

I knew the fort itself had but one line of works ; a few hundred yards from this side there was also a village upon a mound, which was said by the natives, and by Bahrut Sing, a friendly Zemindar, to command the interior of the fort, which they declared to be visible from it, (this, however, I found was not the case). The village was entrenched and occupied by the enemy, and my first object therefore was to drive them from it, having previously sent the cavalry round to the north, on which side the jungle was very extensive, to prevent escape in that direction. I commenced by placing Captain Dowell's guns in a position to enfilade the entrenchments, and fire in rear of the villages. It was immediately abandoned ; the Rifles pushed through, with the Police Infantry on their left, and, passing a tope of large trees, came upon the edge of the dense thorny jungle, which nearly surrounds the fort ; the 88th in the meantime, threatening the south-west angle of the outer works, drove the enemy from a part of them, and their guns in these lines were withdrawn.

My chief difficulty now was to ascertain the nature and exact position of the principal works, so completely was the fort concealed by the jungle, which was almost impenetrable. Captain Pearson's guns were brought into action on the right of the village, upon that portion of the outer defences where the enemy was visible on this side ; the mortars were placed close to the village, and in the tope of mangoe trees, whence a continued fire was kept up on the place, but owing to the impossibility of seeing the object, I fear their fire was somewhat ineffectual.

An 18-pounder and an 8-inch howitzer were brought down to the edge of the jungle, and opened at a distance of 100 yards upon the wall of the fort, (a very small portion of one embrasure, whence a gun was occasionally fired, being visible through the jungle). They very soon cleared away the intervening trees and exposed the south-west bastion, which I then determined to breach, knowing that it would give immediate access to the body of the place ; the only other accessible sides having double lines of defence. The enemy still kept up a fire from a portion of the outer works, and I therefore directed a party of Rifles, under Lieutenant Percival, and Police Infantry, under Captain Dawson, to move along the ditch on the west side, where it was inconsiderable, and, mounting the breast-work, to clear it of the enemy. This was easily effected, and the enemy rapidly driven before them ; escaping through the paths in the jungle, and abandoning the outer works (which were completely turned by this movement) they retired to the inner fort ; the 88th, passing to the right, entered the outer works by the main-gate on the east, and now communicated with us on the south side. We found the outer defences on the east and south of great strength, the ditch being newly cut about 20 feet deep, and with nearly perpendicular sides. By this time the breach was rapidly improving, and I therefore made my dispositions for the assault of the body of the place.

The 88th were ordered to enter by the main gate on the east ; here I knew there was a double line of works, but I imagined that, when the assault at the breach on the opposite side took place, these would be abandoned. Lieutenant Carnegie, Bengal Engineers, was to blow open the gate. Captain Dawson, with 200 Police Infantry, was to make his way round the north-west angle, through the jungle, to a gate on the north side, by which the enemy would endeavour to escape ; this also was to be blown open, if neces-

sary ; and Serjeant Charlton, Royal Artillery, accompanied the party for this purpose.

The breach was to be stormed by a party of the Rifle Brigade, under Captain Alexander, and 100 Police Infantry, the remainder of each regiment being held in reserve. Major Goodenough, Royal Artillery, acting as my Brigade-Major, personally ascertained that it was possible to ascend the breach with the assistance of ladders, which would also be required to get into the ditch, (this, upon subsequent measurement, was found to be nearly 40 feet wide and 30 feet deep, having 3 or 4 feet of mud and water at the bottom). The Police Infantry were to carry the ladders through the jungle and place them in the ditch, while 100 of the Rifles kept down the enemy's fire from the loop-holes, &c. ; the signal for the general attack was to be the cheers of the storming party at the breach. The arrangements of each attacking party were admirably made by their respective commanding officers, and the attacks were simultaneous ; no loss was sustained in ascending the breach, although most difficult to get up. Ensign Richards, Rifle Brigade, was the first man at the top, closely followed by Major Goodenough, Royal Artillery, and Colour-Serjeant Maloney, of the Rifle Brigade ; the enemy, attempting to escape by the north gate, were met by Captain Dawson and his Police Infantry, and driven back ; at the same time the 88th, under Major Maynard, entered by the main gate on the east, in the most gallant style, the enemy receiving them with a round of grape as they advanced ; the gate was blown to atoms by Lieutenant Carnegie, Bengal Engineers, who, I regret to say, was severely burnt in the attempt, owing to the fuze burning slowly, and his advancing a second time to ascertain the cause. The second gate (as I expected) was entered without opposition. The place was now in our possession, and with comparatively little loss ; the enemy concealed themselves in the various buildings inside, and the principal number, with Gholab Sing, had retired to a house in the centre, from which a sharp fire was kept up from the loop-holes and windows. This fire, I am sorry to say, caused us many casualties. Captain Dawson, in a most gallant attempt to get inside, received a severe sabre cut on the right arm. It was now getting dusk, and feeling that my loss had already been very heavy, I determined to blow up what part of the house I could, and let the rest burn, for it was already on fire, as were most of the other buildings ; Captain Dowell, Bengal Artillery, and Major Goodenough, Royal Artillery, (this officer, although severely wounded in the right hand, continued to render me most valuable assistance,) succeeded in blowing down one side of the house, and exposed the court-yard, but the house was found to consist of a number of small rooms, and as considerable loss would probably have been incurred in forcing an entrance, I determined upon waiting for the fire to do its work, leaving strong parties to guard the doors, &c., by which the enemy could escape. From some prisoners taken, we learnt that Gholab Sing, and about 50 men, had retired to this house upon the assault taking place ; and their retreat being cut off by the north, many of these had been shot down, burnt, or buried in the ruins by the explosion, but still a few remained who continued to fire upon any man exposing himself : the house was however well on fire, and I thought it impossible that any could escape. I left the 88th Regiment and the Police Infantry in the Fort, to hold the place and dispose of the rest of the enemy when daylight should appear, and returned to camp with the remainder of the force and wounded. It was then past midnight.