

transmitting a note from Rechid Pacha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte, of the 16th of the same month, announcing that Mehemet Ali Pacha having rejected the conditions of arrangement offered to him, according to the Treaty of Alliance concluded in London on the 15th of July 1840, and the Separate Act annexed thereto, it had been decided by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, that all the sea ports and harbours of Egypt and Syria should be closely blockaded.

Admiralty, October 10, 1840.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been this day received at this Office, addressed to Richard More O'Ferrall, Esq. by Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, Commander in Chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean:

*Princess Charlotte, Bay of Antoura,
September 15, 1840.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for their Lordships' information, copies of a letter from Captain Martin, of the Carysfort, with its enclosures, detailing an attack made upon the Castle of Gebail, by a party of marines, under Captain Robinson, R. M. of the Hastings, which, though repulsed at the time, with a loss which I deeply regret, was yet successful in its results, the castle having been evacuated next morning. The possession of that strong hold is of the most material importance, as it commands the main road, by which the enemy might advance upon our position, from the northward, and secures a safe point for the mountaineers concentrating and receiving arms, which they have already done in great numbers, and press forward for more, with every disposition, apparently, to make a good use of them.

Fully coinciding in the encomiums bestowed by Captain Martin and Captain Austin on the merits of the officers and men employed on this service, such as must always be conspicuous where danger calls them forth, I beg to recommend them to their Lordships' favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD, Admiral.

*Her Majesty's Ship Carysfort, Gebail,
September 13, 1840.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, pursuant to your directions, I anchored yesterday off Gebail.

The enemy have evacuated the town; the mountaineers are coming in fast for arms; and, as far as I can judge, from their words and professions, the most enthusiastic feeling prevails among them.

I trust that these results will, in some degree, excuse the loss we have sustained.

I shall now proceed to detail the circumstances of the attack.

At noon I anchored, with springs, within musket shot of Gebail. The Dido took a good position a-head of the Carysfort, and the Cyclops a-stern; groups of mountaineers immediately came down to the beach, and many were brought off by the boats.

Having given a sufficient time for the marines to prepare for landing, and for their Commanding Officer to reconnoitre the place of disembarkation, at one P. M. the ships opened their fire upon the castle, and upon the points which the mountaineers designated to us as those occupied by the Albanians. This was returned by occasional musket shots. When the fire had been continued with great precision, and apparently with some effect, for about an hour, the marines, accompanied by a large party of armed mountaineers, pushed off from the Cyclops; and to cover their landing the ships reopened upon the castle.

About half past three P. M. observing the detachment formed upon the beach, to the south of the town, and believing all the effect likely to be produced by our shot was already done, and that the gardens had been swept by the launches' carronades, I made the signal to push on.

The marines advanced briskly to the assault, but the cliff soon obstructed my view of their progress through the gardens in front of the castle. They reached within thirty yards of the tower, when a destructive fire was opened upon them from a crenelled outwork, having a deep ditch in front, which was completely masked from the fire of the ships.

Finding his men were falling fast, that the wall of the castle was impracticable, that there was no gate accessible, and nothing but the muzzles of the enemies' muskets visible through the loopholes, Captain Robinson very judiciously drew his men off. The marines retired to the beach steadily and in good order.

Captain Austin, who superintended the landing and accompanied the marines, having sent to me to say that nothing could be done unless the tower was levelled, the ships again commenced firing upon it.

Finding, however, that the immense solidity of the building prevented our making a sufficient impression upon it, at half past five, I ordered the marines to be reembarked, and the firing to cease.

An English flag, which had been planted on the garden wall as a signal to the ships, was accidentally left there by the pilot of the Cyclops, after the marines had retired; Lieutenant Grenfell and Macdonald, a seaman of the Cyclops, volunteered to recover it, and brought it off most gallantly amidst the cheers of the ships.

At night a party of the mountaineers, whom we had armed, were established in the town; and, at daylight this morning, I found that the Albanians had evacuated the castle during the night, leaving three behind (one of them badly wounded, and since dead).

The conduct of a Turkish soldier, who was sent up in the Cyclops, has been admirable in organizing and keeping together parties of the mountaineers.

Having distributed all the arms, I now send the Cyclops for a fresh supply.

I think we may dispose of more, and I take the liberty of suggesting that they should be sent im-