

the murder of all Englishmen, and of Chinese in their employ.

As soon as resistance had ceased, a party of Royal Artillery, under command of Captain G. Rolton, commenced the destruction of the fort.

18. Mines were sunk and sprung under the works, which laid the whole of the massive granite in a heap of ruins, barely one stone being left in its original position. The guns were destroyed, and their new carriages burnt. Throughout the day feeble attempts were made by the Chinese troops to disturb our operations, rendering it necessary for our covering parties and boats' guns to keep them from advancing. These buildings ultimately caught fire, and were burnt to the ground.

During our operations the Dutch Folly Fort, in charge of Commodore Honourable C. Elliot, threw shells from the mortars into the city, where troops had been previously observed, which fortunately exploded two magazines.

The gallantry and promptitude displayed by the officers and men, and the rapid success which crowned their exertions, deserve my warmest commendation. I am happy to be able to state that our loss only amounted to one private, Royal Marines, of Her Majesty's ship Winchester, killed, and one seaman slightly wounded.

The ships were hulled several times—the Encounter by a 68-pounder shot. The ships returned to the Factory Creek on the 5th.

It has been reported that the Chinese authorities placed great confidence in the strength of the fort, backed as it was by the presence of a large body of troops. On the 5th, a seaman belonging to the *Comus*, and a private Royal Marine, of the *Sybill*, having, contrary to orders, strayed from their post in the Macao Fort, to Honam Island, were attacked by some of the inhabitants of the village of Nan Pien. The marine was murdered, and his head carried off; the seaman jumped into the river, and was drowned. The next day I sent the *Barracouta* to the locality, and burnt the village, which was found deserted. I also issued a proclamation, of which I inclose a copy, pointing out the cause of this punishment, and threatening the same consequences should any Englishman lose his life in a similar manner.

8. The American ships of war completed the demolition of the Barrier Forts on the 6th, and dropped down to Whampoa. These forts were of enormous strength and solidity, being entirely built of large blocks of granite, with walls 9 or 10 feet thick. They were heavily armed, many of the guns being 7 or 8 tons weight, with a bore of 13 inches; one brass $8\frac{1}{2}$ inch gun was over 21 feet long.

The *Levant* arrived yesterday at Canton.

9. A party of 90 officers and men, belonging to the *Calcutta*, came up on the 7th to replace the *Winchester's* detachment.

10. I visited the Bogue Forts on the 8th. They have been effectually dismantled, under the direction of Captain the Honourable Keith Stewart, of the *Nankin*.

11. A seaman belonging to one of the river steamers was seized by some of the officials, on the 12th instant, who attempted to kill him. He managed, however, to effect his escape, though severely wounded. I immediately despatched Captain Hall to pull down the Government buildings and Custom House, where the seizure was made, which was promptly executed. It is only by summary proceedings that we can hope to avert the evil intent of the High Commissioner's premiums for our heads.

12. Numerous complaints of piracies in the neighbourhood of Hong Kong having been made to me, I despatched the *Sampson* to check them. In her first cruise, she captured one junk and destroyed five. In the second she saw no suspicious vessels, and is now at Hong Kong.

13. I have had no communication with the Imperial Commissioner, his Excellency having withdrawn the troops from the neighbouring districts, for the protection of Canton. The country is represented to be in the most disorganized state, bands of robbers committing depredations and murders in every direction. I learn that there are from 17,000 to 20,000 troops and militia in the city, but they have not as yet, made any offensive demonstration, and even were they to attack the factories, I should have no fear of the result.

14. The stoppage of the traffic at Canton must cause a severe pressure. The river, which used to be thronged with junks and boats, is now comparatively clear, and I feel a confident hope that the measures which have been taken will prove successful.

When the proper time arrives, the fulfilment of stipulations, granted by treaty, should be rigidly insisted on.

Compulsion is the only argument to convince the Chinese. Moderation is considered but another name for the want of means to enforce compliance.

15. A few shells were thrown into the city yesterday from the *Dutch Folly*, in the direction of the Government buildings.

16. It is gratifying to report that the force continues healthy and in excellent spirits.

17. I enclose copies of correspondence relative to this letter, with a schedule of the same.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) M. SEYMOUR.

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty, London.

18. I enclose a copy of a letter which I have just received, from the United States Commissioner to the American Consul at Canton, which will show the state of affairs as regards the Americans.

(Signed) M. S.

UNITED STATES LEGATION.

U.S.S. Frigate San Jacinta,

Whampoa, Nov. 5, 1856.

SIR,

HIS Excellency Yeh, Imperial Commissioner and Governor-General, having failed to render the satisfaction due and demanded for the recent insult to the United States' flag by the Barrier Forts, Commodore James Armstrong, Commander-in-Chief of the naval forces of the United States in China, &c., &c., compelled by a sense of public duty, will not desist from the measures which the policy of the Imperial Commissioner imposes upon him, till he apologizes for the outrage on the flag, and guarantees for its proper respect in future are obtained. You will therefore notify to the citizens of the United States at Canton accordingly.

Respectfully, &c.,

(Signed) PETER PARKER.

O. H. Perry, Esq., U.S. Consul,
Canton.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

SIR,

Macao, December 9, 1856.

A DESPATCH from Commodore James Armstrong, of this day's date, informs me that on