

gerald in the projected attack upon the City, which the submission of the Chinese authorities so happily averted.

Lieut. Colonel Cowper, C. B., 18th Regiment, afforded me every assistance and support with the fine regiment under his command.

Major Fitzgerald, of the 42nd Regiment Madras Native Infantry, is a first rate officer. He unites conduct with enterprise, and to both may be added a zeal that communicates its spirit to every officer and sepoy under his orders.

To Captain Durnford, of the Royal Engineers, I am likewise highly indebted for the excellence of all his arrangements, and the skill, zeal, and efficacy with which he carried them into effect. Also to Lieutenant Da Costa, of the same corps, whose name has been already mentioned in this despatch, as having rendered meritorious service.

Sir John Davis having placed at my disposal his Excellency's own Aid-de-Camp, Lieutenant Edmund Sargent, of the 18th Regiment, I gladly availed myself of this officer's services, and am happy to have this opportunity of acknowledging them.

Captains Graves and Campbell, commanding the flank companies of the 18th Regiment, and Captains Stewart and M'Leod, commanding the flank companies of the 42nd Regiment Madras Native Infantry, were frequently employed in the more important operations, and evinced all the coolness and zeal that might be expected from British officers.

Lieutenant Paterson, commanding the detachment of Royal Artillery, afforded me every satisfaction.

The medical arrangements of the Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, Doctor Kinnis, were such as to meet with my entire approbation, although fortunately circumstances did not render the application of them necessary.

I cannot close this despatch without informing your Lordship that if anything had been wanted to encourage me in the recent undertaking, it was to be found in the ardent zeal and cordial co-operation of Captain M'Dougall, Royal Navy, my distinguished coadjutor, whose conduct throughout these proceedings has afforded one proof more of the united feeling which binds our two Services indissolubly together.

Canton, April 8th, 1847.

SIR,—In pursuance of the plan of operations previously arranged by you, upon arrival at the entrance of the Bocca Tigris, I proceeded from on board Her Majesty's steam ship Vulture to the forts on the islands North and South Wangtong, in the launches of that vessel, taking with me from the troops you had placed at my disposal, a detachment of Her Majesty's 18th Regiment, under the command of Captain Campbell, a detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners, commanded by Captain Durnford, and one of Royal Artillery, under Lieutenant Paterson.

Having reached the northern island, the gates of the fort were opened and possession taken, the garrison making no resistance; Captain Durnford with the Sappers was sent to destroy the magazine, and Lieutenant Paterson to spike the guns; both services were performed efficiently. In this fort are several dwellings, and a temple containing much valuable property, all which was left undisturbed, so perfect was the discipline maintained by Captain Campbell, whose conduct in this and subsequent operations it becomes my duty to recommend to your notice. One hundred and fifty guns of great calibre were spiked, and large quantities of powder thrown into the sea.

The force then proceeded to the island and fortress of South Wangtong, where the gates were thrown open, and the same forbearance observed by the soldiers notwithstanding much temptation. One hundred and nine guns of similar great calibre effectually spiked, the magazines destroyed, and much powder, in cartridges, thrown into the sea.

On the following morning, the 3rd of April, the expedition having reached the staked barrier of the River, in accordance with your explained plan for attacking the Barrier Forts, taking with me, from the division you had placed under my direction, in the launches of the Vulture, a detachment of the 18th Regiment commanded by Captain Graves, one of Sappers under Captain Durnford, and one of Artillery under Lieutenant Paterson, I proceeded to the Pachow Fort, on the left bank of the river. On reaching it, entrance being refused, the gates were instantly blown open by Captain Durnford, the work occupied with perfect discipline and forbearance by the soldiers of the 18th Regiment. While Captain Durnford and Lieutenant Paterson were performing the duties assigned to them, sixty four guns were effectually spiked; much powder, in cartridges, and not made up, thrown into the sea; and the magazines destroyed.

The force was then conveyed to the Wookongtap Fort, on the opposite bank of the river; on approaching which it became evident that opposition was intended: a cross fire was opened upon the detachment by this fort, and by another on the same bank of the river; and, on a nearer approach, grape shot and rockets were fired from the fort to be attacked. The force was landed and formed, the garrison escaped from the rear. Captain Graves was sent with the light company of the 18th Regiment to keep clear the approaches from a large town adjacent, while Captain Durnford and Lieutenant Paterson were in the execution of their duties within the fort. Forty one guns, as usual of immense size, were disabled, some of which were found to be loaded. The magazine was destroyed, with much powder, loose and in cartridges, and 150 rockets, all headed with barbed spear points.

