

of a Consul-General and Commissioner to Borneo, followed up by a commercial and political treaty with the Sultan of Borneo, while the last mail brought us the intelligence of the Government having at length resolved to proceed in earnest with the settlement of Labuan, Mr. Brooke having been appointed Governor of that place, and other offices being spoken of. We have heard that there is yet a further association being organised in England for carrying on operations in this part of the world on a large scale. The title of this body is, or is proposed to be, "The Company of the Eastern Archipelago for Mining and Agriculture," which proposes to go to work with a capital of £500,000. From what we can learn, Borneo is the contemplated field of operations, and it is probable that they will begin with purchasing the antimony monopoly. There can be little doubt that such a company will find ample scope for its enterprise, whether it is confined to Borneo, or embraces the wider range of countries which its title would seem to point out. Borneo no doubt alone offers the most varied objects to which the capitalist might direct his attention when in search of means for profitable investment. Her soil, in some parts, is admirably fitted for every species of tropical cultivation, whether we look to the rearing of spices or wish to follow the less tedious cultivation of grain. In other parts, her soil teems with mineral wealth—diamonds, gold, &c., not omitting what now-a-days holds no mean place amongst minerals—coal, which is found abundant and good in various parts of Borneo. The forests of Borneo also abound in many valuable natural productions, which an active commerce would no doubt bring to light in abundance. If the company should desire to extend their views to other places, the Malay Peninsula offers an ample field in its capacity for cultivation, its extensive deposits of gold, tin, and coal, and its numerous other resources, many of which, up to the present time, have been but imperfectly, or not at all, explored. It short, it only requires that capitalists should deviate a little from the beaten path of buying and selling, and make use of the influence and opportunities which their wealth would give them, to find in the Malay Archipelago almost unbounded stores of the most

valuable articles of commerce ready to be called forth by an intelligent and prudent search for them.—*Singapore Free Press.*

The "Hooghly" had gone on a trip to the northward in search of the coal reported some time ago to be existant at Trang, but, after running up nearly as far as Junk Ceylon, the quest proved unsuccessful. The *Pinang Gazette* says:—"The Siamese, who sometime ago produced the piece of coal at the Harbour Master's Office, said to have been picked up by him on a part of the coast near to *Soongie Kaju Kamounie*, about one hundred miles from this, accompanied the expedition, but, after pointing out this, that, and the other place as the spot, he at length fell sick of a pain in his toe and refused to travel further. The truth is, the fellow is an arrant knave. His conduct immediately before the steamer started excited considerable suspicion; the coal which he produced is believed to be nothing more than a piece picked up from some coal store in the place. The steamer afterwards proceeded as far as Girbie, where she went in search of coal on a previous occasion, and brought some fine specimens of the same kind of rock as was found last time. One slab is about five feet in diameter, and would make a very beautiful table, the rock being susceptible of a fine polish.

CHINA.

HONG KONG.—Our difficulties with China appear to thicken, and at Canton foreign commerce continues in a depressed state; the Chinese capitalists, apprehending aggressive acts on our part, withhold from their countrymen the usual banking facilities; the foreign merchants, equally unacquainted with the intentions of the British Plenipotentiary, are placed in a position of much difficulty.

The people of Honan, acting, it is rumoured, under instructions from high officials, have entered into direct communication with the representative of Great Britain, in reference to the building ground ceded to Sir John Davis in April. A memorial to Mr. Macgregor, British Consul at Canton, from the elders and gentry of Honan, was presented last month. Mr. Macgregor, as accredited agent for a foreign power, declined receiving a memorial from the subjects of China. A petition to Sir John Davis met with bet-