

Her Majesty's ships *Argus* and *Decoy* for some hours previously. After this last village was in flames, our troops were fired upon by a body of the enemy from the bush westward, and some of the blue jackets became engaged. By their fire and the use of a few rockets we drove off the enemy. After I had myself embarked on board Her Majesty's ship *Decoy*, some firing took place from the bush, on the eastward side of the town, and was replied to by Second West India Regiment, who drove the enemy away. The Second West India Regiment and the marines, who were bound for Elmina, remained until the men belonging to the *Argus* and *Decoy* had embarked, and then marched off leisurely, without further molestation. On the road home they were joined by the detachment left at Amquana, and arrived well and safe at Elmina, the Marines re-embarking on board Her Majesty's ship *Barracouta* immediately. The detachment of the Second West India Regiment arrived here this morning by road march. There were no women and children in Essaman when I attacked it, nor in any of the villages whom I destroyed them. I hope that I have taught the Ashantees a great lesson, showing to them that even in the bush they are not secure against attack and defeat by English troops, and I anticipate that the result of this action will exert a most beneficial effect upon the Fantee tribes, inspiring them with new hope, and so with new vigor. But no less important is the lesson I have myself learnt from this affair. I have been shown how little reliance can be placed on the best native troops in this bush fighting, where it is impossible to keep them under the immediate control of European officers. The Houssas showed undeniable courage and spirit; but their uncontrollable wildness, the way in which they fired volley after volley in the air, at imaginary foes in the bush, expending all the their ammunition, shows how little use they are for the work we have in hand. I do not doubt they will improve under the teaching of the officers of my force, and I hope shortly to have them more under my control, but I cannot expect ever to make of them a thoroughly disciplined body. I have, &c.

G. J. WOLSELEY, Major-General.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War.

In the despatch Sir Garnet Wolsely enclosed a return of the casualties amongst the troops, marines, and seamen from Her Majesty's ships in action at Essaman, October 14th. The following are the names of the British wounded:—

General Staff.—Colonel McNeill, V. C., C. M. G. (colonel on the staff), gunshot wound, left forearm; very severe.

2nd West India Regiment.—Captain Forbes, wounded by slug, right hand; slight.

Royal Navy.—Captain Fremantle, gunshot wound, right upper arm; severe.

Non-commissioned Officers and Men.—Royal marines, Company 44, Privates Thomas Walsh, gunshot wound, left forearm; severe. Royal marines, Company 10, Privates W. Broderick, wound by a slug, thigh; severe.

Sir Garnet Wolsley also encloses a report from Lieut.-Colonel Evelyn Wood, who commands the troops at Elmina, as to the march on Essaman. He also forwards a copy of the letter which he wrote to Captain Fremantle, R. N., the senior naval officer on the West African station, thanking him for the services rendered by himself and the

detachment of Royal marines and blue-jackets from the squadron under his command in the operations against Essaman and Ampenee, the success of which was largely due to their valuable assistance.

Three cases of sunstroke occurred during the day, two of them of a mild form, the third very severe. The last-mentioned sufferer was William Phillips, a private in the Royal Marines.

The special correspondent of the *Times* writing on Oct. 15 from Cape Coast Castle, gives the following interesting particulars of the fighting.

Captain Glover, on arriving at Accra, set to work with his usual energy, levying native troops and opening negotiations with the chiefs of the interior. The most powerful of these is the King of Akim, who can put 20,000 men into the field. He came down to Accra with a gun flint in his mouth, a token of war, and said he did not want any money or pay for his men, but only muskets and powder and flints and lead bars—for cutting up into slugs. A fortnight ago the King of Ashantee sent to Akim, his hereditary foe, a message of love proposing an exchange of prisoners, and declaring he had no palaver with him, but only with the people of the sea. Such is the policy of Ashantee; they make peace with one people when they wish to make war upon another, but they make war upon all in turn. Akim replied that if the King of Ashantee had no palaver with him, he had a palaver with the King of Ashantee. If the four messengers, he killed two, sent the third back to Coomassie, and the fourth on to Glover at Accra. This envoy is now at Cape Coast, and asserts that the King is marching in person upon us, and intends to take this town, or perish in the attempt, his principal object being to recover the bones of his uncle, the late King of Ashantee.

