

The day was windy, yet there appeared no hesitation in giving us a proper reception. They remained there until half-past twelve, their patience no doubt much exhausted, and, not much accustomed to dance attendance on foreigners, they then marched off. At the earnest request of Meadows, it was finally arranged that himself, Fishbourne, his first Lieutenant, and Mr. Woodgate, should go on shore to apologise for the apparent slight. As soon as they landed, procured horses and rode into the city. Fishbourne took an English Bible, the Scriptures in Chinese, and Macgowan's *Anatomy*, all of which he presented to the Secretary of State. I know not what has transpired, but I believe everything passed off satisfactorily. They did not see the head chiefs, as at first intended—it was dark before they returned to the ship. During the day numbers of the people visited the ship. Having a slight knowledge of the Chinese language, I frequently put the question, when do you intend coming to Shanghai, and every answer I got convinced me the people were in total ignorance of such a place; and I am of opinion that it was of minor importance in their eyes, and had only risen in importance since 1842. The greater number of the people consist of Quang-tung and Quansi men. The crew of the *Hermes* having recently captured some piratical junks, and having a number of two-handed swords, they were much prized by the rebels; in some instances upwards of \$30 was given for one. I sold an umbrella for \$15, and an ordinary pair of pistols for \$80. The *Hermes* was quite a fair all the time, Sir George, the captain, and Mr. Meadows, being the only ones not engaged in trucking. Gold and silver rings and bracelets appeared of no value to them when in want of either a two-bladed sword or an English umbrella. Mr. — sold an umbrella for \$32, and the illustrious Mr. — could be seen cruising about with an umbrella and spy glass for which he demanded exorbitant prices; and I hear a good trade was carried on in the peep show line, some of them demanding a ring or a bracelet for a look through a spy glass. The decks were constantly crowded with visitors; some went aloft as high as the tops, while others more curious were to be seen climbing over the cranks and beams of the machinery. While the *Hermes'* crew were at meals all were ordered out of the ship, and although many had to be put out by force, they muttered no complaint. During the interval of dinner there would be quite an audience in a boat astern; at times so numerous as almost to break down the house. Many of them had great and frequent occasions to be annoyed with the foreigners; still, during all the time we were there, I never heard one obscene or obscene expression escape from their lips, but, on the contrary, it was a pleasure to hear them call each other and ourselves brothers.— Their conduct much surprised me. Several small articles were about the boat such as soda-water bottles and Chowchow stuffs; and although hundreds must have passed over the boat, in no instance was anything lost, nor did I hear of any attempt to steal. They were all young men, well clothed, fed, and all happy. We saw no lame or sick, nor any women amongst them.

30th.—This day was occupied negotiating, but while they were pending no man went on shore. An unusual number of visitors this day.

The chiefs wear a large yellow and red hood, with a scarlet gown; they have done away with the hat and button, several of which were seen lying in the gutters. During this day many minor officers visited the ship, and I should think upwards of a hundred pictures from the *Illustrated News* were distributed among them, which they very gladly received and were much pleased with.

Sunday, May 1.—After breakfast got under weigh and proceeded beyond Nankin about twelve miles.— Saw a fleet of junks which moved on as we approached. They proved to be a portion of the Imperial fleet—thirty-two vessels of all sizes, some of them southern snake boats with green bottoms, well armed and manned.— On nearing them they fired on us. A white-button mandarin came on board and asked us our business.— He was told we were neutral, and that if his boats did not cease firing they should be sunk. He went away apparently indifferent whether the firing ceased or not. Seeing this, Fishbourne called all hands to quarters, cleared for action, and anchored. The imperialists then stopped firing, and the Captain held divine service in peace. We afterwards saw a great many of the peasantry exchanging provisions for clothes. The Imperial fleet appeared but ill-provided with stores, and altogether a miserable set. Shortly after divine service, two inferior officers came on board—one a Canton man that had been in Hongkong, who on being shown one of Tse-ping-wang's Christianity books, spat on it, and said those who believed in it were thieves. Meadows

was very angry with him, and told him "he had better go." At sunset anchored close to the shore, near Nankin, where Messrs. Meadows and Reynolds went ashore to make arrangements for an intended visit to the Porcelain Tower. Several new adherents were then being sworn in.

The steamer is nearly at Woosung. I have merely to add, that, before leaving Nankin, they would not let Sir George land to see the tower. He told them that, if the steamer was fired upon at Chin-kiang-foo, on returning she would resent it. We left on Monday at noon, and reached Ching-kiang-foo next morning, at eight, a.m. Nearing the first stockade at the canal, we were fired at, and gave it them sweetly in return, and with considerable effect. Several of their shot struck the steamer's hull and ropes. We passed slowly through the fortifications, giving them shot and shell in a way which must have surprised them.

We anchored at Silver Island, and shortly after a letter was sent on board, apologizing for having fired upon us; the chiefs declaring that it was all a mistake; the general not being able to reach the outer works, in time to prevent them. However, they know us now. I distinctly heard them say that in the event of their coming to Shanghai, foreigners should have three days notice of their approach.

Every joss (idol) is completely demolished. Monday evening we anchored amongst Samqua's fleet, about fifteen miles below Nankin—a miserable turn out. I heard that they have 4,000 Tartar troops ashore, and when they are reinforced by the *Agnes* and *Antelope*, they contemplate another attack on Chin-kiang-foo, as on the 8th of May.)

(Conclusion next week.)

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Europa, August 19.

THE REVIEW OF THE FLEET.

SOME faint idea may be formed of yesterday's review from the aggregate of guns, horse-power, and tonnage, in the fleet, and from the number of men required for the full complement of each ship. There were employed 1,076 guns, the power of 9,680 horses, 40,207 tons of shipping, and ships' companies that should altogether have amounted to 10,423 hands. The fleet thus comprising about the same number of men as are encamped at Chobham; only that, instead of being distributed in tents stretching over two miles of heath, they are cooped up in twenty-five ships of war, thirteen of which are screw steamers, nine paddle-wheel, and three sailing ships-of-the-line.

