

mediately, before the present enthusiasm has time to subside.

The painful part of my duty is to enclose the list of killed and wounded in the attack on Gebail; I deeply lament that it has been so severe.

I have the honour to transmit detailed reports of their proceedings from Captain H. Austin, of Her Majesty's steam ship *Cyclops*, and from Captain Robinson, commanding the detachment of royal marines; and I beg to add, that I most fully concur in the encomiums they pass upon the officers and men under their respective orders.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) H. B. MARTIN, Captain.

Commodore Charles Napier, C. B.
Her Majesty's ship Powerful.

Her Majesty's Steam Ship, Cyclops, off the
SIR, *Town of Gebail, September 12th, 1840.*

IN accordance with your directions I have the honour to report that, in conjunction with Captain Robinson, in command of the detachment of Royal Marines, (specially embarked on board her Majesty's ship under my command,) I first reconnoitred a position for disembarkation; after which, the detachment, consisting of 200 rank and file, and 200 armed Syrians, were put into the boats of Her Majesty's ships, "*Princess Charlotte*," "*Bellerophon*," and "*Hastings*," under the command of Lieutenants Johnson, Hallett, and Thompson, of those ships, and then landed under the cover of the fire of Her Majesty's ships "*Carysfort*," "*Dido*," and "*Cyclops*," about a quarter of a mile to the southward of the town of Gebail. The troops being formed, the gardens in front were scoured by the launch's guns: the boats at this moment remaining fully armed and afloat, in perfect readiness for the re-embarkation of the force, should it prove necessary.

Taking to my assistance the second lieutenant, (George Giffard) Mr. Butler, (mate,) and Mr. J. B. Caffari, (Maltese pilot) as an interpreter; with two gigs' crews; we advanced most cautiously; and so soon as we were within musket shot, a party was detached to wave our ensign, for the purpose of showing our position, in order that the cannonading might cease.

This having been accomplished, and while moving steadily forward, a most sharp and destructive fire was opened from the castle, and at this moment only was the cap of one man seen.

The firing appearing to proceed principally from a line below the ground upon which we were; from this effective resistance, I immediately saw the doubt that existed as to our success, but having advanced thus far, a volunteer party immediately proceeded to advance to the right, for the purpose of determining if there was a chance of forcing an entrance. However, the fire increasing, in conjunction with Captain Robinson, the whole force was drawn off by retiring steadily, under cover of the walls, conveying all the wounded that could be removed. At this moment a small boat was dispatched to you, that we were out of the line of the ships' fire, for the purpose of awaiting the result of a further cannonade; having waited for which, on the beach, during a period of

two hours and a half, and seeing the little effect that was produced upon the base of the castle, and numerous persons, some of whom were armed, coming in from all directions, I considered it my duty to re-embark the marine forces, first offering to the natives whom I had landed, either to remove them or wait afloat for their protection, while they took up an elevated position of safety: and by a little persuasion they chose the latter. I then embarked in the spare boats all the unarmed persons who ran to this boat, and in the act of returning I had the satisfaction of meeting you. For the detail of the operations, in a military point, I beg to refer you to the enclosed report of Captain Robinson, in command of the detachment of Royal Marines, whom it is my duty specially to notice; and who commanded and directed the operations of his men in a most able, courageous, and praiseworthy manner; and I beg to observe, that the conduct of the officers and men under his command, was in accordance with that ever displayed by the Royal Marines when under fire. It is with much pain and regret that I have to lament so severe a loss, without at this moment having succeeded in gaining possession of the castle.

I have to notice the able assistance rendered by Lieutenant Giffard and Mr. Butler, (mate), both of this ship, who accompanied me in the attack: the former with my coxswain, (George Martin), I regret to say were severely wounded.

I should not be doing justice to the division of boats before mentioned, if I did not express my satisfaction and full approbation of the ready co-operation afforded by them in the landing and re-embarkation of the troops, and their state of readiness to receive and cover them if necessary—Lieutenant Thompson, the Senior Lieutenant of the "*Hastings*," being in command.

A Turkish soldier sent on board to superintend the distribution of arms, behaved exceedingly well, first in organizing the Syrians when on board, and afterwards in keeping them together on shore, and leading them on to the attack; and again in posting them so advantageously as would have enabled them to be of considerable use, had the force within advanced.

I beg leave to inclose a return of the killed and wounded on board Her Majesty's Steam Ship under my command.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) HORATIO T. AUSTIN, Capt.

Captain, H. B. Martin, Senior Officer
off Gibella, H.M. ship, Carysfort.

Her Majesty's Ship Cyclops, Sept. 12, 1840.

SIR,

I BEG to acquaint you, for the information of Captain Martin, Senior Officer, with the proceedings of the detachment under my command, consisting of about two hundred rank and file of the royal marines, divided into four companies, under the command of Captain Searle and of Lieutenants Searle, Harrison, and Adair. Having had the pleasure to agree with you so perfectly as to the selection of the place for landing, it is only necessary for me to say, that the