

wa, who, it is rumoured, intends to return to Poona, or holds that language to encourage his troops.—Trimbuckjee has not yet joined him, whether from distrust on his own part, or policy on the Peishwa's, is not known.

Extract from a Report from Brigadier-General Smith to Lieutenant-General Sir Miles Nightingall, K. C. B. Commander in Chief at Bombay, dated Camp, at Julgaum, 29th November 1817.

MR. ELPHINSTONE informs me he is endeavouring to send a cossid* to Bancoote, and I avail myself of this opportunity to acquaint your Excellency with what has passed since the force left Poona on the 22d instant.

We had a most difficult task in ascending the little Bhore Ghaut with the heavy train, on the 23d, which was not accomplished till late at night; luckily the enemy did not attempt to defend the Ghaut, or it would have cost me many lives, and two or three days. I was obliged to halt on the 24th.

We saw nothing of the enemy till we came to Jeejoory on the 25th, here he shewed from four to five thousand horse on both flanks of our column; we pursued and dispersed one body of about two thousand, with the second cavalry and the artillery gallopers, but with little effect, the cavalry being completely broken down and almost useless, from the incessant forced marches they have made for many months past.

The second body of the enemy being upon the rear, and the march being very long (twenty-four miles), they took off from fifteen to twenty bullocks. The road was part of the way winding through hills, and it was impossible effectually to cover the whole of the baggage. In the course of the day's skirmishing the enemy, by reports from their own camp, lost about twenty men and several horses; we had no one hurt. I passed the Neerah, by the bridge, the same evening. On the 26th, I marched to the bottom of the Salpee Pass.

On the 27th, we halted to refresh before entering the Pass, as the enemy threatened great opposition.

The following morning (yesterday) we ascended that Ghaut, and perfectly unmolested till we reached

* A messenger.

the top, where the enemy shewed about six hundred horse and threw a few rockets. The advance soon drove them back with loss. They gathered strength as they retired in our front, and towards the close of our march shewed from three to four thousand men in front, and about as many more being upon our rear.

We opened the gallopers upon them two or three times in the course of the march, and with great effect. The 2d battalion of the 9th regiment, under Major Thatcher, had the rear guard, and took an opportunity of masking a galloper, under a division of auxiliaries, which the enemy were preparing to charge; it opened with grape, and did great execution; and the enemy through the day could not have lost fewer than one hundred and twenty men; we had one havildar and one sepoy slightly speared.

In the march this morning he was consequently very shy; but at the close of it he shewed about five thousand horse out of range; as the picquet advanced they retired slowly; the nature of the ground enabled me, however, to push upon them rapidly, unperceived, till we reached a rising ground, when we found them formed, and within range; all the gallopers, and a light five and half inch howitzer, immediately opened upon them with great effect; and, as usual, they fled in confusion; they lost many men and horses, but I have no reports yet of the amount from their own camp.

On the whole I think I can assure your Excellency that every thing is going on prosperously. It is to be lamented, certainly, that the enemy will not fight, or that I have not cavalry to drive him to a distance; but I think every day's experiment of his present system is alarming and dispersing his men, and that he will soon give it up. We have no difficulties whatever, but want of grain for the followers; but the distress has not yet been of a nature to oblige them to leave us; and, I hope, by protecting the country, and paying liberally for all I take, that we shall continue to find supplies enough to prevent extreme want.

The troops have to endure great fatigue; we seldom reach our ground before two or three o'clock in the evening, from the necessity of keeping the whole line in the most compact order, but I am happy to assure your Excellency of general good health, and the highest spirits in all ranks.