

against the pirates at Samchow, I have had information supplied of two more robberies having been committed; the first they could not make out any English ownership or that the plundered vessel belonged at all to Hong Kong, so I let them alone; as to the second, on the 4th June Mr. Caldwell came off to say an English lorcha had been captured near St. John's, with a very valuable cargo on board, and the informants said they had no doubt the pirates were still there. I got up steam instantly, and proceeded so as to arrive there at daylight, which was done, and the boats sent into the harbour, where we unfortunately found only one small piratical boat, which was burnt, I then, from information received from a boat, went as far as Nampang, which we went completely round without seeing anything. I then stood back and managed, by lying to during the night, to fetch into Tyloo very early in the morning of the 6th, and cruized round, as far as the shallow water would allow, without seeing anything. I then steered for the Ladrone Islands, and as we neared them, observed two large piratical boats come round a point, and when they saw us, they ran in shore and deserted their boats, the crews running away in all directions, carrying large bundles. The boats were sent in and the vessels brought out. I then landed the boats' crews under the command of Messrs. Wrey and Greer, to search for some of the property we thought we had seen them secrete. Nothing of any importance was found on shore, but on board we found piratical flags—mandarin's and rebel. Mr. Caldwell concurring with myself that there was no doubt as to their character, they were towed out to sea, the guns thrown overboard, and the vessels burnt. I then went and looked into some more small harbours among these islands, and it getting dark, I thought it better to return to Hong Kong, where I have remained up to this date without any more reports I could act on.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. A. FELLOWES,
Commander.

*His Excellency Rear-Admiral
Sir J. Stirling, Commander-in-Chief.*

*Her Majesty's steam-sloop Rattler,
Hong Kong, 6th August, 1855.*

SIR,
MY last letter apprised your Excellency of pirates being once more abroad committing depredations. Now I have the honour to inform you that I started from Hong Kong on the 30th ultimo after these plunderers, touching at Macao for information which led me on the 31st to look into all the bays for some distance to the southward of Macao; but seeing nothing, I crossed over to the Ladrone, taking a turn round all the islands in the neighbourhood, with the like want of success. Not despairing, however, of finding their haunt I retraced my steps back to Macao, where, with the assistance of Mr. Caldwell, late Government Interpreter, I obtained some Chinamen who stated they knew their whereabouts. Standing again to the southward as far as Tyloo I came up with part of the junks the pirates had captured; but the pirate chief, with several armed junks, keeping in shore, where the water is shallow, prevented the ship reaching him or our shot and shell doing him or his vessels any harm. Suspecting the pirates would remain in their fancied security, I hastened back to Hong Kong, landing the Chinamen at Macao on my way, called on his Excellency Sir John Bowring on the 2nd, and, with his concurrence, had an interview with Captain McCluney,

of the United States steam frigate Powhatton, who on my personal application placed a volunteer force at my disposal, consisting of two paddle-box boats and a cutter, fitted each with a 12-pounder howitzer, and manned with 66 seamen and 28 marines, under the command of Lieutenant Pegram. With this additional strength and the Eaglet, a small steamer drawing 7 feet of water, lent by Mr. Caldwell for the occasion, I quitted Hong Kong once more on the 3rd instant with the steamer and boats in tow of the Rattler and anchored the same night as near the point on the north side of Kulan as practicable. At daylight on the 4th all the boats of the Rattler and the Powhatton, manned and armed were taken in tow of the Eaglet, the depth of water not permitting Rattler to proceed farther, and stood at once for Kulan, which was found to be empty; but, looking round, a creek, apparently on the main land, was discovered, where the mast-heads of several junks could be distinctly seen, and about the same time a lorcha was observed to leave the creek with the evident intention of escaping, but, to prevent her doing so, I despatched the Rattler's pinnace, in charge of Lieutenant Wrey, and Powhatton's cutter, to endeavour to cut her off; the boats on coming up with her found she was in possession of the usual sailing letter, and the master stated he had that morning effected his escape, after being plundered of everything of value. The Eaglet soon towed the boats abreast of the creeks, the pirates as we neared firing several ineffectual guns by way, I suppose, of defiance; we returned in exchange five 24-pounder rockets that I had procured before starting. These, fired from the steamer, alarmed the pirates, numbering in all 34 junks, crowded with guns and men, as they immediately hoisted their sails and made for the head of the creek. Perceiving this the boats pushed off in chase. On reaching a small island at the head of the creek, the larger junks made a stand, with their broadsides towards us, firing with much rapidity and in an excellent direction, but the boats returning their fire with shell and grape, and closing rapidly amidst a shower of shot, made a dash and the junks were ours, the crews taking to the water. Leaving a small party of men in charge, the boats pursued the others, who had, with a light air, gained the middle of a large bay or rather lagoon which opened out of the creek, and succeeded in taking many of them.

Nine war junks, mounting 130 guns of all sizes, and nine small junks (traders) the pirates had detained, were captured.

We felt ourselves obliged to burn and destroy the war junks, as also two of the trading junks; night approaching and being a great distance from the steamer compelling us to do this to prevent them falling into improper hands.

This success, obtained from a regularly organized pirate fleet, was, I am sorry to say, attended with the loss of two men killed and eleven officers and men wounded on the part of the Americans, and three men killed and seven men wounded belonging to this ship; while the loss of the pirates must have been immense, for taking the number of men in the junks, at the time of our opening fire, to be 1000 men, their killed, wounded, and drowned could not have been less than 500 men; the shell and grape from the boats, guns, and musketry of the marines must have told upon them severely, as they stood fighting at their guns with unusual firmness.

Five of the junks are deserving more than ordinary mention, being built of very substantial materials, large, and roomy, evidently built for