

stakes there was swampy ground, and a third ditch and bank.

The storming parties opened a destructive fire on them from the cavalier, and this was enhanced by the cannister fire of Captain Govan's guns, which had been moved to the left of the fort for this purpose.

The ground outside the fort was literally strewn with the enemy's dead and wounded; three of the Chinese were impaled on the stakes. A few fugitives reached the outer North Fort, which opened fire to cover their retreat, and was answered by the Armstrong guns with good effect.

About an hour after this the whole of the forts on both sides of the river hauled down their war banners and hoisted flags of truce. General Montauban and I sent each an officer to ask their meaning, and summon them to surrender, but they only received an evasive and insolent reply, and were defied to come on to the attack.

Accordingly two fresh regiments, the 3d Buffs and the 8th Punjaub infantry, having been brought up, I advanced to attack the outer North Fort. Two 8-inch guns were placed in position against it; the other siege guns could not be brought up.* The field batteries were placed at 800 yards' range on an arc encircling the left and front, the French guns on our right. Not a shot was fired by the enemy, and the Allied Infantry pushed on, crossed the ditches, and scaled the walls, without meeting any opposition; the garrison of 2,000 men being made prisoners.

This fort was stronger than the first. They are all constructed on the same plan, being redoubts with a thick rampart heavily armed with guns and wall-pieces, and having a high cavalier facing seawards, the guns of which were all turned in towards us; they have two unfordable wet ditches, between which and the parapet sharp bamboo stakes were thickly planted, forming two belts, each about 15 feet wide, round the fort, an abattis encircling the whole, and further covered by pieces of water, which force an advance to be made only on a narrow front.

Towards evening the garrisons of the South Forts were observed to be evacuating them, and detachments of English and French were passed over in ships' boats, and occupied them. There is not now the trace of an enemy near us, and the whole of the forts and entrenched camps are in our hands, containing about 400 guns, many of which are of very large calibre.

It is difficult to account for the confusion and uncertainty which seemed to pervade the enemy when the first fort fell; but it now appears that the General in command was killed, and the second in command either killed or missing; and the confusion caused by this, together with the severe lesson received in the first fort, rendered them incapable or unwilling of further resistance.

I cannot conclude this Despatch without expressing my sense of the very valuable services of Major-General Sir Robert Napier, who conducted the attack, and whose assistance has been most useful.

The service of the artillery under Brigadier-General Crofton was most excellent; its effects I have already described.

The engineering operations were conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Mann; and lastly, I must bring to notice the gallant conduct of the storming party which was commanded by Brigadier Reeves, who, himself severely wounded in three places, did not quit the field until he had conducted his men into the fort.

The wounded were removed as soon as possible into Tangku, where every arrangement for their temporary reception was made by Dr Muir, the Principal Medical Officer.

Many others, both officers and soldiers, behaved in a manner deserving of being mentioned; but want of time does not permit me to treat of it in this Despatch, and on a future occasion I shall do myself the honour of bringing their names to your notice.

I would also wish to inform Her Majesty's Government how cordially and sincerely our French Allies have co-operated with us, as well as the admiration I feel for their gallant conduct in the field.

General de Montauban has always shewn every disposition to act thoroughly in concert with me, and to co-operate in every manner in his power.

The services of the gunboats will doubtless be brought to notice by the Naval Commander-in-Chief, and I beg here to record what a valuable and efficient colleague I have found in Admiral Hope, whose unwearied exertions throughout the whole campaign, and in discharging the onerous duties of transporting this large force to the seat of war, have contributed greatly to the success of operations. I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. HOPE GRANT,
Lieutenant-General,
Commanding Her Majesty's Forces
in China.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
&c., &c., &c.

Head-Quarters, 1st Division,
Camp, near Sinho,

August 24, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in obedience to the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the 1st Division, under my command, marched from Pehtang about half-past 10 A.M., on the 12th instant.

On reaching the enemy's second picket-house, which is about 900 yards from their entrenched position, skirmishers of the 1st Royals were sent to the left, and some of the 31st to the right, and shortly afterwards Colonel Barry's battery of Armstrong's guns, and Captain Martin's battery of 9-pounders (the whole under the command of Captain Desborough,) opened fire on the enemy's entrenchment, at a distance of about 800 yards; after a cannonade of twenty-five minutes the enemy's cavalry were seen moving to their left from the entrenchments.

The guns then advanced to within 500 yards, and played on the enemy's position, as also on the cavalry who were moving to their right; the fire of two Armstrong guns quickly dispersed their cavalry, and in a few minutes the advance was sounded, and the enemy's position found to be abandoned.

The enemy now retired to the entrenched village of Sinho, but Sir Robert Napier's division having turned their left, the cavalry of the enemy, in large numbers, escaped behind this village towards the Peiho Forts.

The Armstrong guns, at a range of from 2,000 to 2,500 yards, made good practice on the fugitives.

This engagement having been entirely that of artillery, only one man of the division was wounded. I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. MICHEL, Major-General,
Commanding 1st Division,

* The guns of the cavalier of the captured fort were manned and turned on it.