

Nothing could exceed the devotion of the officers of the medical staff to the exigencies of the day,—Mr. Richard Carpenter, Surgeon, Mr. Walling, and Mr. Sproule, Assistant-Surgeons of this ship; Dr. Barclay, Acting Surgeon of the Sealark, and Mr. Morgan and Mr. Penarth, Assistant-Surgeons of the Sampson. Wherever a man was struck in the boats a medical officer was immediately by his side, setting their own lives at nought when compared with the wants of their brave companions in arms. Mr. Walling and Mr. Sproule landed at the charge, with their comrades, under Captain Lyster.

Mr. Beecroft during all these operations was on board the Bloodhound, and gave every assistance that his advice and experience could afford.

6. I cannot withhold the expression of my regret for the very severe loss which has attended this achievement, but in which I trust their Lordships will feel that the dignity of England has been asserted, and the honour of the flag gloriously sustained.

7. The enclosures with this despatch will afford all further information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. BRUCE, Commodore and
Commander-in-Chief.

To the Secretary to the Admiralty,
&c. &c. &c.

A Schedule of the Enclosures contained in a Despatch from Commodore Bruce to the Secretary of the Admiralty, No. 10 of 1852.

- 1.—29th December 1851, from Captain Jones, of the Sampson, to the Commander-in-Chief, reporting the capture of Lagos.
- 2.—29th December 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, proceedings on the 26th December 1851.
- 3.—29th December, 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, list of killed and wounded on board H.M.S. Sampson.
- 4.—26th December, 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, list of killed and wounded on board the Penelope.
- 5.—27th December 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, list of killed and wounded on board the Penelope.
- 6.—27th December 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, list of officers and men sent from H.M.'s ships Sampson and Penelope.
- 7.—26th December 1851, from Captain Lyster, of the Penelope, to Captain Jones, of the Sampson, regulations for the attack.
- 8.—28th December 1851, from Captain Jones to Kosoko, calling on him to surrender.
- 9.—29th December 1851, from Commander Coote, of the Volcano, to Captain Jones, account of guns brought off.
- 10.—29th December 1851, from Commander Gardner, of the Waterwitch, to Captain Jones, account of guns brought off.
- 11.—26th December 1851, from Mr. Olive, master of Sampson, to Captain Jones, proceedings on board Sampson.
- 12.—28th December 1851, from Mr. Olive, master of Sampson, to Captain Jones, proceedings on board Sampson.

H. W. BRUCE, Commodore and
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 1.

*Her Majesty's Steam Vessel Bloodhound,
off the North Point of Lagos, 29th
December 1851.*

SIR,

1. IN my letter to you dated the 27th, I had the extreme gratification of reporting to you the entire and complete success of the expeditionary forces which you did me the honour of placing under my command, upon which event permit me sincerely to congratulate you.

2. It now becomes my duty to represent to you in an official form my proceedings since leaving the Sampson, and to thank you for allowing me hitherto to keep you acquainted with these movements by private notes as opportunities offered.

3. In entering into the various details arising from the nature of the service of the several divisions, and to do justice to all, and particularize those who have had the opportunity particularly to distinguish themselves, I feel that I shall be obliged to write rather a long despatch in the form of a daily journal, commencing on the day of my crossing the bar of Lagos on the 23rd to the subjugation of our opponents on the 29th December, and finally rejoining you on the 1st January.

4. You are, aware, Sir, that on the 23rd December, in pursuance of your orders to place the Sampson in the most advantageous position for throwing shells occasionally across the lagoon, I moored the ship as near as possible at the back of the surf, and then with the boats of the Sampson, crossed the bar, preceded by the Bloodhound, and anchored off Point Bruce for the night.

5. On the morning of the 24th, in company with Akitoie and Mr. Beecroft, Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights, I mustered and inspected the Badagry and Abbeakutuan forces, at the time of muster numbering 500, and increasing during the day to 640. To these we distributed as a mark of recognition a white neck-tie, with which they seemed much pleased. I then ordered that these men should be supplied with three days' bread from the Bloodhound. At 2 P.M. the Bloodhound weighed and crossed to the opposite side of the river, where the boats of the Sampson, under the orders of Lieutenant Thomas Saumarez, were sent to launch all the canoes at the slave-station on the left bank, worth bringing off. At 3, Lieutenant Saumarez returned, having in a very short time launched seven large and two small canoes, a most desirable acquisition for the conveyance of the auxiliary forces. The landing party was covered by the guns of the Bloodhound, right, left, and overhead, to check the advance of an armed force, seen from the masthead, advancing. This service being finished, the Bloodhound dropped up the river with the tide, for the purpose of acquiring piloting knowledge, and examining the lines of defence. Three guns from the south end of the island opened on her: the fire was exceedingly well directed but faulty in elevation. We now knew the channel and therefore steamed down. At 3-30 P.M., true to time and promise, the Teazer, accompanying the boats of the Penelope, was seen crossing the Bar, and at 5, Bloodhound and Teazer anchored near together out of range of the enemy's shot. Captain Lyster immediately came on board and placed himself under my orders; we then consulted and decided on the plan of attack as shewn by paper 3, and that the auxiliaries should keep on the right bank of the river, proceeding up as the steam-vessels advanced*. The day was too far gone to commence the attack, and we also de-

* The force now assembled consisted of the men and guns specified in No. 2 paper.