

*Copy of a Report from Lieutenant Colonel Burr, of the Bombay Establishment, to the Deputy Adjutant-General of the fourth Division of the Army of the Deccan.*

SIR, *Camp, at Kirky, Nov. 6, 1817.*

MY letter of yesterday's date will have informed you of my having removed the whole of the stores, treasure, and provisions from our late cantonments to the village of Kirky; and of their being lodged in security therein; and of the brigade being in a state of preparation to move as circumstances may require.

I have now the honour to report, for the information of the General Officer commanding this force, that soon after I had dispatched it, I received an intimation from the Resident of the probability of an immediate rupture with the Peishwa, followed by a requisition to move out and attack the Mahratta force, which was then visible and advancing to the attack of our camp.

I in consequence formed the brigade, and leaving the head quarters of the 2d battalion 6th regiment, who were previously weakened by several strong detachments, in charge of the post of Kirky, together with the drill, sick, unfits, and two iron twelve pounders, under the command of Major Roome, advanced to meet the enemy, a party of whose horse hovered near the column and preceded our march.

Having chosen a situation in advance of our position, at the distance of about one mile, we formed line, waiting the junction of the Dapore\* battalion, under the command of Major Ford, with three field pieces: at this period I was joined by the Resident, who most gallantly exerted himself throughout the day, in setting a distinguished example of zeal and animation to the troops, encouraging the men wherever it became necessary, and by his suggestions and information, aiding my judgment in the execution of the measures it became necessary to adopt.

On the approach of Major Ford's division, and being reinforced by the Resident's escort and troops which had been stationed at the Sungum,† under the command of Major Cleiland, who had handsomely offered his services to me; I ordered the line to advance, which we continued doing for half a mile.

The Mahratta army, which was drawn up with its left resting on the height of the front of Gunness-Cundy, where a large body of the Vinchoor Rajah's‡ horse were posted, extended its right to the Mootah river, in which direction the principal masses of their cavalry were formed, the total amount of which is supposed to have been fifteen thousand; the intermediate undulating plain being occupied by a long line of infantry and guns, supported by successive lines of horse, as far as the eye could see, who, seeing us advance, moved forward from their position, and at the very moment we were unlimbering for action, commenced a brisk cannonade from their centre, while the masses of

\* Part of a brigade raised by the Peishwa, but officered and disciplined by Europeans.

† The Residency.

‡ This person is one of the Peishwa's principal Officers, and on former occasions had been conspicuous for his attachment to the British interests.

cavalry on both their flanks endeavoured to turn ours, and succeeded in getting in our rear.

The action now became very interesting: a body of Goklah's regular infantry made an attack, in solid column, on the 1st battalion 7th regiment Native Infantry, which was on the left of the line; and who had scarcely succeeded in repelling it and a number of horse, when a select body of the enemy's cavalry seeing their infantry repulsed and pressed by the battalion, who could with difficulty be restrained from pursuing them, made a determined charge on the corps, some of the men wheeling round the flanks, repeating their attack in their rear; the bravery of the men, however, compensated for the disorder into which they had been thrown by the previous attacks, and enabled them, under circumstances of great difficulty, and with the powerful co-operation they derived from the left brigade of guns, and a part of the Bombay regiment, to beat off the assailants, who left many men and horses on the ground, withdrawing to a distance, and never after hazarding a repetition of their attack.

By this time Major Ford, with his battalion and his field-pieces from Dapore, joined us, and formed line on our right, when we again immediately advanced near half a mile, the left of the line being thrown back to check any attack of the enemy's horse, who were in great force between them and the river, while the light companies of the 1st battalion 7th regiment, which had at first preceded the line, were sent to the rear to keep in check a large body of horse, who had been watching Major Ford's movement, to our support, and who now came down in rear of our right flank.

Soon after the enemy withdrew the greater part of his force to a distance, retiring and drawing off his guns towards the city; and, as we advanced, the greater part of his infantry also, computed at eight thousand (part of whom had been posted in advance of his guns and centre in the bed of a nullah\*, and in walled gardens, extending along the front of our position), now sent out their skirmishers, which, with others on the right of the line, and rockets from both front and rear, continued to occasion us a few casualties. The light infantry of the line, however, under the command of Captain Preston, easily drove them off and occupied their ground; and it being nearly dark I submitted to the Resident, as the enemy were evidently in full retreat, the expediency of withdrawing the troops to camp as soon as it was dark, having fortunately succeeded in our principal object, meeting and driving the enemy from the position they had originally taken up; this was accordingly done, and the whole returned to camp soon after eight o'clock.

I am happy to say the casualties during the action have been less than could have been expected; the greater part have fallen on the 1st battalion 7th regiment: only one European officer, however, Lieutenant Falconer, of the 2d battalion 1st regiment, is amongst the wounded. Accompanying I have the honour to forward a return of the number.

I have not yet heard a correct statement of the

\* A rivulet.