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TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1852.

India Board, July 16, 1852.

THE following Dispatches have been received at the East India House:—

The Governor-General of India in Council to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

Fort-William, June 2, 1852.

HONOURABLE SIRS,

WE have much satisfaction in forwarding for your information the accompanying copy of Dispatches from Lieutenant-General Godwin, C. B., and Commodore Lambert, announcing the gratifying intelligence of the capture of the City of Bassein by the combined Military and Naval Forces.

We have, &c.

DALHOUSIE.
F. CURRIE.
J. LOWIS.

Lieutenant-General H. Godwin, C.B., Commanding the Forces in Ava, Arracan, and Tenasserim Provinces, to C. Allen, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India.

Rangoon, Head-Quarters, May 24, 1852.

SIR,

THE Governor-General having expressed some anxiety about the south part of Arracan, as being in the neighbourhood of Bassein, I resolved, as soon as I could conveniently leave Rangoon, to take a detachment, and personally visit the place. On expressing this intention to Commodore Lambert, he, to my very great pleasure, said he would accompany me. I fixed on Monday the 17th May, and had a detachment warned to be ready to embark on that morning, consisting of 400 of the 51st King's Own Light Infantry, 300 of the 9th Madras Native Infantry, 67 Madras Sappers, and a serjeant and 6 gunners of the Bengal Artillery. The whole party was placed under the command of Major Errington, of the 51st Light Infantry.

The Commodore appointed three fine vessels to carry the troops, the East India Company's steam frigates *Sesostris* and *Mozuffer* and the *Tennasserim*, with a smaller steamer, the *Pluto*, carrying the naval brigade and Marines of Her Majesty's frigate *Fox*.

We cleared the Rangoon river on the afternoon of Monday the 17th, and on the next evening anchored off Negrais Island, leading into the Bassein River. At day-break the next morning, the flotilla weighed, and we ascended that most beautiful stream for sixty miles, which, at four o'clock, brought us in view of the defences, of about a mile long, of the city of Bassein; we had passed some new stockades, one at, and the other south of Naputa, a few miles below the town, which were not armed; but these consisted of one extensive stockade, with several hundred men in it, fully armed, and with cannon.

The enemy looked at us, but did not show any disposition to molest us. The flotilla arrived at the left of their position, a strong well-built mud fort, armed with cannon and men. This we passed within two hundred yards, and so in succession all their defences for nearly a mile, till the *Tennasserim*, with the Commodore and myself on board, anchored opposite a golden pagoda, centrally situated within the defences. The steamers anchored in succession, without bringing down the fire of a single musket.

The admirable position taken up by the steamers induced me to order the immediate landing of the troops. The enemy appeared so completely surprised and paralyzed by our approach that I gave orders not to fire unless fired on, and to take possession of the pagoda. Nearly all the men of Her Majesty's 51st Foot got on shore under the pagoda before a shot was fired. Captain Latter, my interpreter, accompanied Captain Darroch with a company of the 51st on shore, and landed on the extreme right of the works, opposite a traverse covering a gateway; and there a parley was held between Captain Latter and some Burmese on the walls, which brought on the first discharge of musketry, killing a serjeant and wounding two men. This fire was taken up, ran down the works, but soon ceased.

At this time Major Errington made his advance on the pagoda, and carried it in most gallant style, the 51st Light Infantry maintaining nobly the character they had ever commanded by their courage and distinguished conduct in the field.

The contest that stamped the operations of this remarkable day with a brilliant conclusion was the attack on the mud fort, most scientifically built and of great extent, which could only have been constructed under a disposition that com-