

The right wing of the 18th Royal Irish regiment, under the command of Major Adams, and the Royal Marines of the squadron, under the command of Captain Ellis, of the Wellesley, forming the advance, then landed, and were immediately followed by detachments of Her Majesty's 26th and 49th regiments, the Madras Artillery, and Sappers and Miners, and the Bengal Volunteer corps, and the residue of the troops; and at fifty minutes after two P. M., I had the satisfaction of seeing Her Majesty's colours, hoisted on the first military position in the Chinese Empire conquered by Her Majesty's forces.

The Mandarins, and the whole of the Chinese troops, had now retired within the city in rear of the suburbs, from the walls of which they kept up an occasional fire when any of our force appeared on the plain.

By four o'clock P. M., two nine pounders were landed, and in position within four hundred yards of the wall; and in the course of the night six other nine pounders, and two howitzers, were in battery, together with two mortars.

From the display of flags, the beating of gongs, and the fire kept up by the troops in the city, a vigorous resistance seemed to be threatened, and myself and Brigadier Burrell anticipated that their folly would force on us the dreadful necessity of a breach and escalade; fortunately for humanity this was not the case, for as this morning dawned, the reconnoitering officer discovered that the bridges were destroyed, and that the city had been evacuated. In the night a temporary bridge was thrown over the canal, and the southern and the principal gate forced, by which Her Majesty's 49th regiment marched in, and Her Majesty's colours were soon after displayed on the walls of Chusan.

In so dense a population, it is almost impossible to form an estimate of the number of actual soldiers; but I am inclined to think that from five to six hundred were in the suburbs, on the hill, and in rear of it, in reserve; whilst probably as many more were in the city, the walls of which were lined on the whole extent of their southern face.

It is a source of great gratification to me, to think that so few lives have been lost on this occasion. I believe that twenty-five may be the extreme number, and these were all soldiers. This may be ascribed to the fire of the ships being directed solely to the junks and batteries.

The only casualty in the squadron consists of one seaman wounded on board the Conway. The ships were struck repeatedly, but no damage was done to them of the slightest consequence.

Captains Bethune, Maitland, and Kuper, of Her Majesty's ships Conway, Wellesley, and Alligator, Commanders Giffard and Fletcher of the Cruiser and Wellesley, Lieutenant Mason of Her Majesty's brig Algerine, Mr. Brodie, Master, R. N. commanding Her Majesty's troop ship Rattlesnake, and Mr. C. E. Hodgkinson, Mate, R. N. commanding Her Majesty's schooner Young Hebe, together with every officer, seaman, and marine in the squadron, including the Commanders and Officers of the Honourable Company's steam vessels of war Adalanta and Queen, displayed a zeal and alacrity which I am convinced would have ensured success in a much more important service than this; and I gladly seize on

this occasion to express my best thanks to Captain Maitland for the unremitting attention he has paid to the details of the expedition, and for the valuable assistance he has rendered me during its progress.

The Royal Marines, under Captain Ellis, maintained the high character of their corps for steadiness and soldier-like good conduct.

My thanks are also due to Viscount Jocelyn, Military Secretary to Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries, for his readiness on all occasions.

I am happy to inform their Lordships, that the best understanding has existed between Brigadier Burrell and myself; and that every branch of the two services has most cordially co-operated for the promotion of the public service.

Nor can I conclude without recording my satisfaction at the zeal, intelligence, and perseverance of the Masters' of the transports, in bringing their vessels into harbour, and the regularity of their conduct throughout.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. J. GORDON BREMER,
Commodore of the First Class, and
Commander-in-Chief.

BREMER, by special appointment, Commander in Chief of the British naval forces,

BURRELL, by special appointment, Commander in Chief of the British land forces,

Have the honour to inform his Excellency the Vice-Admiral, that they have come here by the commands of the Sovereign of Great Britain, having under their orders powerful naval and land forces, for the purpose of landing and occupying the Island of Tinghae, and its dependencies.

If the inhabitants of the said islands do not oppose and resist our forces, it is not the intention of the British Government to do injury to their persons and property.

This measure of taking possession has become necessary, from the insulting and unwarrantable conduct of the Canton high officers, "Lin" and "Tang," last year, towards Her Majesty's specially appointed Chief Superintendent Elliot, and other British subjects.

It is necessary for the safety of the British ships and troops, that your Excellency should immediately surrender the Island Tinghae, its dependencies and forts, and we therefore summon your Excellency to surrender the same peaceably, to avoid the shedding of blood. But if you will not surrender, we, the Commodore and Commander, shall be obliged to use warlike measures for obtaining possession.

The official messenger who transmits the letter will only wait an hour for an answer. When this time is elapsed, and your Excellency refuses to surrender, and does not return an answer, we shall then immediately open a thundering fire upon the island and fort.

(Signed)

J. J. GORDON BREMER.
GEORGE BURRELL.

4 July, 1840.