

from our Sight ; I therefore proceeded in the Execution of my Design, by which I hoped to prevent his Retreat into the Hills, and secure his Guns; directing the Advanced Guard and first Brigade commanded by Colonel Vandeleur, upon the Point where I had observed the Enemy in Motion, but which proved to be the Left of his new Position; the Remainder of the Cavalry I ordered to attack in Succession, as soon as they could form after passing the Rivulet.

The Charge of the Advanced Guard under Major Griffith, and that of the First Brigade led by Colonel Vandeleur, was made with much Gallantry; the Enemy's Line was forced, and the Cavalry penetrated into the Village; they still however continued to be exposed to a most galling Fire of Cannon and Musquetry, which, as it was impossible under such Circumstances to form the Squadrons for a fresh Attack, determined me to withdraw them. The Guns which had fallen into our Hands, could not be brought away from the Want of Bullocks. In this Charge Colonel Vandeleur fell, mortally wounded; in him, the Service has lost a most valuable Officer.

The Attacks of the other Brigades were conducted with the same Spirit; but after taking several of the Enemies' Guns, being still fired upon without being able to discover the Enemy, they retired in good Order, retaining Possession of a Part of the Artillery. In the Performance of this Service, the Third Brigade, consisting of His Majesty's 29th Regiment, and the 4th Regiment of Native Cavalry, under the Command of that meritorious Officer, Colonel Macan, met my entire Approbation.

The Infantry having marched at Three A. M. arrived upon the Banks of the Rivulet about Eleven o'Clock: After so long a March it was absolutely necessary to allow some Time for the Men to refresh themselves, during which the Enemy sent in to say, that if certain Terms were allowed them, they were willing to surrender their Guns. Anxious to prevent the further Effusion of Blood, I directed a Letter to be written, acquiescing in their Proposals, and allowing them an Hour to decide. In the mean Time the several Columns for the Attack were formed. The Infantry formed in Two Columns upon the Left; the First, composed of the Right Wing, under the Command of Major-General Ware, was destined to gain the Enemy's Right Flank, which he had thrown back since the Morning, leaving a considerable Space between it and the Rivulet, and to assault the Village of Safwaree; the Second, composed of the Left Wing under Major-General St. John, was to support the first Column; the Third Brigade of Cavalry, under Colonel Macan, was to support the Infantry; the Second Brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel Vandeleur, was detached to the Right, to be ready to take Advantage of any Confusion in the Enemy's Line, and to attack him upon his Retreat. The Brigade under Colonel Gordon composed the Reserve, and was formed between the Second and Third Brigades. As many of the Field-Pieces as could be brought up with the Gallipers attached to the Cavalry, formed four different Batteries.

At the Expiration of the Time which I had allowed the Enemy to decide, I ordered the Infantry to advance; as soon as they became exposed to the Enemy's Guns, the four Batteries commenced their Fire, and continued to advance, though opposed by

a great Superiority, both in Number and Weight of Metal.

When the 76th Regiment, which headed the Attack, had arrived at the Point from which I intended to make the Charge, they were so much exposed to the Enemy's Fire, and losing Men so fast, that I judged it preferable to proceed to the Attack with that Regiment, and as many of the Native Infantry as had closed to the Front, to losing Time in waiting until the Remainder of the Column should be able to form, the March of which had been retarded by the Impediments in the Advance.

As soon as this Handful of Heroes were arrived within Reach of the Enemy's Cannon Shot, a most tremendous Fire was opened upon them. The Loss they sustained was very severe, and sufficient alone to prevent a regular Advance. At this Moment the Enemy's Cavalry attempted to charge; but were repulsed by the Fire of this gallant Body; they, however, rallied at a short Distance, and assumed so menacing a Posture, that I thought it advisable to order them to be attacked by the Cavalry. This Service fell to the Share of His Majesty's 29th Regiment, commanded by Captain Wade (Major Griffith having at that Instant been unfortunately killed by a Cannon-shot), and was performed with the greatest Gallantry, and in a Manner which entitles Captain Wade, and every Officer and Soldier in the Regiment, to my warmest Acknowledgments. The Remainder of the First Column of Infantry arrived just in Time to join in the Attack of the Enemy's Reserve, which was formed in the Rear of his Line, with its Left upon the Village of Safwaree, and its Right thrown back.

About this Time Major-General Ware fell dead, his Head being carried off by a Cannon Shot. He was a gallant Officer, and one whose Loss I deeply lament. On his Death the Command of this Column devolved upon Colonel M'Donald, who, though wounded, continued to acquit himself in this important Command, very much to my Satisfaction.

The Enemy opposed a vigorous Resistance to the last, and it was not until he had lost his Guns, that he abandoned his Post. Even then his Left Wing did not fly, but attempted to retreat in good Order; in this, however, they were frustrated by His Majesty's 27th Regiment, and the 6th Regiment of Native Cavalry, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Vandeleur, who broke in upon the Column, cut several to Pieces, and drove the Rest in Prisoners, with the whole of the Baggage.

Severe as the Loss has been which we have sustained in the Attainment of this compleat Victory, that of the Enemy has been far greater. With the Exception of upwards of Two Thousand, who have been taken Prisoners (of which Number I have only detained the principal Officers, amounting to Forty-eight), I have Reason to believe that very few escaped the general Slaughter.

It would be a Violation of my Feelings, were I to close my Dispatch, without bearing Testimony to the gallant Conduct of Major M'Leod, and Captain Robertson of His Majesty's 76th Regiment, and of every Officer and Soldier of that inestimable Corps, in the Attack of the Village of Safwaree. Major Gregory too, at the Head of the 2d Battalion 12th Regiment of Native Infantry, in the same Service displayed a Conduct highly meritorious.