

The Malays are a people of very unprepossessing aspect; their bodies of a deep bronze colour; their black teeth and reddened lips, (from chewing the betel-nut and siri,) their gaping nostrils, and lank clotted hair hanging about their shoulders and over their scowling countenances, give them altogether a fiend-like and murderous look. They are likewise an unjoyous race, and seldom smile.

The state of one of the wounds received by the Malay (his knee-joint being penetrated, and the bones much injured) would have justified, more particularly in this kind of field practice, amputation; but, on consideration that it would be impossible to convince him of this being done with the intention of benefitting him, and might have the appearance of torture, which it was not improbable might suggest the idea of amputation and other operations to them, in the event of any, or all of us, falling into their hands, it was determined, therefore, to try the effect of a good constitution, and careful attention. A little shed was built, and a blanket and other comforts

given to him, and his comrade appointed his cook and attendant. They refused at first the provisions we offered them ; but, on giving them some rice to prepare in their own way, they seemed satisfied. Never expecting quarter, when overpowered in their piratical attempts, and having been generally tortured when taken alive, may account for the others drowning themselves.

In the forenoon, immediately after this *rencontre*, fourteen proas and smaller boats appeared standing across from the Banca side, and soon after they anchored behind Pulo Chalacca. Several of their people landed, and, carrying up some bundles on their shoulders, left them in the wood, and returned for more. We had some hope, from the direction in which they first appeared, as well as their anchoring at that spot (the rendezvous agreed upon at the departure of Lord Amherst), that they might have been from Batavia to our relief.

The small flag (belonging to the embassy) was brought down and displayed on the look-out rock ; the strangers, each,

immediately hoisted some flag at their mast-heads. Anxious to know still more about them, Mr. Sykes was allowed to advance with the union jack, accompanied by some more of the young gentlemen, along the strand to a considerable distance; and soon after some of their party, with a flag, set off to meet them. As they mutually approached, the Malays dropped a little in the rear of their flag-bearer, and laid down their arms; ours also fell astern, and the two ancients (or colour men), wading into a creek which separated them, cautiously met each other. The Malay *salamed* a good deal: many fine Yorkshire bows were made on the other side: shaking hands was the next ceremony, and then, joining flags, they walked up arm and arm to the place where the captain and several others were stationed. Satisfied now they must be friends sent to our assistance, they were welcomed with cheers, and every countenance was gladdened. But our joy was of short duration; for, although their flag was laid submissively at the captain's feet, and all were sufficiently civil in their de-

portment, yet they turned out to be mere wanderers, employed gathering a sort of sea-weed, found on the coast of these (but in still greater abundance among the Pelew) islands, said by some to be an article of commerce with the Chinese epicures, who use it like the bird-nests in their soups. All this was made out chiefly by signs, added to a few Malay words which some understood.

Mr. Hay, with his division armed, proceeded down to their anchorage, himself, and some other officers, going on board with their Rajah (as they stiled him), who expressed a great desire to see the captain on board, and sent him a present of a piece of fish, and some cocoa-nut milk. During the night many schemes were proposed as to the best mode of negotiating with these people. Some thought that, by the hope of reward, they might be induced to carry part of us to Java, and our four remaining boats would then be equal to the conveyance of the rest. Others, adverting to the treacherous character of the Malays, and the great temptation to murder us

when in their power, from that sort of property still in our possession, and *to them* of great value, considered it safest to seize upon and disarm them, carrying ourselves to Batavia, and then most amply to remunerate them for any inconvenience they might have sustained from being pressed into the service.

The morning of Thursday, the 27th, however, perfectly relieved us from any further discussion on this subject, the Rajah and his suite having proceeded to plunder the wreck, which by this time they had espied. It is probable they were not certain of our real situation on the first evening, but might have supposed, from seeing the uniforms, colours, and other military appearance, that some settlement, as at Minto, had been established there; and this may also account for their civility in the first instance, for, from the moment their harpy-like spirit was excited by the wreck, and they saw our real condition, there were no more offerings of fish, or of cocoa-nut milk.

To have sent the boats openly to attack them was judged impolitic; it would only

have driven them off for a moment, and put them on their guard against surprise by night, should it be thought necessary, in a day or two, to do so. They could deprive us of little; for the copper bolts and iron work, which they were now most interested about, were not to us of material importance.

