows.— That no law established since the transfer of Bencoolen, or not in force, at that time, shall be adduced or allowed effect, in bar of the right to remove, declared by the Treaty.

The Netherlands Government has no remark to make on this proposition, considering it as included in the first.

The necessary orders will be forthwith issued to the Assistant Resident of Bencoolen in pursuance hereof to proceed to the final settlement of this matter without delay, on your arrival at that place, and in the manner regulated above, that Officer will also be instructed to expedite and facilitate the execution of your mission as far as may be necessary and practicable, and will be recommended to arrange every thing with you in the best understanding.

These orders will be addressed *direct* to the local Officer at Bencoolen and will be handed to you in order to expedite the completion of your commission as otherwise, according to the existing instructions, our directions on this subject should be forwarded to the Resident and Commandant of Padang to whom, the Assistant Resident of Bencoolen is subordinate, and through whose intervention the ulterior instructions to the latter Officer should in the regular course be communicated.

In this particular case however from a consideration of the delay which would thereby be caused especially at this season, in the termination of the mission with which you are entrusted, we have resolved to depart from accustomed rules, trusting that the British authorities will see in this a new proof of the readiness

of the Netherlands Government, to facilitate the execution of the Treaty of London, as far as it is possible on our part, and at the same time, of our desire to strengthen by all proper means the good understanding now happily subsisting between the two Governments.

I take this opportunity to offer you the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

The Lieut. Governor-General of Netherlands India

In his absence

The Senior Councillor of India.

(Signed) CHASSE.

A true translation.

(Signed) J. DU PUY.

Actg. Chief Secy. to Govt.

The local negotiations were carried out without a hitch and the whole question was closed by any exchange of compliments between the Governor General of the Netherlands and the Governor General of British India.

To R. Ibbetson, Esquire, (20)

British Commissioner,

Bencoolen.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day, and therein enclosed lists of the British pensioners who desire to receive their allowance here.

Regarding the payment of the pensions in Silver Money, stipulated in the second Paragraph of your Letter, I have the satisfaction to state for your information that as this subject appears to me of less consequence then mentioned in your Letter, so I find no difficulty in assuring you from the part of my Government, that the remaining British pensioners, as they appear in the List which you have forwarded to me, will be paid in such silver coin as may be admitted to be in circulation at this place, provided the restitution be in the same coin this will also be of application to the holders of promissory notes.

The fourth Paragraph of your above mentioned Letter regarding the deduction of the advances made to the persons of *Sujak, Blantan, Slamet, and Poopang*, will be properly observed in the payment of their allowances.

With regard to the 5th Paragraph respecting the regularisation of the advances which are to be made here, to the Pensioners I beg leave to refer to the arrangements which you have made on the subject with the Government at Java, but as I am fully convinced with you that the settling of accounts between the mutual Governments could more effectually take place with Batavia and Prince of Wales Island, or even more so with Singapore, so I shall contemplate it, as a duty to bring this your proposition to the notice of my Government.

Further I beg leave to state for your information that the pensions will be paid by me here monthly, and the pay lists properly signed by each individual, forwarded to Batavia *every three months* in duplicate from which a set will be sent to the British Government to serve for verification of the bills which may be drawn by the Netherlands Government on the British Government in India.

Lastly. I enclosed herewith a receipt for the one thousand and two hundred Guilders, which you have sent me as pension money.

And in conclusion, Allow me Sir! reciprocally to express my acknowledgement for the indulgence with which you have supported my endeavours in settling the affairs of the Caffrees and Bengalees who are going to leave this, for without this indulgence, I would certainly have met with many difficulties in the observance of the positive orders which I have received from my Government to facilitate your Mission at this place, for the laws of this country which were transferred to us by a former Government and which still remain in force are of such construction that the native Chiefs here have the right to prevent the departure of many, who now received their papers to go in which case we could once more have fallen into those difficulties which have already given to this cause a delay, unpleasant to our mutual Government's. Therefore it is with double pleasure I see the end of our business without any hitch, whatsoever, and the amicable way in which everything is settled and join with you, in saying "that must be equally agreeable to our respective Governments."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

(Signed) M. FRANCIS.

Bencoolen, 17th March, 1829.

To the Secretary to Government, ⁽²¹⁾

Prince of Wales Island.

Sir,

1. In continuation of my Dispatch to your address, dated Batavia the 24th of January last; I have now the honor to report for the information of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council; that, as intimated in this concluding Paragraph, I quitted those Roads on the 27th of that Month, and arrived here in prosecution of my Mission on the 24th Ultimo.

In my Letter of the 16th instant, to the Assistant Resident, I suggested for the consideration of his Government the preference I gave to the drawing of Bills upon Prince of Wales Island or Singapore, over Calcutta. I was induced to this upon reflecting, that constant intercourse is maintained between the merchants of these Settlements and Batavia, and that a convenient arrangement might be concluded through them for the payment at Batavia of the quarterly balances as they became due.

2. In my further reply of the 21st instant, I purposely evaded his question for permission to forward to Penang by future opportunities, such diseased Bengalees as were not permitted to proceed by the present one, because without risking a little of the good understanding subsisting between us, I could not venture my real motive for an absolute refusal, which rested upon the knowledge I had obtained, that the sufferers alluded to were neither more nor less than all the vagabonds, and beggars, of the place.

3. I should strenuously recommend that no further expense whatever be incurred on this Account, the individuals now embarking scarcely appear sensible of the kindness that is intended them, and I verily believe would be induced, for a very few Rupees to be paid to each, again to return to their original employments. Many of the convicts are notorious bad characters, and the Caffrees noted for their laziness and aptitude to drink, than any other quality.

4. I am not able in the present letter to state precisely the number of souls that I shall eventually take from hence: several that are now on board have no claims whatever upon the consideration of Government and will only tend if taken, to prejudice the public service, by rendering inevitable what I am most anxious to avoid. The touching at any port for wood and water. I was not at all prepared on my arrival here for the delays I have experienced, many of the individuals now embarking had property to dispose of, with debts to pay and collect, so that had I ever determined upon sailing many days earlier than the present one, they could not have been ready, and the benevolent intentions of Government would have been partially defeated for an object which

after all, might not have been considered comparatively important. The ship for want of boats to complete her wood and water, had only been ready for sea service yesterday, and it has occupied three whole days in embarking the people from the same cause.

5. My Accounts alone remain to be submitted, but as I could not prepare them in time for my departure, the ship being now in preparation to weigh, I shall have them made up during the passage and forwarded in on my arrival.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) R. IBBETSON.

H. E. Ship Hastings,

Bencoolen Roads, 22nd March, 1829.

TRANSLATION.

To His Excellency, (22)

The Governor-General of British India,

&c. &c. &c.

My Lord,

I should have thought that I left a debt unpaid to Your Excellency's Letter of the 16th June last, relative to the result which I now do, for the flattering expressions contained in Your Excellency's letter of the 16th of Juna last, relative to the result of Mr. Ibbetson's Mission, Your Excellency having entirely approved the course of proceedings which gave rise thereto. I feel the more gratified as I owe to Your Excellency the agreeable communications which have passed between us on the subject.

The measures adopted by Your Excellency for obtaining reimbursement of the sums paid by Your Government to the Netherlandish Pensioners being in conformity with what had previously been agreed on, I have no objections to offer on that head, and have issued the necessary orders so that the Bills of Exchange which will be successively transmitted to the Government of Java, may be immediately honored.

Having at my repeated instances, obtained permission from the King my Master to return to my native land, and being in daily expectation of the arrival of the Governor-General Van der Boek to whom I shall make over charge of my administration, I can no longer hope to have opportunities of corresponding with

Your Excellency, but if my official intercourse with Your Excellency appears to me to have been but short, it will at least be associated in my mind with the most pleasing recollections.

I have the honor to be &c.,

(Signed) LE VISCOMTE DU BUS DE GESIGNES.

A true translation.

(Signed) W. FORESTY—Transf.

A true copy.

(Signed) A. W. PRINCE,

Secy. to the Govt.

Buitenzorg, the 18th September, 1829.

The transfer of Malacca by the representatives of the Dutch Government to the Agents of the East India Company passed off rapidly and smoothly so far as the more formal matters of the transfer of stores, accounts, and adjustments of pensions were concerned. A grave difficulty arose over the interpretation of the Treaty with regard to the Dutch establishment at Rhio. The dispute was too important and deep rooted to be finally decided locally. After a somewhat scrappy correspondence conducted at cross-purposes of which the following letters give the general purport. The points in dispute were clearly summed up by the Governor and referred to the home Government.

Reading Article IX of the Treaty together with Article XII, it seems fairly clear that the local officers of the East India Company were endeavouring to give to the term, "The Town and Fort of Malacca and its dependencies", an extension which had never been contemplated by the Plenipotentiaries of the two Governments at the time the Treaty was under discussion. The Dutch local officers instead of frankly taking up the natural position that Malacca and its dependencies meant the "hinterland" of Malacca and that the last paragraph of Article XII clearly precluded the English from any settlement at Rhio; endeavoured with much less success to show that Rhio had never been an administrative dependency of Malacca.

To W. S. Cracroft, Esquire, (23)

British Commissioner at
Malacca.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit for your information and guidance the following observations in addition to the instructions already conveyed to you.

1. In reference to the 10th and 12th Articles of the Treaty concluded between the British and Netherlands Authorities it appears by the former that Malacca and its dependencies are ceded to the British, and by the latter that we are to form no Establishment on any of the Islands named viz. Battam, Bintang, Lingin, &c. considering that these Islands have been from time immemorial viewed as dependencies of Malacca, Bintang in particular and by the Treaty are now actually regarded as such it becomes necessary to make a reclamation of these places from the Netherlands Representative at Malacca which you will accordingly be prepared to do in the event of their not being included voluntarily in the Act of Cession. It must be evident that the Treaty as regards the occupation of Singapore and the cession of Malacca must in a great degree be rendered nugatory if the Dutch hold Rhio which has ever been an acknowledge Dependency of that Settlement and the utility of which consists only in the exclusion of the other power without the stipulation of any benefit accruing to ourselves from occupation.

In the event of objections being urged by the Netherlands Representatives at Malacca against the above construction of the Treaty you will proceed no farther than to submit your proceedings to the Supreme Government and to acquaint the Dutch Authorities of your having done so.

