Editor’s Note:

The following two entries appeared in The Gentleman’s Magazine in December 1826. They offer some useful information both on Burma’s looted textual heritage and on the confusion among the population after the war.

M.W.C.

Gleanings on Burma, December 1826

St. Andrew’s University

Lord Visc. Melville, the Chancellor of the University, has presented to the university library, a splendid Burmese sacred record, written on a leaf. Also a specimen of the Burmese character, found in the stockade of Donahue [sic] soon after Bundoolah’s death, and on the spot where he was killed, and supposed to be his last orders to his hordes.

The Gentleman’s Magazine 96, December 1826.

News

From all accounts it appears that the Burmese dread the final withdrawal of the British troops exceedingly. A Calcutta paper states, that fines had been levied on all who had lived on friendly terms with out army during the war, more particularly on females, and if the unhappy individuals on whom the fine was imposed could not immediately pay it, they were mutilated in a most barbarous way, sometimes having their ears and noses cut off. At Prome, no sooner was the protection of the British flag withdrawn, than a fine of fifty rupees was laid on every male, and of one hundred upon every female. It is further stated that the native inhabitants of Rangoon had emigrated and continued to do so, to our settlements of Mergui, Tavai,
Martaban and Amherst-town, in great numbers. The Raywoon, who is only waiting for the total evacuation of Rangoon to re-assume his authority, requested Mr. Crawford to interfere, and put a stop to so draining an emigration. His request was not attended to.

*Source: The Gentleman’s Magazine* 96, December 1826.