

troops were drawn up on the ramparts of the forts, and salutes fired from all; a sumptuous entertainment had been prepared; to which the officers were invited, after having been presented to the High Commissioner, and the negotiations proceeded in a satisfactory manner, the particulars of which have been stated by the Plenipotentiary to Her Majesty's Government.

On the same day I proceeded to Hong Kong, and took formal possession of the island in Her Majesty's name, and hoisted the colours on it, with the usual salutes and ceremonies. By the terms of the treaty, the port of Canton was to be opened to the trade of all nations, on the 2d February, and as a proof of the sincere desire on the part of the British functionary, to evince good faith, I had, at his request, sent the Columbine to Chusan, and an overland dispatch, by the hands of a Chinese special messenger, directing Brigadier Burrell and Captain Bouchier, of Her Majesty's ship *Blonde*, to use every effort to embark the stores and troops, and to restore the island to the Chinese authorities.

The proclamation for opening the port on the 2d did not appear, and on the 11th the two Ministers again met at the Bocca Tigris, and after a discussion of several hours, on this day and on the next, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary acceded to a further delay, (not to exceed ten days), in order that the definitive treaty might be fairly prepared. I must confess that from this moment my faith in the sincerity of the Chinese Commissioner was completely destroyed, my doubts were also strengthened by the reports of the Officers I sent up to the place of meeting, who stated that military works on a great scale were in progress, troops collected on the heights, and camps, protected by entrenchments, arising on both sides of the river, and that the island of North Wangtung had become a mass of canon. These indications being decidedly warlike, I determined to move the light division of Her Majesty's ships at once to Macao roads, and proceeded thither myself on the 13th, to confer with his Excellency the Plenipotentiary, and await events. I found that the treaty, as agreed upon by the Commissioner and Her Majesty's Minister had been sent up to the Bocca Tigris, for transmission to Canton, by the *Nemesis*, with orders to await an answer until the night of the 18th, the period the confidential person employed by the Chinese commissioner had named for the purpose. The accounts daily received by merchants and others at Macao from Canton were of the most hostile character, and an edict purporting to be from the Emperor, calling on all his officers to exterminate us was published, together with a proclamation, the authenticity of which I have however been unable to establish, offering fifty thousand dollars for my head, and a like sum for that of the Plenipotentiary. On the morning of the 19th, the *Nemesis* arrived from the Bocca Tigris without any reply, and all doubt was at an end; a shot having been fired at her boat from North Wangtung. I instantly detached the light division, under Captain Herbert, of Her Majesty's ship *Calliope*, (who was accompanied by Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary,) with directions not to run any unnecessary hazard until the body of the force came up, but to prevent, as much as possible, any further defensive preparations on the part of the

enemy. I proceeded at the same time to Hong Kong, and weighed with the ships of the line, the *Queen* and *Madagascar* steamers, leaving the *Druid*, *Jupiter*, and transports to follow.

Captain Herbert, with the ships under his orders, took up a position on the Western Channel off South Wangtung on the 20th, and on the 22nd he proceeded in the *Nemesis*, with some boats of the squadron, to the channel at the back of Anungboy, and destroyed a masked battery of twenty guns, which opened on them whilst employed clearing the passage, which the Chinese had been endeavouring to obstruct by driving down poles and mooring rafts across; this service was performed without any loss on our side; the guns in the battery were disabled by knocking off the trunnions, together with sixty found dismounted; the magazines, &c. were burnt, the enemy left about thirty of the number dead, and their colours were taken by Lieutenant Bowers, senior of Her Majesty's ship *Samarang*.

From the prevalence of light winds, the line of battle ships and *Druid* were not collected until the 24th. On the 25th I arranged a plan of attack on the formidable batteries in our front, and of which it may be necessary for me to give some description. Partly surrounding the old fort of Anungboy, and in advance of it to high water mark, was a new and well-built battery of granite, forming a segment of about two thirds of a circle; on it were mounted forty-two guns, some of them of immense weight and large calibre; several strong entrenchments extended to the southward of this battery, and the ridges of the hill were crowned with guns, up to a camp calculated for about twelve hundred men; at the north side was a straight work of modern erection, mounting sixty heavy guns; about one hundred and fifty yards of rocky beach intervenes between the end of this battery and the northern circular battery, on which forty guns were mounted; all the works were protected in rear by a high wall extending up the hill, on which were steps or platforms for firing musketry, and in the interior were the magazines, barracks, &c.

On the east end of the island of North Wangtung is a battery with a double tier of guns defending the passage on that side, and also partly flanking a number of rafts constructed of large masses of timber moored across the river (about twelve feet apart), with two anchors each, connected by and supporting four parts of a chain cable, the ends of which were secured under masonry works, one on the South Wangtung, the other on Anungboy; on the western end of North Wangtung is a strong battery of forty guns, flanked by a field work of seventeen; indeed, the whole island is one continued battery; on the extreme western side of the channel was a battery of twenty-two heavy guns, and a field work of seventeen, protecting an entrenched camp, containing one thousand five hundred or two thousand men. South Wangtung was not occupied by the enemy, it was an excellent position, and I therefore caused a work to be thrown upon it during the night of the 25th, and mounted two eight inch iron, and one twenty-four pounder brass howitzer; at daylight on the 26th, Captain Knowles of the Royal Artillery opened this battery with admirable effect, throwing shells and rockets into North Wangtung, and occa-