

rocky heights, and were evidently prepared for a determined resistance, he collected his troops, advanced in regular order, and endeavoured to turn the position. A rocky ravine, however, well maintained by the enemy, posted behind bushy rocks, prohibited any successful attempt upon his flank. A direct advance to the front became therefore necessary, and was immediately ordered by Colonel Michel; so well, however, was it met by the enemy, that the troops received a momentary check; when Captain Hope's company of the 60th Rifles, fixed swords, charged, and carried the mountain, supported by the column. The enemy were driven over krantzes and rocks with great slaughter; many cattle and horses were captured, in the defence of which so stout a resistance had been made; and Major Bedford, with two companies of the 60th Rifles, pursued the fugitives over declivities nearly impassable, many more cattle falling into his hands. The whole capture amounted to 560 head and 75 horses; some of the latter being very valuable. In this gallant and rapid affair, Colonel Michel reports that he remarked the especial gallantry displayed by Captain Hope and Lieutenant Du Cane of the 60th Rifles, by his Brigade-Major, Lieutenant Whitmore, of the Cape corps, and by Mr. De Robeck, of Armstrong's Horse. Colonel Michel subsequently continued his operations with every activity, and all the country placed before him was well cleared of the enemy. On the morning of the 15th instant, Captain Taylor, with his company of Hottentot levies, had a sharp affair with a party of the rebels, and captured eleven horses. This was the last occasion on which the enemy appeared. Colonel Michel describes Captain Taylor's company of levies as deserving the name of soldiers.

13. On the 10th instant, Lieutenant-Colonel Perceval, with his column strengthened by the force assembled from Graham's Town and its neighbourhood, and aided by a few burghers of that town, attacked the strong position of the Chief Stock in the Fish River Bush, in two divisions, under himself and Major Armstrong. These simultaneous and well-conducted movements, in a very difficult country, were completely successful; and after a sharp conflict, in which Colonel Perceval much praises the conduct of Major Armstrong, the enemy were driven from every point. One hundred and ninety head of cattle were captured, as well as large flocks of goats, some horses, and several stand of arms; among the latter the double-barrelled fowling-piece of the Chief Dodo, who is believed to have fallen in the fight. The enemy was so hotly pushed as to drive a small herd of cattle into the Fish River, which was full. Nineteen of these, and a Kafir, were shot in the act of swimming. Colonel Perceval was preparing, when I last heard from him, to attack the Chief Tola, who occupied a position somewhat higher up the river; of whom he will, no doubt, give a good account.

14. Your Lordship will perceive, by the instructions which I enclose, that Lieutenant-Colonel Pole, with the 12th Lancers, has been placed intermediately between Eland's Post and Post Retief, so as to intercept fugitives from the Water Kloof range of mountains during the progress of the operations which I have described. The different posts on the line of the enemy's retreat into the Amatolas have also detached parties to occupy the numerous drifts of the rivers; and the Fingoes of Fort Beaufort and Fort Hare have been most successful in capturing horses and cattle, and in adding to the consternation of the rebels. They were fleeing yesterday in all directions, in the distance, past this post—men, women, and chil-

dren—without cattle; and I pronounce these difficult, and heretofore well-maintained, positions of the enemy, viz. the Water Kloof, Blinkwater, and Fuller's Hoek, to be now completely cleared.

15. This day, the 17th instant, the columns of Lieutenant-Colonels Michel and Eyre, under my immediate command, move, with five days' provisions, on the Chumie range of the Amatolas, for the purpose of dislodging the tribe of Tyalie and the rebel Hottentots, and then penetrating into the heart of the mountains, while I leave Major-General Somerset with his division to pursue the retreating enemy, 200 Cradock burghers under the Civil Commissioner, Mr. Gilfillan, operating at the same time from Whit-lesea against the Tambookies. Every part of the rebel enemy's country will thus be assailed.

16. I deeply regret, for the credit of the frontier inhabitants, to report that only 200 burghers from the district of Somerset, 200 from Cradock, and 33 from Graham's Town, have responded to my command. They first objected to the volunteer system which I offered to their loyalty. They then requested to be commanded to turn out. Their shuffling conduct is melancholy. There are many loyal and energetic men who do not fall under this censure, especially the burghers of Albert, under Mr. Cole, who, although they have not turned out on this last occasion, having been only just dismissed after a long and harassing though successful inroad over the Upper Kei, have done right good service during the war.

17. I am fully aware that I have been accused, during the progress of this campaign, of using the language of hyperbole in describing the numerous rencontres which have occurred, and in giving praise to the gallant officers and troops as well as burghers. Possessing, however, some experience in war, I must maintain that such is not the case. Troops acting in the open field expect not the stimulus of praise; the soldier sees his foe and his British courage rises at each step; but he who, after perhaps a night march of great length, has to ascend mountains or penetrate dense bush and ravines, filled probably with a daring and intrepid enemy, as resolute as athletic, ready to murder any one who may fall into his hands, and whose warfare is of the most stealthy and enterprising kind, appreciates the praise of his commander, because when his acts are conspicuously daring, he is conscious he deserves it. He does his duty; but human nature renders even the soldier's intrepid heart sensible of the approbation of his superior, which he is proud to know may reach the eye of his parents and friends.

18. Upon the eve, therefore, of relinquishing this command, I will not shrink from the performance of my duty: and I here record the value I attach to the indefatigable services of Major-General Somerset, whose experience of thirty years in Kafir warfare, its difficulties and its labours, renders him a most valuable, as he is a highly deserving officer. Lieutenant-Colonel Michel, of the 6th Royal Regiment, has frequently distinguished himself in command, and on no occasion more so than in the recent affair of the 15th instant on the "Iron Mountain:" his energy in the field is equal to his zeal and attention to regimental duty. Lieutenant-Colonel Nesbitt, of the 60th Rifles, merits much praise; and I regret that I have been only able on one occasion to give him a separate command. Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre, perpetually in the field since the commencement of hostilities, has been so frequently praised by me for his invariable success in every operation entrusted to his conduct, that what I now add enhances, and does not merely