

Minister, and High Commissioner, had failed to conclude the Treaty of Peace agreed upon in the late Conferences, within the period formally allowed to him, that is, to say, within the current Chinese month, of which the 20th was the last day, that I was, therefore, to consider myself at liberty, and requested to prevent continued defensive preparations upon the part of the Chinese, and further to harass the enemy by all possible means.

Combining this representation with the knowledge elicited from a Linguist taken in a boat yesterday morning by Lieutenant Watson, and recognized as an active agent of the Chinese authorities, in the late affair at Chuenpee, that he was en route with orders from Kwang, Admiral and Governor of Anunghoy, to hasten the stopping of the back passage of that island, at a place called Sammonhow, by driving stakes and sinking stones; I deemed it highly essential to ascertain the true position and nature of the pass which they were so solicitous to protect, and proceeded in the steam vessel *Nemesis*, accompanied by his Excellency, with the boats of Her Majesty's ships named in the margin* under their respective officers and mates, as enumerated for this purpose. No obstruction was offered to our forward movement, until we came unexpectedly upon a masked battery, at the place they were staking across, which immediately opened a heavy fire upon the *Nemesis* and boats, their small junks and boats, to the number of thirty, making off in the greatest confusion; our return fire was rapid and so energetically followed up by landing and pushing on to the attack, that the fort (of twenty guns in battery) was immediately in our possession, the guns were disabled by breaking off the trunnions and throwing them aside as useless, completely destroying their preparations and also other guns, not mounted, to the number of sixty. The parties defending this post fled after a slight resistance, the magazines, a few junks, and some other boats of no note were burned; but a joss house, in which were two women and some children, was preserved. Lieutenant Bower† in following up his success came upon the rear guard of the Chinese and took their colours. What loss the enemy sustained it is impossible to say, from the short time the tide allowed for operations; but there were from twenty to thirty dead, left on the ground. The zeal and coolness of all employed gave complete success to this partial affair.

Lieutenant Watson, who I have mentioned on former occasions, Lieutenant Bower, and Acting Lieutenant G. B. Dewes, together with the mates under their orders, I beg leave to recommend to your particular notice. My attention was particularly attracted by the activity and steady conduct of Mr. Belfield Woolcombe, of the *Alligator*, and to Mr. Hall, Master in command of the *Nemesis*, his officers and crew; I am much indebted for the quick and

* Calliope, Lieutenant Watson, Mr. Le Vesconte, Mate; Mr. Egerton, Mate; Samarang, Lieutenant Bower; Herald, Acting Lieutenant G. B. Dewes; *Alligator*, Mr. B. Woolcombe, Mate.

† This officer was wounded at Tycocktow, and had been but a few days out of the sick list.

effectual manner in which they performed the duty of hauling up the stakes and partially clearing the passage.

I have the honour to be,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) T. HERBERT, Captain.

P.S. The boats of the *Wellesley*, with Captain Belcher, met us on returning from the attack.

(Signed) T. H.

(No. 15.)

Her Majesty's ship Wellesley, off Wangtong,
SIR,
27th February, 1841.

IN continuation of my detail, I beg you will inform their Lordships, that 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 perhaps be necessary to give some description. Partly surrounding the old fort of Anunghoy 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 intrenchments extended to the southward of this battery, and the ridges of the hills were crowned with guns, up to a camp calculated for about twelve hundred men.

On 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 these works were protected in rear by a high wall extending up the hill, on which were steps or platforms for firing musquetry, and in the interior were the magazines, barracks, &c.

On the east end of the north island of Wangtong, 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 work, one on South Wangtong, the other on Anunghoy. On the western end of Wangtong 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 about fifteen hundred or two thousand men. South Wangtong was not occupied by the enemy, it was an excellent position, and I therefore caused a work to be thrown up on it during the night of the 25th, and mounted two eight inch iron, and one twenty-four pounder brass howitzer. At day light on the 26th Captain Knowles, of the Royal Artillery, opened this battery with admirable effect, throwing shells and rockets into North Wangtong, and occasionally into Anunghoy.