

The boats being manned and armed, and officered as follows :—

Winchester's Launch—Lieutenant Charles Fellowes; Mr Gilmore, midshipman; Mr Stuart, assistant-surgeon;

2d Barge—Lieutenant J. Bushnell; Hon. H. D. Lascelles, midshipman;

Pinnace—Mr F. Robinson, midshipman;

Spartan's Barge—Lieutenant Palliser; Mr Grove, midshipman;

Pinnace—Mr Oliver, mate;

left the *Winchester* at 5.30 P.M. of the 1st instant, and proceeded to the Throat Gates of Capsingmoon Passage; overhauled two boats off the Island of Makwan, on their way to Hong Kong, whose cargoes had that day been removed by some pirates; at 10 P.M. anchored for the night off Pilang Bay.

At daybreak on the morning of the 2d instant weighed, and observing some boats at anchor off the village in Pilang Bay, proceeded to examine, and found two of them to be Hong Kong passage-boats, whose crews reported three boats then on the beach to belong to pirates, and the village, which consisted of six houses, apparently store-houses, to be their stronghold; sent the police constable on shore with the informers to examine these houses, in which portion of the property lost by informants was found; restored the same to them, burnt the houses, and destroyed the boats, three in number.

At 7 A.M., at the request of the informants, stood towards Castle Peak Bay. As we opened the land observed four large junks in the offing, and one small Hong Kong boat making towards us; on nearing our boats the latter reported the four junks to be pirates, who had just robbed them of all their property. I desired one of the crew to come into the launch and accompany the boats for the purpose of giving evidence against these junks. They now made for Tynmoon Bay, sailing, and pulling a number of oars, the boats in full chase; they succeeded in entering the bay before our boats could overtake them, and running two of them on shore at separate points; their crews landed and received us with a sharp fire of musketry and wall pieces from the rocks; having dispersed them from their positions, I ordered Lieutenant Bushnell and Mr Oliver to go in and bring out the junks, and with the remaining three boats proceeded to the head of the bay; received the fire from one Hong Kong fast-boat lying alongside of another, took both of them, and left the four vessels anchored in the centre of the bay, clear of the enemy's fire, under charge of Mr Oliver; proceeded with the remainder of the boats up a small creek, the *Winchester's* second barge, Lieutenant Bushnell, leading, closely followed by the *Spartan's* barge, Lieutenant Palliser; the launch, drawing too much water, grounded several times, and I considered it more prudent, with a falling tide, to send her out of the creek, and taking the *Winchester's* pinnace, followed the two barges, which had now pushed up as far as the water would allow, and grounding, received a sharp fire of musketry from the pirates concealed behind the rocks, they having placed themselves there in strong position, from which they were soon driven by the two boats' crews; then landed, finding it impossible to get the pinnace up far enough to make use of her gun. I landed under fire of musketry from the rocks on the opposite side of the creek, accompanied by Mr Stuart, assistant-surgeon, and five men, and joined the other two boats' crews under Lieutenants Palliser and Bushnell, ordering the pinnace at the same time to move down the creek into deep water. The pirates had time,

unfortunately, to remove all valuables and munitions of war from the two junks found here, which were burnt without delay. In the meanwhile a large junk of about 200 tons hove in sight, and steering towards our former prizes fired a shot at them, Mr Oliver returned the fire immediately, and joined by Gilmore in the launch, chased and drove her on shore, having exchanged several shots with her. The crew jumped overboard and swam to the shore, leaving the mangled bodies of several of their number lying about the deck. The boats now boarded her and found several guns, gingalls, stink-pots, &c. Mr Gilmore endeavoured to bring the vessel off shore, but not being able to succeed, took the guns out of her and blew her up.

The tide having fallen so much as to leave the two barges high and dry up the creek, I ordered Lieutenant Palliser to take such steps as to secure his party against surprise from the enemy, which he did by landing the gun from the *Winchester's* barge to keep them in check, fancying they had some idea of coming down again towards the boats. No further annoyance, however, was attempted, and I returned to the former prizes for the purpose of examining their cargoes. The two first taken contained the greater portion of the property lost by the informers, which I restored to them, and allowed them to put the same into one of the two Hong Kong fast-boats taken, which, from want of evidence, I did not consider it my duty to detain; the other three junks were burnt, making in all nine piratical vessels destroyed, the stronghold of the pirates razed to the ground, from forty to fifty men killed, bringing away nine guns and seven gingalls.

I cannot close this without expressing my high sense of the conduct of the officers and men under my command; and the zeal displayed was so universal that I cannot particularize any one.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES FELLOWES,
Senior Lieutenant.

H. E. Rear-Admiral Sir James Stirling,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 4.

H.M.S. *Encounter*, Hong Kong,
November 4, 1854.

SIR,

IN compliance with your orders of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I arrived at Macao on the morning of the 1st instant, and the same day waited on his Excellency the Governor.

From him I learned that the piratical fleet infesting this neighbourhood were supposed to be partly at Coulan, in the Island of Tyloo, and partly at Moto, up the Broadway River; that he had been applied to by an inferior mandarin to assist in their destruction, but had declined doing so unless applied to by an officer of higher rank. He very kindly offered to place at your disposal a schooner and lorchas, the former but lightly armed with a few small guns, the latter with four 12-pounder carronades, one 25 cwt. 32-pounder, and one 17 cwt. 32-pounder carronades.

On consulting with him, and with the view of any future operations being undertaken, I came to the conclusion that it would be inadvisable to visit any portion of the West Coast this time, but confine myself to the islands in the neighbourhood of Hong Kong, where, should there be any portion of the piratical fleet, they would no doubt retire to their strongholds at Coulan, or up the Broadway