

their last defence (the old fort of Reshire), bordering on the cliffs at the margin of the sea. This was carried at the point of the bayonet, the enemy then only flying in despair down the cliffs, where many met their death in their endeavours to escape through the ravines of the south. The nature of the ground, however, rendered pursuit difficult to the Horse, though many were cut up in a chase of some distance. Details of this spirited affair will be given by the proper officers. I shall therefore merely observe, that the enemy received at first a lesson he will not readily forget, for the tribe families of Dashti and Tungestoon comprising its ranks are regarded as the most brave as well as the most skilled, in the defence of posts like Reshire, where regular troops cannot work with full effect. Brigadier Stopford, C.B., met his death here, and other loss was experienced. The wounded were received into the ships the same evening, and provisions were thrown into the camp from seaward during the night.

7. It had been agreed upon that I should proceed in person to the town of Bushire in a small steamer with a flag of truce, bearing the accompanying copy of a summons to surrender, with the terms offered to the garrison. While the above was enacting, I proceeded on this errand with the humane object also of receiving such of the merchants and townspeople as might be desirous of shelter in the fleet. This was quite in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India in regard to the inhabitants of Bushire; and the Major-General, the Admiral, and myself were induced to believe that my presence near them might tend to avert much bloodshed. In this, however, we were disappointed; for, on passing through the intricate channel leading to the town, two batteries, at a distance of 500 yards, opened upon the "Assyria," bearing the flag of truce, in defiance of all usage of war. Deeming it might be a mistake I caused the vessel to stop; but, a second and a third shot passing close to us, I was compelled to retrace my steps, and, even then, two more guns were discharged. I could scarcely account for this conduct, having taken some pains to explain the meaning of a flag of truce, in the event of warfare, before quitting the town; but while relating the circumstance to Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Leeke, a flag of truce from the shore was reported, and the bearer (Mirza Ismail, Collector of Customs in the town) came off with a written apology from the Governor, who, with the chief officers of the garrison, were stated to have been outside of the walls examining into the condition of the exterior defences at the time: every regret was expressed; the act was attributed to the ignorance of an artilleryman, with hopes that it would be overlooked. To this the Admiral and I replied that, so far as we were personally concerned, we were willing to credit the statements of the Governor and accept the apology, though the act itself, in whatever way originating, must stigmatise the Persian Government and its officers in the eyes of all civilised States. Mirza Ismail returned with a summons to the shore.

8. While this was going on, a note from the Major-General commanding announced his intention of advancing on the town the following morning, and the Admiral disposed his fleet in order of battle, for first dismantling the newly-erected outworks, and then moving with the view to breaching the south wall of the town. The following morning, as the tide served, the ships were in the positions assigned them. A second flag of truce had come off, begging twenty-four hours' delay, but this was promptly rejected; and, at near 8 o'clock, the signal was hoisted to engage.

Shot and shell were aimed at the redoubt south of the town, but with little effect, owing to the great range, though eventually the enemy, assembled there to oppose the troops, were dislodged, and beat a retreat with their guns into the town. The ships, in the meantime, had moved upon the town, and such was the ardour displayed to get close into the works, that every ship was laid aground at the turn of high water, and for four hours continued to cannonade the defences, which were active in replying the whole time. Many of their guns, however, were not of sufficient calibre to reach the ships, but the perseverance of the Persian gunners in firing from the more heavy pieces was admired by every one. Their shot told very often on the hulls of the "Victoria," "Falkland," "Semiramis," and "Feroze," which latter vessels, under Captain John Young and Commander James Rennie (if comparisons are admissible where all exerted themselves alike) had the posts of honor for the day. Details of the affair it is unnecessary for me to enter upon. It will suffice for me to report that—some of the guns being silenced—on the approach of the army under Major-General Stalker, C.B., to breach the wall on the gate side before assault, the Persian flagstaff was felled in token of submission. This was at noon. The Persian flag has since been recovered by myself, and presented, as a joint trophy, to the Chiefs conducting the combined operations in this expedition, who, with every officer and man in it, whether soldier or sailor, have certainly won for themselves an honourable name.

9. After surrender, some little hesitation was shown on the part of the Governor and garrison to come out of the town; an assuring note, coupled with the threat of an assault in half an hour, was, however, sent in by a freed captive; and on the expiration of the time that officer was seen issuing with his suit from the gate. I moved forward with a party to receive and conduct him to headquarters, where, after tendering his sword, he met with a gracious reception from the Major-General and Rear-Admiral commanding the forces. Shortly afterwards, the Sirhang, or Lieutenant-Colonel and Commandant, submitted; the entire garrison at the same time laying down their arms on my proceeding into the town with assurances of safety from the Major-General Commanding-in-Chief. The British colours were then hoisted at 4.30 P.M. on the Residency flagstaff, by Lieutenant Clarkson, of the Indian Navy; troops under orders to garrison the town moving at sunset into the place.

10. Since the occupation I have been engaged with my Assistant, Lieutenant Disbrowe, in giving confidence to the townspeople, securing the magazines, granaries, and other public stores, endeavouring to reopen the bazaars, and in adopting measures for the public safety, as well as in taking steps for obtaining supplies. Owing to the distrust naturally prevailing amongst suspicious people quite new to us, and generally ignorant as to our usages and institutions, we have some difficulty to contend with. Time, however, will aid to dispel fears, to restore confidence, and eventually, I hope, secure to us all we require. I must not conceal, however, that our chief local supplies of fresh meat, grain, &c., must be drawn from Busreh and Bagdad, and boats are not readily procurable. A large quantity of coal should therefore be stored both here and at Busreh, for the use of steamers, those of small size being best adapted for this service; they should not fail us, for, in any case to ensure cattle living, the voyage should be shortened as much as possible by their taking boats in tow.

11. No intelligence of any kind has come in from the interior; but I may be able to glean some