We had the day before moved the boats into another cove, more out of sight (from the overspreading branches of the trees), and safer in case of attack, being commanded by two strong little ports (one having a rude draw-bridge), erected on the rocks immediately above it, and wattled in, where an officer and piquet were nightly placed; and a new serpentine path was cut down to this inlet, communicating with our main position aloft.

On Friday, the 28th, the Malays were still employed on the wreck. A boat approached us in the forenoon; but on the gig going out to meet it, they refused to correspond, and returned to their party. No relief having appeared from Batavia, and the period being elapsed at which (as was now thought) we

had reason to expect it, measures were taken by repairing the launch, and constructing a firm raft, to give us additional powers of transporting ourselves from our present abode, before our stock of provisions were entirely exhausted.

On Saturday, the 1st of March, the Malays acquired a great accession of strength, by the arrival of fourteen more proas from the northward (probably of the old party), who joined in breaking up the remains of the wreck.

At day-light, on Sunday, the 2d, still greater force having joined them during the night, the pirates (leaving a number at work on the wreck) advanced, with upwards of twenty of their heaviest vessels, towards our landing-place; fired one of their patereroes; beat their gongs; and, making a hideous yelling noise, they anchored in a line, about a cable's length from our cove. We were instantly under arms, the party covering the boats strengthened, and scouts sent out to watch their motions, as some of their boats had gone up the creek, at the back of our position;

and to beat about, lest any should be laying in ambush from the land. About this time, the old Malay prisoner, who was under charge of the sentries at the well, and who had been incautiously trusted by them to cut some wood for the fire, hearing the howling of his countrymen, left his wounded comrade to shift for himself, ran off into the wood, and escaped, carrying with him his hatchet. Finding, after waiting a short time in this state of preparation, that they made no attempt to land, an officer was sent a little outside the cove in a canoe, waving in a friendly manner, to try how they would act. After some deliberation, one of their boats, with several men armed with creeses, or their crooked daggers, approached: here, as usual, little could be made out, except a display of their marauding spirit, by taking a fancy to the shirt and trowsers of one of the young gentlemen in the canoe; but, on his refusing to give them up, they used no force.

A letter was now written, and addressed to the chief authority at Minto, a small settlement on the northwest point of Banca,

stating the situation in which we were placed, and requesting him to forward, if in his power, one or two small vessels to us, with a little bread and salt provisions, and some ammunition. Again the officer went out in the canoe, and was again met by the Malay boat. This letter was given to them, the word Minto repeatedly pronounced, (which they seemed to understand,) the direction pointed out, and signs made that on their return with an answer they should be rewarded with abundance of dollars, shewing them one as a specimen. This was done more to try them than with any hope of their performing the service; for, although a boat went down to Pulo Chalacca, (where they appeared to have somebody in superior authority,) yet none took the direction of Banca. Meantime their force rapidly increased, their proas and boats of different sizes amounting to fifty. The larger had from sixteen to twenty men; the smaller about seven or eight; so that, averaging even at the lowest ten each, they had fully five hundred men. The wreck seemed now nearly exhausted,

and appeared to be a very secondary object, knowing the chief booty must be in our possession, and they blockaded us with increased rigour, drawing closer into the cove, more especially at high water, fearful lest our boats, being afloat at that period, should push out and escape them. In the afternoon some of the Rajah's people (whom we at first considered our friends) made their appearance, as if seeking a parley; and, on communicating with them, gave us to understand by signs, and as many words as could be made out, that all the Malays, *except their party*, were extremely hostile to us; that it was their determination to attack us that night; and urging also that some of their people should sleep up the hill, in order to protect us. Their former conduct and present connexions displayed so evidently the treachery of this offer, that it is needless to say it was rejected, giving them to understand *we could trust to ourselves*. They immediately returned to their gang, who certainly assumed a most menacing attitude. In the evening, when the officers and

men were assembled as usual under arms, in order to inspect them, and settle the watches for the night, the captain spoke to them with much animation, almost verbatim as follows : “ My lads, you must all have
“ observed this day, as well as myself, the
“ great increase of the enemy’s force, for
“ enemies we must now consider them ;
“ and the threatening posture they have as-
“ sumed. I have, on various grounds, strong
“ reason to believe they will attack us this
“ night. I do not wish to conceal our real
“ state, because I think there is not a man
“ here who is afraid to face any sort of dan-
“ ger. We are now strongly fenced in, and
“ our position in all respects so good, that,
“ armed as we are, we ought to make a for-
“ midable defence against even regular
“ troops : what then would be thought of us,
“ if we allowed ourselves to be surprised by a
“ set of naked savages, with their spears and
“ creeses ? It is true they have swivels in
“ their boats, but they cannot act here. I
“ have not observed that they have any
“ matchlocks or muskets ; but, if they have,
“ so have we. I do not wish to deceive you

