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*Admiralty-Office, October 9, 1821.*

**R**EAR-ADMIRAL the Honourable Sir Henry Blackwood, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships in the East Indies, has transmitted to John Wilson Croker, Esq. two letters which he had received from Captain Lumley, of His Majesty's ship *Topaze*, dated off Mocha, the 13th of December and 20th of January last, of which the following are copies:

*His Majesty's Ship Topaze, off Mocha,  
December 13, 1820.*

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to inform you, that having received the communications of the Honourable the Governor in Council at Bombay, for the guidance of my conduct in demanding satisfaction for insults and indignities offered by the Government of Mocha to the British flag, I sailed from Bombay on the 19th of November with the expedition which had been equipped, and of which I had assumed the command.

On my arrival here on the 3d instant, I immediately communicated with Mr. Bruce, the Honourable Company's Agent, who had been appointed to assist me in this service, and finding from his representations that he had abandoned all hopes of pacificatory arrangement, and that none but coercive measures would have the effect of inducing the Government of Mocha to accede to the demands of the British Government, on the receipt of his letter, recommending the adoption of those measures to me, and considering that it would tend to the benefit of the British interests, I lost no time in placing the squadron in the best possible position; and through the assistance of Mr. A. J. Russel, Master (of whose professional abilities I cannot speak too highly), in laying down buoys, I was enabled on the same afternoon to see the squadron advantageously disposed of, beyond my most sanguine expectations, off the forts and town of Mocha. At forty minutes past seven on the morning of the 4th, I commenced action, and kept up a spirited and well-directed fire against them until thirty minutes past twelve, when the enemy sent off a flag of truce; I then ceased firing, and

gave Fukee Hassain, the Dola, two hours to consider of the terms that had been proposed; at fifty minutes past two, the terms not having been answered, I recommenced action, and the enemy having abandoned the north fort, I directed the boats of the squadron to be manned and armed; and at five o'clock they left the ship, under the command of Lieutenant William Moriarty, of the *Topaze*, for the purpose of spiking the guns and blowing up the north fort; before, however, the boats could reach the shore, the enemy succeeded in repossessing themselves of it, and occupied it in force. Lieutenant William Moriarty, notwithstanding, proceeded to land, and advanced with the most daring intrepidity up to the walls of the fort, under a heavy and most annoying fire of musquetry; finding himself unable, after repeated attempts, to force an entrance by any means, and considering that all further efforts would be unavailing, and only tend to increase the great loss which they had already sustained, he felt himself under the necessity of retreating to the boats; which operation was covered in a very handsome manner by Mr. Charles Napier, Master's Mate, and Mr. Francis Sewell, Admiralty Midshipman, in the barge and launch of the *Topaze*.

When I remark to you, that every Officer disembarked on this service from the *Topaze* were either killed or wounded, you will be able to appreciate the gallantry and devotion with which they led their men to the attack; and though it was not crowned with the success it merited, their conduct deserves the highest praise.

Amongst the killed I have to regret the loss of Lieutenant R. G. Atkinson, of the royal marines, a most gallant and meritorious Officer; Mr. C. P. Gill, who had conspicuously distinguished himself; and Mr. F. S. Burnett, a young Officer of the highest promise.

In the number wounded are Lieutenants Wright and Moriarty; Mr. Alexander Morton, Boatswain, a most zealous Officer; Mr. William Stephens, Admiralty Midshipman, and who has served long and with credit, and whom I beg leave to recommend to your protection; and Mr. Robert Ward, Admiralty Midshipman, mortally, since dead, a deserv-