

from Lieutenant Nightingale, Royal Marines, to the effect that the Dacoits had advanced in force along the banks of the river, and were burning the detached villages on his left; I immediately sent to Captain Becher to acquaint him, and advanced with all the available seamen to the support of the Marines.

On arrival, I found that the enemy were within long musket range of the quarters of the Marines; after a sharp fusillade they retired; we cautiously advanced under cover of the growing paddy fields, and ultimately drove the enemy back into the open country, the Sepoys, under Captain Becher, clearing the ground to our right and in our front.

As an illustration of their boldness I may mention that the Dacoits have burned some houses in a grove half a mile to the left of our position.

The Henzadah people report only one of their men wounded, but several of the enemy, and as an earnest of success, they have taken two prisoners, and report five or six wounded. None of our men were hurt.

It is quite clear that the presence of our small force here is of great value in giving confidence to the men of Henzadah to resist the Dacoits and Burmese soldiery, with whom, the remnants of the Bassein army, are said to be making common cause; but I will not conceal from your Excellency my opinion, that for the effectual protection of the valuable crops of rice in its rear, a larger and more perfect military force than is now assembled here is essentially necessary.

I have,
(Signed) CHAS. F. A. SHADWELL,
Commander.

To His Excellency Commodore G. R. Lambert,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 81.

Her Majesty's ship *Winchester's gig*,
at *Prome*, 2nd Nov. 1852.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, that this morning I proceeded down the River Irrawaddy, in the Hon. East India Company's steamer *Medusa*, for the purpose of making a combined reconnaissance with Brigadier Sir John Cheape, K.C.B., of the right bank of the river from Padangmew to the White Pagoda, a mile and a half below *Prome*.

At daylight, Sir John embarked with his personal staff and the light company of Her Majesty's 18th Royal Irish, 80 strong, at the same time the boats named in the margin* having joined us, I quitted *Prome*, and steamed down the river. On passing the White Pagoda, (from whence our boats have been frequently annoyed with a distant fire of jingalls and musketry,) I perceived that a strong breastwork was in the course of construction on its right, not a vestige of which was perceptible when I quitted *Prome* on the 13th instant; and that some two and a half or three miles inland the jungle was being cleared, and two stockades were being built.

Leaving the boats, with the exception of my gig, anchored out of musket range of the enemy's shore, we stood down the river, and at 8.30 A.M. an-

* *Winchester's boats*—gig, Commander F. B. Seymour, volunteer, Mr. Gregory, naval cadet, 5 men, 3 marines; barge, Lieutenant Hillyar, Mr. Round, mate, Mr. Slade, assistant surgeon, 15 men; pinnace, Lieutenant Pearce, Mr. Bond, mate, 13 men. *Sesostris' boats*—pinnace, Lieutenant Lewis, Mr. Capel, midshipman, Dr. Walsh, assistant surgeon, 14 men, 11 marine artillerymen; 1st cutter, Lieutenant Windus, 11 men; 2nd cutter, Mr. Duval, mate, 11 men. *Medusa's cutter*, Mr. Harris, midshipman, 10 men, 6 marine artillerymen—total force landed, 74.

chored abreast the Honourable East India Company's steamer *Enterprize*, off Padangmew. I directed Captain Niblett to proceed to the anchorage under the heights of Akoukton, and remain there until he received further orders.

I then steamed back to the boats anchored within three hundred yards above the White Pagoda, and disembarked the brigadier, his escort, and the naval brigade. Sir John Cheape ordered an advance, and immediately on our crowning the terrace beneath the Pagoda, the enemy skirmishers who lined the jungle were discovered, evidently expecting that we should have come on by the lane beneath the Pagoda; on their being driven in, a fire was opened by them from the high ground inland, their stockade being unoccupied. They were immediately driven from their different posts with the utmost expedition, until we attained our object, viz., a distinct view of the two stockades, which they are throwing up, and a knowledge of the country in the vicinity.

At this time, the enemy were in possession of two commanding positions between us and their stockade, which they were immediately driven out of. The heat was now so intense, and three men having received strokes from the sun, I halted under cover of the enemy's look-out houses for an hour.

Having accomplished our reconnaissance, I caused the naval brigade to return to the river stockade, Sir John Cheape recalled the Royal Irish at the same time, and we burned the greater part of the lower breastwork, leaving the larger and more valuable timbers on the beach to be brought to *Prome* to-morrow, for the use of the steamers.

It is with much satisfaction that I have to express my approbation of the zeal, good conduct, and bravery of every officer and man of the force employed.

I have to mention the conspicuous zeal and gallantry displayed by Commander F. Beauchamp Seymour, R.N., serving with me as a volunteer, from whom I received most useful and ready assistance.

I beg to bring before your Excellency's favourable notice the zeal and gallant conduct of Lieutenants Hillyar and Pearse, of the *Winchester*, also Lieutenants Lewis and Windus, of *Sesostris*; and I have to notice the officers named in the margin, all of whom merit my thanks and approbation.

Lieutenant Hillyar has while serving in the Irrawaddy always shown himself foremost in the performance of every duty required of him.

I am happy to state that the reconnaissance and destruction of the stockades was effected with only the single casualty of a marine artillery-man* of the *Medusa*, wounded badly in the arm.

The loss of the enemy I am unable to state, for they retreated through thick jungle.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE G. LOCH,
Captain and Senior Naval Officer
in the Irrawaddy.

To His Excellency Commodore G. R. Lambert,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 81.

Her Majesty's ship *Winchester's gig*,
at *Prome*, 5th Nov. 1852.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I landed with the seamen and marines named

* Christopher Byrne.