



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1841.

*India Board, October 8, 1841.*

**A** DISPATCH has been received to-day at the East India House, conveying the following reports of operations in China:

### NOTIFICATION.

*Fort William, Secret Department,  
the 7th August, 1841.*

THE Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council having this day received intelligence of the happy result of the joint operations of Her Majesty's and the Honorable Company's naval and military forces in an attack upon the Chinese forces in front of the city of Canton on the 25th and 30th of May last; is pleased to direct the publication for general information of the following despatch from Major General Sir Hugh Gough, K. C. B. commanding the land forces, and extracts from a despatch addressed by Captain Sir Henry Le Fleming Senhouse, K. C. H., the senior naval officer of the fleet at Canton, to His Excellency the Naval Commander in chief in India, which has been communicated to the Supreme Government.

These accounts of the brilliant successes of the British arms have been received with the highest gratification by the Governor General in Council, who, in expressing his admiration of the gallant conduct of every portion of the forces employed in this service, has deeply to lament the loss which has been sustained by the death of Captain Sir H. Le Fleming Senhouse, who is reported to have subsequently sunk under the fatigue and exhaustion caused by his exertions in the actions with the Chinese.

The Governor General in Council is pleased to direct that, in honor of this victory of the British arms, a royal salute be fired from the ramparts of Fort

William, and at the principal military stations of the army of India.

By order of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council:

T. H. MADDOCK, Secretary to Govt. of India.

*Head Quarters, Ship Marion, Canton River,  
proceeding to Hongkong, June 3 1841.*

MY LORD,

My letter of the 13th from Hongkong will have made your Lordship aware of the temporary abandonment of the movement on Amoy, in order to resume active operations against Canton, consequent upon the constant arrival and concentration of a large force from the several provinces; and other demonstrations, indicative of an interruption to our friendly intercourse with the provincial government.

2. From the judicious and unwearyed exertions of Sir Le Fleming Senhouse, the senior naval officer, the fleet of men-of-war and transports was prepared to sail on the 18th, but in consequence of light and variable winds, the whole did not get under weigh until the 19th. H.M.S. Blenheim took up her position within six miles of Canton, in the Macao passage, on the 21st ultimo, but the whole of the force was not assembled until the morning of the 23d, when I proceeded with Sir Le Fleming Senhouse to the vicinity of the suburbs of the city, for the double object of meeting H. M. Plenipotentiary, and ascertaining, as far as possible, the extent of the enemy's preparations.

3. It being the anxious wish both of Sir Le Fleming Senhouse and myself to commence active operations on so auspicious an epoch as the anniversary of the birth of our sovereign, every exertion

was made, and the troops were placed by two p.m. on that day in various craft, procured during the previous day and night by the great exertions of the royal navy.

4. From all the sources from which I had been enabled to collect information, or rather from the conjectures of persons who have long resided in China (for no European had been permitted to see the country above the factories, and the Chinese would give no information), I was induced to decide on making my principal point of debarkation to the north west of the city, while another column was to take possession of the factories, drawing the attention of the enemy to that quarter, and at the same time to co-operate with the naval force which was to attack the river defences, in order to silence numerous new works recently erected by the Chinese along the whole southern face of the city. A most spirited and judicious reconnoissance, made by Captain Belcher, of H.M.S. Sulphur, the previous evening, established the practicability of effecting a landing at the point I had selected.

5. Every arrangement having been completed by two o'clock, and the boats and other craft placed in tow of the steamers, the force moved to the point of attack as follows:

Right column, to attack and hold the factories, in tow of the *Atalanta*, consisting of Her Majesty's 26th Regiment, as per margin\* an officer and twenty rank and file of the Madras Artillery, with one six-pounder and one five and a half-inch mortar, and thirty sappers, with an officer of Engineers, under Major Pratt, of H. M. 26th.

Left column, towed by the *Nemesis* in four brigades, to move left in front.

4th (Left) Brigade, under Lieut. Col. Morris, 49th regiment. - H. M. 49th, commanded by Major Stephens, 28 officers, 273 other ranks. 37th M. N. I. Capt. Duff, 11 officers, 219 other ranks. One company Bengal Volunteers, Capt. Mee, 1 officer, 114 other ranks.

3d (Artillery) Brigade, under Capt. Knowles, R. A. - Royal Artillery, Lieut. Spencer, 2 officers, 33 other ranks. Madras Artillery, including gun Lascars, Capt. Anstruther, 10 officers, 231 other ranks. Sappers and Miners, Capt. Cotton, 4 officers, 137 other ranks.

Ordnance. - Four twelve pounder howitzers, four nine pounder field guns, two six pounder field guns, three five and a half inch mortars, one hundred and fifty-two thirty-two pounder rockets.

2d Naval Brigade, under Capt. Bouchier, H. M. S. Blonde. - 1st Naval Battalion, Capt. Maitland, H. M. S. Wellesley, 11 officers, 172 other ranks. 2d Naval Battalion, Commander Barlow, H. M. S. Nimrod, 16 officers, 231 other ranks.

1st (Right) Brigade, (Reserve) under Major Genl. Burrell. - Royal Marines, Capt. Ellis, 9 officers, 372 other ranks. 18th Royal Irish, Lieut. Col. Adams, 25 officers, 494 other ranks.

6. The right column reached its point of attack before 5 p. m. and took possession of the factories, when Major Pratt made the necessary arrangements for strengthening his post, holding his men ready for offensive or defensive operations.

\* 15 officers, 294 other ranks.

7. The left column, towed by the *Nemesis*, from the difficulties of the passage, with such a fleet of craft as she had in tow, did not reach the Sulphur until dusk, which vessel Captain Belcher had judiciously anchored close to the village of Tsing-hae, the point of debarkation, about five miles by the river line above the factories. I could therefore only land the 49th regiment, with which corps I made a reconnoissance to some distance, meeting a few straggling parties of the enemy. After placing the picquets, the corps fell back on the village of Tsing-hae, to protect and cover the landing of the guns, which was effected during the night by the zealous efforts of the artillery. The following morning, the remainder of the column landed, and the whole proceeded soon after daylight.

8. The heights to the north of Canton, crowned by four strong forts, and the city walls, which run over the southern extremity of these heights, including one elevated point, appeared to be about three miles and a half distant; the intermediate ground, undulating much, and intersected by hollows under wet paddy cultivation, enabled me to take up successive positions, until we approached within range of the forts on the heights, and the northern face of the city walls. I had to wait here some time, placing the men under cover, to bring up the rocket battery and artillery.

9. I have already informed your Lordship that I was totally unacquainted with the country which I had to pass over, the amount of the enemy's force, or the difficulties that might present themselves at every step; but I had the proud consciousness of feeling that your Lordship had placed under me a band, whom no disparity of numbers could dishearten, and no difficulty could check. They nobly realized, by their steadiness under fire, their discipline, advance, and their animated rush, my warmest anticipations.

10. Having at eight o'clock got up the rocket battery, with two five and half inch mortars, two twelve pounder howitzers and two nine-pounder guns, a well-directed fire was kept up on the two western forts, which had much annoyed us by a heavy fire. I now made the disposition for attack in echelon of columns from the left, and directed the 49th regiment to carry a hill on the left of the nearest eastern fort, supported by the 37th Madras Native Infantry and Bengal Volunteers, under Lieut. Col. Morris of the 49th regiment. The 18th Royal Irish, supported by the Royal Marines, under Major General Burrell, I directed to carry a hill to their front, which was strongly occupied and flanked the approach to the fort just mentioned. This movement was to cut off the communication between the two eastern forts, and cover the advance of the 49th in their attack and storm of the nearest. Major General Burrell had directions to push on and take the principal square fort, when the 49th made their rush. Simultaneous with these attacks, the Brigade of Seamen was to carry the two western forts, covered by a concentrated fire from the whole of the guns and rockets.

11. During the whole of the advance, my right had been threatened by a large body of the enemy, which debouched from the western suburbs, and just as I was about to commence the attack, a report was made that heavy columns were advancing on the

right, I was therefore compelled to detach the Marines, under Captain Ellis, to support the Brigade of Seamen, and to cover my right and rear.

12. At about half past nine o'clock, the advance was sounded, and it has seldom fallen to my lot to witness a more soldier-like and steady advance or a more animated attack. Every individual, Native as well as European, steadily and gallantly did his duty. The 18th and 49th were emulous which should first reach their appointed goals; but, under the impulse of this feeling, they did not lose sight of that discipline which could alone insure success. The advance of the 37th M. N. I. and Bengal Volunteers, in support, was equally praiseworthy.

13. The result of this combined movement was that the two forts were captured with comparatively small loss, and that, in little more than half an hour after the order to advance was given, the British troops looked down on Canton within 100 paces of its walls.

14. The well-directed fire of the artillery in the centre was highly creditable, and did great execution.

15. In co-operation with these attacks, I witnessed with no ordinary gratification, the noble rush of the brigade of seamen under their gallant leader, Captain Bouchier, exposed to a heavy fire from the whole of the north-western rampart. This right attack was equally successful, and here also the British standard proudly waved on the two western forts, while the British tars looked down upon the north-western face of the city and its suburb.

16. During the greater part of the day, a very spirited fire from heavy pieces of ordnance, ginjaes and matchlocks, was kept up on the different columns, occupying the heights and forts.

17. A strongly entrenched camp of considerable extent, occupied apparently by about four thousand men, lay to the north east of the city upon rising ground, separated by a tract of paddy land from the base of the heights. Frequent attacks were made upon my left by bodies sent from this encampment, but were as frequently repulsed by the 49th. This, however, exposed the men to a heavy fire from the walls of the city.

18. About two o'clock, perceiving that Mandarins of consequence were joining this force from the city, and had occupied a village in rear of my left, I directed the 49th to dislodge them. This was instantly effected in the same spirited manner that had marked every movement of this gallant corps. About three o'clock, it was evident that some Mandarin of high rank had reached the encampment, (I have since understood that it was Yang the Tartar general), and that preparations were making for a fresh attack. I ordered down the 18th, therefore, with one company of the Royal Marines to reinforce the 49th, and directed Major General Burrell to assume the command, to repel the projected attack, and instantly to follow up the enemy across a narrow causeway, the only approach; and take and destroy the encampment. This duty was well and gallantly performed, but I regret to say with rather severe loss from the difficulty of approach, exposed to a heavy fire from the guns and ginjaes on the north east face of the city wall. The enemy were driven at all points and fled across the country;

the encampment was burnt, the magazines, of which there were several, blown up, and the permanent buildings of considerable extent set on fire. I had as much pleasure in witnessing, as I have in recording, my approval of the spirited conduct of Captain Grattan, who commanded the two leading companies of the 18th across the causeway. These companies were closely followed by the 49th, the remainder of the 18th, and company of Royal Marines, who passed along a bank of the paddy fields to their left. The enemy not appearing inclined to move out of the town to support this point, I directed the force to return to the heights.

19. Having reconnoitred the walls and gates, I decided on taking the city by assault, or rather upon taking a strong fortified height of considerable extent within the city wall, before the panic ceased, but the hill in our rear being peculiarly rugged, and its base difficult of approach on account of the narrowness of the path between wet paddy fields, I had only been enabled to get up a very few of the lightest pieces of ordnance, and a small proportion of ammunition. I therefore deemed it right to await the arrival of this necessary arm to make the assault.

20. The following morning, the 26th, at ten o'clock, a flag of truce was hoisted on the walls, when I deputed Mr. Thom (whom Captain Elliot had sent to me as Interpreter,) to ascertain the cause. A Mandarin stated that they wished for peace. I had it explained that, as General Commanding the British, I would treat with none but the General Commanding the Chinese troops—that we came before Canton much against the wishes of the British nation, but that repeated insults and breaches of faith had compelled us to make the present movement, and that I would cease from hostilities for two hours to enable their General to meet me and Sir Le Fleming Senhouse, who kindly accompanied me throughout the whole operation, and to whose judicious arrangements and unceasing exertions for the furtherance of the united services (and I am proud to say they are united in hand and heart,) I cannot too strongly express my sense of obligation; I further explained that Captain Elliot, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, was with the advanced squadron to the south of the city, and that if I did not receive a communication from him, or had not a satisfactory interview with the General, I should, at the termination of the two hours, order the white flag to be struck.

