

26. A personal inspection of the Straits of Simono Seki has convinced me of the inexpediency, with the means at present available, of holding any position either on an island or on any portion of the mainland in the vicinity of the Straits. I do not, therefore, purpose carrying into effect that portion of the programme of the diplomatic Representatives forwarded with my letter of the 28th ultimo, No. 328. It is, however, my intention to maintain possession of the Straits by leaving here an English, a French, and a Dutch vessel-of-war, until the relations between the Tycoon's Government, and those of the Treaty powers, with regard to this portion of the territory of the Prince of Choshu have been arranged on a satisfactory footing; the presence of the ships will, at the same time, afford a guarantee against the erection of batteries, which the Prince has engaged should not be again undertaken. I have subsequently had a further interview with the Envoys of the Prince of Choshu, who have agreed on behalf of the Prince, to the terms proposed to them as the conditions of the cessation of hostilities, which will ensure the Straits remaining open for the future: the ratification of the Prince being now all that is required to complete the object for which the Allied forces came to these Straits.

27. In conclusion, I have only to express my hope that the operations I have had the honour of describing, and the results obtained, may receive the approbation of their Lordships and of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS L. KUPER,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

*The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.*

*Her Majesty's ship "Tartar,"
Simono Seki.*

SIR,

September 9, 1864.

YOU having been pleased to entrust a division of the squadron as per margin,* to my command, during the late hostilities in the Straits of Simono Seki, and the operations having so far terminated with such satisfactory results, I beg to report, for your information, the proceedings of the advanced squadron since noon of the 4th instant.

2. Having taken up the position directed by your General Order of the 3rd instant, the Squadron under my orders was held in readiness for immediate action. On the first gun having been fired from your flag ship, the batteries immediately opened on us with shot and shell, the first discharge striking the "Tartar" in several places.

3. The advanced squadron instantly replied to the fire of the batteries, but it would be needless for me to enter into a detailed account as the whole engagement occurred under your immediate observation, still I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without bringing to your notice, the valuable support I received from the able management and precision of the rifled guns of His Imperial Majesty's ship "Dupleix," which ship invariably replied to the guns which were striking the "Tartar," and showing an energy which reflected the highest credit on her commander.

4. The assistance rendered by His Netherlands Majesty's ships "Metalen Kruis," and "D'Jambi," and the preparations made by them

* "Tartar," "Dupleix," "Metalen Kruis," "Barrosa," "D'Jambi," "Leopard."

beforehand, showed that they spared no trouble in preparing their ships for any emergency; their rifled guns also telling on the nearest fort.

5. I need hardly mention what pleasure I felt in finding that the Commander-in-Chief had given to the advanced squadron, the services of so valuable and experienced an officer as Captain Dowell of Her Majesty's ship "Barrosa;" the judicious and cool manner with which that ship was handled, and the precision of her fire, while replying to the enemy's guns, more particularly when directed on the "Tartar," was fully appreciated by myself and all on board.

6. At 5:25 A.M., on the morning of the 6th, the Long Battery again opened fire, and I am sorry to say, with unfortunate effect, the first discharge killing two and wounding several on board the "Dupleix," which vessel during the night had drifted between ourselves and the fort. She immediately slipped her cable and moved to her former position, when the "Tartar" again was instantly and repeatedly struck by the fire from the fort, dangerously wounding my First Lieutenant, Lieutenant W. A. De V. Brownlow, a valuable and steady officer, whose services I desire to bring under your favourable consideration. My Second Lieutenant, Lieutenant C. B. Powell, immediately took his place, showing that cool aptitude for work which is so valuable in an officer.

7. Having been directed to take up an advanced position on the afternoon of the 7th, I anchored the ship for the night in the position pointed out by yourself, advancing the next morning while shelling the two last forts on Point Kibune to a position within 3000 yards, when we again anchored, and from thence shelling the forts, which had the effect of making the enemy abandon them without firing a gun, probably in consequence of a barrack taking fire in the rear, near a magazine containing a large amount of powder and upwards of seven or eight hundred shell which soon after exploded, also from feeling the impossibility of coping with guns of such superior power, and the moral effect produced by the fleet on the two previous days.

8. Throughout the whole of these proceedings, Mr. John E. Chapple, the master of the "Tartar," showed the greatest coolness and judgment in the pilotage of the ship.

9. The Prussian officer Mr. von Blanc, lately appointed to this ship, proved his skill and worth in several ways, and I consider him an intelligent and valuable officer, certain to do credit to any position in which he may be placed.

10. The remainder of the officers and ship's company conducted themselves throughout entirely to my satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. M. HAYES, Captain,
Her Majesty's ship "Tartar,"
Commanding the Advanced Squadron.

*To Vice-Admiral
Sir Augustus L. Kuper, K.O.B.,
Commander-in-Chief.*

*Her Majesty's Ship "Euryalus,"
off Simono Seki,
September 10, 1864.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state, in compliance with your directions, to report as to the proceedings of the naval brigade landed under my command from Her Majesty's ships "Euryalus" and "Conqueror," in the Straits of Simono Seki, on the morning of the 6th instant.