

53rd Regiment moved forward in support of the 30th N.I., by the right of the village. The battle was won: our troops advancing with the most perfect order to the common focus, the passage of the river. The enemy, completely hemmed in, were flying from our fire, and precipitating themselves in disordered masses into the ford and boats, in the utmost confusion and consternation: our 8-inch howitzers soon began to play upon their boats, when the "debris" of the Sikh army appeared upon the opposite and high bank of the river, flying in every direction, although a sort of line was attempted to countenance their retreat, until *all* our guns commenced a furious cannonade, when they quickly receded. Nine guns were on the verge of the river by the ford. It appears as if they had been unlimbered to cover the ford. These being loaded, were fired once upon our advance; two others were sticking in the river, one of them we got out; two were seen to sink in the quick sands; two were dragged to the opposite bank and abandoned. These, and the one in the middle of the river, were gallantly spiked by Lieutenant Holmes, of the 11th Irregular Cavalry, and Gunner Scott, of the 1st troop 2nd Brigade Horse Artillery, who rode into the stream, and crossed for the purpose, covered by our guns and light infantry.

Thus ended the battle of Aliwal, one of the most glorious victories ever achieved in India, by the united efforts of Her Majesty's and the Honourable Company's troops. *Every gun* the enemy had fell into our hands, as I infer from his never opening one upon us from the opposite bank of the river, which is high and favorable for the purpose: 52 guns are now in the Ordnance Park; 2 sank in the bed of the Sutlej; and 2 were spiked on the opposite bank; making a total of 56 pieces of cannon captured or destroyed*. Many jingalls which were attached to Avitabile's Corps, and which aided in the defence of the village of Bhoondree, have also been taken. The whole army of the enemy has been driven headlong over the difficult ford of a broad river; his camp, baggage, stores of ammunition and of grain, his all, in fact, wrested from him, by the repeated charges of cavalry and infantry, aided by the guns of Alexander, Turton, Lane, Mill, Boileau, and of the Shekawatee Brigade, and by the 8-inch howitzers;—our guns literally being constantly ahead of everything. The determined bravery of all was as conspicuous as noble. I am unwont to praise when praise is not merited; and I here most avowedly express my firm opinion and conviction, that no troops in any battle on record ever behaved more nobly;—British and Native, no distinction, Cavalry, all vying with H.M.'s 16th Lancers, and striving to head in the repeated charges. Our guns and gunners, officers and men, may be equalled, but cannot be excelled, by any Artillery in the world. Throughout the day no hesitation, a bold and intrepid advance;—and thus it is that our loss is comparatively small, though, I deeply regret to say, severe. The enemy fought with much resolution; they maintained frequent rencontres with our cavalry hand to hand. In one charge, upon infantry, of H.M.'s 16th Lancers, they threw away their muskets and came on with their swords and targets against the lance.

Having thus done justice, and justice alone, to the gallant troops his Excellency entrusted to my

command, I would gladly, if the limits of a despatch (already too much lengthened I fear,) permitted me, do that justice to individuals all deserve. This cannot be; therefore must I confine myself to mention those officers, whose continued services, experience, and standing, placed them in conspicuous commands. In Brigadier Wheeler, my second in command, I had a support I could rely on with every confidence, and most gallantly did he head his brigade. From Brigadiers Wilson, Godby, and Hicks, I had also every support, and every cause to be gratified with their exertions. In Brigadier Cureton, Her Majesty has one of those officers rarely met with; the cool experience of the veteran soldier is combined with youthful activity—his knowledge of outpost duty, and the able manner he handles his cavalry under the heaviest fire, rank him among the first cavalry officers of the age; and I beg to draw his Excellency's marked attention to this honest encomium. In Major Lawrenson, commanding the Artillery, Lieut.-Col. Alexander, Captain Turton, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lane, the service has officers of the very first order; and I am equally satisfied with Captain Boileau, in command of the nine pr. battery, and with Lieutenant Mill in charge of four light guns. The two 8-inch Howitzers did right good service, organized, equipped, and brought into the field, by the exertions, and determination to overcome all difficulties, of Lieutenant-Colonel Lane, equally well served, and brought forward always with the Infantry, by Lieutenant Austin.

To Brigadiers Mac Dowell and Stedman, commanding their gallant brigades of cavalry, the fortune of the day is greatly indebted; and to all Commanding Officers of cavalry and infantry, my warmest thanks are due. To Major Smyth, commanding H. M.'s 16th Lancers, who was wounded; to Major Bradford of the 1st Light Cavalry; to Major Angelo of the 3rd Light Cavalry; to Major Alexander of the 5th Light Cavalry; to Captain Hill of the 4th Irregular Cavalry; to Major Forster of the Shekawatee Brigade; and to Captain Quin of the Body Guard; to Lieut.-Col. Spence, commanding H. M.'s 31st Foot; to Major Bird of the 24th N. I.; to Captain Corfield of the 47th N. I.; to Lieutenant-Colonel Ryan, K. H., of H. M.'s 50th Regt.; to Captain Troup of the 48th N. I.; to Captain Fisher of the Sirmoor Battalion; to Lieutenant-Colonel Phillips of H. M.'s 53rd Foot; to Captain Jack of the 30th N. I.; to Captain Flemmyng of the 36th N. I.; and to Brigadier Penny of the Nusseeree Battalion.

His Excellency having witnessed the glorious services of H. M.'s 31st and 50th Regiments, and of the 24th, 47th, and 48th Native Infantry, I have only to report upon H. M.'s 53rd, a young regiment, but veterans in daring gallantry and regularity; and Lieutenant-Colonel Phillips' bravery and coolness attracted the attention of myself and every Staff Officer I sent to him. The 30th and 36th Regiments N. I. are an honor to any service; and the intrepid little Goorkhas of the Nusseeree and Sirmoor Battalions in bravery and obedience can be exceeded by none. I much regretted I had no brigade to give Brigadier Penny, who is in orders for one, as His Excellency is aware. I can only say, therefore, that when he gets his brigade, if he leads it as he did his gallant band of Goorkhas, it will be inferior to none.

The services of H. M.'s 16th Lancers His Excellency has witnessed on a former occasion; and the exalted character of this regiment is equally

* 11 guns since ascertained to be sunk in the river, total 67: 30 odd jingalls fell into our hands.