

5. The Major-General, under whose command I had placed the whole of the Royal Marine Light Infantry forces, by my order of 22nd of December, having directed Colonel Holloway, with Lieutenant-Colonels Walsh's and Hocker's Battalions of Royal Marines, to remain near the landing-place, as a reserve to protect the rear, and to forward supplies; each division as it formed, advanced in the direction of Lin's Fort; the French Naval Brigade, under my gallant colleague, Rear-Admiral Sir Rigault de Genouilly, exciting admiration by the completeness of its equipments, and by the soldier-like and efficient appearance of its officers and men. The fort was at once taken possession of by detachments of the French Brigade and 59th Regiment, the enemy retiring as the troops advanced. Lin's Fort is a circular red tower, built of stone; it had twelve guns in position, but badly appointed and of small calibre.

6. As the 1st and 3rd Divisions of the Naval Brigade were advancing to the right, they joined the covering parties of the 59th Regiment, which were driving back a large body of Chinese. As these troops occupied the position assigned to the Naval Brigade, and were increasing in numbers, the Niger's and Hornet's detachments, under Captain the Honourable A. A. Cochrane, C.B., and Commander Dowell, were ordered to dislodge them, which was gallantly executed, the Chinese taking up a fresh position behind each ridge, and finally in a joss-house or temple, from which they were also driven, until they reached the main body of Chinese troops near Gough's Fort.

Captain Cochrane seeing the importance of this temple, put it in a state of defence, and held it till relieved by the 1st Division at 9 P.M. Its possession protected our right from annoyance during the night. The gallant conduct of Commander Dowell, and of the officers and men generally, in the face of greatly superior numbers, has been brought to my notice. Several casualties occurred on this service.

7. The enemy appeared in great force on the hills to the northward of the city, and a brisk fire of cannons, gingalls, and rockets, from the city walls and Gough's Fort, was kept up on our troops as they advanced; which was, however, kept in check by the French and English howitzers which had been brought to the front, notwithstanding the unfavourable nature of the ground for artillery.

8. The army bivouacked for the night round Lin's Fort, the ground being admirably adapted for an encampment, being honeycombed for miles by a vast assemblage of graves—the "Criminal's Cemetery." The spaces between the mounds affording excellent shelter.

The 1st and 3rd Divisions of the Naval Brigade occupied the right, supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Lemon's Provisional Battalion of Royal Marines; the 2nd Division of the Brigade the centre; and the French and 59th Regiment the left. An occasional fire was kept up from the walls during the night, but without much effect.

9. The head-quarters for the night were in a Buddhist temple, to the rear of Lin's Fort. Having had an opportunity of viewing the east wall, it was decided to take it by escalade on the following morning at 9 o'clock, and to ensure success, it was arranged that a brisk enfilading fire should be kept up along the east wall, from the East Gate to the North-east Gate, by the French and English gun-boats, near the French Folly, till the hour named,—the fire then entirely to cease. Instructions were accordingly sent to Captain Shadwell, C.B., and Captain D'Aboville, of the

Audacieuse, our respective senior naval officers, superintending the fire in the Canton creek.

10. The whole of the allied forces being under arms, at 5 A.M., on the 29th December, General Van Straubenzee ordered the field batteries to advance as soon as day-light permitted the passage of the guns over the uneven and unknown ground, to breach the parapet of the wall where the British Division intended to escalade, and the French guns were soon actively engaged on the portion assigned to their Division. Directions having been sent on the previous evening to Lieutenant-Colonel Lemon, and the 1st and 3rd Divisions of the Naval Brigade, to advance and take possession of a large temple in front of our position, within 100 yards of the wall, they were seen in quiet occupation as the day broke, and were soon after joined by Captain Key, C.B., with the 2nd Division. This temple afforded shelter from the guns of Gough's Fort, as well as from the fire that continued to be maintained from the city walls.

11. The scaling ladders, in charge of Commanders Hamilton, Fellowes, and Slight, and Lieutenant Viscount Gilford, were now carried as close to the shallow ditch as prudence permitted, in which service Mr. H. Thompson, Midshipman of the Sanspareil, a most praiseworthy and zealous young officer, was mortally wounded by a spear-rocket, causing his death on the following day.

12. At six o'clock the two battalions of the Royal Marine Brigade, under Colonel Holloway, arrived, and whilst the 2nd Battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hocker, was placed as a reserve at Fort Lin, the 1st Battalion, with Colonel Holloway and Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh, were ordered by the General to support four companies of the Provisional Battalion, which were thrown out in extended order to check the enemy, advancing from Gough's Heights, in great force, and keeping up a heavy fire; a howitzer and a 12-pounder rocket subsequently supported the Royal Marines.

13. Soon after 7 o'clock, Captain Bate, of the Actæon, and Captain Mann, R.E., were directed to reconnoitre the wall, to select a fitting place for planting our scaling ladders. In the performance of this important and dangerous duty, Captain Bate was wounded in the chest by a gingall ball from the parapet. Dr. C. A. Anderson, Staff-Surgeon, at once proceeded at great personal risk, under a heavy fire to his assistance, but it was of no avail, as this gallant and highly esteemed officer died within a few minutes after receiving his wound. By this most unfortunate calamity, Her Majesty has lost one of the most talented and estimable officers in Her Service.

14. The fire from the walls having been kept in check by howitzers and the rifles of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, about half-past eight the French Brigade headed by its gallant Admiral, dashed forward with the scaling ladders. Our own ladders were at once in hand, and with a short run, planted against the wall, and amidst the hearty cheers of the whole army, the French and English Colours were floating over the Battlements of Canton. Division after Division rapidly clambered up the ladders, and advanced along the wall to the northward, taking Gate after Gate, (which form the principal defences of the city) in rapid succession; the enemy completely surprised, and confounded at the impetuosity of the attack, offering but trifling opposition. Before 10 o'clock the Flags of the Allied Powers floated over the five storied Pagoda, the city heights, including two Forts mounted with heavy guns, and the other defences of the city as far as the North Gate.