

secured in massive chests; also arms, ammunition, &c., both for great guns and small arms, and several tin cases of fine English powder; and a villager who was subsequently brought in confirmed the deposition of our guides that the whole property belonged to Hadji Assim, who, two days previously, on a requisition from the Sultan, had joined His Highness at Damuan.

Our Kadyan prisoner, after some persuasion, next informed us that there was a battery in course of erection close at hand in the jungle for the protection of the causeway leading to the house, I therefore ordered Lieut. Mathews, commanding the seamen, small arm men of the Iris and Royalist, to reconnoitre with one of our guides; and he shortly returned with the report, that six pieces of brass ordnance of considerable dimensions were raised on an adjoining eminence in readiness for mounting, and that they completely commanded the path from our place of landing; these I took possession of and delivered over to the charge of Lieut. Patey, who, with a party from the gun boats, was ordered to guard the village and hold it for the main body of the expedition to fall back on.

At three P.M. we commenced our march from Kabiran towards Damuan, the rain falling heavily, and before the rear-guard had cleared the village we entered a marshy swamp, having apparently a broad buffalo path through which we moved on knee deep in mud. As we slowly advanced the swamp gradually deepened, the men were occasionally up to their middle in water floundering in the mud, and with difficulty keeping their ammunition dry; after struggling for an hour against such an unpromising road, and seeing in the distance no prospect of rising ground, moreover having in the mean time learnt from the natives that Damuan would be easier got at by returning to Borneo and ascending another creek, and being otherwise suspicious of our guides, I informed Mr. Brooke of my determination not to proceed further, as I considered it under all the circumstances of our position, in an unknown country and amongst hostile tribes, imprudent to attempt a further advance, I consequently ordered a retreat on Kabiran, where we bivouacked for the night amongst musquitoes and torrents of rain.

The following morning (July 11th), the expedition was again in movement at an early hour in two divisions, and the seamen under Lieut. Mathews reached a Kadyan village after two hours march, when, finding the pathway even more inaccessible from the rain of the previous night, and the guides constant in their statement by pointing to the sun that Damuan was yet six hours distant with, in some parts, passages over a country breast-high in water, I reluctantly gave up all hopes of reaching the Sultan's retreat by this route, and being convinced that my proper course was to fall back upon head quarters, and from thence to retrace our steps to the ships off Borneo, where I might replenish provisions and make a fresh start, should your Excellency approve of the plan. I informed Mr. Brooke of my decision, and having destroyed all the magazines,

ammunition, and property belonging to Hadji Assim, and conveyed the brass ordnance, which were Spanish guns of great beauty, into the boats, I re-embarked at one P.M.; on getting clear of the Creek, I had the pleasure of finding your Excellency in the main branch of the river, and I trust I may be allowed to express the gratification experienced by Mr. Brooke and myself at your consideration in bringing up the Phlegethon to assist our return, and also how gratified I felt at your approval of my proceedings, and at your giving me orders to prosecute the original plan by the other route, should Mr. Brooke's information obtained at Kabiran receive further confirmation.

On our arrival at the capital, the result of the inquiries made on the subject were so decidedly favourable, as to induce Mr. Brooke to request that your Excellency would give directions for the expeditionary force to make a second attempt by the new route; and having received your orders to this effect, I started again from Bruné at 6:30 A.M. on the 13th, giving the people the previous day (Sunday) to rest.

The detachment of marines carried sixty rounds in their cartouche-boxes, the small arm party thirty rounds, with a hundred rounds of spare ammunition for each bayonet in the boats. Four days provisions were issued to each man, two being cooked and carried in the haversacks.

On leaving the city, instead of proceeding several miles up the river, as on the former occasion, we took the first large branch on the left bank, not a mile distant from the shipping, and continued ascending that stream in a south-westerly direction, with occasionally only four feet at low water till noon, when we entered the Damuan river, and half an hour afterwards pushed into a creek of a similar character to that leading to Kabiran, but more difficult of access, as was proved by the launch being unable to make any progress. At one P.M. the leading and smaller boats effected a landing at a place which, we were informed by some natives taken from their canoes, was called Palihoug, and that a road led from thence direct to Damuan, distant a march of twelve hours. A closer inspection, however, showed us that a morass, rendered impassable by the continued heavy rain of the last week, lay between us and the higher jungle ground.

At this unpleasant juncture of affairs, Mr. Brooke was assured that, by retracing our steps into the Damuan river, and then ascending it for a few miles, we should find another creek leading to the village of Malbout, which village was on the road to Damuan, and through which the force must have passed had it been able to prosecute the journey by land from Palihoug. Our boats were accordingly retracked to the creek's entrance, and then moved up the Damuan river, in itself so confined at this part as to preclude our advance without the constant aid of our pioneers, who, in three cutters ahead under that efficient Officer, Lieutenant Heath, cleared the passage.

At three P.M. we entered the second creek, which was even more intricate than the last; and finally,