During Wednesday afternoon and throughout the night a constant succession of trains brought an immense concourse to visitors of Portsmouth. All the hotels and lodging houses were crammed, and enormous prices paid for accommodation. The price of tickets issued by the various excursion steamers rose to a great sum, and transactions of this nature were even effected at an advance of three hundred per cent, on the original cost, the tickets to a great extent having been bought up by speculators—one, two, and three guineas being freely paid for the permission to go in the vessels.

At six o'clock in the morning, Portsmouth Harbour presented a very animated scene. Twenty Government and about an equal number of private steamers were preparing to go out of the harbour, to attend on the fleet, for the accommodation of the visitors to whom they were respectively apportioned. At five minutes past eight, the first excursion train from London arrived, bringing some 1,500 persons, and this was followed by other trains on both the South-Western and South Coast Railways in rapid succession. The Government steamers in attendance on the squadron remained at their moorings till about half-past nine o'clock, by which time the members of the Houses of Lords and Commons had arrived down. In the meantime steamers of every class continued to arrive at Spithead from Southampton, Brighton, Shoreham, and Weymouth, and even the old *Father Thames* was found among them.

At half-past ten the Queen left Osborne House for East Cowes, where she embarked on board the royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*. The royal standard on board the yacht was seen by the fleet, when a general royal salute was fired. Her Majesty steamed through the fleet; and the numerous private steamers, yachts, and boats by which Spithead and the Solent were literally covered, in very beautiful style, many a hearty burst of cheering greeting her as she passed by.

On her Majesty's going on board of the *Duke of Wellington*, the royal standard was immediately hoist-

ed at the main of that ship, when another general royal salute was fired by the fleet. In a few moments afterwards, however, the signal was hoisted by the *Duke of Wellington*, "Annul all Salutes." Whilst the Queen remained on board the *Duke of Wellington* the private steamers took advantage of the opportunity to steam around that magnificent vessel, the company of each steamer as they did so giving a hearty and enthusiastic round of cheers. The scene now was of the most animating character.

At five minutes past eleven the Queen left the *Duke of Wellington*, and repaired on board the *Victoria and Albert*, a casualty of an awkward character occurring at this moment, the *Stromboli*, steam sloop, carrying away the jibboom of a private yacht. The contact of the two vessels appeared rather a serious one, but no other damage than that already stated occurred. The signal was now made from the *Duke of Wellington* for the commencement of the evolutions of the review, the fleet formed in two columns, Her Majesty's yacht *Victoria and Albert* taking the lead of the two lines.— So large a number of men-of-war under steam excited the greatest interest, being a spectacle that had perhaps never been seen before.

At 12.40 the enemy was seen approaching under sail in very beautiful order, the wind being very favourable. A signal was now made to "form line abreast," and shortly after the demand was hoisted, and the *Terrible* steam-frigate, Capt. McCleverty, sent out to reconnoitre the enemy. The Queen's yacht dropped astern, and the *Prince Regent* fired two guns to bring the ships of her squadron in order of battle. At this period the Queen, 116, was coming up, under royal sails, topsails, topgallant sails; the *Prince Regent* under topsails, topgallant sail and jib; and the *London*, under courses and topsails. The action commenced with a shot from the *Agamemnon*, 91, flag of Rear-Admiral Corry, second in command, and it was immediately joined in by the entire fleet. The two opposing squadrons kept up an incessant cannonade for about a quarter of an hour, soon enveloping themselves in an impenetrable cloud of smoke, hiding themselves from the spectators of the fight and from each other. At the conclusion of the combat, and as the smoke gradually cleared away, the enemy were found to be in apparently a very distressed condition—the sails of the ships of his squadron were so disposed as to appear torn and destroyed by the shot of the other fleet; and chase being made one vessel after another was successively captured.

The signal to "proceed to the nearest port" was hoisted about four o'clock on board the *Duke of Wellington*, and the whole fleet commenced a retrograde movement towards Spithead. This was effected in admirable order, though the signal to the ships of the port division "to keep your stations" was frequently made from the *Agamemnon*.

The royal yacht, with her Majesty on board took up her position off Southsea-castle, and around them, as the finale of the day's proceedings, the boats of the fleet assembled for the purpose of making a combined attack on the *Magicienne* and *Conflict* steamers. This they did in a cannonade of a heavy and continuous character, which was returned in vigorous style by the two steamers, which resisted with great guns and small arms. The boats, in two divisions, after ten rounds of firing, gave three cheers, and the victory was supposed to remain to them.

The above completed the programme of operations, and her Majesty then took her departure from the fleet for Osborne, another general royal salute being fired as she did so. The review, having lasted from ten in the morning to eight in the evening, was brought to a close by the return into harbour of the ships in attendance on the fleet, and the anchoring at Spithead.

There has been no such excitement felt in the south of England since that which was evoked by the spectacle which greeted the eyes of the Allied Sovereigns nearly forty years since. Chobham has been completely cut out by Spithead. The railway people say that the desire to see the famous camp was not half so great as the wish to see the great channel fleet. The visit of the Queen to the naval review there seems to have given great satisfaction to her subjects, and convinced them that she is not—

"All for the land service.

Forgetting Duncan, Nelson, Howe, and Jervis."

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to express her entire satisfaction of the day's proceedings, and promotes the senior lieutenant and the senior mate of the fleet. Lieutenant Mason is the lucky "Luff."

PATENT SEALED.—A most important patent, involving the well-being of millions of persons both in town and country, has just been sealed, for the inven-