

They were devoting the whole of their attention to the strengthening of the defences of this post, and had rendered it one of the most formidable which had been encountered; I am therefore happy that it is in our hands; the loss of the Chinese is not correctly known, many were found dead in the fort; our own casualties do not amount to more than three wounded.

The zealous desire of every Officer and man in the squadron to seek occasions in which to distinguish themselves has led to the performance of various well executed services; amongst them is the forcing the inner passage from Macao to Whampoa, which was deemed by the Chinese impenetrable to foreigners. Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary having represented to the Senior Officer in Macao Road the great advantages likely to accrue by this step, his views were at once acceded to by Captain Scott, and preparations made for carrying it into effect. At three A. M. on the 13th, the Nemesis, with the boats of the Samarang in tow, weighed from Macao Roads, and proceeded over the flats between Twee-lien-shaw, and Toi-koke-tow Islands to the Broadway river, at eight A. M. they came in sight of Motao Fort, and the steamer having taken up an enfilading position, where not a gun of the enemy could bear upon her, opened her fire, whilst the boats proceeded to the attack; on their approach the Chinese abandoned the place; thirteen guns were found mounted which were completely destroyed, the buildings set fire to, and a train laid to the magazine, which exploded before the boats returned to the Nemesis. On reaching Point How-Hoak-Tow the river is divided into two channels, that to the right takes a sudden sharp turn and becomes very contracted in its breadth, here they discovered Tai-yat-kok, a field battery (very recently constructed) of fourteen guns very strongly posted on a rising ground, situated on the left bank of the river, (surrounded by overflowed paddy fields) which enfiladed the whole line of the reach leading up to it; as the steamer appeared round the Point, the enemy opened an animated fire upon her, which was smartly kept up, it was most effectually returned by the two guns from the Nemesis, which vessel threw her shot, shells, and rockets admirably; the boats advanced under the slight cover of the bank, but before a landing could be effected on their flank, they abandoned the guns, when possession of the work was taken by a narrow pathway which could only be passed in single files; the guns were destroyed and the buildings and materiel consigned to the flames and blown up; meanwhile a detachment of the boats had gone over to the opposite side of the river, and destroyed a military station or depot. At noon nine war junks were seen over the land, and chase immediately given. On entering the reach in which they were, Captain Scott observed on the right bank of the river a new battery, scarcely finished, with ten embrasures, but without guns, and Hochang Fort close to it, well built of granite, surrounded by a wet ditch, and mounting fourteen guns and six ginjalls. Abreast of these (which they flanked) the river was strongly staked across, through the centre of which the last junk had passed, and the opening again secured. The enemy immediately commenced firing from the fort and junks, which was replied to by the Nemesis with good effect, while the boats opened a passage through

the stakes, and dashed on to the attack of Hochang, and the junks; the former was secured by wading the ditch and entering the embrasures, and the latter, seeing the fall of the fort, became so panic-stricken, that on the approach of the boats seven got on shore, their crews jumping overboard immediately they grounded, two junks alone escaping. Lieutenant Bower, in pushing to cut them off, discovered Fiesha-kok, on the left bank of the river, within one hundred yards of the advanced junk aground, which fort, mounting seven guns, opened a heavy fire of grape upon him; observing that the junks were abandoned by their crews, he turned all his attention to his new opponents, whom he drove out of their strong hold by passing through the adjoining town and taking them in reverse.

In the meantime Mr. Hall dexterously managed in getting his vessel through the centre passage of the stakes, which fortunately was just sufficiently wide to admit of her passing. At thirty minutes after two the boats returned to the steamer after having destroyed all the guns, and set fire to Fiesha-kok fort, and the seven war junks, which all blew up within a quarter of an hour; chase to the two escaped junks recommenced, during which they passed two dismantled forts; at four P. M. they arrived off the large provincial town of Hiangshan, one of the large war junks preceding them about a mile, the dense population thickly crowded the banks, boats, junks, house-tops, the large pagoda, and surrounding hills; both sides of the river were packed by the trading-craft of the country in the closest possible order, the centre of the river, which is very narrow here, having merely sufficient space to allow the steamer's paddle-boxes to pass clear of the junks moored to its banks; not the slightest fear was manifested by the people, but several Mandarins took to their boats and followed the war junks, which were closed so rapidly that one of them ran on shore, the crew jumping overboard; the steamer brought up abreast of her and destroyed her; while thus employed, the fort of Sheang-chap, within two hundred yards (but hidden by some intervening trees), opened its fire, which was instantly returned, and the boats, with the marines of the Samarang, stormed it; its eight guns were destroyed; a number of Chinese troops coming down towards the fort made it necessary to fire two or three shot, which, going directly in the midst of the body, scattered and dispersed them in an instant. At six P. M. the junk and fort were fired, and the steamer passed on into a narrow shallow channel, scarcely more than the breadth of a canal, when she anchored head and stern for the night.

At daylight, on the morning of the 14th, they weighed and proceeded up the river in the steamer's draught of water, and not broader than her own length, grounding occasionally on both sides, at 7-50 arrived at the large village of Hong-how, with a fort of the same name at the upper part, which flanked a strong and broad line of stakes twenty feet wide, completely across the river, filled up in the centre by large sunken junks laden with stones; on discovering the fort the Nemesis opened fire, which was instantly returned by the enemy; as in all the preceding actions they fled the moment the boats landed to attack them; they had evidently expected to be assailed on