

right, I was therefore compelled to detach the Marines, under Captain Ellis, to support the Brigade of Seamen, and to cover my right and rear.

12. At about half past nine o'clock, the advance was sounded, and it has seldom fallen to my lot to witness a more soldier-like and steady advance or a more animated attack. Every individual, Native as well as European, steadily and gallantly did his duty. The 18th and 49th were emulous which should first reach their appointed goals; but, under the impulse of this feeling, they did not lose sight of that discipline which could alone insure success. The advance of the 37th M. N. I. and Bengal Volunteers, in support, was equally praiseworthy.

13. The result of this combined movement was that the two forts were captured with comparatively small loss, and that, in little more than half an hour after the order to advance was given, the British troops looked down on Canton within 100 paces of its walls.

14. The well-directed fire of the artillery in the centre was highly creditable, and did great execution.

15. In co-operation with these attacks, I witnessed with no ordinary gratification, the noble rush of the brigade of seamen under their gallant leader, Captain Bouchier, exposed to a heavy fire from the whole of the north-western rampart. This right attack was equally successful, and here also the British standard proudly waved on the two western forts, while the British tars looked down upon the north-western face of the city and its suburb.

16. During the greater part of the day, a very spirited fire from heavy pieces of ordnance, ginjaes and matchlocks, was kept up on the different columns, occupying the heights and forts.

17. A strongly entrenched camp of considerable extent, occupied apparently by about four thousand men, lay to the north east of the city upon rising ground, separated by a tract of paddy land from the base of the heights. Frequent attacks were made upon my left by bodies sent from this encampment, but were as frequently repulsed by the 49th. This, however, exposed the men to a heavy fire from the walls of the city.

18. About two o'clock, perceiving that Mandarins of consequence were joining this force from the city, and had occupied a village in rear of my left, I directed the 49th to dislodge them. This was instantly effected in the same spirited manner that had marked every movement of this gallant corps. About three o'clock, it was evident that some Mandarin of high rank had reached the encampment, (I have since understood that it was Yang the Tartar general), and that preparations were making for a fresh attack. I ordered down the 18th, therefore, with one company of the Royal Marines to reinforce the 49th, and directed Major General Burrell to assume the command, to repel the projected attack, and instantly to follow up the enemy across a narrow causeway, the only approach; and take and destroy the encampment. This duty was well and gallantly performed, but I regret to say with rather severe loss from the difficulty of approach, exposed to a heavy fire from the guns and ginjaes on the north east face of the city wall. The enemy were driven at all points and fled across the country;

the encampment was burnt, the magazines, of which there were several, blown up, and the permanent buildings of considerable extent set on fire. I had as much pleasure in witnessing, as I have in recording, my approval of the spirited conduct of Captain Grattan, who commanded the two leading companies of the 18th across the causeway. These companies were closely followed by the 49th, the remainder of the 18th, and company of Royal Marines, who passed along a bank of the paddy fields to their left. The enemy not appearing inclined to move out of the town to support this point, I directed the force to return to the heights.

19. Having reconnoitred the walls and gates, I decided on taking the city by assault, or rather upon taking a strong fortified height of considerable extent within the city wall, before the panic ceased, but the hill in our rear being peculiarly rugged, and its base difficult of approach on account of the narrowness of the path between wet paddy fields, I had only been enabled to get up a very few of the lightest pieces of ordnance, and a small proportion of ammunition. I therefore deemed it right to await the arrival of this necessary arm to make the assault.

20. The following morning, the 26th, at ten o'clock, a flag of truce was hoisted on the walls, when I deputed Mr. Thom (whom Captain Elliot had sent to me as Interpreter,) to ascertain the cause. A Mandarin stated that they wished for peace. I had it explained that, as General Commanding the British, I would treat with none but the General Commanding the Chinese troops—that we came before Canton much against the wishes of the British nation, but that repeated insults and breaches of faith had compelled us to make the present movement, and that I would cease from hostilities for two hours to enable their General to meet me and Sir Le Fleming Senhouse, who kindly accompanied me throughout the whole operation, and to whose judicious arrangements and unceasing exertions for the furtherance of the united services (and I am proud to say they are united in hand and heart,) I cannot too strongly express my sense of obligation; I further explained that Captain Elliot, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, was with the advanced squadron to the south of the city, and that if I did not receive a communication from him, or had not a satisfactory interview with the General, I should, at the termination of the two hours, order the white flag to be struck.

21. As the General did not make his appearance, although numerous messages were received between this time (about noon) and 4 p. m., I hauled down the white flag. The enemy however did not, which was rather convenient, as it enabled me to get up my guns and ammunition, without exposing my men to fire.

22. During the night of the 26th every thing was prepared on our side, with the exception of one 12-pounder howitzer, the carriage of which had been disabled; the guns, by the indefatigable exertion of the officers and men of the royal artillery and Madras artillery and sappers, were placed in position. All was ready, and the necessary orders given for opening the batteries at seven o'clock on the morning of the 27th, and for the assault at eight, in four columns.