

Having been informed that the chief in command was entrenched behind a breastwork, and had thrown out strong parties in the jungle to intercept our advance, Captain Fytche directed the Kareens who accompanied us to proceed as flankers, whilst he himself led the way in a large war boat.

On our arrival we found the post deserted, and immediately started the natives in pursuit, who came up with the Burmese rear guard, and pressed them so closely that the chief in command had to divest himself of his gilt trappings, even to his inner garments, to facilitate his escape.

The Burmese troops on being driven from Khyoung Gou retreated to Eugma, a large village, sixteen miles inland, nearly equidistant from Donabew and Pantano; and, the natives assuring us that there was a tolerable road all the way, we determined to follow them; accordingly landed one 12-pounder and three 3-pounder guns, and at daylight on the 23rd started off in pursuit.

Our advance-guard, consisting of a large body of natives, was led by the Deputy Commissioner in person, who at 2 P.M. came in collision with a strong party of the enemy headed by a chief on horseback, who, flourishing his dha, gallantly charged down on Captain Fytche, and was mortally wounded by him; upon which his followers, four hundred in number, fled with a loss of five killed and two wounded. We pursued them through Eugma, a village consisting of above three thousand houses, and, finding they were completely broken, halted for the night, and bivouacked in an open plain.

The Commissioner, at the request of the country people, burned both Eugma and Khyoung Gou, to which latter place we returned on the evening of the 24th, and as we learned that the Burmese force had retreated to the northward for the purpose of joining the Mynghee at Kyouk Khyounz Ko-say, we re-embarked in our boats, and after a fatiguing pull reached the Nemesis at 5 P.M. of the 25th.

On the 26th, we proceeded at daylight in tow of the Nemesis, through the Dugga Creek, back to, and up, the Bassein River, till 5 P.M., when we anchored for the night at Pyagee, and at daylight of the 27th proceeded on to Na Thoung Goung, a large town, and beyond which there was not sufficient water for the steam-vessel: here we obtained information that the Mynghee had broken up from his encampment two days previous and had retired to Lamena, and that the force we had driven from Eugma, amounting to twelve hundred men, had passed on to join him.

The Commissioner having determined on attacking the Mynghee, we started in our boats at 5 A.M. of the 28th, and reached Lamena at 6 P.M. On our arrival, the people, if not hostile, appeared very lukewarm in our cause; and he could obtain no authentic information of the enemy's movements. About 10 P.M., however, Captain Fytche informed me he had received credible intelligence of the Mynghee's force, amounting to from two thousand five hundred to three thousand fighting men, being in a position not more than eight miles off; and that they would not move till after their morning meal: his only fear was that they would escape us, to prevent which he determined to send forward all the native force in whom any reliance could be placed, who by a forced march, and making a circuit to the right would be enabled to head the Mynghee's troops and to stop their retreat. To give confidence to these natives, and ensure his directions being followed out, he was desirous of having an European officer to accompany them; and, as this officer might be placed in

a critical position should he be deserted, it was requisite that he should possess coolness and judgment, and I was glad to find in Mr. Baker, the chief officer of the Nemesis (who volunteered), the requisite qualifications: accordingly he left, accompanied by the Commissioner's Sheristadar, at 3.30, on the 29th; and, to allow him time to reach his post, we waited until 7 A.M., before moving from Lamena, which we did with all our Europeans and the four small guns—the latter, with the ammunition, drawn by bullocks.

On arriving at the spot indicated as the Mynghee's position, we discovered that he had moved at 2 A.M., instead of sunrise, as we had been led to believe, and was then encamped at a position eight miles in advance of us.

The men being much knocked up by a march of about 12 miles, in the heat of the day, and as our native force, who had rejoined us here, had failed in the object for which they had been sent forward, we determined to encamp where we were, and sent out scouts to watch the enemy's movements, by whom we were informed that the Mynghee was apparently unconscious of our approach, and that he certainly would not move before sunrise.

Captain Fytche was resolved on getting in front of the enemy's position, which we effected by a circuitous movement on his right flank, having left our ground at 1 A.M., and marched till 5 A.M., when we discovered his encamping ground, and took up a position half a mile in front, on the road by which he would have to advance.

At daybreak, the enemy commenced their march, and were overheard by Captain Fytche, who had ridden down close to their advanced column, rejoicing in the idea of cutting up Mungwa, and his dacoits, for whom they had mistaken us. It was just sunrise as their advanced guard, consisting of eight hundred armed men, approached our position, and as our guns were partially hidden from their view, and our small party, consisting of but eighty blue jackets, were kneeling down, and almost concealed by the moving mist, they came on shouting and yelling to within two hundred yards, when they opened a well directed fire of musketry upon us: two of our party were hit, and, the enemy being within good range of our guns, we returned their fire with a general discharge of grape and canister, which effectually stopped their advance, and, on receiving a second discharge, they broke and fled, a confused rabble; forty-eight dead bodies proved the effect of our fire; and fifty prisoners, amongst whom were his two sons, the ardour of our pursuit, which we continued till 7 A.M., when we reached a jungle totally impenetrable to an European.

The object of the expedition having been thus crowned with the most complete success, we returned to Lamena the same evening, having accomplished a march of upwards of thirty miles, since 1 A.M. The following day we returned to the Nemesis, at Nathaung-goung, where, at the Commissioner's request we remained the following day, and leaving on the 2nd in tow of the steam-vessel, arrived at Bassein, at noon, on the 3rd of February.

The successful result of the expedition, I need not observe, is entirely attributable to the excellent arrangements made by the Commissioner Captain Fytche, to whose opinion I always deferred, and who set us a gallant example by being ever in advance.

I have also the utmost pleasure in bringing to your Excellency's notice the conduct of every officer and man comprising our small band, more particularly Captain Goodwin, of the E.I.C.