

of the country would admit, for about two miles, and at the same time they entered a small valley, surrounded by a steep hillock where between four hundred and five hundred Burmahs, well armed with muskets, were bivouacked.

These were immediately charged by the body guard, who, pressing on the crowd, sabred and shot about fifty men, among whom was a Chief of rank (supposed to be Moung-toung-bo), and completely dispersed the remainder, part taking refuge in their boats, and others running to the hills, where the acclivity was so great that we could not pursue them. Finding this to be the case, about a hundred men, recovering from the panic into which they had been thrown, took post on the crest and side of the hill, and from thence kept a sharp but most ineffectual fire of jingals and musketry, by which, I am happy to say, only one man and a horse were wounded; but as I perceived their numbers were increasing, and that several men had been detached to our rear, apparently with the view of annoying us when returning, I thought it prudent to retire.

The body guard behaved with their usual gallantry, and the coolness, zeal, and courage, manifested by Subadar Major Quazee Wallee Mahomed, made him so very conspicuous during the affair, that I trust I may not be considered presumptuous in bringing his conduct to the notice of the Commander of the forces.

I have, &c.

T. A. TRANT, Lieutenant 95th Foot,
Deputy-Assistant Quarter-Master-General.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Pepper to the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Forces, under the Command of Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K.C.B., dated Shueghien, 19th February 1826.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying copy of a letter from Ensign Clerk, 3d regiment P. L. I., detailing an account of an affair that took place on the 16th instant, at Meekow, with a considerable party of Burmese, detached by the Governor of Martaban, for the purpose of carrying the villages of Bew and Meekow.

On receipt of the intelligence on the 17th instant, I do myself the honour to report, for the information of Major-General Sir A. Campbell, K. C. B., that I sent Captain Leggatt, commanding 3d regiment, with one hundred rank and file, to reinforce the detachment at Meekow, which, added to one hundred men from Pegu, will leave him sufficient numbers to defend that part of the country, to keep open the communication, and protect our supplies.

It is with much pleasure I have to bring to the notice of the Major-General, the conduct of Ensign Clerk, 3d regiment, commanding the detachment, and of Lieutenant Johnstone, of the Commissariat Department, who had volunteered his services, having proceeded there for provisions and carriage for my detachment.

I have, &c.

H. H. PEPPER, Lieut.-Col.
Commanding Field Detachment.

Copy of the Letter from Ensign Clerk, referred to in the foregoing Dispatch.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the infor-

mation of Brigadier Pepper, that I received intelligence, on the evening of the 15th instant, that a body of men had been detached by the Ex-Governor of Martaban to attack the villages of Bew and Meekow. Conceiving my presence necessary, with the picquet of thirty men stationed at the former place, in order that I might take advantage of circumstances. Wishing to stand my ground, if possible, or if pressed too hard, to fall back on my position at Meekow, I lost no time in proceeding there.

Fortunately Lieutenant Johnstone, 3d regiment P. L. I., attached to the Commissariat Department, was present at Meekow, and offered his services. He consented to take the command of my main party, and to reinforce me if necessary.

A little before day-light on the 16th, a party of the enemy suddenly rushed on my picquet, and made a general attack on the village. Their numbers left me no alternative but forcing my way through them, and effecting a junction with my other party. Agreeable to promise, I found Lieutenant Johnstone had come to my assistance. The reinforcement, though small, was most opportune, and a retreat to my old position was then conducted in the most orderly manner, the whole acting as light infantry in extended order, in consequence of the enemy having shewn a disposition to surround my little party. Their fire from jingals and small arms were quick and noisy, but ill-directed, as will appear from the little loss I have sustained.

Having gained my old position, I had the advantage of a few additional men from a guard obliged to be left for the protection of some supplies: here I determined to make a stand, and, extending my party in such a manner, that the left rested on the right bank of the River Setoung, and my right on a "Raboon's" house. We continued opposed to each other until half-past eight o'clock, when, seeing their line beginning to waver, I seized the opportunity of charging, and am happy to say the result surpassed my most sanguine expectation—they fled in the most precipitate manner, neglecting the usual custom of carrying off their dead. Forty bodies were found on the ground, and I imagine the wounded must have been considerable. To Lieutenant Johnstone I must attribute the success of this affair, and I trust he will receive the reward of his judicious conduct from the Brigadier. I have greatly to admire the coolness and deliberate conduct of the Officers and men under my command, whose situation for a considerable period was very perilous. The number of the enemy opposed to them I cannot estimate at less than one thousand and five hundred, and well armed.

Subjoined is a list of the killed and wounded, and a statement of ammunition expended is herewith forwarded. I have, &c.

T. J. CLERK, Ensign 3d Regiment,
Commanding Detachment.

Camp, Meekow, February 18, 1826.

Killed.

12th Regt. Native Infantry—1 sepoy.

Wounded.

3d Regt. P. L. I.—3 sepoy severely, 4 sepoy slightly.

Two thousand two hundred and sixty-two ball cartridges expended.