

“ We universally lament his loss, as he was a young gentleman of great ability and amiable manners. He, as well as Lieutenant Drummond, fell victims to their zeal and exertions to promote the service on which they were employed.

“ Off the South of the Straits of Sunda we encountered a heavy gale of wind, in which we lost our foremast, which obliged us to put into Bencoolen, where we have lost many of our men through fevers—myself and officers have all been laid up.”

Previous to his extraordinary resolution of remaining at these Islands, Capt. M’Cluer had visited them, in the Panther, accompanied by the Endeavour. The following account is given of his reception upon that occasion.

The two ships anchored in a very snug harbour, called Arrastapasang, where the King Abba Thulle desired the live stock might be landed; consisting of four young cows in calf, two young bulls, ten ewes and a ram, seven she goats and three rams, five sows with pig, and a boar, one pair of geese, three ducks and a drake, also a tame cock and two hens; to invite the old ones; and they let fly from aloft four pair of turtle doves and a pair of parrots.

A rich present of arms and European swords was made to Abba Thulle, who instantly distributed the arms among the principal Ruffacks, recommending them to be kept clean and fit for service.

Two days after the remaining presents of grindstones, ironmongery, saws, shovels, when opened before the King, and his people, excited such amazement that they could not utter a word, but gave frequent ha’s of astonishment as the things were taken out of the boxes; the 400 Kyseems sent from Bombay greatly attracted their attention, being exactly the dimensions of the tools used by them; little hand-hatchets were only given to the favourites and head men; the beads sent from Europe they did not like, as they were not transparent; they were fond of the china ware, particularly tureens.

Captain M’Cluer presented Abba Thulle with a horseman’s sword and target, and shewed him the use of the latter by telling one of his men to throw a spear at it with all his might, which, to their great astonishment, snapt short, and scarcely left a dent behind; he gave him likewise an embroidered cap of scarlet cloth, which he constantly wore.

On the following day one of the he goats died, by eating some poisonous herbs, but was not altogether lost, for the King ordered him to be skinned and roasted, and when about half done, he and his nobles made a delicious meal of it, at least they seemed to enjoy it, by frequently licking their chops and fingers during the repast.

The large Plais or Assembly houses, belonging to the King, are very astonishing fabrics, considering the tools and people who constructed them; since the loss of the Antelope they have built a new one, near 60 feet in length; and by accident they have nearly fallen in with the proportion of ship-building, the breadth of the house being about a third of the length; the floor of this is a perfect level; many of the planks are from three to four feet in breadth, and fitted so nicely that a pin cannot go between them; the windows exactly resemble the port-holes of a ship, six to eight opposite each other, and one of the same size at each end; the beams are laid about seven feet from the floor, very close, and curiously carved; the joinings of the