

the opposite side to that by which the *Nemesis* approached, the walls being piled up with sandbags outside in that direction; nine guns were destroyed here and the fort blown up; after the *Nemesis* had made good her passage through the stakes, which was effected after four hours incessant labour, assisted by the natives, who flocked on board and around in great numbers after the firing had ceased, all apparently anxious to aid in destroying the stakes.

At four P. M. they arrived off a military station, a shot was fired into the principal building, which drove out the garrison who had screened themselves in it; the boats were then sent on shore and the whole establishment, together with a mandarin boat, mounting one nine pounder and two ginjalls, were destroyed, and at six the steamer anchored for the night.

At daylight on the 15th the *Nemesis* continued her course upwards, and at 7.30 arrived off the large village Zamchow, under the banks of which a number of soldiers with matchlocks were descried endeavouring to conceal themselves, upon whom a fire of musketry was opened, which dispersed all those who were unhurt in less than a minute.

On moving up to Tsnei, a large town on the left bank of the river, three forts were passed, all dismantled and abandoned, the Custom House of the latter place was destroyed as well as a war junk mounting seven guns, which the crew had quitted on the approach of the steamer. On proceeding up to Whampo, three more dismantled forts were observed, and at four P. M. the *Nemesis* came to in that anchorage having (in conjunction with the boats) destroyed five forts, one battery, two military stations, and nine war junks, in which were one hundred and fifteen guns and eight ginjalls, thus proving to the enemy that the British flag can be displayed throughout their inner waters wherever and whenever it is thought proper by us, against any defence or mode they may adopt to prevent it. This service has been performed without the loss of a single man on our side, and only three seamen slightly wounded belonging to Her Majesty's ship *Samarang*. The greatest praise is due to Mr. W. H. Hall, R. N. Commander of the *Nemesis*, for the cool, unwearied, and zealous performance of his duties (under circumstances of frequent danger and difficulty) at all times, more especially in thus traversing a navigation never before passed by a European boat or vessel.

On the 19th I was gratified by receiving a report from Captain Herbert, of Her Majesty's ship *Calliope*, commanding the advanced squadron, detailing the various operations of that force in the attack and capture of the forts, defences, and flotilla off Canton, and the hoisting the Union Jack on the walls of the British factory; the guns of the squadron commanding all the approaches to the city from the western and southern branches of the river, thus placing in our power the great provincial capital.

This was brought about by the Chinese having fired upon a flag of truce, sent with a chop to the Imperial Commissioner at the desire of his Excellency the Plenipotentiary. The flotilla of boats of

the squadron formed into four divisions under the command of Captains Bouchier and Bethune, of Blonde and Conway; every arrangement having been completed, the force, as per margin,* moved in advance about noon, and engaged the batteries for about an hour, when the flotilla, with the marines, under the command of Captain Bouchier, was brought up in admirable order, and upon the signal being given, stormed and completed the capture of the enemy's works, notwithstanding a most determined resistance on the part of the Tartar troops; one hundred and twenty-three guns were mounted in the different forts; the loss of the enemy has been very considerable (upwards of four hundred men); our casualties, I am happy to say, do not exceed six wounded.

This blow was followed by an agreement on the part of the High Commissioner to a suspension of hostilities, and afterwards by the publication of an edict, declaring the trade to be opened, and that all British and other merchants proceeding to the provincial city shall receive due and perfect protection.

I endeavoured to push forward to the scene of action in the *Hyacinth's* gig, but only arrived towards its close, in sufficient time, however, to be gratified by the hoisting of the British colours. Thus, for the first time in the history of China, have ships been brought under the very walls of Canton, and by channels and branches on which a foreign ship never before floated. I believe the Chinese were not acquainted with the capabilities of their splendid river; assuredly they had no idea that the second city in the empire could be assailed by ships of war on its waters; I trust that the fact will have its due influence on the authorities and I have no doubt that the forbearance displayed towards a city so completely at our mercy as this is, will be appreciated by the better classes of the community who have every thing to lose, and the benevolence of the British character more fully understood than it ever yet has been in this country.

The gratifying spectacle of our ships in this position is solely attributable to the unwearied exertions of the captains, officers, and men, belonging to them, in sounding the various inlets through which they passed, not a single Chinese pilot having been employed throughout.

In conclusion, we may on this, as on former occasions, congratulate ourselves on this service having been performed without any loss of life on our side, and only seven wounded (severely) amongst whom is that gallant officer Lieutenant Stransham, Royal Marines, of Her Majesty's ship *Calliope*, Acting Brigade Major.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

J. J. GORDON BREMER,

Commodore of the 1st Class,

Commander-in-Chief.

* *Modeste*, *Nemesis*, *Madagascar*, *Algeriène*, *Starling*, *Young Hebe*, and *Louisa*.