21. As the General did not make his appearance, although numerous messages were received between this time (about noon) and 4 p. m., I hauled down the white flag. The enemy however did not, which was rather convenient, as it enabled me to get up my guns and ammunition, without exposing my men to fire.

22. During the night of the 26th every thing was prepared on our side, with the exception of one 12-pounder howitzer, the carriage of which had been disabled; the guns, by the indefatigable exertion of the officers and men of the royal artillery and Madras artillery and sappers, were placed in position. All was ready, and the necessary orders given for opening the batteries at seven o'clock on the morning of the 27th, and for the assault at eight, in four columns.

23. The right column, composed of the Royal Marines under Captain Ellis, had directions to pass through a deserted village to the right of the north gate, to blow the gate open with powder bags if possible, and if not, to escalate a circular work thrown up as a second defence to that gate.

24. The second column on the right, consisting of the brigade of seamen under Captain Bouchier, was directed to make the assault by escalade on the opposite side of the circular defence, where the wall appeared comparatively low, covered by a heavy fire of musketry from the hill within pistol shot of the walls. This column would have been exposed only to the fire of a few flanking guns, which I calculated would have been kept under by the fire of the covering party.

25. The 18th Royal Irish, under Lieutenant Colonel Adams, were ordered to advance from the rear of a hill close to the five-storied pagoda, and to escalate the walls behind this pagoda (which was not flanked except by one gun), although they were very high, from 28 to 30 feet, but I hoped by the concentrated fire of the guns to have reduced an exceedingly high and apparently slight parapet. The escalade of this corps was to be covered by the Bengal volunteers and a company of the 37th M. N. I.

26. The left assault was to be made by the 49th, under Lieut.-Colonel Morris. This corps was directed to escalate by a bastion directly in front of and commanded by the principal fort in our possession, called by the Chinese Yung-Kang-Tai, the fire of musketry from which would have prevented the enemy from making use of their guns. To strengthen this attack, two companies of the 37th M. N. I. were to occupy the heights and keep up a rapid fire upon the wall.

27. The ground was peculiarly favourable for these several attacks, and for the effective fire of the covering parties without a chance of injuring the assailants. The heights which we occupied are from 9 to 250 paces from the city wall, with a precipitous glen intervening. On making a lodgement on the walls, each column was to communicate with and support that on its inner flank, and when united, to make a rush for the fortified hill within the walls, on which the artillery was directed to play from the moment the advance was sounded. I directed Captain Knowles to ascertain, as far as practicable, by the fire of heavy rockets and shells, whether it was mined, which alone I apprehended—the Chinese usually forming their mines so as to make them liable to explosion by such means.

28. The flags of truce still appeared upon the walls at day light on the 27th, and at a quarter past six o'clock I was on the point of sending the interpreter to explain that I could not respect such a display, after my flag had been taken down, and should at once resume hostilities. At this moment, an officer of the Royal Navy, who had been travelling all night, having missed his way, handed me the accompanying letter from H. M.'s Plenipotentiary. Whatever might be my sentiments, my duty was to acquiesce; the attack, which was to have commenced in forty-five minutes, was countermanded, and the feelings of the Chinese were spared. Of the policy of the measure, I do not consider myself a competent judge; but I say feelings, as I would have been

responsible that Canton should be equally spared, with exception of its defences, and that not a soldier should have entered the town further than the fortified heights within its walls.

29. At ten o'clock, Yang, the Tartar General, requested a conference, when Sir Le Fleming Senhouse accompanied me, and a long and uninteresting parley ensued, in which I explained that H. M.'s Plenipotentiary having resumed negotiations with the local authorities, I should await a further communication from him. At twelve, Capt. Elliot arrived in camp, and all further active operations ceased.

30. The following day, at twelve, in a conference with the Kwang-chow-Foo, under the walls, every arrangement was made for the evacuation of the city by as large a portion of the Tartar troops as could be got ready, and I permitted a Mandarin of rank to pass through my lines to procure quarters for them. I was now given to understand that the force amounted to 45,000 men from other provinces, exclusive of the troops belonging to the Quang-tung province. At the request of Captain Elliot I acquiesced in the former passing out of the north east gate to the left of my position, and permitted them to carry away their arms and baggage, on condition that no banner should be displayed or music sounded.

31. About twelve the following day, I perceived numbers of men, apparently irregulars, and armed for the most part with long spears, shields, and swords; collecting upon the heights, three or four miles to my rear. As they continued rapidly to increase, detaching bodies to their front, I directed General Burrell to take charge of our position, and hold every man ready in case a sortie or other act of treachery under cover of a flag of truce should be intended; and I advanced with a wing of the 26th (which corps I had withdrawn two days previously from the factories), three companies of the 49th, the 37th Madras Native Infantry, and the company of Bengal Volunteers, supported by the Royal Marines. The two latter corps I kept in reserve, ready to return, and act on the flank, should an attack be made on our position from the town. When I descended the heights, about 4,000 men appeared in my front. I directed the wing of the 26th, under Major Pratt, supported by the 37th Madras native infantry, to advance and drive them from rather a strong position they had taken up behind an embankment along the bed of a stream. This duty the 26th and 37th performed most creditably, and as the Chinese made a rally at what appeared to be a military post in my front, I directed that it should be destroyed, which was instantly effected by the 26th, and a magazine, unexpectedly found in the village, blown up. These duties having been performed without the loss of a man, the Chinese throwing away their spears, and flying the moment a fire was opened upon them, I directed the 49th, the Royal Marines, and Bengal Volunteers to fall back on our position, and remain with the wing of the 26th and 37th Madras Native Infantry (about 280 men) to watch the movements of the Chinese, who had retreated to a range of heights in my front, having no banners, and apparently but few matchlocks amongst them. Within two hours, however, from seven to eight thousand men

had collected and displayed numerous banners. When I first moved, I had ordered Captain Knowles, of the royal artillery, to bring out a few rockets, but our advance was so rapid that he did not get them up, until after the repulse of the first body.

32. At this moment, the heat of the sun was hardly supportable, and both officers and men were greatly exhausted. I must here state, and with sincere sorrow, that Major Becher, Deputy Quarter Master General, a most estimable and willing Officer, whose services throughout the previous operations were as creditable to him as they were satisfactory to me, fell by my side from over exertion, and expired within a few minutes. My Aid-de-Camp, Captain Gough, was also alarmingly unwell from the same cause, and I ordered him back to camp, when the enemy were repulsed; but hearing that the Chinese were again assembling, he returned, and meeting the Bengal Volunteers, very judiciously brought them back.

33. The Chinese having advanced in great force, some rockets were fired at them; but, although thrown with great precision, appeared to have little effect; and as the approach of a thunder storm was evident, I became anxious, before it broke, to disperse this assemblage, whose approach bespoke more determination than I had previously witnessed. I ordered Major Pratt to attack a large body who were advancing through the paddy fields on his left, and to clear the hills to his front. Captain Duff, with the 37th M. N. I., supported by the Bengal Volunteers under Captain Mee, I ordered to advance direct to his front, and dislodge a body which had re-occupied the post that we had previously burned, and then push forward and clear the hills to his front. I witnessed, with much satisfaction, the spirited manner in which these Officers executed my orders, and the enemy were driven in at all points. The right of the 37th being threatened by a military post at the foot of the hills to our right, the Bengal Volunteers dispersed the occupants. This however separated them from the 37th M. N. I., and, perceiving that this latter corps was advancing further than I intended, I requested Captain Ommaney, of the 3d Madras light cavalry, who, with Lieutenant Mackenzie, of H. M. 90th regiment, accompanied me as amateurs, and both were most zealous and useful in conveying my orders, to direct the Bengal Volunteers to move up to its support. Captain Duff, meanwhile, to open his communication with the 26th on his left, had detached a company under Lieutenant Hadfield for that purpose.

34. The thunder storm was now most awful, and, finding that as our men advanced the Chinese retired, I considered that it would be injudicious to follow them further, and directed the whole to fall back. The rain continued to fall in torrents, and most of the firelocks had got wet; at one time the 26th had been unable to fire a single musket; this emboldened the Chinese, who, in many instances, attacked our men hand to hand, and the 26th had frequently to charge bodies that advanced close to them.

35. As the Chinese, even in this mode of warfare, could make no impression, they retreated, and the 26th and 37th Madras N. I. and Bengal Volunteers fell back. Understanding from Captain Duff that

his detached company was with the 26th, I directed the whole, after a short halt, to return to our position, and was exceedingly annoyed, on the force concentrating, to find that the detached company, under Lieutenant Hadfield, had never joined the 26th. I immediately ordered two companies of Marines with percussion locks to return with Captain Duff to the scene of this day's contest. It gives me no ordinary gratification to say that, a little after dusk, they found Lieutenant Hadfield with his gallant company in square, surrounded by some thousand Chinese, who, as the 37th's firelocks would not go off, had approached close to them. The sepoys, I am proud to say, in this critical situation, nobly upheld the high character of the native army by unshinking discipline and cheerful obedience, and I feel that the expression of my best thanks is due to Lieutenant Hadfield, and to Lieutenant Devereux and Ensign Berkeley, who zealously supported him during this trying scene. The last-named Officer, I regret to say, was severely wounded. The marines with Captain Duff fired a couple of volleys into this crowd, which instantly dispersed them with great loss.

36. At daylight the next morning I felt myself called upon to send into the city, and inform the Kwang-chow-Foo, that if, under existing circumstances, a similar insult was offered, or any demonstration made, indicative of hostile interruption to the negotiations pending under a flag of truce for the evacuation of the city by the Chinese troops and a ransom for its deliverance, I would at once haul down the white flag and resume hostilities. At twelve, Captain Elliot joined me, and a communication was received that the Kwang-chow-Foo would meet us under the walls. Previous to his arrival, vast numbers of Chinese appeared on the hills, from which we had driven them the night before, and which during the early part of the morning had been clear. Guns and ginjalls were fired in all directions, various banners displayed, and large parties thrown out in advance. About 7,500 Tartar troops had marched out of the city that morning, and were still moving with their arms, but, as stipulated, without music or banners. I felt some doubt whether treachery was not contemplated; and I, therefore, made such a disposition of our troops as to ensure its defeat. By two o'clock from 12 to 15,000 men, evidently the same description of force that we had met the preceding day, had assembled on the same heights.

37. The Kwang-chow-Foo now arrived, and it became evident, as he was perfectly in my power, that no combination existed between the troops in the town, or those marching out, and the assemblage in my rear. I therefore ordered the wing of the 26th, (the other wing had been left at (T'sing-hae) to keep up the communication with the rear, and a wing of the 49th with the 37th M. N. I. and the Royal Marines to be prepared to disperse the assailants. On joining the Kwang-chow-Foo, and explaining my determination to put my threat in force if the enemy advanced, he assured me that this hostile movement was without the knowledge, and against the wishes, of the Chinese authorities; that there were no Mandarins with this militia in our rear; that it had assembled to protect the villages in the plain; and that he

would instantly send off a Mandarin of rank, (his own assistant) with orders for its immediate dispersion, if I would depute an officer to accompany him.

38. Captain Moore of the 34th Bengal N. I. Deputy Judge Advocate General, volunteered this hazardous duty. This officer had accompanied me as one of my personal Staff throughout all the operations, and he and Major Wilson, Pay Master to the expedition, who kindly volunteered to act in the same capacity, had by their zealous service been most useful to me in a country, where all my orders were to be conveyed by officers on foot through an intricate line of communication. Captain Moore was quite successful, as the whole body instantly retreated and entirely dispersed, as soon as he and the Mandarin had made known to the leaders the object of their coming.

39. Finding that five millions of dollars had been paid, and that H. M.'s Plenipotentiary was perfectly satisfied with the security for payment of the remaining million for the ransom of Canton, that upwards of 14,500 Tartar troops had marched out of the town under the terms of the treaty without colours or banners flying, or music beating, that 3000 had gone by water, and that the remainder were prepared to follow, when carriage was provided, I acceded to the wish of H. M.'s Plenipotentiary to embark the troops, the Chinese furnishing me with 800 coolies to convey my guns and ammunition. These coolies being furnished soon after day light on the 1st instant, I sent all the guns and stores to the rear, covered by the 26th, the Royal Marines, 37th M. N. I. and Bengal Volunteers: and at 12 o'clock the British flag was lowered in the four forts, and the troops and brigade of seamen marched out and returned to Tsing-hae.

