

I perceive that I have omitted to mention three Officers, well worthy of being named. To Captain Tait, of the Poona horse, I entrusted charge of the baggage on this day of battle, and I have no doubt that the steadiness, and imposing attitude of the detachment, under his command, held the enemy aloof, for, I assure your Lordship, no post gave me greater anxiety than that of the baggage guard. Lieutenants Leeson and Brennan, have, throughout the whole campaign, been of the greatest use as Baggage Master and Provost Marshal, and, during the action, Lieutenant Brennan was scarcely from my side a moment, except when conveying orders; nor will I omit to mention the Moonshee Alli Akbar, an Arab, who exhibited the coolest courage, and attended me every where.

I ought to have observed in the body of this dispatch, that I had, the night before the action, detached Major Outram in the steamers, with two hundred sepoy, to set fire to the wood, in which we understood the enemy's left flank was posted. This was an operation of great difficulty and danger, but would have been most important to the result of the battle. However, the enemy had moved about eight miles to their right, during the night, and Major Outram executed his task without difficulty at the hour appointed, viz., nine o'clock, and from the field we observed the smoke of the burning wood arise. I am strongly inclined to think that this circumstance had some effect on the enemy. But it deprived me of the able services of Major Outram, Captain Green, and Lieutenants Brown and Wells, together with two hundred men, which I much regretted for their sakes and for my own, for I much wanted the Officers; and here I hope your Lordship will pardon me for saying, that the want of European Officers, in the native regiments at one period, endangered the success of the action. The sepoy is a brave and excellent soldier, but, like all soldiers, he expects to be led on in certain moments, and as he looks to his European Officer, if he misses him, the greatest danger arises—three times I saw them retreat, evidently because the Officers had fallen, and, when another appeared and rallied them, they at once followed him boldly. This, my Lord, accounts for the great number of European Officers killed and wounded in proportion to the whole. I am sure that in observing a defect, in the formation of the Company's troops, the effect of which might have been so serious, I shall not be deemed presumptuous or impertinent.

The defence of the residency by Major Outram, and the small force with him, against such numbers of the enemy, was so admirable, that I have scarcely mentioned it in the foregoing despatch, because I propose to send your Lordship a detailed account of it, as a brilliant example of defending a military post.

I have, &c.

C. J. NAPIER, Major-General,

Commanding in Sinde and Beloochistan.

This action was fought at Meeanee, within sight of the towers of Hyderabad.

[N.B. The list of killed and wounded has already appeared, in the London Gazette of April 11th 1843.]

Major J. Outram, Commissioner, to Major-General Sir C. J. Napier, K. C. B., Commanding in Sinde and Beloochistan.

On board the Planet Steamer, fifteen miles above Hyderabad.

SIR, 6 P. M. February 15, 1843.

MY dispatches of the last few days will have led you to expect that my earnest endeavours to effect an amicable arrangement with the Ameers of Sinde would fail, and it is with much regret I have now to report that their Highnesses have commenced hostilities by attacking my residence this morning; which after four hours' most gallant defence by my honorary escort, the light company of Her Majesty's 22d regiment, commanded by Captain Conway, I was compelled to evacuate in consequence of our ammunition running short.

At 9 A. M. this morning, a dense body of cavalry and infantry * took post on three sides of the Agency compound (the fourth being defended by the Planet steamer, about 500 yards distant) in the gardens and houses which immediately command the enclosure, and which it was impossible to hold with our limited numbers, a hot fire was opened by the enemy, and continued incessantly for four hours, but all their attempts to enter the Agency enclosure, although merely surrounded by a wall, varying from four to five feet high, were frustrated by Captain Conway's able distribution of his small band, and the admirable conduct of every individual soldier composing it, under the gallant example of their Commanding Officer and his Subalterns, Lieutenant Harding and Ensign Pennefather, Her Majesty's 22d regiment, also Captains Green, of the 21st regiment native infantry, and Wells, of the 15th regiment, who volunteered their services, to each of whom was assigned the charge of a separate quarter, also to your A. D. C., Captain Brown, Bengal engineers, who carried my orders to the steamer, and assisted in working her guns and directing her flanking fire. Our ammunition being limited to forty rounds per man, the Officers directed their whole attention to reserving their fire, and keeping their men close under cover, never showing themselves or returning a shot, except when the enemy attempted to rush, or shewed themselves in great numbers, consequently great execution was done with trifling expenditure of ammunition, and with little loss. Our hope of receiving a reinforcement, and a supply of ammunition by the Satellite steamer, (hourly expected) being disappointed, on the arrival of that vessel, without either, shortly after the commencement of the attack, it was decided at 12 A. M., after being three hours under fire, to retire to the steamer, while still we had sufficient ammunition left to

* Ascertained, after the action on the 17th, to have amounted to 8000 men, under the command of Meer Shahdad Khan, one of the principal Ameers, his cousin, Meer Mahomed Khan, Nawab Ahmed Khan Lungarrie, and many principal Chiefs. It was also ascertained that the enemy lost upwards of 60 killed, and more wounded in the affair, among the latter Meer Mahomed Khan.