

DOWNING-STREET, December 30, 1852.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint Richard Davies Hanson, Esq. to be Advocate General for the Colony of South Australia.

ADMIRALTY, December 30, 1852.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, has been received at this Office from Commodore Lambert, dated the 14th November 1852 :—

No. 81.

OPERATIONS IN THE IRRAWADDY RIVER.

SIR, *Fox's boat, at Prome, 14th Nov. 1852.*

I REQUEST you may be pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that on the morning of the 2d instant I left Rangoon for the Irrawaddy River, but after proceeding through the Panlang Creek, I found that the steamers I had previously sent on were not able to cross the bar at Yangensiah, therefore I transferred the troops they had on board to the small steamers, which had just then joined me, and directed the larger ones to return to Rangoon, with orders to enter the Irrawaddy, by the way of the China Bukeer, which has been effected.

2. The inclosures numbered from 1 to 5 will place their Lordships in possession of the operations which have been conducted by Captain Loch, C.B., of Her Majesty's ship Winchester, and Commander Shadwell, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop Sphynx; the latter officer's proceedings have been confined to the lower part of the Irrawaddy, and latterly entirely to Henzadah.

3. It is my intention that Commander Wainwright, of the Winchester, shall relieve Commander Shadwell, who has now been some time employed in these arduous duties.

5. I shall not comment on the energy and spirit displayed by Captain Loch, for it is apparent that the service he has rendered is brilliant and useful, and my Lords will, I am sure, express their satisfaction at his conduct.

5. I have stationed the Enterprise steamer off Akoukton, and the General has placed sixty men on board her, to drive away the enemy, should they again make their appearance.

6. The navigation of the Irrawaddy is now intricate, and requires care, owing to the shallowness of the water in many parts; but, by proper attention, the small steamers will find no difficulty in proceeding up and down the river, and the boats under convoy can at all times keep up a supply of provisions and stores; though I have suggested it would be desirable if a small military force occupied the two or three stations on the banks, for the purpose of protecting the people who supply the steamers with wood, &c., from the bands of troops or Dacoits, which are continually lurking in the neighbourhood.

7. It is my intention to return to Rangoon tomorrow.

I have the honour, &c.

GEORGE R. LAMBERT,

Commodore First Class,

Commander-in-Chief.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
&c. &c. &c.

Her Majesty's steam-sloop *Sphynx's* pinnace, *Henzadah*, 1st Nov. 1852.

I have the honour to inform you that after the detachment of the 40th Bengal Native Infantry, under the command of Captain A. Becher, were left at

this place on the 29th ultimo, in pursuance of the arrangements of Captain Loch, Captain Becher and myself having reconnoitred the ground in rear of the town, and having collected information from the headman, determined on removing his men to a Pongi house, nearly in the rear of the centre of the town, and according to present information, facing the advanced posts of the Dacoits.

On Saturday evening I advanced the marines to the Pongi house on the left of our position, which had previously been occupied by the sepoys.

I may observe, *en passant*, that a paved road running "fore and aft" the town, parallel to the bank of the river in rear of these two positions, afforded the means of retreat, if necessary, to the boats.

Arrangements were made with the headman, Moun-gon-Glay, to station his armed men in intermediate stations between these two positions (which are about a mile and a half apart), so as to keep up the communication, and also to keep armed parties on our flanks.

This morning, at 8:30 A.M., I received a message from Lieutenant Nightingale, Royal Marines, to the effect that the Dacoits had advanced in force along the banks of the river, and were burning the detached villages on his left; I immediately sent to Captain Becher to acquaint him, and advanced with all the available seamen to the support of the Marines.

On arrival, I found that the enemy were within long musket range of the quarters of the Marines; after a sharp fusillade they retired; we cautiously advanced under cover of the growing paddy fields, and ultimately drove the enemy back into the open country, the Sepoys, under Captain Becher, clearing the ground to our right, and in our front.

As an illustration of their boldness I may mention that the Dacoits have burned some houses in a grove half a mile to the left of our position.

The Henzadah people report only one of their men wounded, but several of the enemy, and as an earnest of success they have taken two prisoners, and report five or six wounded. None of our men were hurt.

It is quite clear that the presence of our small force here is of great value in giving confidence to the men of Henzadah to resist the Dacoits and Burmese soldiery, with whom the remnants of the Bassein army are said to be making common cause; but I will not conceal from your Excellency my opinion, that for the effectual protection of the valuable crops of rice in its rear, a larger and more perfect military force than is now assembled here is essentially necessary.

I have,

(Signed) CHAS. F. A. SHADWELL,

Commander.

To His Excellency Commodore G. R. Lambert,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 2, in No. 81.

Her Majesty's ship *Winchester's* gig,
at *Prome*, 2d Nov. 1852.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that this morning I proceeded down the River Irrawaddy, in the Hon. East India Company's steamer *Medusa*, for the purpose of making a combined reconnaissance with Brigadier Sir John Cheape, K.C.B., of the right bank of the river from Padangmew to the White Pagoda, a mile and a half below *Prome*.

At daylight Sir John embarked with his personal staff and the light company of Her Majesty's 18th Royal Irish, 80 strong; at the same time