2. I am desired to bring to your notice as a measure of careful investigation and future Report to the Supreme Government the state of landed property at Malacca, the title and tenure under which it is held by natives of India or Europeans—the rights confirmed and those reserved by the Government &c.

3. As it is probable that Malacca will immediately on our occupancy become the resort of British subjects, I am directed to caution you in respect to the line of conduct to be pursued by you. The Honorable the Governor in Council deems it advisable that notice should be given to all British subjects resorting to Malacca or shewing an intention of settling there, that their being allowed to remain as settlers must depend entirely on the occasion of the Supreme Government and of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors and it must be carefully made known to the persons above described that no purchase of land, no entry in compact or rents or other engagements will preclude their removal by virtue of the state in the case provided in the event of the Supreme Government or the Hon'ble Court of Directors deeming it right to deny their sanction to the future residence of any individual British Subject.

I am &c.,

E. A. BLUNDELL.

Ag. Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis, the 7th April, 1825.

W. S. Cracroft, Esquire, (²⁴)
Acting Resident at,
Malacca.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th Instant and to acquaint you that the instructions with respect to Rhio were dispatched to you soon after your departure as a precautionary measure, lest from the subject not having been expressly mentioned in the first instruction it should have escaped your notice, and silence in the present occasion might possibly have been construed into acquiescence in the future occupation of Rhio by the Netherlands Government.

2. The Honorable the Governor in Council is well pleased however to find that the question was stated and left as a matter of reference exactly as intended by this Government.

3. It seems therefore, in the view of the Honorable the Governor in Council to be unnecessary to reagitate this question, except under the directions of the Supreme Government, to whom all explanations deduceable from the records of this Presidency will be transmitted by the earliest opportunity.

I have &c.,

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.
Acting Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis, the 22d, April, 1825.

To E. A. Blundell, Esq., (²⁵)
Acting Secretary to Govt.,
Prince of Wales Islands.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. and in reply to the 1st point therein noticed, I have to request that you will acquaint the Hon'ble the Governor. That the subject of the Netherlands Establishment at Rhio occupied my most attentive consideration, at a very early period after my appointment as British Commissioner and enclosure No. 4 in my report to the Supreme Government of yesterday's date will show the view which in accordance with the 29th Paragraph of the letter from the Court of Directors to the Governor-General in Council of the 4th August, 1824, I took of the Settlement in question, viz., that it was obtained and is held and engaged consequent on certain privileges and exemptions claimed in virtue of the

24.	C. S. O. R.	..	..	..	..	Vol. 979	P. 65
25.	C. S. O. R.	..	..	..	..	Vol. 979	P. 70

occupation of Malacca and consequently is renounced by the Netherlands Government in the 8th Article of the Treaty. In this view of the case I corresponded on the subject with the Netherlands Commissioner (in view of the abandonment) of the settlement by his Government.

But I did not make any reclamation of it on the part of the British Government to be ceded as a Dependency of Malacca.

(²⁶) The 13th Article of the Treaty appearing to me to be equally at variance with such a claim on our part as the 8th Article is at variance with the continued possession of the place by the Dutch Government.

It appeared however that the commissioner had no power or instructions to settle the point with me, and as I could on no account waive it, we mutually agreed to leave it to the superior authorities to whom has been referred as will appear from the paragraph of my letter to Mr. Secretary Lushington.....

Malacca the 7th of April, 1825. (²⁷)

Sir,

In answer to your letter of today's date on the subject of the establishment of Rhio, I have the honour to inform you that it is not within my power to give any information on the subject.

The Establishment of Rhio is not a dependency of Malacca, my only instructions from my Government are to hand over to you Malacca with its dependencies in accordance with Article 10 of the Treaty.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Resident Commissioner.

Signature illegible.

To Mr. W. S. Cracroft,
Commissioner of the
British Government.

Malacca, the 7th of April, 1825. (²⁸)

Sir,

In answer to your letter No. 11 dated the 8th, I can only inform you that if the very clearly expressed terms of Article 8 of the Treaty between the Dutch and the British Government can be brought into question as regards the abandonment of Rhio.

26. The 13th Article is probably a clerical error for the 12th.

27. Resident of Malacca's Office Records 1825.

28. Resident of Malacca's Office Records 1825.

An establishment which we have had in the island of Bintang for more than five years, and with which Malacca never had any connection, either in the terms of the return of Malacca by the British Government in September 1818, or in the terms of the above mentioned treaty.

I agree with you that the Settlement of this question should be reserved to our respective superior authorities and I shall not fail on my side to forward our correspondence on this subject to His Excellency the Governor General at Java.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Netherlands Commissioner.

Signature illegible.

(29) MINUTE BY THE GOVERNOR.

A reply having been received from Mr. Cracroft in respect to the Settlement of Rhio, and as the subject becomes a matter of reference to the Supreme Authorities, I have the honor to submit for record the sentiments and opinions I entertain thereon, drawn from an attentive perusal of the Documents that have passed on that subject.

The general question as to the dependency of Rhio on Malacca, will be found fully discussed in a Letter addressed by the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings Governor General, to Baron Van der Capellan under date the 26th June, 1829. The particulars may be stated thus—Rhio on the Island of Bintang is a part of the Kingdom of Johor. We find the Titles of the Sultan stated thus “Sultan of Johore, Pahang, Rhio, Lingin and its Dependencies”.—Rhio, it appears, was overpowered by the Dutch about the years 1784 to 1787. We find Letters from the Emperor of Rhio in the year 1786 on our records applying in pressing terms for British assistance against the Dutch his expulsion seems to have taken place about the year 1788. In a letter addressed to Major Farquhar by the Dutch Commissioners receiving charge of Malacca dater 31st October, 1818, we find the subjugation of Rhio, Pahang and Johor by the Dutch expressly stated to have taken place about the year 1784, at which period the Sultan by Treaty dated 10th November of that year, is represented to have declared himself and heirs to be forever vassals of Holland.

This letter was written in consequence of Major Farquhar having notified to the Dutch Commissioners the conclusion of a Treaty in August preceding, between himself and the Sultan of Rhio, the validity of which the letter of the Dutch Commissioner was expressly meant to disavow. On the first cession of Malacca

to the British Government during the war in 1795, we find it expressly stated that the Dutch had before the Cession withdrawn their troops and abandoned Rhio, declaring the sovereign entirely independent. We find that the Captors on desiring to know what then were to be the dependencies of Malacca were informed that Rhio was independent. The note addressed by the captors to the King of Rhio at the time of the Cession sufficiently shews that the independency of Rhio as a previous act of the Dutch Government was distinctly announced as such, and in consequence respected by us during the whole period of our occupation from 1795 to 1818. It was on the faith of such declared and admitted independence that our Government afterwards made the Treaty in August 1818 with the King of Rhio &c. &c. and on the same foundation that our Government determined on the occupation of Rhio with the assent of the King then considered to be entirely independent. And it was on the faith of the whole Kingdom of Johore, Pahang and its insular Appendages Rhio &c. being also independent, that in finding ourselves anticipated at Rhio, we took possession of Singapore. The Dutch Authorities it appears immediately on receiving possession of Malacca from us in October 1818, sent a Detachment of troops against Rhio, forcibly reimposed their supremacy over that State, extorted a renewal of the treaty of vassalage of which in 1795, they expressly disavowed the existence, and by force annulled the one made by Major Farquhar only three months before. We find our right to the occupation of Singapore and adjacent Isles resisted expressly on the ground of the whole Kingdom of Johore having been in a state of feudal dependency on Malacca from 1784.

The course of policy pursued by the Dutch Government, may be abstracted thus. In the year 1795 in giving us possession of Malacca, they declare Rhio to be independent in order to prevent our deriving any advantage therefrom during our occupation of that Settlement. They do no sooner regain possession of Malacca by Treaty in 1818 than they disown their previous act, and deny us the right of obtaining Rhio from the King on the plea of its dependencies. Malacca and its Dependencies are now ceded to us by the Treaty of 17th March 1824, and it remains to be seen whether the Netherlands Government will abandon Rhio as a dependency of Malacca, or again resort to the reasoning of 1795, and retain it as the grant of an independent State.

The above are all the Papers in my reach bearing on the question, a question which can be decided only by the intent and meaning of the High Contracting Parties in Europe, and of those we can form an opinion only by attentive consideration of the stipulations entered into. By reference to those stipulations, the right of the Netherlands Government to maintain Settlements at Rhio or any of the Islands mentioned in the 12th Article, seems inadmissible on Two distinct grounds.

First. That all those Islands are dependencies of Malacca Bintang on which Rhio is, being one of them. They all belong to the Kingdom of Johor, Pahang &c. stated by the Dutch themselves to have been a vassal Government depending on Malacca. It was on that ground that the Netherlands Authorities pre-occupied Rhio and opposed our right to settle either at the Carimons or at Singapore, and it was the question of that right which it may be presumed brought on the negociation and the Treaty of 17th March, 1824. The dependency of Rhio &c. on Malacca can scarcely now be disputed by the Netherlands Government they have already acted upon it. The Treaty is made with the Sultan of Rhio acting on behalf of the Sultan of Johore, Pahang, Rhio, Lingin and dependencies. The Governor of Malacca is one of the Contracting Parties, and all the stipulations expressly refer to Malacca. If as stated by the Dutch Commissioner on the 31st October, 1818, Rhio had all along been a dependency of Malacca, then our rights to the corresponding advantages from 1795 to 1818, were clear and indisputable. If on the other as stated by the Dutch Government of Malacca in 1795 Rhio &c. were really independent, then our subsequent right to its occupation with the consent of the King was equally indisputable. Those advantages in the first case we have lost for the past, and without an express stipulation I can hardly conceive it to have been intended that Malacca having again become ours, we should give them up to the Netherlands Government for the future and thus allow them to reap the benefit of a position which they themselves all along disallowed.

