

terminated that Christmas-day should be a day of rest,—and the 25th was a quiet day, with the exception of the enemy wasting a vast deal of ammunition.

26th, The plan of attack was the suggestion of Captain Lyster, that we should pass the lines of defence as quickly as convenient, and round the north point of the island, and at that point make the grand attack, it being there that Kosoko and the slave-dealers reside, and to let them have the first punishment. The line of sea-defence extends from the south point of the island of Lagos to the north point, along the west front, a distance of nearly two miles; and in parts where the water is sufficiently deep for boats to land, stakes in double rows are driven in six feet water, and along the whole of this distance an embankment and ditch for the protecting of infantry, and at chosen points stockades exceedingly strong, made from stout cocoa-nut trees, were erected for guns, the guns being laid for the difficult points of the passage. We could count four guns so placed, since found to be twenty-five.

6. Our work thus being clear before us, the Bloodhound weighed at dawn of day on the 26th, with the Sampson's boats in two divisions, the one preceding, the other following, proceeded up the river, the Teazer following with the boats of the Penelope similarly arranged, and accompanied by Mr Beecroft's iron boat Victoria, fitted for rockets. The enemy immediately opened a fire of great guns and musketry, the whole line of embankment being filled with men, the muzzles of the muskets only being visible. This fire was returned from great guns only, and with very beautiful precision, yet with very little effect, for the shot did not do much injury to the green wood of the stockade, and the guns themselves, from being retired, could not be seen. At 7-20 A.M. the Bloodhound and her division of boats had passed the N.W. point, and in trying to get round the north point grounded in eight feet. The black pilot, John Johns, did his work well and steadily, and is not to blame,—the channel had filled up since he was last here,—Mr Beecroft and his interpreter, Richards, assisting. We had carried three fathoms all the way up. On sounding it was found impossible to get further; and anchors were therefore laid out to heave off. During this time a very deliberate and beautiful fire was kept up from the 18-pounder of the Bloodhound, directed by Mr Barry, the gunner, and from the 12-pounder howitzer, by Lieutenant McArthur, R. M. A., with shrapnell and common shells, by which means the great guns abreast were silenced; but nothing could silence the perpetual showers of musketry, the greater part of which fell short, but every now and then one or two would fall on board, and the men were hit slightly; very few indeed escaped a slight touch.

7. The Teazer had grounded shortly after weighing, and I did not observe her to be aground before we had advanced too far "to anchor for mutual support," as had been agreed upon; I have therefore the honour to forward to you Captain Lyster's report of the proceedings of the division under his command during the remainder of the 26th and morning of the 27th. The operations of the division under my immediate direction continued occasionally to throw shot and shell as any movement was observed on shore, and to check the operations of the enemy, who had nearly succeeded in bringing an invisible gun to bear, the shot at each discharge coming nearer and nearer. At 10 A.M. I despatched Lieut. Thomas Saumarez in command of the gun-boats of H. M. S. Sampson, viz. first and second life-boats and pinnace round the north-east point, to ascertain the

strength and position of the guns on that side of the island. A fire from 4 guns, strongly stockaded, was immediately opened; this fire was returned from the life-boats and pinnace by the 24 and 12-pound howitzers, with such good effect as to have upset and turned out of its carriage one of these guns. The object being attained of ascertaining the position of the guns on the north-east side of the island, I recalled the boats, as it became requisite to reserve the ammunition and shells for the great assault, when the other division, under Captain Lyster, should have joined. The fire from gingalls, petrels, and muskets continuing from the ditch and embankment abreast, and observing the enemy busy in trying to bring other guns into position, I, at 2-30 P.M. despatched Lieutenant Thomas Saumarez, with the boats of H. M. S. Sampson, accompanied by Lieutenant Edward McArthur, R. M. A., in command of the Royal Marine Artillery, to attempt a landing, and spike these small guns. They did all that men could do, but it was found impossible to make their way through the showers of musketry opened against them; and Lieutenant Saumarez therefore very properly relinquished the attempt, and returned with 10 men severely wounded, Mr Richards, midshipman, mortally, and himself hit in three places. I must here bring to your notice the gallant conduct of Mr William J. Stivey, carpenter, of H. M. S. Sampson, who, neck deep in water, axe in hand, was hewing away at the stakes to make a passage for the boats to land; he is one of those men who is always where he is wanted. The remainder of the day was passed in firing shot and shell, as circumstances required, so as to prevent guns being moved against us, the nearest shot passing about ten yards astern. At daylight, on the 27th, I had the satisfaction of seeing the Teazer afloat; and at 7-20, that she had entered the right channel and was coming towards us. I immediately ordered that a deliberate flanking fire should be opened on the west part of the enemy's defences from the Bloodhound and gun-boats, and sent a boat under Mr Bullen, my clerk, to point out to Captain Lyster the position for the Teazer to anchor. 8-10.—Teazer anchored, and I went on board to see Captain Lyster. Ordered the rocket-boats to take up a position to the northward of the Bloodhound, which was quickly done; and Lieutenant Marshall threw some rockets with beautiful effect, setting fire to several houses, and particularly that of the prime minister, Tappis; this produced a spontaneous cheer through the little squadron for the rocket-boat. The rocket-boat shifted her position a-head of the Teazer, and a general but deliberate fire was opened from the whole force. At 10-45, Lieutenant Marshall threw a rocket which struck the battery below Tappis' house, and simultaneously a shot from the Teazer capsized the gun; an awful explosion ensued, and from this moment the fate of our foes was decided; it became evident they must submit; house after house caught fire, and the town was shortly in a general blaze.

8. At 10-30 Commander Coote joined with the boats of the Volcano, and at 1-45 P.M. Commander Gardner, with the boats of the Waterwitch. At 2-45 I despatched the gun-boats of the squadron under Commander Coote, accompanied by the rocket-boat, round the north point, to salute Kosoko's house, but directed that they should only fire a few rounds, being unwilling further to destroy the town, the ultimate fate being positive, should resistance continue. I therefore recalled the boats; sent a summons to