

Extract of a Letter from Captain Chads, of His Majesty's Sloop Arachne, to Captain Coe, dated Rangoon, 7th November 1824.

SIR ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL having expressed a wish to detach a small force of one hundred and thirty Europeans and three hundred sepoys to attack Martaban, I gave Lieutenant Keele, first of this ship, charge of the naval part, consisting of twenty seamen and marines from this ship and ten from the Sophie, with six gun-vessels and a small mortar-boat, seven row gun-boats, and a transport of very light draft of water, to embark the troops in.

I have now the honour to inclose Lieutenant Keele's report to me of the complete success of the expedition. He informs me Lieutenant Bazely, of the Sophie, rendered him every assistance, and speaks in high praise of the constant good conduct of Mr. Lett, Master's Mate, of this ship.

This service has been performed in a manner to reflect great credit on Lieutenant Keele; and Lieutenant-Colonel Godwin, who commanded the land force, mentions in his public dispatches, in high terms, his gallantry and zeal.

*Honourable Company's Transport
Jennet Hutton, Martaban, 31st
October 1824.*

SIR,

IN compliance with your orders of the 12th instant, I proceeded down the river with the force you placed under my command, but from calms and currents did not enter Martaban river with all the flotilla till the 27th.

In passing up the river the boats crews, with a few men of the 41st, succeeded in destroying about thirty of the enemy's war boats, some of them pulling at least fifty oars, armed with swivels, muskets, and spears. On our closing the town, the ship grounded too far off to make use of her caronades with good effect; the enemy now opened their fire from the stockade, which was returned by all the row-boats, forming a line close along shore, till after sun set. The mortar-vessel likewise took her position, under Captain Kennon, of the artillery, and opened a well directed fire the whole of the night, killing, from report, great numbers of the enemy. By day-light on the 30th the troops were in the boats, and the advance being sounded, we pushed for the shore, with the loss of seven killed and fourteen wounded; the battery was stormed and carried, the enemy flying in all directions, leaving great numbers of dead and wounded. I here found the late Honourable Company's schooner Phaeton, with twelve of her crew in irons; her commander was taken off to Ava.

I have great pleasure in reporting to you the bravery and good conduct of the Officers and seamen whom you placed under my command, in short, Sir, every individual seemed animated with equal anxiety to distinguish himself on this occasion, and I trust Sir your instructions to me of co-operating with Colonel Godwin have been most fully acted up to.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CHARLES KEELE, First Lieut.
of His Majesty's ship Arachne.

To Captain Chads, H. M. ship Arachne.

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A List of Killed and Wounded.

Arachne—George Jones (M.), killed; Thomas Ashfield (M.), James Johnstone (S.), severely wounded.

Sophie—None.

Moir Transport—Thomas Anderson (S.), dangerously wounded.

Row-Boats—1 lascar killed; 1 lascar severely wounded.

(Signed) WILLIAM WATT, Surgeon.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Chads, of His Majesty's Sloop Arachne, to Captain Coe, dated Rangoon, 8th December 1824.

ON the 30th ultimo, the enemy's boats were seen by the Honourable Company's cruizer Teignmouth, at the advanced post above Kemmindine, coming down in great numbers, loaded with men. The same evening they came forward with fire-rafts, which obliged the Teignmouth to slip and go below Kemmindine to avoid them; this unfortunately left that post exposed to a most furious attack on every side, the enemy's war-boats on its front, but it was nobly defended by its garrison, under Major Yates, and the enemy repulsed. On the next day, 1st of December, the enemy were seen in great numbers advancing towards Dalla, about five thousand men; and they also surrounded the Dagon Pagoda, where a constant heavy fire has been kept up. Captain Ryves, of the Sophie, in command during my absence, procured a guard of one hundred sepoys from the General for the transports, and placed this ship in her old station, about a mile and a half in advance of the shipping, to enfilade the Madras lines, and also ordered the Teignmouth back to her station, to support the post at Kemmindine. At day-light I returned and found things in this state, with the exception of the Teignmouth having been again driven from her station during the night by fire-rafts, and the post at Kemmindine again subject to furious and incessant attacks. I immediately sent the pinnace up, under Lieutenant Kellett and Mr. Pickey, Admiralty Midshipman, to gain information and reconnoitre, and shortly afterwards three gun-boats, under Mr. Cöyde, Midshipman, with a party of my seamen to fight the guns; this assistance was most timely, as the garrison was sorely pressed in every direction; from this critical situation, Lieutenant Kellett's highly judicious and determined gallant conduct immediately relieved them, by clearing both their flanks of the enemy by showers of grape-shot. This service, performed by a single boat, in the face of hundreds of the enemy's boats, was the admiration of the whole garrison; and Major Yates has expressed himself to me, in terms the most gratifying, for the able assistance Lieutenant Kellett afforded him.

The Teignmouth shortly afterwards resumed her station, and was constantly engaged with the enemy's war-boats, which had long guns in their bows, and annoyed her a great deal. In the afternoon, finding the enemy were making every effort to gain that post, and as it was of the last importance, both in a military and naval point of view, I ordered