

deep ravine in his rear. Three guns and a considerable body, still retaining some formation, retired towards the station of Sultanpore, near which, taking post about a temple and in a thick grove, they continued to fire, till finally driven from their guns by two regiments of Goorkhas.

29. The action was now at an end: the plain beyond the ravines was everywhere covered with fugitives, whom my want of cavalry precluded my pursuing, and the ravines prevented the further advance of the guns. Two guns of Captain Middleton's Battery, and the small detachment of British Horse, however, continued the pursuit for nearly two miles along a comparatively open strip of land, and overtook and captured in a ravine 2 guns which the enemy had succeeded in withdrawing so far.

30. Halting the main body of the force to cover the collection of the captured ordnance, I pursued that portion of the enemy, which had retired by the Lucknow road, for four miles, with the 20th and 97th Regiments, and four Battalions of Goorkhas; and the mounted soldiers of the 10th, under Lieutenant Tucker, followed these guns for nine miles; but so precipitate had been the enemy's flight, that they were unable to come up with them; but some ammunition waggons and much baggage fell into our possession.

31. Thus ended the battle of Sultanpore, in which, with only 11 casualties on our side, an army of about 25,000 men was driven from a position of great strength, and scattered to the winds, with the loss of 1800 men killed and wounded, and leaving 21 guns, 9 of them of siege calibre, in our hands.

32. I am full of gratitude for the achievement of these great results with so trifling a loss of life.

The effect has been to open the road to Lucknow for the unopposed march of this force, as well as for that of the Maharajah Jung Bahadoor, who has taken this route, instead of that of Fyzabad, as he originally intended.

33. The force halted after the action at Badshahgunje; where it was joined the same evening by the Lahore Light Horse, and Pathan Horse, under Captain Balmain. Next day was employed in the destruction of the whole of the captured artillery, for which I had no means of transport, and of the stores of ammunition and material for gun-carriages, which were found in the town of Badshahgunje, where the Nazim's gun-carriage manufactory appears to have been situated. On the evening of the 24th, the 3rd Sikh Horse, the remaining portion of the cavalry, detached by his Excellency, reached me.

34. On the 25th, in compliance with the telegram from the Chief of the Staff received the previous night, the force resumed its march, reaching the same day Moosafirkhana, 20 miles, and on the 26th Jugdespore, 16 miles, where it was found absolutely necessary to halt on the 27th, to give the cattle rest.

35. By the 28th February, I reached Hydrurgurh, 16 miles, and on the 1st March halted at Selimpore, 18 miles from Lucknow: thus arriving as directed by his Excellency, within one march of that city on that date.

36. In this day's march occurred one of the most dashing cavalry combats I have ever heard of.

Captain Aikman, Commanding the 3rd Sikh Cavalry, on the advanced picket with 100 of his men, having obtained information just as the force marched on the morning of the 1st, of the proximity, three miles off the high road, of a body of 500 rebel infantry, and 200 horse, with 2 guns, under Moosahib Ali Chuckledar, attacked and utterly routed them, cutting up more than 100

men, capturing the guns, and driving the survivors into and over the Goomtee.

This feat was performed under every disadvantage of broken ground, and partially under the flanking fire of an adjoining fort.

I regret to add, that Lieutenant Aikman received a severe sabre cut in the face; which will not, I trust, long deprive me of the services of so enterprising an officer.

37. On the evening of the 1st, the force having made a march of eighteen miles, encamped on the Nullah of Selimpore; with the Goomtee half a mile on its right. The town of the same name was abandoned by the enemy at the first sight of our cavalry, though the strong earth-works surrounding it, which must have been for weeks in course of construction, might have been expected to encourage them to withstand our advance.

38. Immediately on my arrival at Selimpore at 7 P.M. on the 1st March, I reported the circumstance by cossid for his Excellency's information, and solicited further instructions. A duplicate of this report was despatched by a second runner in the forenoon of the 2nd.

On the evening of the 3rd a messenger from Captain Bruce, Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Army, brought me an order to advance on Lucknow.

39. Accordingly, on the 4th, at 6 A.M., I marched from Selimpore, and reached without opposition a mosque a mile beyond the town of Ameythee, eight miles from Lucknow.

40. Here intelligence was brought that a large body of rebels with 2 guns were posted in and round the fort at Dhowrara, two miles to the right of the road, and situated in very difficult ground amongst ravines which run into the Goomtee.

I had hitherto passed such forts, when situated at a distance from the road, without taking any notice of their garrisons, who almost universally evacuated them when left in rear of our force.

But, being apprehensive that this party, if left unmolested, might annoy my long train of baggage, I resolved to drive them out.

41. The main column under Brigadier Eveleigh, C.B., moved on a mile further on the road to Goorsahgunje, where it halted; while, with the two-Horse Artillery guns of Lieutenant-Colonel D'Aguilar's troop under Lieutenant Arbuthnot, a squadron of 9th Lancers and some Sikh and Pathan Horse, the whole under Captain Coles, 9th Lancers, I examined the fort. About 500 rebels originally occupied it, while nearly 3,000 were collected in its vicinity, most of whom fled down the ravines and escaped over the river when they saw our cavalry circling round their flanks; 200, however, fell back, and prepared to defend it.

42. The enemy having opened fire on our approach from 2 small guns, the two-Horse Artillery guns were brought into action at 600 yards, the Native Cavalry threatening the enemy's flanks, and the 9th Lancers being held in reserve well out of fire. The guns were subsequently moved up successively to 400, 300, and 200 yards, but, though they silenced the enemy's artillery fire, they failed in putting down that of the matchlockmen securely posted behind the parapet.

43. I therefore ordered up a company of marksmen from each British regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Longden, 10th Foot, and two 24-pounder howitzers of Major Cotter's Madras Battery; after a few rounds from which the outer enclosure of the fort and the guns mounted there were abandoned. But a sharp matchlock fire was still kept up from the loopholes which everywhere pierced the keep into which the greater part of the defenders had retired. The Company of the