

cleared, and I waited the return of the Mooltanee Horse. Major Cureton could not trace the rebels, owing to the jungle and dusk; so I moved towards the main force and made my report to the Brigadier at about 7½ P.M. Major Cureton was as energetic and able in the reconnoissance, which, but for the late hour, would have been turned into a pursuit, as were the Horse Artillery in discomfiting and dislodging the rebel force, of whatever strength, from the country around the open space selected for our bivouac. In the morning the entire force marched to the encamping ground selected for a day's rest; but the Commanding Officer having satisfied himself that the rebel army, under command of their leaders, Prince Ferozeshah, Ismail Khan, Mosa Ali Khan, Waliyat Ali, the Peer Zadah, and other minor Sirdars, who had been the previous day compelled to retire from Ally Gunge, had passed the night at and near to Choukutta, a village 5 miles to the east, determined on sending a light column in pursuit.

At ten A.M. I received orders to move in command of the column as per margin,* and in half an hour the force marched. We found Major Cureton's information perfectly correct; at and about the village of Chowkutta was abundant evidence of a large force having lately encamped there with guns, and many elephants, camels, &c. Up to the village of Mohsimabad I followed in the track of the united rebel forces; for, although they had tried very skilfully to mislead, by diverging with their guns to the right and left, and sweeping the wheel marks from the surface with bramble, &c., the attempts to mislead merely added to our labours; and during our half hour's halt at Bullareeah village, to refresh horse and man, we ascertained that Khan Ali and another Sirdar had taken the direct road to Keuree via Mahowagunge, with some of the guns and the principal number of elephants, camels, &c., &c., whilst Ferozeshah and the other chiefs had made for Tendooa, having with them ten or eleven guns, and about 3,000 troops of sorts. I at once decided upon pursuing this force, as the nature of the soil, grass jungle, &c., prevented the possibility of our losing the many gun tracks, where, as along the line of ploughed country over which the Khuree force had passed, the gun tracks were obliterated by the prints of animals' and men's feet.

We found arms and other munitions of war in the villages and huts in every direction, and secured many armed villagers, from whom I obtained valuable information, under threat of their being treated as rebels, with whom they had evidently been serving, though probably on compulsion. The same evidences of attempts to mislead were found throughout our progress, but at last, after a journey of 25 miles, wandering from south, round by east, and north to west, we found the enemy retiring from the forests and villages to our front upon Mehndee, when they drew up in as good a military position as they could select; a branch of the Chokha river secured their left flank from being turned, and high grass jungle in the rear to cover their retreat. At a distance of 1,600 yards, they fired their first gun upon a detachment of 4th Irregular Cavalry, which I had sent round to ascertain whether the village of

Burrageon was clear of inhabitants, ere I fired upon the rebel advance picket. Disposing of a few of the enemy, I moved the artillery and whole line of cavalry, in admirable order, to the front; disposing of the native cavalry in extended order, so as to show an imposing front, whilst it afforded as trifling a mark for the enemy's fire as possible.

The squadron of 6th Dragoon Guards was admirably kept in support of our guns, by its gallant and most active commander Captain Bott, assisted by Lieutenant Stoddard, throughout the fight; whilst Captain Ellis equally distinguished himself, aided most ably by Lieutenant Cox, in disposing of his skirmishers as supports to the guns, whether in battery or echelon of half troops. I put up with the enemy's fire in our rapid advance over the first 600 yards, keeping the sub-divisions of the troop at double intervals, and giving their artillerymen but little time to take aim. Though the fire from 10 pieces of ordnance was very heavy, we did not lose a man. At this point a perfect shower of shot and shell was poured into the enemy's position from our six guns, for about 10 minutes; the Rifles dismounted from the guns, advancing on our flanks in oblique line, so as to aid us with their fire. On perceiving that the enemy was breaking, I advanced the guns in echelon of half batteries, so as to bring an oblique fire upon their artillery; and throwing forward the right of the right half troop, Captain Mercer was enabled to enfilade the rebel battery, just moving in retreat, with a smashing fire from the 3 guns, obliging them to leave them in their position; the left half troop and supports, dashing up to the front, prevented the possibility of their being carried off. Before our second advance, the enemy commenced withdrawing two of their guns, but we compelled the rebels to drop one of these about half a mile in the direction we were pressing them, after firing its last shot. It is said that one gun, drawn by horses, escaped, on the night overtaking us. Leaving a guard over the captured guns, I kept up the pursuit in the same order for several miles, through long grass jungle, and over ground of a very broken character, attacking their various groups, and giving the fugitives no rest so long as light favoured us. The execution done by our grape and rifle fire at close quarters must have been even greater than that which our round shot and shell effected at the longer ranges. Another hour or two of daylight would have made our victory still more complete, and enabled us to come up to the fugitives as they were attempting to cross the rapid Chokha river, in which it is reported many men and cattle were drowned. For the security of the captured guns, now three miles in the rear, our own safety, and in the hope of obtaining food for man and horse, I was necessitated to retire the entire force upon the village of Mehndi, where, in open ground, I placed our own and the rebel guns, and large quantity of ammunition in position, and, with the 6th Dragoon Guards and Rifles, we shared a few biscuits and the last dram per man; some straw was found which answered for our bed, and only covering from the heaviest dew I can call to mind. Our horses remained saddled and in traces, with girths and bits loosened by their only attendants, their gallant European riders. The 4th Irregular Cavalry and Mooltanee Horse bivouacked in a tope and village on our flanks, and the only cause of regret was our being compelled to leave the battle-field to the few of the enemy, who were observed during the night in their invariable occupation after battles, burying and burning their dead, and removing what they could.

* Head-Quarters and 3d Troop 3d Brigade Horse Artillery; 1 Squadron 6th Dragoon Guards under Captain Bott; 1 Squadron Mooltanee Horse under Captain Dixon; the 4th Irregular Cavalry, 300 Sabres, commanded by Captain Hall, and 80 of Her Majesty's 60th Rifles, commanded by Captain Ellis.