It may be urged indeed that Rhio though once a dependency of Malacca ceased to be so before the completion of the Treaty. That the Government of Malacca was by the orders of the Supreme Netherlands Authority in India reduced to a Residency. That Rhio was transferred to the direct management of the Government of Batavia. If such a measure has, as understood, really taken place the evasive nature of its object is sufficiently obvious, but it must be evident that no internal arrangement or alteration made by the local Government pending reference to the European Authorities, can effect the relative and disputed rights of the respective state or be admitted in execution of the Treaty in India unless shewn to have been distinctly explained and understood by the high contracting parties in Europe. There is no evidence or proof whatever of such being the case on the contrary, the general mention of certain Islands, the complete silence and omission of the name of Rhio, the absence of any distinct provision respecting it, lead to the very opposite conclusion. That it was known only as a dependency of Malacca, and the right of its occupation by either party is set at rest by the reciprocal Articles 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Second. All those Islands including Bintang on which Rhio is situated are dependencies and appendages of the

Kingdom of Johore and Pahang a Kingdom situated on the continent of the Malay Peninsula. The Netherlands Government are by the Treaty precluded from holding Settlements on any part or from making Treaties with any State on the Malay Peninsula, and are therefore virtually excluded from the proximate insular dependencies, if otherwise they might claim the right of settling on any of the numerous Islands on its Coast from Junk Ceylon to Point Romania, on the same principle that the Political Stipulations of the British Treaty with the King of Acheen on Sumatra becomes null by Article 9 of the Treaty of 17th March 1824, so do those of the Netherlands Treaty with the Sultan of Johore, Pahang, Rhio and Lingin on the Coast of the Peninsula cease to have effect by Article 10, and it is by virtue of the Treaty with the Sultan of December 1818, that Rhio is now occupied by the Netherlands Authorities. With the exception of Singapore, the British Government are precluded from forming Settlements on any of the Islands noted in Article 12, or forming Treaties with their Chiefs but as dependencies of Malacca and of the Malay Peninsula they cannot surely be open to the occupation of the Netherlands Government such right, indeed adverting to their proximity to Singapore, would destroy the whole object of the territorial exchanges made by the Treaty stated to be for the avoidance of all collision of interests, a collision which could hardly fail to be produced between two Settlements commercially rivals and only forty miles distant from each other.

But if the right of the Netherlands Government over Rhio exists by the Treaty the same right must apply to all the adjacent Islands the occupation of which, the Carimons for example would command the interior navigation of the straits and entirely defeat the main advantage expected from the occupation of Singapore. It is well known that even the stones used in the fortifications of Malacca have been removed to Rhio pending negotiations for the construction of a Fort there, that to expedite its completion, the export of Bricks and Tiles from Malacca has been prohibited for Months past, and it is also well understood that a large European force is collecting there. It remains therefore to be considered how far the establishment of a Fortress and a strong Military Post so very near our Settlement of Singapore is admissible by the letter or consistent with the spirit of the Treaty, thereby inducing the necessity of corresponding means of defence, adding naturally to the charge of its maintenance, and commanding an overwhelming influence over all the Native Chiefs of the neighbouring Countries. According to the stipulations of the Treaty of 17th March 1824, the intention seems to have been, that with the exception of Singapore, the occupation of which by the British Authorities is expressly provided for, all these Islands were to remain independent, under Native Chiefs and not to be occupied by either of the respective Nations, Parties of the Treaty, and

consequently that Rhio ought to be evacuated by the Netherlands Authorities.

(Signed) R.FULLERTON.

(True Copy)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.

Secy. to Govt.

25th April, 1825.

The further negotiations between the two Supreme Governments with regard to the occupation of Rhio dragged on for some time without any very definite result. Meanwhile the Dutch position in Rhio became more securely established, and the further complications which Fullerton had foreseen in his minute of April 1825 began to arise. The quarrels between the Sultan of Johore and the Sultan of Lingin led to attempts on the part of both Princes to establish their authority on the Karimon Islands. Major Elout the Resident of Rhio at once took advantage of the opportunity and opened the question with the following cautious and tentative letter, which the Resident of Singapore, John Prince, forwarded with certain further correspondence to the Governor at Penang.

READ the following correspondence between the Resident of Rhio and the Resident Councillor of Singapore relative to the Carimons.

(³⁰) Extract from Major Elout's letter, 18th August, 1827.

"But not to make this letter too long, I shall wait for that explanation, till I have the pleasure of meeting you. Another material point remains, and this requires much speed. I shall very likely be obliged to write in office about the Carimons and this most probably very soon. But I am glad our private correspondence affords me the opportunity of giving you, in the most sincere and frank way, my whole mind on the subject and you will allow me much more freedom, and so should I, in a private letter, than either of us could take in an official correspondence. I consider the line of demarcation between English and Dutch influence over these parts of the world, pretty well established by the late Treaty—the Carimons are nominally on our side—the English influence being prohibited there as the Dutch is on any part of the continent or Malay Peninsula.

Suppose, I against that Treaty, suffered a Native Chief under my Control to exercise influence over Pahang, which the Raja Moodah here would be very happy to do,—Suppose he established part of his own people with a Dutchman amongst them on the place—Suppose, you, after informing me and requiring the immediate withdrawing, but such in vain, ordered a detachment

or any Naval Force to shew my Sultan's people the way back to Rhio, could I, in any way, take amiss your doing so, I believe, indeed I could not, nor should—as to forming an establishment yourself at Pahang and hoisting colours, that I know you would not, without previous orders from Europe, nor will you think me so ready of hoisting our Colours on the Carimons, as you will expect, that I shall maintain the Sultan of Lingin's rights on them. And I must be very much on my guard against the Sultan of Johore, because he already took so much. Thus, he now after his being made Sultan, considers himself to be so on the same footing as his father was? then he is Sultan of Riouw and all Islands as far as Southward as Banca—of a great many points of the East Coast of Sumatra.

But in my humble opinion, I believe, whatever he thinks, you and me, Sir, ought to follow the *letter* and the meaning of the Treaty, by which although not in so many words still “the Empire of Johore, i. e. the old Empire over which the Sultan's father ruled, is divided”. We have two Sultans now instead of one,—Each of them reigning over a separate part—the one Sultan Hussein, residing at Singapore to be considered as Sultan of Johore and its continental dependencies, he being himself under the influence and control of the English Authorities in these parts of the World, the other Sultan Abdul Rahman residing at Lingin reigning over the Islands all around, he himself under the influence of the Dutch Authorities.

It is very true that the Tamongong of Johore under the old State of things had the management of the Carimons, I know that very well, and when Major Farquhar saw him, it was he that made that Gentleman go to Lingin and Rhio, to ask for the Carimons, if I am not mistaken, but I must forbear to reflect on those acts—for that question is now decided at home, and I have nothing to do but to submit to the Treaty. But if I must do so, I hope, Sir, you will the more willingly and generously do so, as that decision was, by far more advantageous to your Government and its agents at that time concerned with the dispute, than to any Government and myself—And I now undertake not only for myself to regulate me and all my actions after the Treaty, but to prevent any body under my influence from acting in a different way, I hope you will be disposed to do the same, and I am confident that your influence over Sultan Hoosein will make him withdraw from the Carimons, and prevent misunderstandings, and perhaps Acts of violence, from which I could not so easily detain the Chiefs under my Control, as their cause is a just one, and they have already been the sufferers a good deal from what happened before.

Allow me, in concluding this letter, to make once more an apology for my want of sufficient knowledge of your language, and to disclaim any word or expression that in the course of the

letter, that could be thought improper, for my intention is to be so polite and decent as frank and sincere.

A true Extract.

(Signed) J. P.

The following private and official letters which passed shortly after between The Residents of Singapore and Rhio show the Dutch position very clearly.

TRANSLATION.

(³¹) Riouw, 14th September, 1827.

To The Resident,

.....

I have been astonished at the little influence which had been exercised over some parts of the territories of the Sultan of Lingin, by his Vice Roy who resides at Rhio, and who is legally and for many years authorized and obliged to maintain his good right, throughout the whole of his empire of which he is declared Vice Roy the Grand Viser.—

The part which I have especially in view, are the Carimon Islands, I understand then, that the Brother of the Sultan of Lingin, who resided at Singapore had sent some of his people arrogating to himself a certain right over those Islands, and had given permission to some persons to establish themselves there, and consequently preventing thereby, the Vice Roy up to the present time, from exercising his superintendence and his jurisdiction over the said Islands.

This assumption however, did not appear to me in least valid,

But I have received within these few days a letter from a person, who I suppose belongs to the English Nation, by which it appears, that the Native Prince at Singapore wishes to engage Europeans to establish themselves on the Carimon Islands.

I have not thought it necessary to reply to this letter, a copy of which I have the honor to transmit.

Another circumstance has urged me to press the Vice Roy of Rhio to re-establish the legal authority of the Sultan of Lingin on the Carimon Islands.

Pirates are said to shelter themselves in these environs and an expedition of the Vice Roy under command of his son, is about to depart this day to clear the seas of these Pirates.

The Corvette of his Netherlands Majesty the Castor also proceeds on a cruize in the direction, but I have directed the commander to anchor abreast of Singapore to present you this letter and to

request any information which you may have to furnish him on the subject of these Pirates, of which I believe there is also some talk in your Residency.

I have etc.

(Signed) ELOUT.
Major Resident at Rhio.

True Copy.

JOHN ANDERSON.
Resdt. Councilr.

To The Honorable John Prince, Esqre., ⁽³²⁾
Resident Councillor,
Singapore.

Rhiouw 41th September 1827.

Honorable Sir,

I am sorry our private correspondence did not prove sufficient to settle a little our differences, the more so, as I think it convenient on me to enter now again, in this private letter, into more detailed explanation—whereas on the other hand, I forbear to do so in my official letter, which I hope you will approve of.

Had we ever had a personal meeting I dare say you would have found that in my acting as I do, I am far from being in any way immoderate, or inclined to encroach upon another man's right.

I do not know if you are aware of the circumstance altogether that have given occasion to the late Treaty and the stipulations thereby made.

But you have been too long in India for not knowing that jealousy in politics existed before, which it was as you justly stated the object of the Treaty now to prevent for the future.

The late Treaty between Great Britain and the Netherlands, made of course an alteration in the meaning of the Treaty between the Sultan of Lingin (before that time styled Sultan of Johor, Pahang, Lingin, Riouw, and its dependencies) and the Government of the Netherlands India, for as far as concerns those territories now considered to be ceded by him to his Brother, such as Johor and Pahang, but none of the Islands south from Singapore itself. We certainly will not sustain his (the Sultan of Lingin's) right to it—but any other part we are bound to maintain for him, and he is not allowed without our consent to part with it. The Treaty was certainly offered to the Government of Penang for a perusal. And by that Treaty you will see how the Dutch Government is concerned in the question of the Carimons and you will perceive, that I am in duty bound to give assistance to the Sultan of Lingin or his Plenipotentiary the Vice Roy here, in case he could not succeed himself alone, but I am happy my assistance cannot be

wanted, if the Sultan Hoosein is not assisted in any way by Europeans, which I trust he will not be.