“ as to the means of resistance in our power.
“ When we were first thrown together on
“ shore, we were almost defenceless; seventy-
“ five ball-cartridges only could be mustered:
“ we have now sixteen hundred! They can-
“ not, I believe, send up more than five
“ hundred men; but, with two hundred
“ such as now stand around me, I do not
“ fear a thousand, nay, fifteen hundred of
“ them! I have the fullest confidence we
“ shall beat them; the pike-men standing
“ firm, we can give them such a volley of
“ musketry as they will be little prepared
“ for; and, when we find they are thrown
“ into confusion, we’ll sally out among
“ them, chase them into the water, and
“ ten to one but we secure their vessels.
“ Let every man therefore be on the alert
“ with his arms in his hands; and, should
“ these barbarians this night attempt our
“ hill, I trust we shall convince them that
“ they are dealing with Britons.” Perhaps
three jollier hurras were never given than
at the conclusion of this short but well-
timed address. The woods fairly echoed
again; whilst the piquet at the cove, and

those stationed at the wells, the instant it caught their ear, instinctively joined their sympathetic cheers to the general chorus.

There was something like unity and concord in such a sound, (one neither resembling the feeble shout nor savage yell,) which, rung in the ears of these gentlemen, no doubt had its effect; for about this time (8 P.M.) they were observed making signals with lights to some of their tribe behind the islet. If ever seamen or marines had a strong inducement to fight, it was on the present occasion, for every thing conduced to animate them. The feeling excited by a savage, cruel, and inhospitable aggression on the part of the Malays,—an aggression adding calamity to misfortune,—roused every mind to a spirit of just revenge; and the appeal now made to them on the score of national character was not likely to let that feeling cool. After a slender but cheerful repast, the men laid down as usual upon their arms, whilst the captain remained with those on guard to superintend his arrangements. An alarm during the night shewed the effect of preparation on

the people's minds, for all like lightning were at their posts, and returned growling and disappointed because the alarm was false.

Day-light, on Monday the 3d, discovered the pirates exactly in the same position in front of us ; ten more vessels having joined them during the night, making their number now at least six hundred men. " The plot began to thicken," and our situation became hourly more critical. Their force rapidly accumulating, and our little stock of provisions daily shortening, rendered some desperate measure immediately necessary.

That which seemed most feasible was by a sudden night attack, by our four boats well armed, to carry by boarding some of their vessels, and, by manning them, repeat our attack with increased force, taking more, or dispersing them. The possession of some of their proas, in addition to our own boats, (taking into consideration that our numbers would be thinned on the occasion,) might enable us to shove off for Java, in defiance of them. Any attempt to move on a raft, with their vessels playing round

it, armed with swivels, was evidently impossible. Awful as our situation now was, and every hour becoming more so ; starvation staring us in the face, on one hand, and without a hope of mercy from the savages on the other ; yet were there no symptoms of depression, or gloomy despair ; every mind seemed bouyant ; and, if any estimate of the general feeling could be collected from countenances, from the manner and expressions of all, there appeared to be formed in every breast a calm determination to dash at them, and be successful ; or to fall, as became men, in the attempt to be free.

About noon on this day, whilst schemes and proposals were flying about, as to the mode of executing the measures in view, Mr. Johnstone, (ever on the alert,) who had mounted the look-out tree, one of the loftiest on the summit of our hill, descried a sail at a great distance to the southward, which he thought larger than a Malay vessel. The buz of conversation was in a moment hushed, and every eye fixed anxiously on the tree for the next report, a

signal-man and telescope being instantly sent up. She was now lost sight of from a dark squall overspreading that part of the horizon, but in about twenty minutes she again emerged from the cloud, and was decidedly announced to be a square-rigged vessel. "Are you quite sure of that?" was eagerly inquired:—"Quite certain" was the reply:—"it is either a ship or a brig standing towards the island, under all sail!"—The joy this happy sight infused, and the gratitude of every heart at this prospect of deliverance, may be more easily conceived than described. It occasioned a sudden transition of the mind from one train of thinking to another, as if waking from a disagreeable dream. We displayed our colours on the highest branch of the tree, to attract attention, lest she should only be a passing stranger.