It is a custom of that country that if a king dies without having been on the war-path and the battle-field, he may not be buried in the family vault. The late King of Ashantee came to this miserable end, and his pious descendant, Calcutti, determined to remove the stain upon his memory. Quahoo Duh was dead, but yet he should go to the war; his bones should be borne across the Pra. In a certain battle early in the present year the Ashantees, as usual, gained the victory; but the Royal remains were captured in the fight, and are treasured as a trophy at Cape Coast—at least so the Ashantees suppose. According to their religious belief, the soul of this unfortunate King is now a prisoner. Far down below the earth is a shadowy land where the Kings of Ashantee, richly apparelled, covered with gold, surrounded by their nobles, attended by their slaves, reign as they reigned on earth, in a kingdom that shall have no end. But one throne is vacant. Exiled from his brethren, a royal spirit, solitary and forlorn, hovers over its captive corpse in the castle of the white men on the borders of the sea.

Captain Glover has now gone on to Ad dah, at the mouth of the Volta, and the tribes on the other side of the river, the proper left bank, are allies of Ashantee. Through the seaports Jella Coffee and Quitta these people, the Awoonas, obtain munitions of war, and send them on through a tribe called the Aquamoos to the Ashantee frontier. The arrival of Glover threatens this trade, so both tribes have collected in force, and a few days ago there went forth a rumour that Glover was hemmed in. Next

day all Cape Coast was in a stir. The West India detachment which garrisons this town has been ordered on board the *Barracouta*. I went over to Government house and obtained permission to join the expedition, whatever it might be, and was informed that Glover required reinforcements, and that the general himself was going with them to Ad dah. At nine p.m. Sir Garnet Wolsley came down to the beach, and surf-boats took us off to the sloop. I thought the hour rather late if we were going to Ad dah, which is more than 100 miles to the east, and as soon as we were on board the truth came out. Our destination was Elmina. This, our newest colony, is also the oldest one we possess out side the Straits of Gibraltar. The Ashantees have a camp at Mampon, which is so near Elmina that they can hear the morning and evening gun. With gold dust they purchase powder, rum, and provisions from certain villages near Elmina. At times the market women are so numerous that the camp presents the appearance of a fair. Two villages are especially engaged in this traffic, Amponoo and Emsaman. Ampenee is on the seashore, and its people are fishers. They are also fishers of men, having lately captured and killed two sets of canoe-men belonging Cape Coast Castle. Two this village, the seaport of the camp smugglers bring munitions of war. But the Ampenees know well enough that any day a "smoke ship" may come and destroy their village; it is, therefore, Emsaman which is selected as the Ashantee magazine. This village is situated in the midst of a thick jungle four miles away from the sea. Here the insurgents, driven out of Elmina, used to speak of building a new town, where they might be secure from the white man; and here large quantities of powder, rum, dried fish and corn were stored up.

Sir Garnet has placed Elmina under charge of Colonel Evelyn Wood, V. C., a most energetic officer, who soon found out what was going on. He also ascertained that an Ashantee captain, with his company, was residing at Emsaman. On these facts being reported at headquarters the general sent a messenger to the head man of Ampenee and Emsaman and other villages, ordering them at once to appear at Elmina and give an explanation of their conduct. If they refused, he would punish them severely. The head man sent to the Ashantee camp for instructions, and were ordered not to obey the summons. Ampenee might be destroyed, but Emsaman was in the bush, and they need not be afraid, for white men could not fight in the bush. Accordingly the head man returned an insulting message, and Sir Garnet made his preparations. He determined to surprise Emsaman, and therefore kept his plan of operations a secret. In Cape Coast castle it was known only to three men besides himself, in Elmina only to Colonel Wood. These precautions were not superfluous, for Cape Coast Castle and Elmina are full of spies. Cape Coast was, therefore, thrown on a false scent by the story of Ad dah, and during the night policemen guarded every exit from Elmina.

Only regular troops were employed, and the force was considerable. As I mentioned in a previous letter, Commodore Commerell had left instructions that the marines on board the *Simoon* were not to be employed, except in defence of the settlements; but the last mail brought to Captain Fremantle, the senior naval officer, power to act on his own responsibility, and he at once placed, not only his marines, but also his seamen, at Sir Garnet's disposal. A certain number of blue jackets were disembarked to garrison