My Predecessor ought to have taken care before, that the Carimons were not occupied in any part by Sultan Hoosein, and I regret he left this to me to do. But highly desirous of entertaining an amical footing I cannot go so far as to abandon my duty,

.....
And I am confident that you yourself will not think me acting on any other principle than a fair and loyal one. And so far from reviving disputes and producing collision it will prove on both sides that we wish to follow the Treaty and its principal object.

I remain with the highest respect,

Honorable Sir,

Your &c. &c.,

(Signed) ELOUT.

True Copy.

(Signed) JOHN PRINCE.

Resdt. Councillor.

(³³) It not appearing that the British Authorities are authorized to interfere under present circumstances, Ordered that the Resident Councillor be informed the Board approve of his reply to the Resident of Rhio, and that he be requested in the mean time to keep Government informed of all the proceedings of the Dutch Authorities in respect to the Carimons which may come to his knowledge.

RESOLVED that the following letter to the Secretary to the Supreme Government in the Political Department in continuation of the previous correspondence submitted, and that copies of the whole series of papers connected with the subject of the Carimons be likewise transmitted for the information of the Honorable Court by the Brig Intrepid Packet.

To Geo. Swinton, Esqre.,

Secretary to Government

Secret and Political Department,

Fort William.

Sir,

In continuation of the correspondence of this Government respecting the Proceedings of the Netherlands Government at Rhio, touching the Carimon Islands, I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to request you will submit to the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council the annexed copies of a dispatch received this day express from the Resident Councillor of Singapore.

2. I am instructed to state for the information of His Lordship in Council that the Sultan of Singapore was previously warned repeatedly, that the English Government would not interfere in any manner with his differences, and the Honorable the Governor in Council has confined himself to recording a protest against the Dutch Government hoisting their colours on the Carimons.

3. It does not however appear that such for the present at least is intended the interference of the Netherlands Government being confined to the ostensible support of the claims of their dependent, the Sultan of Lingin, who seems however to have made over his right to that Government, and though it is probable ulterior views may be entertained by them, yet so long as no open infringement of the Treaty of 17th March 1824 take place, it does not in the opinion of the Government in Council appear that the British Authorities can have any right to interfere except on the general ground stated in the Presidents Minutes of—April 1825, on which no decision has been yet received.

4. I am directed to add that no further measures will be taken and this Government will await the orders of the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council.

I have &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.
Secy. to Govt.

ADJOURNED.

Fort Cornwallis. The 27th September 1827.

JOHN ANDERSON.
Transr. to Govt.

After some further information had been supplied by the Resident of Singapore the whole matter was again referred to the Supreme Government who had not as yet come to any conclusion on the question of the occupation of Rhio referred to them two years previously.

To John Anderson, Esqr., (³⁴)

Secretary to Government, Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1453, underdate the 30th ultimo, transmitting enclosed a Memo. of the substance of a Communication eventually to be made to the Resident at Rhio, and copy of the Honourable the Governors Minute of the 25th April 1825.

I beg to state in extenuation of the lack of precision of information noticed, that I considered the Hon'able the Governor in Council

might be much better informed than myself, of all the Native Chiefs in the Straits, and that it consequently was necessary to advent to them, and likewise with regard to the intentions of the Dutch to take possession of the Carimons, I was perfectly unacquainted till the receipt of the private communication from the Resident of Rhio, as already submitted to Government and since which period the 15th ultimo, I have had no further correspondence with the Resident of that place.

3. I shall take the liberty of extending this letter to particular replies to the several Paras: of the letter now under acknowledgement, and with respect to the claims of Sultan Hussein Mahomed Shah to the several Islands &c. noticed in the 2nd Para: of the Honorable Board's letter, I am not aware that such may be the extent of them, however, I have reason to think, had Sultan Hussein Mahomed permitted the son and heir of the late Tamoon-gong to succeed to the benefit and dignity of the Carimons, this question would not have been agitated, for it is evident that this young man has sought the assistance and Sultan of Lingin to place him in his hereditary rights which the rapacity of Sultan Hussein Mahomed appears unjustly to have deprived him of.

4. I have no information to deduce the inferences which the Honorable Board have drawn in the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Paras: of their letter, but consider them to be very possible and in a great measure borne out, by the tenor and contents of the Netherlands Resident's letter to me, of the eventual necessity of supporting the claims of the Raja of Lingin, and of requesting the Sultan Hussein Mahomed to withdraw from the Carimons.

5. To exert our influence with the Sultan to effect this object, might possibly expose the Government to many inconvenient applications and remonstrances on his part for the supposed losses and rights he might thereby eventually relinquish, besides leaving the matter quite open to the wishes and views of the Netherlands Government whatever they may be, and not that it would in my opinion be the means of satisfying or preventing the Netherlands Government from taking possession, hoisting their flag or forming a settlement on the Carimons.....
I am happy to find that the tenor of the reply made by me to the Netherlands Resident of the 15th Ultimo, is not at variance with the spirit and substance of this document.

6. I beg to state that no further papers have passed between myself and the Resident of Rhio on the present subject than those which have already been submitted to the Honorable the Governor official copies of which I shall forward forthwith.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) JOHN PRINCE,

Resident Councillor.

Singapore, the 8th September, 1827.

Meanwhile events moved rapidly and after some show of resistance the Sultan of Lingin supported by some Dutch Guard boats obtained possession of the Karimon Islands.

The following extracts from letters of partisans of the Sultan of Lingin, show the fear of pressure from the Dutch as well as the prudent desire of the writers to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.

COPY. (35)

the Jang de pertuan Muda of Rhio, to the Jang de pertuan of Singapore.

I send this letter to answer, the purpose of a personal interview, and to acquaint you that I can no longer oppose the wishes of Major Elout, the Resident of Rhio,..... I shall not lengthen the present correspondence, as the execution of the measures of the Resident and the Jang de Pertuan cannot now be delayed. Moreover, it is determined between Major Elout, and the Jang de Pertuan of Linga, and myself to depute Syed Sherif Mahomed Zein, with his whole family, Pangaran Amad, and Shah Bandar Abdolla to hoist the flag at the Carimons, in execution of this decision. Wherefore I request your acquiescence in this affair, in order that a good understanding may continue to subsist between you and your younger brother at Linga. I feel persuaded, that between you and your Brother at Linga there can be no matter of dispute, as your diseased father left only you two—I therefore, recommend that before the arrival of the person mentioned above you order all your people to withdraw from the Carimons, and I do not anticipate that I shall see any bad feeling between your two families. Depend on God and his Apostle for the fulfilment of my word.

Written on Friday, 23rd day of the month of Saafar.

True Translation.

(Signed) JOHN PRINCE,
Resident Councillor.

COPY. (36)

From Syed Mahomed Zein, to the Jang de Pertuan of Singapore.

(After Compliments.)

Be it known that your father sends this letter to his son instead of a personal meeting, for doing which he is sorry that many difficulties present themselves at present. Your father acquaints his son that he is recommended by Major Elout, and the Jang de

35.	C. S. O. R.	..	..	..	..	Vol. 945	P. 152
36.	C. S. O. R.	..	..	..	..	Vol. 945	P. 264

Pertuan Muda to proceed to the Carimons for the purpose of hoisting the flag of the Jang de Pertuan Besar of Linga on that Island. This takes place in consequence of the Jang de Pertuan Besar of Linga having made over by a written agreement those places to Major Elout, the Resident of Rhio, and the Jang de Pertuan Muda has given his consent to the measure. In this affair, your father has received orders, and he cannot disobey them as the Jang de Pertuan of Lingin has thought proper to make the cession to Major Elout. Your father also begs to say that after this matter is settled, should his son have any business of a similar nature to transact, he will undertake it in the same manner as that he now performs for the Jang de pertuan of Linga, no difference shall be made between them. Depend upon the words of your father, with the blessing of the Apostle of God, upon whom be the peace of God.

Your father will never change his present sentiments. He is accompanied on this occasion with his family, agreeably to the orders of the Jang de pertuan Muda, and by Pangeran Ahmad and Shah Bandar Abdullah.

Written 21st day of the month Saafar, Thursday 4 o'clock, 1827.

True copy.

(Signed) JOHN PRINCE,
Resident Councillor.

The rivalry between the two Sultans was based on more serious matters than the mere question of the occupation of the Kerimann Islands. The Resident of Singapore forwards a detailed, if somewhat one sided statement of the position.
Fort Cornwallis, the 15th October, 1827.

RESOLVED that copies of the above correspondence be communicated to the Supreme Government.

RESIDENT COUNCILLOR SINGAPORE.

To John Anderson, Esqr., (³⁷)
Secretary to Government,
Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

I beg to state for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the substance of a verbal communication made to me by the Vakil of His Highness the Sultan, whose indisposition prevented a personal interview.

His Highness is stated to feel little the agitation of the question of Right to the Islands of Carimon, in comparison with the sensations of regret and indignation with which he has received certain information of a combination between the Sultans of Lingin and Rhio and the Bendahara of Pahang to eject him from his present title and authority of Sultan of Johore, upon the plea of his never having been regularly installed, and that consequently the election of a successor to his late father Sultan Mahomed, devolves in them, who have or intend to nominate the Sultan of Lingin, his Younger Brother, to that elevated Station.

His Highness the Sultan looks to the Company to support him in a station, to which he not only considers himself entitled to, by the right of Primogeniture, but more especially as he rose to it by their power.

I have the honor to transmit enclosed Extract of a letter under date the 12th February 1820, from the late Resident Col. Farquhar to the Supreme Government on the subject of His Highness situation and claims at the time of his being entitled by the late Sir T. Raffles, in the absence of more correct information.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) J. PRINCE,
Resident Councillor.

Singapore,

Fort Cornwallis, the 29th November, 1827.

RESIDENT COUNCILLOR SINGAPORE.

No. 5.

To John Anderson, Esqr., (³⁸)
Secretary to Government,
Prince of Wales Island,
Singapore and Malacca.

