

learnt that a small steamer belonging to the King of Ava had only left the day previous, and that the whole army of the country was centred at Akouk-toung, or its neighbourhood.

Foreseeing the panic which the presence of the steamers would create above the defensive force, I urged forwards with all speed, detaching the Proserpine, as the fastest vessel, to endeavour, by proceeding through the night, to overtake the Government vessel. Mr. Brooking, however, found this impracticable, and was compelled to anchor.

The Mahanuddy's fuel being now exhausted, I left the Phlegethon with her, to supply her wants, and, by dint of great attention on the part of Lieutenant Fraser, Indian Navy, and the officers of the Medusa, I succeeded in steaming through the night, and reached Prome at daylight on the 9th. At the south end of the town, near the water's edge, I observed four heavy guns, but no armed men near them. I accordingly anchored the vessel abreast the spot, landed, and made fast a hawser to them, and hove them off: the iron guns were disabled, and sunk in deep water; and the brass ones taken on board. At seven, the Proserpine joined, and, a few hours afterwards, the two other vessels, and, with the boats' crews of the Fox heartily entering on the work, every gun in Prome, twenty-three in number (see Return), were thus brought off. In the afternoon, I ascended ten miles higher up the river, as far as Zeegain, where I anchored for the night, leaving the other vessels at Prome to transfer fuel.

I had now, Sir, fully carried out the instructions contained in your letter of the 30th June. There was no prospect of overtaking the steamer, and I had seriously to consider the safety of the vessels under my orders. With an enterprising foe, I was aware that the creek near Akouk-toung might be made impassable; and even by the Burmese, when, by the large force in the neighbourhood, such means were at their command. I, therefore, decided on an immediate return, with the view to prevent their having time to complete their preparations. I rejoined the vessels off Prome, at daylight on the 10th, and commenced the descent of the river. The city had been in our possession for twenty-four hours, the Governor, Mounghwine, having fled at our approach. At 10 A.M. we arrived at the entrance of Akouk-toung Creek; when about half way through, we observed several large boats, crowded with armed men: at first it was difficult to make out their intentions, whether these were to attack the vessels, supported by a fire from the shore, or were crossing. It proved to be the latter; and they succeeded, before our guns could be brought to bear upon them, in reaching the bank; from which a straggling fire of musketry was opened, but soon silenced by the great guns of the flotilla. Ten men, who had not time to escape from one of the boats, were made prisoners, and will be sent to Rangoon for interrogation. The steamers now turned round, and ascended the creek again, dispersing the enemy wherever he was to be seen, brought away five brass guns on field-piece carriages that were still in the boats, and burnt the general's state barge and a number of war boats, with a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

I am not quite certain as to the movements of the enemy; the reports of the natives not entirely agreeing. They stated that the force began to cross at 3 P.M. on the 9th, and continued to do so through the night, and until we reached them at 10 A.M. on the 10th, as above related. One party insisted that the whole army had crossed; but this was not true, as men could be seen still

on the fortifications opposite. The other stated that a thousand men only had been sent over to defend the creek. I am inclined to believe that the principal part of the army, including the general, had crossed (as our informant told us) on their way to Prome, the road to which leads from here, leaving a small force only at Akouk-toung. The barge, with the two gilt umbrellas and flag, would certainly not have been on this side had Bandoola not crossed himself; and I do not think it probable he would have come over with a detachment. I now continued the descent of the river, being joined by the East India Company's steamer Pluto, at 3 P.M. The enemy had evacuated his trenches at Koun-oung, and gone upward. At sunset, the flotilla was anchored off this place, where it is employed provisioning, and getting into readiness for further service.

I trust that this expedition has, for the present, entirely freed the lower country of the presence of the enemy, and I do not apprehend that they will again venture so far from Prome. This will be an incalculable blessing to the inhabitants, who evince to us everywhere the most friendly disposition, and only require security to become contented and happy.

I should be doing great injustice to every officer and man in this little force (consisting of the Medusa, Phlegethon, Proserpine, Mahanuddy, with three boats of the Fox, and twenty marines, the officer commanding whom I regret to say is severely wounded) if I failed to represent to you the zeal and attention that has been shewn on this service by all; without it, I have no hesitation in saying that it could not have been brought to a successful issue.

List of casualties on board the East India Company's steamer Medusa, during the engagement at Konnonghee, on the 7th of July 1852.

Her Majesty's ship Fox—Mr. John Elliott, First Lieutenant, Royal Marines, wounded, severely; musket ball wound of the right foot. Mr. Frederick Morgan, Assistant-Surgeon, wounded, slightly; contusion from a splinter. George Cook, boy, wounded, slightly; contusion from splinter.

East India Company's steamer Medusa—Mr. T. Rose Hunter, Mate, Indian Navy, wounded, dangerously; gun shot wound, and amputation of left arm. James Cummings, artillery man, wounded, dangerously; gun shot wound of the chest.

FREDERICK MORGAN, Assistant-Surgeon, Her Majesty's ship Fox.

Return of Ordnance captured by the Steam Flotilla in the Irrawaddy, on the 9th and 10th of July 1852.

At Prome, 9th July 1852. Iron—4 12-pounder carronades; 3 12-pounders, 6 ft. in length; 4 32-pounders, 9 ft. in length (3 of wrought-iron); 4 24-pounders, 6 ft. in length; 2 18-pounders, 6 ft. in length; 1 42-pounder; 1 6-pounder. Brass—1 8½-inch, 8 ft. 2 in. in length; 1 8½-inch, 6 ft. in length; 1 7½-inch, 7 ft. 6 in. in length; 1 8½-inch mortar, 3 ft. 6 in. in length.

At Akouk-toung Creek, 10th July 1852. 5 brass field-pieces.

Total—28.

Destroyed and sunk..... 19

Brought away 9

Total 28

J. W. TARLETON, Commander, R.N.