

the 15th July, I assumed the duties of Senior Officer of this Division.

2. On the 17th Her Majesty's ships "Blanche," "Swallow," and "Sparrow," with Mr. Rodd, Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General, and General Matthews, Zanzibar Government, on board, proceeded to Lamu, in accordance with your orders, to assist Mr. Rodd in declaring a Protectorate over the territory of Witu.

A report of proceedings from Captain Lindley is attached.

The wounded arrived here yesterday and are all progressing favourably.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. H. GAMBLE,
Captain and Senior Officer,
East Coast of Africa Division.

Letter from Captain Lindley, of Her Majesty's ship "Blanche," to Senior Officer, reporting proceedings at Pumwani.

Enclosure in Senior Officer's Letter, 15th August, 1893.

SIR, *Mkumbi Camp, August 10, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to report as follows:—

At the request of Mr. Rodd, Her Majesty's Consul-General, and in pursuance of your order to render him all assistance in my power, I landed all the force at my disposal, and the field gun having arrived, we were ready to advance on Pumwani, hoping to settle things peaceably, but ready to fight if necessary.

We left this camp on Saturday, 5th August, and encamped about half-way to Pumwani that night. At about 8.30 A.M. on the following day,* when about a mile from Pumwani, the enemy commenced to fire, but were invisible owing to there being forest on both sides, and plain trees and fields of millet in front. I sent out skirmishers and supports, and fired rockets in the direction of the enemy's fire; General Hatch with native troops was skirmishing on the right. After advancing half-a-mile we came to a clearing of about 200 yards across in the bush; again we were subjected to a severe cross fire, and in front, about 100 yards down a narrow path was the outer gate of the village. I then ordered the field gun to fire on it, the skirmishers were closed and the supports ordered up and volleys fired into the bush where the enemy were firing from, and rocket tubes were also keeping up a smart fire. I left Mr. Rodd with a guard of marines and a company of seamen in reserve, the doctor's party, and porters with spare ammunition and provisions about 400 yards in rear. The enemy continued to keep up a heavy fire from the gate in front and their rifle pits on either flank, which were concealed in the bush, and we had several men wounded. At last after one and a half hour's heavy fire and apparently with little effect on the enemy, and the field gun having fired some 20 shell against the gate, and Lieutenant Fitzmaurice and Sub-Lieutenant Gervis being wounded, I ordered the gate to be stormed and the gun-cotton party to follow.

3. The storming party, who were gallantly led by Lieutenant Molteno, and Sub-Lieutenant Thorpe-Double, consisted of a company from the "Blanche," one from the "Swallow," also half a company of Marines. These being unable to get in or over, I order them to fall back and the gun to be brought close up to the gate and fired. This having little effect, the gun was run back and the gun-cotton party under Mr. Kelsey,

* Subsequent Despatch of 17th August states the fight took place Monday, 7th August.

Boatswain, blew up the gate in a very gallant and effectual manner.

4. When our party rushed in, the enemy were in full flight into the bush where it was useless to follow them.

Mr. Rodd, who had been in a very trying and dangerous position under fire, then came in, and I had the wounded and porters with stores brought in, and the town was in our possession after two hours' hard fighting.

5. I wish especially to mention, the following Officers:—Commander Sampson, who ably assisted me throughout, Lieutenant Hutchison, who commanded the skirmishers, Lieutenant Fitzmaurice, who commanded the rocket party and field gun, Sub-Lieutenant Gervis, who was under him, Lieutenant Molteno and Sub-Lieutenant Thorpe-Double, who stormed the gate, Mr. Kelsey, Boatswain, who blew the gate up, Mr. Higgins, Gunner, who ably commanded his Company, Surgeon Lilly, who attended to the wounded under a heavy fire.

6. The next day, by wish of Mr. Rodd, we destroyed the crops and pulled the town down, also destroying the fortifications, which consisted of outer and inner gates (built of trees), seven rifle pits, capable of holding 20 men in each and concealed by the bush. We returned here yesterday after burning the town, and remain for the present. I am sending the wounded to Zanzibar.

7. I should have mentioned also the coolness and gallantry of all under my command, particularly the Marines under Sergeant Batten, Royal Marine Light Infantry. We were ably assisted by General Hatch and his 80 native troops; also Dr. Rae, in Mr. Rodd's staff, rendered most valuable assistance to our wounded; and Mr. Rogers, of the Imperial British East African Company, was invaluable, from his knowledge of the country and languages and his gallantry and ready resource.

8. The Naval Force engaged was:—10 Officers, 121 seamen and stokers, 36 marines, 5 kroomen, 5 seedies, 3 interpreters.

Enclosed is a list of the killed and wounded of the Naval Brigade.

I have, &c.,

G. R. LINDLEY, Captain.

List of Killed and Wounded at Pumwani, on 7th August, 1893.

Killed.

Thomas Cook, Stoker, "Swallow."

Wounded.

Mr. M. S. Fitzmaurice, Lieutenant, "Blanche," slight.

Mr. W. H. Gervis, Sub-Lieutenant, "Sparrow," severe.

Robert Coombes, Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry, "Blanche," severe.

George Sparrowhawk, Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry, "Swallow," severe.

William Jennings, Petty Officer, Second Class, "Swallow," slight.

John Maple, Ord., "Swallow," slight.

Alfred Wall, Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry, "Sparrow," slight.

Charles Kingston, A.B., "Blanche," severe.

Benjamin Williams, A.B., "Blanche," severe.

Letter from Captain Lindley, of "Blanche," to Senior Officer, reporting proceedings at Jongeni.

Enclosure in Senior Officer's letter of 15th August, 1893.

Her Majesty's Ship "Blanche," at Lamu,

SIR, *August 17, 1893.*

IN continuation of my last letter, dated 10th August, I have the honour to report as follows:—