

vessel to cover the boats, and I cannot express myself too highly of the conduct of the former in the admirable manner in which he took his little vessel into action, and the beautiful precision of his fire. I am not less indebted to Lieutenant Prebles for his exertions, and he has always shewn an anxious desire to aid me in every way.

I had given my directions to Commanders Parker and Woollcombe as to the landing of the men and the covering of the landing; they were most ably and gallantly carried out under a fire of a battery of twenty guns of various calibre from 12 to 6-pounders. The battery being silenced, Commander Parker landed, and taking command of the whole force proceeded to endeavour to capture some of the piratical force; in the execution of this duty he had to encounter a small battery of seven guns, where the fugitives made a stand, but it was soon carried. I called upon the mandarin officer to declare what junks he considered piratical, and also if any portion of the houses should be destroyed; he declared the whole of the junks as such, and pointed out what portion of the houses he considered should be destroyed; accordingly forty-eight masted junks were set on fire. It would have taken a week to get them afloat.

The property found was a case of Instruments belonging to the master of the Caldera, also a chest of Tea. I have also further indication of their having plundered either American or English vessels.

In the performance of this service the boats had to land the men under great natural obstacles, and a fire of twenty guns kept up for half-an-hour. It was ably and well done by the officers aforementioned; I am perfectly satisfied with their conduct.

The loss on our side was one American seaman killed; on the part of the pirates fifty. Eight Chinese were captured, but whether pirates or not remains to be proved.

I now send the Barracouta, in accordance with your orders. Commander Parker will afford you any further details. I proceed to-morrow, Tuesday, the 14th instant, off the Broadway. Should it be your intention to carry out operations up that river, I deem it requisite to have a further force for landing, as I cannot leave the ships at twenty miles' distance with so few hands as I did to-day; and, Sir, I have further to state that I consider it quite impracticable to suppress piracy on this coast without a recourse to decided hostilities.

The amount of guns taken and destroyed is thirty-eight, a greater portion of which are on board the mandarin's junk. The largest gun destroyed is a 32-pounder.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. O'CALLAGHAN,
Captain.

Rear-Admiral Sir James Stirling, Knt.,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 8.

Her Majesty's Steam-ship Encounter,
Hong-Kong, November 17, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, in continuation of my last letter of proceedings and report of the Affair at Coulan, that I so far altered my plans as to remain at that place the whole of the 14th instant, for the purpose of making a further search for lost property, and if possible taking prisoners.

For this purpose I communicated with the mandarin, who said he had been about to propose

the subject to me, but thought we had already done so much that he did not like to do so, but that he would send an officer with fifty men; this he did, and I directed Lieutenant Montgomerie, senior lieutenant of this ship, to support him with a party of thirty marines of the Encounter and Styx, and thirty small arm men of the former. The marines were commanded by Lieutenant Burton, R.M.; and Lieutenant Montgomerie was assisted by Lieutenant Fox and Mr Hardinge, midshipman; the whole were embarked on board the Peninsular and Oriental steam-vessel Charles Forbes; and Lieutenant Fellowes was directed to superintend and cover their landing, if required, with the Winchester's launch.

My orders were ably and steadily carried out; but from the great difficulty of getting through the country, and want of knowledge of it, the parties only succeeded in making five prisoners, whom I have delivered to the mandarin.

At 3 A.M. of the 15th, I weighed, and at 8 o'clock fell in with the Barracouta; and having made myself acquainted with your further instructions, proceeded with the squadron up the Broadway, to within eight miles of Moto. At daylight the next morning I embarked in the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steam-vessel Canton, taking with me Mr Raymond, Master of the Encounter, and Mr Sarratt, second Master of the Spartan, to ascertain the possibility of the squadron being brought higher up if required. I take this opportunity of bringing to your notice the former officer, who has had some arduous duty to perform, of which he has acquitted himself to my entire satisfaction. I also had with me the Winchester's launch and ten marines, and an imperial officer from the mandarin. At Moto there are no imperial authorities, and not obtaining any satisfactory information, I proceeded off Yut-Kok, where were lying nineteen armed junks; with these I communicated, and ascertained they were chartered vessels for the protection of Hong-Shan, and were in charge of an Imperial Officer. This officer afterwards came on board, and informed me that Aw-ung, the pirate chief, he believed to be at Chun-Kok, and that the mandarin of Hong-Shan was endeavouring to persuade him to join the Imperial forces; from other sources I was informed he had done so, and I understood that the mandarin at Canton had also been making overtures to him to the same effect. His force was said to be about forty junks.

I considered it highly important that these facts should be clearly ascertained, and accordingly proceeded up a branch of the Broadway river, to the N.W. This has never been visited before, and I have desired Mr Raymond, master, to draw up a report of it. We anchored abreast a small fort at the village of Woo-chun, opposite Ngoi-hoi, about thirty-five miles from Moto; here the Chinese who lost so much property ascertained that Aw-ung, with thirty junks, had gone up to Macao Fort, and been received by the Imperial officers. Twenty rebel rowing-boats came down upon us, with not less than 100 men in each; but on their being made aware of what was the object of our visit, immediately came to anchor. I was unable to rejoin the squadron that night, the pilot declining to go on after dark; but at 7.30 this morning I did so, and then, in obedience to your orders, directed the Barracouta to Hong-Kong by the Capsingmoon, and having ascertained it was the mandarin's desire to return to the Bogue, I directed the Styx on that service, and taking in tow the Portuguese lorch myself, proceeded down the river. The hired steam-vessels of the Penin-