

5. The force thus brought was a most valuable addition to Lord Chelmsford's troops in the field, but the moral and political effect of the reinforcement was far greater than the number of fighting men. Few, but those who were on the spot, can realize the effect of such a disaster as that of the 22nd of January on all classes of colonists and on the natives of Natal as well as on our own men in the field.

6. At such a moment the unexpected appearance in Durban Roads of a magnificent man-of-war, bringing, as it were from out of the ocean, a large and complete body of well trained and seasoned fighting men, had a most valuable moral effect on all nationalities, classes and professions. There was not, I am convinced, a single man or woman in Natal who did not experience a sense of added security when they heard the news, not one of Her Majesty's subjects whether native or European who did not feel that the gloomy forebodings of the inability of Her Majesty's Government to protect her subjects against the Zulu power were at least premature, and there cannot be a doubt that the influence of the impression thus created spread far beyond the border of British territory.

7. Nor, as I ventured to remark on a previous occasion, do we owe less to those who were left on board the ship, than to the officers and men who landed and did such good service in the field.

The coast of Natal has no land-locked harbours nor many secure anchorages. It is a dangerous coast for any ship short-handed, and to ensure the safety of a large man-of-war during equinoctial gales, with so many of her ship's company ashore, involves labour and anxiety not less than beset those who were serving against such an enemy as the Zulus.

8. There is some risk lest services like these should be overlooked in the excitement of brilliant military success, and I therefore venture to ask that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may be informed how highly the Government and people in these Colonies estimate the value of the services rendered by Captain Bradshaw and the officers and men under his command.

9. I learn from Captain Bradshaw that he specially notices Commander Brackenbury, who commanded the "Shah's" men at the front, and Lieutenant Rainier, senior Lieutenant of the ship, who was in charge on board during her stay at Natal, and who had many anxious hours while lying at that dangerous and exposed anchorage.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. B. E. ERERE.

The Right Honourable the Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Horse Guards, War Office, S.W.,

SIR,

September 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the enclosed copy of a letter from Major-General Lord Chelmsford, G.C.B., forwarding his report on the officers of the Naval Brigade engaged in the operations in South Africa, and bearing testimony to the cordial co-operation and valuable assistance afforded him on all occasions by the naval service, whether on sea or on shore. His Royal Highness has perused this report with much gratification.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) M. A. DELLON.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

21, St. James' Square, Bath,

September 13, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to request that a copy of my report on the officers of the Naval Brigade, who afforded me such able assistance during the time that I was commanding Her Majesty's Forces in South Africa, may be forwarded for the information of the Admiralty. I feel under such obligations to the sister service for the cordial co-operation and valuable assistance which it afforded me on all occasions, whether on sea or on shore, that it is a matter to me of sincere regret that I was not able before leaving South Africa to place publicly on record, through the medium of a General Order, my hearty appreciation of those services.

It is impossible for me to speak too highly of the conduct and behaviour of the blue jackets and marines, whether in camp or under fire. Every duty which devolved upon them, no matter how long or how hard, was cheerfully and intelligently performed; and I have no hesitation in placing on record, that without their help it would have been almost impossible to have made satisfactory arrangements for the passage of troops and stores at the Lower Tugela.

The officers, as usual, set a fine example, and never spared themselves when work had to be done.

To Admiral F. W. Sullivan, C.B., C.M.G., and to Commodore F. W. Richards, I am deeply indebted for the ready help and friendly assistance they at all times afforded me.

Both these officers did their utmost to facilitate the work of the military authorities at the base of operations, and their advice and suggestions were often of the greatest value.

It is with pride and satisfaction I am able to report that during the whole time that I was commanding Her Majesty's Forces in South Africa, the Navy and Army worked together with the most perfect unanimity, and that the relations between the two services were always of the most friendly nature.

I have, &c.,

CHELMSFORD, Maj.-Gen.,

Late Commanding Her Majesty's Forces
in South Africa.

The Military Secretary,
Horse Guards, War Office.

[Enclosure.]

NAVAL BRIGADE:

I AM under great obligations to Rear-Admiral F. W. Sullivan, C.B., C.M.G., for the cordial assistance and willing help which he gave me during the time that I was commanding Her Majesty's Forces in South Africa—first in the Cape Colony and afterwards in Natal—at a time when much alarm prevailed in Durban. Admiral Sullivan was able by his personal influence to tranquillise the public mind, and was most useful in advising the municipal authorities of that town regarding their public defences.

I was much indebted to him for his advice and assistance when making arrangements for the landing of the large number of troops, transport and other animals, and stores, which were sent from England so promptly after the disaster at Insandlwana.

The arrangements made at Admiral Sullivan's suggestion turned out a complete success, and I feel that the credit of the successful disembarkations is in a great measure due to the preparations which were made by his advice.

Admiral Sullivan, on promotion, was succeeded by Commodore F. W. Richards, and I cannot pay the latter a higher compliment than by saying