

casualties. The whole of the landing party was under the superintendence of Captain Bradshaw, of the *Encounter*. The plan of attack generally carried out consisted of the bush being shelled from the gun boats, or from the small boat carrying guns, with a view to driving away any natives who might be lurking about. The bush being cleared, the scouts were landed, and pushed forward toward the village. One company of marines then advanced, followed by the field battery and fire party, and the rear was brought up by the second marine company, the seamen being in reserve ready to advance if required. The duties of the fire party were, firstly to destroy the plantations near the villages by cutting down the plantain and banana trees, the cassia and chiles and, in fact, every plant or tree on the roots or fruits of which the natives subsist; secondly, to break up all canoes; and, lastly, to set fire to every hut in the villages.

OPERATIONS BEGUN.

On Sunday, the 29th August, the operations commenced; for on that day a large body of marines proceeded about four miles up Bannana Creek to a place called Chimpozi, to cover the embarkation of goods from a store belonging to A. M. Pape, a trader of great repute in the Congo and who was desirous of abandoning the factory he had at Chimpozi, but the natives refused to allow him to do so. The presence of the marines, however, was sufficient to prevent any interference on the part of the natives, whose demonstration of disapproval to the proceedings consisted in the beating of tom-toms in a village which was some distance off. On the 30th the squadron steamed about seventeen miles up the river, when the ships anchored, and on the following morning the boat flotilla, accompanied by the *Merlin* and *Ariel* proceeded up a creek at the head of which two villages, belonging to a notorious pirate named Chango, were situated. On arrival off the first village the plan of attack was carried out as before given, the scouts, marines, and field battery, together with the fire party and a reserve of 150 seamen, being landed. The village, however, was found to be deserted. Pushing on for about a mile through thick swampy ground, a second village was entered, which had also been lately abandoned. The destructions of the plantations and huts was immediately commenced, and, when completed, the force retraced their steps, and the work of demolition was carried out in the first village. Up to this time no natives had been seen, but their tom-toms and war horns had been heard by the scouts some miles inland. The embarkation completed, the force commenced their return journey, and it was then that some venturesome natives opened a slight fire on the rear-most boats. A volley or two speedily silenced them, and the remainder of the return passage was untroubled. In the evening when the boats were returning to their respective ships, a sad accident occurred by the swamping of one of the *Spiteful* gigs, by which two out of the five men who formed the crew were drowned, the others but narrowly escaping.

VILLAGES DESTROYED.

On the 2nd September the boats, accompanied by the *Merlin*, *Ariel* and *Foam*, attacked and destroyed twelve villages which were situated on the banks of the river, destroying also large plantations and some canoes. The natives fired on the landing party and boats, but with little effect, one scout, a native, being the only person