Sir,

With advertance to the several allegations contained in the letter from the Resident at Rhio dated the 12th ultimo, reflecting on the illegality of His Highness, Sultan Mahomed Shah, to sustain the title and privileges of the Sultan of Johor, as Successor to the late Sultan Mahomed Shah, I thought it proper to call upon the former, to furnish me with a statement of particulars, exhibiting the basis of his claims, and I have now the honor to transmit enclosed, a copy for the information of the Honorable the Governor

in Council, should the subject hereafter become a matter of discussion between the Courts of London and the Hague.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) JOHN PRINCE,
Resident Councillor.

Singapore, the 7th November, 1827.

Enclosure—TRANSLATION of a Malay Document submitted to the Resident Councillor at Singapore by Sultan Hussein Mahomed Shah.

Sultan Mahomed Shah first married the Daughter of the Bandara named Angku Puan, but having no issue by her, he took a second wife Incheh Maguh, the Daughter of a Bugis man of the Family of Dions, whose name was Diong Matarang. Sultan Mahomed was regularly married to Incheh Maguh, and in the course of time she bore him a son, who was named Hussein. From his birth the Sultan's first wife took Hussein under her charge, brought him up and adopted him as her own child. When Tuanku Hussein had attained to man's estate, his adopted mother Angku Puan died. Sometime after Sultan Mahomed's marriage with Incheh Maguh, he took a third wife, the Daughter of one Hassan, a man of low degree; her name is Mariam, to whom also he was regularly married: she likewise brought him a son named Abdul Rahman. These are the two sons of Sultan Mahomed, now living the one at Linga, the other at Singapore. Their respective mothers Incheh Mariam and Incheh Maguh are still alive. The latter is married to Sulumatang. Imam Seid performed the Marriage Ceremony between the Sultan and Incheh Maguh which was witnessed by Haji Mohamed Tahir, and Sabei Mustafa, with five other respectable persons: the same was the case in the Sultan's marriage with Incheh Mariam.

Incheh Abu, Incheh Tan Buttal and Incheh Wali Brahim, descendants from the family of Bundhara, and of the rank of Datu, both on the part of the Sultan of Singapore, and the Sultan of Linga, in stating the following circumstances as they occurred from first to last, even to the present time, advance only the truth and nothing but the truth.

In the 1219 year of the Hejeira on the 18th day of the month Rabiul awal, the Datu Rajah Bandahara came from Pahang to visit Sultan Mahomed Shah at Linga. The latter on this occasion made known his wishes to the Bandahara regarding his successor by committing his son Hussein to his charge, the custom of the Malays begin that when the Rajah commits to the charge of the Bandahara the same is to succeed. The Sultan at the same time signified his desire that in the event of his demise, the Country of Linga only should be given to his son Abdul Rahman, and that all the other Countries composing the Dominions of Johor should devolve on his other son Tuanku Hussein, and his Legal Heir that is, that the

Country of Rhio, with all its Provinces, Bays, Coasts and Islands should revert to the Tuanku Hussein. This declaration was made to the Bandahara openly, before all the Chiefs and Elders, and in the presence of Rajah Muda Bangsa. After this, the Bandahara requested permission to return to Pahang promising in the following year to revisit Linga, but soon after his arrival at Pahang, he fell sick and died.

2. When the Palembang people were meditating an attack upon Linga, Sultan Mahomed Shah presented each of his Sons with a prahu that of Tuanku Abedin Rahman was called the Ghurab; that of the Tuanku Hussein the Buntal Mengidam Ishmail, the Shahbander of Pahang was on board the latter Prahu with Tuanku Hussein. The invasion of Linga by the Palembang people, did not however take place in consequence of an amicable adjustment of the difference.

3. The third circumstance relates to the Rhio War, i.e., the quarrel between Rajah Ali and Angku Muda. On this occasion Sultan Mahomed Shah proposed visiting Rhio in person, with a view of settling the grounds of dispute between these two Chiefs. He took with him his two sons, granting to Tuanku Hussein the privilege of carrying the Yellow Standard on his fore and main mast Abdul Rahmin carried a red flag. The Malay custom that he to whom the Royal banner is given, shall be accounted the heir and successor of the Sovereign.

4. From Rhio Sultan Mahomed went to Bulang in order to pay a visit to a relation there. His presence had the effect of putting an end to the quarrel between Rajah Ali and Angku Muda. The whole of the people of Bulang being assembled on the occasion of the restoration of peace between these two Chiefs, the Sultan pointing to the prahu of his son Hussein called upon the assembled to observe to whom he had given the Royal Standard, thereby publicly declaring that he had chosen Tuanku Hussein for his successor, and the people accordingly paid him honors as the heir of his Father.

5. After adjusting this affair the Sultan Mahomed Shah returned to Rhio, where he was married to Angku Putri. The Regalia were then deposited in her hands.

6. Sultan Mahomed Shah next proposed an alliance between his son Tuanku Hussein and the Daughter of the Tammugung at Bulang, which accordingly took place. Tuanku Hussein afterwards removed with his whole household to Rhio and Angku Muda and Rajah Ali both died shortly after.

7. The deceased Sultan Mahomed Shah sent for Rajah Jafar from Salangur and returned to Linga but previously thus addressed himself to Angku Putri who was by the title of Rajah Midah "Since, Rajah Medah, you have no child of your own, I recommend you to adopt Hussein for your son." Angku Putri replied, "you have said well, it is usually esteemed a favour to be permitted to

adopt the children of inferior people, how much greater favour ought I to consider it to be allowed to adopt the son of a Sovereign Prince." It was on this account that the Sultan left the Regalia in the possession of Angku Putri on his departure for Linga.

8. In the meantime Raja Jafar arriving from Salangur went to pay homage to the Sultan at Linga when he was elevated by the Sultan to the rank of Rajah Muda. About this time Tuanku Hussein also visited Linga.

9. While on this visit to his father proposed to him a visit to Pahang recommending an union with the Daughter of the Bandahara of that place. Sultan Hussein proceeded accordingly to Pahang, taking with him his father's request that the Bandahara would give his consent to the marriage. Soon after Tuanku Hussein's arrival at Pahang, his nuptials with the Bandahara's Daughter took place, and it was during his absence on this occasion, that Sultan Mahomed Shah fell sick and shortly after died. On the intelligence of the Sultan's Death reaching Pahang, Tuanku Hussein was anxious to set out immediately on his return to Linga, but the northerly monsoon having set in, the Pahang Qualloe was closed, which prevented him moving out of the river.

10. The great festival occurring while Tuanku Hussein was waiting for an opportunity of getting out of the Pahang River, the Bandahara Elders and Chief people at Pahang, resolved to install him as Sultan and the Bandahara first, then the respectables and after them the multitude, made their obeisance and performed the Royal Ceremony, called by the Malays Menjunjung Duli.

11. Now, in regard to the Death of Sultans, the Malay custom requires that the successor should be raised, before the deceased can be regularly interred. The Sultan when on his death declared his will with regard to the Successor, before all who were then assembled, that his son Hussein should succeed him in the event of his disorder proving fatal.

When the funeral of the Sultan was about to take place, Raja Muda advised 'Tuanku Abdul' Rahmun, to make himself Rajah, but the latter rejected the counsel saying he could never be Rajah while his Brother was alive. Rajah Muda then endeavoured to persuade him to fall in with his views, and, partly by flattery, partly by force, aided by Sied Kooning, he was prevailed upon to be rajah only that the funeral rites of his father might be performed with due honors and solemnities. After this, Tuanku Abdul' Rahman again declined the honor of Rajah alledging his fathers will as a reason for not accepting the offers of Rajah Muda. At length Rajah Muda and Syed Kooning constrained him into a compliance with their wishes, he, however, consented to act only during his brother's absence.

12. 'Tuanku Hussein quitted Pahang as soon as the season would permit him and proceeded direct to Rhio. On his arrival at this place, Rajah Muda waited upon him and said to this effect

“what are your intentions? Will you be a Panglima, a Trader or a Priest? I have one request to take to you viz., that you will not think of becoming Rajah.” To this Tuanku Hussein made no reply and here the matter dropped. Rajah Muda next demanded the Insignia from Angku Putri, but, she refused to give them up, saying that she could not deliver them to Rajah Muda, unless by the unanimous consent of the Bandahara, the Tammugong, Tuanku Hussein, and Tuanku Abdul’ Rahman, whose consent was indispensably necessary and when that was obtained, she would deliver them to him on whom their choice might fall.

13. After Tuanku Hussein’s return from Pahang, he resided in the house of Angku Putri, who then wished to surrender to him the Regalia, but, he declined the acceptance and requested his mother to retain them to his possession until they would be presented to him in due form by the Bandahara and Tammugong. About 5 years after this, the Dutch came to Rhio, and after them the English, who with Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles at their head invited Tuanku Hussein to join them at Singapore. Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles and the Tammugong Abdul’ Rahman, publicly installed him as Sultan, and he, with the Tammugong made over the Island of Singapore to the English, and he has ever since resided with them at their new settlement.

14. During the absence of Tuanku Abdul’ Rahman at Trengganu wither he had gone with a view of forming a matrimonial connection, Rajah Muda ordered Syed Kooning to proceed to Batavia, and proposed to the Governor-General to obtain the Regalia from Angku Putri; and it is reported that Syed Kooning was authorised by Rajah Muda to promise and did promise, if they succeeded in getting the Regalia to cede to the Dutch Company the Island of Singep, and that in consequence the Governor-General directed the Governor of Malacca and the Resident of Rhio to take the Regalia out of the hands of the Angku Putri which by force and fraud, they gained possession of, and took to Malacca.

15. On Tuanku Abdul’ Rahman’s return from Trengganu he put into Rhio, and the Regalia having recently been brought back from Malacca were given into his possession. Tan Battal accompanied Tuanku Abdul’ Rahman on this visit to Rhio and he relates that in a conversation which he had with Rajah Muda at that time, the latter observed to him “We must rough the matter now, and when the Bandahara comes it will be easy to make all things smooth again” intimating by the expression that although Tuanku Abdul’ Rahman had got possession of the Regalia, that alone was not sufficient to constitute him Rajah, so long as the consent of the Bandahara and Tammugung was not obtained.

16. At the time the Regalia were delivered to Tuanku Abdul’ Rahman, Rajah Muda wished him to be invested, an honor which the former declined, where a Dutch man, called Rajah Laut (probably the Dutch Admiral) taking up the Regalia and holding them

over 'Tuanku Abdul' Rahman, cried out "Hail Sultan, the rightful King of Johor"!!!

