

leave to recommend William Odgers for it, as being the most deserving, for the reason first mentioned.

It would be proper to add that Robert Glanville and William Clarke were both severely wounded in the Pah.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) P. CRACROFT,

Captain and Senior Officer in New Zealand.

Commodore Wm. Loring, C.B.,  
Senior Officer.

(Copy.)

No. 12. *Her Majesty's ship, Niger, Taranaki,*  
SIR, *March 31, 1860.*

REFERRING to my letter No. 10 of this date, reporting the service upon which Lieutenant W. H. Blake, Senior Lieutenant in charge of a detachment of seamen and marines, had been employed with the force under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Murray, 65th Regiment—

I have now the honour to enclose a letter and its enclosure, received from the Lieutenant-Colonel—expressing his high sense of the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Blake, at the action at Omata, on the 28th instant, in which that officer was dangerously wounded, as also of the steady good conduct of the petty officers, seamen and marines upon this occasion, under Mr. C. B. Theobald, Midshipman, upon whom the command had devolved.

In requesting you to bring the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Blake to the favourable notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I beg to recommend him to their lordships as a most zealous, active officer, who has always merited my entire confidence, and is well worthy of promotion.

The name of Lieutenant Blake has been before mentioned to their lordships in despatches, as being the Senior Lieutenant present at the destruction of a formidable Chinese piratical stronghold and junks in March, 1859.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) P. CRACROFT,

Captain.

Commodore Loring, C.B., &c., &c.

(Copy.)

SIR, *New Plymouth, March 31, 1860.*

I CONSIDER it due to you to express the high sense I entertain of the gallant services rendered by Lieutenant Blake, and the officers and men of Her Majesty's ship Niger, who formed part of the force under my command, employed against the rebel natives at the village of Omata, on the 28th instant,

I was myself an eye-witness of the steadiness with which the gallant blue jackets advanced in skirmishing order over a difficult piece of country, compelling their opponents to retire before them; and, from the information that has reached me since, their force told severely.

I beg to add that it was with extreme regret that I beheld their gallant leader taken to the rear dangerously wounded. My regret was the greater, from the feeling of friendship I entertained for that officer, occasioned by the perfect cordiality which existed between us on all matters of duty since he has been attached to the garrison under my command.

I beg further to inform you that the men of the Niger, when ordered to retire, displayed the same steadiness under the command of Mr. Theobald, who seemed to possess the coolness of a veteran.

I herewith enclose a return of casualties in the Naval Brigade.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. F. MURRAY,

Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel.

Captain P. Cracroft, R.N.,

Commanding Her Majesty's Ship Niger.

Lieutenant W. H. Blake, dangerous bullet wound in right breast.

Thomas Millard, Royal Marines, shot through the head, since dead.

(Copy.)

*Brigade Office, Taranaki,*  
*March 29, 1860.*

COLONEL GOLD, commanding the Forces, wishes to express to Captain Cracroft, of Her Majesty's Ship Niger, Senior Naval Officer on the Station, Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, 65th Regiment and Captain Brown, of the New Plymouth Militia, and the officers, non-commissioned officers, warrant and petty officers and men, who were engaged yesterday with the enemy, his high sense of the gallantry displayed, which led not only to the rapid destruction of a Pah, but also to a considerable loss on the part of the insurgents. The Colonel Commanding will not fail to report most favourably to higher authority their distinguished valour and most active exertions.

By command,

(Signed) JOHN PAUL,

Captain 65th Regiment, Acting Major of Brigade.

In consideration of his services, as mentioned in these despatches, Lieutenant William Hans Blake has been promoted to the rank of Commander, with Seniority, from 26th June, 1860.

William Odgers has also been offered a Warrant as a Gunner or Boatswain, provided he be found competent,