

quisite legal precision ! But what

“baseless fabric of a vision”

will not men allege in excuse, or as a pretext, for pre-determined iniquity ! They could not barefacedly imprison all connected with S—— which it appears was their purpose from the beginning, and though they had thorough-paced subservient magistrates enough (such is the wretched state of the police in Pulo Penang,) it was necessary to have some legal pretence, however insignificant and absurd. Now the true state of the matter with respect to this watch is as follows. Mr. B, who belonged to Bencoolen, and was chief of one of the East India Company's out factories, had perished miserably in making his escape from the Battas who inhabit the mountains in the interior of Sumatra*, by whom he had been taken prisoner. His body had however been found in the woods, and the watch and pocket-book containing his journal with it. S—— who was the only man of any literary talent or information connected with the Company, had been employed in arranging the memoranda of the journal, and writing a narrative of B——'s adventures and death, to be sent home to the board of directors in London. The parcel containing both the watch and the journal had accordingly been put into the hands of S—— for that purpose with the knowledge of the very individual members of the council who were present when they were so found in his house, and also to the certain knowledge both of the Dutchman and the Swearer. In vain Louisa told them that S——

* Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the present Governor of Bencoolen, has concluded a peace with the Battas; and has opened a new and promising source of trade in the interior of Sumatra; with prospects even for the Company to gain possession of the gold mines which abound in the mountains. E. L. M.