

the unwearied zeal he has exhibited, I am much indebted.

In fine, nothing could have surpassed the admirable spirit exhibited by the officers and men of all ranks, and the utmost praise is due for their zeal, devotion, and gallantry.

I have, &c.,

F. STALKER, Major-General, Commanding Expeditionary Field Force.

Rear-Admiral Sir Henry J. Leeke, K.H., R.N.,
Commanding the Naval Force of the Persian Gulf Expedition, to the Right Hon. Lord Elphinstone, G.C.H., Governor of Bombay.

*East India Company's steam-frigate
"Assaye," at anchor off Bushire,
December 10, 1856.*

MY LORD,—It becomes my pleasing duty to report to your Lordship in Council, that after a bombardment, which commenced this morning at 8 o'clock between the Persian batteries and the men-of-war of the Indian navy, and lasted on both sides until nearly an hour after noon, the town of Bushire has been taken, and the flag of our Sovereign is now flying on the citadel.

It was determined that the disembarkation of the troops should take place in Hallila Bay, about ten miles south of the town. All was ready on the morning of the 7th instant, and the gun-boats in advance to cover the landing, when a number of the enemy were discovered in a date grove about 200 yards to the left of the beach; the boats opened fire, and, after the exchange of a few shots, the enemy retired. Here the famous Chief, the son of Baucher Khan, was killed by a shell from one of the advanced boats, which, I trust, gave a check to, and prevented the approach of, a large number of Persian troops, who would have very much harrassed the army while landing.

On the following day I paid a visit to General Stalker at the camp, and, on parting, I promised him that I would keep close to the shore in this ship, and support the left of the army on its approach to the Fort of Reshire (about four miles from this place), where it was supposed from the information we had received, the enemy, in number from 1,500 to 2,000, would receive our troops, and make a powerful resistance. On my nearing the fort this information was confirmed, and we saw it perfectly full of Persian soldiers, who were drawn up ready for the attack. At this moment I was about 1,700 yards from them, when we commenced firing shell; many dropping within the trenches, and committing much slaughter, obliged the Persian troops to fly, with the exception of about 800, who made a resolute stand, and were driven out by the troops in one of the most brilliant and gallant charges I ever witnessed. Here the troops halted for the night.

I then pushed on for this roadstead, and at daylight this morning, seeing the Persian army drawn up near the wells (their centre supported by a high fortified tower and redoubt), it was my duty to dislodge them; and for this service I ordered the vessels, named in the margin,* under the command of Lieutenants Tronson, Worsley, Chitty, and Giles, and eight heavy-armed gun-boats under Lieutenant Stradling, to place their ships in position to attack it. This was done in a most gallant way, and, in the course of an hour, I had the satisfaction to see the whole of the Persian troops in full retreat to the town, but in perfect order, and with great coolness, supported by their Artillery. A boat with a white flag was now seen approaching

the ship, and, on one of the chiefs arriving on board, a request was made by the Governor of the town for a delay of operations for twenty-four hours, to offer terms. This I instantly refused, in consequence of his having fired on one of our small steamers, bearing a flag of truce, the day before. Half-an-hour was given him to get out of the way of our shot; and the ships having been placed in line of battle, my flag-ship in the centre, the action commenced, and continued on both sides for two hours, when, observing two batteries outside the town, one a kind of miniature Malakoff, harassing the "Semiramis" and "Feroze," I directed our fire towards them, and in three hours they were perfectly silenced, and the guns dismantled. A tower on the north-west angle of the fort, and a masked battery below the residency flag-staff outside the walls, kept up a constant and steady fire upon the "Semiramis" and "Feroze." It was necessary to silence them also; and seeing that both ships were much damaged by their steady aim, the foremost guns of this ship were ordered to be directed towards them, and in the course of an hour both batteries ceased firing.

I was now anxious to make an opening in the wall of the town, that the troops might have nothing in their way, if General Stalker, on his arrival, determined upon carrying the place by assault. Our fire was therefore directed to the south-west angle, and the breach commenced by knocking down a part of the tower and the embrasure, in which a gun was mounted, as well as the lower part of the wall. The fire from their batteries at this time gradually slackened, and at this moment the flagstaff in the town was hauled down in token of submission, and the place surrendered.

The army was by this time close to the town, and it was a source of the greatest pleasure to me to feel that we had cleared away every obstacle that presented itself on their onward march, the more so as they had lost so many gallant fellows the day before when storming the fort of Reshire.

The ships of the fleet have suffered considerably in their hulls, masts, and rigging, from the fire of the enemy's guns: the "Semiramis" and the "Feroze" have some shot through them, but nothing to prevent all being ready for sea in a day or two. I am most happy to add, that no person has been touched, nor has any casualty occurred during the four hours and a-half we were under fire: how this has happened is miraculous, for the grape-shot, which fell at every instant around and abreast the gun-boats, and the round-shot over and about our ships, was very severe, and proved that our enemy were more formidable than they were supposed to be, even by those who had known the town years before, there being fifty-nine guns mounted on the batteries.

It now becomes a pleasing part of my duty to bring to the notice of your Lordship in Council the very great assistance I have received from Commodore Ethersey (who met me off the Island of Kishm, and from his knowledge of this place gave me much valuable information), Captains Jenkins and Young, Commanders Macdonald (in charge of all the transports) and Rennie, and Acting Commanders Foulerton and Adams, the latter the Captain of this ship, the officers, petty officers, and seamen of the fleet under my command; nor can I ever forget their gallant conduct in this day's battle, or their cheerfulness and activity in carrying out my orders, and in moving their ships into position abreast of the batteries; and I am sure the Government will think with me that this was no easy task to perform, for most of the vessels drew from fifteen feet to sixteen feet

* "Falkland," sloop; "Ajdaah," steam-frigate; "Berenice;" "Victoria," steam sloop.