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Downing-street, November 23, 1842.

COPIES of Dispatches, addressed by Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Gough, K. G. C. B., to Lord Stanley, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of which the following are copies, have been this day received from the Governor General of India in Council :

(Copy.)

To the Right Honourable Lord Stanley, Principal Secretary of State, Colonial Department.

*Head Quarters, Woosung,
MY LORD, June 18, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to apprise your Lordship, that the fleet, from various naval causes, which I am persuaded were unavoidable, only reached the anchorage of Woosung, within the bar of the Yang-tse Kang, on the evening of the 13th instant.

The following morning I proceeded with his Excellency the Naval Commander in Chief to reconnoitre the long line of defences on both sides of the Woosung river, those on the left bank extending from five to six miles of the Yang-tse Keang, while the defences on the right bank consisted of a tower, with flanking batteries on a tongue of land formed by a bend of the river, which here runs from two to three miles parallel to the course of the Yang-tse Keang. The main object, therefore, was the occupation of the left bank with its defences, at the southern extremity of which the village of Woosung is situated, while the walls of Paonshaw appear a short distance in rear of the

embankments, on which the embrasures are constructed, about two miles from its termination to the north west.

We had failed to obtain satisfactory information as to the points of debarkation ; one of the principal objects, therefore, of this reconnoissance, was to establish the practicability of landing, so as to turn the defences ; one point alone seemed adapted for this purpose, about half way between Paonshaw and Woosung, unless we were to effect a landing some miles up the Yang-tse Keang, in which case it would be necessary to take Paonshaw before we could co-operate with the navy. It was, therefore, determined that this supposed landing place should be examined during the night, and that if not found practicable, the ships of war should silence the batteries that covered the regular landing place near the village of Woosung, when the troops should land from the steamers, which, after towing in the ships of war, were to return for them to the transports.

During the night Commanders Kellett and Collinson sounded along the shore, and reported that the water shoaled to three feet, about 200 yards from the banks, and that boats could not approach to land troops anywhere near the spot proposed. It was then decided to resort to the alternative already mentioned.

The 15th was employed in examining and sounding the entrance into the Woosung river, and six o'clock on the morning of the 16th, the ships of war were towed in shore by the steamers, under a heavy and, for the Chinese, well-directed fire, not returning a shot until each ship had taken her appointed station, when they opened a fire that must