

the detachment of Royal Artillery, with one twenty-four pound howitzer, and two six pounder field guns, together with a division of Seamen belonging to the Wellesley, Blenheim, and Melville, in all about fourteen hundred men; the land forces under the command of Major Pratt, of the 26th Camerorians, copy of whose report (which I inclose) will explain the detail of military operations which were admirably executed.

The Queen and Nemesis steamers were placed in position for throwing shells into the upper fort by Commander Belcher, of the Sulphur, and soon made an impression; a division of ships, consisting of Calliope, Hyacinth, and Larne, under Captain Herbert, attacked the lower fort on the sea face, and in less than an hour, silenced the guns, although a number of troops remained within the walls; by tea o'clock the troops had advanced, and carried the entrenchments with their field batteries; Major Pratt himself, and two or three marines, were in possession of the upper fort, and the British colours hoisted; the lower fort was speedily surrounded and stormed, by the entrance as well as the wall, by a party of Royal Marines, and the Union Jack displayed on the ramparts. The management of Tycock-tow I entrusted to Captain Scott, of Her Majesty's ship Samarang, accompanied by the Druid, Modeste, and Columbine, and in one hour it was silenced; but the Chinese remained in it until it was stormed by the boats, in which operation Lieutenant Bower, senior, of Samarang, was severely wounded; the guns in all the forts have been destroyed, the magazines blown up, and the barracks and houses burnt; eleven large war junks were anchored in the shoal water to the eastward of the position; the Nemesis, under Commander Belcher, accompanied by Lieutenant Kellett, of the Starling, attacked them in admirable style, assisted by the boats of the Calliope, under Lieutenant Watson, senior, of that ship; they were all set on fire and blown up, one with all her crew on board, a rocket having gone into her magazine, this ended the operations of the day.

It is now my pleasing duty to express my high admiration of the gallantry and zeal which animated every officer and man in the force; my best thanks are due to Captains Sir Fleming Senhouse, and the Honourable R. S. Dundas, of the Blenheim and Melville; and from Captain Maitland I received his usual valuable assistance; Captains Herbert and Scott carried their divisions into action with their accustomed gallantry, and they were ably seconded by Captains Smith and Blake, and Commanders Warren, Eyres, and Clarke, under their immediate orders.

The Commanders Pritchard, Puget, and Fletcher, of the Blenheim, Melville, and Wellesley, the Commanders of the steam vessels, and every officer and man employed, deserve the highest praise for their zealous exertions on every point.

Major Pratt, of the 26th, conducted the operations on shore in the most able and gallant manner, he speaks in the highest terms of the conduct of every officer and man employed.

I am most happy in being enabled to inform their Lordships, that this service has been performed with trifling loss on the part of Her Majesty's forces,

although it is but justice to the Chinese to say, that they defended themselves, especially in the batteries, with the greatest credit and devotion; they have suffered severely, their loss, including that on board the war junks, cannot be estimated at less than from five to six hundred, out of a force calculated at two thousand men; the slaughter in the lower fort, when carried by storm, was considerable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. J. GORDON BREMER,
Commodore of the First Class,
Commander-in-Chief.

R. More O'Ferrall, Esq. M. P.
Admiralty.

Wellesley, off Anunghoy,
January 9, 1841.

SIR,

IN continuation of the detail of operations, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that yesterday morning I moved forward towards the forts of Wangtong and Anunghoy. A Chinese, a civilian, had been saved from drowning by the Louisa cutter, and I liberated him, sending by his hands a letter to the Admiral, in which I explained the usages of war amongst European nations with regard to flags of truce, sparing the lives of prisoners, and of an enemy yielding, and that the striking of flags signified submission, and always led to a cessation of hostility by surrender; and also that I had yesterday liberated upwards of one hundred prisoners who had laid down their arms.

The plan of attack was laid, and would have commenced seriously in a few moments, when I was surprised to see the flags and banners of the forts hauled down, and a boat with a flag of truce coming out; it contained a letter from the Admiral, requesting a suspension of hostilities until a communication could be made to the Imperial Commissioner at Canton. On consulting with Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, we were of opinion that it would be advisable to comply with this request, in the sincere hope, that negotiations would prevent a further conflict. Three days have, therefore, been given for this purpose.

The Plenipotentiary renewed the offer of terms which he has forwarded to Her Majesty's Government, and it will be a source of infinite gratification to me, to find that they are accepted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. J. GORDON BREMER,
Commodore of the First Class,
Commander-in-Chief.

R. More O'Ferrall, Esq. M. P.
&c. &c. &c.
Admiralty.

Her Majesty's ship Wellesley, Chuenpee,
January 8, 1841.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to you, that the troops under my command, consisting of a detachment of royal artillery, having one twenty-four pounder howitzer and two six-pounder field guns, aided by a