

vance against their audacious foe; but it is sufficient to remark that the conduct of these two companies was most conspicuous: they quickly gained their point and fully acted up to the character they have ever sustained. At day-light on the morning of the 2d, finding the enemy had very much encroached during the night, and had intrenched a height in front of the north gate of the pagoda which gave them an enfilading fire upon part of our line, I directed Captain Wilson, of the 38th regiment, with two companies of that corps, and one hundred men of the 28th Madras native infantry, to drive them from the hill. No order was ever more rapidly or handsomely obeyed. The brave sepoys vying with their British comrades in forward gallantry, allowed the appalled Burmese no time to rally, but drove them from one breast-work to another, fighting them in the very holes they had dug, finally to prove their graves.

In the course of this day Colonel Mallett's detachment returned from Pegue, having found the old city completely deserted, and gave me the additional means of attacking the enemy the moment the time arrived.

During the 3d and 4th the enemy carried on his labours with indefatigable industry, and but for the inimitable practice of our artillery, commanded by Captain Murray, in the absence, from indisposition, of Lieutenant-Colonel Hopkinson, we must have been severely annoyed by the incessant fire from his trenches.

The attacks upon Kemmendine continued with unabating violence, but the unyielding spirit of Major Yates and his steady troops, although exhausted with fatigue and want of rest, baffled every attempt on shore, while Captain Ryves with His Majesty's sloop Sophie, the Honourable Company's cruiser Teignmouth, and some flotilla and row gun boats, nobly maintained the long established fame of the British navy, in defending the passage of the river against the most furious assaults of the enemy's war boats, advancing under cover of the most tremendous fire rafts, which the unwearied exertions of British sailors could alone have conquered.

Captain Ryves lost no opportunity of coming in contact with the much vaunted boats of Ava, and in one morning five out of six, each mounting a heavy piece of ordnance, were boarded and captured by our men of war's boats, commanded by Lieutenant Kellett, of His Majesty's ship Arachne, and Lieutenant Goldfinch, of the Sophie, whose intrepid conduct merits the highest praise.

The enemy having apparently completed his left wing with its full complement of artillery and war-like stores, I determined to attack that part of his line early on the morning of the 5th. I requested Captain Chadds, the senior naval Officer here, to move up to the Puzendoon Creek during the night with the gun flotilla, bomb-ketch, &c. and commence a cannonade on the enemy's rear at day-light. This service was most judiciously and successfully performed by that Officer, who has never yet disappointed me in my most sanguine expectations. At the same time two columns of attack were formed agreeably to orders I had issued on the preceding evening, composed of details from the different regiments of the army; the first, con-

sisting of one thousand one hundred men, I placed under the orders of that gallant Officer, Major Sale, and directed him to attack and penetrate the centre of the enemy's line; the other, consisting of six hundred men, I entrusted to Major Walker, of the 3d Madras native light infantry, with orders to attack their left, which had approached to within a few hundred yards of Rangoon. At seven o'clock both columns moved forward to the point of attack. Both were led to my perfect satisfaction, and both succeeded with a degree of ease their intrepid and undaunted conduct undoubtedly ensured; and I directed Lieutenant Archbold, with a troop of the right honourable the Governor General's body guard, which had been landed the preceding evening, to follow the column under Major Sale, and take advantage of any opportunity which might offer to charge.

The enemy were defeated and dispersed in every direction, and the body guard gallantly charging over the broken and swampy ground, completed their terror and dismay. The Cassay horse fled, mixed with the retreating infantry; and all their artillery, stores, and reserve depôts, which had cost them so much toil and labour to get up, with a great quantity of small arms, gilt chateaus, standards, and other trophies, fell into our hands. Never was victory more complete or more decided, and never was the triumph of discipline and valour over the disjointed efforts of irregular courage, and infinitely superior numbers, more conspicuous. Majors Dennie and Thornhill, of the 13th light infantry, and Major Gore, of the 89th, were distinguished by the steadiness with which they led their men; but it is with deep regret I have to state the loss we have sustained in the death of Major Walker, one of India's best and bravest soldiers, who fell while leading his column into the enemy's intrenchments, when the command devolved upon Major Wahab, who gallantly conducted the column during the rest of the action; and I observed the 34th Madras native light infantry on this occasion conspicuously forward.

The Burmese left wing thus disposed of, I patiently waited its effect upon the right, posted in so thick a forest as to render any attack in that quarter in a great measure impracticable.

On the 6th I had the pleasure of observing, that Bundoola had brought up the scattered remnant of his defeated left to strengthen his right and centre, and continued day and night employed in carrying on his approaches in front of the Great Pagoda. I ordered the artillery to slacken its fire, and the infantry to keep wholly out of sight, allowing him to carry on his fruitless labour with little annoyance or molestation. As I expected he took system for timidity; and on the morning of the 7th instant I had his whole force posted in my immediate front—his first line intrenched so close that the soldiers in their barracks could distinctly hear the insolent threats and reproaches of the Burman braves.

The time had now arrived to undeceive them in their sanguine but ill-founded hopes. I instantly made my arrangements, and at half-past eleven o'clock every thing was in readiness to assault the trenches in four columns of attack, under the superintendance of Lieutenant-Colonel Miles, my