



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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*Admiralty, February 20, 1852.*

THE following Dispatches have been received at the Admiralty from Commodore Bruce, reporting the destruction of Lagos by Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa.

*Capture of Lagos.*

(No. 10.)

SIR, *Penelope, off Lagos, January 2, 1852.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that their Lordships' instructions of the 14th October, and the wishes of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as far as respects Lagos, have been most faithfully fulfilled by the expulsion of the slave-dealing chief Kosoko and his people, the utter destruction of his town, and the establishment of the friendly chief Akitoye, with his followers, in the seat of power at Lagos.

2. By my letter No. 216, of 1851, their Lordships are aware that Kosoko very recently rejected the proffered friendship of England, and that he opposed with fire and sword the approach of a flag of truce proceeding to his seat of Government with Mr. Consul Beecroft, who offered to negotiate and to advise with him, and who was merely attended by an escort of armed boats, scarcely or problematically sufficient for his personal safety among savages.

3. I therefore determined to send a strong and well-organized force to punish this refractory chief, and having, through the untiring energy and exertions of Mr. Beecroft, procured the attendance of Akitoye and nearly 500 of his followers near the scene of action, ready to take advantage of a clear sweep when we should make it, I concerted measures with Captain Lewis T. Jones, of the *Sampson*, and Captain Henry Lyster, of this ship, who both were volunteers on the occasion, and intrusted the detail and execution of the service to Captain Jones, seconded by Captain Lyster, and their Lordships will see, from the accompanying reports, the complete success with which the enterprise has been crowned.

4. I am at a loss to do justice to the chivalrous bearing and devoted bravery of these two officers; Captain Jones, who, commanding the expedition,

was no less conspicuous for his gallantry and firmness than for his judgment and energy; and Captain Lyster, who, finding himself, by unavoidable circumstances, exposed in the *Teazer* to be summarily destroyed by the enemy's guns, made a noble rush into the midst of armed hosts on shore, and with his undaunted followers spiked the obnoxious guns, and turned the fortune of the day at that point. It is to be borne in mind, that our people could expect no quarter, nor did they get any.

5. I should come short of my duty did I not bring before the notice of their Lordships the ardent and devoted gallantry exhibited during this very severe affair by officers and men. The responsible post which Captain Lyster filled cost him a severe wound, happily not dangerous. Commander Hillyar, of this ship, who charged with him, is severely, but not dangerously wounded. Lieutenants Edward Marshall and F. D. Rich, each in command of a paddle-box boat, exhibited heroism and firmness never surpassed. Lieutenant John Corbett, in command of Mr. Beecroft's iron boat with rockets, with his own hands spiked the guns, receiving a shot in his arm after doing so, and had five severe wounds before the affray ended. Lieutenant Williams, Royal Marine Artillery, was dangerously wounded, and Mr. Frederick Fletcher, midshipman, commanding one of the cutters appointed to guard the boats when on shore, defended them to the last, and fell with two balls in his forehead. With the other division, Lieutenant Saumarez, of the *Sampson*, received a dangerous wound while encouraging his men, and Mr. Richards, midshipman of that ship, got his death wound. The conduct of Lieutenant Patey, commanding the *Bloodhound*, and Lieutenant Leckie, commanding the *Teazer*, and the success attending their efforts, is beyond all praise; besides their annihilating fire, their vessels were a rallying point for the respective divisions of boats, and were conspicuously instrumental in the attainment of victory, reflecting infinite credit on all belonging to them. Commander Coote, of the *Volcano*, and Commander Gardner, of the *Waterwitch*, with their detachments, contributed, as soon as they arrived, to the labours of the hour with an energy and zeal well worthy of them.