The pirates soon after this discovered the ship, (a signal having been made with a gun by those anchored behind Pulo Chacacca,) which occasioned an evident stir among them. As the water was ebbing fast, it was thought possible, by an unex-

pected rush out to the edge of the reef, to get some of them under fire, and secure them. They seemed, however, to have suspected our purpose; for, the moment the seamen and marines appeared from under the mangroves, the nearest proa let fly her swivel among a party of the officers, who had been previously wading outwards*, and the whole, instantly getting under weigh, made sail off, fired at by our people, but unfortunately without effect; for, in addition to the dexterous management of their boats, the wind enabled them to weather the rocks. It was fortunate, however, this circumstance took place, and that it had the effect of driving them away; for, had they stood their ground, we were as much in their power as ever, the ship being obliged to anchor eight miles to leeward of the island, and eleven or twelve from our position, on account of the wind and current; and, as this wind and current continued the same for some time afterwards,

* The shot was picked up by one of the young gentlemen, and appeared to be of malleable iron, not quite round.

they might, most easily, (with their force,) have cut off all communication between us. Indeed it was a most providential and extraordinary circumstance, during this monsoon, that the ship was able to fetch so far up as she did. *The blockade being now raised*, the gig, with Messrs. Sykes and Abbot, was despatched to the ship, which proved to be the Ternate, one of the company's cruizers, sent by Lord Amherst to our assistance, having on board Messrs. Ellis and Hoppner, who embarked the day of their arrival at Batavia, and pushed back to the island.

The gig was able to return (being a light boat); but our friends, who attempted to pull ashore in the cutter, were compelled to put back, after struggling with the current for nine hours, during the night of Monday, and morning of Tuesday, the 4th. That day was employed in getting all the movables we had saved from the wreck ready for embarkation. Wednesday, the 5th, landed Messrs. Ellis and Hoppner:—the recollection of the voluntary promise made by the former at parting, now fulfilled, and re-appearing as a deliverer,

added to the many interesting and peculiar circumstances of the meeting, gave a new glow to every feeling of friendship, and, on entering Fort Maxwell, they were received with heartfelt acclamation by the whole garrison, under arms.

This fortification and its inhabitants had altogether a very singular and romantic look. The wigwams (or dens, as they were called) of some, neatly formed by branches, and thatched with the palm-leaf, scattered about at the feet of the majestic trees, which shaded our circle; the rude tents of others; the *wrecked*, unshaven, ragged appearance of the men, with pikes and cutlasses in their hands, gave, more especially by fire-light at night, a wild and picturesque effect to this spot, far beyond any robber scene the imagination can portray.

Two of the Ternate's boats also arrived with a twelve-pounder carronade, some round and grape, and musket ammunition, in the event of the pirates thinking proper to return before we had finished our business; which, from the difficulty of communicating, required the whole of Wednesday to perform.

On Thursday, the 6th, the majority of the officers and men embarked in the boats (now increased in number), and proceeded to the Ternate; the raft, also, with four officers and forty-six men, (and a cow,) got under sail, and, after a comfortable cold-bath navigation, reached the ship after dark. Every article which could not be carried off, and was thought might be of the slightest use to the savages, was piled into a heap, on the top of the hill, and made into a bonfire.

At midnight the boats returned to bring off Captain Maxwell, and those remaining with him; the whole arriving safe on board on the morning of the 7th March. We were most hospitably received by Captain Davidson and his officers.*

The island of Pulo Leat is about six miles long, and five broad; situate about two degrees and a half to the southward of the equator: it lies next to Banca, and is in the line of islands between it and Borneo. It is uninhabited, and, as far as we could

* The wounded Malay was also carried to Batavia, and he is now (although with rather a disabled joint) most probably employed on board the Ternate.

explore, (and exploring was no easy task,) produces nothing for the use of man. We found a great number of the rinds of what we afterwards discovered at Batavia to be the far-famed and delicious mangustin, which only thrives near the line;—the baboons, who manage to live here, having monopolized all the fruit. Had we found any entire, we might have indulged in them, even without knowing their nature; as, more especially in a case of short commons like ours, there could be no great danger in following the example of a monkey.

The soil of the island would appear to be capable of affording any production of the torrid zone, and, if cleared and cultivated, would be a very pretty place; the tree which produces the caoutchouc or Indian rubber grows here.

