

The garrison consisted only of about 400 Sebundy troops, who seemed so little disposed to use their arms on this occasion, that it was immaterial what became of them hereafter, while time was very valuable to me; I therefore allowed them these terms, and having taken possession of the fort, the Rajah's flag was established there yesterday noon, agreeably to your instructions, and his palace and property have been preserved for him.

About 25 pieces of ordnance of different calibres, with a few swivels, gingals and rockets were taken in the fort, correct returns of which will be forwarded hereafter.

Sattara is strong, and as the ancient seat of the Maratta empire, carries great consequence with it in the estimation and prejudices of the natives, and may therefore prove of greater value to us in the war against the Peishwa, than in its mere local importance.

I have the honour to be, &c.

LIONEL SMITH, Brigadier-General.

Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone, the Resident at the Court of the Peishwah, to Mr. Warden, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated Camp, before Singhur, 26th February 1818.*

SIR,

I HAVE sincere satisfaction in forwarding a copy of the accompanying dispatch from Brigadier-General Smith, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.

I have the honour to be, &c.

M. ELPHINSTONE, Resident.

Copy of a Dispatch from Brigadier-Gen. Smith, C. B. commanding the 4th Division of the Army of the Deccan, to the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone, the Resident at the Court of the Peishwah, dated Camp, Kurkumb, 21st February 1818.

SIR,

MY letter to your address, under date of the 12th instant, went to acquaint you with the operations of the troops under my command up to that period.

The enemy, after having been pursued through the range of Ghants, on which Sattara is situated, marched by Punderpoor to Solapoor†, on the Secna, where he remained during the time I was occupied at Sattara, and for some days longer. I proceeded gradually upon Punderpoor on the 13th instant with the light division, intending to avoid forced marches till I approached the enemy within twenty-five or thirty miles.

At Yellapoor, the day before yesterday, I had been informed of his quitting Solapoor, and of his moving in a westerly direction, which determined me to make a night march, in hopes of coming upon him near Punderpoor.

On the route, however, I received information of his having turned upon Kirkumb‡, to which I immediately changed my route, also I crossed the Beema, at Karoul§, near Goorsulla, and I now heard that the Peishwah had evacuated the preceding evening near Ashta, and I immediately pushed on with all the cavalry, horse artillery, and gallopers.

My intelligence was confirmed, and my hopes

* A fort in the vicinity of Poonah.

† About forty miles east of Punderpoor.

‡ A few miles north of Punderpoor, upon the opposite bank of the Beema.

§ A few miles north-west of Punderpoor, upon the same bank of the Beema.

considerably raised at Mandapoor*, when I heard the enemy was only then preparing to move from Ashta, and at about half past eight o'clock yesterday morning, we had the satisfaction of distinctly hearing their nagaras beating below a hill which covered us from their view.

It seems however they had some information of our approach, but not in sufficient time to enable them to avoid us without losing their baggage; in these circumstances Gokla took the resolution of risking an action. As we descended the hill we saw one body rather near us in mass, to the number of between two and three thousand, and the number of streamers implied the presence of several Sirdars. The ground was so rocky and uneven I hardly expected to be able to bring any guns into action, but directed them to keep on the nearest road, ready to form as required. The two squadrons of His Majesty's 22d Dragoons formed the centre column, and were directed to attack the enemy's centre, the 7th Light Cavalry were in column on the right, and the 2d Light Cavalry was the left column. We descended the hill in this order upon the enemy, who stood very firm, and after forming squadrons, I ordered the whole to charge; the enemy not only continued firm but advanced, to meet each charge with great spirit; he had however availed himself of a nulla, and very difficult ground to receive our attack, and while the light squadron or the 7th Cavalry was engaging under this disadvantage, some of the enemy got round their right flank and rear, and at first created a little confusion; as they passed the rear and left of the 7th Cavalry, Major Dawes, of the 22d Dragoons, with admirable presence of mind, threw back a troop of that regiment, which immediately charged and broke them, and they were afterwards met and suffered also by a troop of the 2d Light Cavalry, which Major Walker had also prepared for them.

Captain Pierce, of the Horse Artillery, had indeed, with his usual exertion and zeal, and notwithstanding the very unfavourable nature of the ground, contrived to get one gun in position to protect the right flank of the 7th Cavalry, and I had the enemy in my power in a solid mass within half range of grape; but as this would have impeded the charge, and obliged him to disperse without a trial with our cavalry, which he now seemed willing to give, and which all our corps so much wished for, I kept the gun in reserve.

The charge of the two squadrons of the 22d dragoons penetrated through the mass, and did great execution. Bapoo Gokla, the Chief of the Maratta army, fell early, and fighting bravely to the last. This event, I have little doubt, hastened the flight of this body, which afterwards endeavoured to form in a still larger one, that was covered in low ground beyond the village of Ashta, and out of our view from the first scene of action. These were also immediately charged by the 22d dragoons as they came up, and the whole being routed and pursued, soon brought our troops upon the enemy's baggage and followers.

I have infinite satisfaction in reporting, that the Sattara Rajah, his brothers and mother, were in these circumstances rescued and brought safe into our camp, to their great satisfaction and joy.

I calculate the loss of the enemy at between two and three hundred men, and besides Gokla, another Sirdar of distinction, said to be Narroo Punt Aptey, was killed.

* Situated between Kirkumb and Punderpoor.