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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1855.

Admiralty, September 22, 1855.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received from Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, Bart., G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

No. 753.
SIR,

*Royal Albert, off Sevastopol,
September 10, 1855.*

OF the operations on shore, which have produced the successful result of the singular and memorable siege of Sevastopol, Her Majesty's Government will be informed by General Simpson; but it is my duty to report to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty what has taken place afloat and on the seaboard under my own observation.

It had been arranged by Generals Simpson and Pelissier, Admiral Bruat and myself, that precisely at noon on the 8th instant the Allied Fleets should open fire upon the Quarantine Batteries that enfiladed the approach of the assaulting columns; but unfortunately the weather, which had been fine for some days, changed on the morning of the attack, and a north-west gale and heavy sea rendered it impossible for any vessels to act upon batteries situated on the lee shore of this exposed roadstead. It will, however, appear by the enclosed reports from Captain Wilcox, of the *Odin*, and Captain Digby, of the Royal Marine Artillery (whom, as well as the junior officers mentioned by them, I beg leave particularly to recommend to the favourable consideration of their Lordships), that the mortar vessels attached to the fleets kept up a very effective fire from their position in the Bay of Strelitzka.

As the day closed, things in the harbour seemed

to be in the same state as they were in the morning, but, during the night, several heavy explosions were heard, and at dawn we observed that the fortifications on the south side were in flames, and that the 6 remaining ships-of-the-line had been sunk at their moorings, leaving afloat no more of the late Russian Black Sea Fleet than two dismasted corvettes and 9 steamers, most of which are very small.

Soon afterwards the enemy were seen retreating across the newly constructed bridge, until the south side of the harbour, on which the naval and military arsenals, the public buildings, and the town of Sevastopol are situated, appeared to be completely evacuated, and then the southern portion of the bridge was hauled over to the north shore.

It is now my pleasing duty to render justice to the admirable conduct of all whom I have had the honour and happiness to command during the last nine months of this arduous struggle, and whose duties I shared in before; for although, with the exception of the Naval Brigade in the camp, whose gallant bearing from the beginning under the command of Sir Stephen Lushington, has been beyond all praise, and never more so than during the last two bombardments under the command of the Honourable Captain Keppel, it has not fallen to the lot of the Navy, on this occasion to perform distinguished deeds of arms such as those of their gallant brethren in the Army; still, whilst straining every nerve, night and day, under very trying circumstances, to supply the means for carrying on the siege, in the glory of which they could not share, the generous cheer of encouragement, unalloyed by envy, has always been heartily given in the day of triumph; nor have sympathy and assistance ever been wanting in the hour of distress and suffering; the same