The small stock of provisions saved from the wreck, and the uncertainty of our stay there, rendered economy in their distribution, as well as the preventing any waste or abuse, a most important duty. The mode adopted by Captain Maxwell, to make things go as far as possible, was to chop up the allowance for the day into

small pieces, whether fowls, salt beef, pork, or flour, mixing the whole hotch-potch, boiling them together, and serving out a measure of this to each, publicly and openly*, and without any distinction. By these means no nourishment was lost; it could be more equally divided than by any other way; and although, necessarily, a scanty, it was not an unsavoury, mess. All the bread, except a few pounds, was lost. The men had half allowance of rum divided between dinner and supper, (sometimes more on hard fags,) and the officers two glasses of wine at dinner, and a quarter allowance of rum (a small dram-glass) at supper.

A small bag of oatmeal was found one morning, which some of the young Scotch midshipmen considered as *their own*, and sat down, with great glee, round a wash-

* Truth requires it to be stated, and it may naturally be supposed, that, among so many, one or two propping sort of people might be observed, who had no disinclination to a little more than their just allowance; but the general feeling was much too manly and fine to admit of contamination.

hand basin* full of *burgoo*, made from it; but they reckoned too securely on the antipathies of their English friends, for (not thinking this, perhaps, a proper time for indulging national prejudices) they claimed their share, and managed to get through it without a wry face.

The guards at the posts, covering the boats, were generally under charge, alternately, of Messrs. Hay, Casey, Johnstone, Sykes, Abbot, Brownrigg, and Hope. The *garrison duty*, at night, was conducted, in turns, by the surgeon, chaplain, Messrs, Eden, Raper, Mostyn, Stopford, and Gore; thus making it light, and enabling them to keep their eyes open, and walk vigilantly round to observe that all the sentries were on the alert, and called out every quarter of an hour; the younger midshipmen being perched, in rotation, on the look-out rock during the day, to watch the motions of the pirates, and give notice of any ship or vessel which might appear in the offing.

It is somewhat remarkable, that, during

* Not the only extraordinary mess-dish which this occasion had reduced some to.

our stay here of nineteen days, exposed alternately to heavy rain, and the fierce heat of a vertical sun, none were taken sick, and those who landed so (some very ill) all recovered, except a marine, who was in the last stage of a liver complaint, contracted whilst in China, as one of the guard to the Ambassador. Another man, of very troublesome character, thought proper to leave his companions on the third day after landing. He may have been bit by a serpent in the woods, and died there, or have fallen into the hands of the savages; but he was never afterwards heard of. We marked with oil and blacking, in large characters, on the rocks, the date of our departure, to be a guide to any that might come there in quest of us, and in the afternoon of the 7th, we bid adieu to Pulo Leat, where it is not wonderful that, in our situation, we should have suffered some hardship and privation; but it is remarkable, indeed, that, surrounded by so many dangers, the occurrence of any one of which would have proved fatal, that we should have escaped the whole. We had, for example, great

reason to be thankful that the ship did not fall from the rocks on which she first struck into deeper water, for then all must have perished ;—that no accident happened to the boats which conveyed the embassy to Batavia ; for, in that case, we should never have been heard of ;—that we found water ;—that no mutiny or division took place among ourselves ;—that we had been able to stand our ground against the pirates ;—and that the Ternate had succeeded in anchoring in sight of the island ; which she was only enabled to do by a fortuitous slant of wind for an hour or two. Had we been unfortunate in any one of these circumstances, few would have remained to tell our tale.

It is a tribute due to Captain Maxwell to state, (and it is a tribute which all most cheerfully pay,) that, by his judicious arrangements, we were preserved from all the horrors of anarchy and confusion. His measures inspired confidence and hope ; whilst his personal example, in the hour of danger, gave courage and animation to all around him.

We arrived at Batavia on the 9th, and,

from the Ternate being so small, a number of our party crossed in the boats, which kept company with the ship. On the 10th we landed, and were most kindly received by Lord Amherst, who converted his table into a general mess for the officers, as well as the embassy. Comfortable quarters were also provided for the men *, who, in a day or two, landed, and marched up there, with the flag which had been saved. They were met at Ryswick by his lordship, who accompanied them up. At Weltevreden, also, the officers met with a small, but choice, band of their countrymen, whose society will not be easily forgotten, or ever remembered without pleasure.

A short journal of Lieutenant Cooke describes the passage of the embassy across the Javanese sea, in the boats.—“ At seven
“ in the evening of Wednesday, the 19th
“ of February, all arrangements having
“ been speedily made, the barge and cutter

* The hospitable houses of Messrs. Milne and Terino afforded lodging to the officers during their stay; and much kind attention was experienced from Captains Forbes, Dalgains, Hanson, and M'Mahon; on the staff of Sir William Keir.

