

Cape Coast Castle, the 16th of March 1824, of which the following is an extract :

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you for the information of Earl Bathurst, since I addressed you on the 23d ultimo, that the Ashantee army in the Western Wassaw country has remained stationary at Assamakow.

In transmitting a copy of a report of the particulars of the action of the 21st of January, made to me by Captain Ricketts, of the 2d West India Regiment, and Brigade-Major to the Forces, and Second in Command on that day, I deem it an act of justice to that Officer to state that the late Sir Charles M'Carthy entertained a very high opinion of his zeal and merits, and that he had it in contemplation to bring his services to the favourable notice of His Lordship: and also, that for the period of two years Captain Ricketts served under me (at the time commanding the 2d West India Regiment) in the capacities of Adjutant and Captain, I have pleasure in stating that I had every reason to be satisfied with his conduct: my protracted illness having incapacitated me from attending to the public duties, the charge in a great measure fell upon him as second in command, of which he acquitted himself entirely to my satisfaction.

As his report is confined to the operations of that division of the force under the immediate command of the late Sir Charles M'Carthy, I deem it necessary to say a few words upon the movements of the others, and also to state, as far as came to my knowledge, the plans and intentions of His Excellency.

The rapid approach of the enemy having been reported to Sir Charles M'Carthy, by some of the allied Chiefs, about Christmas, preparations were immediately made for concentrating the regulars, the Cape Coast militia, and the unorganized part of the inhabitants of the town, together with some few of the neighbouring Chiefs at Djuquah, distant from Cape Coast about eighteen miles.

His Excellency proceeded there in person, leaving me for a few days at the Castle, to make some necessary arrangements previously to my departure.

A force of nearly two thousand men having been collected by the 4th of January, a movement to Ampensasoo (the head quarters of Annimelli, the King of Wassaw), on the left bank of the River Boosom-pra, was determined upon, and I was accordingly ordered to join by that day.

The impossibility of procuring provisions and shelter for the men on the route, rendered it necessary to advance in small parties, which circumstance, and the impossibility of procuring carriers for the ammunition and provisions, retarded for some days the departure of His Excellency from the camp. On the 8th of January, accounts were received of the entrance of the enemy into Western Wassaw, and that the allied forces were precipitately retreating before them; this information decided the immediate departure of Sir Charles for their camp, on the right bank of the river, with such part of the force as had not already marched for Ampensasoo, and he directed me to proceed to assume the command of the latter place, signifying it to be

his intention to send me instructions how to act on his ascertaining the state of affairs in Wassaw.

I had daily communications from His Excellency from the time of his leaving Djuquah (viz. on the 9th), until the 16th, but the contents were chiefly comments upon the advance of his division, and the feeling of our allies towards us in the country passed through.

I received on the 22d two letters, one written at five A. M. on the 21st, the other the 17th, the former arriving first at seven o'clock P. M., that of the 17th about two hours later; the contents were most pressing orders for me to form an immediate junction.

The letter of the 17th having been unfortunately entrusted to a man unacquainted with the country, was delayed three days longer on the way than necessary, from which delay, and the urgent nature of His Excellency's commands to join, I was induced to fear that our consequent non-arrival, according to his reasonable expectations, would seriously derange his plans. I was determined, therefore, to proceed by a shorter, but unfrequented and consequently bad path; and having to cross the River Boosom-pra, at a distance of five miles from Ampensasoo (on the 23d), in a simple canoe, the whole day was consumed in passing my party, and I was, therefore, under the necessity of halting for the night at a village on the opposite bank. I here received the first intimation of an engagement having taken place, but could ascertain nothing of the result.

After prosecuting (on the 24th), a march of twenty-one miles, and having, at its termination, to cross the river again, without a single canoe, or any means for conveyance over, we were obliged to construct rafts for such of the party that could not swim, and to float over the ammunition, &c. in consequence of which, from the frail materials used in their construction, I am sorry to say a great deal of ammunition was lost and damaged.

On crossing the river we heard that Brigade-Major Ricketts was laying wounded in the adjoining village. On seeing and ascertaining from him the disastrous issue of the action of the 21st, and also that the small party I commanded was totally unable to cope with the enemy, or afford any assistance to the party of the late Sir Charles M'Carthy, from their complete dispersal, and knowing the hostile feeling entertained by the inhabitants of Elmina towards us, and being also apprehensive that the Ashantees, flushed with their recent victory, would advance upon Cape Coast Castle by rapid marches, I determined upon retiring on it. I regret exceedingly to state, that Captain John L'Estrange, of the Royal African Colonial Corps, died on the march, from excessive fatigue, and that all the Officers of the party and nearly the whole of the men, were laid up on their arrival at Cape Coast, from the effects of the fatigue and privations undergone by them, and I am sorry to say of the former all, except two, continue still invalids, and of the latter numbers have died.

The most numerous body of our force was encamped at a place called Yancoomassie, in the Fantee country. It consisted of the men of that nation, of a few regulars, of the Annamaboe militia, and of some unorganized natives of that town, the whole