

India Board, May 7, 1858.

THE following papers have been received at the East India House :—

No. 1.

Brigadier-General G. H. Macgregor, C.B., Military Commissioner, to the Secretary to Government with the Governor-General.

*Allahabad, Camp Mobaruckpore,
February 25, 1858.*

SIR, No. 179.

I HAVE the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor-General that the three brigades of this force, under the immediate command of Maharajah Jung Bahadoor, this day completed the passage of the River Gogra with all its baggage and stores. The Fourth or Belwa Brigade will arrive on the other side to-day, and will cross, if possible, to-night, if not, to-morrow morning.

2. In reporting the successful result of much anxiety and labour, for the information of his Lordship I would wish to give a detailed account of the whole operation, that the government may be fully aware of the difficulties which we have had to encounter, but which have at last been overcome.

3. From the time of our arrival at Goruckpore, the passage of the Gogra was the great obstacle which presented itself to my mind, in the way of our advance into Oude.

4. I am aware that the river was at least as large as the Ganges, and much more rapid, and that the southern bank was studded with forts which commanded the stream. That the enemy lined the banks in great numbers and occupied every ghat, and that they had removed all the boats to the right bank, from where the river washes the Azingurh district, to Byram Ghat.

5. On consulting the Maharaja, and laying all these things fully before him, he said that he left the matter entirely in my hands, that he would move his troops as I wished, but that I must make the arrangements for crossing.

6. As I had not only to prepare the crossing, but to defend the Goruckpore district as well, I recommended to his Excellency to send a brigade to Belwa, opposite Fyzabad, and to support it with another at Bustee. Subsequently the reports of the collection of rebels at Fyzabad became so urgent, and represented them in such numbers, that the officers in military charge determined to unite their brigades, and this rendered it necessary for support to be sent from Goruckpore to Bustee. The Maharaja immediately despatched a brigade at my request.

7. Lieutenant Sankey, of the Madras Engineers, had previously reported himself in camp, and I immediately took him into consultation; and, after establishing workshops for the collection of materials at Goruckpore, this officer set off to do the same both at Bustee and Belwa, and by my directions he made a survey of the river from Fyzabad to below Tadah. He reported two places suitable for crossing, the best at Belwa itself, the other, good, but not quite so good, at Phoolpoor.

8. The rebels were at this time in force at Tandah, and Mohamed Hosein expressing his intention to invade Goruckpore, if we went on to Fyzabad. The collector of Azingurh also wrote to me about the defenceless state of his district, so I resolved to cross at Phoolpoor, which would have the effect of turning the enemy, as far as both districts were concerned.

9. Bridge materials were rapidly prepared at Goruckpore, Bustee, and Belwa, all this time, and from the disposition of the troops and these in-

cessant preparations, the enemy was completely deceived. He commenced throwing up batteries to oppose us at Belwa, and crossed a large force to annoy us at Byram Ghat, who advanced towards Belwa. The bearing of the enemy waxing more insolent every day, I sent orders to Captain Plowden, in military charge, to advise the Goorkha officer in command to march out and fight the enemy. The very gallant action at Shahgunge ensued, of which I had the honor to enclose Captain Plowden's report in my letter No. 146 of the 7th instant. The result was the dispersion of the enemy; and, notwithstanding all their boasting, oath-taking, &c., they have never since ventured to attack our post at Belwa, which it was of importance to keep up to the last.

10. Previously to this, fearing that the rafts proposed by Lieutenant Sankey might not be found sufficient, though they were all he could make with the wretched dingees he could collect from this and from that nullah, I had despatched Captain Reid, 37th Native Infantry, to Gopalpore, to collect there, and at Barhul Ghaut, a fleet of large boats; this being the nearest point at which we could procure them. Captain Reid collected the boats, boatmen, and a large quantity of materials, and put platforms on the boats; and on his reporting all ready, I directed Colonel Rowcroft, then at Burhu, to escort the boats up the river to Phoolpoor.

11. Simultaneously the Maharajah, with the head-quarters, marched to Bustee from Goruckpore, and the Bustee Brigade was pushed across country to Hainsur first, and Chupra afterwards, to support and reinforce Colonel Rowcroft. He advanced with the boats up the river, and as the fleet was threatened by the fort of Chundepore, Captain Sothely landed the escort, and captured the fort, after the gallant affair of which I had the honour to enclose his report in my letter No. 177 of the 24th instant.

12. At this time the head-quarters of the Maharajah had moved to the Manja, opposite Phoolpoor, arriving there on the 17th instant, and as the river here made a reach from the left to the right bank, where it ran under the village of Phoolpoor, and where, the whole channel being one, it was to be crossed, a workshop was established on our side, about two miles above where the bridge was to be. Here the rafts and bridge materials were got ready.

13. It was in contemplation to cross a force on the rafts to seize the village of Phoolpoor, but as the enemy had collected a considerable force, with guns, immediately opposite the workshop, and opened a fire, though it fell short, yet the boatmen were frightened and temporarily ran away, so that idea was abandoned.

14. On the 19th, Colonel Rowcroft, having made a long march, arrived about sunset, simultaneously with the fleet at Nowrainee, about four miles below Phoolpoor. On hearing of his approach, I sent my military secretary to bring me intelligence of what he was going to do, and that officer finding from Captain Reid that the boats were all ready, and the fort of Nowrainee on the right bank deserted, and knowing my wishes in regard to Colonel Rowcroft's crossing, I having requested him to do so at Chupra, urged him to cross at once, which Colonel Rowcroft consented to do, and the passage being effected that very night, we were established on the right bank of the river. In the morning Brigadier Junga's Doje's Brigade crossed at Nowrainee, and Colonel Rowcroft's advancing with the united force, completely defeated the rebels in advance of Phoolpoor on the 20th, and thus secured the tête du-pont and the peaceable passage of the river. I had the honor to forward Colonel Row-