

being cut. I at once ordered Vice-Admiral Dowell, C.B., to proceed with "Minotaur," "Sultan," "Téméraire," and "Beacon" to Aboukir to frustrate any operations by Arabi in that quarter. Before the vessels sailed I was under the necessity of removing 300 men, which they could ill spare, from them to strengthen the shore force.

17th. The "Helicon" returned, followed by the "Salamis," "Northumberland," "Aguincourt," and transport "Nerissa." The "Tamar" arrived with Marines from Cyprus.

Consulted Major-General Sir A. Alison, Bart., K.C.B., and His Highness the Khedive, and arranged that our land force should remain in occupation of the lines of Alexandria. Employed disembarking troops, &c., from transport "Nerissa."

18th. Re-embarked all the seamen belonging to "Minotaur," "Sultan," and "Téméraire," excepting one field and one Gatling gun's crews, and sent them in "Achilles" to Aboukir, to rejoin their respective ships.

Disembarked the 60th Rifles, and landed provisions for troops, &c.

Despatched the "Salamis" to Port Said with an officer of the Khedive. She had orders to return here at once.

His Excellency Dervisch Pasha informed me that he was about to proceed to Constantinople.

19th. The Turkish yacht "Izzedin," with Dervisch Pasha on board, sailed. Immediately afterwards important telegrams came for him, and I vainly tried to recall him.

Visited Marine Head-quarters at Gabari.

Still employed landing provisions and stores for troops.

I have, &c.

F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR,

Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

No. 657.

"Invincible," at Alexandria,

Sir,

July 20, 1882.

IN continuation of my official report of proceedings, dated the 19th instant, I have the honour to submit, for their Lordships' information, a more detailed account of the action which took place on the 11th, between the squadron under my command and the forts which defend Alexandria, than I was enabled to forward at that time.

2. As will be seen by the enclosed order of battle, a copy of which was supplied to each captain, I had decided to make two attacks, one by the "Sultan," "Superb," and "Alexandra," on the northern face of Ras-el-Teen, supported by the fire from the after turret of the "Inflexible," anchored off the entrance of the Corvette Pass, thus enfilading the Lighthouse Batteries; the other by the "Invincible," "Monarch," and "Penelope" from inside the reefs, aided by the fire of the "Inflexible's" foremost turret, and the "Téméraire," which took up a position close to the fairway buoy of the Boghaz or principal pass leading into Alexandria Harbour. The "Helicon" and "Condor" were detailed for duty as repeating ships, and the "Beacon," "Bittern," "Cygnet," and "Decoy" were employed as directed by signal during the day.

3. At 7 a.m. on the 11th, I signalled from the "Invincible" to the "Alexandra" to fire a shell into the recently armed earthworks, termed the "Hospital Battery," and followed this by a general signal to the fleet, "Attack the enemy's batteries," when immediate action ensued between all the ships in the positions assigned to them and the whole of the forts commanding the entrance to the harbour of Alexandria. A steady

fire was maintained on all sides until 10.30 a.m., when the "Sultan," "Superb," and "Alexandra," which had been hitherto under weigh, anchored off the Lighthouse Fort, and, by their well directed fire, assisted by that of the "Inflexible," which weighed and joined them at 12.30 p.m., succeeded in silencing most of the guns in the forts on Ras-el-Teen; still some heavy guns in Fort Ada kept up a desultory fire. About 1.30 p.m. a shell from the "Superb," whose practice in the afternoon was very good, blew up the magazine, and caused the immediate retreat of the remaining garrison. These ships then directed their attention to Fort Pharos, which was silenced with the assistance of the "Téméraire," who joined them at 2.30, when a shot from the "Inflexible" dismounted one of the heavy guns. The Hospital Battery was well fought throughout, and although silenced for a time by a shell from the "Inflexible," it was not until 5 p.m., that the artillerymen were compelled to retire from their guns by the fire of the "Inflexible" and offshore squadron. The "Invincible" with my flag, supported by the "Penelope," both ships being at anchor, the latter on one occasion shifting berth, and assisted by the "Monarch," underweigh inside the reefs, as well as by the "Inflexible" and "Téméraire" in the Boghaz and Corvette Channels, succeeded, after an engagement of some hours, in silencing and partially destroying the batteries and lines of Meix. Fort Marsa-el-Kanat was destroyed by the explosion of the magazine after half an hour's action with the "Monarch." About 2 p.m., seeing that the gunners in the western lower battery of Meix had abandoned their guns, and that the supports had probably retired to the citadel, I called in the gun vessels and gunboats, and, under cover of their fire, landed a party of twelve volunteers under the command of Lieutenant B. R. Bradford, of the "Invincible," accompanied by Lieutenant Richard Poore, of that ship, Lieutenant the Honourable Hedworth Lambton (my Flag Lieutenant), Major Tulloch, Welsh Regiment, attached to my staff, and Mr. Hardy, Midshipman, in charge of the boat, who got on shore through the surf and destroyed, with charges of gun cotton, two 10-inch muzzle loading rifled guns, and spiked six smooth bore guns in the right hand water battery at Meix, and re-embarked without a casualty beyond the loss of one of their boats ("Bittern's" dingy) on the rocks. This was a hazardous operation very well carried out. Previous to this, after the action had become general, Commander Lord Charles Beresford, of the "Condor," stationed as repeating ship, seeing the accuracy with which two 10-inch rifled guns in Fort Marabout were playing upon the ships engaged off Fort Meix, steamed up to within range of his 7-inch 90 cwt. gun, and by his excellent practice soon drew off the fire. I then ordered him to be supported by the "Beacon," "Bittern," "Cygnet," and "Decoy," the "Cygnet" having been engaged with the Ras-el-Teen Forts during the early part of the day. I am happy to say, during the action, no casualties happened to these vessels, owing in a great measure to the able manner in which they were manœuvred, and their light draft enabling them to take up their position on the weakest point of the batteries. The action generally terminated successfully at 5.30 p.m., when the ships anchored for the night.

4. The force opposed to us would have been more formidable had every gun mounted on the line of works been brought into action, but in the Ras-el-Teen Batteries few of the large smooth bores, and fewer of the French 36-pounders, bought in the time of Mehemet Ali, were manned, the Egyptians preferring to use the English