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Admiralty, January 12, 1842.

DISPATCHES have been received at this Office from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, K.C.B. of which the following are copies or extracts:

SIR, *Wellesley, at Amoy, August 31, 1841.*

I REQUEST you will lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India, detailing the proceedings of Her Majesty's squadron under my command, in the capture of the city of Amoy and the island of Golong-soo, with all their fortifications and defences, by the combined forces of the expedition on the 26th instant; on which event I beg to congratulate their Lordships, and reiterate my entire approbation of the gallantry and good-conduct of all the Officers, seamen, and royal marines of Her Majesty's squadron, as well as those of the Indian Navy, and Bombay artillery under my command. I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER, Rear-Admiral.

To the Secretary to the Admiralty.

*Wellesley, in the Bay of Amoy,
Aug. 31, 1841.*

MY LORD,

It is with much gratification that I have the honour of announcing to your Lordship the capture of the city of Amoy and the island of Golong-soo (which forms the west side of the harbour), together with their strong lines of batteries and sea defences, mounting above 228 guns, by the combined forces of Her Majesty, after a short but vigorous attack, on the 26th instant, with very trifling loss on our part.

The expedition, comprising the ships of war hereafter named, and twenty-one transports, containing the land forces, military and victualling stores, &c. under the command of his Excellency Major-General

Sir Hugh Gough, sailed from the anchorage of Hongkong on the 21st, and fortunately arrived off the islands at the entrance of Amoy Bay by sunset on the 25th.

A few shots were discharged at Her Majesty's ships as they passed between the fortified islands, but no mischief was done. It was then beginning to blow strong, but, favoured by a fair wind and good moonlight, with the advantage of the local knowledge of Captain Bouchier of the Blonde, the fleet were pushed into the bay, and anchored in security for the night.

It blew too hard during the night to admit of any boats leaving the ships to sound or make observations; but no time was lost after daylight in reconnoitering the Chinese positions, in which the General and Sir Henry Pottinger did me the favour to accompany me in the Phlegethon steam vessel.

We found the batteries and works of defence on the entire sea face strengthened by every means that the art of these active people could devise; presenting a succession of batteries and outworks, from the extreme outward points of this extensive bay, until within about three quarters of a mile of the entrance of the harbour, where a high barrier wall was constructed from the foot of a steep and rocky mountain to a sandy beach on the sea; and from this latter point a strong casemated work of granite, faced with soil, and occasional small bastions, with parapets of stone, to afford flanking defences, was continued to the very suburbs and entrance of the harbour, from whence were masked batteries with sand bags, until opposite the north east point of Golong-soo island, altogether one hundred and fifty two guns.

On the island of Golong-soo, which is the key of Amoy, strong batteries, mounting in all seventy-six guns, were also placed in every commanding position for flanking the approach to the harbour (which is scarcely half a mile wide at the entrance), and protecting the accessible points of landing.