Maffacre of Amboymaintained that the ad only made Use of heir Fellow Subjects

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larrative. "At the thousand, six hun-cruel Scene was act-Islands, lying near s. A Treaty had thousand, six hun-land, and the United sined that, in Consince enormous Exturning the Chanton Moluccas, Banda, s, and Portuguese, statt Commerce, steffion of the re-

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ILLUSTRIOUS SEAMEN, &c. 33

formed a Defign of feizing the Citadel, and forcing all the Garrison, together with every Subject of the C U-ited States to depart immediately for Europe. This Charge will be deemed the more abfurd, when it is reflected that only twenty English resided at Amboyna, and that the Dutch had, under their Command, a military Force confifting of two hundred Soldiers, and, likewise, eight powerful Ships, at Anchor within the Harbour. It is, here, necessary to premise that, on the eleventh of February, a Japanese, who, during the Night, was walking on the Rainpart at Amboyna; proposed to the Dutch Sentinel some Questions concerning the Strength of the Castle, and the Garrison within it. His Inquiries, fo far from being criminal. were not improper, as he wished to understand the Course of the military Watches, and the Strength of that Aid which he might expect, in Case of any sudden Attack in that Quarter where, as a Soldier, he was accustomed to serve the Dutch. These Barbarians, who had long waited for a Pretence to perfecute the English, availed themselves of this Opportunity, apprehended the Japanele, and by inflicting on him the severest Tortures, compelled him to declare that he, together with a Number of his Countrymen, had been engaged by all the English to affift in the intended Reduction of the Citadel. Soon afterwards, others of the Japanese were imprisoned, stretched upon the Rack, and compelled to give fuch Evidences as the Dutch thought fit to dictate. A Portuguele, the Guardian of the Slaves belonging to the Citadel, was also interrogated at the same Time."

During the Examination, which lasted nearly four Days, the English went freely to the Castle, and received Intelligence of these alarming Measures, yet, being conscious of their Innocence, they made no Vol. IV.