

ductive, is now garrisoned by seven companies of the 40th native infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hampton, supported by a vessel of war; reinforcements are likewise on their way to Cheduba from Chittagong.

The operations against Negrais* were likewise conducted in a creditable and satisfactory style, and afforded to a detachment of the 17th Madras light infantry, under Lieutenant Stedman, an opportunity of distinguishing itself, by the gallant and successful assault of a strong stockade, garrisoned by a large force of the enemy, but the Island itself proved to be not worth holding; and a failure of provisions, combined with other considerations, induced Major Wahab to relinquish the design of proceeding up the river to attack Bassein.

We shall now turn to the state of affairs, and the progress of events on our eastern frontier.

The only proceedings of any consequence taken by the Burman Generals since the action of Ramoo, have been the capture of the stockade of Tek Naaf, garrisoned by about one hundred and fifty provincials† under a soobadar, with a gun, and an attempt to cut off the Honourable Company's cruiser Vestal with her gun boats in the Naaf. The former object they accomplished without any loss, owing to the treacherous and mutinous conduct of the provincials, who refused to fight, and went over to the enemy in a body, delivering up the whole of the ammunition in the hope of making good terms for themselves. In the other they were completely foiled, and received a severe and memorable chastisement from the Vestal and her gun boats, whose fire destroyed several of their war boats in the Naaf, and committed terrible havoc among the crews, and the troops who lined either shore, expecting to find the vessels an easy prey. The cruiser and gun boats immediately after made sail for Chittagong, where they arrived in safety on the 7th ultimo.

In Assam the progress of our troops has secured the important objects of depriving the enemy of nearly two thirds of that territory, of destroying a considerable portion of their force there, and, as we hope, of placing serious obstacles in the way of any attempt which the Burmese might be disposed to make to invade Bengal, by the route of the Burhampooter.

After two or three successful affairs with the enemy, in which a detachment of the 46th, under Captain Horsburgh, and the two Rissalahs of irregular horse, particularly distinguished themselves, operations had necessarily come to a stand, by the last accounts, owing to the state of the weather.

Extract from a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Shapland, C. B. commanding at Chittagong, to the Adjutant-General of the Army, dated 7th June 1824.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, the report of Lieutenant Guy, commanding

the Vestal cruiser, relative to his proceedings in the Naaf, and the cause of his quitting the station.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Guy, commanding the East India Company's Cruiser Vestal, to Lieutenant-Colonel Shapland, C. B. dated Chittagong River, 6th June 1824.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of the Honourable Company's cruiser Vestal in Chittagong river, having on board the under-mentioned passengers, viz. the subadar of the Chittagong provincial detachment, the daroga, the mug jemardar, and thirty-one of his sepoy, with a number of Mussulmen, who placed themselves under my protection.

On Thursday the 3d June, at seven A. M. the subadar in charge of the stockade at Tik Naaf, came on board, accompanied by one sepoy, and informed me, that the troops under his command had mutinied the preceding evening, by refusing to fire on the Burmese, who had surrounded the stockade with a force, amounting to about one hundred and fifty horse, with a numerous body of foot; that he had spiked the great gun, and thrown its ammunition into the well, and would also have destroyed the magazine, containing twenty-one boxes of musket cartridges, had not the sepoy threatened to kill him should he attempt it; he then fled the fort, and escaped to the ship. On hearing this, I weighed anchor, and stood down the river; I shortly after saw about one hundred war boats drawn out in a line off Mundoo creek; on our nearer approach, a canoe was despatched, with five hands in her, ordering me to surrender the vessel or they would take her by force, and kill every man on board; this message I answered with a broadside from my great guns; they kept up a smart fire for about ten minutes, then retreated into Mundoo creek; the two gun-boats, under Messrs. Laughton and Boyce, chased them upon this, and poured in several well directed showers of grape and cannister, which did great execution; they then returned, after having taken four prisoners from the above-mentioned canoe.

I then tacked, and stood towards Shahpooree island, under which several boats lay; they endeavoured to escape, but finding themselves cut off by the gun-boats, they ran their boats on shore and fled into the jungle, but not before numbers were destroyed by the volleys of grape poured into them from the gun-boats; the rest of the boats having escaped, I stood for the new stockade, fired a broadside into it whilst passing, then ran down and anchored off the south eastern point of Shahpooree island for the night. I should imagine about twelve or fourteen boats were destroyed, as I observed them floating out of Mundoo creek after the attack, completely shattered by the great guns. I also beg leave to report the great zeal and activity evinced by the Officers on board the vessel, as also the high spirited conduct of Messrs. Laughton and Boyce, each commanding a gun-boat. Finding the means of obtaining water and provisions thus cut off, and deeming my stay in the Naaf to be of no further utility, I weighed anchor

* See London Gazette of 25th November 1824, p. 1362.

† An irregular corps, not officered by Europeans.