

three large Russian loaded merchant ships were at Ekness, eight miles to the northward. I lost no time in proceeding there early this morning; but did not expect to find the enemy so well prepared to receive me. Owing to the Hecla's light draught of water she led the way; a task not easy to perform in a narrow and intricate passage, exposed as she was to the first of the enemy's fire.

In addition to a field battery of five guns (two of which I dismounted) and one mortar, they had erected a strong battery which they supplied very efficiently; Captain Hall succeeded in dismounting and bringing off three of the guns. The engagement lasted longer than I expected, as they returned to their guns twice in the midst of our fire, and were only compelled to leave them when their guns were destroyed by our shot.

On reaching the anchorage of Ekness, I found that two of the merchantmen were aground, but Captain Hall brought out one under the fire of a battery, which my draught of water would not allow me to near sufficiently to completely destroy. I most carefully avoided firing one shot in or near the town of Ekness, directing the whole of the fire of the guns exclusively to the batteries and troops attacking us, which consisted, in addition to the brigade of Horse Artillery, of a considerable body of cavalry and infantry, moving abreast of the ship as she advanced.

I cannot give sufficient credit to Captain Hall for the assistance he rendered me on this, as on all occasions, since he has been under my orders; the admirable way in which he went in and brought out his prize, under a galling fire from the enemy, deserves the greatest praise.

I beg also to call to your favourable notice Lieut. H. V. Haggard, senior lieutenant of this ship, whose most zealous services at all times were particularly displayed on this occasion, and also that of the whole of the officers, seamen, and marines of Her Majesty's ship under my command.

I regret to say that I had one man killed, and five wounded. I must not omit to mention how very highly Captain Hall speaks of Lieutenant Crew Read, First Lieutenant of the Hecla, for the support he had from him, throughout the engagement) until he was unfortunately wounded and carried below), as also from the officers, seamen, and marines, of Her Majesty's ship under his command.

I beg leave to enclose herewith a list of casualties on board the Hecla and Arrogant, in the engagement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. YELVERTON,
Captain.

A List of casualties on board Her Majesty's ship Arrogant, on the 20th May, 1854, when engaged with the Enemy.

William Dingle, A.B., killed instantaneously; shot through the heart.

William Vincent, Stoker, mortally wounded; since dead; shot through the abdomen.

William Glover, Captain Mizen-top, slightly wounded; contusion of back.

Fergus Thomas, Private R.M., severe contusion of foot.

Joseph Brown, A.B., slight contusion of loins.

Thomas Brunner, Ordinary, contusion of hand.

(Signed) J. GALLAGHER, M.D.,
Surgeon.

(Signed) H. R. YELVERTON,
Captain.

List of wounded on board Her Majesty's ship Hecla, 20th May, 1854.

Captain W. H. Hall, Captain, slightly wounded; bruise of right leg from a spent rifle ball.

O. Crewe Read, First Lieutenant; a severe but not dangerous wound of left eye and cheek, from a spent rifle ball.

T. Brock, Pilot, slightly wounded; bruise of right thigh from a splinter.

T. Lamborne, Boy, 2nd class; a severe but not dangerous flesh wound of left arm, from rifle ball.

John McCarthy, Ordinary; hit by round shot and afterwards drowned.

(Signed) ROBERT POTTINGER,
Surgeon.

Buckingham-Palace, May 31, 1854.

This day had audience of the Queen;

The Chevalier Bunsen, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the King of Prussia, to present to Her Majesty his letter of recall:

To which audience he was introduced by the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and conducted by Major-General the Honourable Sir Edward Cust, K.C.H., Her Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies.

Whitehall, June 1, 1854.

The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland constituting and appointing the Right Honourable Sir James Robert George Graham, Bart., G.C.B.; Rear-Admiral Maurice Frederick Fitzhardinge Berkeley, C.B.; Rear-Admiral the Honourable Richard Saunders Dundas, C.B.; Captain Peter Richards, C.B.; Captain Alexander Milne; and the Honourable William Francis Cowper, to be Her Majesty's Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dominions, islands, and territories thereunto belonging.

Whitehall, June 2, 1854.

The Queen has been pleased to order a Congé d'Elire to the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral church of Wells, empowering them to elect a Bishop of the see of Bath and Wells, the same being void by the death of Doctor Richard Bagot, late bishop thereof; and Her Majesty has also been pleased to recommend to the said Dean and Chapter the Right Reverend Father in God Robert John, Lord Auckland, now Bishop of Sodor and Man, to be by them elected bishop of the said see of Bath and Wells.

St. James's Palace, May 30, 1854.

The Queen has been pleased, on the nomination of the Right Honourable Lord Foley, to appoint Henry Puget White, Esq., late Captain Madras Army, one of Her Majesty's Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, vice Foote Macdonald, retired.

St. James's Palace, June 1, 1854.

The Queen has been pleased, on the nomination of the Right Honourable Lord Foley, to appoint William Walter Cargill, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, vice Hughes, retired.