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TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1856.

ADMIRALTY, January 10, 1856.

DESPATCHES, with Enclosures, of which the following are Copies, have been received from Rear-Admiral Sir James Stirling, Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels on the East India and China Station:—

REPORTING SUCCESSES AGAINST PIRATES BY  
RATTLER.

*Winchester, at Sea, lat. 25° 17' N.,  
long. 120° 10' E.*

*October 23, 1855.*

SIR,

On the 23th of May I had the honour to report that Commander Fellowes, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop Rattler, had made a successful attack on a piratical horde near Hong-Kong, and I have now the satisfaction to forward herewith reports from that zealous and attentive officer of further and more important successes.

2. To the last of the operations therein reported, I venture to solicit the particular attention of their Lordships; for I feel assured that, while they will deeply regret that so many brave men should have fallen and suffered in the execution of the services described, they will appreciate highly the gallantry and resolution exhibited, equally by the officers, seamen, and marines, of the United States frigate Powhatton, as well as by the officers, seamen, and marines of Her Majesty's ships who were engaged, and will perceive that the success obtained reflects great credit on Commander William Abdy Fellowes, who planned and directed the attack.

Every attention shall be given to promote the recovery and provide for the comfort of the wounded men, and to afford such of them, as may desire it, an early return to their native country.

I have, &c.,

J. STIRLING, Rear-Admiral and  
Commander-in-Chief.

*The Secretary of the Admiralty.*

*Her Majesty's steam-sloop Rattler,  
off Mios Bay, May 29, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I started from Hong-Kong on Sunday afternoon, the 27th, and proceeded to the harbour of Samchow, where we arrived at daylight on Monday the 28th, and with the assistance of some neighbouring fishermen and our own boats away

sounding, we were enabled to get up near to where the captured lorchas were lying. Immediately we hove in sight they all weighed and ran up to what, to us, appeared a river, but was a continuation of the harbour, forming an island; the boats were sent away fully armed, under the command of Lieutenant Wrey, and after a good deal of firing the junks were run ashore and deserted. I ordered them by signal to be all burnt; but besides the re-captured lorchas, three lorchas were claimed by the Chinese we took with us; so there were burnt in all, six; brought off, five. We took four prisoners, one of whom was recognised as the Second Chief, and one other was wounded by a musket ball in the knee. No casualties occurred on our side. Owing to the lateness of the hour before we could secure the prizes, I was obliged to remain for the night, and got out this morning with a very slight touch on the ground.

I need scarcely inform your Excellency that from first to last a most gallant spirit was shewn by every individual engaged, and as the whole affair was seen by myself, I can attest the good behaviour of every one; indeed the boat attack on the five large junks on shore, which were firing heavy guns until the boats got near, when they were deserted, was gallant in the extreme, at the same time proper caution was used in approaching.

The boats destroyed were as follows, averaging from fifty to sixty men each:—

One large junk, 14 heavy guns; 24, 18, and 12-pounders.

One large junk, 12 guns; two 24-pounders and ten smaller guns.

Two junks from 8 to 10 guns; 6, 8, and 12-pounders.

Two large fishing-boats; no big guns.

From 28 to 30 of their men were either killed or wounded. The lorchas, which were also heavily armed, fired on the boats, but were soon deserted when they found our two smaller boats coming up in their rear.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. A. FELLOWES

*His Excellency Rear-Admiral  
Sir J. Stirling, Kt.*

