

description—seventeen hundred yards further up, the river divides itself into two branches, forming a low narrow island, which extends to within about a mile of Canton; at the lower point of this is Napier's Fort, a regular half moon enclosed work of stone masonry, mounting thirty-six guns; at this point the river was again strongly barricaded, connecting Napier's Fort, with two strong newly constructed field works thrown up on either bank of the river, by a planked platform placed over the barricade; these latter works showed embrasures of from forty to fifty guns each.

5. On the morning of the 3d, having made my arrangements with the Commodore for a conjoint attack on the enemy's works, I proceeded with him up the river in the Nemesis steamer; but a communication having been made that Yu the Quang-chow-Foo was approaching bearing a flag of truce, the white flag was hoisted by Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary.— Captain Belcher of the Sulphur having reported that he could perceive no persons in Howqua Fort, (the before mentioned work flanking the nearest barricade) I proceeded in the Calliope's boat with the Commodore and Captain Herbert, when we found it had been abandoned. I had it immediately occupied by the detachments of Her Majesty's 26th and 49th regiments under Major Pratt: at the same time I took possession of a joss house at the opposite side of the river (here about eight hundred yards wide) where a five gun mud field work had been commenced, in which I placed Captain Ellis with his company of the Royal Marines.

6. An Armistice, until noon of the day but one following having been agreed upon, I had an opportunity of reconnoitring the Chinese defences accompanied by a party of the Royal Marines under Captain Ellis; in performing this duty, I had to pass through a very large and populous village, the inhabitants appeared to view our approach towards Canton without the remotest ill-feeling, and I have no doubt would have shewn me the road could I have made myself understood.

7. A further communication having been received from Canton, an extension of twenty-four hours was granted to the Armistice, and at noon on the 6th, the

time having expired, the troops were landed on the left bank of the river, consisting of the detachments of H. M. 26th and 49th regts. under Major Pratt and the Royal Marines of the fleet under Captain Ellis, the light squadron and the flotilla getting under weigh at the same time. On the first vessel passing the barrier the Chinese fired off the guns in the centre battery and retired, the guns in the two flank works it appears had been previously withdrawn, and these defences were instantly occupied by the seamen of the fleet. Thus the last defences of one of the richest towns in China, with a population of upwards of one million of inhabitants, were abandoned without a shot having been fired on our side, and Canton lay at British mercy, and remains a memento of British forbearance.

8. Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary having forwarded me the accompanying letter (No. 1), the troops were re-embarked. On the receipt of the letter (marked No. 2) arrangements were made for the transports to fall down the river and rendezvous here. All the forts have been destroyed by the indefatigable exertions of the seamen, the guns rendered unserviceable, and the barricades have been mostly removed, leaving open the free navigation of the river between Canton and Macoa.

9. Major General Burrell and the staff arrived three days back, and all the force from Chusan, with the exception of the Bengal Volunteers, has reached this river. I am using every exertion for the military occupation of North Wang-Tong, and when completed or in a forward state, the fleet will proceed to the island of Hong-kong, which it is the intention of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary to occupy.

10. I shall not fail, when the troops are assembled at Hong-Kong, to give my earnest attention to their location so as to re-establish, by every means within my power, their health, and fit them for their ulterior operations; no want of supplies need I conceive be apprehended, nor do I believe, from all I can learn, that any exertions on the part of the Chinese authorities can prevent their being procured.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

H. GOUGH, *Major-General,*  
*Commanding the Expy. Force.*

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