

on and entered Kumassi without opposition about half past five. At the top of the first street, which was a broad road of rising ground, with here and there a detached house on either side, they turned to the left and entered the main street, which commands both the town and the palace. In the main street hundreds of armed men were collected to observe the entry, but not a shot was fired; and many men even came up to the soldiers and shook hands. The spectators seemed to have no feeling but that of wonder and pleasure, laughing and uttering cries of amazement and delight, as if the presence of the troops was a pleasant spectacle that had been arranged for their gratification, and bringing them water to drink. Among the crowd were numbers of men who had been engaged at Ordashu, powder-stained and naked, with shot belts round their waists and guns upon their shoulders. All this time there was a constant stream of persons going by with guns and barrels or kegs of powder upon their heads. They were taking these things to the bush, perhaps to use on another occasion, but they were not disarmed, nor was anyone interfered with. Perhaps never before had an invading force entered a hostile town under similar circumstances.

About six o'clock Sir Garnet Wolseley arrived, followed by the remainder of the troops, and strong outlying picquets were placed at all the main entrances of the town, with one great inlying picquet in the market place. The king was nowhere to be found, having disappeared with all the persons of distinction. A letter was sent to the king by a messenger, stating that if a single shot was fired against the force the town would be destroyed and every living person in it put to death. On the other hand, if the king would come in to treat, the town

would be untouched and troops would leave it as they found it.

Sir Garnet Wolseley did not interfere with the removal of property, but an embargo was placed on the removal of arms and ammunition, and a proclamation was issued threatening with death anyone caught plundering; while at the same time an Ashanti crier went round and proclaimed, in the name of the king, that no one was to attack or molest the troops. After dark fires sprang up all over the town, and throughout the night troops were employed in putting them out. These fires were the work of Fanti prisoners. Every effort was made to check plunder, and a Fanti policeman caught in the act was hanged and several carriers flogged. By daybreak next morning the Ashantis had all gone away, and the entire town was deserted. The king having promised to come in, and failing in so doing, there was nothing to do but to destroy Kumassi and return to the Coast. Mines were placed for the destruction of the palace and the town set on fire, and the troops took their departure; the 42nd formed the rear guard, leaving last.

The return march was not without difficulties, as all the streams were much swollen by the rain of the preceding days. Fortunately, the Ashantis had not destroyed the bridge over the Ordah, but the water was two feet over it when the main body crossed, and by evening the 42nd had to swim across as it had given away. The troops bivouacked for the night at the site of their former camp, and the next morning the Naval Brigade and the company of the 23rd Battalion were ordered on to Cape Coast, where they at once re-embarked. So far the success of the expedition was not quite complete, for though Kumassi had been burned the king had not capitulated, had signed no treaty, and had not paid an ounce of gold. On the

9th of February a messenger overtook the army, expressing the king's desire to make peace, and offering to agree to all terms. The near approach of Capt. Glover's force alarmed the king, who had no sooner got rid of one invading army than he found another advancing. In ordinary times the approach of such a rabble as that under his command would have caused little concern, for it would have been easily annihilated by an overpowering force of Ashantis, but the case was now very different. The burning of Kumassi had shaken the Ashanti kingdom to its very foundations. Sir Garnet Wolseley sent word that upon payment of 5,000 ounces of gold peace would be made, and Capt. Glover ordered to return. This would require to be attended to by the 12th. On this date they returned with 1,040 ounces only, and stated that they could not obtain more from the king. The amount was not a matter of serious consideration so long as the king made submission, and the envoys were given the following draft treaty to take back for the king's signature:

Article 1. There shall be hereafter perpetual peace between the Queen of England and her allies on the Coast, on the one part, and the king of Ashanti and all his people, on the other part.

Article 2.—The king of Ashanti promises to pay the sum of 50,000 ounces of approved gold as an indemnity for the expenses he has occasioned to Her Majesty the Queen of England by the late war; and undertakes to pay 1,000 ounces of gold forthwith, and the remainder by such instalments as Her Majesty's Government may from time to time demand.

Article 3.—The king of Ashanti, on the part of himself and his successors, renounces all right or title to any tribute or homage from the kings of Denkera, Assin, Akim,

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