

was the utmost I deemed it prudent to withdraw from Bushire; but, with the aid of four armed steamers and two sloops of war to effect my landing, I felt confident of success, although I anticipated some loss from what I learnt of the determination expressed by the enemy to oppose our further advance to the utmost of their power, and their extreme confidence of succeeding, as evinced by the fact of their having sent away their baggage cattle.

8. On the 24th instant, the steamers, with transport ships in tow, moved up the river to within three miles of the Southern Battery, opposite the Arab village of Hurteh; but, as some of the large ships shoaled on the way, and did not reach the rendezvous until after dark, I was obliged to defer the attack for another day. During the night, a reconnoissance was made in a boat to ascertain the nature of the soil of an island west of, and immediately opposite, the Northern Battery, where I wished to erect a mortar battery; but, as it was found to be deep mud, I determined to place the mortars upon a raft: this was constructed the following day, under the superintendence of Captain Rennie, I.N., and being armed with two 8-inch and two 5½-inch mortars, with a party of artillery under Captain Worgan, was towed by the steamer Comet, and moored in position close to the island during the night, unobserved by the enemy, who, from our preparations at the rendezvous, and their confidence as to the impossibility of any vessel being able to pass above their batteries, apparently expected we should land on the southern island (Abadan). The horses and guns of the artillery, a portion of the cavalry, and the infantry, were transhipped into boats and small steamers during the day, in readiness for landing the following morning.

9. At break of day, on the 26th, the mortars opened their fire upon both the Northern and Southern Batteries. The range of the 5½ inch proved too short, but the 8 inch shells were very efficient, bursting immediately over and inside the enemy's works; whilst, from the position of the raft, but few of the Persian guns could be brought to bear upon the mortars. At seven o'clock, the several vessels of war moved up into the positions allotted them by Commodore Young, and, by nine o'clock, the fire of the heavy batteries was so reduced that the small steamers, with boats in tow, and one large steamer, the Pottinger, towing the transport Golden Era, were able to pass up and land the troops above the Northern Battery without a single casualty amongst the troops, although they had to run the gauntlet of both gun and musket fire; two or three native followers only were killed, in consequence of their unnecessarily exposing themselves.

10. By half-past one o'clock the troops were landed and formed, and advanced without delay through the date groves and across the plain, upon the entrenched camp of the enemy, who, without waiting for our approach, fled precipitately, after exploding their largest magazine, leaving, as I have before stated, their tents and baggage, public and private stores, with several magazines of ammunition and seventeen guns, behind. The want of cavalry* prevented my pursuing them as I could have wished; but I despatched a party of Scinde Irregular Horse, under Captain Malcolm Green, to follow them up for some distance. This officer reported that he came upon their rear guard, retiring in good order, but that the road in many places was strewn with property and equip-

* Only one troop of Scinde Horse having been able to land in time.

ments. The loss of the Persians has been estimated at 200 killed, among whom was an officer of rank and estimation, Brigadier Agha Jan Khan, who fell in the Northern Battery.

11. I beg to annex a report received from Commodore Young, with a copy of a letter I had previously caused to be addressed to that officer, expressing my entire satisfaction with the naval operations; indeed, it was impossible for my instructions to have been more ably or more successfully carried out, and the Commodore and every officer and man under his command have nobly earned my warmest thanks. From Commodore Young, ably seconded by Captain Rennie and the other officers of the Fleet and masters of transports, I have throughout received every possible assistance.

12. With exception of the artillery, with the mortar battery, under Captain Worgan, no portion of the military force was actively engaged with the enemy, beyond some European riflemen sent on the war vessels; but I am not the less indebted to all for their exertions and zeal, and especially for the great order and despatch with which the landing of the troops was effected, under Brigadier-General Havelock, C.B.: the highest spirit prevailed, and had the large Persian army only waited our approach, out of the range of the ships' guns, I feel confident that it would have received a lasting lesson.

13. From recent information, I learn that the Persian force, in a very disorganized state, is still in full retreat; and I propose to despatch immediately, up the Karoon to Ahwaz, three small armed steamers, with 100 European infantry in each, for the purpose of making a reconnoissance, and, if practicable, effecting the destruction of the magazines at that place.

14. I take this opportunity of recommending to your Excellency's notice Colonel Lugard, C.B., the chief, and the several officers of my general and personal staff, the Brigadier-General, the Brigadiers, and their respective staff, as also the officers commanding the several regiments, batteries, and detachments of cavalry, and heads of departments, composing this force, upon whom much responsibility has devolved, and whose zeal and exertions throughout this expedition have been most praiseworthy.

15. To Captain Kembal, Bombay Artillery, Consul-General at Bagdad, I am much indebted for his very valuable assistance; also to Major Taylor, as well as to Lords Dunkellin, Seymour, and Schomberg Kerr, who volunteered their services on my staff.

I have, &c.,

J. OUTRAM, Lieutenant-General,
Commanding Expeditionary Force.

Acting Commodore J. W. Young, I.N., Commanding the Persian Gulf Squadron, to Lieutenant-General Sir James Outram, K.C.B.

*H. C. S. F. Ferooz, off Mohumra,
March 27, 1857.*

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter, No. 5, of the 25th instant, I have the honor to inform you that, having observed the mortars placed on the raft, constructed under the superintendence of Commander Rennie, of the Ferooz, and anchored on the evening of the 25th instant, in the channel to the westward of the Dubber Island, had opened fire, the Indian naval squadron under my command, got under weigh, and ran up the river until opposite the forts defending the channel leading to