

# BRITISH NORTH BORNEO TREATIES.

## BRITISH NORTH BORNEO, 1877.

*(Translation)*

COMMISSION from Sultan of Borneo appointing Gustavus Baron de Overbeck Maharajah of Sabah (North Borneo) and Rajah of Gaya and Sandakan. Dated 29th December, 1877.

TO ALL nations on the face of the earth whom these matters may concern We Abdul Mumin Ebn Marhoum Maulana Abdul Wahab Sultan of Borneo send greeting.

WHEREAS we have seen fit to grant unto our trusty and well-beloved friends Gustavus Baron de Overbeck and Alfred Dent Esquire certain portions of the Dominions owned by us comprising the entire northern portion of the Island of Borneo from the Sulaman River on the west coast to Maludu Bay and to the River Paitan and thence the entire eastern coast as far as the Sibuco River comprising the States of Paitan, Sugut, Bangayan, Labuk, Sandakan, Kina Batangan, and Mumiang, and other lands as far as Sibuco River furthermore the provinces of Kimanis and Benoni, the province of Pappar, and the territory of Gaya Bay and Sapangar Bay with all land and Islands belonging thereto and likewise the island of Banguay for certain considerations between us agreed.

AND WHEREAS the said Gustavus baron de Overbeck is the chief and only authorised representative of his Company in Borneo.

NOW THEREFORE KNOW ye that we the Sultan Abdul Mumin Ebn Marhoum Maulana Abdul Wahab have nominated and appointed and hereby do nominate and appoint the said Gustavus Baron de Overbeck Supreme Ruler of the above-named territories with the title of Maharajah of Sabah (North Borneo) and Raja of Gaya and Sandakan with power of life and death over the inhabitants with all the absolute rights of property vested in us over the soil of the Country and the right to dispose of the same as well as the rights over the productions of the country whether mineral vegetable or animal with the rights of making laws coining money creating an army and navy levying customs rates on home and foreign trade and shipping and other dues and taxes on the inhabitants as to him may seem good or expedient together with all other powers and rights usually exercised by and belonging to sovereign rulers and which we hereby delegate to him of our own free will.

And we call upon all foreign nations with whom we have formed friendly treaties and alliances to acknowledge the said Maharajah as ourself in the said territories and to respect his authority therein and in case of the death or retirement from office of the said Maharajah then his duly appointed successor in the office of supreme ruler and Governor-in-Chief of the Company's territories in Borneo shall likewise succeed to the office and title of Maharajah of Sabah and Rajah of Gaya and Sandakan and all the powers above enumerated be vested in him.

Done at the Palace at Brunei the 29th day of December, A.D. 1877.