

Starling.—Lieutenant Kellett:

Madagascar, S. V.—Mr. Oliver, 1st Officer.

Blonde.—Lieutenants Colson and Ingram; Messrs. Christopher, Walker, and Anderson, Mates; the Honourable H. Coke and Mr. Purvis, Volunteers.

(Copy.)

Modeste, off the British Factory, Canton,
SIR, March 19, 1841.

IT is with feelings of peculiar satisfaction that I enclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of letters from Captain Herbert of Her Majesty's ship Calliopé, commanding the advanced squadron of the fleet, detailing the various operations of the force, the result of which has been the capture and destruction of the remaining forts and floating defences of the city of Canton, the hoisting Her Majesty's colours on the walls of the British Factory, an agreement to a suspension of hostilities, and, lastly, the publication of an Edict, under seal of the Imperial Commissioner, and the Governor of the Province, declaring the trade to be opened, and that all British and other merchants proceeding to the provincial city shall receive due and perfect protection.

I earnestly and confidently hope that this will lead to a satisfactory and honourable peace; but on this point Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary will of course communicate with Her Majesty's Government. It remains for me to solicit their Lordships' attention to the admirable arrangements made for this combined attack, and the gallantry which ensured their complete success; indeed, it was not possible they could fail in such hands as those of the excellent officers, Captains Herbert, Bouchier, and Bethune, supported by the commanders, lieutenants, mates, and midshipmen mentioned by the senior officer; and I would beg leave most earnestly to recommend them to the notice of their Lordships. To Captain Kuper, of the Alligator, commanding the investing force on the east side of the city, assisted by Commanders Giffard and Anson of the Cruiser and Pylades, my best thanks are also due; their unremitting attention effectually guarded the approaches in that quarter.

I endeavoured to push forward to the scene of action in the Hyacinth's gig, but only arrived towards its close, in sufficient time however to be gratified by the hoisting of the British colours. Thus, for the first time in the history of China, have ships been brought under the very walls of Canton, and by channels and branches on which a foreign ship never before floated. I believe the Chinese were not acquainted with the capabilities of their splendid river; assuredly they had no idea that the second city in the empire could be assailed by ships of war on its waters. I trust that the fact will have its due influence on the authorities, and I have no doubt, that the forbearance displayed towards a city so completely at our mercy as this is, will be appreciated by the better part of the community, who have everything to lose, and the benevolence of the British character more fully understood than it has ever yet been in this country.

The gratifying spectacle of our ships in this position, is to be ascribed to the unwearied zeal of the captains, officers, and men belonging to them. Commander Belcher and Lieutenant Kellett, of the Sulphur and Starling, Mr. Brown, master of the Calliopé, and Mr. Bean, master of the Herald, have been indefatigable in their laborious duties of sounding the various inlets through which the ships were carried.

I am sure these officers will receive every mark of their Lordships' approbation.

I have the honour to be, &c.,
(Signed) J. J. GORDON BREMER,

Commander of the First Class,
Commander-in-Chief.

To R. Moore O'Ferrall, Esq.
&c. &c. M. P.

(Copy.)

British Factory, Canton, March 18, 1841.

SIR,

THIS day the force enumerated below* under my orders, carried and destroyed in succession all the forts in the advance and before Canton, taking, sinking, burning, or dispersing the enemy's flotilla, and hoisting the Union on the walls of the British factory, the guns of the squadron commanding all the approaches to the city from the western and southern branches of the river, thus placing in our power the great provincial capital, containing upwards of one million of inhabitants.

I found myself forced to make this attack without your instructions for the reasons so strongly expressed in Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary's note, herein enclosed (17th March 1841), considering it my duty to resent, with all the promptitude in my power, the insult offered the day before to the flag of truce sent with a chop to the Imperial Commissioner, at the desire of His Excellency.

I forward the accompanying sketch, placing you in more immediate possession of the line of concentration which led to such an immediate result. In detailing the operations of the day, I feel myself inadequate to do justice to the gallant Officers and men employed on this occasion.

The flotilla of boats, formed into four divisions, was under the command of Captain Bouchier of the Blonde, Captain Bethune of the Conway assisting. Three divisions, under the immediate charge of Commanders Barlow and Clarke, and Lieutenant Coulson of the Blonde. Her Majesty's ship Hyacinth (to whom too much praise cannot be given for the exertion displayed by Commander Warren, his officers and crew, in getting her through the intricate and difficult passes of the river, piloted by Commander Belcher, to be in readiness for operation); and a division of boats, under the command of these officers, were placed at the southern entrance of the river, recommunicating with the main stream at Fatee, to meet any retrograde movement of the

* Vide subjoined list.