

about restoring the possession of Malacca to Holland in 1818. Major Farquhar, then resident at Malacca, in that year entered into a commercial treaty with Abdulrahman Shah, who had been acknowledged as sovereign of Johore by the Dutch. By this treaty, British subjects, or persons under the protection of the Company, had equal rights for commercial pursuits with the most favoured nation, in the ports of Johore, Lingin, and Rhio.

The Dutch had no sooner got possession of Malacca, and received information of Major Farquhar's treaty, than they sent an overpowering force to Rhio, where Abdulrahman resided; declared him their vassal, annulled the treaty made with the English resident, and dictated another with the sultan, by which British commerce was entirely excluded from the ports of the straits.

In order to counteract this attempt upon the part of Holland to keep exclusive possession of the only passes into the Chinese seas, the Straits of Sunda and Malacca, the Marquis of Hastings, who was then Governor-General of India, despatched Sir Stamford Raffles to the Straits of Malacca, to ascertain if there were not a place at the Carimon Isles, or Singapore, of which the Dutch had not possession, suitable for the establishment of a factory; and in this duty Major Farquhar was associated with him.

On the arrival of Sir Stamford Raffles, he found that the Dutch had taken possession of Rhio, as before mentioned; and it was then suggested by Captain Ross, the able surveyor in the Company's employ, that Singapore offered the most suitable location for their purpose. About this time, Sir Stamford Raffles, while off this place, was visited by the Tumungong of Johore, a chief hostile to the Dutch, and an enemy to Abdulrahman Shah. The Tumungong represented that the rightful heir was the elder brother, Hassain Mahomed Shah, and that the British by treating with him would derive a right to settle from the legitimate authority. Sir Stamford saw the force of this advice, and determined at once to treat for the occupation of the island of Singapore with Hassain Mahomed. As a preliminary to this, the recognition of Mahomed Shah as sultan, by two great officers of the empire, was necessary. The Bandahara of Pahang, and the Tumungong of Johore, were selected for this purpose, and when this preliminary had been arranged, Hussain Shah was invited over from Rhio, installed, and recognised. The commissioners at once treated with him as the lawful sovereign of Johore, for the cession and immediate settlement of Singapore. This was one of the wise arrangements entered into by that intelligent officer, who so long and so satisfactorily ruled over Java. The treaty, from the hurry in which it was drawn up, was