40. By the excellent arrangements and under the active superintendence of Captain Bouchier of H. M. S. Blonde, and Captain Maitland of H. M. S. Wellesley, the whole were re-embarked by three o'clock, without leaving a man of the army or navy, or a camp-follower, behind, and, under tow of the Nemesis, reached their respective transports that night.

41. I have now, my Lord, detailed, I fear at too great length, the occurrences of eight days before Canton. I might have been very brief, perfect success attending every operation; but, by a mere statement of the leading facts, I should not have done justice to the discipline of the small but gallant band whom it was my good fortune to command, and whose devotedness was worthy of a better foe.

42. I have not touched upon the brilliant conduct of the royal navy in their attacks and various operations to the south of the city, as these will be detailed by their own Chief, to whom, as I have said, I cannot too strongly express my obligations.

43. In a body, where all have done their duty nobly and zealously, it would be invidious to particularise: I will, however, entreat your Lordship's favourable notice of commanding officers of brigades and corps, from whom I have received the most able assistance, and to whom my best thanks are due: to Major-General Burrell, commanding the right brigade, who was zealously supported by Lieut. Col. Adams, commanding 18th

Royal Irish, and Capt. Ellis, commanding the Marine Battalion: to Captain Bouchier of H. M. S. Blonde, commanding the brigade of seamen, supported most ably by Captain Maitland of H. M. S. Wellesley, and Captain Barlow, H. M. S. Nimrod: to Lt. Colonel Morris, commanding the left brigade, whose good fortune it was first to carry the heights and place the colours of the 49th in the first fort taken, gallantly seconded by Major Stephens, who commanded the 49th in the first operation, and Major Blyth, who commanded that corps during the latter part of the day: to Captain Duff, commanding 37th M. N. I. and Captain Mee, commanding the Bengal Volunteers: to Major Pratt, commanding H. M. 26th regiment. This corps, though not at first much engaged from the nature of its position at the factories, proved on the 30th, by its spirited and steady conduct, which nothing could exceed, how valuable its services would have been throughout: to Captain Knowles of the royal artillery, senior officer of that arm, my best thanks are due for his valuable services. Lieutenant the Honourable R. C. Spenser, with the detachment of royal artillery, well supported the high character of that distinguished corps. The zeal of Captain Anstruther, commanding the Madras Artillery, was indefatigable, as were the efforts of every individual of that valuable body in bringing up the guns and ammunition: to Captain Cotton, field engineer, I feel under the greatest obligations, and I experienced the most ready support from every officer under him. Of one of them, Lieutenant Rundall, I regret to say, that I shall probably lose the services for some time, in consequence of a severe wound. The useful labours of the sappers called for my best thanks, they were cheerfully prepared to place the ladders for the escalade: I feel greatly obliged to all the general staff: all accompanied me on shore, and to their indefatigable attention in conveying orders on foot, at times to a considerable distance, I was much indebted. To Lieut. Col. Mountain, Deputy Adjutant General, my best thanks are due for his unwearying exertions and valuable services not only upon the present, but upon every occasion. The exertions of Major Hawkins, Deputy Commissary General, were unceasing, and by his judicious arrangements, and those of his assistant, the troops were amply supplied. The excellent arrangements made by Dr. Grant, the officiating superintending surgeon, and medical staff of corps, call also for my acknowledgment. I beg to bring to your Lordship's particular notice, my Aide de-Camp, Capt. Gough, of the 3d Light Dragoons, from whom I have upon this, as upon every occasion, received the most active and unremitting assistance.

44. Having now conveyed my approval of the conduct of the commanding officers of brigades and corps, and the heads of departments, permit me to draw your Lordship's special attention to the praiseworthy conduct of the sailors and soldiers under my command, which in my mind does them the highest credit. During the eight days this force was on shore, (and many of the corps were unavoidably placed in situations where sham-shu was abundant,) but two instances of drunkenness occurred; and I deem it but justice here to mention a strong fact. The soldiers of the 49th, finding a quantity of sham-shu in the village they had so gallantly taken, with-

out order or previous knowledge of their officers, brought the jars containing this pernicious liquor, and broke them in front of their corps, without the occurrence of a single case of intoxication.

45. This dispatch will be presented by Captain Grattan, whose conduct I have already mentioned to your Lordship, and whom I have selected for this duty alone on account of that conduct. He is a most intelligent officer, and will be able to give your Lordship any further information.

I have the honor to be, &c.

H. GOUGH, Maj. Gen.

Commanding Expeditionary Force.

P. S. It is with deep regret that I have to mention the loss of Lieutenant Fox, of H. M. S. Nimrod, a most promising young officer attached to Captain Barlow's battalion of seamen, who fell at the storm of the western forts. Mr. Walter Kendall, mate of the same ship, a very deserving officer, lost his leg, I am sorry to add, at the same time.

I have the honor to forward a return of the killed and wounded, and a list of ordnance captured. Of the killed and wounded on the enemy's side, it is difficult to form a correct estimate; but the Kwang-chow-Foo acknowledged to me that of the Tartar troops 500 had been killed, and 1,500 wounded on the 25th May—and I conceive that the killed and wounded on the Chinese side, upon the 30th, and in the different attacks made upon my flanks and line of communication, must have been double those numbers.

*The Right Honourable the Earl of Auckland, G.C.B.  
Governor General, &c.*

To His Excellency Major-General Sir Hugh Gough,  
K.C.B. and Captain Sir H. Le Fleming Senhouse,  
K.C.H. &c. &c. &c.

*H. M. S. Hyacinth, off Canton,  
26th May, 1841, 10 p. m.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to acquaint you that I am in communication with the officers of the Chinese Government, concerning the settlement of difficulties in this province upon the following conditions:

1st. The Imperial Commissioner and all the troops other than those of the province to quit the city within six days, and remove at a distance exceeding sixty miles.

2nd. Six millions of dollars to be paid in one week for the use of the Crown of England, one million payable before to-morrow at sunset.

3rd. British troops to remain in their actual positions till the whole sum be paid; no additional preparations on either side; but all British troops and ships of war to return without the Bocca Tigris as soon as the whole be paid; Wangtong also to be evacuated, but not to be re-armed by the Chinese government, till all the difficulties are adjusted between the two governments.

4th. The loss occasioned by the burning of the Spanish brig Bilbaino, and all losses occasioned by the destruction of the Factories, to be paid within one week.

For the purpose of completing this arrangement, I have to request that you will be pleased to suspend hostilities till noon.

I have the honor to remain, &c.

CHARLES ELLIOT,  
*Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary.*

To His Excellency Major General Sir Hugh Gough,  
K. C. B. and Captain Sir H. Le Fleming Senhouse,  
K.C.H. &c. &c. &c.

*H.M.S. Hyacinth, off Canton,  
27th May, 1841, 3 p. m.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I have the honour to transmit to you an English version of the arrangement this day concluded with the officers of the Chinese government, and also of the full authority given to the Kwang-chow-Foo to act for their Excellencies.

I shall take an early opportunity of communicating with you again upon this subject.

And I have the honour to be, &c.

CHAS. ELLIOT,  
*Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary.*

*Terms of Agreement granted to the Officers of the  
Chinese Government, resident within the City of  
Canton, on the 27th May, 1841.*

1. It is required, that the three Imperial Commissioners, and all the troops other than those of the province, quit the city, within six days, and proceed to a distance of upwards of sixty miles.

2. Six millions of dollars to be paid in one week for the use of the Crown of England, counting from the 27th May: one million payable before sunset of the said 27th day of May.

3. For the present, the British troops to remain in their actual positions: no additional preparations for hostilities to be made on either side. If the whole sum agreed upon be not paid within seven days, it shall be increased to seven millions; if not within fourteen days, to eight millions; if not within twenty days, to nine millions. When the whole shall be paid, all the British forces to return without the Bocca Tigris; and Wangtong and all fortified places within the river to be restored, but not to be re-armed till all affairs are settled between the two nations.

4. Losses occasioned by the plunder at the factories, and by the destruction of the Spanish brig Bilbaino in 1839, to be paid within one week.

5. It is required that the Kwang-chow-Foo shall produce full powers to conclude this arrangement, on the part of the three Commissioners, the General of the Tartar garrison, the Governor-General, and the Fooyuen of Kwantung.

(Seal of the Kwang-chow-Foo.)

Written the 26th, agreed to the 27th, of May 1841.

Yishan, Generalissimo—Lungwan and Yang Fang joint commissioners—Atsinga, General of the Garrison—Kekung, Governor of the two Kwang—and

Eliang, Lieutenant Governor of Kwantung—hereby issue instructions to the Kwang-chow-Foo.

The Plenipotentiary of the English nation being now willing to observe a truce, and make arrangements for peace, the said Kwang-chow-Foo will conduct the details of the pacific arrangement and settlement. He is not, upon any plea, to excuse himself. These are his instructions.

The foregoing to the Kwang-chow-Foo, thus be it.  
Twanwang, 21st year, 4th month, 7th day.

(27th May, 1841.)	L. S. of the Generalissimo	L. S. of the joint Commissioners.

*Return of Killed and Wounded in Her Majesty's Forces at the Attack on Canton, from the 23d to 30th May 1841.*

Blenheim—2 killed; 9 wounded; 1 officer, 1 royal artillery, 1 acting corporal royal marines, 8 seamen.

Wellesly—6 wounded; 3 seamen, 3 royal marines.  
Blonde—1 killed; 1 wounded; 1 seaman, 1 royal marine.

Calliope—1 wounded; 1 seaman

Hvacinth—5 wounded; 2 officers, 3 seamen.

Nimrod—2 killed; 4 wounded; 2 officers, 4 seamen.

Modeste—1 killed; 9 wounded; 2 officers, 8 seamen.

Columbine—2 wounded; 2 seamen.

Algerine—4 wounded; 1 officer, 2 seamen, 1 royal marine.

Nemesis—1 wounded; 1 officer.

Madras Artillery—1 wounded.

Sappers and Miners—1 wounded.

18th Royal Irish—2 killed; 19 wounded.

26th Cameronians—3 killed; 15 wounded.

49th Regiment—1 killed; 17 wounded.

37th Native Infantry—1 killed; 13 wounded.

Bengal Volunteers—1 wounded.

Camp followers—1 killed; 3 wounded.

Staff—1 killed.

Total—15 killed; 112 wounded.

General Total—127.

*Officers killed.*

Major Becher, Deputy Quartermaster General, died from over fatigue.

Lieutenant Fox, H. M. S. Nimrod, killed.

*Officers wounded.*

Mr Walter Kendall, Mate of Nimrod, dangerously lost his leg.

Mr. W. H. Bate, Mate of Blenheim, slightly.

Lieutenant Morshead, of Hvacinth, slightly.

Mr. Peter Barclay, Mate of Hvacinth, slightly.

Mr. E. Fitzgerald, Mate of Modeste, dangerously.

Mr. W. Pearse, Mate of Modeste, slightly.

Mr. Hall, Commanding Nemesis, severely burnt.

Mr. Vaughan, Assistant-Surgeon of the Algerine, slightly.

Lieutenant Rundall, of the Madras Sappers and Miners, dangerously.

Captain Sarjeant, 18th R. I. severely.

Lieutenant Hilliard, 18th R. I. slightly.

Lieutenant Edwards, 18th R. I. severely.

Lieutenant Pearson, 49th Regiment, severely.

Lieutenant Johnstone, 26th Cameronians, slightly.

Ensign Berkeley, 37th N. I. severely.

*Return of Ordnance mounted in the Forts, on the Heights above Canton, when stormed and captured on the 25th of May 1841, by the Forces under the command of Major General Sir Hugh Gough, K. C. B. Commanding Expeditionary Force serving in China.*

Yung Kang-Tai—13 guns of all calibre.

She-Ting-Paon—6 guns of all calibre.

