

No. 32.

Allahabad, December 30, 1858.

No. 16 of 1858.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General is pleased to direct the publication of the following letter from the Adjutant-General of the Army, forwarding a Despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Galwey, C.B., 1st Madras Fusiliers, commanding Field Detachment, reporting the capture of two small forts in the vicinity of Mahonah, in Oude, on the 23d November 1858.

While the conduct of the officers and men engaged in these operations has given the Governor-General the highest satisfaction, his Lordship regrets that it has been accompanied by the loss of Captain C. Scott, Madras Engineers, who had earned the approval of the Government by a zealous and efficient discharge of his duty.

No. 33.

The Adjutant-General of the Army to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Allahabad, December 21, 1858.

SIR, No. 1682.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General, a letter in original, from Lieutenant-Colonel M. Galwey, C.B., 1st Madras Fusiliers, commanding Field Detachment, dated 24th ultimo, with annexments, reporting the capture of two small forts in the vicinity of Mahonah; and I am to express Lord Clyde's regret that Captain Scott, of the Madras Engineers, who had already achieved a good reputation as an officer, should have fallen in these operations.

I have, &c.,

W. MAYHEW, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 34.

Lieutenant-Colonel Galwey, C.B., to the Major of Brigade with Brigadier Horsford, C.B.

SIR, Camp, Kooelee, November 24, 1858.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of Brigadier Horsford, C.B., that, agreeably to instructions received, I marched from Mahonah with the troops as per margin,* at daybreak yesterday, and at about half-past eight o'clock arrived before the small fort of Rehora, situated on the right bank of the Goomtee, about nine miles from Mahonah.

I halted the troops, while Captain Steel, the civil officer with the detachment, sent Her Majesty's Proclamation into the fort, with an intimation to the rebels, of whom there were

about 200 (50 or 60 being sepoy of the regular army), that on their laying down their arms they would be spared. An answer was shortly received, to the effect that the fort and all the munitions of war it contained would be surrendered without opposition. Captain Steel accordingly entered the fort, followed by the detachment of the Punjab Rifles, but found that many of the rebels were escaping with their arms, some across the Goomtee, which runs close under the wall of the fort, and some towards Kooelee, a fort about two miles higher up the river. The Punjabees poured a fire into them, and followed the latter along the bank of the river in the direction of Kooelee, while I took the horse artillery guns, supported by cavalry and infantry, round to intercept the fugitives, but, owing to the numerous ravines intersecting the high bank, did not arrive in time to do more than throw a few shells into such bodies as were still within range on the opposite side.

I had decided on encamping here with a view to demolishing as much of the fort as possible, when a report reached me from the officer commanding the Detachment Punjab Rifles, who, in the heat of pursuit, had followed the rebels in the direction of Kooelee, that he had suddenly come under the fire of that fort, and requested support.

It being still early in the day, and Captain Steel having arranged with the Karinda of the Chowdry of Lorbel for the demolition of the Fort of Rehora, I considered it an object to have an additional day to dismantle that of Kooelee before rejoining the Brigadier; as also more advisable to support the Punjabees than to withdraw them from such a distance.

I therefore resumed my march, and about half-past twelve o'clock arrived before Kooelee, which, according to the information I received, was held by from 100 to 200 rebels, of whom some 50 or 60 were said to be regular sepoy.

A similar offer of terms was made, but rejected.

A village between the road by which we approached and the fort was then cleared by the fire of the two mortars, and of two companies of the Madras Fusiliers, whom I placed on the bank of the river to watch the ghat, and also prevent the rebels from doubling back. I then moved, with the mortars and the remainder of the Fusiliers, round the village to the west face of the fort, of which I obtained a view at a distance of about 350 yards.

While a fire was kept up by the mortars and the supporting company of the Fusiliers, the place was more closely reconnoitred by Captain Scott, Field Engineer, and myself, until we discovered the approach to the gate, and a position from which the artillery fire would be more effective.

To this latter the mortars and the two guns were brought; and the latter in a short time opened a practicable breach in the wall in front of the gate, but as this only served to disclose the fact of the approach being strongly flanked by defences, on which the artillery with me could have little effect, and as I did not consider the speedy possession of a place of this nature worth the sacrifice of life it must have entailed, I decided on suspending operations till I should receive further instructions from the Brigadier, and withdrew the troops to camp, which had been pitched about a mile from the fort, and from which pickets were thrown out to prevent the egress of the rebels on this side the river.

* Detachment F. Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, 1 6-pounder gun; 1 12-pounder howitzer; 1 officer, 52 men. Detachment 2d Company, Royal Artillery, 2 5½ inch mortars; 1 officer, 13 men. Madras Sappers, 1 officer, 41 men. Detachment 7th Hussars, 4 officers, 78 men. Detachment Hodson's Horse, 1 native officer, 25 men. 1st Madras Fusiliers, 28 officers, 566 men. 5th Punjab Rifles, 2 officers, 3 native officers, 137 men.