

in the margin*, stormed the heights of Akoukton, and captured five guns, defended by 350 or 400 men, yesterday afternoon, between the hours of 3 and half-past 5 P.M., and I am happy to say without the loss of a man.

The landing was covered by the fire of the Honourable East India Company's steamer Medusa, Lieutenant Fraser commanding, which was so admirable that to it I attribute our good fortune in being able to ascend a narrow pathway, winding up the ridge of the hill to the outer breastwork, every yard of which might have been defended by a handful of men, screened from sight in the dense underwood growing on either side, against almost any number of assailants. We found a Burmese, wounded by a shell from the steamer, lying in the intrenchment; he told me the troops were before us, so on we went, and at last were met by a partial fire, which after an immediate and rapid charge was never renewed, nor could we again see the enemy through jungle everywhere as thick as a bramble-bush.

The guns were loaded and primed, with the exception of one which was fired with a volley of musketry and some jingalls at the Medusa as she approached the cliff, just before anchoring; four of them were iron, 9 feet 18-pounders, one an iron 6 feet 9-pounders: having no powder to burst them, I threw them over the cliff, and moved the force slowly back to the boats, protected by a rear-guard. When it was embarked, I directed Lieutenant Frazer to anchor the Medusa for the night at the entrance of the creek, facing the cliff, and commanding the entire front.

I experience great pleasure in having so soon again to bring before your Excellency's notice the gallant bearing and good conduct of all the officers and men engaged.

When they landed, they saw the difficulty and apparent danger of the pass, and they knew the superiority in numbers of the enemy, they had no reason to contemplate so easy a victory; yet they formed with as much steadiness as old soldiers, and with the cheerful alacrity which always distinguishes British seamen and marines. Lieutenant Hillyar, of the Winchester, commanded under me, and again added to his well-known character of an able, zealous officer.

Lieutenant Lewis, first of the Honourable East India Company's steamer Sesostriis, formed and led his marines and seamen in a masterly manner; and I gladly recommend him to your Excellency's notice.

Mr. Brazier, senior mate of the Medusa, landed with his men, and attracted my attention by his zeal.

To Lieutenant Frazer, commanding the Medusa, much is due for the able way he handled his vessel in the strong tides and eddies where he had to anchor; and the most effective aid he rendered by his fire. He is a most zealous officer, and has, and is rendering daily, most valuable service to the naval and military force at Prome.

I cannot refrain mentioning, that one quarter of an hour did not elapse from the time the Medusa anchored, before my people were formed on the beach, and the boats safely moored under charge of men to fight their guns.

Commodore F. Beauchamp Seymour, a volunteer serving up this river, landed with me, and was always to be found in the front.

* Winchester's boats—gig, Commander F. B. Seymour, volunteer, Mr. Gregory, naval cadet, 4 men, 3 marines; barge, Lieutenant Hillyar, Mr. Round, mate, Mr. Slade, assistant surgeon, 15 men; pinnace, Lieutenant Pearse, Mr. Bond, mate, 13 men; H. C. steam-frigate Sesostriis, Lieutenant Lewis, Mr. Duval, mate, 22 seamen, 8 marine artillerymen; H. C. S. Medusa, Mr. Brazier, mate, Mr. Harris, midshipman, 15 seamen, 12 artillerymen: total force landed, 82.

The capture of these guns has again opened the river to Prome; and I rejoice that the information I received of their having been planted there, reached me in time to secure the safety of the expected steamers from Rangoon, laden with troops.

I shall leave the Winchester barge under Lieutenant Hillyar (as the Enterprise is not yet available) to guard the heights. But I cannot refrain from expressing my extreme regret they are not occupied by some of Her Majesty's troops.

I have.

(Signed) GRANVILLE G. LOCH,
Captain and Senior Officer
in the Irrawaddy.

To His Excellency Commodore G. R. Lambert,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 4 in No. 81.

Her Majesty's ship Winchester's gig,
Prome, 10th Nov. 1852.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that having received intelligence from the officer commanding the gun-boat, which I left to watch the heights of Akoukton, to the effect that the men had reappeared there in force, armed with jingalls and musketry, with which they had opened a fire on him, and that he was apprehensive during the night they might possibly succeed in mounting guns there; I decided immediately on proceeding there with a detachment of seamen and marines, to which Sir John Cheape kindly added a party of twelve sappers under Lieutenant Denison, and I accordingly quitted Prome yesterday morning in the Medusa steamer, accompanied by Major Allen, Quarter-Master General of the Forces in Burmah. On arriving off the village, situated a little above the slope leading to the upper ridge of the heights, I disembarked, and after ascending them, detached Lieutenant Hillyar with thirty men to endeavour by a circuitous route to get into the enemy's rear; we then continued our march along the ridge, and at 3 P.M. reached the position, when we captured the enemy's guns on the 4th instant, which appeared much in the same state as we had left it, with the exception that the enemy had partially succeeded in raising one of the guns, which had fallen on a ledge below the parapet.

At this moment the Bentinck, bearing your Excellency's pendent, was descried beneath us, and at the same time the party under Lieutenant Hillyar joined us, having met with a few of the enemy and captured some of their muskets.

Having with much difficulty succeeded in getting the only two guns which had not fallen into the river into a position where we might burst them, and it being nearly dark, I re-embarked the men, and next morning sent them on shore under Lieutenant Hillyar, who effected the destruction of the guns by bursting them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE G. LOCH,
Captain.

To His Excellency Commodore G. R. Lambert,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No 5 in No. 81.

Her Majesty's ship Winchester's gig,
Prome, 12th Nov. 1852.

THE attack and capture of the fort opposite Upper Prome took place so immediately under your Excellency's notice, that but little is left for me to detail.

The force placed by you under my orders