

can now only earnestly recommend that his numerous family may inherit their father's claims on his country.

The right and left attacks being now concentrated in the palace, I gained possession of a large portion of the city by advancing the 3d Europeans to the north-east, and occupying the Burrah Goug Gate, on which I rested, their right flank forming an oblique line from the gate to the palace, with the 3d Europeans and the 86th in the palace, the two regiments occupying with pickets commanding houses to their front. This line was in prolongation of the second line, leading from the mound under the fort to the palace. This done, it was necessary to clear the large portion of the city, in rear of this oblique line, of the numerous armed rebels who remained in the houses, and who were firing on the troops. This was not effected without bloody, often hand-to-hand combats. One of the most remarkable of them was between detachments of Her Majesty's 86th Regiment and 3d Europeans, and 30 or 40 Valaitee sowars, the body-guard of the Ranees in the palace stables, under the fire of the fort. The sowars, full of opium, defended their stables, firing with matchlocks and pistols from the windows and loop-holes, and cutting with their tulwars, and from behind the doors. When driven in, they retreated behind their horses, still firing, or fighting with their swords in both hands, till they were shot or bayoneted, struggling even when dying on the ground, to strike again. A party of them remained in a room off the stables, which was on fire till they were half burnt, their clothes in flames; they rushed out, hacking at their assailants, and guarding their heads with their shields.

Captain Rose, my Aide-de-camp, saved the life of a man of the 86th, who was down, by bayoneting his assailant.

All the sowars were killed, but not without several casualties on our side. The gallant soldiers captured, in the quarters of the sowars, the Ranees' standards, three standards of the body-guard, three kettle-drums, and horses, and an English union-jack of silk, which Sir Robert Hamilton tells me Lord William Bentinck had given the grandfather of the husband of the Ranees, with the permission to have it carried before him as a reward for his fidelity,—a privilege granted to no other Indian prince. I granted the soldiers their request, to hoist on the place the flag of their country, which they had so bravely won. Captain Sandwith, who was wounded, commanded with spirit the Europeans on this occasion; and Sergeant Brown, of the Commissariat Department, was the first to dash boldly into the stables.

Numerous incidents marked the desperate feeling which animated the defenders. A retainer of the Ranees tried to blow up himself and his wife; failing in the attempt, he endeavoured to cut her to pieces, and then killed himself. Two Valaitees attacked by the videttes, threw a woman who was with them into a well, and then jumped down it themselves.

Whilst engaged in the town I received a report from the officer commanding one of the Hyderabad Cavalry flying camps, that a large body of the enemy, flying from the town, had tried to force his picket; that a few had succeeded, but that the main body, from 350 to 500 strong, had been driven back, and had occupied a high and rocky hill to the west of the fort; that he had surrounded the hill with cavalry till reinforcements were sent. I immediately ordered out from the camps of the two brigades the available troops of all arms against the hill. A report

received from Major Gall shows how satisfactorily these rebels were disposed of. Lieutenant Park was killed whilst gallantly leading on a party of the 24th Bombay Native Infantry along the ridge of the hill. The Ranees' father, Mamoo Saheb, was amongst the rebels; he was wounded on the hill, and captured some days afterwards, and hanged at the Jockun Bagh.

After having cleared the quarter of the town in our possession, of the enemy, I had intended attacking the remainder of it, but deferred doing so till the next day, on Brigadier Stuart's representation that the men were too much exhausted for any further operations that day.

Towards sunset it was telegraphed from the observatory that the enemy were approaching from the east. I had therefore to re-occupy, with all the force I could collect, the field of action of the Betwa; the devoted troops marching to a fresh combat, after thirteen hours' fighting in a burning sun, with as much spirit as if they had not been engaged at all.

The alarm proved to be a false one, troops from Tehree having been mistaken for the enemy.

The next day Brigadier Stuart and myself occupied the rest of the city by a combined movement, assisted by Major Gall, who spiritedly scaled the bastion at the Onou Gate, from his flying camp, and capturing the gun which was there, threw it down the rampart.

The following morning a wounded Mahratta retainer of the Ranees was sent in to me from Captain Abbott's flying camp. He stated that the Ranees, accompanied by 300 Valaitees and 25 sowars, fled that night from the fort; that after leaving it they had been headed back by one of the pickets, where the Ranees and her party separated, she herself taking to the right, with a few sowars, in the direction of her intended flight to Bundere. The Observatory also telegraphed, "enemy escaping to the north-east" I immediately sent off strong detachments of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, 3d Light Cavalry, and Hyderabad Cavalry, to pursue, with guns to support them, as it was said that Tantia Topee had sent a force to meet her. I also sent Brigadier Steuart with cavalry, to watch the fords of the Betwa.

In the meantime, detachments of the 86th and 3d Europeans, took possession of the fortress.

In sight of Bundere, 21 miles from Jhansi, the cavalry came in sight of the Irregular Horse sent to meet the Ranees, which separated, probably with the view to mislead her pursuers as to her real course.

Lieutenant Dowker, Hyderabad Cavalry, was sent by Captain Forbes through the town of Bundere, whilst he, with the 3d Light Cavalry and 14th Light Dragoons, passed it by the left. In the town, Lieutenant Dowker saw traces of the Ranees' hasty flight, and her tent, in which was an unfinished breakfast. On the other side of the town he came up with, and cut up 40 of the enemy, consisting of Rohillas and Bengal Irregular Cavalry. Lieutenant Dowker was gaining fast on the Ranees, who, with four attendants, was seen escaping on a grey horse, when he was dismounted by a severe wound, and obliged to give up the pursuit.

From the time the troops took the palace, the rebels lost heart, and began to leave the town and fort. Nothing could prove more the efficiency of the investment than the number of them cut up by the pickets of the flying camps; the woods, gardens, and roads round the town were strewed with the corpses of fugitive rebels. The Ranees