The coolness and discipline of this little force while under fire have never been exceeded, and not a musket was fired during any of the operations; it is a mere act of duty on my part to bring to your notice the excellent conduct of Captain Durnford, Royal Engineers, of Captain Graves, 18th Regiment, and of Lieutenant Paterson, Royal Artillery, in the performance of their duties; an incident of this attack excited attention while under fire, in the gig which led the advance, and which was steered by Capt. M'Dougall, Royal Navy, the midshipman on duty was his son, a young lad, whose coolness emulated that of his father, and was admirable.

The Naval officers employed in the boats which conveyed the troops, were Lieutenants Robert Coote, C. A. Pascoe, and G. Durbin; the conduct of these officers throughout was worthy of the service they belong to, as was that of Lieutenant Davis of the Marine Artillery, who was present and gave every assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WM. BRERETON,

Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Artillery.

To Major General D'Aguilar, C. B.

GENERAL ORDER,

By Major General D'Aguilar, C. B. Commanding the Troops.

Head Quarters, Victoria, Hong Kong, 10th April, 1847.

The Major General congratulates the troops on the success that has crowned their exertions; he congratulates them still more on the discipline observed by them in the course of their late short but arduous operations; and, above all, he congratulates them on the praiseworthy manner in which they have abstained from every act of injury or outrage that could tarnish the honour of the British arms.

In the course of a few days, the Bogue Forts, and all the principal works and batteries on the Canton river, have been taken possession of, some of them by assault, and eight hundred and seventy nine pieces of cannon, by the latest return, spiked or rendered otherwise unserviceable.

The Chinese have received a lesson, in return for their frequent acts of aggression on the persons of British subjects, that will not be lost upon them.

They have submitted to all the demands of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary without reserve, and have yielded, happily for themselves, just in time to arrest the course of an assault that would have been attended with fearful loss of life to them, and the inevitable destruction of their provincial capital.

When such advantages have been obtained, let it be one more source of congratulation to British soldiers to reflect, that they have been purchased, under Providence, without bloodshed, and the honour of the British arms has been proudly maintained, without one act of violence or one departure from the principles of humanity.

In recording these acts, so honourable in themselves and so deserving of approbation, the Major General desires to impress on the handful of men by whom they have been achieved, this great and most important of all lessons, "It was discipline alone that could effect them," and while this first duty of a soldier continues to be practised, that the troops can never fail in fulfilling their duty to their Sovereign and maintaining the honour of their country.

By order.

J. BRUCE, Captain,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

ADMIRALTY, 25th June, 1847.

Despatches have been received at this Office from Rear Admiral S. H. Inglefield, C. B., dated Penang, 8th May, 1847, and addressed to H. G. Ward, Esq. Secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following are copies:—

Her Majesty's Ship Vernon, Penang, 8th May, 1847.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the report from Captain M'Dougall, of H. M. Steam Ship Vulture, the Senior Officer at Hong Kong, relative to the combined naval and military expedition up the Canton river, in the early part of last month, which I have but this moment received, and I beg you will assure their Lordships, that it is only my unwillingness to detain the mail longer than may be absolutely necessary, which prevents me from calling their Lordships' more particular attention to this well executed and bold enterprise, which reflects so much credit upon the Hon. Major General D'Aguilar, Captain M'Dougall, and the whole of the Officers and men under their respective orders.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

S. H. INGLEFIELD,

Rear Admiral and Commander in Chief.

To Henry G. Ward, Esq., M. P.  
Secretary of the Admiralty, London.

H. M. Steam Ship Vulture, Hong Kong, 9th April, 1847.

SIR,—Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary having communicated to me, on the afternoon of the 1st instant, that, in consequence of the evasive and unsatisfactory conduct of the Chinese Minister, he had communicated with the Honourable the Major General d'Aguilar, and determined with him on the necessity of proceeding with a force to Canton, to demand certain points on which he had been instructed to insist on by Her Majesty's Government; and having applied to me to co-operate with the naval force under my command, I lost no time in waiting on Major General d'Aguilar, and it was arranged that the troops were to commence embarking with their guns, &c., as soon after 8 P. M. as possible.