officer of the French Squadron (Captain De Cintré, of the Milan) and myself determined to go at once and endeavour to burn the forage and corn stacks upon the landward side of the hills overlooking the town.

No inhabitants were to be seen, but the occasional glimpse of soldiers showed that a landing was expected and that they were prepared for a street fight. I hoisted a flag of truce in order, if possible, to get the women and children removed from the town, but as that met with no reply and the surf rendered landing extremely hazardous, I hauled it down, and the squadron commenced to fire over the town at the forage and corn stacked behind it, and I soon had the satisfaction of seeing a fire break out exactly where it was wanted. The town was not touched except by an occasional shell. The wheat and forage being fired it became necessary to move into deeper water for the night, and from our distant anchorage the fires were seen burning throughout the night.

On the 16th July the Allied squadron proceeded to Fort Petrovski, between Berdiansk and Marianpol. As I approached the place there were evident symptoms of an increase to the fortifications since the Vesuvius silenced its fire three weeks ago. A redan, covering the curtain which faces the sea, shewed seven new embrasures, and much new earth led me to expect some masked works.

Captain De Cintré, commanding the French steamer Milan, although my senior, in the most handsome manner surrendered the right of planning the attack, and keeping alone in view the good of the allied cause, gallantly took up the position I wished him to do, followed by Captain De L'Allemand, in the Mouette.

At 9.30 A.M., all arrangements being made, the squadron, named in the margin*, took up their positions. The light draught gun-boats taking up stations east and west of the fort, and enfi-lading the works in front and rear; whilst the heavier vessels formed a semicircle round the front. The heavy nature of our ordnance crushed all attempts at resistance, and soon forced not only the garrison to retire from the trenches, but also kept at a respectable distance the reserve force, consisting of three strong battalions of infantry, and two squadrons of cavalry.

We then commenced to fire with carcases, and although partially successful, I was obliged to send the light boats of the squadron to complete the destruction of the fort and batteries; a duty I entrusted to Lieutenant Hubert Campion, of the Vesuvius, assisted by the officers in the annexed list.

In a short time I had the satisfaction of seeing all the cantonment, gun platforms, public buildings, corn and forage stores on fire, and the embrasures of the earthworks seriously injured ; and although the enemy from an earthwork to the rear opened a sharp fire upon our men, Lieutenant Campion completed this service in the most able and perfect manner, without the loss of one man.

Lieutenant Campion reports that the fort was fully as formidable a one as it appeared from the ships; the platforms were laid ready, but the guns either had not yet arrived or had been with-drawn by the enemy. Leaving the Swallow, Commander Craufurd, to check any attempt of enemy to re-occupy the fort and extinguish the fire until the destruction was complete, the rest of the

* Vesuvius, Commander Sherard Osbora; Commander Rowley Lambert; Swallow, Commander F. A. B. Craufurd; Fancy, Lieutenant C. G. Grylls; Grinder, Lieu-tenant F. Hamilton; Boxer, Lieutenant S. P. Townshend; Cracker, Lieutenant J. H. Marryatt; Wrangler, Lieutenant H. Burgoyne: Jasper, Lieutenant J. S. Hudson; Beagle, Lieutenant W. N. Hewett.

squadron proceeded to destroy great quantities of forage and some most extensive fisheries, situated upon the White House Spit, and about the mouth of the River Berda. By dark the work was done, and thirty fisheries, numbers of heavy launches, and great store of salted fish, nets, and gear, as well as much forage, had fallen into our hands in spite of considerable numbers of Cossack horse.

Nothing could exceed the zeal and energy displayed by every officer and man throughout the day; and the skilful manner in which the various officers in command of Her Majesty's vessels took up their positions in the morning, the beautiful accuracy of the fire, and the care with which the squadron was handled in shallow water, deserve to be called to your favourable notice. The able and cheerful co-operation of the French throughout the day was beyond all praise. I have, &c.,

SHERARD OSBORN, (Signed) Commander and Senior Officer. Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund

Lyons, Bart., G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief.

Her Majesty's ship Vesuvius, Gulf of Azof, July 21, 1855.

SIR, THE day I closed my last report to you, the Beagle, Lieutenant Hewett, was detached to Berdiansk.

Lieutenant Hewett rejoined me yesterday, and reports that one of the Russian sunken vessels was blown up. Lieutenant Hewett, the same evening, landed under cover of his vessel's guns, and destroyed an extensive collection of fish stores, and two large granaries full of corn.

On the 17th July, in consequence of information received of extensive depôts of corn and forage existing at a town called Glofira, upon the Asiatic coast, near Gheisk, I proceeded there with the squadron, accompanied by the French steamers Milan and Mouette. The Vesuvius and Swallow were obliged to anchor some distance off shore, I therefore sent Commander Rowley Lambert (Her Majesty's ship Curlew), with the gun-boats named in the margin * to reconnoitre in force, and if an opportunity occurred, to destroy any stores of provisions or of forage, he was to do so. Commander Lambert found Glofira and its neighbourhood swarming with cavalry; the town an open straggling agricultural village, and no appearance of corn or forage in it; he therefore very properly confined his operations to destroying, upon Glofira Spit, some very extensive corn and fish stores, but spared the town. The skill with which this service was executed in the face of large bodies of cavalry, reflects no small credit upon Commander Lambert; and he speaks most highly of the able assistance rendered him by the French officers and men under Captains De Cintré and L'Allemand.

From Glofira I next proceeded to the Crooked Spit, in the Gulf of Azof, the French squadron parting company to harass the enemy in the neighbourhood of Kamisheva and Obitotchna.

The squadron reached Crooked Spit the same day (July 18); and I immediately ordered Commander Frederick Craufurd, in the Swallow, supported by the gun-boats Grinder, Boxer, and Cracker, and the boats of Her Boxer, and Cracker, and the boats of Her Majesty's ships Vesuvius, Curlew, and Fancy, under Lieutenants Grylls, Rowley, and Sulivan, to proceed and clear the spit of the cavalry and Cossacks of the enemy, and then land and destroy

* Fancy, Grinder, Hoxer, Cracker, Jasper, Wrangler. Boats of Vesuvius and Swallow.