

of war, all of which have been destroyed, with the exception of the brass guns.

Woosung is a wretched village, and Paonshaw, although surrounded by a wall and rampart in good repair, is a poor place, and the country around it by no means so populous or so fertile as we have hitherto found in China. The Yang-tse-Keang is a magnificent river.

Having arranged with the Admiral to proceed to Shanghai, a large commercial town, about sixteen miles up the Woosung river, Sir William Parker pushed on the light ships of war on the 17th instant. Captain Watson, who was in command, finding the batteries six miles up the river deserted, occupied them, destroying the iron and embarking the brass guns. I propose that one column shall move along the left bank of the Woosung, while I proceed myself in the steamers with the remainder of the force.

The 2d Madras native infantry, and detachments of artillery and sappers and miners, from that presidency, joined the fleet on the 17th; they will accompany the force to Shanghai.

I am most thankful to be able to inform your Lordship that sixteen of our kidnapped men, seven of whom are Europeans, have been restored to us by Elepoo, of whose letter\*, in reply to the one addressed to him by the Admiral and myself, I beg to enclose a translation. This act of reciprocal good feeling portends well.

I have, &c.

H. GOUGH, Lieut.-General, Commanding Expeditionary Land Force.

Head Quarters, Woosung, June 18, 1842.

(True Copy.)

H. GOUGH, Lieut.-General.

\* Enclosure not received.

(Copy.)

From His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir H. Gough, K. G. C. B., Commanding Expeditionary Forces, to the Right Honourable Lord Stanley, Principal Secretary of State, Colonial Department, dated the 24th June, 1842.

MY LORD,—My letter of the 18th June, will have informed your Lordship of the entrance of the combined forces into the Yang-tse-Keang, and of the capture of Woosung and Paonshaw, together with the dismantling of the forts which command the entrance of the Woosung river leading to Shanghai, and opening a very extended water communication into the interior of this Province (Kanguan.)

2. On the 19th the troops were embarked on board the steamers, with the exception of one column, consisting of the details named in the margin\*, which I was anxious should move, if found practicable, by a road that I understand to exist between Woosung and Shanghai, so as to reach at the same time with the steamers this latter city, where I was informed, that from 4 to 5,000 troops were stationed for its defence. By his movement, I was in hopes to have intercepted their retreat, at all events to prevent the abduction of the valuable property as well as the public treasure. This column I placed under Lieutenant Colonel Montgomerie, Madras Artillery, in whose sound judgment and practical resources I had every confidence.

3. At eight o'clock the steamers got under weigh, and by two o'clock reached two small batteries within half a mile of Shanghai; these opened upon the steamers and the smaller ships of war which they had in tow, and after a few shots, were evacuated, some of the retiring enemy falling in with a flanking party of the land column were fired on; but from the country being one sheet of paddy cultivation or swamp, they could not be captured. The steamers pushed on with the troops, and landed them close to the city, but we found Lieutenant Colonel Montgomerie in possession of the place. This officer hearing the firing, and conceiving it was from the city on the shipping and troops, rapidly pushed forward with his advance, and found himself unexpectedly close to the city walls. No enemy shewing himself at this point he advanced to the North gate, which he entered unopposed, having got some men over the walls to open it. It appears that the Chinese authorities and troops evacuated the city the preceding evening, except a few men who remained to fire off their guns in the batteries before mentioned. Shanghai appears a rich commercial city, with good walls, in perfect repair, on which but few guns were mounted, and these all at the gateways. The walls are three miles and a quarter in circumference; the population I understand to be from 60 to 70,000 souls. A very considerable trade is carried on at Shanghai—its position as a commercial city nothing can exceed, being situated within sixteen miles up the Woosung river, up which, for several miles above the city, ships of large burthen can be brought with great facility.

4. It afforded me great satisfaction to perceive the unusual degree of confidence manifested by the people; it is true a great proportion of the wealthiest inhabitants had left it, but the middling classes and the great body of the shopkeepers remained and freely brought in poultry and vegetables, so that I was enabled to give the troops a good portion of these necessary comforts, after living for some time on salt provisions. I have done every thing in my power to prove that the confidence was not misplaced, and I am most happy to say the troops, by their

orderly and forbearing conduct in the midst of that pernicious liquor, sham-shee, with large stores of which we were surrounded, conducted themselves to my entire satisfaction, and I re-embarked the whole force with its numerous followers, yesterday morning, without a single instance of inebriety.