Paon Keih-Tai—11 guns of all calibre.

Kung Keih-Tai—12 guns of all calibre.

Grand Total—42 guns of all calibre.

In each fort a number of ginjals and a considerable quantity of powder found.

J. KNOWLES, Captain, Commanding Artillery Brigade.

*Extracts from a Despatch from Captain Sir H. Le Fleming Senhouse, K.C.H. &c. to Commodore Sir J. J. Gordon Bremer, C.B. and K.C.H., Commander in Chief, &c. &c. Dated, Heights above Canton, May 29th 1841, continued on board H.M. ship Blenheim, French River, June 2d, 1841*

I CLOSED my former letter with the details of our proceedings up to the moment the expedition was about to leave Hongkong for Canton. I have now the gratification to enter upon the details of a succession of operations, highly honorable, I trust, to Her Majesty's arms, and by which the large and populous city of Canton has been laid in complete submission at the feet of the Queen's forces.

No overt act of hostility had taken place up to the 21st May, except renouncing the guns in the Shamien battery, but the Chinese appear to have been perfectly ready for attack. All remained quiet in the river until about eleven o'clock, p.m., when an attempt was made with fire rafts to burn the advanced vessels. This attack not only totally failed, but was followed up by a gallant attack on the Shamien battery, and the silencing of it by the vessels of the squadron, under the immediate superintendence of Capt. Herbert of the Calliope, and the destruction of a large flotilla of fire vessels which the Chinese had been preparing and had brought out of the branch of the river which leads north of the town. About the same time, though later in the night, the Alligator was attacked off Howqua's fort; and to show how necessary it was to have been always on our guard, the fire junks came up with the flood tide in a direction with the merchant vessels at Whampoa, where all seemed to sleep in security. Captain Kuper's account of his prompt and decisive conduct in repel-

ing the attack (No. 1), I have also the honor to forward.

Opinions were uncertain as to the feasibility of entering the northward branch of the river, and of floating at low water. To determine this I availed myself once more of the zeal and great ability of Commander Belcher, who most handsomely volunteered to explore it with his own boats, assisted with three others from the Pylades, and Modeste, and Algerine, all placed under the command of that gallant and judicious officer Lieutenant Goldsmith of the Druid, who was attached to the Blenheim, in that ship's launch, and who had orders to protect Commander Belcher in his surveying operations.

The Major General and myself went to Canton to make a reconnoissance and a personal inspection on the same day, the 23d. In our progress we observed a firing and explosions in the direction of Captain Belcher's party; and Commander Belcher's letter, a copy of which I enclose (No. 2), gives the detail of a gallant and spirited affair which took place in the creek. At eleven at night, Commander Belcher returned with the gratifying intelligence that he had discovered an excellent landing place on a pier, with water enough for the "Sulphur" close to it at low water. The ground directly around it rose in low hills, and a line of hills appeared to continue to the height near the city, although there might be swampy ground in the small valleys dividing them.

Our united force consisted of the ships and vessels named in the margin,\* comprising in their crews, officers, seamen and marines inclusive, about 3200 men, out of which about 1000 officers, seamen and marines were landed to serve with the army. The military force under that gallant, distinguished, and experienced officer, Major General Sir Hugh Gough, comprised Her Majesty's 49th regiment, 311 in number—37th Madras Native Infantry 240, Bengal Volunteers 79, Royal Artillery 38, Madras Artillery 232, sappers and miners 171, Her Majesty's 18th Royal Irish 535, and Her Majesty's 26th Camerouians 317, making about 2223.

Captain Herbert was stationed at Whampoa with the Calliope, Conway, Herald and Alligator, and was directed on the 24th to take the command of the force, afforded by the four vessels under his orders, and pushing up with the flood-tide with such vessels as could proceed, or with the boats of the ships, endeavour to take possession of and secure the Arsenal. I informed him that the ships near the Factory would drop down and secure the Duch fort, and to keep up an enfilading fire on the face of the works thrown up in front of the city, where I understood many guns were mounted. I left it to his own judgment to act according to circumstances, in endeavouring to drive the enemy from the French fort, and to endeavour to open the communication with the ships of war to the westward, and with the commanding officer of the left column stationed at the Factories. I beg to enclose a letter (No. 3), I have received from Captain Herbert, detailing the part he took in the affair that followed, where the usual

\* Blenheim, Blonde, Sulphur, Hyacinth, Nimrod, Modeste, Pylades, Cruiser, Columbine, Algerine, Starling; Atalanta and Nemesis, Steamers; forming the Macao fort division. Calliope, Conway, Herald, Alligator; forming the Whampoa division.—Wellesley, at Wantong in the Bocca Tigris, sent up her marines and 160 seamen.

gallantry and zeal were displayed by Her Majesty's seamen and royal marines; Commander Warren, with his gig's crew, placing his colours first on the walls of the French fort; Commander Warren was also ordered, with the ships under his command, to take up his anchorage in line along the town from the Western fort as far as the Factory, and to cannonade the exterior to prevent the enemy from firing on the right column as it passed. After the enemy's fire had been silenced he was to leave the Nimrod and another vessel to keep the enemy in check at that quarter, and to detach the rest of his force to secure the Duch fort, and to place them with the Atalanta so as to enfilade the line of batteries in front of the city, but he was not to expose his ships to the front fire of the heavy guns said to be placed there until the enemy were shaken in their position.

The landing of the left column was placed under his particular charge, and it was not to land until he had made the signal.

So effectually and vigorously did Commander Warren execute these instructions, that when the right column passed his station every thing had been completed and all was still: the detail of this gallant affair is annexed in a copy of his letter, (No. 4.) where I regret to observe the loss of his men was more than had been ordinary.

A return of the killed and wounded is here added, (No. 5.) and although it may appear strange to see the wounded of the army in the naval report, yet the two corps had been so entirely mingled together, their services so blended, and such intimate harmony has existed, that it would be difficult to make any separation between the acts of either or the circumstances that concerned them. The two officers who had fallen, Major Becher of the Indian army, Deputy Quarter Master General, a very old officer who had served ably in the Burmese War, and Lieutenant Fox, first of the Nimrod, have united the regret of all by their characters and services. The same shot took off the legs of Lieutenant Fox and of Mr. Kendall his shipmate, the gunnery mate of the Nimrod; the former fell a victim to his wound, the latter has survived amputation. I thought it would gratify Mr. Kendall to give him an acting commission as Lieut. of the Nimrod in Lieut. Fox's vacancy, on the field of battle, until your pleasure is known—though his wound will disable him from doing his duty perhaps for some time, and may oblige him to go home.

I have the honor to enclose lists of the officers who have been personally engaged in the operations on shore and afloat in boats, but it must be remembered that the duties and the fatigues of Commander Pritchard of the Blenheim and of those who remained on board their respective ships, were increased in the same ratio as their numbers were diminished, and that the ultimate success is the attainment of the whole body, each working in his particular sphere. The names of many will be seen who have already distinguished themselves at Chuenpee, Anunghoy, Wantong, and the many affairs in the Canton river, and no doubt have already, like their brother officers at Acre, been so fortunate as to secure their country's notice. Never was there a finer set of zealous able commanders. Commanders Belcher and Warren have only continued in that path of able and judicious

service on which they have so long travelled; their own services will always attract attention — of the Lieutenants, Lieutenant Joseph Pearce, Lieutenant Goldsmith, Lieutenant Watson, Sir Frederick Nicholson, Lieutenant Morshead, first of their respective vessels, may, perhaps, be named without injury to all others who well played their parts. — To Lieutenant Kellett, of the "Starling," I am much obliged; and Lieutenant Mason of the "Algerine," has won his promotion by a long series of gallant and brave services. I beg to acknowledge the zeal and the assistance I have had from every captain and officer of the squadron whom I have had the happiness to command.

## No. 1.

To Captain T. Herbert, Commanding the advanced Squadron.

Her Majesty's Ship *Alligator*, off *Howqua's Folly*, May 22d, 1841.

SIR, I HAVE the honor to acquaint you that last night, shortly after twelve o'clock, an attack was made by the Chinese upon Her Majesty's ship *Alligator*, under my command, by fire rafts.

They were chained in pairs, and brought down in a direct line for the ships on a flood tide: owing to the confined position I was in, and the sunken junks and line of stakes astern, I could not slip; but by steering the ship, and the activity of Lieutenant Stewart, first of this ship, and Messrs. Woolcombe and Baker, mates, in command of the boats, they were towed clear, although they passed within ten yards of the bows: as I had reason to believe that a considerable force was assembled in the vicinity, to take advantage of any accident that might occur, I fired several shot on both sides to clear the banks. No damage has been sustained.

I have the honor to be, &c.

AUGUSTUS L. KUPER, Captain (Actg).

## No. 2.

To Captain Sir H. Le Fleming Senhouse, K.C.H. Senior Officer, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, Her Majesty's Ship, *Sulphur*, off *Canton*, May 23d, 1841.

IN pursuance of your directions I proceeded up the creek on the western side of Canton, in order to examine the nature of the country, our force consisting of the *Druid's* launch, Lieutenant Goldsmith (1st Lieutenant of that ship), *Sulphur's* pinnace, and two cutters, *Modeste*, *Pylades* and *Algerine's* cutters, *Starling's* cutter, and my gig, the two first-named boats carrying guns.

On approaching *Neishang*, where the boats of the squadron were yesterday engaged, I observed the "fast boats" of the enemy collected in great numbers; part retreated by a creek to the left, but shortly after returned and manifested a disposition to impede

our progress, by firing guns and drawing up across the creek. Our advance, and notice of our determination by a round from each of the boats carrying guns, put them to flight, and in a very short period thirteen fast boats, five war junks and small craft collected, amounting to twenty-eight in all, were in flames. Fire rafts were in readiness, on the banks of the creek, but too well secured by chains, and therefore beyond our ability to destroy during our short stay.

The whole force behaved with their usual gallantry, and the commander of the division under my direction (Lieutenant Goldsmith) afforded me that steady determined support, which so particularly distinguishes him, and which caused me to ask you for his co-operation.

The enemy being posted in force on a hill above us, prevented me, in obedience to your orders, from exposing my small party by an attempt to dislodge them. But I fully succeeded in effecting my reconnoitre, by being hoisted to the mast-head of the largest junk, from whence I was able to survey the whole surrounding country.

From that examination, I am happy to acquaint you that landing on solid ground is perfectly practicable; that the advance to the batteries situated on the hills north of Canton is apparently easy, and I have every reason to believe that our artillery will not meet with any extraordinary difficulty.

On my return, I landed at the Mandarin temple, at *Tsingpoo*, where I found sand bags, and five small guns, which were spiked and thrown into the sea. This temple, with other large commodious buildings, will afford ample quarters for the troops which may first be landed.

No casualties whatever occurred. I brought out with me one large fast boat of sixty oars, the boat from which the mandarin escaped; and, in pursuance of your separate orders, collected vessels for the conveyance of 2,000 soldiers.

I have the honour to enclose a list of boats and officers engaged, and am Sir,

Yours, &c.

ED. BELCHER, Commander.

Return of Officers employed, on the 23d instant, off *Tsingpoo*.

Lieutenant Goldsmith, *Druid*, launch, 1 gun; number of boat, 1.

W. C. Wood, *Sulphur*, pinnace, 1 gun; number of boat, 2.

R. M. Hy. Richardson, Mate, cutter; number of boat, 3.

Jasper Selwyn; number of boat, 4.

John Richards, Mad. Asst. gig; number of boat, 5.

— Need, Mate, *Druid*, launch.

— Pearce, *Modeste*, cutter; number of boat, 6.

— Purver, *Nimrod*; number of boat, 7.

— Shedden, Midshipman, *Algerine*; number of boat, 8.

Peter Chown, Second Master, *Starling*; number of boat, 9.

EDWARD BELCHER, Commander.

No. 3.

To Captain Sir H. La Fleming Senhouse,  
K.C.H. &c. &c. &c. Canton River.

Her Majesty's Sloop *Modeste*, off Canton,  
26th May, 1841.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your orders of the 24th instant, a little before noon on that day, and immediately proceeded with the boats and marines of Calliope and Conway to the Alligator off Howqua's fort, making the signal to Herald to close and send her boats.

