

of the Kouban Lake, and also the coast as far as the Tower of Djimiteia, and have the honour to enclose a letter from Lieutenant Armytage, reporting his having, in the latter place, destroyed the new tower, with two guns, also the barracks and other buildings.

Lieutenant Armytage deserves great credit for the able manner in which he has performed this service with his small vessel.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. GIFFARD, Captain.

*Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund
Lyons, Bart., G.C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief.*

Sub-Inclosure.

*Her Majesty's steam-vessel Viper,
off Kerich, March 8, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, that in obedience to your instructions, I left this anchorage at 5:30 this morning, for the purpose of examining the mouth of the Kuban Lake. I arrived off there at nine, and observing a small force of Cossacks on the north spit, opened fire and dispersed them, then examined the lake in the whale-boat of this ship, but observing nothing of consequence, proceeded along the coast to the south-eastward.

I had just previously taken possession of a small vessel laden with charcoal and other goods, which I have brought in with me, with three prisoners on board. I enclose you her papers, &c., as they may be useful to His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, and request your directions in reference to the prisoners.

At 1:50 P.M. I arrived off the Martello Tower, at Djimiteia, anchoring bow and stern at a distance of 500 yards from the beach, and at 2 P.M. opened fire upon the fort, dispersing the few Cossacks that remained.

It is now my pleasing duty to inform you that I have effectually destroyed the fort, barracks, and granaries (having set fire to the latter), spiked and disabled the two guns, destroying the ammunition; and all, I am happy to say, without any casualty on board the Viper.

I beg to bring under your notice the conduct of Mr. James Roche, Second Master, who commanded the landing parties; and Mr. John R. Moss, Master's Assistant, who aided him in destroying the guns; both having performed their duty much to my satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. ARMYTAGE, Lieutenant
and Commander.

*Captain George Giffard, H.M.S. Leopard,
Senior Officer.*

*Royal Albert, off Sevastopol,
March 17, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter which has been addressed to me by Captain Giffard, stating, that while making a reconnaissance near Soujak-Kalé, with Her Majesty's ship Leopard, under his command, and accompanied by Her Majesty's ships Highflyer, Swallow, and Viper, and also by H. I. M.'s steam-ship-of-war Fulton, he was informed by the Circassians in the neighbourhood, that the enemy

had so reduced the strength of that fortress by the removal of men and guns to Anapa, that they were ready to attack it by land if he would do so by sea; and that he, wishing to encourage the natives and to embarrass the Russians, had assented to the proposal, and moved the ships to within 1000 yards of the south face of the fort, where he performed his part, but that on finding the Circassians did not perform theirs, he withdrew, after having driven all the garrison out of the place, with the exception of a few gunners in the earthen batteries, and having also dismounted several guns, and done considerable damage to the arsenal and public works; leaving the garrison about a mile from the place, surrounded by Circassians, who were collecting reinforcements.

The ships appear to have been well placed, and to have fired with great effect: and Captain Giffard expresses his thanks to Captain Le Bris, his able coadjutor on former occasions, as well as to Captain Moore, Commander Craufurd, and Lieutenant Armytage, and their respective officers and ships' companies, for their support.

Of Captain Giffard himself, I may perhaps be permitted to observe that this is not the first time that his zeal and gallantry have been conspicuous since he has been under my command.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ED. LYONS,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

*To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.*

REPORTING AN ATTACK UPON SOUJAK.

*Her Majesty's ship Leopard, Soujak Bay,
March 13, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that from the information I had received from the Circassians, at Ghelenjik, and also from the observations of Monsieur Le Bris of His Imperial Majesty's steam-vessel Fulton, as well as my own on the 6th instant in Soujak Bay, I was led to believe the Russians had sent many guns, stores, &c. away from that fort, and would probably leave if a force appeared off it.

Wishing to have more certain information for you, on my return to your flag, I, on the evening of the 11th instant, when the Highflyer joined me, proceeded with the vessels named in the margin* to Soujak Bay, where we anchored on the morning of the 12th; but a fresh gale, with heavy swell, prevented our closing the batteries. I therefore threw some shells into the place; and the Circassians, who soon appeared in numbers, at the same time attacked the small fort at the head of the bay, opposite the town, drove out the garrison, and burnt it, at 8 A.M. This morning the Circassians informed me they had a sufficient force, and would attack Soujak Kalé by land if I would do so by sea, and wishing to encourage them and embarrass the enemy, I immediately moved the squadron to within 1000 yards of the South Face and opened fire on it. From this point the enemy only had ten guns to bear on the ships, but the light wind and damp weather made the smoke hang over and conceal them from our fire, while our masts above were conspicuous to them.

We soon drove all the inhabitants and troops out of the place, except those in the earthen

* Leopard, Highflyer, Swallow, Viper, and Fulton, French steamer.