

stores for many consecutive days against a strong current (4 knots), the river being very shallow, but full of deep holes, under a broiling sun (latitude 3° N.), and in carrying guns, rockets, and ammunition, in addition to their own accoutrements, through the jungle over roads so nearly impassable, that only 7 miles could be gained each day.

9. The rapidity of the successes of the various expeditions was owing, I learn from officers of rank who have reached Singapore from the front, mainly to the special and professional nature of the aid given by the Naval Brigades as rocket and gun parties, and in fitting and managing the country boats, which alone could be used.

10. It has been most gratifying to me to hear from all quarters only one opinion of the conduct of the Blue Jackets and Marines, their constant cheerfulness in undertaking the heavy daily work which fell to their share, their intelligence and zeal. I have not received a single complaint of their conduct.

11. For nearly a month the brigade under Captain Buller had nothing to eat but preserved meat, supplemented occasionally by wild buffalo—no vegetables or bread; the men were constantly wet through by rain, they had frequently to wade through water and mud over their waists. For the last three days of their advance on Kinta they had to thread their way in a thick jungle, which, during the whole of that time, allowed them no sight of the sky. During the ten days' advance they had no cover of any kind, but slept in the "open." Captain Buller attributes their entire immunity from any disease previous to the attack on Kinta to his having fortunately been able to provide them with waterproof sheets, the great importance of which in a tropical campaign I had pressed on his attention previous to his departure from Shanghai some months ago.

12. I am very glad that I was able to detach so strong a force to the south, as there was not a man too many for the work that had to be carried out by the Naval Brigade.

13. It is my pleasant duty to draw their Lordships' attention to the names of those officers who were fortunately placed in positions where their good qualities were brought prominently into notice. Captain Buller mentions with praise the Commanders, and they have specially named various officers who accompanied them. I alone can speak of Captain Buller. He has been throughout the service of several weeks with Major-General Colborne. They have co-operated in the most cordial manner. Captain Buller, while engaged with the expedition that penetrated furthest into the country, had to make such arrangements regarding the other brigades, the blockade of the coast, &c., as were best calculated to be conducive to the general success of the joint operations.

14. I cannot too strongly recommend Captain Buller to their Lordships' favourable consideration. By his forethought and skill in organization he has contributed largely to the successes of the various expeditions, which successes it was, for obvious reasons, most essential should be promptly attained at all points without check.

15. Commander Stirling's complete success at Passir Sala, as detailed in his letter of 16th November, 1875, forwarded to their Lordships in my letter, No. 425, of 8 December, 1875, pointed out what was the best method of attacking the enemy, which, when followed, always led to success without loss.

The expedition of 14 days to Sunglic Ujong, in co-operation with Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, had

the same obstacles to contend with as the expedition to Kinta, with one exception, viz., that the enemy always fled in good time to save themselves from what they most dreaded—the rockets.

16. The two Senior Lieutenants employed in Brigades were Lieutenants Henry T. Wright, First Lieutenant of the "Modeste" (3rd April, 1868), and Wentworth V. Bayly, of the "Ringdove" (12th October, 1869), both highly spoken of by Captain Buller.

17. Sub-Lieutenant Thomas F. Abbott, of the "Thistle" (28th July, 1873), "was at both attacks on Passir Sala" (whose name is already before their Lordships), and is spoken of by the Governor "in the highest terms" Captain Buller informs me.

18. The two Senior Sub-Lieutenants in the Brigades were Richard Poore ("Philomel"), seniority 15th April, 1873, and Walter T. Warren ("Modeste"), seniority 20th June, 1873, both well spoken of.

19. Ex-Sultan Ismail and Maharajah Lela have escaped, it is believed, into Siamese territory, but they have been followed by a large number of Malays with no friendly intentions towards them.

20. I regret that I shall not have the opportunity of seeing Major-General Colborne, of congratulating him on the success of his operations, and of thanking him for the terms in which he has spoken of the Naval Brigades, as he remains at Penang. The prompt appearance of the troops from India, the thorough way in which they went to work, and followed the Malays through the jungle from village to village, stockade to stockade, never giving them time to occupy the latter in force, has, no doubt, had the best effect among the surrounding tribes.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ALFRED P. RYDER,
Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-Chief.

P.S.—With reference to paragraph 3, I have ascertained, since writing this letter, that the "Philomel's" men, under Commander Garforth, have not yet re-embarked.

(Signed) ALFRED P. RYDER,
Vice-Admiral.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

Enclosure No. 1.

"Modeste," at Penang,

January 8, 1876.

SIR,
HIS Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements having informed me he was desirous of reducing the forces in Perak to the numbers required for occupation only, the Major-General commanding and myself agreed that the Naval Brigade ("Modeste," 10 officers, 84 men; "Ringdove," 3 officers, 22 men; "Philomel," 4 officers, 40 men) might be embarked on board their respective ships. I therefore left Kinta on the 4th instant, arrived at Blanga the same afternoon, proceeded down the River Perak the following day, with the men of the "Modeste," and "Ringdove," and reached Her Majesty's Ship under my command at the Dindings, on the evening of the 6th.

I hope you will not consider it out of place for me to bring to your notice my high appreciation of the conduct of the officers, seamen, and marines, who formed the Naval Brigade under my command.

All did their duty cheerfully and energetically under the most difficult circumstances. When advancing up the Perak River from Banda Bahra