

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1824.

Colonial-Office, July 31, 1824.

ISPATCHES, of which the following are extracts, were this day received from Lieutemant-Colonel Sutherland, commanding His Majesty's troops on the Western Coast of Africa, addressed to the Earl Bathurst, K.G. one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Extract of a Dispatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland, dated Cape Coast Castle, 28th May 1824.

ON the 19th instant I went to the Camp (bush or jungle), to see the position occupied by our force, and left Major Chisholm (whose exertions have been most praiseworthy throughout), in command there, with directions to continue cutting paths towards the Asbantees, whose fighting post was about five miles distant; returning myself into the Fort, to superintend and hasten our preparations, and to torward supplies of ammunition.

20th, I ordered every man, well enough to do duty, to be marched to Camp, being anxious to attack the enemy as soon as possible, having learnt that the King of Ashantee was rapidly advancing with ten thousand men, to form a junction with the body who were opposed to us.

The Forts were this day garrisoned by scamen and marines from the Squadron, who were landed, with the utmost promptitude, by Captain Prickett, of the Owen Glendower, the then senior Officer, for the purpose.

21st, Major Chisholm succeeded, after very great exertion and fatigue, in cutting paths to the enemy's position about one P. M. when an engagement immediately commenced; the enemy fought bravely, keeping up a heavy fire from bush so thick that he could only be seen at intervals, and making several attempts to turn the Major's flanks, but finding himself baffled at all points, after fighting for five hours, his fire ceased, and be retired from the field,

as we afterwards ascertained, with great loss in killed and wounded, whilst ours, as will appear by the annexed return, was trifling in both.

The advantage thus gained might have been productive of the most beneficial and decisive results, had it been in Major Chisholm's power to follow it up, but neither threats nor persuasions could prevail on our Fantee allies to advance a step in pursuit of the enemy; on the contrary most of them fled previous to the first fire, others soon followed, and as Major Chisholm at last found himself abandoned by all, except the Officers, regulars, and militia, and a few brave native auxiliaries, not composing in all near half our forces, he very prudently retired, without the slightest molestation, to a position rather on this side of that which he occupied previous to the action; and the Ashantees two days afterwards returned to the ground from which they had on that occasion been driven.

I cannot close this communication without expressing my obligations for the cordial co-operation and assistance rendered to me by Captain Bullen, C. B. R. N. (and before his arrival by Captain Prickett), and the Officers of the Squadron under his orders, and in particular to Captain Bowen, of the Driver, whose exertions for five months last year, in mounting and equipping the guns of this Fort, drew forth the warm acknowledgements of the late Commodore Sir Robert Mends.

I must also particularize Lieutenant King, R. N. first of the Driver, who commanded a division of our forces in the field for several months in 1823, and being a volunteer, was slightly wounded in the affair of the 21st instant.

From Major Chisholm, Royal African Colonial Light Infantry (with whose Civil Government I do not mean to interfere), and all Officers, Military and Civil, I receive every support, although their duties are, in consequence of their very limited number, very fatiguing and laborious.

Is affords me much pleasure to add, that Major