



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1847.

Downing Street, 23rd June, 1847.

A DESPATCH, and its Inclosures, addressed to the Right Honourable Earl Grey, of which an Extract and Copies are subjoined, have been this day received from Major-General d'Aguilar, C.B. commanding Her Majesty's Troops in the Island of Hong Kong, dated

*Victoria, Hong Kong,
April 15, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the details of certain military operations in which the troops under my command, jointly with a small naval squadron under Captain McDougall of H.M. steam frigate *Vulture*, have been recently engaged upon the Canton river.

On the afternoon of the 1st inst. I received a communication from his Excellency Sir John Francis Davis, Bart., Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China, informing me that, in consequence of the repeated aggressions of the Chinese upon British subjects in the neighbourhood of Canton, and the unsatisfactory replies of the Imperial High Commissioner to his demands for redress, his Excellency had come to the conclusion that there was no alternative but to proceed to Canton with a force and demand reparation on the spot.

Upon receipt of the above letter I lost no time in communicating with Captain McDougall, of Her Majesty's steam frigate *Vulture*, the senior

naval officer in these waters, and the result of our deliberations was, that whilst we could not conceal from ourselves the difficulty of undertaking such an expedition with so small a force as that which would remain at our command, after providing for the security of this island, still the advantages attendant upon prompt and energetic action, before the hot season set in, appeared to us to justify the enterprise, provided the operation was conducted upon the principle of a *coup de main* and that no guns were left unspiked in our rear.

I was likewise influenced in my decision upon this question by a desire to teach the people of Canton that the troops in the garrison of Hong Kong, with the co-operation of the naval force in these seas, are at all times prepared to chastise aggression, without waiting for reinforcements either from England or India.

About midnight of the day on which I received Sir John Davis's communication, the troops embarked on board the vessels, and according to the distribution noted as follows:—

Her Majesty's steamer *Vulture*—18th Regiment, 24 officers, 403 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Her Majesty's sloop *Espiegle*, 42nd Regiment, M.N.I.—4 officers, 145 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.

Hon. Company's steamer *Pluto*, 42d Regiment, 12 officers, 268 non-commissioned officers and rank and file.