I ordered Captain Kuper to move the Alligator up the right bank of the river past Napier's fort, where he anchored her in her own draught, and the boats were pushed up as far as possible without exposing them to the enemy's fire. A little before sunset I observed the Algerine moving down past the Dutch fort, and she shortly anchored and engaged a battery on the Canton side which she silenced. Anxious to co-operate with her I went ahead with Captain Bethune to reconnoitre, but was stopped by a shot through my boat from the French fort.

I remained under cover of the point until dark, when I sent Captain Bethune with a division of boats to support her, and a concerted signal having been made, I joined her with the whole force at 2 A. M.

The arsenal being secured, I reconnoitred the line of defence, and perceived that it could not be attacked with advantage, without having heavier guns in position than those of the Algerine. I therefore lost no time in ordering the other sloops down, and at the same time put myself in communication with Major Pratt, commanding H. M.'s 26th in the factory.

Finding that *Modeste* was the only vessel likely to be got across the bar, and there appearing even some doubt of her accomplishing the passage, I fitted shell guns in three of the captured war-junks.

Capt. Eyres having succeeded, by great exertion, in getting his vessel over the bar, I this morning moved her, Algerine, and the gun-junks on the French Fort: the enemy deserted the upper defences, and about 9 A.M. opened their fire from the fort, which was speedily silenced; I then cleared the beach by a few well directed broadsides, and made the signal to advance. Captain Bethune immediately landed on shore with the storming party, and the fort was carried in the most gallant style; the whole line of defence extending about two miles from the factory, and which, with the exception of the French fort, had been lately constructed in the strongest manner, has been destroyed, and communication is opened with the ships at Napier's Fort. The guns destroyed are sixty four in number, including four ten and a half inch calibre: the Dutch fort was not armed.

To that excellent and able Officer, Captain Bethune, I feel particularly indebted, and my best thanks are also due to Commanders Warren and Gifford, who assisted in the attack. This is the sixth time I have had occasion to mention the gallant conduct of Commander Eyres; Lieutenant Mason, commanding the Algerine, acquitted himself entirely to my satisfaction, and both Captain Eyres and himself speak in the highest terms of the assistance they received from Lieutenant Shute, and Mr. Dolling, Mate, their

seconds in command, and all the other officers and men.

Lieutenants Haskell and Hay, senior of Cruizer and Pylades, directed the guns in the junks with great ability. Captain Bethune speaks in the highest terms of Lieutenants Watson, Beadon, Coryton, Collinson, Morshead, Hayes, Hamilton and Mr. Brown, Master, as also Lieutenant Hayes of the Bombay marine, and of all the other officers and men employed more immediately under his orders, a list of whom is annexed. The party of marines was commanded by Lieutenant Urquhart, assisted by Lieutenant Marriott, Lieutenant Somerville, Agent of transports, aided with some boats of the transports. Lieutenant Gabbett, of the Madras Artillery, threw shells with great effect from one of the junks, and Major Pratt offered in the handsomest manner to co-operate in the attack, if required.

I enclose a list of vessels captured, afloat, and building.

I have the honor &c.

T HERBERT,

Captain of H. M. S. *Calliope*,  
And Senior Officer present.

List of Officers employed on the 26th May 1841,  
off Canton.

Calliope—Lieutenants Watson and D'Eyncourt; Mr. Brown, Master; Messrs. Daly, Rivers, Le Vescomt, Egerton, and Taylor, Mates; Dr. Butler, Assistant-Surgeon.

Conway—Lieutenants Beadon and Coryton; Messrs. Read and Kane, Mates; Mr. Forster, Second Master.

Alligator—Lieutenant Stewart; Messrs. Woolcombe and Baker, Mates.

Hvacinth—Lieutenant Morshead; Messrs. Barclay and Osborne, Mates; Dr. Robertson, Assistant-Surgeon.

Cruizer—Lieutenants Haskell and Hayes; Messrs. Drake and Bryant, Mates.

Pylades—Lieutenant Hay; Messrs. Jeffreys and Sauley, Mates; Dr. Tweeddale, Assistant-Surgeon.

Columbine—Lieutenant Hamilton; Mr. Miller, Mate; Dr. Crawford, Assistant-Surgeon.

H. C. S. *Atalanta*—Lieutenant Grieve; Mr. Eden, Midshipman.

Rattlesnake—Messrs. Cowell and Waddington, Second Masters; Mr. Brodie, Volunteer First Class.

Lieutenant Somerville, with boats of the *Minerva*, *Sulimany*, and *Marion*.

Lieutenants Urquhart and Marriott, of the *Royal Marines*, *Conway* and *Alligator*.

Lieutenant Collinson, attached to the Surveying Department, was exceedingly active in getting the ships into their positions.

T. HERBERT, Captain and Senior  
Officer present.

*Return of War Junks and Row Boats, &c. found in the Chinese Naval Arsenal on the 27th May 1841.*

12 war junks building; 24 row boats; and 12 war junks lying at anchor off the Arsenal.

A large quantity of timber, gun carriages, and various stores.

T. HERBERT,  
Captain and Senior Officer present.

No. 4.

To Captain Sir Humphry Le Fleming Senhouse,  
K.C.H. &c. &c. Senior Officer in the Chinese Seas.

*Her Majesty's Sloop Hyacinth, off Canton,*

SIR, May 26th, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that immediately on the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, I weighed with the advanced squadron, and ordered Her Majesty's sloop Nimrod to attack the Samien Fort on the west end of the suburbs, supported by Her Majesty's sloop Pylades; Her Majesty's sloop, under my command, being placed abreast of the English factory to silence and dislodge any troops that might be there, and also with a view of covering the landing of Her Majesty's 26th regiment; Her Majesty's sloops Modeste, Cruizer, and Columbine, taking up a position to attack the Dutch Folly Fort, and to enfilade the line of batteries, lately thrown up in front of the city to the eastward of that fort. On the ships taking up their position, three fire vessels were sent adrift; and although the tide was running very strong, by timely dispatch of boats they were enabled to clear the ships, and tow three on shore, and set fire to the suburbs.

In the performance of this service they opened their fire on the boats and shipping. In half an hour the enemy were completely silenced to the eastward of the Dutch Folly Fort. After reconnoitring the Factory and finding it quite deserted, I immediately ordered the preconcerted signal for Her Majesty's Brig Algerine and Atalanta steamer to approach with Her Majesty's 26th regiment, when they landed and took possession of the Factory without the slightest casualty. This service being completed, I ordered Lieutenant Mason, commanding Her Majesty's brig Algerine, to proceed to attack a fort to the eastward, which I feel much pleasure in reporting to you was done in a particularly spirited and gallant style by that officer, but perceiving the firing to be so heavy from the forts, I ordered the boats of Her Majesty's ships to her support: Her Majesty's sloop Hyacinth's, under Lieutenant Stewart, and Mr. Peter Barclay mate; Modeste's, Mr. Fitzgerald mate; Cruizer's, Lieutenant Haskell, and Mr. Thomas J. Drake, mate; Pylade's, Lieutenant Hay; and Columbine's, Lieutenants Hamilton, Helpman, and Mr. Miller, mate. It is gratifying to me to inform you, by half-past seven the fort of eleven guns was silenced, and the guns spiked, under a heavy fire of ginjalls and musquetry from the houses; at the same time I regret to add, it was not done without considerable loss. It would be impossible to particularize upon an occasion where every officer and man engaged against an enemy defending themselves with

much vigour at all points, but in addition to my best thanks and acknowledgments to Commanders Barlow, Evres, Giffard, Anson and Clarke, and Lieutenant Mason, I hope you will give me leave to recommend to your particular notice my own 1st Lieutenant W. H. Morshead, who was wounded in the hand in a personal engagement with a Manderin. Lieutenant Mason of the Algerine speaks in the highest terms of the conduct of Mr. Dolling, mate, and Mr. Higgs, second master of that vessel. I cannot conclude without expressions of my approbation of the steadiness of Commander Rogers of the Indian Navy, in conducting the Atalanta to her station.

I beg leave to attach a statement of the killed and wounded, and damage sustained by the ships engaged.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WM. WARREN, Commander.

Admiralty, October 8, 1841.

DUPLICATES of Dispatches, addressed to Commodore Sir J. J. Gordon Bremer from the late Captain Sir H. Fleming Senhouse, were this day received at this Office, of which the following are copies or extracts:

*Heights above Canton, May 29, 1841, continued on board Her Majesty's ship Blenheim, French river, June 2, 1841.*

SIR,

I CLOSED my former with the detail of our proceedings up to the moment the expedition was about to leave Hongkong for Canton. I have now the gratification to enter upon the details of a succession of operations highly honourable I trust to Her Majesty's arms, and by which the large and populous city of Canton has been laid in complete submission at the feet of the Queen's forces.

As soon as it was decided that the whole combined force should move up to the attack of Canton, the Major-General and myself were decidedly of opinion that no minor attempts should be made until all was ready for a combined operation, when the whole force should be brought into play, and, having once commenced our measures, to follow them up with vigour and energy until Canton was our own.

I, therefore, instructed Captain Herbert, who had charge of the advanced squadron, that he was to abstain from all hostile movements, until the arrival of the force under the command of the Major-General and myself, excepting such as might be merely defensive.

The surveying vessels, under the command of that able and intelligent Officer, Commander Belcher, were sent on, on the 18th, to take up a position about the Sankut flats, to aid in getting the large vessels over the shoals once more, where Blenheim had already four times passed with great good fortune without injury.

It was my intention to take Blenheim within sight, and in as close neighbourhood of the very walls of Canton as possible, to form a good dépôt for stores, quarters for the sick or wounded, and to

form the basis of our offensive operations. I pushed forward, therefore, with every exertion to prevent any delay of the Conway from the difficulties we might experience.

At twenty minutes past three in the afternoon Blenheim anchored off Ligen Island, near the Sulphur, and the Atalanta was sent back to tow up the Major-General's Head quarter ship. All the Chinese pilots had fled, and we failed in getting one; but on the morning of the 21st, the light breeze being fair, and the tide answering, Captain Belcher felt no hesitation in taking charge of the Blenheim; and although it had been agreed to collect our force at Wantong, as another stage on our route, I thought it best to proceed with my own ship, and weighed at half past seven, some of the transports collecting around me.

At half past ten we were up to the second bar, where I expected to have found the Chinese bar boats to have buoyed off the channel; but they had all gone. The tide was not more than half expended; Captain Belcher felt confident he could take the ship over the bar after sounding and placing boats, which he did in the most rapid manner, against a tide of great velocity. It was done in a masterly manner, and the Blenheim passed the second bar at noon. At two we were up to the first bar. Leaving it on the right, we entered the passage between Danes Island and the main land, continuing our route past French Island until the fortified heights and walls of Canton were in sight, about eight miles distant; and the ships of the advanced squadron at the Macao Fort were in a direct line about five miles from us. At this position the Blenheim was anchored and moored in five fathoms at low water spring tides, where no line of battle ship of any nation had ever been before, and ready to be the rallying point to our coming force.

By the indefatigable attention of Commander Rogers, of the Honourable East India Company's steam vessel Atalanta, who for three days was in almost constant motion, under the superintendence of Commander Belcher, on whom no fatigue or trouble seemed to have any other effect than to increase his zeal; all the transports and ships of war were assembled, excepting two of the former; and these having grounded, without hope of getting off immediately; the troops were taken out and distributed in other vessels.

No overt act of hostility had taken place to this moment, except remounting the guns in the Shamien battery; but the Chinese appear to have been perfectly ready for attack.

All remained quiet in the river until about ten o'clock P. M. when an attempt was made with fire rafts to burn the advanced vessels.

This attack not only totally failed, but was followed up by a gallant attack on the Shamien battery, and the silencing of it by the vessels of the squadron under the immediate superintendence of Captain Herbert, of the Calliope; and the destruction of a large flotilla of fire vessels which the Chinese had been preparing and brought out of the branch of the river which leads north of the town. For the details of this gallant defence and attack, I beg to refer to Captain Herbert's own letter, of which I have the honour to

annex a copy. About the same time, though later in the night, the Alligator was attacked off Howqua's fort; and to show how necessary it was to have been always on our guard, the fire junks came up with the flood tide in a direction with the merchant vessels at Whampoa, where all seemed to sleep in security.