17. These things being past, the Dutch began to press Rajah Muda for the performance of his promise, but this having been made entirely without the knowledge of 'Tuanku Abdul' Rahman, Rajah Muda, now found it difficult to prevail on him to consent to the surrender of Singkep, and could obtain from him only the expression of his indignation. In order to extricate himself from this dilemma upon substituting the Carimons for Singkep, pretending that, as Tuanku Abdul' Rahman was in possession of the Insignia of Royalty, therefore he was Rajah, that in consequence these Islands could belong to no one else. But as the Regalia were obtained by fraud and force, the mere possession of them cannot convey any real right, for the custom of the Malays in raising their Rajahs, is not to invest them by stealth, but openly, and with the counsel and consent of all the Mentries, and Ulubalangs, but this is far from being the case with respect to 'Tuanku Abdul' Rahman's elevation, and besides, it is well known that the Regalia were obtained from their present possessor by the Dutch craft and force.

(A True Translation)

(Signed) EDWARD PRESGRAVE,

Malay Translator.

Translated this 7th November, 1827.

The subsequent instructions of the Governor to the Resident at Singapore practically amount to directing him to prevent any collision between the two Malay Princes which might be used as an excuse for Dutch intervention. Whilst the Sultan of Johore makes a belated and pathetic appeal to the Governor asking that his grievances might be forwarded to the King of Europe. The Governor contented himself with a very reserved reply pointing out that under Section X of the treaty of friendship and alliance between the English East India Company and the Sultan and Temengong of Johore, there was no cause for interference.

ARTICLE X.

"The contracting parties hereby stipulate and agree that neither party shall be bound to interfere in the internal concerns of the other Government or in any political dissensions or wars which may arise within their respective territories nor to support each other by force of arms against any third party whatever."

To The Honorable J. Prince, Esqre., ⁽³⁹⁾

Resident Councillor,

Singapore.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th and 15th Instant and to intimate the regret of the Honorable

the Governor in Council, that you have not entered more at length into the explanation of the circumstances connected with the subject of those letters namely, the relative claims of the two Sultans the sons of the last Sultan of Johor &c. and the transactions that have taken place in consequence of those claims.

2. Proceeding on the information derived at Singapore the Hon'ble the Governor in Council is led to conclude that the following is the plain and simple state of the case.

1st. Sultan Mahomed the last King of Johor left only two sons, both illegitimate the elder Tuankoo Hussain Yang di per Tuan, now residing at Singapore who ceded to us that Island, the younger Tuankoo Jumahat commonly called Rajah of Lingin, residing under protection of the Netherlands Government.

2nd. It would appear, although not so distinctly stated, that the elder brother at Singapore Tuankoo Hussain claimed by right of his father's possession of all the dominions of Johor, and these include Johor Proper and the Islands of Bentang, Battang the Carimons, Linggi &c.

3rd. Under the claim Tuankoo Hussain has actually sent people to take possession of the Carimon Islands.

4th. That the Construction put on the Treaty of 17th March 1824 by the Netherlands' Authorities in India is—that all the Island and Territories South of the Straits of Malacca belong to the younger brother the Rajah of Lingin residing under their protection.

5th. That under this Construction of the Treaty of 17th March 1824. The right of making treaties and establishing political relation with States South of the Straits of Malacca is vested in them.

6th. That by virtue of this construction they have made a treaty with the Rajah of Lingin whereby that Chief cedes to them all his rights and property over all places South of the Straits of Malacca. It is understood that a formal relinquishment of all claims on behalf of the Rajah of Lingin to all places North of the Straits of Malacca is a part of this Treaty.

7th. And lastly it appears that by virtue of this Cession the Netherlands's Authorities at Rhio contemplate the expulsion of the people of Tuankoo Hussain and the occupation of the Carimon Island by themselves. Such appear to be the premises on which we are called to give an opinion. It would have been more satisfactory had all the circumstances been clearly stated and ascertained, and any opinion now can be given only under presumption—that the above suppositions are correct.

3. Whether the construction put on the Treaty of 17th March 1824 by the Netherlands's Authorities be the correct one or whether a Treaty entered into between two European States binding each other to abstain from forming Settlements or maintaining political relation beyond certain limits necessarily determines the

hereditary claims of contending branches of the Johor Family is a question in which we are not interested by the Treaty of cession of the Island of Singapore made with Tuankoo Hussain it is expressly provided that we are not required to take any part in any disputes in which he may be engaged beyond the limits of Singapore. And it will be in your recollection that when the Sultan mentioned the circumstances of his having his people on the Carimon Island he was expressly warned that such was entirely at his own risk—but although we can have no right to dictate to the Sultan the course he is to pursue in respect to any claim he may suppose himself to have on the Carimon Islands, or to insist on his abandonment of such claim, still it would be desirable to exert our influence and offer our good advice to induce him to withdraw his pretensions, and thus remove all pretext for interference on the part of the Netherlands Authorities for we certainly have a decided and direct Interest in preventing the Netherlands's Government taking possession hoisting their flag or forming a settlement on the Carimon Islands, because such would be a direct infringement of the 6th Article of the Treaty of 17th March 1824. It appears therefore that in the event of the Resident of Rhio following up his notification to you by the occupation of these Islands or of your receiving authentic intimation of such an intention a declaration to the effect enclosed should forthwith be made.

4. It would be desirable that you should transmit copies of all the papers which passed on that subject. It may further be necessary to inform you that some doubts are entertained whether the Netherlands' Government are authorized under the Treaty of 17th March to occupy Rhio itself or any part of the Islands mentioned in the 12th Article. They were all dependencies of Malacca at the time the Treaty was signed, they only ceased to be such a few months before March 1825 the date fixed for the operation of the Treaty, the question has been submitted to the Supreme Authorities as you will perceive by the minute enclosed, and in any communication you may hold with the Netherlands's Authorities you will, without starting the question as matter for discussion, avoid any expression amounting to an admission of their right to settle on any of those Islands.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON,

Secretary to Government.

Fort Cornwallis, The 30th August 1827.

P. S. The honorable Mr. Ibbetson having taken part in the discussion of this subject he will be able to communicate to you more fully the views of the Board.

Substance of Communication to be made by the Resident Councillor of Singapore to the Netherlands Resident at Rhio.

Having communicated to the Honorable the Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca, Copy of your private letter of 13th August 1827 also copy of a letter addressed by Tuan Seyed Kooning at Rhio to Sultan Houssein residing at Singapore and submitted to me by that Chief, I have their Instructions. The Honorable the Governor in Council takes no interest on the difference or disputes which may subsist between Sultan Hussein now residing at Singapore and the Rajah of Lingin, the two sons of the last Sultan of Johor respecting any claim each may by right of inheritance suppose himself to possess over any Portion of the ancient dominions of Johor, Insular or Continental, nor is it the intention of the British Authorities in this quarter to take any part in such disputes, to support one Party to dictate to either, the course they are to pursue in prosecution of those claims or to require from either their relinquishment by any means except those of persuasion and good advice. Adhering to this principle Sultan Hussein now residing at Singapore has already been urged to abstain from any forcible interference with places supposed to belong to his younger brother and has been distinctly informed that he will meet with no support whatever from the British Government in the occupation of the Carimon Islands. But the Honorable the Governor in Council considers it a point of public duty to object decidedly to the occupation of the Carimon Islands by the Netherlands authorities such being contrary to the spirit and meaning of the 6th Article of the Treaty of the 17th March, 1824 and I am instructed to convey to you this, their formal protest against the occupation of the Carimon Islands or the hoisting of the Netherlands' Flag on any part of those Islands.

I am further directed to convey to you the assurance of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council of Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapore of their anxious desire to maintain at all times those relations of Amity and good understanding which formed an essential object of the Treaty of the 17th March 1824 and in that spirit to receive and consider any suggestions that may be offered by the Netherlands Authorities for the adjustment of any differences that may arise.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.

TRANSLATION. (⁴⁰)

A letter from Sultan Hussein Mahomed Shah of Singapore to the Hon'ble the Governor of Pulo Penang, Singapore, and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

I send this piece of paper in a manner however unsuitable as a substitute for a personal meeting and beg to inform my friend

the Governor of Pulo Pinang, that I am very simple man and ignorant of forms, and when the treaty was formerly made I did not fully comprehend all the purport and intentions of my friend, and my friend did not understand all my intentions, but I received it, conceiving it all proper; for the Company engaged to protect me, to make me comfortable and not let me have any trouble whatever, I therefore placed reliance on the Company's attention to me, I now therefore in full confidence solicit the Company's compassion and assistance by all possible means, for I am involved in great trouble. It is true it is not so provided in the Treaty but at present to whom can I apply for assistance, for I have no family and no other friends but the English Company. The Company are like my own flesh and blood relatives, and nearest connections and friends and I am under the Company's protection, I have no desire to raise my own name, but to exalt the Company's name. It is not my own disgrace, but the Company's wherefore I request assistance by all possible means. I am aware that my friend will not assist me with Vessels of War or with arms, powder and Balls, for it is not so provided in the Treaty, but I request my friends assistance that he will advance me on loan for my expenses five or six thousand dollars which can be deducted from my monthly allowance in such proportion as may be proper to be deducted monthly for which an engagement may be given and receipts according to my friend's compassion for me. If I cannot obtain this money from my friend, I must request my friend to assist me in obtaining it by all possible means and I will conform to the custom observed by other persons in borrowing money; nevertheless I have great confidence that my friend will comply with my wishes and further if my friend has compassion towards me I request that he will let this letter be translated into the English language and the English translation of it, I request my friend will assist me by forwarding to the King of Europe; perhaps the great Man of Europe will assist me in altering the Treaty so that the Company may relieve me from my difficulties consistently with propriety.

Dated 5th Rabialakhu 1243 or 25th October, 1827.

(A true translation.)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.

Malay Translator.

Penang, 21st November, 1827.

TRANSLATION.

A letter from Sultan Hussein Mahomed Shah at Singapore to the Hon'ble the Governor of Pulo Penang, Singapore, and Malacca.

(After Compliments.)

