

only seeming a shade darker and more dull than ever, as it rolled between the snow laden banks in gloomy majesty.

But gradually even the Danube began to betray symptoms that the laws of nature are not to be evaded; for occasionally a small substance would be seen sweeping along the current, looking like the cambric kerchief of some dainty dame, cast from her in an hour of sport, they were so dazzlingly white, and light, and seemingly impalpable. These were indeed but small plates of ice laden with snow, which had been driven down some minor stream; but they melted away no longer, a chill had come over the parent river, and they lay upon its breast as cold and pure as they had reached it.

This was the signal for the removal of the bridge of boats to which frost is fatal, and the first step taken towards its disappearance was raising the anchors of every third boat; for which purposes two large barges densely manned were in full activity from day-dawn until night. The next was removing the foot path which on either side is divided from the carriage way by a fence breast high, and these two arrangements made, the remainder of the fabric was allowed to stand until the last moment. That moment arrived about midnight, when we were awakened from our first sleep by a confusion of noises for which we found it quite impossible to account; shouts, laughter, and the dragging of heavy substances along the frozen and echoing earth, were blent with the continuous blows of a multitude of heavy hammers; and on hastening to the window to discover the cause of the uproar, we found that one third of the bridge had already disappeared; and that the shore was crowded with soldiers, workmen, and idlers, whom we saw distinctly under a clear and beautiful moonlight.

Detachments of the military were employed in removing the ponderous timbers by means of ropes from the river side, and this was the dull sound which we had heard; while the mirth which pervaded the party was perfectly contagious; and we returned to our beds, when the bitter cold drove us from the window, as much amused as though the business of the night were not to entail upon ourselves and all our acquaintances an infinity of inconvenience.

On the morrow when we rose not a vestige of the bridge was to be seen, Buda and Pesth were two distinct cities; and as we gazed over the broad cool river upon the heights of the opposite shore, we breathed a fervent prayer for the success of Mr. Tierney Clark's undertaking.

The next symptom of the working of the magic wand appeared along either lip of the banks, where a thin crisp line of ice, feathered into delicate outlines by the action of the ripple, grew from day to day broader and more defined; and as it widened, the centre of the stream became gradually laden with variously sized and irregularly-shaped masses sailing along like snow-islands; occasionally driven into contact by the fierce action of the current, and parting again with a crashing sound; and sometimes hanging against the banks, and forming new impediments to the progress of the floating masses.

When the ice had once attained this point, its increase was rapid; and the passage of the boats to Buda began to be extremely difficult. I made one voyage across: sometimes we rowed quietly but slowly through the water; and occasionally we jerked and crashed through the thin sheets of ice; but as yet there was no inconvenience to encounter beyond delay, which however, at a temperature of twelve (Reaumur), was of itself enough to try one's philosophy.

But ere many days had passed a *trajet* to Buda was no longer a thing to be so lightly undertaken. A broad line of ice, massed and heaped together, sheet piled on sheet as the current drove it onward until some unconquerable obstacle rooted it on a particular spot, was formed along both the shores; while the centre of the river was still cumbered by the moving masses to which I have already alluded, and amid which channels of water appeared in every direction. Still, however, like a defeated giant, the river vainly struggled against its bonds; conquered, but not subdued; and the impetuous current whirled onward its unwelcome freight, which crashing, shocking, and parting in wild and strange confusion, yet gradually increased and spread over the whole surface of the stream, leaving only dark glimpses of the labouring water between the sharp and unequal edges of the icebergs.

#### CHINA NEWS.

From the Correspondence of the London Chronicle.

Bombay, Dec. 1st.—Mr Frederick Staunton, Chaplain at Macao, had been seized by the Chinese and carried to Canton. It appears he was taken while imprudently bathing in Cassilia-bay, which he had been in the habit of doing for some time. The British inhabitants

of Macao had addressed Captain Smith, commander of the blockading squadron on the subject, and that gentleman in reply had stated his intention of endeavouring to procure Mr Staunton's release thro' the influence of the Portuguese authorities. Letters from Macao to the 22d August were received shortly afterwards, containing intelligence of an engagement between the English and Chinese troops at that place, consequent on the seizure of Mr Staunton. Captain Smith it seems, demanded of the Portuguese Governor, the release of the prisoner as a person seized within his neutral jurisdiction, and Taoutee or head local Mandarin was accordingly despatched to Canton to use his influence with Lin for the purpose. He however, returned unsuccessful, Lin having peremptorily refused to give up Mr Staunton, and brought 700 additional Chinese troops with him. This being the case, Captain Smith determined to dislodge the Chinese forces who were encamped on the outside of the Portuguese boundary, and to that end landed 180 Bengal volunteers from a transport together with 160 marines and seamen, who aided by the fire kept up by the men of war (Hyacinth and Larne and the steamer Enterprise) accomplished the service in a few hours. The enclosed extract contains a full and explicit account of the affray. It appears that the above engagement has completely put a stop to all trade at Macao, the English goods at the custom house there having been removed on board the ships at Capsingmoon, and apprehensions being felt that the Chinese might possibly invade and plunder the place. On the 29th ultimo intelligence from Chusan to the 1st October reached Bombay.

