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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1853.

INDIA BOARD, February 14, 1853.

THE following Dispatches have been this day received at the East India House :—

The Governor-General of India in Council to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

Fort-William, January 5, 1853.

(Extract.)

THE annexed Dispatches from Major-General Godwin and Commodore Lambert, report the operations connected with the relief of Pegu. Our entire satisfaction has been expressed to these officers at the successful accomplishment of this service.

Major-General H. Godwin, C.B., Commanding the Forces in Ava, Arracan, and Tenasserim Provinces, to C. Allen, Esq. Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR, *Pegu, December 15, 1852.*

IN continuation of my Dispatch of the 11th instant from Rangoon, I have the satisfaction to state for the information of the Governor-General in Council, that the garrison I left at this place was relieved from its investment by the Burmese on my arrival here yesterday at one o'clock. The strength of the enemy, added to their formidable position; the very small garrison, and its falling short of ammunition, though strongly posted and with a large supply of provisions, caused me very great anxiety.

At 9 o'clock, in the night of the 11th instant, 1200 men were embarked at Rangoon in two steamers and a number of boats, and were disembarked about six miles below the Ghaut, at Pegu, on the morning of the 14th instant, and the whole ready to move off their ground by sunrise.

I had resolved to march and enter the Pagoda by the eastern gate. The last time I was here I did so by the southern gate at its capture, because the enemy from Shoegyne had marched from the east and established their batteries on that face of the Pagoda. This turned all their defences and their works on and from the banks of the river and round the Pagoda, and this move brought me directly on their rear, only having to drive in numbers of well conducted skirmishers, and a force of about 200 men on ponies, which hung on the right flank of the column during its march, against whom however I hardly returned a shot.

Three miles from the Pagoda I passed a gun-carriage burning, which told me what I apprehended was the case, that finding themselves between two fires, the Pagoda and my own, their defences useless, I should find they had retired, and on coming close to the rear of their defences, and pushing on the advance, we met only a large body of skirmishers, who were gallantly repulsed by some of the Bengal and Madras Fusiliers and the Seikhs.

The march through such a close country, without a road, was well got over. I had with me two guns from the navy boats, drawn by a party of sailors, under Commander Shadwell, whose excessive labours were most cheerfully borne.

Our loss has been 3 killed and 9 wounded, as they had no chance of injuring us seriously. The Burmese will fight if you take your people up to the muzzle of their guns, but wisely retire when they find they are morally beaten, as they ever have been in this war.

They have hidden their guns, two only have been found as yet; but in the thick grass jungle a gun is easily hidden.

I have had the aid of Brigadier-General Steel, who particularly requested to accompany me.

It was a hard day's work for all, but well accomplished; and I know few moments that have been more gratifying to me than when I met that excellent and brave officer, Major Hill, of the Madras Fusiliers, in the Pagoda.

His Report cannot be prepared to-day, for there is detail respecting the admirable conduct of the Peguers, whose families came under his protection, and he has wonderfully managed to save them.

I have come the second time to Pegu with the full intention of going onwards, as ten miles from this, at a place called Sephangoon, on the road to Shoegyne, there are the Pegu families in bond at a Burmese station there, held for the fidelity of their husbands in the Burmese ranks, which I hope to release to-morrow; at all events to follow the force that has been troubling this country, and break it up; but I cannot state how far I can go, as the progress of all soldiers depends upon feeding them, which can never be left to accident.

I have found more carriage than I expected here, which will assist us very much.

I have ordered a land column, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sturt, of the 67th Bengal N.I., to march on the right bank of the river,—where I have been informed there is a