

principal street near to the beach. Two shots served to put an end to these operations and the soldiers to flight. The French boat returning, a short cannonade was opened upon the barracks and fort which had the immediate effect of dislodging the troops and drawing them into the centre of the town. This being effected the firing was discontinued, the people of the town shortly after proceeding with their occupations, but not a soldier attempting to show himself. During the afternoon three gay horsemen* left the town, but one shot put them to such flight that no others attempted it again. We now communicated with one of the vessels of the port, the master of which took on shore some proclamations with an address to the troops, he returned at dark, stating that there were one thousand one hundred soldiers in garrison at Sidon, five hundred of whom were sick in the hospital, and unable to take arms, that they were ill provided with provisions, but were much discontented with their service, that the people of the town were praying for the termination of Mehemet Ali's oppression, and were resolved to exert themselves in bringing over the Egyptian troops. He also stated that the effects of our shot had been the loss of two killed and five severely wounded, and that camels laden with provisions for the troops would leave during the night for Beyrout. It being dark the Cyclops proceeded to her former anchorage to await the arrival of the despatched messenger. At daylight a number of camels were discovered to have passed the ship, and knowing that there was an outpost with an armed guard near them, I considered there was a great risk of the whole going into the interior, if I proceeded after the first division, but I allowed the guards to cross a hill, and the last division of camels (fourteen in number) to pass beyond the outposts before closing with them, when a few shell arrested their progress and put their guards to flight. The boats under the direction of Lieutenant Grenfell, assisted by Messrs. Cumming, Butler, and Glinn, mates, landed and succeeded in bringing off, in a most expeditious and satisfactory manner, thirty-six bags of barley, with four of the camels, thinking they would be most useful in easing the labour of the troops encamped at D'journie. A letter was left with the remaining camels, to the effect that if the proprietor would drive them into the mountains, and send or repair to D'journie, he would be paid the amount of the four taken on board. On our return several mountaineers were received, two of them men of some importance, from the village of Idjee near the anchorage of Nabouis, and another being the bearer of a letter.

The result of this little effort induces me to state that two steamers, having not less than eight hundred soldiers on board, the most, if not all of them, Turks, with about four thousand stand of arms, and each steamer being accompanied by two ship's boats for the purpose of disembarking the troops, would, by taking up a position about a mile to the southward of the River Damar, be the means of safely distributing the above-mentioned quantity of arms in the course of about two days.

You will perceive that I am borne out in this belief by the statement and observations of the two or

* These three horsemen, I was creditably informed were part of Emir Bechir's Staff.

three intelligent people I have brought with me. This service having been accomplished, and a ship of the line appearing before Sidon, this force could be made available for summoning it to surrender, I am induced to touch upon Sidon as I have every reason to believe that town to be the great receptacle and outlet for all the supplies for the enemy's forces. I should also state, that we were severally informed that the towns of Jaffa and Caiffa had surrendered to a force composed of three ships. I beg leave to crave your indulgence for the hasty manner in which this report of proceedings has been drawn up.

I have, &c.

HORATIO T. AUSTEN,
Captain.

R. M. O'Ferrall, Esq.

SIR, *Tsour, October 7th, 1840.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief, that our guard boats under the command of Lieutenant Wellesley, stationed at the pass of Narccourra, half way to Acre, to distribute arms to the mountaineers, have captured and sent in two officers and forty-three prisoners, whom I shall forward in the Turkish frigate Dewan, agreeable to orders from Sir Robert Stopford.

(Signed) EDWARD COLLIER, Captain.

Captain Honourable M. F. F. Berkeley,
H. M. ship *Thunderer, Sidon.*

Her Majesty's Ship Castor,
Tsour, October 3, 1840.

SIR,

SINCE the date of my letter of the 27th September, I have the honour to acquaint you the Cyclops joined on the morning of the 30th ultimo. The enemy, then about eight hundred infantry and sixty cavalry, occupying a hill in front of this town, about three miles distant, and throwing out their outposts so as to cut off all communication between the town and country. I ordered the Cyclops to take a position in the south bay, and, under her protecting fire, sent out a few countrymen who had taken up arms for the Sultan, with such a disposable force as the service would admit of from this ship and the Ottoman frigate under the command of Lieutenant Patey of this ship, and I soon had the pleasure of seeing their pickets move in, and the main body retreat behind the hill. The mountaineers behaved with great spirit, and our little force succeeded in bringing in forty prisoners and deserters of the Egyptian army. I cannot speak too highly of the officers and men employed on this service, for their steady conduct in the face of so superior a force. The roads are now open, and there is free communication between the town and country. The inhabitants are returning with confidence to their houses.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

(Signed) EDWD. COLLIER, Captain.

Admiral the Honourable
Sir Robert Stopford, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. &c. &c.
Commander-in-Chief.