

march of twelve miles to Ghuznee, the line of march being over a fine plain; the troops were disposed in a manner that would have enabled me at any moment had we been attacked, as was probable from the large bodies of troops moving on each side of us, to have placed them in position to receive the enemy; they did not, however, appear, but on our coming within range of the guns of the citadel and fortress of Ghuznee, a sharp cannonade was opened on our leading column, together with a heavy fire of musquetry from behind garden walls, and temporary field works thrown up, as well as the strong out-work I have already alluded to, which commanded the bed of the river. From all but the out-work, the enemy were driven in, under the walls of the fort in a spirited manner by parties, thrown forward by Major-General Sir Willoughby Cotton, of the 16th and 48th Bengal Native Infantry, and Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, under Brigadier Sale. I ordered forward three troops of horse artillery, the camel battery, and one foot battery to open upon the citadel and fortress by throwing Shrapnell shells, which was done in a masterly style, under the direction of Brigadier Stevenson; my object in this was, to make the enemy show their strength in guns, and in other respects, which completely succeeded; and our shells must have done great execution, and occasioned great consternation. Being perfectly satisfied on the point of their strength, in the course of half an hour, I ordered the fire to cease, and placed the troops in bivouac. A close reconnoissance of the place all round was then undertaken by Captain Thomson, the Chief Engineer, and Captain Peat, of the Bombay Engineers, accompanied by Major Garden, the Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Bengal Army, supported by a strong party of Her Majesty's 16th lancers, and one from Her Majesty's 13th light infantry. On this party a steady fire was kept up, and some casualties occurred. Captain Thomson's report was very clear; he found the fortifications equally strong all round; and as my own opinion coincided with his, I did not hesitate a moment as to the manner in which our approach and attack upon the place should be made. Notwithstanding the march the troops had performed in the morning, and their having been a considerable time engaged with the enemy, I ordered the whole to move across the river (which runs close under the fort walls) in columns to the right and left of the town, and they were placed in position on the north side on more commanding ground, and securing the Cabool road. I had information that a night attack upon the camp was intended, from without. Mahomed Ubzul Khan, the eldest son of Dost Mahomed Khan, had been sent by his father with a strong body of troops, from Cabool, to the brother's assistance at Ghuznee, and was encamped outside the walls, but abandoned his position on our approach, keeping, however, at the distance of a few miles from us. The two rebel chiefs of the Ghilzye tribe, men of great influence, viz., Abdool Rhuman and Gool Mahomed Khan, had joined him with one thousand five hundred horse, and also a body of about three thousand Ghazees, from Zeinat, under a mixture of chiefs and moollahs, carrying banners, and who had been assembled on the cry of a religious war. In

short we were in all directions surrounded by enemies. These last actually came down the hills on the 22d, and attacked the part of the camp occupied by His Majesty Shah Shooja and his own troops, but were driven back with considerable loss, and banners taken.

At day light on the 22d, I reconnoitred Ghuznee, in company with the Chief Engineer and the Brigadier commanding the Artillery, with the Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of the Bengal army, for the purpose of making all arrangements for carrying the place by storm, and these were completed in the course of the day. Instead of the tedious process of breaching (for which we were ill prepared), Captain Thomson undertook, with the assistance of Captain Peat, of the Bombay Engineers, Lieutenants Durand and Macleod of the Bengal Engineers, and other officers under him (Captain Thomson), to blow in the Cabool-gate (the weakest point) with gunpowder; and so much faith did I place on the success of this operation, that my plans for the assault were immediately laid down, and the orders given.

The different troops of horse artillery, the camel and foot batteries moved off their ground at twelve o'clock that night, without the slightest noise, as had been directed, and in the most correct manner took up the position assigned them, about two hundred and fifty yards from the walls. In like manner, and with the same silence, the infantry soon after moved from their ground, and all were at their post at the proper time. A few minutes before three o'clock in the morning, the explosion took place, and proved completely successful. Captain Peat, of the Bombay engineers, was thrown down and stunned by it, but shortly afterwards recovered his senses and feeling. On hearing the advance sounded by the bugles, (being the signal for the gate having been blown in), the artillery, under the able directions of Brigadier Stevenson, consisting of Captain Grant's troop of Bengal horse artillery, the camel battery, under Captain Abbott, both superintended by Major Few, Captains Martin and Cotgrave's troop of Bombay horse artillery, and Captain Lloyd's battery of Bombay foot artillery, all opened a terrific fire upon the citadel and ramparts of the fort, and in a certain degree paralyzed the enemy.

Under the guidance of Captain Thomson, of the Bengal Engineers, the chief of the department, Colonel Dennie, of Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, commanding the advance, consisting of the light companies of Her Majesty's 2d and 17th foot, and of the Bengal European regiment, with one company of Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, proceeded to the gate, and with great difficulty, from the rubbish thrown down, and the determined opposition offered by the enemy, effected an entrance, and established themselves within the gateway, closely followed by the main column, led in a spirit of great gallantry by Brigadier Sale, to whom I had entrusted the important post of commanding the storming party, consisting (with the advance above mentioned) of Her Majesty's 2d foot, under Major Carruthers, the Bengal European regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Orchard, followed by Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, under Major Tronson, and Her Majesty's 17th regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Croker. The struggle within the fort was