

Blonde, and Modeste, while the troops were landing, to take up excellent positions against the sea batteries, consisting of two works mounting seven and five guns, about one third of the way up a steep hill at the eastern extremity of the suburbs, and crowned with a joss house, occupied by a large body of men, and three other masked batteries, mounting thirty guns, in front of the suburbs, making a total of forty-two guns of different calibre; the whole were thronged with Chinese soldiers, who also lined their defences on the heights to a considerable extent with matchlockmen and numerous gingalls.

Against these field works the *Sesostri* was anchored for the purpose of dispersing them with shells, as our troops advanced; and the inhabitants of the suburbs and city were duly warned to retire out of the line of our fire.

By the exertions of the *Nemesis*, *Phlegethon*, and *Queen* steamers, and the boats of the covering vessels, *Starling*, *Columbine*, *Bentinck*, and *Algerine*, together with those of the transports conducted by Lieutenant *Somerville*, the troops were all put on shore in admirable order, under the able direction of Commander *Charles Richards*, of the *Cornwallis*, by nine o'clock, when the General, with his accustomed energy, immediately pushed forward at their head; the ships, by a preconcerted signal, opening their fire at the same time on the batteries. A few shot, however, put the men stationed in them, and at the joss house on the summit of the hill opposite to us, to a precipitate flight, and not a moment was lost in landing the seamen and marines of the squadron under Captain *Bourchier*, of the *Blonde*, and the Officers named in the accompanying list, who got possession of the batteries before the mines, which were prepared in them, could be sprung; and, having succeeded in cutting off several of the Chinese troops that were endeavouring to reach the suburbs, joined our land forces in their approach to the city. By the General's rapid advance, in two columns, they had already gallantly carried all the positions on the heights, and, the retreating parties being intercepted in every direction, the Chinese suffered very severely; but a body of several hundred Tartar troops, having thrown themselves into a large joss house between the heights and the city, resisted with such desperation that they were not subdued until the buildings fell in ruins over them, and not more than fifty men were brought out alive; nor was this, I regret to add, effected without considerable loss to the combined forces, who have to lament the gallant Lieutenant-Colonel *Tomlinson*, of the 18th Royal Irish, and several men killed; and Lieutenant-Colonel *Mountain* (the Deputy Adjutant General) and many other brave Officers and men severely wounded.

The loss of the Chinese cannot be accurately ascertained, but from various accounts, their force was not less than from eight to ten thousand men, of whom one fourth are supposed to have been Tartar troops, many hundreds have been slain or wounded, and several Officers and men made prisoners; the latter will, however, be released before our departure.

It is with sincere pleasure that I have again to bring under their Lordships' notice the spirited and valuable services of Captains *Bourchier* and *P. Richards*, and the several Commanders, Officers, and men of all ranks of the navy and royal marines of Her Majesty's squadron, and the Indian navy, under my command on this occasion; the whole of whom are justly entitled to my best thanks and commendation.

Commander *Watson*, of the *Modeste*, having been sent forward with his division by Captain *Bourchier* on first landing, was able to reach the advanced party of the troops in time to assist them, in boats across a canal, to enter the city; and *Sir Hugh Gough* has expressed himself much pleased with his exertions on this and all occasions in which his services have been connected with the army.

Lieutenant *William H. Maitland*, commanding the *Algerine*, and Lieutenant *Bate* (additional) attached to the *Bentinck*, after assisting in landing the troops, accompanied them on their advance, during which two Officers (or inferior Mandarins) fell in single conflict by the hands of the former, who bids fair to rival the gallantry of his lamented uncle, that bright ornament of our profession, the late *Sir Frederic Maitland*; and Lieutenant *Bate*, by his spirited exertions, succeeded in making prisoner a Chinese Officer, holding the rank of Colonel.

The city was escalated, and occupied with very little resistance; and a large quantity of arms, of every description, gunpowder, and provisions, have been found and destroyed, together with the guns in the batteries and arsenals, with the exception of eleven of brass, which have been embarked.

A list is enclosed of the ordnance which has been found.

The steadiness and good conduct of the combined forces has been most satisfactory, but the plunder and devastation committed by the natives from the moment of our entering the city, has, perhaps, exceeded that of any place we have yet visited; nor can the Tartar portion of the population divest themselves of the apprehension of being massacred, under which unfortunate impression, many, after destroying their infant children, have committed suicide.

I inclose, with concern, a list of two killed and four wounded in the squadron, the latter, I am happy to say, are doing well; but I fear the casualties in the army amount to nine killed, and fifty two wounded, many of them severely.

I have, &c.

W. PARKER, Rear-Admiral.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty.

P.S. Fourteen war junks have also fallen into our hands.