5. The only injury done at Shanghai was by the Chinese robbers, who had commenced their work of depredation before we entered it. I issued a very strong edict, which before we left, produced in a great measure, the desired effect, and I was enabled to induce many of the most respectable Chinese to take charge of large establishments (principally pawnbrokers,) the proprietors of which had fled, with a promise they would protect them from the rabble. We have of course destroyed all the iron and embarked the brass guns, amounting altogether, including those taken at Woosung and Paonshaw, to 406, about 100 of which are brass. The powder and military stores of every description have been also destroyed.

By an extensive though necessarily rapid survey of the river, Sir William Parker has nearly ascertained the practicability of moving on Lachoo by this route, but as I consider it an object of the most vital importance to reach the point of intersection of the Imperial Canal with the Yang-tse-Keang as early as possible, and to take the strong fortress and important city of Chin-Keen-foo, commanding that point, we have deemed it right to forego all other operations for this most important one, after which I shall be anxious at once to move on Nankin. These commanding positions in our possession, as I before stated to your Lordship, both Soochoo, and Hangcheo must fall.

6. On my return here yesterday, I found the Bellville, and I understood that the Appollo, with the greater part of the transport is at Chusan. Instructions will be sent for them immediately to follow us up the Yang-tse-Keang. With these ample means at my disposal not only to take but to occupy whatever may be deemed most advisable, I hope to prove to the Chinese Government the extent of the power and resource of Great Britain, and the folly of persisting in rejection of the terms offered.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. GOUGH, Lieutenant General, Commanding Expeditionary Land Force.

P. S.—I omitted in the foregoing despatch to report to your Lordship that the same Chinese Mandarin who came to me at Chopo, brought me on the 20th instant, at Shanghai, a letter from Elepoo, of which, together with Sir William Parker's and my joint answer, I beg to enclose a translation.

(True Copy.)

H. GOUGH, Lieutenant General, Colonel Madras, Commanding Expeditionary Land Force.

(Copy.)

Elepoo, late Governor General of Keangnan and Keangse provinces, Assistant Minister of the Cabinet, and now Lieutenant General of Chapoo, sends the following communication:—

I find on examination that the English prisoners have been restored, and a letter having been sent with them, whilst however, making peace, by putting a stop to war, and entering upon arrangements respecting the trade, I all at once received a letter from Keangnan, stating, that a large fleet of your honorable country had sailed to the entrance of Woosung river, without my knowing what was the object.

When I, the Minister and Governor two years ago, carried on at Changhai, a correspondence with all the Commanders in Chief, I was then fully aware that your honorable nation was highly prising justice and good faith.

Now, however, when the two countries are on the eve of concluding peace, then sails the whole fleet suddenly to the entrance of Shanghai River, firing guns and stirring up a quarrel, which is on one side carrying on a correspondence about peace, and on the other hand to give rise to rancour, and to promote hostilities, what has thus become of good faith, and where is the justice? This I, the Minister and Governor, am not able to comprehend fully.

Our two Empires have now for three years been at war, the soldiers and people who have been killed are innumerable, and the misery entailed is unspeakable and grievous to recount. It is therefore requisite in accordance with celestial rule, to feel regret at those evils and to put down the war, but if one proves disobedient to the dictates of Heaven, it is to be feared that Heaven will visit us with punishment, and who will be able to endure this?

Your honorable country has hitherto laid strong upon commerce, and considered war as nefarious, with the hope of putting a stop to the misery of war, and enjoying the advantages of an open market. Now if this takes place, the people of your honorable country may all return home and enjoy their property, and the men of our own nation could also every one of them go back to their families, and gain a livelihood, enjoying the blessings of peace. Is this not far better than to fight for successive years, and filling the land with the bodies of the slain?

I have sent this letter by an officer, who will wait for an answer, this is my communication to the Commander-in-Chief.

TAOU KWANG, 22d year, 5th month, June 1842.  
(True copy of Mr. Gutzlaff's Translation.)

ARMINE S. H. MOUNTAIN,  
Lieut.-Colonel Deputy Adjutant General.

\* Detachment Madras, H. A., Do. Royal Artillery, Do. Madras Do., 18th Royal Irish, 49th Regiment, Detachment Sappers and Miners, 4 Light Field Guns; about 1,000 men.