

wounded. (since dead) and the boats were repeatedly struck by grape shot.

As soon as a cursory survey of the river was made, the Herald, Alligator, Modeste, and Eagle and Sophia transports were pushed forward within gun shot of Howqua's Fort; and thus, for the first time, were ships seen from the walls of Canton—on the 2nd the Cruizer joined me, having on board Major General Sir Hugh Gough, who took command of the land forces. The Pylades and Conway also joined from Chusan, and the two first-named vessels were sent in advance—on the 4th, in concert with the Major General, an attack was planned for the next morning, but on approaching the fort was found to be abandoned, and the British colours were hoisted; a garrison of the 26th regiment was placed in it, and a company of Royal Marines, under the command of Captain Ellis, R.M., took possession of a large joss house on the left bank (which the enemy were beginning to fortify), and rendered himself secure, while the seamen soon removed some of the stakes and other impediments, and made a clear passage for ships. I may here describe the position.

On the right bank of the river, on the point formed by the mouth of a creek (which is a boat-passage to Whampoa), was Howqua's Fort. A square building mounting thirty guns, from the northern angle, the stakes mentioned extended to the opposite bank, the ground on each side being low paddy fields, cut and intersected by canals in all directions. The joss-house rather projected into the stream, and consequently was a good position. The river here is about five hundred yards wide; two thousand yards in front is a long low island, which divides the river into two branches, and on the extreme eastern point of which stood a fort, mounting thirty-five guns, built to commemorate the discomfiture and death of the late Lord Napier; from this fort, a line of well-constructed and secured rafts (forming a bridge), extended to both sides of the river; on its right bank, flanking Napier's Fort and the raft, was a mud battery intended for thirty-five guns, on the left was a battery, also flanking Napier's Fort, on which the enemy had forty-four guns, most of which they withdrew on the night of the 4th. In addition to these defences, stone junks were sunk in all parts of the river, between the stakes and the left of Napier's Fort, which raft also rested upon sunken junks, secured on either side within piles.

The position seemed formidable, and on the 5th the Major-General and myself prepared to attack it. He landed at the Joss-house, having with him the Royal Marines and detachment of the 26th, for the purpose of taking the battery on the left bank; the ships weighed, and dropped up with the tide; on the approach of the first ship, the enemy fired all their guns, and fled across the rafts, and in boats. The British colours were then hoisted.

A paper was issued calling on the people to place confidence in us, and to avoid hostile movements, in which latter case protection was ensured to them. At noon the Kwang-Chow-Foo, or Prefect, accompanied by the Hong merchants, came down, and after a long discussion with the Plenipotentiary, admitted, that Keshen having been degraded, and the newly appointed commissioners not having arrived,

there was no government authorized to treat for peace, or make any arrangements; they confessed the truth of the reports we had heard, that the greatest consternation existed in the city, and that every person who could quit it had done so; in fact, that it was at our mercy, and it has so remained, a monument of British magnanimity and forbearance; I fear, however, that the forbearance is misunderstood, and that a further punishment must be resorted to before this arrogant and perfidious Government is brought to reason.

Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary being, however, desirous to try the effect of another Proclamation, and to show his desire for an equitable adjustment of affairs, addressed the Major General and myself, requesting that we would make no further movement towards the city, until the disposition of the provincial government officers was put to the test, as far as regards their non-interference; and we have consequently remained *statu quo*, but reports (on which we can rely) are daily reaching us, which state that fire vessels are fitting out about seven miles above Canton: forts, in the rear of the city, in course of erection, and the people are forbidden to bring us supplies, while the teas and silks, and every other valuable, are removing from it.

These proceedings, so directly contrary to the assurances of pacific intentions (which they are ever ready to deal forth in profusion) lead me to the conclusion, that we shall have to proceed even at the risk of the destruction of the second city of the empire, an event exceedingly likely to occur from its abandonment by the authorities, and the excesses of the lower classes of a community proverbially bad. The responsibility must, however, rest on the heads of those authorities.

I this day returned to Wangtong, accompanied by the Major General, in order that the arrangements in that garrison may be carried out, and plans devised for our further operations.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. G. GORDON BREMER,
Commodore and Commander-in-Chief.

To the Right Honourable George Earl of Auckland,
G. C. B. &c. &c. &c. Governor-General of India
in Council.

Wellesley, off Wangtong,
March 27, 1841.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my letter of the 10th instant, I have the satisfaction to inform your Lordship, that, on the 15th, I received a report from Captain Herbert, of Her Majesty's ship Callope, detailing a well executed attack on the only remaining fort protecting the approaches to the city of Canton. This fort is situate about ten miles from the anchorage at Whampoa, up a narrow and intricate channel which ends in the Broadway or Macao passage from Canton. The attack commenced about five P. M. from the Modeste, and Madagascar, steamer, with the boats of the squadron, and in half an hour the works were in our possession, the Chinese keeping up a well directed fire until the boats' crews were in the act of scaling the walls, when they gave way and fled in all directions.