

found to have circumscribed the limits of the ceded district to but a small portion of the south coast of the island, and the jurisdiction to extend only as far as a cannon-shot into the interior immediately around the factory. This limit continued until 1824, when a cession of the entire island was obtained, and a treaty of alliance and friendship was concluded between the Company and the Sultan. The jurisdiction was also for ever ceded to the Company of the seas and islands within ten geographical miles of the coast of Singapore. In consideration of these concessions, the Company gave the Sultan thirty-three thousand dollars, with an annuity of fifteen thousand, and to the Tumungong twenty-six thousand dollars, and an annuity of eight thousand. The annuities were to be paid monthly; and it was farther agreed, that if the Sultan or the Tumungong desired to remove at any time from the island of Singapore to other parts of their dominions, they should be entitled to the further sum of ten and fifteen thousand dollars, for all their right and title to any immovable property they might possess.

This treaty secured free commercial intercourse for both parties, with perfect neutrality in all respects, and freedom from offensive and defensive alliances. Under this tenure Singapore is now held.

Singapore being the only free port in this part of the world, soon attracted to it all the surrounding nations, not only on account of the absence of duties, or of any regulations impeding trade, but as offering a mart where they could with ease dispose of their goods, and obtain supplies. Many of the most opulent merchants of the East have settled here, and the Chinese in particular have found it to afford a suitable field for the exercise of their trades.

The jurisdiction of Singapore, or the "Straits Government," as it is here called, embraces Malacca and Prince of Wales Island. The office of governor was filled during our visit, by Samuel George Bonham, Esq., whose usual residence is at Singapore, but I had not the pleasure of seeing him, as he was absent on a tour of duty. A steamer is attached to this service, and enables the governor to communicate freely with the three ports. At each port there is a recorder's court, for the trial of offences, and the settlement of commercial difficulties. A chief justice, who resides at Singapore, is the principal law officer for criminal offences, and is appointed by the crown. Capital punishment is referred for approval to the authorities at home.

By the treaty of 1824, the Dutch gave up Malacca, which had become useless to them, and the English bound themselves not to make settlements on any of the islands to the south of it. This was certainly a very unwise covenant on the part of Great Britain, and