

attack on the suburb, I ordered the party to fall in which was as per margin.*

We sallied from the gate, and advanced up the narrow street of the suburb; meeting with little or no opposition for some time, but at the distance of about half a mile, at a turn in the street, we came on the enemy in great force; the whole street, as far as the eye could reach, was one dense mass; the leading portion (among whom a mounted mandarin was conspicuous) brandished their swords and spears, cheered each other with their voices, and appeared determined to stand their ground, if not rush on us; had they done so, they must have swept our small force before them, but any such intention, if entertained, was speedily checked, for the bodies of the leaders of the mass formed a line which it would have required a bold man to pass; we advanced, the head of our column delivering their fire, and the next section taking their place, till within twelve or fifteen paces of the enemy: by this time the howitzer was brought to the front, and three rounds of grape in quick succession, told with tremendous effect: before the howitzer had got to the front, I had directed Lieut. Murray, of the 13th Royal Irish and Lieut. Molesworth, of the artillery, to get on the flanks of the enemy, which they did with some difficulty, breaking through out-houses, and wading along the canal, which was middle deep; this manœuvre completed the enemy's defeat, and they fled in great confusion; we pursued them through the suburbs, and for some miles beyond, closing on their rear, and inflicting on them heavy loss; numerous parties deserted the main body at every turn, and we saw many throw themselves into the canal, worn out from wounds or fatigue; we captured upwards of thirty ginsjalls, and many matchlocks, and other arms in the suburb, and during the pursuit, all of better construction than any I had previously seen.

The enemy's numerical force in the western suburbs, was certainly very considerable; their column in retreat extended at least a mile along the canal, and if the front was so compact as the rear, they must have amounted to some thousands.

None of the inhabitants of the suburbs or vicinity suffered, as far as I could learn; and although the bridges over the canals and sides of the roads were in many places crowded with spectators almost in the line of fire, the soldiers, be it said to their praise, shewed every proper forbearance.

I must speak of the behaviour of every officer and man in unqualified terms of approbation, and beg particularly to mention the names of Captain Moore, Madras artillery, of Captain Moorhead of the Cameronians, of Lieutenant Murray of the Royal Irish, and of Lieutenant Grant of the 49th, who commanded the parties of their respective corps engaged. Captain Balfour, of the Madras artillery, my Staff Officer, afforded me every aid, and both he and Lieutenant Browne, of the 49th,

were conspicuous for their spirited conduct when in close action, and in pursuit.

It may appear almost like presumption in me to bring forward the names of the officers of the General Staff, but it would be a still greater fault if I were not to acknowledge their services and assistance. Lieutenant-Colonel Mountain took an equal share with myself in the whole affair, and Lieutenant-Colonel Hawkins, Major Moore, and Superintending Surgeon French sallied with us, and took part throughout the action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. MONTGOMERIE,
Lieut.-Col. Commanding Artillery
Eastern Expedition.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Morris, C.B., Her
Majesty's 49th Regiment, Commanding
Ningpo.

Head-Quarters, Ningpo,
My LORD, March 19th, 1842.

I HAVE the gratification to inform your Lordship of the total discomfiture and precipitate retreat of that portion of Commissioner Yih-Kong's force, which had been sent forward to exterminate us, and I feel most thankful to say with wonderfully small loss on our part.

My letter of the 11th will have informed your Lordship of the attacks on this city and Chinhae, on the night of the 9th and morning of the 10th. I deemed it right promptly to follow up these successful repulses, taking the attacking columns in detail; and understanding that General Yeo-Pooyun was advancing from Tunghwa, with from 6 to 7000 men, I moved out to meet him on the 13th, with 600 men of the 18th and 49th regiments, and Madras artillery, with 2 guns, and 50 sappers, flanked by the Sesostris steamer, which moved up the river, parallel with our route, having on board three companies of the 26th, and a small body of seamen and marines. Until I reached the village Letsu, about 7 miles from hence, where I understood the enemy had been posted on the 12th, I could obtain no satisfactory information of his movements, but I had the mortification to find, on my arrival, that the Chinese had retreated over the hills the preceding night, apparently moving on Sanhing.

Having thus got rid of this column, although not in the way I could have wished, and being joined by Sir William Parker, who, on his arrival from Ta Shan, with the zeal for which he is so conspicuous, at once followed me up the river with the two small steamers, bringing with him 250 marines, and a party of seamen, I determined upon moving on Tse Kee, where I was informed that the Chinese were in considerable force under Generals Iwan, Yung, Yung, and Choo. It was reported that they had two entrenched camps on the Segao-hills, about half a mile north of Tse Kee, that several guns had been placed on the walls, and at the gateways, and large stores of provisions laid up for the army in the city; and that seven miles north-east of these encampments

* Artillery, 3 officers, 2 sergeants, 18 rank and file, 4 2-5th Irish Howitzers; 18th Royal Irish, 1 officer, 1 sergeant, 24 rank and file—26th Regiment, 1 officer, 13 rank and file—49th Regiment, 5 officers, 5 sergeants, 71 rank and file.—Total, 10 officers, 8 sergeants, 126 rank and file.