

the duties he had to perform in the signals, was actively employed in the boats communicating with the different ships along the line of the two divisions as necessity required; I would therefore beg to recommend him to their Lordships' notice, and I should feel gratified by any mark of approbation their Lordships may be pleased to bestow on the senior Officers of each class for their gallant conduct, in common with all, on this important occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD, Admiral.

Admiralty, December 14, 1840.

DESPATCHES were yesterday received at this office from Rear Admiral the Honourable George Elliot, C.B. and Commodore Sir J. J. Gordon Bremer, C.B., addressed to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq., of which the following are copies or extracts:

SIR,

Wellesley, Chusan, July 6, 1840.

My last letter of the 22d ultimo, No. 38, will have acquainted the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of my arrival in Macao Roads in Her Majesty's Ship Wellesley, bearing my broad pendant on the 21st of that month, and of my having established a blockade of the port and river of Canton, and I have now the honor to apprise you, for their Lordships' information, that, on the 24th of June, I sailed from Macao Roads accompanied by Her Majesty's Schooner Young Hebe and four transports, and on the 1st instant reached the anchorage under the Buffalo's Nose, where I found the Conway and the other ships of war and transports which I had directed Captain Bethune to conduct to that place, having been joined by the Atalanta and Queen war steamers on my way thither.

The next day the fleet proceeded to an anchorage off the great island of Chusan, and I despatched Captain Bethune of the Conway, accompanied by the Master of the Wellesley in the Atalanta steam sloop, to reconnoitre the harbour and sound the passage, and having so done, they returned in the evening; and on the following day, (the 4th instant) I went on in the Wellesley in tow of the Atalanta, followed by the whole fleet.

On the flood tide making, I anchored in the Wellesley abreast of the town; the Conway and Alligator took up positions in front and flank of a rugged hill, surmounted by a temple, and which is a very strong position. In the course of the afternoon, the Rattlesnake and several of the transports anchored, and the rest were visible from the hills above the town. Twelve Chinese war junks had followed us from the lower anchorage, and eleven others were in the port, and had anchored in a sort of line of battle, and the Chinese troops were busily employed in placing guns on the different quays along shore.

I entertained the strongest hope that the display of a force so overwhelming as ours, would have induced submission, and I therefore issued the summons of which a copy is inclosed.

The Chinese Vice Admiral, who is Commander-in-

Chief of all the forces and garrisons in the district, was present in his junk, and the summons was conveyed to him by Commander John Vernon Fletcher, of the Wellesley, and Lord Viscount Jocelyn, (who has done me the honour of attaching himself to my personal staff,) attended by the Rev. Mr. Gutzloff, the first Chinese interpreter to Her Majesty's Superintendents of trade. They returned at the expiration of about an hour, accompanied by the Vice Admiral, the Flag or Port Captain, several other naval and military persons of rank, the chief civil magistrate, and others of the authorities. A conference of some length ensued. I endeavoured, through Mr. Gutzloff, to make them clearly understand that insult and aggression on the part of their officers, to an extent no longer bearable, had obliged Her Britannic Majesty to seek redress; that my orders were to take military possession of this island and its dependencies, and that as the force I had with me precluded all possible chance of their successful resistance, I earnestly entreated them to spare the great effusion of blood and yield at once. They departed about 8 P.M. with the fullest understanding of the terms, and said "the fault would be theirs, if delay in returning an answer to our summons should be productive of hostilities!" No answer was given during the night, and the sounds of gongs and other warlike demonstrations were audible throughout.

As the day dawned on Sunday the 5th instant, I found the quays and shore lined with troops in considerable force, while from the mastsheads numbers were seen on the plain between the suburbs, and on the city walls, situated about fourteen hundred yards in the valley. They had placed a body of troops on the Temple hill, together with three guns in position, twenty-one guns were in line on the different wharfs, and on a round tower of solid masonry they had five guns. The war junks were hauled on shore in line, with their rudders unhung, and presented thirty-four guns, and forty-five large gingsals. A quantity of arms of all kinds were collected, which the mandarins were employed the whole morning in distributing to the troops and others: in fact, the waving of their flags, and every other demonstration evinced a determined spirit of hostility.

The flood tide at noon brought the mass of the transports in, and I still entertained a hope that when the Chinese saw the troops preparing to land in full force, they would negotiate; but having waited until half past two P.M., I judged that further forbearance would be useless, and, therefore, at that moment a single shot was fired from the Wellesley at the round tower, falling as I had intended at the foot of it, without doing the slightest injury. This shot was instantly answered by the whole line of the Chinese feeble defences, and caused a return from the squadron, the whole of which were now present, as noted in the margin,* the Cruiser, Algerine, and Queen steamer having just anchored.

The cannonade lasted only seven or eight minutes. The Chinese troops had fled - their battery on the Custom-house Wharf was destroyed; four junks shot to pieces, and not one person remained visible in the town.

* Wellesley, Conway, Alligator, Cruiser, Algerine, Rattlesnake, Young Hebe, and Atalanta and the Queen steamers.