

port, without recommending strongly to your notice the gallant conduct of the sepoys of the Bombay marine battalion in leaping into the enemy's boats, and for the destructive and well directed fire they kept up on the approach of the enemy, whereby great numbers were either killed or wounded before they came alongside. The conduct of the row boat men deserves every praise.

I have the honour to be, &c.

S. W. GREER, Lieut. commanding  
H. C. cruiser Thetis.

*Copy of a Letter from Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B. to George Swinton, Esq. Secretary to the Bengal Government, dated Headquarters, Rangoon, 9th December 1824.*

SIR,

THE long threatened, and on my part no less anxiously wished for, event has at length taken place: Maha Bundoola, said to be accompanied by the Princes of Tonghoo and Sarawuddy, appeared in front of my position on the morning of the 1st instant, at the head of the whole united force of the Burman Empire, amounting, upon the most moderate calculation, to from fifty to sixty thousand men, apparently well armed, with a numerous artillery, and a body of Cassay horse. Their haughty leader had insolently declared his intention of leading us in captive chains to grace the triumph of the Golden Monarch; but it has pleased God to expose the vanity of his idle threats, and crown the heroic efforts of my gallant little army, with a most complete and signal victory.

The enemy had assembled his forces in the heavy jungle in our front during the night of the 30th ultimo, and being well aware of his near approach I had previously made every necessary arrangement for his reception, in whatever way he might think proper to leave his impervious camp. The absence of Lieutenant-Colonel Godwin, at Martaban, and of a strong detachment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Mallett, which I had sent to display the British flag in the ancient capital of Pegue, had much weakened my lines, but I had been too long familiar with the resolute courage of British troops to have felt any regret that fortune had given me an opportunity of contending with Bundoola and his formidable legions, even under circumstances of temporary disadvantage.

Early in the morning of the 1st instant the enemy commenced his operations by a smart attack upon our post at Kemmendine, commanded by Major Yates, and garrisoned by the 26th Madras native infantry, with a detachment of the Madras European regiment, supported on the river by as strong a naval force as could be spared. As the day became light it discovered numerous, and apparently formidable, masses of the advancing enemy issuing from the jungle, and moving at some distance upon both our flanks, for the purpose of surrounding us, which I allowed them to effect without interruption, leaving us only the narrow channel of the Rangoon River unoccupied in our rear.

Bundoola had now fully exposed to me his plan of operations, and my own resolution was instantly

adopted of allowing, and even encouraging him to bring forth his means and resources from the jungle to the more open country on his left, where I knew I could at any time attack him to advantage.

The right corps of the Burmese army had crossed to the Dalla side of the Rangoon river, and in the course of the morning was observed in several divisions crossing the plain towards the site of the ruined village of Dalla, where it took post in the neighbouring jungle, sending on a division to occupy the almost inaccessible ground on the bank of the river, and from which they soon opened a distant fire upon the shipping. Another division immediately broke ground in front of Kemmendine, and for six successive days tried in vain every effort that hope of success and dread of failure could call forth to drive the brave 26th and a handful of Europeans from this post, while tremendous fire-rafts and crowds of war boats were every day employed in the equally vain endeavour to drive the shipping from their station off the place.

The enemy's right wing and centre occupied a range of hills immediately in front of the great Dagon pagoda, covered with so thick a forest as to be impenetrable to all but Burman troops, and their left extended nearly two miles further, along a lower and more open ridge to the village of Puzendoo, where their extreme left rested. They were no sooner thus placed in position than muskets and spears were laid aside for the pick-axe and shovel, and in an incredibly short space of time every part of their line out of the jungle, was strongly and judiciously intrenched.

In the afternoon of the 1st, I observed an opportunity of attacking the enemy's left to advantage, and ordered Major Sale with four hundred men from the 13th light infantry and 18th Madras native infantry, under Major Dennie, of the former, and Captain Ross, of the latter corps, to move forward to the point I had selected, and I never witnessed a more dashing charge than was made on this occasion by His Majesty's 13th, while the 18th native infantry followed their example with a spirit that did them honour, carrying all opposition before them. They burst through the intrenchments, carrying dismay and terror into the enemy's ranks, great numbers of whom were slain, and the party returned loaded with arms, standards, and other trophies. Having correctly ascertained every thing I required, I, now, as I originally determined, abstained from giving any serious interruption to the indefatigable labour of the opposing army, patiently waiting until I saw the whole of their material fully brought forward and within my reach. About sun-set in the evening, a cloud of skirmishers were pushed forward close under the north east angle of the pagoda, who, taking advantage of the many pagodas and strong ground on our front, commenced a harassing and galling fire upon the works. I at once saw we should suffer from their fire, if not dislodged, and therefore ordered two companies of the 38th regiment, under Captain Piper (an Officer I have often had occasion to mention), to advance and drive them back. Were it permitted on such an occasion to dwell upon the enthusiastic spirit of my troops, I would feel a pleasure in recounting the burst of rapture that followed every order to ad-