wounded. On the 3rd September the villages of Mellela Creek were attacked and destroyed, and in that belonging to Annoz Anzi, another notorious freebooter, the foreyard and several barrels of salt, which had been taken from the *Geraldine*, were discovered. The largest hut, supposed to be Annoz Anzi's palace, was burnt in the same village. It was the largest native building that was destroyed during the expedition, and the village was certainly the best and most carefully built. The natives continually fired both at the landing party and the boats, and the following casualties were reported by the medical staff: Mr R. Dixon, engineer, Her Majesty's ship *Ariel* gunshot wound in the neck, slug lodged, severe; D. Heckford, ordinary seaman, Her Majesty's ship *Merlin*, gunshot wound, right leg, severe; G. Rumbold, ordinary seaman, Her Majesty's ship *Merlin*, gunshot wound, right leg, slight. Several slugs struck the boats, and one penetrated an iron shield on the side of one of the steam launches. The forces which had that day destroyed seven villages, besides canoes and plantations, returned to the ships in the evening having been absent about thirty-six hours, the previous night having been passed by the men on the upper decks of the gunboats. On the 6th, after resting over the Sunday, the gunboats and boats proceeded to a creek near Scotchman's Head, up which, after the surrounding bush had been shelled, the boats proceeded for about three miles, when the usual parties of men landed, and three villages, one of which was very large were destroyed. On this occasion a Portuguese employe in one of the factories, and who had volunteered to act as a guide, was shot in the chest, and died almost instantaneously. On the 7th, the expedition proceeded up Matakala Creek and destroyed ten villages and plantations, besides canoes. The forces were occasionally fired on, but no casualties occurred. In the afternoon the boat flotilla, with the exception of the *Active's* steam pinnaces, launch and two cutters, proceeded further up the creek, and in the evening destroyed a village belonging to Manuel Vacco. The *Merlin*, accompanied by the *Active's* boats, previously particularized, returned down creek, near the entrance of which the boat crew, under Lieutenant Karslake, destroyed three large villages, besides the banian plantations surrounding them. One of these villages proved to be the Matakala Fetish town in which, on August 31 great human sacrifices had been held with a view to invoking the deities to declare whether the Matakala natives should fight the white men or not. Apparently the Fetish reply proved unfavorable, for the villages were deserted, although on the way natives had been seen in them. After these operations the gunboats again anchored off Puerta Lelina, the boat crew sleeping on the decks as heretofore. On the 8th the villages of Manuel Vacco and Chicco were destroyed. On the 10th the gunboats proceeded up Sherwood Creek, when, after a short palaver at Plenty Town, a movement was made some distance further, and eleven villages were destroyed, in addition to a few canoes and plantations. The boats grounded in this creek, and were unable to come out until the next forenoon, the crews having to work nearly the whole night. On the morning of the 11th a portion of the boats, with the scouts, marines and fire party, proceeded up Beeks Creek, where they took the natives by surprise. However, at the first report of a gun, the majority of the inhabitants fled and left all their worldly goods

behind. Sixteen villages were destroyed, besides a dozen canoes and a quantity of palm oil casks. Thus ended the destruction of piratical haunts in the Congo, with but slight casualties to the force engaged.

THE LOSS TO THE NATIVES.

The native loss of life will never be known, but it would seem quite impossible that hundreds of these wild and ignorant beings could hide away in the bush and remain unharmed whilst shells were hutting in all directions—cast shot and rifle balls dealing destruction all around. The loss of property is to them enormous, and consisted of sixty-seven villages, about forty canoes, and enormous quantities of crops and fruit trees. Of banana trees alone, between three thousand and four thousand are calculated as having been destroyed, to say nothing of other fruit bearing trees, palm trees; palm wine and fruit may also be reckoned amongst their losses. The lessons taught the natives by the injuries they received during the proceedings of the expedition are considered by traders and others who have had great experience in Congo affairs to be the precursors of a peacefulness and great increase of trade in the river Congo which has never been known heretofore. It is extremely probable that for a month or two there will be a certain amount of warlike operations amongst the natives themselves; but when this is over it is pretty certain that tranquility must reign for a very considerable period, for above all things the presence of not only the boats, but gun vessels of white men up creeks in which nothing save native canoes have ever appeared before is certain to have a lasting effect in checking the lawless acts of the inhabitants of the adjoining shores. Added to this, the friendliness of several of the most powerful kings of the adjoining shores. Added to this, the kings or the lower parts of the Congo is security for the peaceableness of the more antagonistic, though less powerful chiefs. On the 1st September Commodore Sir W. N. A. Hewitt proceeded seventy miles up the river in Her Majesty's ship, *Merlin*, accompanied by the *Foam*, and *Ariel*, and anchored off Enbomma, with a view to holding a palaver with the kings of the country surrounding the trading station. The palaver, which was held with all due ceremony on the 16th, was highly successful. The good effect of opening up the trade of the river having been pointed out, was easily seen by the chiefs who expressed a desire to co-operate in any way in their power with the merchants.

A San Diego (Cal.) despatch of the 16th says a great gathering of Mexicans along the border is reported. A large camp of them are in Trete Valley. Well informed parties think either a raid across the border or a revolution in lower California is intended. Manuel, Mexican Governor of Frontera, has suddenly disappeared from San Rafael. Antonio S. R. O., recently murdered near Campo, was one of his supporters. It is reported that many Sonoran revolutionists have been driven into Lower California. A man who came in this evening counted 60 camp fires near Campo. He says an attack on Campo is imminent.

It is officially reported that the Admiralty has made arrangements for Captain A. L. Young to go to Smith's Sound next year to communicate with the Arctic Expedition.