Captain Kuper's account of his prompt and decisive conduct in repelling the attack I have also the honour to forward.

To form some idea of the difficulties attending the contemplated attack, I must state that the extensive city of Canton, with a population said to be 1,200,000, defended by a strong inclosing wall of great thickness, extending sometimes to the height of thirty feet, with a body of troops assembled within and without it, amounting, at a medium calculation, to 30 or 40,000 men, rests on low ground, except on the north side, where high conical hills extend up to, and rise also within, the walls commanding the whole city. Its front towards the river has extensive suburbs with narrow irregular streets rendering it easily defensible and difficult to attack. Being also surrounded by rice cultivation, which is at this time flooded, and only passable by footpaths about one to two feet broad, it is exceedingly difficult of approach, and the use of guns, except of the lightest calibre, is impossible. The great object was to gain possession of the heights to the northward of the town wall; and a branch of the river, which ran along the west side of the town to the northward, seemed to offer the means of approaching sufficiently near the line of connecting heights to make them accessible.

Opinions were uncertain as to the feasibility of entering this river and of floating at low water. To determine this I availed myself once more of the zeal and great ability of Commander Belcher, who most handsomely volunteered to explore it with his own boats, assisted with three others from the Pylades and Modeste, and Algerine, all placed under the command of that gallant and judicious Officer, Lieutenant Goldsmith, of the Druid, who was attached to the Blenheim, in that ship's launch, and who had orders to protect Commander Belcher in his surveying operations.

The Major-General and myself went to Canton to make a reconnoissance and personal inspection on the same day, the 23d. In our progress, we observed a firing and explosion in the direction of Commander Belcher's party; and Commander Belcher's letter, a copy of which I enclose, gives the detail of a gallant and spirited affair which took place in the creek. At eleven at night Commander Belcher returned with the gratifying intelligence that he had discovered an excellent landing place on a pier, with water enough for the Sulphur close to it at low water. The ground directly around it rose in low hills, and a line of hills appeared to continue to the heights near the city, although there might be swampy grounds in the small vallies dividing them.

About the same time other boats returned, with a collection of Chinese craft, sufficient to transport the whole force. I, therefore, at midnight wrote a note to Sir Hugh, informing him of these favourable circumstances, and asking his opinion as to an immediate landing. The gallant general entered into the suggestion instantly, "to land as soon as possible,"

for the purpose of preventing any opposition by new defences.

Our united force consisted of the ships and vessels named in the margin, comprising, in their crews, officers, seamen, and marines inclusive, about 3,200 men; out of which about 1000 officers, seamen, and marines were landed, to serve with the army. The military force under that gallant, distinguished, and experienced Officer, Major-General Sir Hugh Gough, consisting of about 2,223, besides the staff of the army, and the camp-followers: and the whole force, taken collectively, excepting transports' crews, including every individual in the fleet, could not have been more than 6000 persons, of all ages and of all classes.

On the morning of the 24th, orders were given to be ready to land about noon, in two columns, with two days dressed provisions.

The major-general commanded the right column. I had intended to have taken the command of my naval-brigade in this column, but the major-general begged I would remain at his side, and feeling it to be only a sacrifice of my own gratification and desire, once more to lead my brave fellows, and sensible that nothing could be lost to the public service by transferring the command on this occasion, I resigned it to my gallant and intelligent friend, Captain Burchier, and joined the general's staff with my own immediate assistants, Commander Belcher, Lieutenant Pitman, and Mr. Norman, mate of the Royal Navy.

I left to the judgment of Captain Herbert, of the Calliope, to act according to circumstances, in endeavouring to drive the enemy from the French fort, and to endeavour to open the communication with the ships of war to the westward, and with the commanding officer of the left column, stationed at the factories. I beg to inclose a letter I have received from Captain Herbert, detailing the part he took in the affair that followed; when the usual gallantry and zeal were displayed by Her Majesty's seamen and royal marines.

So effectually and vigorously did Commander Warren execute his instructions, that when the right column passed his station every thing had been completed, and all was still. The detail of this gallant affair is annexed in a copy of his letter, where I regret to observe the loss of men was more than had been ordinary.

The day chosen for the landing happened to be the 24th, the anniversary of our Gracious Queen's birthday. I issued a general order that the salute should be fired, though in the midst of the preparation, and it was done even under the muzzles of the enemy's guns.

The right column, piloted up the creek by Commander Belcher, profiting by the local knowledge he had gained the previous day, arrived safely at its destination as the day closed in.

The General immediately landed with a wing of the 49th, and proceeded to throw out reconnoitring:

\* Blenheim, Blonde, Sulphur, Hyacinth, Nimrod, Mōdeste; Pylades, Cruizer, Columbine, Algerine, Starling, Atalanta and Nemesis steamers, forming the Macao fort division.—Calliope, Conway, Herald, Alligator; forming the Whampoa division.—Wesley, at Wantong, in the Bocca Tigris, sent up her marines, and 160 seamen.

picquets. About 9 o'clock some detached parties of Chinese soldiers came around us with shouts, burning false fires, but they never came to the attack, and contented themselves with cutting off a poor camp-follower who struggled a little, taking off his head, and leaving both head and body on the ground. All remained quiet until daylight.

On the morning of the 25th the troops marched on in extended lines, and a demonstration was made to the right, where the enemy appeared nearest and numerous in the adjoining vilages. But they felt no inclination to approach, and the low grounds appearing more swampy and extensive in that direction than to the left, the General drew off to that quarter, and we went most cautiously forward to allow of the guns keeping up, the dragging being very laborious, the weather sultry, and the swamp between the hills precluding the possibility of getting any but small guns forward.

As we approached the city, four distinct forts were observed outside of the walls, on steep heights, all either square or round in their forms, and entirely inclosed. The city walls were armed with guns and ginjels, and the three nearest forts were completely under their fire. The enemy's troops were numerous within and without, but they kept at a distance, and unwilling to close with the troops, although their distant fire was sufficiently exact. After occupying several heights successively on the advance, by many connected movements, the 49th were ordered with the 37th native infantry, to occupy a height on the left nearest the outer fort. The 18th and the Royal Marines on the heights opposite the square tower, and the naval brigade to take and occupy a height on the right in front of the two oblong forts near the north-gate. From these the different divisions advanced ultimately to the storming. The Chinese came down in great numbers, crowned the ridges near the forts, but the 49th being a little in advance, pushed on and succeeded first in entering both of the forts on the left with the native troops, but the 18th were united with them; the Chinese fled towards the city, and the forts were immediately secured.

At this moment our situation was not the most secure in face of a force, which by all accounts, must have amounted to 40,000 men. We had gained the exterior forts gallantly, but a warm fire soon came from the town walls, and numerous bodies advanced, drew out, and came under the ridges within pistol shot of our gates. A camp of about 4,000 men appeared below; a smaller camp further off. A large body of men approached the vilages, commanding our communication with the beach. The skirmishers were, however, soon driven back, and in their retreat drawing our troops after them; they gradually approached their large camp, and circumstances accomplished that, which prudence would hardly at first have undertaken. Our men were warmly fired at from the heights, divided from them by a rice field, two narrow paths only led to it, but the Royal Irish led in the most gallant manner by Captains Grattan and Sergeant on one pathway, the former of whom encouraged his grenadiers amidst a heavy fire, preceding them at some distance; and by Colonel Adams on another pathway to the left. A company of Royal Marines, under Lieutenant Maxwell of the Druid, joining the 18th, the Chinese abandoned the height,

and began to leave their camp; the troops followed on, a general run took place, and the whole of that Chinese body dispersed, and never assembled again. To the great regret of every one Captain Sergeant was severely wounded, and obeyed orders to lead on to the camp, without acknowledging his wound.

A partial exchange of guns and rockets took place during the afternoon, our guns cannonading the town and burning some houses, but during the night their firing ceased; at daylight no banner was to be seen on the walls, and very few persons about them.

About ten o'clock a white flag was shown on the walls; an interpreter was sent to inquire what was wanted; to whom the Chinese officer stated, "they would fight no more," and begged to see the general commanding the troops. He was told that when the Chinese general made his appearance, the British commanders by land and sea would treat with him, but they would meet no person of inferior rank; and it was arranged that the Chinese general should be under the walls by half-past three p.m., failing which the fire would recommence. The evening turned out squally, with rain, and no one appeared, but the firing was not renewed, and preparations for an assault were continued during the evening. It would have been easy to have burned the town, and the Blenheim's men brought up 200 carcass rockets that evening. But the General and myself were equally of opinion that such a measure should only be resorted to as a last resource, and that the storming of the walls, and the possession of the heights within, would be a sufficient and unquestionable proof of the city being at our mercy, and a complete security to the positions we had in our actual occupation.

On the morning of the 27th the preparations were completed for the escalade, the guns in position, and the walls and heights within the city would have been in our possession in two hours, when a dispatch arrived from Captain Elliot, proposing terms of agreement between the Chinese authorities and himself, and proposing a suspension of hostilities until noon of that day.

The terms were in opposition to the opinions of the Major-General, and myself, as they left the troops in a precarious position for some days, when the conduct of the Chinese hitherto was considered; with whom delay had always been used to strengthen their defences; the result of which had always been a breach of faith. It gave another fair opening for Chinese treachery to work, and it took away the apparent symbol of capture, which would have been prevented by seeing the British banner floating within the city walls, and those walls lying crumbled before it. The fortified heights in the city once gained, the Chinese troops may have marched out and laid down their arms, and not a British soldier had any occasion to enter the populous part of the town.

That one of the first cities of the Chinese Empire, whose population of 1,200,000, defended by 40,000 soldiers, in and without the walls, whose defences had been now a whole year in preparation; strong in its natural position, and approachable only by an intricate and uncertain navigation, near 100 miles inland, should have in three days fallen before a force

of not more than 3,500 effective men, soldiers, royal marines, and seamen, I trust will be considered a circumstance gratifying and creditable to the national feeling, and to Her Majesty's arms.

As soon as I had made my arrangements, I found that a strong demonstration of irregular troops had shewn themselves to the northward of our camp, on the 30th a detachment was sent to drive them off, but the rain pouring down in a deluge in the evening; the Chinese knowing that our flint musquets would not be available under such a torrent of water, closed in on the troops with their lances and came to close quarters with them boldly and bravely, which only served to shew that such qualities cannot contend against discipline and united strength.

A company of Sepoys of the 37th native infantry separated in the thick heavy rain, under the command of their gallant officer, Captain Hatfield, and as the night came on, were detained on their way. Being surrounded by a very numerous body of the Chinese lancemen, they with the great coolness and devotion of their lives, formed into a square, and awaited with perfect sang-froid the endeavour to destroy them by the long lance over the charged bayonet. Now and then a musket from the centre was made to discharge its messenger of death with much care by two of the officers, but they must have fallen if a company of the Blenheim's marines, with percussion muskets, under Lieut. Whiting of that corps, commanded by Captain Duff of the 37th native infantry had not then sent in quest of them, A musket fired, was happily answered from the square, three cheers were exchanged, the marines coming up, gave their volley—they re-loaded and fired once more, and the brave Sepoys were liberated. To shew the superiority of the percussion muskets, these had been loaded since the 24th, a period of six days, yet only two misfired; on the contrary, all the flint-muskets were rendered useless by the torrent of rain that fell.

At noon on the 1st of June the troops left the forts that had been occupied, and proceeded to the village of Tsipoo, in the most admirable order. I attended the General with the rear-guard, no armed enemy appeared; the unarmed people were friendly and useful; hundreds of them assisting in dragging the guns through the difficult grounds, and carrying the materials and baggage. A sufficient number of Chinese boats had been procured to embark the whole body, and about five o'clock we left the landing place, not leaving a musket cartridge behind; at half-past eight the whole force, soldiers and seamen, were safely on board their respective ships without a single casualty occurring to disturb the successful termination of an expedition, promptly undertaken, I trust ably executed, and happily terminated, with the exception of a few brave spirits who had fallen, and a few more who still must suffer some time from their wounds. A return of the killed and wounded is here added, and although it may appear strange to see the wounded of the army, in the Navy report, yet the two corps had been so entirely mingled together, their services so blended, and such intimate harmony has existed, that it would be difficult to make any separation between the acts of either, or the circumstances that concerned them.

