

Her Majesty's steamer *Driver* has not yet arrived; but I shall take the earliest opportunity, after warlike affairs in this part of the island are over, to establish coal depôts for any steam vessel of war which may arrive.

I send a copy of this letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, agreeable with the Admiralty instructions, page 89, article 56.

I have the honour to be, &c.

C. GRAHAM, Captain.

To His Excellency Rear Admiral
Sir T. Cochrane, C. R. Com-
mander in Chief, &c. &c.

Camp, in front of *Kawiti's Pah*, New
Zealand, 12th January 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, that, in obedience to orders from Captain Sir Everard Home, of Her Majesty's ship *North Star*, whose orders you confirmed on your arrival, I landed with 130 seamen under my command, on the 13th ultimo, and placed myself in communication with Colonel Despard, commanding the land forces, at the head of the *Kawa Kawa* river, destined to march to attack the *Pah* of the rebel chief *Cawiti*, situated in a thick forest on a mountain, fourteen miles inland from the head of the river. Two thirty-two-pounders and one eighteen-pounder gun were landed from Her Majesty's ship *North Star*, and a twelve-pounder howitzer from the Honourable East India Company's ship *Elphinstone*.

Our whole force advanced on the 22d ultimo to a position about half way to the *Pah*; on the 23d I received a re-inforcement of 150 seamen from the *Castor*, under your command, with another twelve-pounder howitzer. On the 27th, the forces advanced, and the guns were brought forward, with astonishing exertion on the part of the officers and seamen, through a most difficult country, to a position about 900 yards from the enemy's *Pah*; shells and rockets were thrown in occasionally until the 8th instant, when another thirty-two-pounder was brought up, and roads having been cut through the forest by the pioneers, two stockades were erected by them, assisted by the seamen and troops. Breaching batteries in the stockade were erected, the one distant 300 yards, the other 140 yards from the *Pah*. On the 10th, at eleven A.M. fire was opened from the batteries, served by seamen, under the direction of Lieutenant Maxwell Falcon, of the *Castor*, Alleyne Bland, of the *Racehorse*, and Leeds, of the Honourable East India Company's ship *Elphinstone*, with the howitzer, and Mr. John Nops, Master of the *Racehorse*, with the eighteen-pounder, Lieutenant Egerton, of the *North Star*, directing the rockets. The fire was continued with little intermission till nine A.M.; on the 11th, when our friendly natives having ascertained that the two breaches were practicable, waved us on to advance; an assault was instantly made by the seamen under my command, in conjunction with

the land forces and natives; we were scarcely in the *Pah*, when the enemy made a desperate attempt to regain it, and a severe action ensued, which lasted nearly four hours; they were finally repulsed in the most gallant manner, and retreated to the wood. I enclose a list of the seamen and marines killed and wounded, and regret much the loss of so many brave men. I beg to bring before the notice of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, the following officers who accompanied me to the assault, with their respective divisions of small arm men, and made themselves otherwise extremely useful: Lieutenant Robert J. Otway, First of the *Castor*; Alfred J. Curtis, of the *North Star*; Arthur R. Henry, of the *Racehorse*; Eden and Ralph, of the Honourable East India Company's ship *Elphinstone*; and Mr. Lock, Mate of the *Castor*; Mr. Charles S. Forbes, Midshipman of the *North Star*, attached to the rocket party; and Mr. Grove, my Aide-de-Camp; also Assistant Surgeon Broughton, of the *Elphinstone*; and the following medical officers, who attended to the wounded in camp: viz. Mr. John Kidd, Surgeon of the *Castor*; Mr. William M'K. Saunders, Assistant Surgeon of the *North Star*; and Mr. Pritchard, Assistant Surgeon of the *Castor*.

I cannot conclude this dispatch without expressing my admiration of the conduct of every officer and seaman engaged, which is fully confirmed by the General Order of the Colonel Commanding, of this day's date, a copy of which I enclose.

Mr. George Don Murray, Midshipman of Her Majesty's ship *North Star* (the only officer struck), was severely wounded early in the action, when leading his subdivision of seamen.

The arrangements for the victualling of the naval portion of the force engaged was conducted by Mr. Kenneth L. Sutherland, Paymaster and Purser of Her Majesty's ship *North Star*, to my perfect satisfaction. I beg to add, that I have received the greatest assistance from Lieutenant Otway, of the *Castor*, and second in command of the naval brigade.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE JAS. HAY,
Commander of H.M.S. *Racehorse*.

THE Officer commanding the force acting against the rebel chiefs Heke and Kawiti has the greatest satisfaction in congratulating the whole of the force, at the brilliant success that has attended their operations of the last few days.

The capture, by assault, of a fortress of such extraordinary strength, and defended by so brave and determined an enemy, is of itself sufficient to prove the intrepidity and gallantry displayed by all concerned, whether seamen, marines, troops of the line, artillery of the Honourable East India Company's service, and the volunteer pioneers; and it will be a most pleasing part of his duty to bring such conduct to the notice of his Excellency the Governor of New Zealand, and through him to that of Her Majesty and his Grace the Commander in Chief.