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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1860.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, November 4, 1860.

ORDERS for the Court's going into Mourning on Thursday next, the 8th instant, for Her late Majesty The Empress Mother of Russia; viz.:

The Ladies to wear black Silk, fringed or plain Linen, white Gloves, Necklaces, and Ear-rings, black or white Shoes, Fans, and Tippetts.

The Gentlemen to wear Black full-trimmed, fringed or plain Linen, black Swords and Buckles.

The Court to change the Mourning on Thursday the 22nd instant; viz.:

The Ladies to wear black Silk or Velvet, coloured Ribbons, Fans and Tippetts, or plain white, or white and gold, or white and silver Stuffs, with black Ribbons.

The Gentlemen to wear black Coats, and black or plain white, or white and gold, or white and silver Stuff Waistcoats, full-trimmed, coloured Swords and Buckles.

And on Thursday the 29th instant, the Court to go out of Mourning.

Admiralty, November 5, 1860.

DESPATCHEŚ, of which the following are copies, have been received from Vice-Admiral Hope, C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels in China.

CAPTURE OF THE FORTS AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PEI-HO.

No. 287. *Coromandel, in the Pei-ho, My LORD, August 27, 1860.*

YOU will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that on the 12th instant the allied troops moved out of the village of Pehtang, and occupied that of Sinho, driving back a considerable body of the enemy, and taking two entrenched positions on their march, and that on the 14th they attacked and captured the fortified village of Tang-kou, the enemy retiring across the river and into the forts on its northern bank. To the despatches of the Lieutenant-General in command I beg to refer their Lordships for the details of these and other purely military operations.

2. The Lieutenant-General in command having acquainted me with his intention of attacking these

forts on the 21st, the French and English gun-boats, with the rocket-boats of the fleet, were moved into the Pei-ho on the day previous, in order to shell the outer North Fort, with those of light draft, while those of larger size should be held in reserve for the purpose of checking the flank fire of the Southern Fort, should it open on the troops during their advance.

3. The attack of the troops on the inner fort commenced about daylight, and that of the gun-boats, which had been delayed for want of water in the position assigned to them about six, half an hour later the magazine of the inner fort exploded, as did that of the outer fort shortly after. At nine the allied flags were shewn from the inner fort; and at eleven the firing ceased, flags of truce being displayed on all the remaining forts.

4. During the afternoon the outer North Fort was taken possession of by the troops without further resistance. In the evening the South Fort, being deserted by the enemy, was occupied, and the booms across the river were removed; but the iron stakes, of which there were two double rows, being fixed with much firmness, a passage through was not opened till noon of the following day, when the gun-boats passed up and anchored off Tang-kou.

5. On the following day, a force of English and French gun-boats* left for Tientsin, and, on their arrival next morning, finding that the town was destitute of troops, and the authorities anxious to make their unconditional submission, in concert with Admiral Charner, I placed guards in the forts and on the city gates, hoisting the allied flags in token of its military occupation. It is the intention of the Lieutenant-General in command to place an adequate force in the town or its vicinity, the infantry and artillery portion of which are now being forwarded in the gun-boats.

6. The fire of the gun-boats and rocket-boats†, which I placed under the orders of Rear-Admiral Jones, to whose assistance on all occasions I have been much indebted, was well directed and serviceable: that of the French gun-boats attracted attention by its precision. Being placed well in on the mud on the northern bank of the river, at

* First Squadron of Gun-boats, Captain McCleverty:—Havoc, Staunch, Opossum, Forester, and Algerine.

† Third Squadron of Gun-boats, under command of Captain Lord John Hay:—Clown, Drake, Woodcock, and Janus.

Third Squadron of Rocket-boats, Commander Apin. Fourth Squadron of Rocket-boats, Commander Hire.