Commanders Belzler and Warren have only con-

tinued on that path of able and judicious service on which they have so long travelled. Their own services will always attract attention. Of the lieutenants, Lieut. Joseph Pearse, Lieut. Goldsmith, Lieut. Watson, Sir Frederick Nicholson, Lieut. Morshead, first of their respective vessels, may perhaps be named without injury to all others who well played their parts. To Lieut. Kellett of the *Starling*, I am much obliged, and Lieut. Mason of the *Algerine* has won his promotion by a long series of gallant and brave services. I beg to acknowledge the zeal and assistance I have had from every captain and officer of the squadron, whom I have had the happiness to command. To my friend Captain Bouchier, united in feeling by a long course of service, and of personal knowledge, it has been a delight to me to have been associated with him in this last turning over of the page of life. To do duty with such a person is a gratification, and to know how to win the regard of a superior officer when serving as a junior is a certain proof of undoubted ability to command. When the gallant naval battalion were being led under his guidance, to the storming of the two western forts, which were not more gallantly carried than firmly maintained under the very heavy galling fire, no one who witnessed their conduct will again be inclined to say, that the sailor could not perform the useful duties of the soldier, as well as the less restricted duties of his own profession. The commander of the forces having been desirous, that an officer should carry his despatches to the Governor-General in India, and conceiving it to be of sufficient importance, that our success should be known in England as soon as possible, I have directed Commander Barlow to take charge of copies of my letter to you; and to proceed overland with them, after arriving at Calcutta, without loss of time. I have appointed Lieut. Joseph Pearse, whose services and character I need not repeat to you, to command the *Nimrod* until your pleasure is known, filling his vacancy by

an old mate of the station, highly spoken of by the Captain of Her Majesty's ship ; all of which I trust will meet your approbation. I could not have selected a more intelligent officer, or one more fit to give every information on the local concerns of this country than Commander Barlow.

I have now only to recommend, and to request you will bring before the notice of their Lordships of the Admiralty, my present staff on the day of action; Commander Belcher, of Her Majesty's ship *Sulphur*, and Lieutenant J. C. Pitman, of Her Majesty's ship *Druid*, who Captain Smith was kind enough to lend me to assist in the arduous duties of a Commander-in-Chief, which I have had to perform as senior officer in very extensive operations, without any other aid or assistance of a Commander-in-Chief's staff.

I have, &c.

H. LE FLEMING SENHOUSE, Captain.

*Steamer Nemesis, Off Canton.*  
2-d May 1841.

SIR,

ALL Her Majesty's subjects, and almost the whole of the Foreign community, having been gra-

dually withdrawn from the factories of Canton, in consequence of notice and recommendation given to them to that effect; and Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary having likewise retired, and embarked on board the *Nemesis* yesterday afternoon, at about half past six, simultaneously with this movement, I withdrew the guard of marines from the British factory, and moved up Her Majesty's sloops *Modeste* and *Py-lades*, for the protection of Her Majesty's brig *Algerine*, steamer *Nemesis*, and cutter *Louisa*; as also the vessel in which the merchants were embarked.

I have now the honor to inform you, that the force named in the margin,\* defeated last night an attack made by fire rafts, backed by boats filled with troops.

The Chinese commenced about half-past ten P.M. nearly, the same time that fire rafts were sent down upon the *Alligator*; they renewed it at three A. M.; a fire in the mean time being kept up at intervals from two or three points in the western suburb, which was answered by occasional shots from Her Majesty's ships.

At daylight, this morning, the western fort (in the Shamien suburb) which they have recently repaired, rearm'd and added considerable outworks to, mounting very heavy guns, opened a warm fire upon the ships, I immediately directed them to weigh, and proceed to silence it, which they accomplished in half an hour.

A large number of war junks, armed fishing boats, and fire-rafts, were now seen bearing down on the ships from the channel, which runs on the west side of the city, from whence also the fire rafts of the previous night had come down.

I accordingly ordered up the *Nemesis* and the boats of the ships before mentioned, with those of the *Calliope* and *Herald*, and the result has been that from thirty to thirty-five war junks, and fishing vessels, manned by troops, both Tartar and Chinese, from several different provinces of the Empire, have been run on shore and destroyed, as also nearly fifty small boats filled with combustibles; these were joined eight and nine together to form fire-rafts, their wrecks are lying both banks of the river, nearly close up to *Tsing Poo*, the landing place there, from which a good approach appears to lead direct (not more than four miles) to the north gate of the city wall, with dry footing the whole way.

My constant thanks are due to Captain Nias for his great zeal and assistance, and on this occasion I can not withhold my best acknowledgements from Commanders Eyres and Anson, and Lieut. Mason, commanding the *Algerine*, for the judicious manner in which they brought their ships into action. They speak in the highest terms of their officers and ships' companies, and the Captains particularly recommend their Senior Lieutenants, v.z. Peter Fisher, H. G. Shute and John Hay.

I am also proud to bear testimony to their gallant conduct in destroying and towing the five vessels

\* *Modeste*, *Py-lades*, *Algerine*, *Nemesis* steamer, *St. Louis* cutter, boats of *Calliope*, and *Herald*.

clear of the ships, as also to the officers named in the margin\* employed in the boats on this service.

Mr. Hall commanding the Nemesis, his officers and crew, acquitted themselves to my entire satisfaction, as also Mr. Thomas Carmichael, mate of the Wellesley, in command of the Louisa cutter.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without mentioning Lieutenant D'Eyncourt of the Calliope, who has generally accompanied me, since I have had the honour to command the advanced squadron.

I return a list of casualties which I am happy to say are slight.

I have the honour to be, &c.

T. HERBERT, Captain H. M. S. Calliope, and  
Senr. Officer commanding advanced squadron.  
Captain Sir H. Le Fleming Senhouse, K. C. H.  
*Her Majesty's Ship Blenheim, Senior Officer on  
the China Coast.*

*A Return of Casualties, &c. from the Advanced  
Squadron off Canton, on the 21st and 22d of  
May 1841.*

Pylades—None killed or wounded; one shot struck the ship's quarter.

Modeste 2 seamen, 1 marine, wounded; maintopmast wounded, timber heads on the forecastle and forecastle stantions shot away, and hulled in several places; fore, main, and mizen shrouds shot away, and running rigging cut up; boats shot through in several places.

Nemesis—1 officer wounded; Mr. Hall, badly burnt.

In the afternoon spiked, in a masked battery, one long ten and half inch gun, one eight and half inch ditto, four eighteen pounders, and five ginjalls.

T. HERBERT, Captain of H. M. S.  
Calliope, commanding the advanced  
squadron off Canton.

*Her Majesty's Ship Alligator, off Howqua  
Folly, May 22, 1841.*

SIR, I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that last night, at shortly after twelve o'clock, an attack was made by the Chinese upon Her Majesty's ship Alligator, under my command, by fire rafts; they were chained in pairs, and brought down in a direct line for the ship, on a flood tide. Owing to the confined position I was in, and the sunken junks and line of stakes astern, I could not slip; but by sheering the ship, and the activity of Lieutenant Stewart, first of this ship, and Messrs. Woolcombe and Baker, mates, in command of the boats, they were towed clear, although they passed within ten yards of the bows. As I had reason to believe that a considerable force was assembled in the vicinity, to take advantage of any accident that might occur, I fired several shots on both sides, to clear the banks; no damage has been sustained.

I have, &c.

AUGUSTUS L. KUPER, Captain acting.  
To Captain Herbert, Commanding the  
Advanced Squadron.

\* Calliope, Lieut. E. T. D'Eyncourt, Mr. H. I. Le Viscomte; Herald, Lieut. P. Fisher, Acting Lieut. J. B. Dewes; Modeste, Lieut. H. I. Shute, Mr. Edward Fitzgerald, mate; Pylades, Lieut. John Hay, Mr. J. N. Sawlez, mate; Algerine, Mr. Samuel Dolling, mate.

*Her Majesty's Ship Sulphur, off Canton,  
May 23, 1841.*

SIR,

IN pursuance of your directions, I proceeded up the creek on the western side of Canton, in order to examine the nature of the country; our force consisting of the Druid's launch, Lieutenant Goldsmith (first lieutenant of that ship), Sulphur's pinnace, and two cutters, Modeste, Pylades, and Algerine's cutters, Starling's cutter, and my gig; the two first named boats carrying guns.

On approaching Neishang, where the boats of the squadron were yesterday engaged, I observed the fast boats of the enemy collected in great numbers; part retreated by a creek to the left, but shortly after returned, and manifested a disposition to impede our progress, by firing guns and drawing up across the creek. Our advance, and notice of our determination by a round from each of the boats carrying guns, put them to flight, and, in a very short period, thirteen fast boats, five war junks and small craft collected, amounting to twenty-eight in all, were in flames. Fire-rafts were in readiness on the banks of the creek, but too well secured by chain, and therefore beyond our ability to destroy, during our short stay.

The whole force behaved with their usual gallantry, and the commander of the division under my direction (Lieutenant Goldsmith) afforded me that steady, determined support which so particularly distinguishes him, and which cause me to ask you for his co-operation.

No casualties whatever occurred. I brought out with me one large fast boat, of sixty oars, the boat from which the mandarin escaped; and, in pursuance of your separate orders, collected vessels for the conveyance of 2,000 soldiers. I have the honour to inclose a list of boats and officers engaged, and am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

EDWARD BELCHER, Commander.

Captain Sir H. F. Senhouse, Knt. K. C. H.  
Senior Officer, &c. &c. &c.

*Her Majesty's Sloop Modeste off Canton,  
26th May, 1841.*

SIR,

I received your orders of the 24th instant, a little before noon on that day, and immediately proceeded with the boats and marines of Calliope and Conway to the Alligator off Howqua's Fort, making the signal to Herald to close and send her boats.

I ordered Captain Kuper to move the Alligator up the right bank of the river past Napier's Fort, where he anchored her in her own draught, and the boats were pushed up as far as possible without exposing them to the enemy's fire.

A little before muster I observed the Algerine moving down past the Dutch fort, and she shortly anchored and engaged a battery on the Canton side, which she silenced. Anxious to co-operate with her, I went a head with Captain Bethune to reconnoitre, but was stopped by a shot through my boat from French Fort.

I remained under cover of the point until dark, when I sent Capt. Bethune, with a division of boats, to support her; and, a concerted signal having been made, I joined her with the whole force at 2 A.M.

The arsenal being secured, I reconnoitred the line

of defence, and perceived that it could not be attacked with advantage, without having heavier guns in position than those of the Algerine. I therefore lost no time in ordering the other sloops down, and at the same time put myself in communication with Major Pratt, commanding H. M. 26th, in the factory.

Finding that *Modeste* was the only vessel likely to be got across the bar, and there appearing even some doubt of her accomplishing the passage, I fitted shell guns in three of the captured war-junks.

Captain Eyres having succeeded, by great exertion, in getting his vessel over the bar, I this morning moored her, Algerine, and the gun-junks on the French fort, the enemy deserted the upper defences, and about 9 A.M. opened their fire from the fort, which was speedily silenced; I then cleared the beach by a few well directed broadsides, and made the signal to advance. Captain Bethune immediately landed on shore with the storming party, and the fort was carried in the most gallant style, the whole line of defence extended about two miles from the Factory, which, with the exception of the French fort, had been lately constructed in the strongest manner, has been destroyed, and communication is opened with the ships at Napier's fort; the guns destroyed are sixty-four in number, including four ten and a half inch calibre; the Dutch fort was not armed.

To that excellent and able officer Captain Bethune I feel particularly indebted, and my best thanks are also due to Commanders Warren and Giffard, who assisted in the attack. This is the sixth time I have had occasion to mention the gallant conduct of Commander Eyres; Lieutenant Mason, commanding the Algerine, acquitted himself entirely to my satisfaction, and both Captain Eyres and himself speak in the highest terms of the assistance they received from Lieutenant Shute and Mr. Dolling, mate, their seconds in command, and all the other officers and crew.

