



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

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India Board, July 28, 1836.

A DISPATCH has been received at this Office from Colonel Chesney, R. A. in command of the Euphrates expedition, dated Euphrates steamer, Anna, 28th May 1836; of which the following, with its enclosure, are copies:

*Euphrates Steamer, Anna,
May 28, 1836.*

SIR,

IT is with feelings of the deepest regret, that I do myself the honour of informing you that the Tigris steamer was totally lost during a hurricane of indescribable violence, which, after the short struggle of about eight minutes, sent a fine vessel to the bottom in five* fathoms water, and deprived His Majesty of fifteen valuable men, with five natives in addition.

My reports up to the 17th instant, at Deir, will have informed you that all was going on as successfully as the most sanguine could possibly desire. We found the Arabs well disposed, and quite ready to form depôts for us of wood, charcoal, bitumen, and lignite coal, all met in abundance, and tried with complete success. In addition to these marked advantages, the survey has been carried five hundred and nine miles down the Great River, which seemed in all respects favourable; in short all was continued prosperity up to the afternoon of the 21st instant, when it pleased God to send the calamitous event of which it is now my duty to give a feeble sketch.

* The last depth sounded; and we have since found three and an half fathoms on one side of the spot, and five on the other.

A little after one P. M. on that melancholy day, the flat boats being a little ahead, and the Tigris leading the Euphrates, a storm appeared, bringing with it, high in the air, clouds of sand from the west north west quarter. At this moment we were passing over the rocks of Is Geria (deeply covered), and immediately after we made a signal for the Euphrates to choose a berth, and make fast; which was done more as a matter of precaution, on account of the difficulty of seeing our way through the sand than from apprehension that the squall would be so terrific. The Tigris was immediately directed towards the bank, against which she struck without injury, but with so much violence as to recoil a distance of about eight yards, leaving two men on the bank, who had jumped out to make fast. The wind then suddenly veered round, drove her bow off, and thus rendered it quite impossible to secure the vessel to the bank, along which she was blown rapidly by the heavy gusts, her head falling off into the stream as she passed close by the Euphrates, which vessel had been backed opportunely to avoid the concussion. The engines were working at full power, and every endeavour made to turn the vessel's bow to the bank. One anchor was let go, but the heel of the vessel made it impossible to get the other out, and she was then nearly broad side to the wind, with the engines almost powerless, and the waves, rising to four or five feet, forcing their way in at the windows. Lieutenant Cockburn, the Messrs. Staunton, and some of the men made ineffectual attempts to keep out the water, for the fate of the vessel was already decided; and the fore part of the deck being under water, Lieutenant Lynch came to report that the Tigris was sinking, and the