

(Copy.)

New Plymouth, March 31, 1860.

SIR,

I CONSIDER it due to you to express the high sense I entertain of the gallant services rendered by Lieutenant Blake, and the officers and men of Her Majesty's Ship Niger, who formed part of the force under my command, employed against the rebel natives at the village of Omata, on the 28th instant.

I was myself an eye-witness of the steadiness with which the gallant blue jackets advanced in skirmishing order over a difficult piece of country, compelling their opponents to retire before them; and, from the information that has reached me since, their force told severely.

I beg to add that it was with extreme regret that I beheld their gallant leader taken to the rear, dangerously wounded. My regret was the greater, from the feeling of friendship I entertained for that officer, occasioned by the perfect cordiality which existed between us on all matters of duty, since he has been attached to the garrison under my command.

I beg further to inform you that the men of the Niger, when ordered to retire, displayed the same steadiness under the command of Mr Theobald, who seemed to possess the coolness of a veteran.

I herewith enclose a return of casualties in the Naval Brigade.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. F. MURRAY,
Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel.

Captain P. Cracroft, R.N.,
Commanding Her Majesty's Ship Niger.

Lieutenant W. H. Blake, dangerous bullet wound in right breast.

Thomas Millard, Royal Marines, shot through the head, since dead.

(Copy.)

Brigade Office, Taranaki,
March 29, 1860.

COLONEL Gold, Commanding the Forces, wishes to express to Captain Cracroft, of Her Majesty's Ship Niger, Senior Naval Officer on the Station, Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, 65th Regiment, and Captain Brown, of the New Plymouth Militia, and the officers, non-commissioned officers, warrant and petty officers, and men who were engaged yesterday with the enemy, his high sense of the gallantry displayed, which led not only to the rapid destruction of a pah, but also to a considerable loss on the part of the insurgents. The Colonel Commanding will not fail to report most favourably to higher authority their distinguished valour and most active exertions.

By Command,

(Signed) JOHN PAUL,
Captain 65th Regiment,
Acting Major of Brigade.

In consideration of his services, as mentioned in these Despatches, Lieutenant William Hans Blake has been promoted to the rank of Commander, with Seniority from 26th June 1860.

William Odgers has also been offered a Warrant as a Gunner or Boatswain, provided he be found competent.

COUNCIL OFFICE, WHITEHALL, August 3, 1860.

Her Majesty has been pleased, by Her Order in Council of the 1st August instant, to grant to Anna Maria Boydell, of No. 65, Gloucester Crescent, Regent's Park, a prolongation, for the term of four years, of certain letters-patent for "improvements in applying apparatus to carriages to facilitate the draft," such letters-patent having been originally granted to James Boydell, of Oak Farm Works, near Dudley, County of Worcester, for England, Wales, and the Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and bearing date the 29th August 1846.

DOWNING-STREET, August 2, 1860.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Jeremiah Thomas Fitzgerald Callaghan, Esq., to be Chief Magistrate for the Colony of Hong Kong; William Andrew Ross, Esq., to be Colonial Secretary for Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast; Joseph Despard Pemberton, Esq., to be Surveyor-General for the Island of Vancouver; and Edward Laborde, Esq., to be Provost-Marshal for the Island of Saint Vincent.

WAR-OFFICE, July 30, 1860.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the appointment of Colonel Richard Denis Kelly, C.B., of the 34th Regiment, to be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders, of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

FOREIGN-OFFICE, July 28, 1860.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of Mr Adolph Schlöstein as Consul at Melbourne, for the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen.

(1164.)

Board of Trade, Whitehall,
August 3, 1860.

The Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Major Stokes, the British Commissioner of the European Commission of the Danube, enclosing a copy of a new provisional tariff* which has been adopted by the Commission, fixing the charges to be levied at the Sulina mouth on vessels navigating the Danube from and after the 1st September next.

The charges in question include the pilotage, lighthouse, and river improvement dues, and have been fixed according to the tonnage of the vessel, and to the depth of water at the bar, at rates varying from 75 centimes per ton for vessels of more than 30 and of less than 100 tons, to 3 francs 25 centimes for vessels of more than 300 tons, requiring more than 15 feet of water; the average charge for the present being computed by the Commission at 1 franc 50 centimes, the depth of water obtained this season being estimated at only 12 feet.

A reduction of 40 per cent., representing engine-room, &c., is to be made for steamers.

Further information respecting the arrangements to be definitively adopted will be made public as soon as received.

* Erroneously printed "provincial tariff" in the Notice which appeared in the London Gazette of the 31st ult.