

A similar paper was written and addressed to the chief magistrate of Chusan District and the Commandant of Tinghae City, signed and sealed as above.

Melville, Chusan Harbour,
17 July, 1840.

SIR,

In continuation of my proceedings, as detailed in my letter of the 30th ultimo, (No. 9), I beg to acquaint you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in passing Amoy, on the 2nd instant, I stood into the mouth of that port, and sent Captain Bouchier, in Her Majesty's ship *Blonde* in, with a letter from Lord Viscount Palmerston, for the Chinese Minister of Peking, to be delivered to the Chinese authorities of the place. For a detail of Captain Bouchier's proceeding, I would refer you to the accompanying copy of his letter, under date the 4th instant, by which it appears, that Officer had no chance left but that of returning the wanton attack on an unarmed boat, with only four boys, and Mr. Thorn, the interpreter (who had a very narrow escape,) in her, and on his ship; and I am happy to add that the situation permitted him utterly to destroy every gun and fortification without injury to the city or its inhabitants. From off Amoy, I proceeded to join the squadron at Chusan without loss of time, and arrived off Deer Island, a little below Chusan, and within sight of the shipping, late on the evening of the 5th, and on the following morning, a steamer having been sent down during the night to tow the *Melville* past the narrows, I learnt that the expedition had landed the day before, and were in quiet possession of the place. I proceeded immediately to Chusan, in the steamer, where I have since been chiefly employed in the various duties devolving on me. After the experience of a few days, it became evident that the civil administration of these populous islands, must be executed on shore, and I therefore requested Brigadier General Burrell to undertake it, and have given him the appointment of Civil Governor.

On the 10th instant, I despatched the *Blonde*, Conway, Cruiser, Algerine, and Queen Steamer, with Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, Captain Elliot, to Ning-po, for the purpose of landing one of Lord Palmerston's letters for the Chinese Minister, and on the 13th instant, I proceeded there in the *Atlanta* steamer. The authorities were found to be extremely civil, and, although they declined forwarding the letter, as contrary to their customs, as they had an open Chinese copy of it in their hands, for twenty four hours, there can be little doubt of the Court of Peking having been made fully acquainted with it. In the correspondence which took place, the style is totally different from what was ever known before, claiming no mark of superiority whatever, but treating us perfectly as equals, no longer calling us barbarians, but honourable Officers of the English nation. I cannot doubt but that the wholesome lesson they received at Amoy from the *Blonde*, and the effects of their foolish show of resistance at this place, have mainly contributed to this change. Their alarm was evidently great, they were sinking junks at the mouth of the river, and adding to their batte-

ries; and a small encampment was placed on the opposite hill, with numerous banners, more apparently for display than utility. Having given notice that the ports would be closed, I returned on the 15th instant, and the blockade was commenced.

The stoppage of the enormous trade which is usually passing on this coast cannot but create difficulties of a serious nature; and from a few expressions relative to Lin having been the cause of all their present distresses, I trust a strong feeling may spring up against the policy pursued at Canton by that high officer.

On the capture of the City and suburb of Chusan, they were entirely deserted, and the return of the inhabitants is slow; but everything will continue to be done to produce confidence and to protect them in their peaceful occupations. The people in the country seem to have got over much of their alarm; and considerable supplies are now brought to market of vegetables, poultry, pigs, and some cattle, so that in these respects our prospects have gradually improved, and the love of money, will, it is to be expected, soon bring in any other supplies that may be required.

Not having been able to hire any of the opium, or other of the fast sailing vessels into Her Majesty's service, I have selected the *Kite* brig and *Kroenar* ship from among the transports; and these vessels are now preparing to receive their guns, being already in Government hire.

I beg to inclose, for their Lordships' information, the public declaration which I have made.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE ELLIOT,
Rear Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

SIR,

Her Majesty's Ship Blonde,
at Sea, July 4th, 1840.

I have the honour to report to you, that, in obedience to your orders, I anchored in Her Majesty's ship under my command off the town of Amoy on the 2nd instant; and hoisting a flag of truce, endeavoured to open a communication with the authorities, but the only persons who visited the ship were servants of the Mandarin's, and of such inferior note as not to admit of my entrusting them with your communication for the Admiral, who was not himself in the port; I however sent on shore to say to the Mandarin, that I should send an Officer to wait on him with your communication, at the same time explaining the nature of a flag of truce, to which they replied very well, and begged that he might land at the fort.

I then sent an Officer, accompanied by a gentleman speaking Chinese, in a boat bearing a flag of truce, directing him to land at the fort; but on his reaching it, he found a body of two or three hundred soldiers drawn up to oppose his landing, and they were directed to return on board with abusive and opprobrious language. I now adopted other measures to communicate, which proved equally ineffectual.

During this time the military and people were