Admiral Elliot, has returned from the Gulf of Peche-lee, having negotiated with the third in rank of the Chinese Empire. The Emperor it seems, had declared his willingness to apologise for the insult offered to Captain Elliot the superintendent, and to punish Lin for his unauthorized aggressions on the English. He thought it just however, to give the high commissioners a hearing and said that he should send Plenipotentiaries to Canton for that purpose, who afterwards would arrange with the English for the settlement of the quarrel. The Emperor denied that he had received information of the doings of his high commissioner and said he had not the slightest wish to make war. It appears however that he was much annoyed at the British having taken possession of Chusan, and the Minister intimated that the visit of the Admiral had been made in time to prevent the march of 'fierce soldiers' to recapture the island. He has offered us Lanteo, a large island near Hong Kong, in exchange for Chusan. The latter is dreadfully unhealthy, many of the European troops have fallen victims to the climate and a great number are in hospital. Dysentery is said to prevail extensively, owing to the dearth of fresh provisions. Two transports have been despatched in consequence for those supplies. Her Majesty's ship *Alligator* on her way down, went into Amoy (the place which was so battered by the Blonde.) The fortification had been partially rebuilt and there were a hundred cannons mounted. The Chinese attempted to capture the vessel and afterwards to cut off her boats, but were unsuccessful on both occasions. The brig *Kite*, an armed vessel taken up for the service, and employed in surveying, has either been wrecked or seized, as her commander and his wife, and crew, are detained at Ningpo—Captain Anstruther of the *Madras Artillery* and his servant, have been also captured and carried to Ningpo (a place about twenty miles from Chusan.) All the prisoners, however, are stated to be treated kindly, and the Chinese promise to give them up immediately Chusan is evacuated. There is little doubt, however, that their release will be at once peremptorily insisted on. The troops, it is rumored, are to winter in the island, and the cold is represented to be already so severe as to render the anticipation anything but satisfactory. The Indian *Oak* transport was wrecked near Formosa, while proceeding down the coast with despatches, which accounts for the late receipt of intelligence. All trade is at a stand still—there is no hope of commerce at Chusan—and a complete stoppage is put to it to the southward.

The following letter was circulated on Monday last:—

Macao, 17th August 1840.

Sir—As the British commander residing in Macao must be deeply interested in the fate of Mr Staunton, lately seized by the Chinese, I have now to request that you will be pleased to make known

to them, that assurance have been received from the Governor of Macao by her Majesty's officers, that the Taute Yih left Macao, at 7, p.m. on the 11th instant, for the sole purpose of laying before the Viceroy, Lin, the strongest demands for the release of the aforesaid British subject, and H. E. has been kind enough to state that he will make known at the earliest period the result of this officer's mission.

I have &c.  
(Signed) H. Smith Commanding,  
blockading squadron.  
To—, and other British subjects in Macao.

From the Canton Free Press, of August 20.

#### FIGHT AT THE BARRIER.

It will be seen by the circular copied below, addressed by Captain Smith to the British subjects resident here, that his Excellency the Governor informed him that the Taoutee had left Macao on the 11th of this month for the sole purpose of laying before the Viceroy Lin the strongest demands for the release of Mr Staunton. On Monday, the 17th the Taoutee returned, but without Mr Staunton, and we are informed that the only answer he gave was that it impossible that Mr Staunton could be liberated, he not having been seized on Portuguese territory, and that besides he, the Taoutee, had brought with him a number of soldiers to assist the Portuguese in driving away the English. It was known before, and we stated it last week that strong additions had been made to the fortifications of the barrier and the number of the garrison there, and a great many boats filled with soldiers were on Tuesday seen to pass through the inner harbour towards the barrier, where also were stationed eight war junks, which before had been anchored opposite the town of Macao. The Honourable Company's steamer *Enterprise* left the road here for Capsingmoon soon after the return of the Taoutee was known, and returned on Tuesday in company with her Majesty's ship *Druid*, and towing the transport *Nazaruth Shah*, having the Bengal volunteers on board. From the Taoutee's answer, it was evident that the Chinese had hostile intentions towards the English resident in Macao; and there seemed but the alternative of quietly awaiting the attack, or to check them by falling upon them first. On Wednesday morning, the 19th, her Majesty's ships *Hyacinth* and *Larne* were seen getting under way, standing towards Fisherman's Bay, and the Bengal volunteers were embarked on board the steamer, whilst we saw nine boats filled with marines and sailors leave the *Druid*, and following in the same direction as the *Hyacinth* and *Larne*.

