

the 6th instant the demolition of the Barrier Forts was completed, and the ships had returned to the anchorage at Whampoa, and in a few days the damage to the vessels would be repaired. Enclosing me copies of his correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner, he observes—"Here I presume it will end, and so long as he, the Imperial Commissioner, does not commit any act of violence against our flag or citizens we should rest upon our arms." His Excellency Yeh, in a despatch of the 5th instant, writes Commodore Armstrong—"From this I see your Excellency has a clear knowledge of affairs—there is no matter of strife between our respective nations. Henceforth let the fashion of the flag which American ships employ be clearly defined, and inform me what it is beforehand. This will be the verification of the friendly relations which exist between the two countries."

I have this day resumed correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner demanding attention to various important subjects which I have chosen to place in abeyance, pending the adjustment of the naval question; among them other instances in which the flag of the United States has been fired on by the Chinese, and the rights of the United States citizens, under Treaty, have been brought to his Excellency's notice, who has been informed that, failing to render the satisfaction demanded for the violation of the Treaty by the forts of Kiang-Shan, that matter will also be handed over to the Commander-in-Chief of the United States naval forces in China to manage.

This brief exposé of the present state of our relations to the Chinese Government at your port you are authorized to communicate for the information of the United States citizens within your Consular jurisdiction.

Respectfully, &c.,

(Signed) PETER PARKER.

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

Return of Casualties received by the Naval Force employed in the operations of this day. Dated 4th December, 1856.

KILLED.

David Moffat, private Royal Marine, Winchester, mortally wounded in the launch of Her Majesty's ship Sybille, by a rocket arrow penetrating the right lung.

WOUNDED.

Thomas Carr, A.B., Winchester, contused wound of chest, from spent ball, very slightly.

Killed 1; Wounded 1.

(Signed) CHAS. J. ANDERSON, M.D.
Staff-Surgeon in Medical Charge
of the Force disembarked.

List of men who were murdered by the Chinese in the village of Nan-pien, on the 5th December, near the Macao Fort.

Charles Bennet, private, Royal Marines, Sybille, killed and beheaded.

Richard Winter, A.B., Comus, drowned.

(Signed) M. SEYMOUR.
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

PROCLAMATION BY THE BRITISH ADMIRAL.

THE operations in which the British forces are at present engaged, having been occasioned by the unfriendly acts of the Chinese Government, and therefore intended not to affect the people, all the villages around have hitherto being preserved entirely free from molestation or attack of any kind on the part of our soldiery. Yesterday, however, two of our men landing at the village of Nan-pien were there killed by some Chinese, who sought to gain by this inhuman act the paltry reward offered for the murder of our countrymen by all local authorities. As a warning, therefore, to the other villages, I have burned Nan-pien to the ground, but being unwilling to involve the innocent with the guilty, I have spared the lives of its inhabitants. And I hereby make known that I will in every case hold that village or place responsible, in which the life of an Englishman shall be thus sacrificed, and will visit it with the same punishment that I have inflicted in this instance.

6th December, 1856.

*Sampson, at anchor off
Wan Chow-Chow,*

December 6, 1856.

SIR,

ACCORDING to my intentions, intimated to you in my letter of the 4th instant, I proceeded to sea yesterday morning, with four Chinese who had had their vessels taken away from them, and directed my search towards Lintin.

Observing a suspicious-looking row-junk off Sawchow at anchor, I sent and had her brought off, when, finding she had no number, papers, or flag, with a larger crew than a trading vessel would have, and nothing on board but ammunition for several small guns with which she was armed, I had no doubt but she was there waiting an opportunity to pounce upon some market-boat (the island being perfectly barren), and the only answer they could give me was, that they were rebelmen, and looking after mandarins. I accordingly took her into Hong Kong, and gave her over to the police, leaving the second lieutenant, the boarding-officer, to appear against her.

This morning I left Hong Kong again, and communicated with a small squadron of junks, having the rebel flag flying, lying at anchor under Wan-Chow-Chow, as I was desirous to send a proclamation, which I had received on board, stating that "if any boats hoisting the rebel flag committed any acts of piracy, the flag would not protect them." Having done so, in proceeding through the Mandarin Channel, some junks were observed at anchor inside Changhai Island, close in the north-east corner. My pilot not being acquainted with the channel, I got a fisherman's boat to go up with one of the Chinamen that I had on board, to see whether he could recognize his property. He shortly returned on board, saying that his boat was there, and that the other boats were pirates. I immediately stood in under easy steam, when the pirates, seeing my intention, made sail, and ran through the channel towards Wan-Chow-Chow. I fired a few shots at them, but they soon got under the cover of the land. Then sending my boats after them, and running round outside the island, I had the satisfaction of driving them on shore, and destroying five, as well as liberating two market-boats, with several passengers who had been in confinement for several days.

Three captured men are sworn to by one of the owners of the boats, and I have sent them in irons to Hong Kong.