

River, where his Excellency has promised to have a good look out kept on them, and their movements watched.

I remained at Macao the whole of the 2nd, in order that I might have the benefit of any further information his Excellency might be able to obtain, and which he was endeavouring to do.

On the evening of that day at 7 30, a small American steam-vessel the *Queen*, tender I imagine to the United States frigate *Macedonian*, arrived, and Lieutenant Prebles, her commander, informed me he had been engaged with a piratical force of ten junks, at Tyho, in the island of Lantao; that on his approaching the bay with his ensign and pendant flying, they had, without the slightest provocation, opened fire upon him, which he returned, but not considering his vessel of sufficient force to engage them closely with a prospect of carrying them, he had come to ask my aid. I informed him of the nature of my orders, and that under them it was not in my power to make any attack on them, but that I would go down and endeavour to blockade them until I had communicated with you, as it was not improbable from the communication you were in with the Chinese authorities it might be in your power to give me more freedom of action. Accordingly, at 10 30 P.M., I weighed and proceeded under steam to Tyho, where I arrived at daylight on the 3rd. The piratical vessels were seen moored close in shore, some portion up a creek; Lieutenant Prebles told me he should go and have a shot at them. I said I could only look on and hoped he would do nothing to compel me to interfere; he opened fire, which was promptly returned by two well-directed shots from one of the junks; he then returned, and at my request proceeded to Hong Kong, to inform you of the affair, and also to take a note from me on the subject.

The *Queen* returned at 4 P.M. with the boats of Her Majesty's ship *Spartan* in tow, and Lieutenant Prebles told me he was certain it was your intention I should attack the pirates, but had no written communication from you on the subject. As the day was drawing to a close, and only two hours' day light remaining, I trust I only anticipated the tenor of your written orders (conveyed to me by Commander Parker, Her Majesty's ship *Barracouta*, which vessel arrived about an hour after the *Queen*), by commencing operations at once, as Lieutenant Prebles had no hesitation in identifying the junks as those that had fired on him the previous evening, without provocation.

A few shot and shell from the *Encounter*, at a range of 1800 yards, speedily dislodged the pirates both from the junks and the houses in their vicinity, otherwise their position would have rendered a boat attack somewhat hazardous; as it was, on the boats reaching them they were found deserted, and under the direction of Lieutenant Fellowes, with the boats of the *Winchester*, and also those of the *Encounter* and *Spartan*, the latter commanded respectively by Lieutenants Montgomerie and Palliser, were burnt, their guns having previously been taken out. I am happy to have it in my power to express my entire satisfaction with the manner in which those officers carried out my orders, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose.

The gratitude however of the poor people of Tyho is unbounded; and although I am fully aware it is no part of my duty to protect the subjects of the Emperor of China, yet it is gratifying to find we are borne out in our acts by their testimony.

These marauders have been levying contributions on Tyho, and driving the population from it since their arrival. No doubt they had much

property on board their junks, but this was removed during the day; I trust, however, they will not benefit by it, as I understand the people of Tyho drove them from its vicinity during the night. I did not think it advisable to search the town for either property or the persons of the pirates, fearing that mistakes might be made, and innocent people suffer for the guilty; I therefore weighed this morning at ten, and have now the honour to report my arrival.

The number of junks destroyed are nineteen, armed with some twenty-five guns of various calibre, of from 12 to 3-pounders. They had abundance of ammunition, and the usual supply of stink-pots, &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. O'CALLAGHAN,
Captain.

Rear-Admiral Sir James Stirling, Knt.
Commander-in-Chief.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure No. 4.

MEMORANDUM.

Encounter, Tyho, November 3, 1854.

NO boarding until it is well ascertained the crews are out of the junks.

A party of seamen may be landed to take possession of the houses in the vicinity of the junks.

Great care is to be taken that no innocent party suffer; and bear in mind the village is not piratical.

(Signed) G. O'CALLAGHAN,
Captain.

The Officer in command of boats.

Enclosure No. 5.

By SIR JAMES STIRLING, Knt.,
&c., &c., &c.

PURSUANT to an arrangement entered into with the Viceroy of Canton, the Commandant of the *Ta-Pang* station, a mandarin of rank, arrived this morning with two war junks, for the purpose of co-operating with Her Majesty's naval force in the repression of piracy in the channels and upon the coasts adjacent to this colony. The importance of that officer's presence upon that service you will readily comprehend on reference to my extant instructions of the 31st ultimo; and you will perceive that his presence will not only justify you in acting as an aid and support to him in the execution of his duty in the search for and apprehension of pirates within the waters or upon the shores subject to Chinese jurisdiction, but that his knowledge of the people and places will very much facilitate the service in question.

The plan which I have accordingly arranged with the Commandant is, that in the first instance he shall proceed to Coulan, in the island of Tyloo, with the view of examining that locality, which is understood to be a haunt of pirates, and where it is supposed some portions of the cargoes plundered from the *Mary Anna* and *Caldera* may be found, and very important information be obtained; and to ensure his safety and augment his means, while executing that service, I have determined on employing you in command of a force sufficiently large to give full effect to that arrangement.

You will accordingly take under your direction and command, in addition to the *Encounter*, Her Majesty's steam-sloop *Barracouta* and *Styx*, the launch of the *Winchester*, and a boat from the *Spartan*, and it is understood you will be accompanied by two steamers hired by native merchants now resident in this colony, some of whom will