

to the fort, but from whence the garrison retreated precipitately, leaving the Sultan's flag to be hauled down by the assailants.

Being anxious to proceed to the city and finish my operations against it before dark, I only gave Captain Mundy time to spike the guns and throw them over the walls, and blow up the magazine, when I proceeded to my main object.

Aware that the Sultan had a heavy battery, a fleur d'eau, pointing directly down to a bend of the river, from which it was distant about eight hundred yards, and round which we must turn, and understanding that he had heavy works on the hills not far in the rear, I anchored immediately behind the point that protected us from them, to make my final arrangements for landing, &c. &c. These arrangements were, however, overturned by the violence of the ebb tide, which set down the river with a rapidity against which a row boat could with difficulty contend. I was therefore under the necessity of towing both gun boats and the division for landing; the former by the Phlegethon, and the latter by the Spiteful.

Having given the people their dinners, I again weighed, and no sooner did the ships open the point, than the batteries commenced a sharp and extremely well directed fire, and at the same time a play of musketry from the woods on our right, and to which the Spiteful was obliged to submit without retaliation. The critical situation in which she was placed (with the beach but a few yards beyond her paddle boxes, the Royalist in tow, and the boats filled with the whole of the landing force), requiring the utmost silence and attention to prevent the whole being thrown on shore. But the Phlegethon very promptly returned the fire from her own guns, which, with the battery of field pieces placed round her bows, and the admirable fire from the brigade of rockets planted upon her bridge (both field pieces and rockets under the immediate command of Lieutenant Paynter), together with the now rapid progress of the whole force directly up the river, so astonished and dismayed the enemy, that they fled before the steamers could reach their works, or the storming party carry out the service intended for it. As quickly as possible the landing was effected, and the marines, under Captain Hawkins, immediately took possession of the heights which command the town.

The battery, fleur d'eau, was found to consist of eight brass and two iron guns, from sixty-eight to nine pounders, as more particularly detailed in the accompanying schedule. The one upon the heights immediately above it, of four guns, nine and six pounders, and four more upon another height commanding the latter, and a hundred yards in the rear of it; the whole are now in course of embarkation.

I much regret to add, that this service was not accomplished without loss, two men being killed and seven wounded; and the Phlegethon received several shot through her hull, and other damages in her paddle box, cooking boilers, &c. and which are now in course of repair.

So soon as the preliminary arrangements were made for the security of the city, I despatched Captain Mundy with the gun boats to destroy the five forts we had passed, and which he effected the same evening, having disabled seventeen iron, and brought away three brass guns.

The Sultan, I am informed, has fled into the interior with a large body of men, and many guns. I am now preparing a force to send in pursuit of him, so soon as I have accurate information of his place of retreat.

The gratifying duty now devolves on me, of assuring their Lordships of the zeal and devotion to the service of every individual I had the honour to have under my command. I have already mentioned the name of Lieutenant Patey, the First Lieutenant of the Agincourt, as second in command under Captain Mundy in the gun boats, and of whom Captain Mundy speaks in the highest terms; and I must bring to their Lordships' notice Lieutenant Paynter, the gunnery Lieutenant of the same ship. He was Adjutant of the landing party, and also commanded the rocket brigade at Malloodoo Bay last year, and the field piece and rocket brigades on the present expedition. On every occasion that his services have been required, I have remarked his zeal and intelligence, and to his assiduity and attention is mainly to be attributed the present state of gunnery discipline of the Agincourt, and the precision with which the field pieces, and particularly the rockets, were fired, affords a practical proof of the value of his instructions.

Upon two former services, Captain Hawkins has commanded the marines, amounting on this occasion to nearly 200 men, and the same zeal and attention has marked his conduct in the present, as in every former instance; and I have invested him with the charge of the protection of the town.

I must not omit to mention the care and assiduity displayed by Mr. J. E. Elliott, the Master of the Agincourt, in sounding the various intricacies of our approach, and preparing himself for the responsibilities of a pilot in a part hitherto unknown to him.

Although I have thus extremely limited the list of Officers brought prominently before their Lordships, I trust their Lordships will not for an instant believe that such restriction arises from insensibility to the merits of all engaged; but where zeal has been general and equal, I feel a delicacy in drawing attention to one to the exclusion of another. Their Lordships will have before them the programme already referred to, containing the name of every Officer employed, and the duties assigned him; and I have the authority of the Captains and Officers under whom they served, for assuring their Lordships, that one principle of zeal and devotion influenced the whole.

The Phlegethon, Honourable East India Company's steamer, commanded by Mr. R. S. Ross, was placed under my command, as their Lordships are already aware, by the Governor of