

was left in charge of the fleet, and on the 2d instant the transports arrived under convoy of the Cutlew. No time was lost in making the necessary preparations for landing, which was effected the following morning without opposition, at a spot which had been previously selected for that purpose about two miles to the southward of the town. The troops were formed across the Isthmus connecting the Peninsula on which the town is situated with the neighbouring country, and the whole of the day was occupied in getting tents on shore to shelter the men from the rain, landing engineers tools, sand bags, &c. and making arrangements preparatory to commencing our approaches the next day.

On the morning of the 4th the light troops were ordered in advance, supported by the pickets, to dislodge the enemy from a bank within 900 yards of the outer fort, which was expected to afford good cover for the men, and to serve as a depôt for stores previous to the erection of the batteries. The whole of the light companies of the force under the command of Captain Backhouse, of His Majesty's 47th regiment accordingly moved forward and drove the Arabs with great gallantry from a date grove, and over the bank above described, close under the walls of the fort, followed by the pickets under Major Molesworth, who took post at the sand-bank whilst the European light troops were skirmishing in front. The enemy kept up a sharp fire of musketry and cannon during these movements, and I regret to add, that Major Molesworth, a gallant and zealous Officer, was killed by a cannon-shot at the head of the pickets. Lieutenant Stepney of the 65th was wounded on this occasion. The troops however maintained their position during the day, and in the night effected a lodgment within 300 yards of the southernmost tower, and erected a battery for four guns, together with a mortar battery on the right, and a trench of communication for the protection of the covering party.

The weather having become rather unfavourable for the disembarkation of the stores required for the siege, it was with considerable difficulty that this primary object was effected; but every obstacle was surmounted by the zeal and indefatigable exertions of the navy, and on the morning of the 6th we were enabled to open three eighteen-pounders on the fort; a couple of howitzers and six-pounders were also placed in the battery on the right, which played on the defences of the towers, and nearly silenced the enemy's fire. The Liverpool, during these operations, warped in as close to the shore as her draught of water would allow, and opened her guns on the town, which must have created considerable alarm in the garrison, but she was unfortunately at too great a distance to produce any decided effect.

The enemy, who during the whole of our progress exhibited a considerable degree of resolution in withstanding our ingenuity and in counteracting our attacks, sallied forth at eight o'clock this evening along the whole front of our intrenchments, crept close up to the mortar battery without being perceived, and entered it over the parapet, after sparing the advanced sentries. The party which occupied it was obliged to retire, but being

immediately reinforced, charged the assailants, who were driven out of the battery with considerable loss. The attack on the left was repelled instantaneously by the spirited resistance of the covering party under Major Warren, who distinguished himself much on this occasion by his coolness and gallantry. The enemy repeated his attacks towards morning, but was vigorously repulsed.

During the 7th every exertion was made to land and bring up the remaining guns and mortars, which was accomplished during the night, after incessant labour by the sailors, assisted by working parties from the troops and those of His Highness the Imaun, who cheerfully volunteered their services. These were immediately placed in battery, together with two twenty-four pounders which were landed from the Liverpool; and in the morning the whole of our ordnance opened on the fort, and fired, with scarcely any intermission, till sunset, when the breach in the curtain was reported nearly practicable and the towers almost untenable. Immediate arrangements were made for the assault, and the troops ordered to move down to the trenches at day break the next morning. The bombardment continued during the night, and the batteries having recommenced their fire before day light, the breaches were completed by eight o'clock. The accompanying orders will explain to His Excellency the dispositions of attack, as well as the measures taken to guard against a possibility of failure, in the event of the enemy defending himself as desperately as might have been expected from his previous defence. These precautions were however unnecessary; the party moved forward about eight o'clock and entered the fort through the breaches, without firing a shot, and it soon appeared that the enemy had evacuated the place.

The town was taken possession of and found almost entirely deserted, only eighteen or twenty men and a few women remaining in their houses.

Upon the whole it appears evident, considering the spirited behaviour of the enemy at the commencement of the siege, that their sudden resolution to evacuate the place was occasioned by the overwhelming fire of the artillery, of which they could have formed no previous idea, and which the ample means placed at my disposal enabled me to bring against the town.

Our loss, I am happy to say, has been much less than could have been expected from the length of the siege, and the obstinacy with which the enemy disputed our approaches. I have had no means of ascertaining theirs, but it must have been severe.

I beg you will assure His Excellency that I feel entirely satisfied with the conduct of the troops; their gallantry has been exceeded only by their patience and cheerfulness under every species of privation and fatigue, and the peculiarity of this service has called forth a full display of these qualities, which are as creditable to the soldier as the most intrepid acts of bravery. By the Orders*, which I do myself the honour to inclose, His Excellency will be enabled to estimate the services performed by Captain Collier and the naval part of the expedition, and I can only add that the acknow-

* These orders have not been received.