“ weighed, and pulled out to seaward, there
“ being a heavy swell across the reef;—soon
“ after made sail, and sounded in nineteen
“ fathoms;—kept more to the southward,
“ having got into mid-channel;—at nine
“ at night, entrance point, in the island of
“ Banca, bore west, three or four miles.

“ Thursday, the 20th.—At day-light, the
“ cutter in company; moderate breezes at
“ W. N. W., and fair, with a smooth sea;
“ high land of Banca bearing north;—
“ having been much crowded in the night,
“ some shifted into the other boat, in order
“ to equalize the numbers. At seven,
“ served out, for the first time, some pro-
“ visions: a small portion of fresh meat
“ and biscuit, with a gill of water and half
“ a gill of rum, to each person. At ten a
“ heavy squall occurred, attended by rain,
“ which enabled us, by spreading cloths,
“ and wringing them, to catch a bucket of
“ rain-water, affording, to each person,
“ about half a pint. Light airs, and calm:
“ occasionally found it necessary to pull
“ eight oars, and, by the assistance of the
“ marines, we had two reliefs. Spelled the
“ oars every two hours. Served out pro-

“ visions and grog in the usual small pro-
“ portions. Lowered the sails, the wind
“ being adverse, afterwards becoming calm,
“ and at other times light breezes from the
“ south-west: each person had about half
“ a pint of beer. Lightning from west to
“ south-west,—water very smooth,—mid-
“ night, light airs.

“ Friday, the 21st.—Moderate breezes
“ from the westward, which soon became
“ squally, and more to the southward, oc-
“ casioning a swell of the sea. At seven
“ o’clock served out the remains of the
“ fresh meat, and the usual gill of water,
“ and half a gill of rum. Examined stock
“ after breakfast, and found remaining six
“ gallons of water; spruce beer, eight gal-
“ lons; rum, four gallons and a half; beer,
“ four gallons; wine, nineteen bottles; five
“ ditto of additional water, one ham, one
“ tongue, and thirty pounds of bread.
“ Served out, at twelve o’clock, some spruce
“ to all hands. In the afternoon, served
“ grog in the usual quantity. Continued
“ rowing all night, and gave some spruce
“ beer to the rowers, who began to be

“ much fatigued. Wind variable from west
“ to south-west.

“ Saturday the 22d.—Continued pulling
“ all this morning, the breeze being very
“ light; mustered provisions, and found them
“ much reduced. At seven o'clock issued
“ grog and a little bread to each, reserving
“ a ham, the only meat now remaining, until
“ *dinner time*. All the gentlemen who could
“ pull relieved the rowers. About one
“ o'clock a favourable breeze sprung up at
“ N. W.: made all sail, and at half-past three
“ o'clock saw Carawang Point, in Java, dis-
“ tant about nine or ten miles. At six o'clock
“ the land-breeze coming off obliged the
“ boats to anchor. Served out part of the
“ ham, and a little biscuit and grog, as usual.
“ At seven the wind moderated a little, and
“ an attempt was made to row in; but, the
“ people being nearly exhausted, anchored
“ again at nine o'clock; the cutter having no
“ grapnel, made fast to the barge. The night
“ was fine, but a heavy swell occasioned the
“ boat to roll extremely.

“ Sunday morning the 23d, the people
“ having had some repose, and a little re-

“ freshment served out to them, weighed the
“ grapnel, and pulled towards Batavia. Be-
“ tween the two points of land here, we ac-
“ cidentally fell in, although at a consider-
“ able distance from the shore, with a stream
“ of fresh water running into the sea, which
“ put all in high spirits. To prevent any ill
“ consequences, a little rum was put into a
“ bucket, and every man drank about a pint.
“ A favourable breeze also sprung up, and at
“ half past ten o'clock we went alongside
“ the ship Princess Charlotte, in the roads,
“ where we were very kindly received, our
“ stock of provisions for forty-seven being
“ at this time four or five pounds of bread,
“ and (previous to falling in with the stream
“ of fresh water in the sea), one gallon of
“ water, one gallon of rum, and five bottles
“ of wine, with some Madeira in a jar.”
During the whole of this little voyage the
strictest equality was observed in the dis-
tribution of provisions; and if any distinc-
tion was made it was in favour of the
rowers, those gentlemen who were unable
to pull themselves taking a rather smaller
proportion than those who did.