

In answer to my address to the Sultan, I received the accompanying documents (Nos. 2 and 3), one calling for assistance, the other for personal protection; a subaltern's guard was accordingly sent to the Sultan's residence; and it was settled, through Mr. Brooke, that the Sultan should call on Usop to present himself before him, unarmed, to answer for his conduct, and if he did not do so, his residence was to be attacked.

The Sultan's commands were accordingly conveyed to him, which not having been replied to within a given time, a shot was fired over his house, to which he promptly replied by a salvo from his battery, when a fire in earnest was opened upon him, and a few minutes sent him and all his adherents off to the woods, and the marines landed and took possession of his house, where, among other things, twenty handsome brass guns, of various calibre, were found, and one hundred and fifty half barrels of gunpowder.

The guns the Sultan requested me to keep; but reserving two of the smallest, for the purpose of sale, to produce funds to remunerate the two natives (now serving on board the Pluto) for their four years' captivity, I sent the remainder to the Sultan, with a message, through Mr. Brooke, to say, that we never accepted any remuneration for the protection of friends who were disposed faithfully to carry out the engagements they had entered into.

I learn from Mr. Brooke, who has been in communication with Muda Hassin and his brother since the flight of Usop and destruction of his property, that the occurrence has given great confidence to the well-disposed party, and that it will equally depress Usop's adherents in the town, of whom there were not a few; and I look for a double result from his punishment, namely, that while it assures the legitimate Government of all proper support, they will equally perceive the rod that hangs over them should they be found wanting in their own conduct.

I have, &c.

THOS. COCHRANE, Rear Admiral
and Commander in Chief.

*To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.*

*Agincourt, at Sea, in lat. 8° 14' N. long. 116° 43'
E. 26th August 1845.*

SIR,

FOLLOWING out the intentions referred to in my dispatch from Laboan (No. 142), of the 13th of August, I left that anchorage on the 15th instant, and reached the northern end of Borneo on the 17th.

Having heard from various sources that Sheriff Housman had, for the last twelvemonth, been making preparations against a probable attack, that he had strongly fortified one of the branches of a river in Mallooodoo-bay, and was of a character, and supported by resolute adherents not likely to yield without a sharp struggle. I made correspond-

ing arrangements for attack, and having anchored the Agincourt and frigates in a safe position, in the hitherto little known fine bay of Mallooodoo, I hoisted my flag on board the Vixen steam sloop, and, attended by the Cruizer and Wolverine brigs, and the Honourable East India Company's steam vessels Pluto and Nemesis, proceeded to the head of the bay, carrying deep water until within a couple of miles of the river's mouth, when the Vixen and brigs were obliged to anchor, and not far within them the Pluto, drawing only six feet, grounded on the bar.

It being hopeless to attempt to make a further progress in these small vessels, I directed Captain Talbot, assisted by Acting Captain Lyster, and Commanders Fanshawe and Clifford, to take command of the gun and other boats of the squadron, filled with as many marines and small arm men as they could with propriety carry, and proceed up that branch of the Mallooodoo, stated by the pilots to be in occupation of Sheriff Housman; and should their statements prove correct, to ascertain, as far as possible, the strength of his position and amount of force, either attacking the Sheriff on his refusal to surrender, should he feel equal to the enterprize, or falling back to some suitable position, while he communicated with me in the event of his not considering his force sufficient to guarantee success.

The accompanying letter and report from Captain Talbot will convey to their Lordships a gratifying narration of his success, and prove the soundness of my judgment in selecting this officer for the important duty confided to him.

Their Lordships will not fail to unite with me in deep regret at the heavy loss we have incurred; but when the great strength of the position is referred to, and that the force was for one hour exposed to the steadily sustained fire of eleven heavy guns, within little more than 200 yards of our own position, it is rather astonishing than otherwise, and a source of thankfulness, the casualties were not more numerous.

Their Lordships will not fail to notice the valorous conduct of Acting Captain Lyster, and those immediately under him, upon this occasion; who, undaunted by the fire with which they were assailed, steadily worked at a remarkably well constructed boom for above an hour before he could effect an opening, and in the success of whose exertions mainly depended the advance of the force, who, in ignorance of any other manner of approaching the forts than by the river, could not be brought forward until this object was accomplished; and while I feel persuaded their Lordships will be fully alive to such meritorious conduct, I deeply lament that death has removed from their Lordships' power of reward that promising young officer, Mr. Leonard Gibbard, mate of the Wolverine, who bravely worked by Captain Lyster's side; the wound he received on that occasion having, unfortunately for his country and his friends, proved fatal on the following day.

I sent up the same evening a small detachment of gun boats, under Commander Giffard, to burn such prahnes and boats, and parts of the forts or