I send this piece of paper to inform my friend that I am at present involved in great trouble. I therefore send this notice to my friend the Governor of Pulo Pinang that the Rajah Mooda

of Rhio in concert with the Dutchmen have attacked me without any cause of offence on my part. To whom or what place then can I now represent my difficulties? I am now under the protection of the English Company, for it was the English Company which elevated me to the rank of Sultan. I have not committed any attack upon other people nor sought hostilities with them, but people have come and harrassed me and attacked me. How then am I circumstanced at present: for there is none other that I trust but the Company which may relieve me from my troubles and difficulties. For formerly and when the Company elevated me to my present rank and made a treaty, it was stated in the engagement that the Sultan should remain quiet and amuse himself, that the Sultan should not trouble himself about any affairs whatever and that all business would be carried on by the Company and Tamungong Abduakim such I beg to make known to my friend.

Moreover, I beg to acquaint my friend that I sent a letter to Major Elout, the Resident of Rhio and the Rajah Mooda requesting them to wait until I can consult with my brother at Lingin but they will not grant me any time they are resolved to attack me.

This letter at Singapore the 29th Rabialawal 1243 or 21st October 1827.

(A True Copy.)

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON,

Translator.

Penang, The 20th November 1827.

The belated reply of the Directors to the questions submitted to them by the Governor in April 1825 was received in November, 1827. The letter of the Directors settled the interpretation of Articles IX and XII of the Treaty practically in accordance with the Dutch claims.

To the Honorable John Prince, Esquire, ⁽⁴¹⁾

Resident Councillor, Singapore.

Sir,

Since writing my letter of the 6th Instant a Dispatch has been received from the Honorable the Court of Directors of which the enclosed is an Extract. Any claim which the British Government might be supposed to hold over Rhio by virtue of the Treaty of March 1824, as set forth in the President's Minute of 25th April, 1825, is thereby declared to be at an end, the whole of the Islands mentioned in the XII Article are situated similarly in relation to the Netherlands Government it becomes therefore the more imperative that the British Authorities should carefully abstain from

41. C. S. O. R. Vol. 372 P. 191

giving any support or assistance to any Native State with which we are connected or attempting to interfere with the arrangements of the Netherlands Government in respect to Treaties made by them with any of these Islands. The Sultan Hussein Mahomed Shah now at Singapore, must therefore be enjoined by every possible argument to withdraw his People from the Carimon Islands, and effectually prevented from furnishing men or supplies from the Island of Singapore in prosecution of his plans against those Islands, and Corresponding assurances must be given to the Netherlands Government of Rhio, of the exertion of our Influence to the above effect.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON,

Secy. to Government.

Fort Cornwallis, the 15th November, 1827.

To the Resident Councillor,

Singapore.

Sir.

As it appears by your letter of the 10th November that the Rajah Muda of Rhio is in full possession of the Carimon Islands and the people of the Sultan of Johor expelled or withdrawn, the Board conclude all disputes are now at an end.

2. I am directed however to desire that you will take this opportunity of impressing on the mind of the Sultan of Johor the necessity of giving to the 8th Article of his Treaty a more extensive meaning than he appears to have done hitherto; by that Article he is bound to maintain no correspondence with any State without our knowledge and consent; on the same principle he must be made to understand that he is not to enter into any hostilities with any state while residing under our protection.

3. As to the assertions of Major Elout that certain Articles of Military Stores have been sent from Singapore in aid of the operations of the Sultan of Johor, the Board are aware that in the absence of a Custom house, and under the free intercourse allowed with the Port, it must be very difficult to prevent clandestine shipment of military stores imported freely for many years, and only prohibited since the Island fell under the management of this Government, but they entertain no doubt that every thing that could be done has been done for the maintenance of strict neutrality on the occasion.

4. As to the communication of Major Elout in respect to the persons designated as pirates, who appear to have been employed by Sultan Mahomed—as they were engaged in hostilities in which we had no part, and as the Major instead of awaiting the issue of our injunctions on the Sultan of Johor with a view to the peaceable

evacuation of the Carimons at once proceeded to action, it does not seem necessary that we should continue any correspondence regarding them, but leave him to follow his own course. That these persons are pirates the Board think very probable for the Pirates in these Seas are of much the same description as the Pindaries on the Continent of India, always ready to hire themselves to any Belligerent that may require their services.

5. It will be desirable therefore, to obtain all possible information regarding them, and their places of resort, with a view to future measures for the general suppression of piracy, the ruinous effects of which are severely felt in every part of the Straits, in none more than the neighbourhood of this Island. You are probably aware that the Sultan of Johore, as intimated by Major Elout, has on former occasions been suspected of some concern in piracy. It may therefore be necessary to exercise over his proceedings a more strict watch than has hitherto been observed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN ANDERSON,

Secy. to Govt.

Fort Cornwallis, the 27th November, 1827.

Minute by the President. (42)

The circumstances stated in these letters are the natural, and to be expected results of the obstinacy and perseverance of Sultan Mahomed Shah, in opposing the proceedings of the Rajah Mudah of Rhio, supported as he is by the Netherlands Resident of that place; Sultan Mahomed was repeatedly advised to forbear from any attempts on the Carimons, he was distinctly informed that he would receive no support whatever from us, and he was distinctly told that he would not be allowed to make use of the Island of Singapore as a place of outfit for his Military equipments, under the terms of the Treaty made with him and the Tummagong (sic) jointly, we are bound to afford to them personal protection so long as they remain inhabitants of Singapore; but the 10th Article expressly provides that we are not bound to support them in any quarrels or disputes they may enter into with any neighbouring state whatever, by the 8th Article they are bound to enter into no correspondence or alliance with any state without our knowledge and consent, in other respects we admit the Sultan of Johore to be an independent Sovereign, at full liberty to remain at Singapore

or go and reside in any part of his dominions, certain provisions being made in the Treaty for the latter event, on the principle of the 8th Article there should have been a stipulation binding the Sultan and Tummagong not to enter into any War with any neighbouring state. While residing at Singapore he must for obvious reasons abstain from hostile preparations there. Whether residing in our Territory and enjoying our protection to his person and property the Sultan can be at liberty to go on directing the conduct of War from other parts of his dominion against a state with which we are in peace and friendship is another question, and one which on the broad principle of the Law of Nations, independent of the Articles of our Treaty, I am clear, must be decided in the negative and on that principle the Resident at Singapore has been informed that the Sultan must quit our Territory or cease to be a belligerent against a state in amity with us, and to that principle we must adhere, the recall of his people from the Carimons, or his quitting our Territory is the alternative on which we must insist on the part of Sultan Mahomed Shah, for so long as he resides with us and carries on War in opposition to the Netherlands Government so long shall we be considered in some degree responsible for his acts. As to the relation on which we stand towards the Carimons the late letter from the Honorable Court removes all doubt. The Treaty of 17th March 1824 made between the Netherlands and the British Government, involves first our interchange of Territory, second a limitation of political relations to be observed by the contracting parties in respect of Native States; the British are to form no political relations on the Island of Sumatra, the Netherlands are to form none on the Malay Peninsula. The impart and meaning as to the Islands mentioned in Act XII. I considered as doubtful, those doubts were stated in my minute of 25th April 1825, to that an answer is now received, that it never was intended that these Islands should be ceded to us! from this I infer that those Islands stand to us exactly as does Sumatra, that we can form no Treaties, enter into no political relations with any state thereon, the negative against the one contracting party seems to be construed by the Dutch into positive right by the other—it is thence inferred that because we have not the right of making Treaties and Settlements on these Islands, that they have therefore it appears made a Treaty with the Sultan of Rhio or rather re-empowered an old one whereby the Chief makes himself a Vassal of Holland and surrenders his right over the Carimons to the Netherlands Government. In the meantime it appears that Sultan Mahomed residing at Singapore had sent people to form a Settlement on the Carimons not only without the support but in direct opposition to the advice of the British Authorities; through the medium of communications from the Sultan of Rhio he was required to withdraw, and the whole discussion and dispute seemed to the Resident Councillor to be one between the two Native States,

in which neither of the European contracting parties had any interest whatever, one in which the British at least were not bound to interfere. It is certainly to be regretted if the Resident at Rhio considered the direct interests of the Netherlands Government involved that he did not intimate his sentiments on the first occupation of the Carimons by Sultan Mahomed and while the Seat of Government was at Singapore, or at least, that he did not satisfy himself in the first instance by reference to his Superiors. The Resident of Singapore on the one side, and the Resident of Rhio on the other, or even the Government of Prince of Wales Island might have differed on the construction of the Treaty of 17th March 1824, but these are only subordinate authorities and can act only under instruction from those above them. The construction of the Netherlands Officers might have been such as those of Great Britain could not admit without a reference to higher Authorities, in that case it would have been consistent with the professions of Major Elout to have awaited the decision of his own as well as the controlling powers of the British Government, instead of which he seems not even to have afforded time to this Government the immediate Superiors of the Resident of Singapore, to consider, or even to comprehend fully the object he had in view, but at once arms sends out a fleet under convoy of a Dutch vessel of war and involves the whole neighbourhood in war and confusion. It must be obvious that if the Acts of Major Elout had been met by similar intemperance on the part of the British Authorities the two Nations must have been involved in the most unpleasant discussion and on the other hand it must be obvious that in all probability every object of Major Elout would have been attained without measures of so violent a nature; he should at least have waited until he had ascertained whether the injunctions of the Government and the exertion of their influence with the Sultan of Johore were likely to produce all he required, the evacuation of the Carimons for he was all along informed that the Sultan had neither our support or authority for his proceedings and from the time it was clearly understood that he meant to make common cause with the Sultan of Rhio, the interference of this Government has not been wanting to induce the Sultan of Johore to withdraw his people. Neither is the letter addressed to Mr. Prince under date 17th October 1827 by any means calculated to maintain that degree of harmony which the writer professes himself so anxious to preserve; the Natives of these Countries, as observed by Mr. Prince cannot of course comprehend the nature and effect of our diplomatic arrangements they judge only from what passes before their Eyes and the forcible ejection of people belonging to a Native Chief under our protection by another European power while we remain passive, must produce the effect of raising that state and depressing ourselves in their opinion, and when it is evident that all might have been brought about as desired by Major Elout without the alter-

native resorted to, we are warranted in believing that the exaltation of his own and the humiliation of our Government in the estimation of the surrounding states was at least one of the objects we had in view.

