

possession must be given to me of the batteries commanding the Boghaz in the first instance.

F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR,
Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.
To Lieutenant the Hon. Hedworth Lambton,
R.N., Flag Lieutenant.

Enclosure 6 in Mediterranean Letter No. 655
of 1882.

H.M.S. "Invincible," off Alexandria,
Sm, July 12, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on arriving on board the Egyptian yacht "Mahroussa," I informed the Captain I had your orders to communicate with the Military Governor of Alexandria.

His Excellency Toulba Pacha, Military Governor, just then came alongside in a steam-launch. He told me he was on the point of going out to the British Admiral.

I told him you could not hold any communication with him until, as a preliminary, Meix Batteries and Adjuni were surrendered, the former to be temporarily occupied by your forces, the offensive defences of the latter to be destroyed.

I carefully pointed out to the Pacha that these positions were practically in your power, that you did not intend to hoist the British flag, or do anything to hurt the susceptibilities of the Egyptian nation, but you required the peaceful surrender as a guarantee of good faith.

The Pacha, after a deal of temporizing and begging the question, said he had not the authority to comply with your demands, but must communicate to the Khedive at Ramleh Palace, four or five miles distant. I asked him to do so by telegram. He replied, "There is no telegraph wire,"—a mistake on his part. I then (at 20 minutes past 12) informed the Pacha he must give written surrender by 2 p.m., he begged for 3 p.m., pointing out the physical impossibility of communicating with Ramleh under that time. I informed him I could not alter the time, and replied I was convinced that he, the gallant defender of Alexandria, had the power to surrender what was required, pointing out to him that the forts in question had been silenced by our ships, and were no longer in a position to offer any resistance. He then asked, "What will the English Admiral do if we cannot accept his terms?" I replied, "Destroy the whole of the fortifications."

He then said, "There will be no men in them." To which I replied, "You would be delighted to hear that, as your object was the demolition of forts, not the destruction of men."

The interview then ended, Pacha ostensibly hurrying to Ramleh to consult Khedive.

The "Bittern" weighed at 2 p.m. I returned to "Mahroussa," compared watches with the Captain (2.15 p.m.), and informed him as time was up, and no answer to your demand had arrived, you would recommence fire at 3.30 p.m.

He asked me to wait a little longer as the answer would come directly. I told him I would wait on board the "Mahroussa" till 2.30 p.m., but had not the authority to change the time for recommencing the fire on forts, viz., 3.30 p.m.

He hurried ashore to inform Admiral Kamil Pacha (Sub-Minister of Marine).

At 2.30, seeing my boat alongside, he returned, and wished for further delay, which I declined, and returned to "Bittern."

In my opinion, their sole object was to gain time to enable soldiery and rabble to pillage and burn the town without the danger of a stray shell disturbing their operations.

Commander Brand, of "Bittern," informed me at least 500 troops in heavy marching order had evacuated Ras-el-Teen while I was on board the "Mahroussa." I have, &c.,

HEDWORTH LAMBTON,
Lieutenant.

Admiral Sir F. Beauchamp Seymour, G.C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 656. "Helicon," at Alexandria,
Sir, July 20, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a diary of events which have taken place since the night of the 12th instant.

At daylight on the 13th I moved up with the inshore squadron into the harbour, and, in order to be prepared for eventualities, I at once gave orders to spike the guns in Forts Gabari, Tsale, and in the round tower adjoining, which so completely command the harbour.

This was done by parties from the "Invincible" and by others, under Captain Fairfax, C.B., A.D.C., of the "Monarch."

At the same time we occupied the Ras-el-Teen lines with such men as we could spare.

It was reported to me that Arabi Pasha was encamped close outside the town and would be prepared to resist our taking possession of it, and this information was confirmed by the best authority.

The Khedive was reported to be still at Ramleh. In the course of the forenoon an aide-de-camp of His Highness, accompanied by one of Dervisch Pasha's suite, came in and was received by me. I was asked if I could protect the Khedive, to which I replied that, undoubtedly, I could, as we were preparing to guard the Palace of Ras-el-Teen, and would take possession of the isthmus, which connects it with the main land, as early as possible, and that my next object would be to stop the burning which was going on in the town of Alexandria.

I sent the gunboats to the offshore squadron, and brought in the whole of the Marines and some Gatling guns from them.

During the day we took possession of the Arsenal.

At 4 p.m. I received His Highness the Khedive at the Palace of Ras-el-Teen. He came in accompanied by a cavalry escort, which had remained faithful to him, and he told me that he had 50 infantry as a personal guard. The suite which came in from Ramleh with him was very large. Our men were employed in getting steamers ready for His Highness's reception, should he be compelled to leave the city.

In the evening we landed all the Marines from the off-shore squadron, and got a small patrol into the streets, but they were of little service.

At night the Harem of the Ras-el-Teen Palace burst out in flames. Had to land working parties to blow it down with gun-cotton.

14th. Employed during the whole of the day landing as many men as we could spare from the squadron, and by evening we had occupied the most important positions.

Appointed Captain John A. Fisher to take charge of Naval Brigade.

Rear-Admiral Hoskins left in the "Penelope" for Port Said.

15th. Appointed Captain Charles F. Hotham as Chief of the Staff.

16th. The "Helicon" left to intercept the Channel Squadron and order them to Alexandria.

Had an interview with His Highness the Khedive, who apprehended great danger of inundation of Alexandria by the dykes at Aboukir