

has been taken possession of without opposition, and that the fort of Severndroog,* after a slight resistance, has surrendered without a single casualty on our part; about eighty or ninety men have been made prisoners, but the rest of the troops which composed the garrison effected their escape under cover of the night. We congratulate your Honourable Committee on this event, which will be of considerable consequence, should we be able, with the means at our command, to attempt an extension of our acquisitions in the Southern Concan, although you may rest assured that our measures will be confined at present to secure what we have acquired in that district.

The enemy had began to prepare their craft for the purpose of attacking our trade which might re-pass the coasts.

Extract from a Dispatch from Mr. Elphinstone to the Governor-General, dated, Camp, Rajawarree, November 23, 1817.

ON our obtaining possession of Poona, correct accounts were obtained of some particulars which were before imperfectly known. It appeared that the attack on our troops on the 5th, was chiefly brought about by the persuasion of Goklah, that the Peishwa took the alarm after he had given the order, and even sent to Goklah, when on the eve of the action, to desire that he might not fire the first gun, but that the message was too late, or rather, that Gokla, hearing of its approach, anticipated it by beginning to cannonade; Moro Dickshut had been entrusted with the Zerree Putkah (the standard of the Mahratta Empire), and had five thousand horse attached to him besides his own two thousand; he is however represented as having been very averse to the war, and as being accused by Gokla of intrigues with us; Rastia was one of those attached to Moro Dickshut's party, being strongly suspected of disaffection, he was compelled to charge first, but acquitted himself with courage and fidelity; Goklah avowed to Appajee Luckman Appa Dessayes Yackbeel, immediately before the action, that his confidence of success and impatience to engage were founded in the certainty that our sepoys would come over by companies or battalions on the field.

After the affair of the 5th, the Peishwa's army was dismayed: His Highness sent for Hurriseer, the Banker, lamented the breaking out of hostilities, and with his usual insincerity professed his wish to have remained at peace, and threw the whole blame of the war, both plan and execution, on his Sirdars; on this occasion he disavowed the burning of the Residency, and said he would be very glad to build a new one, but his whole discourse appears to me to be merely a specimen of his accustomed double dealing, and of his wish, even in the worst of times, to keep open some separate channel of intrigue for his own use.

Some days after the action, the Peishwa's officers picked up some spirit, and set about circulating the most absurd reports of their successes and of the defection of our allies. They were joined by Dhermajee Partub Row (the freebooter), and it is said by the son of Row Rumbha; Chentamun Row

* On the Sea coast south of Bombay.

also joined before their flight from Poona: Goklah set up a white flag as an asylum for all who should desert us before a certain time, after that no pardon was to be given to any man who had served us; all the servants of English gentlemen who happened to live at Poona, were hunted out by Gokla, and many treated with great severity: the houses of most of them were given up to plunder, but none of them were put to death.

Some time before the breaking out of the war, the Peishwa had concerted with all the Bheels and Ramoosees, and other predatory tribes in his country, to shut up the roads and plunder effects belonging to us. They have readily obeyed an order so much suited to their inclination, and have not confined their depredations to British property. They have however shut up roads; that to Bombay is further obstructed by the garrison of Logar, and by a detachment which has taken possession of and stockaded the Bore Ghaut; no dawks have been received from Bombay since the 5th; General Smith, however, has sent a strong detachment to open that road, and one of less strength to keep open the communication with Ahmedauggur. No more convoys have been cut off since the first few days after the war; but I am greatly concerned to state that Lieutenant Ennis, of the Bombay Engineers, has been cut off near Sakoor Mandava, where he was employed on survey. He had been recalled, but, from an over confidence in the strength of his guard, he did not fall back on any station. He was attacked in the night by the inhabitants of Sakoor Mandava, and next morning was surrounded by the Bheels and other adherents of Trimbuckjee, who is still in that neighbourhood. Lieutenant Ennis was shot while engaged with the enemy, and his detachment of a jemedar and twenty-five, fought their way to a more friendly part of the country. Some coss on this side of Anna Bootch they were received, fed, and sent off in disguise by the Poltail* of a village, whom I shall not fail to discover and reward. Cornets Hunter and Morrison were in Goklah's custody; they were at first in charge of Major Pinto, who is said to have treated them well, and resisted Goklah's orders to use them with severity, but before the Peishwa's flight they were put in chains, and sent to Goklah's fort of Kangorree, in the Concan.

In consequence of the execution of Captain and Mr. Vaughan, I have addressed letters of remonstrance both to the Peishwa and to Goklah; to the former I only threatened retaliation, in general terms, for any repetition of such atrocities; but to Goklah I declared explicitly, that any individual, however exalted in his rank, who should order the death of a British prisoner, should answer for the crime in his own person.

I omitted to state, that on the 18th General Smith sent out a detachment to take some guns, which, with a body of infantry, had got off to the neighbourhood of the fort of Singhur; fifteen guns were taken without any loss; besides these forty-six were taken in Poona, and one in the Peishwa's camp; large quantities of ammunition have likewise been taken.

The army is now in full march after the Peish-

* Head inhabitant.