

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly to Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B. dated Camp, Rangoon, August 8, 1824.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to you that I proceeded with the detachment you were pleased to place under my command (as per margin*) at eleven A. M. this morning, and after entering a large creek on the east side of Dalla, and proceeding about two miles, I observed two stockades, one on the right and one on the left bank, immediately opposite to each other, both in commanding situations, particularly that on the left bank, which I instantly decided on attacking. The boats were hove to for a short time to make the necessary preparations for the attack; and as soon as these were completed, the whole moved on under a heavy fire from the guns and musketry of the enemy in both stockades. The landing was effected under an incessant fire from the enemy, and after great labour and exertion in getting through the mud, which was remarkably stiff and thigh deep, the scaling ladders were placed, and the stockade stormed and immediately carried. Some of the troops were again embarked, crossed the river, and took possession of the opposite stockade.

Our loss (a return of which I do myself the honour to inclose), although severe, is not so great as might have been expected, from the nature of the ground we had to go over, and the sharp and severe fire kept up by the enemy until the scaling-ladders were placed. The loss on the side of the enemy was but small (between twenty and thirty), in consequence of the vicinity of the jungle, into which they escaped the moment our men entered their works.

Of the conduct of the troops I cannot speak in too high praise, although it will be impossible for me to particularize the Officers who so gallantly led their men to the assault, as they are too numerous, many of them having assisted in carrying the ladders to the walls.

I felt myself highly indebted to Lieutenant Fraser, and a party of seamen and marines of His Majesty's ship Larne, whose unremitting exertions throughout the affair greatly contributed towards the success of the day.

It is with regret I have to report, that Mr. Maw (Royal Navy, His Majesty's ship Liffey), your Acting Aide-de-Camp, was severely wounded at the early part of the day, while he and Captain John Campbell, His Majesty's 38th regiment, your Aide-de-Camp, who was a volunteer on the occasion, were cheering on some of the seamen who accompanied us.

I have further to report, that the enemy, previous to their flight, threw some of their guns into a wet ditch that surrounded the fortifications. We found but two small ones, which were brought away. All the houses in both stockades were destroyed by fire, and a part of the palisade pulled down by the

* Four hundred men, composed of details from His Majesty's ship Larne, the Bombay artillery, 1st European regiment, 18th and 34th regiments Madras native infantry, and 1st battalion pioneers.

pioneers, before the return of the detachment to camp.

I have, &c.

HASTINGS KELLY, Lieut. Col.
commanding Detachment.

Return of Killed and Wounded of a Detachment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, 1st Madras European Regiment, at the Attack of the Stockade in the Dalla Creek, on the 8th August 1824.

Killed—6 rank and file.

Wounded—3 officers, 36 rank and file.

Names of Officers wounded.

Captain A. Wilson, 18th Regt. Native Infantry, slightly.

Lieutenant J. Grubb, 1st European Regt. severely.
Mr. Maw, His Majesty's ship Liffey, Acting Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, severely.

F. S. TIDY, Lieut. Col.
Dep. Adjt. Gen.

Copy of a Letter from Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B. to George Swinton, Esq. Secretary to the Bengal Government, dated Head-Quarters, Rangoon, 4th September 1824.

SIR,

THE enemy in the Dalla district having of late become very troublesome by their predatory excursions, rushing from the creeks and nullahs with which the country abounds, upon unarmed boats, and even fishermen from the garrison, and having again established the head quarters of these marauding bands in the stockades taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly's detachment, on the 8th ultimo, much strengthened by additional works, I once more determined to drive them not only from the stockades, but permanently to a greater distance.

For that purpose I directed Major R. L. Evans, of the Madras army, with a detachment of infantry, accompanied by two mortars from the brigade, commanded by Captain Timbrell, and some howitzers from the Madras artillery, under Captain Kennan, to proceed up the Dalla creek on the 2d instant, and shell the enemy from their position. Such was the excellent practice of the artillery and gun boats, under the immediate orders of Captain Marryat, manned by the Officers and crews of His Majesty's ship Larne, and Honourable Company's transport Moira, that the enemy were soon forced to abandon their defences with some considerable loss, and I am happy to say with only one man slightly wounded on our part.

On taking possession of the stockades Captain Marryat and Major Evans pushed up the creek, and succeeded in taking twenty-five boats and canoes from the enemy, who, seeing themselves closed with, jumped overboard and escaped into the jungle.

Major Evans's arrangements for cutting off the retreat of the enemy were excellent, but the swampy state of the country and thickness of the jungle prevented their meeting with the success