

No. 44.

*Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., to
the Chief of the Staff.*

SIR, *Camp, Tigra, April 12, 1858.*

IN my communication of the 10th instant from Jounpore, I reported my arrival at that station on the previous day, and that I had been compelled to halt there, from the exhausted condition of my cattle, which had marched over bad roads for twelve days continuously, without a halt; also that I intended proceeding towards Azimghur by the direct road the following day.

2. I have now the honour to report to you, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that in consequence of intelligence received during the 10th, that a party of insurgents under Golam Hossain, Chuckledar, had advanced to within twelve miles of Jounpore, destroyed the village of Selaidapore, and actually threatened the city of Jounpore, I decided, late on the evening of the 10th, to change my route to the one through Tigra and Deedar Gunge, which would enable me, I hoped, to punish Golam Hossain and his party, whilst my arrival at Azimghur would only be delayed one or two days.

3. Independently of the safety of Jounpore, in my opinion, requiring this movement, I was further induced to change my route in consequence of its having been proclaimed to the people of Oude, by these rebel Chuckledars, that the force under my command was the remnant of the British army which had been destroyed at Lucknow, and was flying for safety to the Lower Provinces.

4. On my arrival at Tigra, where I proposed encamping, I found that the rebel force had moved back some six miles, after destroying the village and house of Selaidapore, and as the morning had been unusually oppressive, and the troops much distressed by the march of nearly sixteen miles, I considered it inadvisable to proceed, and therefore halted for the day, scouts being sent out to reconnoitre the enemy's position.

5. Towards evening, I received intelligence that there was a movement amongst the rebels as if they intended to march. This was about 4 P.M., and fearing they would make off, I at once ordered out all the cavalry off duty, consisting of 293 sabres, with three Horse Artillery guns, and proceeded with them in pursuit, requesting Brigadier Douglas, to bring up a portion of the infantry in support.

6. The enemy were, I understood, in groves of trees on the other side of the village Munnihar, numbering altogether 3,000, of whom 500 or 600 were sepoys, and 200 cavalry, (said to have been the volunteer regiment, probably 37th Native Infantry), and the 12th Irregular Cavalry, and two guns.

We came upon the cavalry picquets of the rebels within three or four miles from our camp; but they rode off as we advanced, and finding that the whole were in full retreat, I at one

pushed on at a rapid pace, the 3rd Irregular Cavalry under Captain Pearse, and a party of the 12th Irregulars, under Lieutenant C. Havelock, supported by a squadron of the Military Train under Major Robertson. The guns, also, in command of Major Michell, Royal Artillery, followed in support; but the evening was too far advanced, and the country too close, for them to act with any effect.

7. The pursuit was continued for more than three miles, and at least eighty of the rebels killed and their two guns captured; one a very large iron eight-pounder, and the other a two and three fourths-pounder (also a large iron gun, though of small bore).

They are both of native manufacture, and being pronounced unfit for our service, I had them burst, and the massive carriages broken up for their material.

The force did not return until 10 o'clock, and the captured guns were not brought into camp until 4 o'clock this morning.

I have therefore been obliged to halt for this day.

8. The cavalry could not certainly have marched yesterday less than thirty-two miles, and the infantry twenty-eight miles. The exertion in such weather was very great, but I considered the object required it; for had Golam Hossain's force gone away unpunished and with their guns, there would have been no limit to their falsehoods and boastings. As it is, the fact of their flight, punishment, and loss of their guns, must become patent to the district.

9. Although our loss is trifling as to numbers, it is, from its nature, I regret to say, most severe, and deeply felt and deplored by all.

Lieutenant Havelock was shot through the head when gallantly leading his men, and he expired before we returned to camp.

He was an intelligent, brave, and gallant soldier, well worthy of the name he bore, and as I before stated, his loss is deplored by every one in this force.

10. In conclusion, I beg you will bring to the notice of his Excellency the high spirit of the troops, European and native, and the obligations I am under to all ranks for the great exertions they have made, and the cheerfulness with which they have endured the fatigues of the long marches.

11. Mr. Forbes, C. S., has accompanied my force from Lucknow, and rendered me much assistance in the intelligence department. Mr. Jenkinson, C. S., and Mr. P. Carnegy, Deputy Commissioner, also accompanied me from Jounpore, and by their local knowledge, assisted me greatly.

I proceed to Azimghur, *viâ* Deedargunge to-morrow.

E. LUGARD, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Azimghur Field Force.