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India Board, February 10, 1841.

THE following dispatches have been received at the India House :

Major-General Sir Robert Sale, K. C. B. to Major-General Sir Willoughby Cotton, G. C. B. and K. C. H.

SIR, *Camp, Purwan, Nov. 2, 1840.*

HAVING received intelligence that Dost Mahomed Khan, with a number of armed followers, had taken possession of some forts in this direction, from which he proposed moving to-day towards the Ghorebund Pass, with the view of effecting a junction with his son Mahomed Afzul Khan, I determined on endeavouring to frustrate the attempt.

Accordingly at 6 A. M. I broke up my camp at Baian, the fort of Meer Musjeedee, and moved on this position.

An advanced column, consisting of four companies of Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, the two flank companies of the 37th native infantry, one company of the 27th native infantry, the two six pounders of the Shah's, two squadrons of the second light cavalry, and two hundred of Anderson's horse, the whole under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Salter, preceded the main body which was commanded by myself.

On approaching Purwan, the forts and villages were rapidly evacuated by the enemy, who were seen flying to the hills in great numbers ; I cannot compute them at fewer than five hundred horse and three thousand five hundred foot ; the native reports received swell their numbers to a much higher amount.

Dr. Lord, who accompanied Colonel Salter to procure information, sent word that he believed if the cavalry proceeded in advance they would be able to cut off some of the fugitives; and in compliance

with his request the 2d cavalry were ordered to skirt the hill to the right, while the Shah's horse, under Captain Anderson, took post on the left of the pass, to prevent any of the enemy attempting to escape in the direction of Ghorebund. The infantry followed, but their movements were greatly retarded by the guns, the progress of which was much impeded by the numerous water-courses that intersected the road.

The 2d cavalry had preceded the column about a mile when a body of the enemy's horse, about two hundred in number, supposed to be headed by Dost Mahomed in person, came down the hill to attack them. The cavalry was formed into line, and led on to the charge by Captains Fraser and Ponsonby, commanding the two squadrons. It is my painful duty to record that the gallant bearing of these officers was but ill seconded by their men; they both found themselves in the midst of the enemy unsupported by their troopers, and, after being most severely wounded, extricated themselves with difficulty, and found their men flying before the enemy. I deeply regret to state that Lieutenant Crispin, the Adjutant of the regiment, was cut down and killed, leading his men into action; Dr. Lord was also most unfortunately killed in this affair; and Lieutenant Broadfoot, of the Engineers, who was also in advance, is missing.

Of the gallantry of Captain Fraser and the other officers of the 2d cavalry, who led the squadrons of the regiment on this occasion, I cannot speak too highly, and I regret that their noble example, and the opportunity offered to the 2d cavalry, of adding to its laurels, have been thus neglected by them.

The two flank companies of the 37th regiment, and one company of the 27th regiment, supported by two guns from Captain Abbott's battery, and followed by some of the Jaun Bazees, now ascended the hill overlooking the pass and valley of Purwan, which was crowded by the enemy's infantry, and cleared it in brilliant style, the enemy deserting their positions