The letter lately received from England above alluded to arriving at this period certainly cleared away some difficulties in our way for until the intent and meaning of Act X and XII were explained, until it was clearly ascertained that the British Government were debarred from holding any political connection with any state in those Islands the absolute right of the Resident of Rhio to eject Sultan Mahomed could not be admitted. All these Islands are considered as portions of the Ancient Kingdom of Johor, the succession to which is disputed by the two sons the elder Sultan Mahomed residing with us, the younger the Sultan of Rhio residing with the Dutch the claims of the elder are set forth in the enclosures is Mr. Prince's letter of 7th November just received. The interpretation put on the late Treaty by the Netherlands Authority seems to be that all South of the Straits of Singapore is under their political influence, all North under ours; part of the Kingdom of Johor is north of that line part in South. The interpretation of the Dutch therefore divides the Ancient Kingdom of Johor between the disputing Chiefs by the same rule adopted by the two European states in the division of these political relations. All north of that line belongs to the Sultan of Johor under British influence all south to the Sultan of Rhio under theirs whether this interpretation be the correct one or not, whether a Treaty between the Two European states determines the relative hereditary claims of the disputing heirs remains to be determined, one thing is clear that we cannot now dispute it, and it must be left to the Superior Authorities to decide whether or not we are to adopt that construction, I strongly suspect that the period may arrive when we must also determine whether we are to act on it. The title to the Kingdom of Johor composed of the continued Territory of Johor, Pahang and the Islands of Lingin Battam Bentang (of which Rhio is the Capital) the Carimons and Singapore and its islets, is disputed by the sons of the last Sultan. As far as regards the Islands south of the Straits of Singapore, the Sultan of Lingin the younger son, has the decided support of the Netherlands Government in fact under his title they virtually support their own possession. For it is shown by Mr. Prince's letter that if left entirely to themselves no dispute could have arisen between the Native Chiefs, the inconveniences of the Netherlands Authorities holding possession or control over the Carimon state, are sufficiently obvious. It gives them complete command the southern entrance of the Straits for not a prahu can pass but at little pleasure the distance across being barely eleven miles; we have acknowledged the elder son as the Sultan of Johor only and under that title received from him an insular portion of that Kingdom (Singapore) but we have given him no

pledge of support even over the continental Territory on the Malay Peninsula, that portion of his dominion beyond the limits of the Netherlands political relations on the contrary we have inserted in the Treaty a clause disavowing all such support; by the letter from Mr. Prince of the 3rd October, 1827, and its enclosure it would appear that intrigues are set on foot at Rhio to acknowledge and support the claims of the younger brother at Rhio over the continental Territory on the Malay Peninsula also, there indeed the Netherlands Authorities cannot openly appear, but clandestinely and indirectly they may, and probably will support the pretensions even over Johor of the person who may properly be called their Sultan over whom they can always exercise a certain degree of influence, and if any intrigues are on foot in favour of that person we may be pretty well assured the Netherlands Authorities are the instigators. The political principles of the Dutch Government in these parts have always been encroaching, directed to the extension of their political influence generally rendered subservient to the purposes of their trade invariably conducted on a plan of monopoly and exclusion.

The political course pursued by us has been directly the reverse, ours has been a forbearing system, we have invariably abstained from all interference even when eagerly sought for, by the Malay States; from the first Settlement of this Island we were looked to as the interposing power between them and Dutch domination there is scarcely a state on the Malay Peninsula that did not eagerly seek our alliance and protection and had it suited our Policy we might have had Settlements where we pleased. In the year 1795, Malacca was ceded to the British Government and previous to the cession all the Native States, formerly connected with the Dutch Government had been declared free and independent from that date up to August 1818 when the Dutch assumed possession of Malacca there could have been no difficulty whatever in obtaining a settlement in any part of the Straits; for every Native State would have have eagerly embraced the opportunity of thus guarding themselves against future subjugation by the Dutch by alliance with us. The Government of Prince of Wales Island seemed to have abstained from every attempt of the kind for fear of another settlement more favourably situated interfering with the prosperity of their own, the cession of Java in 1811 and consequent removal of Dutch influence and Authority from these regions reduced comparatively the importance of a new settlement in the eastern part of the Straits, after the war had ceased and the restoration of Java to the Netherlands Government was known, the importance of a settlement of the S. E. end of the Straits and the expediency of counteracting the restoration of the Commercial preponderance of that Nation became obvious. Commercial Treaties were concluded under directions of Governor Bannerman with Perak, Salangore and the Sultan of Johore, containing a clause against the renewal of any

old or the conclusion of any new Treaty vesting exclusive privilege of trade in any European power the Treaty so made with the Sultan of Johor by Colonel Farquhar bears date the 19th August 1818 the control of the Carimon Islands might then have been obtained but unfortunately the Government of Prince of Wales Island were not authorized to ratify or conclude a Political Treaty involving cessions or rather acquisition of Territory without previous sanction; and the proposed occupation of the Carimons was not carried into execution, a Treaty purely commercial with a weak state was not likely to be of much avail without a pledge of political support and so it turned out, the Netherlands Authorities receiving possessions of Malacca instantly reimposed on Rhio and Johor the old Treaty of Vassalage of 1784 which they had in 1795 declared null, on imposition which the Sultan had no means of resisting; in January following, Sir Thomas Raffles under orders from the Supreme Government proceeded to take possession of a Settlement at the Southern extremity of the Straits, fixed on Singapore, but he came too late, the renewal of the old Treaty of 1784 between the Netherlands Government and the Sultan was considered by the former as giving them a right to object to the occupation of that Island and out of the consequent discussion arose the Treaty of 17th March 1824. The construction put on that Treaty by the Netherlands Authorities I have already stated, under that, they consider themselves at full liberty to impose such political relations on all the Native States on Sumatra and on the Islands mentioned in the 12th Article as they please, and that liberty they will certainly exert to the utmost of their power. The intention of introducing "the moderate exercise of European influence" over Acheen is expressly alluded to in the letter of the Netherlands Plenipotentiaries to those of Great Britain at the conclusion of the Treaty of March 1824. What the nature of that influence is and what the effect on our trade, we have the means of judging by reference to the conduct of the Netherlands Authorities on the Coast of Borneo and Java itself. Settlements will be made at the most favourable stations along the Coast, the Netherlands Flag will be hoisted, a right thereby acquired of levying duties, and trade with Sumatra will be completely at an end, the trade between this Island and the Northern part of Sumatra amounts to not less than Rupees 35,000,000 which would probably be entirely lost by the establishment of Dutch influence over the Countries from whence it is drawn, the disastrous state of the affairs on the Island of Sumatra has hitherto prevented the Netherlands Authorities in these Countries from carrying their plan into complete execution, but there can be little doubt that the first favourable opportunity will be taken for extending their influence by the imposition of Treaties and acquisition of Settlements at all positions best calculated for trade, I am aware that the Treaty of 17th March 1824 makes certain provision for the freedom of trade and limitation

of Duties but a reference to the Duties now collected at Batavia will shew the inadequacy of the Provision in question, Article 11 provides that "The subjects and Vessels of one Nation shall not pay upon importation or exportation at the ports of the other in the Eastern Seas any duty at a rate beyond the double of that at which the subject and Vessels of the Nation to which the Port belongs are charged". The Duty then imposed on the importation of British Manufacture at Batavia on Dutch Vessels is declared to be 16 per Cent thus giving the Authorities there the right of fixing the ruinous duty of 32 per cent on the import of British Piece Goods on British Bottoms levied besides on a most extravagant tariff. Whether British Manufactures are even imported at Batavia on Dutch Vessels to what extent, or whether the declaration of 16 per cent on themselves is only made to authorize the levy of 32 per cent on British Imports I cannot say. The next visit we pay to Singapore which will be almost immediately, I propose entering into a minute investigation into the state of Trade which the imperfect condition of the Records prevented on the last occasion.

From this degression I must here return to the proper subject before us, the subsisting relations between ourselves and the Sultan whom we have acknowledged as Sultan of Johor. We are precluded from any right to support his pretensions over the insular portion of the Empire of Johor, South of the Straits of Singapore, nor as already observed are we bound to support them over the Continental Territory or Islands North of that line of demarcation but it appears to me that every principle of Policy required that we should so support him—in plain words that we should adopt the construction of the Resident of Rhio as set forth in his private communication to Mr. Prince of the 3rd October 1827, that is to say without entering into any investigation as to the hereditary right of the contending parties to the whole admit to each the right over that portion which fall respectively under British and Netherlands Political relations. The confusion and interruption of Trade unavoidably resulting from any neighbouring States being engaged in warfare are sufficiently obvious but it is presumed that the orders already transmitted to Resident Councillor will have produced the recall of the people sent to the Carimons by the Sultan of Johore and the consequent cessation of hostilities and in reply to letters recently received little more is necessary than to repeat the contents of former communication, to induce the Sultan of Johor to withdraw his people and if he declines, to require his quitting the Island of Singapore are alternatives however which I am willing to hope it will not be necessary to resort to.

(Signed) R. FULLERTON.

23rd. November 1827.

As far as the actual occupation of the Karimoun Islands was concerned, the local Government practically acquiesced to the "statu quo." The final minute of the Governor still shows a certain sense of grievance at the hasty manner in which Major Elout has acted and a marked suspicion that further aggressions were to be feared. Happily, since then, the clear definite division of the English and Dutch spheres of influence has removed all causes of friction between the two nations and, Anglo-Dutch relations have ever since been governed by the spirit of the note attached to the Treaty of 1824.

"The differences which gave rise to the present discussion are such as it is difficult to adjust by formal stipulations; consisting, in great part, of jealousies and suspicions, and arising out of the acts of subordinate agents, they can only be removed by a frank declaration of intention, and a mutual understanding as to principles between the Governments themselves. Under the arrangement which is now concluded, the commerce of both nations will flourish, and the two allies will preserve inviolate in Asia, no less than in Europe, the friendship which has of old times subsisted between them.

The disputes being now ended, which, during two centuries, have occasionally produced irritation, there will henceforward be no rivalry between the English and the Dutch nations in the East, except for the more effectual establishment of those principles of liberal policy which both have this day asserted in the face of the world."



Baker, A. C. et al. 1913. "Some Account of the Anglo Dutch Relations in the East at the Beginning of the 19th Century Based on the Records preserved in the Colonial Secretary's Office in Singapore, and, in the Resident's Office, Malacca." *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* 64, 1–68.

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