

of low rocks, and therefore could make no return, it encouraged them to approach us quite close, and open a well directed fire of musquetry, which, I regret to say, severely wounded Lieutenant Wasey, and slightly two seamen, on board the ship, and one seaman severely, in the cutter.

It was my intention to have landed and burnt the boats, but from the secure position taken up by so numerous a body of well armed men, I deemed it very imprudent to risk so severe a loss as must have inevitably taken place, particularly as the fire from our great guns had rendered them un-serviceable. Having now taken the brig in tow, we steamed to sea.

From the scattered position taken up by the pirates, it would be impossible for me to estimate their loss; but from the accuracy of our fire, and many men having been observed to fall, and some carried away, as we steamed out of the bay, there is little doubt but it must have been very severe.

In performing this service, it would be invidious in me to point out any individual, where every one behaved so well; but I cannot omit bringing to your notice the zeal displayed by Mr. Gardner, First Lieutenant, who volunteered to board the brig under so severe a fire, and who has at all times shown the same anxiety to assist in forwarding the service; also the able support I received from Lieutenant Wasey, in command of the foremost gun, and the coolness and skill displayed by Mr. Taylor, the Master, in conducting the ship in so intricate a place.

I beg to return my thanks to Mr. F. Gilbert, Paymaster and Purser, who volunteered to take command of the small arm men.

Having placed Mr. Kirkham, Master's Assistant, on board the prize, with six men, I proceeded to Gibraltar, where I arrived this day.

As a steamer is about to start for England, I have thought it requisite to forward a duplicate of this communication to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES J. M'CLEVERTY,  
Commander.

Admiral Sir William Parker, Bart. G.C.B.  
&c. &c. &c.

*List of Casualties on board Her Majesty's Sloop Polyphemus, in Action with Pirates, on the 8th November 1848.*

Second Lieutenant E. F. N. K. Wasey, severely wounded, ball lodged in the bone of right arm.

Andrew Day, able seaman, severely wounded, ball passed through the right thigh.

Patrick Macken, able seaman, slightly wounded, hip grazed.

Francis Fairweather, able seaman, slightly wounded, contusion in the breast.

(Signed) JAMES J. M'CLEVERTY,  
Commander.

J. G. HARRISON, Surgeon.

(Copy.)

Commander of Her Majesty's Steam Sloop Polyphemus, Gibraltar, November 7, 1848.

SIR,

WE beg to forward to you a letter we have just received from Captain J. A. Forster, of the English brig Three Sisters, captured on the coast of Rif by Moorish pirates, and to request you will take such steps as you may consider to be necessary on this occasion.

Referring to the Captain's letter for details, we remain, respectfully,

I remain, &c.

(Signed) JAS. GLASGOW and Co.  
Consignees of the vessel,  
at Gibraltar.

Captain M'Cleverty, Her Majesty's  
Ship Polyphemus.

(Copy.)

Commander of Her Majesty's Ship Polyphemus,  
Gibraltar Bay, November 6, 1848.

MESSRS. GLASGOW AND CO.,

GENTLEMEN,

IT is with extreme regret that I have to announce the capture of the brig Three Sisters, by the Moorish pirates, off Cape Tres Forcas, on the 2d instant.

When I left Gibraltar on the 31st of October, I carried a fair wind until midnight, it then fell very light, attended with calms, until eight o'clock the following morning, when a light breeze sprung up from the eastward; I then stood to the south east, and finding that I was under the influence of a strong southerly current, I stood to the northward at six P. M. On the 1st it fell calm, which continued. At ten A. M. on the 2d, I observed several boats pulling off from the shore, which caused my crew to be greatly alarmed; however, I waited until I could make out that they were nothing else than pirates, each boat pulling from twelve to fourteen oars, with an additional lot standing in midships, with their long musquets, all ready for action, they also had large guns on their gun-wales; after witnessing all the formidable weapons, I thought it was high time to look for the preservation of our own lives, accordingly I ordered the small boat to be got out, in order to keep without the reach of their guns, but, to my astonishment, no sooner had we put off from the ship, than a volley of shot came tumbling about the boat, but fortunately they all fell a few yards short; and, I am confident, had I remained five minutes longer, there would be no person to tell the tale. However, we saw six of them abreast of the ship, keeping up their firing at the ship at a distance, leaving one to chase the boat, but fortunately he gave up the chase in about ten minutes; he then returned to his companions, and assisted them in towing the vessel within their own dominions.