Lieutenants Haskell and Hay, Senior of the Cruizer and Pylades, directed the guns in the junks with great ability.

Captain Bethune speaks in the highest terms of Lieutenants Watson, Beadon, Coryton, Collinson, Morshead, Hayes, Hamilton, and Mr. Brown, Master; as also Lieutenant Reeves, of the *Bombay Marine*; and of all the other officers and men employed more immediately under his orders, a list of whom is annexed. The party of marines was commanded by Lieutenant Urquhart, assisted by Lieutenant Marriott, Lieutenant Somerville, agent of transports, aided with some boats of the transports.

Lieutenant Gabbott, of the Madras artillery, threw shells with great effect from one of the junks, and Major Pratt offered in the handsomest manner to cooperate in the attack if required.

I enclose a list of vessels captured, afloat and building.

I have the honour to be, &c.

T. HERBERT.

Captain of Her Majesty's ship *Calliope*, and Senior Officer present.

To Captain Sir H. de Fleming  
Sea-house, Kt. K.C.H. &c. &c. &c.

*List of Officers employed, on the 26th May 1841,  
off Canton.*

*Calliope*—Lieutenants Watson and D'Eyncourt; Mr. Brown, Master; Messrs. Daly, Rivers, Le Vesconte, Egerton, and Taylor, Mates; Dr. Butler, Assistant-Surgeon.

*Conway*—Lieutenants Beadon and Coryton; Messrs. Read and Kane, Mates; Mr. Foister, Second Master.

*Alligator*—Lieutenant Stewart; Messrs. Woolcombe and Baker, Mates.

*Hyacinth*—Lieutenant Morshead; Messrs. Barclay and Osborne, Mates; Mr. Robertson, Assistant-Surgeon.

*Cruizer*—Lieutenants Haskell and Hayes; Messrs. Drake and Bryant, Mates.

*Pylades*—Lieutenant Hay; Messrs. Saulez and Jeffreys, Mates; Mr. Tweeddale, Assistant-Surgeon.

*Columbine*—Lieutenant Hamilton; Mr. Miller, Mate; Mr. Crawford, Assistant-Surgeon.

*H. E. I. C. S. Atalante*—Lieutenant Grieve; Mr. Eden, Midshipman.

*Rattlesnake*—Messrs. Cowell and Waddingham, Second Masters; Mr. Brodie, Volunteer, First Class.

Lieutenant Somerville, with boats of *Minerva*, *Sulimanny*, and *Marion*.

Lieutenants Urquhart and Marriott, of the royal marines, *Conway* and *Alligator*.

Lieutenant Collinson, attached to the Surveying Department, was exceedingly active in getting the ships into their positions.

T. HERBERT, Captain and Senior Officer present.

*Return of War Junks and Row Boats found in the  
Chinese Naval Arsenal, on the 27th May 1841.*

12 war junks building; 24 row boats; and 12 war junks lying at anchor off the Arsenal.

A large quantity of timber, gun carriages, and various stores.

T. HERBERT, Captain and Senior Officer present.

*Her Majesty's Ship Hyacinth,  
off Canton, May 26, 1841.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you, that immediately on the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, I weighed with the advanced squadron, and ordered Her Majesty's ship *Nimrod* to attack the Shamaien Fort on the west end of the suburbs, supported by Her Majesty's sloop *Pylades*. Her Majesty's sloop under command being abreast of the English Factory to silence and dislodge any troops that might be there, and also with a view of covering the landing of Her Majesty's 26th regiment. Her Majesty's sloops *Modeste*, *Cruizer*, and *Columbine* taking up a position to attack the Dutch Folly Fort, and to enfilade the line of batteries lately thrown up in front of the city to the eastward of that fort. On the ships taking up their position, three fire vessels were sent adrift, and although the tide was running very strong, by timely dispatch of boats, they were en-

abled to clear the ships and tow them shore, and set fire to the suburbs. In the performance of this service they opened their fire on the boats and shipping. In half an hour the enemy were completely silenced to the eastward of the Dutch Folly fort. After reconnoitring the Factory, and finding it quite deserted, I immediately ordered the preconcerted signal for Her Majesty's brig Algerine and Atlanta steamers to approach with Her Majesty's 26th regiment, when they landed and took possession of the Factory, without the slightest casualty. This service being completed, I ordered Lieutenant Mason, commanding Her Majesty's brig Algerine to proceed to attack a fort to the eastward, which I feel much pleasure in reporting to you, was done in a particularly spirited and gallant stile by that officer, but perceiving the firing to be so heavy from the forts, I ordered the boats of Her Majesty's ships to her support, Her Majesty's sloop, Hyacinth, under Lieut. Stewart, and Mr Peter Barclay, mate; Modeste, Mr. Fitzgerald, mate; Cruizers, Lieutenant Haskell and Mr. Thomas G. Drake, mate; Pyldes, Lieutenant, Fay; and Columbine, Lieutenant, Hamilton, Helpman, and Mr. Millan, mate. It is gratifying to me to inform you by half-past seven, the fort of eleven guns were silenced, and the guns spiked under a heavy fire of ginjals and musketry from the houses; at the same time, I regret to add, it was not done without considerable loss. It would be impossible to particularise upon an occasion when every officer and man engaged against the enemy defended themselves with much vigour at all points; but in addition to my best thanks and acknowledgments to Commanders Barlow, Eyres, Giffard, Anson, and Clarke, and Lieutenant Mason, I hope you will give me leave to recommend to your particular notice, my own first Lieutenant, W. H. Morshead, who was wounded in the hand, in a personal engagement with a Madarin. Lieutenant Mason of the Algerine, speaks in the highest terms of the conduct of Mr. Dolling, mate, and Mr. Higgs, second master of that vessel.

I cannot conclude without expressions of my approbation of the steadiness of Commander Rogers, of the Indian navy, in conducting the Atlanta to her station.

I beg leave to attach a statement of the killed and wounded, and damage sustained by the ships engaged.

I have. &c.

W. WARREN, *Commander.*

*To Captain Sir Humphrey Le Fleming  
Senhouse, Knt., K. C. H., &c. &c. &c.  
Senior Officer in the China Seas.*

Lieutenant Morshead, slightly wounded; Mr. Barclay, slightly wounded (son of an old and distinguished officer; William Hyde (S), slightly; John Green, slightly; William Moore, severely. Michael McCormick (S), killed; Mr. Fitzgerald, Mate, severely; William Wigley (S), severely; William Hardy, severely; Joseph Waller, severely; William Spencer, severely; William Campbell, severely; John Seafower, slightly; William Johnson, slightly. Richard Latter (S), slightly; Edward Cross, slightly.

Mr. Vaughan, Assistant-Surgeon, slightly; George Clark (S), severely; Robert Hitchcock, marine, severely; George Rettie (S), slightly.

Damage sustained by Algerine—thirteen shot in her hull, one in the main mast and main boom, sails and rigging much cut up.

6 twenty-four-pounders, 12 nine-pounders, 2 thirty-two pounder carronades, 6 twelve pounders.

*Return of Killed and Wounded in Her Majesty's Forces at the Attack of Canton, from the 23d to the 30th May 1841.*

Blenheim—2 killed, 9 wounded; 1 officer, 1 royal artillery, 1 acting corporal royal marines, 8 seamen.

Wellesley—6 wounded; 3 seamen, 3 royal marines.

Blonde 1 killed, 1 wounded; 1 seaman, 1 royal marine.

Calliope 1 wounded; 1 seaman.

Hyacinth—5 wounded; 2 officers, 3 seaman.

Nimrod—2 killed, 4 wounded; 2 officers, 4 seamen.

Modeste—1 killed, 9 wounded; 2 officers, 8 seamen.

Columbine—2 wounded; 2 seamen.

Algerine—4 wounded; 1 officer, 2 seamen, 1 royal marine.

Nemesis—1 wounded; 1 officer.

Madras Artillery—1 wounded.

Sappers and Miners—1 wounded.

18th, Royal Irish—2 killed, 19 wounded.

26th, Cameronians—3 killed, 15 wounded.

49th Regiment—1 killed, 17 wounded.

37th, Native Infantry—1 killed, 13 wounded.

Bergal Volunteers—1 wounded.

Camp Followers—1 killed, 3 wounded.

Staff—1 killed.

Total killed, 15.

Total wounded, 112.

Grand Total, 127.

*Officers killed and wounded.*

*Killed.*

Major Becher Deputy Quartermaster General, died from over fatigue.

Lieutenant Fox, of H. M. S. the Nimrod.

*Wounded.*

Mr. Walter Kendall, Mate of Nimrod (lost his leg), dangerously.

Mr W. F. Bate, Mate of Blenheim, slightly.

Lieutenant Morshead, of the Hyacinth, slightly.

Mr. Peter Barclay, Mate of the Hyacinth, slightly.

Mr. E. Fitzgerald, Mate of Modeste, dangerously.

Mr. W. Pearce, Mate of Modeste, slightly.

Mr. Hall, Commanding Nemesis, severely burnt.

Mr. Vaughan, Assistant-surgeon, Algerine, slightly.

Lieutenant Rundall, of Madras Sappers and Miners, dangerously.

Captain Sargeant, H. M. 18th, Royal Irish, severely.

Lieutenant Hillard, H. M. 18th, Royal Irish, slightly.

Lieutenant Edwards, H. M. 18th, Royal Irish, severely.

Lieutenant Pearson, 49th, Royal Irish, severely.  
 Lieutenant Johnstone, 26th, Royal Irish, slightly.  
 Easign Berkeley, 37th Madras N. I. slightly.

T. HERBERT, Captain and Senior  
 Officer, China Coast.

*A Return of the Ordnance mounted in the Forts on the Heights above Canton when stormed and captured, on the 25th May 1841, by the Forces under the Command of Major General Sir Hugh Gough, K. C. B. Commanding Expeditionary Forces serving in China.*

Paon-Keigh-Tai, Fortress of Extreme Protection—10 four-pounders, three feet four inches and six feet six inches; 1 nine-pounder, nine feet.

Kung-Keigh-Tai—2 one-pounder, one foot six inches; 8 four-pounders, four feet three inches; 1 five-pounder, six feet; 1 nine-pounder, nine feet.

She-Ting-Paon, Asylum of Old Age, commanding the approaches of the Heights—2 three-pounders, three and half feet; 3 nine-pounders, five to eight feet; 1 twenty-four pounder, eight feet.

Yang-Kang-Tai, Terrace of Eternal Bliss—5 three-pounders, two and half to three feet; 1 five-pounder, four feet; 3 six-pounders, four feet; 3 nine-pounders, three to six feet; 1 twelve-pounder, nine and half feet.

Total—2 one pounder, 7 three-pounders; 18 four pounders, 2 five-pounders, 3 six-pounders, 8 nine-pounders, 1 twelve-pounder, 1 twenty-four-pounder.

Grand Total of captured Ordnance—42.

N. B. In each fort a number of ginjalls and considerable quantity of powder found.

Guns spiked by the Hyacinth in the battery in front of Canton—6 twenty four-pounders, 12 nine-pounders, 2 thirty-two-pounders, 6 twelve pounders, and some ten inch guns.

T. HERBERT, Captain and Senior  
 Officer, China Coast.

*Her Majesty's Ship Wellesley, Bocca  
 Tigris, May 26, 1841.*

SIR,

CAPTAIN Maitland being absent on service, I have the honour to inform you that, on the evening of the 24th, the Chinese made a most formidable and well planned attempt to burn Her Majesty's ship Wellesley.

At fifty-five minutes past eleven, P. M. a number of fire vessels were observed directly a head of us; the flood tide having then made about an hour. The barge and two cutters were immediately dispatched, under the command of Lieutenant Lord William Compton and Acting Lieutenants Fowler and Astle, the rest being away with Captain Maitland, but I am happy to inform you that, from the great exertions of both Officers and men, in these our few but only boats; the whole flotilla was towed clear without doing the slightest injury. Although there were near twenty vessels, most of them chained in couples, and some three together, and of these fourteen or sixteen passed very near on either side of the ship, and blew up when abreast of us.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. V. FLETCHER, Commander.

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