

proceed in them to identify property heretofore taken from them by the pirates.

You will also be accompanied by the United States' hired war steamer, the *Queen*, under command of Lieutenant Prebles, whom Captain Abbott has placed at my disposal for the purpose of rendering aid in this service, and for conveying certain American merchants who have goods to reclaim.

It is unnecessary to give you detailed instructions in this case, as the objects aimed at, in conjunction with the local circumstances, will be your best instruction upon your arrival at Tyloo; but I am very anxious to impress upon you that while I desire to detect, apprehend, and bring to punishment any persons who may have been engaged in acts of piracy, and to bring them to trial before the proper Courts, I deprecate conflicts between our force and any bodies of such persons, except they be justified by self-defence; and therefore, while you are to afford the Commandant full aid, support, and security in the performance of his duties before-mentioned, you are to avoid any acts of hostility and violence uncalled for and unjustified by the circumstances in which you may be placed.

The Lieutenant-Governor having acceded to my request for the services of Mr Caldwell, the chief of the police of Hong Kong, and having directed him to accompany you upon the expedition, I do not doubt you will derive advantage from his presence.

So soon as the port and town of Coulan shall have been visited in the manner aforesaid, you will detach the *Barracouta* to me with intelligence, and proceed with the other vessels to the mouth of the *Broadway* and await further orders.

Given, &c., at Hong Kong, the 11th November 1854.

(Signed) JAS. STIRLING.

*George W. D. O'Callaghan, Esquire,
Captain of H.M. Steamship Encounter.*

By Command of the Rear-Admiral.

(Signed) M. I. CURRIE,
Secretary.

Enclosure No. 6.

*Her Majesty's Ship Encounter, off Concock,
November 11, 1854.*

Sir,

In pursuance of your orders, I have the honour to inform you that I took in tow, off Green Island, two junks of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China, on board of one of which was the mandarin alluded to in your letter of the 11th instant. Her Majesty's ship *Styx* having joined, I proceeded on my way to Tyloo by way of Lantao.

It blew hard during the night, with considerable sea on, and consequently we were forced to go very slowly on account of the vessels in tow. By 6 A.M. of the 12th it blew a fresh gale, dead off shore (Her Majesty's steam-sloop *Barracouta* joined us at this time), and I was truly glad to steam for the first sheltered bay I could reach. Both junks broke adrift; the first was picked up by Her Majesty's steam-sloop *Styx*, by signal, and the other we got hold of again ourselves, at the risk of a boat which I was forced to lower, and could not hoist up again; she, however, got hold of the junk, and we succeeded in towing them into shelter between *Tymong* and *Concock*. We had mistaken the latter island for Tyloo, our pilots proving ignorant of this part of the coast. No time however was lost by this, as it would have been impossible for boats to have acted to the N.E. of that island.

On rounding *Concock* we observed three armed junks at anchor, who immediately commenced

throwing overboard their guns and removing their cargoes. I sent for Mr Caldwell and the mandarin, who came on board; the latter declared them to be pirates. I told him I could not act upon a mere assertion of this kind, but that any steps he might think proper to take in ascertaining the fact, I would support him; I accordingly ordered Lieutenant Fellowes to take his own boat, together with the boats of the *Encounter*, *Barracouta*, and *Styx*, commanded respectively by the First Lieutenants of those ships, and support the officers and men sent by the mandarin, in the execution of their duty; I also requested Mr Caldwell to accompany them, with any of the parties who might wish to go, for the purpose of identifying their lost property. Lieutenant Prebles, of the United States Navy, in command of the chartered steam-vessel *Queen*, volunteered to cover the boats, which service I accepted.

The boats being deserted, and a portion of the property (or rather sails of *Caldera*) being found, those junks were destroyed.

After this I proceeded in the *Peninsular* and *Oriental Company's* steam-vessel *Canton*, and reconnoitered the Bay of Coulan, where I found a large assembly of junks and a considerable battery, about 5 P.M. His Most Catholic Majesty's naval *lorcha Amazon* appeared in sight, and on opening the bay was fired upon. Having satisfied myself of the position, I closed up our own ships, and sending a party of marines and an armed boat on board the *Canton* and *Charles Forbes* (also of the *Peninsular* and *Oriental Company's* Service), and on board the *Queen*, desired Lieutenant Fellowes to undertake the blockade of that bay during the night, which he most effectually did. During a reconnoitre early in the morning by Lieutenant Fellowes in his launch, he was repeatedly fired upon, but acting strictly in accordance with my orders, did not return the fire.

I moved Her Majesty's ship under my command into two and a half fathoms, at daylight, and having made my arrangements to support the mandarin in a search for property, &c., and also with a due regard to the safety of those under my command, I had the armed boats and a party of 100 small arm men towed up to the bay; and having entered into a communication with the mandarin, and he having appointed certain officers to proceed in the search of Coulan and the junks there, for plundered property, I sent the above-named force to support the imperial officers. The boats, under the command of Commander Parker, consisting of the launch of the *Winchester*, the paddle-box boats and pinnaces of the *Barracouta* and *Styx*, and also the pinnace of the *Spartan*—the officers therein I have noted in the margin*—the marines and small arm men, with a field-piece and rocket party, the whole under the command of Commander Woolcombe; the marines of the ships under Lieutenant Burton, R.M., and the latter party under Lieutenant Montgomerie, senior Lieutenant of the *Encounter*, assisted by Mr Butler, mate. The moment these boats left they were fired upon; I then directed the Portuguese *lorcha* and the United States' chartered steam-

* *Winchester*—Lieutenant Fellowes, Mr Gilmore.
Spartan—Lieutenant Palliser, Mr Saratt.
Barracouta's Pinnace—Lieut. Collingwood, Mr Keats.
Starboard Paddle-box Boat—Mr Wing.
Port Paddle-box Boat—Mr Brown, mate; Mr Tully, master's assistant.
Styx's Pinnace—Lieutenant Graves.
Starboard Paddle-box Boat—Mr Hanson.
Port Paddle-box Boat—Mr Inglis, Master, Mr Mayne, second master.