

Admiralty, copies of letters from Capt. Bouchier, C. B. commanding the squadron within the Yung-Keang River, and Commanders Watson and Morshead, reporting the severe repulse of the Chinese in attacks made simultaneously on the positions of the combined forces at Chinghae and Ningpo yesterday morning.

Several fire rafts were dropped down the river on the shipping at both points, but by the vigilance and exertions of the officers and men of the squadron named in the margin,* they were towed on shore, and consumed without doing any mischief; and in the course of the day Commander Morshead, with the boats of the Columbine, and the Hon. Company's steam vessel Queen, completed their discomfiture afloat, by the entire destruction of numerous fire junks and boats prepared in the north west branch of the river.

The whole of this service was so well performed, that I have great pleasure in bringing under their Lordships' notice the conduct of Capt. Bouchier, Commanders Goldsmith, Watson, Morshead, and Ormsby, and Mr. Warden, of the Queen, together with every officer and man under their command on the occasion.

The Chinese have suffered most severely in their attacks on the positions of Her Majesty's land forces, by whom they were put to flight, and pursued with such rapidity, that not less than 500 were killed, while three men only were slightly wounded on the side of the combined forces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER, Rear Admiral.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

*Her Majesty's ship Blonde, off
Chinghae, 11th March 1842.*

SIR,

FOR some days past various reports had been spread, that it was the intention of the Chinese to attack Her Majesty's forces at Ningpo and Chinghae; and at four in the morning of the 10th instant, ten fire vessels were discovered coming down the river, to attempt the destruction of Her Majesty's ships and transports at this anchorage.†

Commander Goldsmith, with the boats of the Hyacinth, and of this ship, under Lieutenant Dolling, very handsomely dashed at them, and drove them on shore, where they exploded without injuring the shipping.

During the performance of this service afloat, an attack was made on the western gate of Chinghae; on hearing the fire, the marines of this ship, under Lieutenant Hewitt, were immediately landed to support the garrison; but I am happy to add, their aid was not required, the enemy having been repulsed with considerable loss, and pursued to a distance by Her Majesty's 55th regiment.

* At Chinghae—Blonde, Capt. T. Bouchier, C. B.; Hyacinth, Commander G. Goldsmith.—At Ningpo—Modeste, Commander R. B. Watson; Columbine, Commander W. H. A. Morshead.—Hon. East India Company's steam vessels—Sesostris, Acting Commander H. A. Ormsby; Queen, Mr. W. Warden, Master in command.

† Employed in boats—Blonde, Mr. Rolland, Mate; Mr. Hamilton, Mate; Mr. Lambert, Midshipman.

A simultaneous attack took place on the city of Ningpo, and the enclosed dispatch of Commander Watson, of Her Majesty's sloop Modeste, will detail to your Excellency the particulars thereof.

I have much pleasure in calling your Excellency's attention to the zeal and ability displayed by Commander Watson, and the officers and crews of Her Majesty's ships, and those of the Indian navy before Ningpo.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) T. BOURCHIER, Captain.

*His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir W. Parker,
K.C.B. Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.
China.*

*Modeste, at Ningpo,
March 10, 1842.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state to you, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that this morning an attack was made by the enemy on the shipping and city of Ningpo.

At half-past twelve A.M., a shot was fired from two guns planted on the bank of the river at Her Majesty's ship Columbine, and at three A.M., four fire rafts were discovered drifting down the south west branch of the river with the ebb tide, a-head of the Honourable East India Company's ship Sesostris, extending nearly the whole way across it, I immediately sent Lieutenant Pearse, with Messrs. Halkett and Crofton, Mates, with two boats to assist in towing the fire-rafts clear of her, which by the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Roberts, her Master, with the boats of the Sesostris, and the quickness with which Commander Ormsby slipped one of his cables, they were happily grounded clear of her, and a-head of the Modeste, where they exploded; during this time a smart fire was kept up on the boats by the enemy, from the banks of the river.

Knowing the usual manner of the Chinese to cover the attempts of their fire-rafts with matchlock men on the shore, and seeing numbers of lights moving about in the eastern suburb abreast of the ship, I immediately opened my larboard broadside in that quarter, which, when day-light broke, I found had had the effect, by the falling of a house, of disabling a gun, brought down and pointed at the ship, within fifty yards.

As soon as the fire-rafts were lit, it appears to have been the signal for a general assault upon the city of Ningpo, for immediately a heavy discharge of matchlocks and gingalls followed; soon after an officer hailed the ship from the shore, to say that the gates on the southern and western side had been attacked by a strong body of Chinese troops.

The boats of Her Majesty's ship Modeste, and the Honourable East India Company's ship, Sesostris, under the command of Lieutenant Birch, were sent higher up the river, to fire on the advancing columns of the Chinese, and at day-light the Sesostris and Phlegethon took up a position to do so more effectually, whilst the Queen moved