Brigade, Militia, and Volunteers, all vied with each other as how best to reach the enemy. The behaviour of that noble corps, the 65th Regiment, and the Militia, was most conspicuous, and at the commencement of the action the brunt fell upon them, as well as all the casualties except two.

It is out of my power to name all who were distinguished for their gallantry, but I beg to bring to His Royal Highness's notice the following officers of the general and personal staff, *i.e.* :—

Lieutenant-Colonel Sillery, Deputy Quarter-Master-General, who was slightly wounded in the Pah; James Mouat, Esq., Deputy-Inspector-General of Hospitals; Lieutenant-Colonel Carey, Deputy-Adjutant-General, as usual most conspicuous; Henry Bartlett, Esq., Assistant-Commissary-General; Lieutenant Forster, R.A. and A.D.C.; and Lieutenant King, acting as Militia A.D.C.; and the following officers commanding corps, *i.e.* :—

Captain Strover, Royal Artillery; Captain Mould, Royal Engineers; Major Hutchins, 12th Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel A. Leslie, 40th Regiment; Captain Turner, 65th Regiment, who commanded the advance and stormed the Pah, and was severely wounded after entering it; Major Herbert, Taranaki Militia, who gallantly led the storming party on the left flank; and it is due to the continuous and energetic conduct of Lieutenant Urquhart, 65th Regiment, to name that officer also, and I beg to bring particularly to His Royal Highness's notice the services of Colonel Mould, Royal Engineers, commanding the column from the camp at the Waitara, and to state that I cordially concur in the praise of the officers named in his report, and which, to save prolixity, I do not enter on mine, but beg that it may be considered as a portion of this Despatch.

It is right that I should notice the gentlemen attached to the Native Department. It was Mr Drummond Hay who came in from the Waitara with the intelligence of the advance of the enemy, and he, as well as Mr Parris, accompanied the respective columns and remained with the forces during the whole day, and rendered most important service.

I inclose a state of the whole force, casualty returns, and sketches of the ground.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. S. PRATT,
Major-General Commanding.

To the Military Secretary,
Horse Guards, London.

Mahoetahi, advanced Camp
from Waitara,
6th November, 1860.

SIR,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your letter of the 5th instant, received at 12½ midnight, I marched this morning with the Force noted in the margin,* at 7 A.M., immediately I had received notice by telegraph that the column advancing from New Plymouth were leaving Bell Block, taking the way by the Prophet's Pah, in preference to the Devon line by which I had been discretionally ordered to proceed, as it was signalled that the enemy were in force in that direction, on the mounds upon which the column under my direction, covering the construction of a bridge, were skirmishing on the 5th instant.

Some few native scouts were seen from the Waitara Block-house on the sand hills, near the mouth of the Waiongona, which induced me to halt for a few minutes until I had satisfied myself that I had nothing to fear on the flank and rear of the column. After the column had proceeded about half a mile from the ford of the Waiongona I heard firing from heavy guns in the direction of Mahoetahi, upon which I pushed on with all due precaution until I came in sight of the Pah, the west end of which was observed in possession of the troops, whilst the east end, together with the swamp on north, was held by the rebels. I thereupon sent forward the advanced guard to the cover of a furze fence, along the Devon line, north of the Pah, which apparently caused the enemy to leave the east end of the Pah, as the movement of the former was almost immediately followed by that of the latter, who took refuge in the part of the swamp immediately below the spot they had left, and where they were distinctly seen clustered. Upon which I ordered the howitzer to the front, in the prolongation of one of the bends in the swamp, and had two rounds of spherical case thrown into them, the second of which clearly dislodged them, as, immediately after it exploded, they ran from their cover.

The 65th detachment rushed from the furze hedge at the same moment and assisted in harassing the rebels in their retreat.

After giving orders for the remainder of my column, with the howitzer, to advance to the wooded knoll, in a direction transverse to the line of the enemy's retreat, I had the honour to join the Major-General, to report my arrival, and to place myself under his immediate orders.

I would beg to bring to the notice of the Major-General the conduct of the troops composing my column previous to their junction with those advancing from town, which was all that could be desired, the necessary prudence and intelligence being displayed on the march, part of which was through a very difficult country, and as soon as the enemy was seen, their ardour, coupled with skill in selecting cover, was conspicuous.

It hardly becomes me to speak of Major Nelson, who led the column and his own gallant detachment, immediately commanded by Captain Bowdler, under my direction, his known high military character does not require any eulogy from me. It is just, however, that on an occasion so important in this war as the skirmish of this day, the conduct of individuals should be particularised.

Lieut. Talbot, 65th Regiment, who commanded the advanced guard, deserves every praise and

---

* Royal artillery, 1 officer, 11 men, 24-pounder howitzer 1; engineers, 3 men; naval brigade, 1 officer, 22 men; 40th regiment, 6 officers, 157 men, 1 assistant-surgeon (Dr Murray); 65th regiment, 2 officers, 100 men.

Officers;—Major Nelson, 40th regiment; Captain Bowdler, 40th regiment; Lieutenant Macnaghten, R.A.; Lieutenant Morris, R. M. A.; Lieutenant Armstrong, 40th regiment; Lieutenant Rees, 40th regiment; Lieut. Talbot, 65th regiment; Ensign Wheelan, 40th regiment; Ensign Burton, 40th regiment; Ensign Pagan, 65th regiment.