

with Mr. Caldwell, the three Chinese informers, and the remainder of the persons rescued from the pirates not yet disposed of. Upon the Algerine's return with Mr. Caldwell, I propose searching well the bays in the vicinity of Hong Kong to the eastward, as we have every reason to believe that there is still one fleet of junks undiscovered.

The energy of Mr. Caldwell in finding out and gaining information as to where the pirates are, does him the very greatest credit.

Trusting you will approve of my proceedings since leaving Hong Kong on the 26th ultimo,

I have, &c.,  
NICHOLAS VANSITTART,  
Captain.

Rear-Admiral Sir M. Seymour, K.C.B.,  
Commander-in-Chief, &c.

*Detailed Account of the Proceedings of H. M. Ships  
Magicienne, Inflexible, Plover, and Algerine,  
when upon a Cruise for the Suppression of  
Piracy.*

1858, 26th August.—Leaving the anchorage at Hong Kong at 6.30 A.M., we proceeded and carefully examined Pootoy, the Lema Islands, Sammoon, Lingting and Chungchow; sending the Inflexible and Algerine to the westward of Lingting, the Magicienne with the Plover going to the eastward, we came upon two piratical fighting junks and one fast-boat. One of the junks having her anchor up made for the shore, the crew taking to their boats. I immediately despatched the Plover, directing Lieutenant Wynniatt to bring her out, which he did, and was fortunate in recapturing Chas. Deacon, an Englishman (belonging to the American ship Antelope) who had been taken by the pirates three weeks before, in company with the mate and eight Chinese; the former and four of the latter he saw cut down and thrown overboard at the time of being captured. The second junk was at anchor, which the pirates had abandoned and laid a train to, but she fortunately blew up before the Plover's boat reached her. Being informed that there were about 120 pirates on the island who had taken to the hills and rocks, I despatched Lieutenant Soady, 1st Lieutenant of this ship, and Lieutenant Tuson, R.M.A., with a strong party ashore to cut off any pirates, but found here, as elsewhere, that it was useless following them, so shot at the different parties as they showed themselves. The junk blown up being nearly awash, I directed Lieutenant Soady to recover as many of the guns on board her as he possibly could, and to bring them out into deep water, which by nine the next morning he completed, bringing out with those on board the first captured junk, 50 guns of from 6, 9, 12, and 18-pounders, all of which were taken into deep water and junks destroyed. Ashore, much shot and ammunition was found, all of which was destroyed.

27th August.—In the morning before leaving Lingting, a Chinese who had been taken by the pirates some days before, came on board in one of our boats;—his description of the atrocities committed by the pirates was dreadful to hear. Mr. Caldwell, the Registrar-General, on board of us, having gained information at Lingting that two pirate junks, with a cargo junk of cocoa-nuts, had only left on the 25th for Coulan Bay, a stronghold and favourite resort of the pirates, we proceeded by the Ladrone Islands to Tylon, and anchored the Magicienne and Inflexible at 5 P.M. on the south side in 4 fathoms water. I immediately proceeded in the Plover with all the boats of the Magicienne armed, under Lieutenant Soady, and

the boats of the Inflexible in tow of the Algerine, under Commander Brooker; landing the marines under Lieutenant Tuson, R.M.A., with pinnace in charge of Lieutenant Hill, on the south side. Upon our opening Coulan Bay, we discovered a squadron of five piratical fighting junks, with two captured cargo vessels. Upon our nearing them, they fired one gun, and ran their vessels aground, the crews jumping overboard and swimming ashore. The fire of the Plover, Algerine, and rocket-boats was admirable. Anchoring the gun-boats in position at sunset, we took possession of the pirate junks mounting in all 62 guns, the two cargo junks being one laden with cocoa-nuts and the other with rice. We had to destroy the cocoa-nut vessel (being on the rocks), but liberated the rice junk, putting on board of her the people found in the former, the united crews amounting to 24 men. At 10 P.M. I started with Magicienne's and Inflexible's first gigs, accompanied by Commander Brooker, Lieutenants Soady and Wynniatt, on a reconnoitring expedition. Up the creek, we discovered and set fire to four piratical fighting junks, one of 12 guns, the others having had their guns removed; whilst destroying the junks and some smaller vessels, occasional musket-shots were fired at us, which we returned. As we were burning the third junk, great guns opened on us, at about 1,700 yards from inland, many of the shot reaching alongside the gigs at that distance. Favoured by the moon (occasionally obscured), I determined to land; so with Commander Brooker, Lieutenants Soady and Wynniatt, and ten men, we pushed on as well as we could find our way guided by the spirited fire of the guns at the stockade, which continued until we got within pistol-shot, up to which time we had reserved our fire. Giving a volley, we pushed on; the enemy ran, ourselves being brought up for a minute or so by the entrance of the stockade being staked; clambering through mud, water, and over embankment; we got possession of the 14-gun stockade, spiked the guns, destroyed the ammunition, fired volleys where at times we heard the enemy, and returned on board by 2 A.M. with no loss on our side. Although the shot came over our heads, the pirates appeared to be firing at where the vessels were burning in the creek, and not to be aware of our movements ashore, nor the smallness of our force, until we were close upon them. For, having to advance in single file, in a narrow pathway, several of the guns being placed so as to completely sweep away every thing approaching, we would have required a considerable force to have attacked it in the day time, and I have little doubt that we should have sustained some loss. The guns were similar to those in the piratical fighting junks.

28th August.—Lieutenants Sharpe and Bevan were employed getting the guns out of the junks captured in Coulan Bay into deep water, and then setting the vessel on fire. Landing a large party under Commander Brooker, Lieutenant Soady, and Acting Mate Brabazon, I had 30 piratical fast-boats destroyed, and marched up to the stockade to destroy the guns more effectually and burn the houses in the vicinity; the same having been effected, all hands re-embarked and proceeded down to the ships, weighed and steamed down on the south side, to Sandy Bay, St. John's Island, Mr. Caldwell going down on the north side, with Plover and Algerine, where all re-anchored by dark.

29th August.—At daylight having despatched the Plover and Algerine to search Samtung Bay, I proceeded with Mr. Caldwell and Commander Brooker, in Magicienne's and Inflexible's 1st gigs,