

ATTEMPT TO BURN THE BRITISH FLEET AT CAPSINGMOON.

The delay in the issue of the *Register* gives us the opportunity of publishing the following account of another abortive attempt to burn the British shipping at Capsingmoon, made early on Tuesday morning.

The first alarm was given about 2, a.m., on Tuesday. A noise was heard from amongst the small Chinese boats inshore. It appeared on subsequent inquiry that some mandarin boats had got in amongst them for the purpose of making captures. They attacked the cutter *Devil*, and wounded the Lascars on board. Immediately after distant light appeared in the direction of the passage of Capsingmoon, called the Flood Gates; and the commanding officer of the Danish King fired a gun and hoisted the signal previously ordered by the senior officer of her Majesty's ships for fire rafts; and instantly almost the fire burst forth from at least 16 fire boats; the appearance was very beautiful. The wind and tide was very favourable for their course. As they approached they blew up like some beautiful works, what in English pyrotechnical science would be called a flower pot. The beauties of the sight, however, did not dissipate the alarm left by those on board the ships, who were all fearful there might be other crafty schemes in progress, and that they might be attacked from other quarters; consequently, most of the ships slipped their cables and moved out danger, each more anxious than his neighbour to get into the rear. The scene and danger caused great excitement; the night was very dark, the wind slackened, and so many vessels being under weigh at once in a small space caused great confusion, and many consequently came in contact, but we have not heard of any serious damage.

The boats of the squadron were actively employed towing the rafts clear of the shipping, and anchoring others.

The junks were first turned adrift, chained together two and two; nine of these rafts were counted, which gives 18 boats. But it was ascertained that some had not ignited, and some had exploded, the wrecks being seen floating about the bay the next morning.

On examination, the fire rafts were found to be constructed of what had been very old outside fishing boats; what remains of them will supply the fleet with firewood for a month. They were full of dross, the remains of the combustible matter.

An anecdote of the gallantry and humanity of one of the officers of the *Mavis* deserves recording.

The mandarins had seized two Chinese, who were in the habit of attending the shipping, and were conveying them over the hills, no doubt for punishment, probably death. The officer of the *Mavis*, with a party of Malay sailors, landed and pursued them; their muskets missed fire, but they charged the Chinese barrel in hand, beat them back right and left with the buttends, and put them to flight, released the two prisoners, and brought them safely down to the beach. The interest of the scene was greatly heightened by the arrival of her Majesty's ship *Alligator*; the light of the flaming rafts guided her to the anchorage. This *apropos* arrival will rather damp the future enterprises of the subordinate Chinese naval officers.

Our correspondent suggests that the men-of-war should be stationed at the different entrances of the Capsingmoon, instead of being all anchored near each other.

The following is an extract from a letter dated Macao, the 3d of July:—

"It is now beyond a doubt that we intend to take and fortify the Island of Chusan, and I expect, in little more than a month, to hear of the British flag being hoisted there. Captain Elliot, his secretary, and three interpreters, have gone up. I believe the blockading of the rivers has caused a great sensation in Canton. All the Americans

are preparing to leave. I do not think that the fleet will interfere in any way with the opium vessels. Indeed, it is likely that their operations may facilitate that trade, as the men of war junks will be afraid to come out."

"OFF MACAO, JUNE 23.—We arrived here yesterday; Wellesley, Cruiser, Algerines, and transports with 26th Queen's Regiment, head quarter and part of the 18th Regiment Irish (the remainder being at Singapore may be expected in a few days), the Native Volunteers, and Madras Artillery. It is expected the following will leave to-morrow for Chusan—Wellesley, Conway, Volage, Larne, Cruiser, *Alligator*, Algerine, her Majesty's schooner *Hebe*, and the Hon. Company's steam vessels *Queen*, *Atalanta*, and *Madagascar*, transports and troops. The *Enterprise* steamer may be looked for in a few days from Singapore, with Mr. Maddock's, Company's agent, on board. It is stated nothing will be done at the Bogue until the arrival of Admiral Elliot and squadron from England, &c. A depôt is to be formed at Chusan, probably preparatory to an attack upon Pekin. The *Larne* brought on the March overland men from the *Enterprise*, at Singapore. The transports are kept outside and amongst the islands, not to disturb the nerves of our old friend 'Lyn.' The squadron and troops are in good health, generally speaking, and most anxious for some amusement on shore."