

habitants to shut their shops and remain within their houses, and precautions were taken to secure the gates by piling bags of grain inside.

About 8 o'clock P. M. a desperate attack was made upon the Herat gate; and, owing to the darkness of the night, some combustibles were placed near it and ignited unperceived, and in a few minutes the gate was in flames. I immediately ordered a party of 100 rank and file from the 2nd regiment, and a company from the Shah's 1st infantry, to support the guard at the gate; and two guns were also placed in position commanding the entrance.

Dense masses of the enemy had now collected at this point, keeping up an incessant and heavy fire, which was returned with great effect from the ramparts; but so reckless and daring were the assailants that notwithstanding the fearful havoc among them, eight or ten men actually forced their way, by tearing down the burning fragments of the gate, and scrambling over the bags of grain; these were instantly shot, and their fate, together with the galling fire from the walls, dismayed the attacking party, who retired about midnight, after four hours resolute fighting.

Another attack took place at the Shikarpore gate about nine P. M. and a similar attempt was made to fire it, which, however, failed, and the assailants were driven back. A small party also approached the Cabool gate; but, the garrison being every where on the alert, the enemy was compelled to retire about one o'clock A. M. of the 11th; and when the day broke, not a soul was visible.

The guards over the several gates were so completely sheltered, that not a single casualty occurred, whilst the well-directed and destructive fire which was maintained for nearly four hours must have done great execution. Upwards of fifty dead bodies were found in and near the Herat gate, and from the determined assault of the enemy who came close up to the walls, their loss must have been immense: report estimates it at 1,000 killed and wounded; and I am informed by Major Rawlinson, Political Agent, that Prince Suftur Jung, Meerza Ahmed, and other Sirdars were present, encouraging the assailants.

A considerable quantity of grain was unavoidably destroyed at the Herat gate, but as it presented a strong barrier, I trust the sacrifice will be considered unimportant. This gate has been built up, and the others have been temporarily barricaded with grain bags.

Before concluding my report, I would beg to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered me on this occasion by Major Rawlinson, Political Agent, and Captain Ripley, Fort Adjutant. The exertions of every officer and soldier in garrison were unremitting, and it affords me infinite pleasure to bear testimony to the admirable conduct of all parties during the attack.

I have, &c.

CHARLES R. W. LANE, Major,
Commanding Candahar Garrison.

From Major-General W. Nott to T. H. Maddock, Esq.

SIR, Candahar, March 28, 1842.

HAVING deemed it desirable to detach a brigade under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Wymer, for the double purpose of foraging, and giving protection to the numerous villages along the left bank of the Urghundab river, against the marauding system adopted by the rebel army, commanded by Prince Suftur Jung and other Afghan chiefs, I have now the honor to forward to you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, a report from that officer of an attack made on his detachment, and of the complete defeat of the enemy. I have ascertained that their loss was great, and that several of their chiefs were killed and wounded, while our loss was comparatively trifling.

On my arrival on the field, I was pleased with the judicious arrangements made by Lieut.-Colonel Wymer; and the cool and determined manner in which he opposed the enemy, and protected his convoy, did credit to our arms; and I beg leave to bring him under the favourable notice of Government.

The enemy were finally driven across the Urghundab, in the greatest confusion, and with very considerable loss. The artillery and infantry distinguished themselves.

I have, &c.

W. NOTT, Major General,
Commanding at Candahar.

From Lieutenant-Colonel G. P. Wymer, Commanding Detachment, to Captain Scott, Major of Brigade.

Candahar Camp, Baba Wullee,
March 27, 1842.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of Major General Nott, commanding at Candahar, that, in obedience to his instructions, I marched from that place with the force noted in the margin,* on the morning of the 25th instant, with the intention of foraging for the cavalry and cattle at the village of Seikhchulah; but on receiving a report from Captain Dallas, that the country thereabouts had recently been foraged over, and the water turned off by the enemy, he suggested the advantage to be derived by a move upon Baba Wullee, which was adopted. On reaching that place, I sighted the rebel camp on the opposite side of the Urghundab, distant about four miles, and large bodies of cavalry grazing their horses between it and the river. I continued my march to the spot selected for my encampment, and, shortly after reaching it, at half-past ten, or eleven, a large body of the enemy's cavalry was observed forming and occupying the pass in my rear; on which I reinforced the rear guard with two guns and a wing of the 38th N. I., placing the convoy under the hills

* One troop Shah's H. Artillery; half a troop Haldane's Horse; half troop Leeson's Horse; 16th Regt. Bengal N. I.; 38th Regt. ditto; 2nd Shah's Regt.