

killed and wounded that our loss has been severe ; and I have to lament the fate of several brave officers, who have fallen with honour in the cause of their country,

I cannot, in this place, but state to your Lordship my decided opinion, that there never has been an instance in which, not only the courage but the allegiance of the native troops have been put to a severer test, and been displayed in a more brilliant result than on the present occasion. It required, indeed, no common exercise of both qualities to enable these intrepid men to maintain their position, at a time when they saw their wives and children exposed and suffering under the same fire which was thinning their own ranks : such a trial was greater than falls in general to the lot of soldiers, and it has been gloriously met and supported at Nagpore.

On a full consideration of this memorable engagement, I feel that I should be doing less than my duty were I to refrain from expressing a hope that the 1st battalion of the 20th and 24th regiments of Madras Infantry may receive some signal and lasting memorial of their gallant deeds from the Government they have served so well : the claim of the detachment of Bengal Cavalry to a similar honour will not, I am confident, escape your Lordship's attention.

Copy of a Report from Major-General Sir W. G. Keir to the Adjutant-General, dated Camp, Dewdah, 10th January 1818.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that on the 3d instant, the division under my command was detached by His Excellency Sir Thomas Hislop, for the purpose of attacking a Pindarry Chief, who had encamped in the neighbourhood of Johud ;* on the 5th instant I received information of the enemy having moved towards Buna Sodree, a village about thirty miles from Johud, in a westerly direction, and immediately turned off the road to that place in the hope of overtaking the freebooters. Contradictory reports, however, prevented my prosecuting my route with any effect till the 7th, when I received intelligence that a large body of the enemy were at Dhirah, a village eight miles south-east of Sodree, with their baggage and families. I set out from camp at eleven o'clock that night, with the 17th Light Dragoons, six companies of the 47th Regiment, and about eight hundred of the Mysore Horse, but did not succeed in getting within sight of Dhirah, till nine o'clock the next morning, on account of the badness of the roads, and the distance being greater than I expected ; to my great disappointment, however, I found the enemy had decamped on the preceding day on hearing of the approach of the Bombay division of the army, and fled in the direction of Oudypoor, leaving their guns and a considerable quantity of baggage to follow them across the hills. Five guns and some baggage have fallen into our hands, and although it is much to be regretted that the rapidity of the enemy's flight has saved him from destruction, it is satisfactory to reflect that the loss he has sustained will materially injure him in the eyes of his followers, and tend considerably to the dissolution of the only remaining body of his adherents. I have, &c.

W. GRANT KEIR, Major-General.

* Marked upon Arrowsmith's large map, about fifty miles in a direction S. E. from Oudypoor.

(Inclosed in the preceding.)

GENERAL ORDER, by the Commander in Chief.
Head Quarters of the Army of the Deccan, Camp at Gunny, 14th December 1817.*

THE Commander in Chief has now the pleasing duty of publishing to the army a further instance of the admirable conduct of a detachment of the distinguished army he has the honour to command.

Official reports have reached His Excellency from Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Scott, commanding the detachment of the 5th division at Nagpore, of a most brilliant and decisive action which took place at that capital between the British troops and the whole of those belonging to His Highness the Rajah of Berar, on the 26th and 27th ultimo.

The detachment under the Lieutenant-Colonel's command, previous to the treacherous attack made upon it by a Chief with whom we were on terms of friendly alliance, did not exceed the total amount of thirteen hundred and fifty rank and file ;—and with this small and gallant band an action of eighteen hours in continuance, was maintained with a degree of perseverance, determined courage, and unconquerable bravery, which has never on any occasion been surpassed.

It is a peculiarly gratifying part of the Commander in Chief's duty to offer his most grateful tribute of unqualified praise and admiration to Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, and the officers and men of his detachment, for their excellent conduct upon this memorable occasion,—and His Excellency may with truth assert, that there never has occurred an occasion where praise has been better earned or more justly merited than this.

The gallant perseverance and devoted courage of the small brigade of infantry, consisting of the 1st battalions of the 20th and 24th regiments of Madras Native Infantry, (weakened by a large proportion of sick in hospital) place those corps in the enviable possession of the applause of their superiors, and the admiration of their brother soldiers.

The pressure of the attack was sustained by the 1st battalion 24th regiment, and His Excellency feels no common pride and satisfaction in declaring his most unqualified praise of its gallantry, enterprise and steadiness.

The three troops of the 6th regiment Bengal Native Cavalry under Captain Fitzgerald, reinforced by a small detail of the Madras Body Guard, have established a claim to the highest commendation. The judgment and decision displayed by Captain Fitzgerald, in seizing the happy moment for attack, will ever speak the highest eulogium on that officer's professional character and ability,—and the gallantry and perseverance of this small but formidable body, place its merits and services in the most distinguished rank ;—nor is it too much to add, that the arduous contest, which had been supported for eighteen hours by the persevering gallantry of the infantry, was decided by the discipline and enterprise of this gallant detachment, led on by Captain Fitzgerald.

The conduct of the small detachments of Madras Artillery and Pioneers has been eminently conspicuous, and has added another instance of courage and discipline to the well established reputation of the corps to which they belong.

The important result of this action speaks forcibly the praises of every individual officer and soldier en-

* This place is not in the map, but must be situated in the vicinity of Onguin, as Sir Thomas Hislop only marched from that place on the 13th December.