The weather was favourable, a light southerly breeze wafting the ships very soon to a favourable position right in front of the barrier and the fortifications there, at a distance of only about 600 yards. At about half-past one o'clock the *Hyacinth* began the cannonade, which was answered by the Chinese from their fort, or rather breast work, consisting of pyramids of sand bags, having each a foundation of about nine yards square, and upon which the 32 pounders made little or no impression. The Chinese had altogether 21 guns in the embrasures of this fortification, 15 of which were pointed towards the ships, but their fire was very soon silenced by the *Hyacinth* and *Larne*, after the guns had been only thrice fired. The neck of land on which the barrier is built is just there only about 100 yards wide, and close to the land on the inside were anchored the eight junks already mentioned, of which, from the ships, only the masts could be seen, the hulls being hid, and in a great measure sheltered from shot, by the land. There was besides on this side of the barrier, and on the territory hitherto considered as subject to Portuguese jurisdiction, a joss-house or temple where there were several cannon, from which a brisk fire was kept up upon the ships, and it was observed that these guns carried farther than those from the junks, many of whose shot fell short of the ships, they received no injury in their hulls, but a few balls passed through the awning and sails of the *Hyacinth*. After the engagement had begun, the garrison at the joss-house was reinforced by about 300 Chinese soldiers, who marched to it from the town of Macao. There was besides a considerable encampment filled with soldiers just behind the barrier, and sheltered by a small hill, and it is supposed that there must have been altogether about two thousand Chinese soldiers on the spot, of whom a considerable proportion were armed with matchlocks. The distance from the barrier to Macao being scarcely two miles, the whole of

the engagement was witnessed from the town, and numerous spectators, Chinese as well as Portuguese and foreigners crowded the adjacent heights.

From half-past one until half-past three the ships kept up a heavy fire upon the fort and the junks behind, which was latterly only faintly answered from the junks, but with more spirit from the joss-house. Parties of soldiers were seen running to and fro between the barrier and the joss-house, often interrupting their course by the shot passing over them or ploughing up the ground near them, when they would cower down, or creep along on all fours.—Twice we saw them remove a dead or wounded soldier. At about half past two the English troops began to be landed on the beach at some distance from, and on the Chinese side of, the fort. Some Chinese soldiers here, favoured by the rising ground, crept up and fired upon the parties landing; but a field piece was brought on shore, and a sharp fire kept up from it upon the Chinese encampment below, upon the junks and latterly also upon the joss-house, which, by positive orders from Captain Smith, had, till then, been spared, as being considered on neutral ground; but when the firing from it continued, all pretence to neutrality of course ceased, and a great number of soldiers were seen flying out of it, and some mat sheds, through which a few balls were sent, and running back to Macao. A little after four, all the troops being landed (180 siphahis, 120 marines, and 80 seamen, commanded by captain Mee of the Bengal volunteers, they marched upon the fort, which they found deserted, but a fire, when already in the fort, was opened upon them from the junks and the joss-house, which was soon silenced by the musketry from the volunteers.

The Chinese still on board the junks tried to save themselves by leaping into the water, where many, it is supposed, were killed. Two of the guns in the Chinese fort were disabled; the carriage of the one being broken to pieces by a shot. All the guns were spiked, and every thing else in the fort destroyed and burned. A powder magazine blew up, and two men, we are sorry to say, were severely hurt by the explosion. The Chinese encampment was next burnt, and, in fact, every thing on that side of the fort was destroyed, with the exception of the junks, which escaped being burnt from their being no boats available to get at them. Many of them were, however, so injured by shot, that they will probably never float again. The joss-house, from which the liveliest fire had been directed, escaped destruction, as being on neutral ground, very much to the disappointment of the assailants. Who could only by the strictest orders be restrained from attacking it sword in hand. Indeed during this affair Captain Smith seems to have been most anxious not to violate in the slightest degree the neutrality of Macao, although the Chinese had no such scruples; for not only was the joss-house on this side of the barrier, and therefore on Portuguese ground, but the greatest part of the soldiers that occupied marched to it from the town of Macao itself. The forbearance of Captain Smith in not attacking the enemy on neutral ground, arose no doubt, from due consideration of the very peculiar situation in which Macao is placed with regard to the Chinese, and we hope that his conduct will in future be imitated in future by the Chinese, who can have no reason whatever for complaining of the Portuguese in this affair, when even their soldiers although engaged in active hostilities, were spared because they were on neutral ground.

The English had four men badly and slightly wounded; a marine had his arm shattered by a ball, and had to submit to amputation of the limb; another was shot in the body, and two, as we have already said, were badly injured by the explosion of the powder magazine. The Chinese loss cannot be known with any degree of certainty. These connected with their mandarins state it at only 4 killed, but other statements at about 80 killed, and double that number wounded are probably more correct. One shot was seen to strike a tanka boat plying between the junks, and pulled by two women, the boat was shivered to pieces, and nothing was seen of the poor women, who, it is possible however, may have escaped, they being all expert swimmers.

We hear the Chinese soldiers ascribe their defeat to the cowardice of their officers, who, they say, were the first to run away, and that they were therefore obliged to follow their example. What the result of this affair may be it is difficult to foresee, but we hope that having received this severe lesson, the Chinese