

With the exception of three Kafirs whom I could see through my telescope, all tréking towards the Kabousie Neck, two or three women in the bush, too old to trék, and two Kafirs, near the Bomah Pass, there was not a living soul to be seen, while all the spoor indicated that the cattle had tréked towards the Kabousie during the rains that fell as we entered the mountains. In the afternoon I marched with the whole force through the Lenga, and bivouacked on the Keiskamma. On the following day, the 24th, I marched to Fort Cox."

7. I enclose the copy of a report from the Gaika Commissioner, corroborative of those of the officers in command of patrols,

8. These operations having been thus most effectually and energetically carried out, I moved my head-quarters, on the 25th ultimo, to Fort Cox, where I had assembled the troops under Colonels Michel, Eyre, and Perceval, on issuing the general instructions annexed.

9. Having established Colonel Michel with his column at Fort Cox, occupying Mount Macdonald, I, on the following day, the 26th ultimo, returned to head quarters at King William's Town, moving at the same time the commands of Colonels Eyre and Perceval for the purpose of posting the former in the Keiskamma Hoek, and the latter on the range of the Quilli Quilli. Previously, however, to their taking up these positions, I directed Colonel Eyre, with Colonel Perceval, thoroughly to penetrate and clear the great forest of Perie, the Buffalo Poorts, and Murray's Krantz, all great resorts of the enemy. This service, after two days' energetic and determined operations, was most effectually performed; upwards of 100 head of cattle and several horses having been captured, great numbers of villages burned in the very forest, and large fields of cultivation destroyed on the verge of the woods. Scarcely any resistance was offered by the enemy. Colonel Eyre describes these forests as more dense and difficult to penetrate than even those of Fuller's Hoek and the Blinkwater. While these operations were in progress, I detached Captain Moody of the Royal Engineers with a strong detachment from King William's Town to post himself between Murray's Krantz and the Isele Berg, to intercept fugitives driven before Colonel Eyre.

10. The 12th Lancers had previously marched to occupy the Kabousie Neck. Major Tottenham, commanding the regiment during the temporary illness of Lieutenant-Colonel Pole, reports, that on his march thither he captured 78 head of cattle, and a number of goats, all being driven towards the Kei; and that he observed large herds in the distance rapidly moving in the same direction; indicating a general trék.

11. On the evening of the 28th ultimo, I received information, corroborative of the above, on which I could rely, that large herds of Gaika cattle, fleeing from the Amatolas, had been collected at the junction of the Doorn and Thomas Rivers with the Kei, a country well adapted for concealment and defence. I, therefore, immediately sent orders to Colonel Eyre not to occupy, as originally intended, the Keiskamma Hoek, but to detach Colonel Perceval for that purpose; and, moving his own column to the Katousie Neck, to take with him the 12th Lancers, and make a rapid movement to seize these Gaika cattle, a service for which his enterprising character well adapts him. I at the same time detached from King William's Town Captain Robertson, of the Royal Engineers, in command of a patrol of 250 men, to complete the work of devastation throughout the Isele Berg, a thickly wooded ridge, trending from Murray's Krantz eastward to Hangman's Bush,

and lying between King William's Town and the Kabousie.

12. Captain Robertson returned on the 2nd instant, having completely traversed the country pointed out in my instructions. He reports it to be completely abandoned by the enemy. A few huts and some fields of ripe corn were destroyed, no one having been near to gather it; and no spoor of cattle was discovered. Colonel Eyre's report reached me on the 5th instant. Having, according to my directions, gained the Kabousie Neck, and been joined by the 12th Lancers, he made a rapid night march on the indicated position on the Kei, which he reached at daybreak on the 31st ultimo. The enemy was completely taken by surprise, and Colonel Eyre, coming on the fresh spoor, or track of cattle, at once pursued it down the bed of the Kei. By another vigorous night march, he came up on the morning of the 1st instant with the flying herds, driven upon an insulated mountain. A most judicious movement of the troops in detached parties, so ably disposed as to prevent escape, was immediately made, and, after some opposition, 1220 head of Gaika cattle, 15 horses, and hundreds of goats, were captured. Colonel Eyre had previously detached Major Armstrong with 100 cavalry to his left, to take possession of a difficult pass, strongly occupied by the enemy, mounted and on foot. After completing this service, that officer, by a dexterous manœuvre, in which he appeared to fly before the enemy, lured him into some comparatively open ground, then, suddenly turning, drove him back, with considerable loss in killed, charging himself directly to the front with the detachment of Cape Corps, and Armstrong's Horse, while Captain Digby's troop of the 12th Lancers fell upon the right rear of the enemy. Major Armstrong subsequently captured 100 head of cattle; the total number taken during the grand operations amounting to 1391. Colonel Eyre speaks in high terms of praise of Lieutenant-Colonel Skipwith, of the 43rd Light Infantry, Major Pinckney, of the 73rd Regiment, Captain the Honourable P. E. Herbert, of the 43rd, and several other officers; and most especially of Major Armstrong and his corps, and Captain Cureton, of the 12th Lancers. He describes the latter officer, who commanded the advance, as having been more than once warmly engaged with the enemy, and on one occasion having "dashed fearlessly across the Kei," in face of a sharp fire kept up from the opposite bank. Colonel Eyre, having thus, with such enterprise and perseverance, effected this large capture, so important on the approaching termination of the war, commenced his march to re-occupy his position in the Amatolas or Keiskamma Hoek; having, in the short space of six days, achieved the most able foray of the many he has conducted during this war.

13. Meanwhile, the troops and burghers, under Major-General Somerset, have been pursuing the enemy in every direction on the northern side of the Amatolas. The Major-General reports from the Windvogelberg, on the 27th ultimo, that he had been on the track of numerous fugitives and cattle, all in full retreat towards the Kei; but, that "the Kafirs are so completely broken and divided that it is impossible to get up with them, except in very straggling parties; all seeming anxious to get over the Kei and escape from the forces as quickly as possible." So vigorous, however, was the pursuit, that it appears by a subsequent report from General Somerset, dated the 1st instant, that some of the enemy endeavoured to turn and make their way back to the Amatolas, with their cattle. The Major-General's mounted