

Copy of a Dispatch from Colonel Lionel Smith, of His Majesty's 65th Regiment, commanding the Poona Subsidiary Force, to Mr. Elphinstone, with three Inclosures.

SIR, Camp, Guardoon, April 23, 1817.

I HAVE the highest satisfaction in laying before you two dispatches, which I received late last night from Major H. Smith, of the 1st battalion 14th regiment Madras Native Infantry commanding a detachment of six companies, composed of Bombay and Madras troops, which had been sent out from the reserve against a large body of horse in the service of Trimbuckjee Dainglia, and announcing the result of his persevering exertions, in completely putting the whole to rout, killing and wounding about seventy men, making some prisoners, and capturing a quantity of baggage and arms, and many horses.

I cannot sufficiently praise the excellent conduct of Major Smith and his detachment, and trust their services on this occasion may prove acceptable to the Right Honourable the Governor General.

I have, &c.

LIONEL SMITH, Colonel.

P. S. I have the further honour to inclose a copy of orders I considered due to the detachment.

L. SMITH.

The Honourable M. Elphinstone.

SIR, Camp at Pattre, April 18, 1817,
Two A. M.

AS you are already apprised of my having marched from camp with a detachment, consisting of six hundred rank and file, on the evening of the 12th instant, in pursuit of a body of horse of suspicious character, which by report amounted to five thousand, I proceed to detail my movements accordingly.

After marching the greater part of that night, I reached Cambergaum on the Beemah on the morning of the 13th, when I fortunately succeeded in falling into the track of the fugitives, who had taken the direction of the Carrungee Ghaut, east of Nugger. On my arrival at the top of the pass, at eight P. M. on the evening of the 15th, I found the party had gone down it the evening before, and though I was not disposed to relax for a moment in the pursuit, yet the difficulties I had to surmount, from the extreme bad state of the roads, winding over hills, and through stony by paths, induced me to halt, for a few hours, to refresh the men, who appeared much fatigued. At two A. M. however, of the 16th, I descended the Ghaut, and did not reach the village of Sirsee, which lies at the bottom, until broad day-break; there I gained information of their having struck into the great road to Toka, though I was previously assured that they were directing their course to Pictim on the Goodavery, with the intention of crossing at that place. I halted again at Moaz on the Toka road to give the detachment rest, with a determination to make a final effort to overtake the fugitives, if possible, before they crossed the

river: while here I received information of their having again deviated from their route, and gone to Garecagaum, due west of that place, and eight coss from Moaz; we were again in motion at five P. M.; and on my arrival at Garecagaum I learnt that they had halted there the night before; having satisfied myself of the correctness of this information, I continued my route to the westward; and although nearly two hours were lost by our guides taking the detachment a wrong road, yet I conceived that there was still a possibility of coming up to the pursued before day-break of the 17th. In this supposition, I am happy to say, I was not deceived, for at three o'clock I instructed two of my commissioned and non-commissioned confidential officers to enter a village in disguise, who seized upon a man, whom I afterwards compelled, by threats, to conduct us to the Marhatta camp, which I had reason to suppose was about four or five miles off.

During the time we were going this distance I made the necessary arrangements for an attack in three divisions, by the two in front, consisting of the flank companies of the 14th Madras, and two companies of the 3d Bombay N. I. under Captains Smyth and Deschamps, diverging from the head of the column to the right and left on entering the encampment, and by directing the 3d division, two companies of the 2d Bombay N. I. under Captain Spears, to move steadily into its centre without breaking, with a view to this division becoming a point upon which the others might rally in case of necessity.

On coming within two miles of the village of Pattre, the forces of the encampment were clearly discernible, upon which the column moved forward with a hastened step, and shortly before daylight entered the inclosures of the village. It was then that we plainly perceived that the Marhatta or Pindary horse were either mounted or mounting for a march; under these circumstances no time was to be lost, and being then only a few paces as I supposed from their rear picquet, I directed Lieutenant Beach to give them a volley from the front rank of the leading division, having previously ordered the front ranks only of the leading divisions of the 3d and 14th to load; this was accordingly done, and the column immediately after rushed forward to the charge. The horse fled in all directions, leaving fifty or sixty killed and wounded on the ground. They were pursued for some distance, when the exhausted state of the men, and the scattered order which they were necessarily obliged to assume for a pursuit, induced me to concentrate my little force; and I was the more persuaded of the propriety of this measure from observing considerable bodies of horse, apparently well organized, in commanding situations on our flanks. This arrangement I presume induced them to draw off, nor did I deem it right or expedient to continue a pursuit after a fresh body of horse, with infantry jaded and exhausted from our long marches, continued for five successive days and nights.

At ten or eleven, A. M. we were called to arms by the re-appearance of a body of about two hundred well mounted horse, in promiscuous order, who after firing a few shots from their matchlocks