

It was not possible to prevent this; my troops had, between 10½ A.M. and dusk, made a tour of 35 miles, the last 8 or 10 of which, during a two hours' fighting, pursuit, and retirement in like order, firing to the rear; we could not leave nor move our prize, the enemy's artillery, and no preventive measures could have been taken over miles of high grass jungle, interspersed with deep pits and pools of water. I am at a loss for words to express my admiration of the unsurpassed performances of the light column I had the privilege of commanding. Taking advantage of all favourable ground, we must have trotted 8 or 9 miles of the first 25, and during the five miles' pursuit from first sight of the enemy, the trot and gallop were our only paces; strength and energy were most fully tested, and, through God's blessing, not found wanting; 65 miles over a most difficult and unknown country had been accomplished by this portion of Brigadier Troup's field force, between 7 A.M. of the 17th, and dusk the following evening, under circumstances but faintly described.

All our movements and firings were executed with admirable regularity; difficulties were encountered but to be overcome with an enthusiasm and spirit by the European portion of the force, peculiarly British. The Mooltanee Horse, commanded by Captain Dixon, was most admirably directed by as active and gallant a young officer as I would wish to serve with. Unhappily I had but a sufficient number to perform the important duty of feeling the country to our front and flanks. The 4th Irregular Cavalry advanced, as desired, with great regularity, and showed a very imposing front; it is splendidly horsed. It appeared to the European portion of the force, that a most favourable opportunity for this young regiment to distinguish itself in the fight was neglected; but Captain Hall has described the obstacles, and shown that the orders sent, owing to the difficulties of the jungle, &c., did not reach him. Lieutenant Cadell, who had a detachment of this regiment on the left of the guns, was most anxious to carry out my orders, and proved himself a zealous and intelligent officer. At our most advanced position, whilst Captain Mercer with the right half troop and rifle supports, was showering his grape into cover at 250 yards to his front, where a large number of the rebel rifle and matchlockmen were secreted, two mounted leaders stole through the grass to their right. I perceived them galloping towards the left half troop, which was firing round shot and shrapnell upon the more distant foe. Doubtful as all were whether the horsemen belonged to us or the enemy, I galloped towards Lieutenant Cadell's detachment, called out to him and the artillery to look out, for I now observed the fanatics, who came right through the guns, and were at length shot down by our revolvers, or the 4th Cavalry carbines, firing at the same time. The slain were very handsome men, one a Resseldar of the 14th Irregular Cavalry, and the other wore the 12th Cavalry pouch, a native officer of some grade. I distinctly saw the matchlockmen and other soldiers at the ghat and in cover, falling under the discharges of grape from the right half troop and riflemen (here Captain Mercer was ably aided by Lieutenant Hume), as I did the more distant horsemen, from the shot and shell most skillfully thrown by Lieutenants Taylor and Warter. The admirable practice and its effects throughout the engagement were perceived by all, owing to our open order and consequent freedom from smoke, but to none more perfectly than myself and two incomparable Orderly Officers, Captain Bishop,

my able staff, and Lieutenant Moncrief, Bengal Engineers, who offered his services. To this most promising young officer I am especially indebted for the great intelligence and pluck he evinced in carrying my orders in an unmistakable manner to the various branches of my command. Lieutenant Moncrief's correctness of eye and judgment for field movements enabled him, on his untiring horse, to carry out my orders with marvellous rapidity, and I can only hope that Brigadier Troup will appreciate Lieutenant Moncrief's voluntary aid as I do. All the European Officers and soldiers in the field upheld the honour of their country to my satisfaction, for I desire to judge all with reference to the material at their disposal and opportunities offered! New levies cannot be expected to evince the zeal of tried veterans, nor can the Hindoostani soldier, under the influence of fanaticism and superstitious awe of their teachers, be expected to act against their brethren (except when quite guarded against such influence) as with the Mooltanee, Sikh, and Afghan, against our common enemy. And I feel confident that Brigadier Troup, in forwarding this report to the Commander-in-Chief, will do me the justice of assuring his Lordship, that whilst I write and speak strongly, but faithfully, I act towards all in accordance with my estimate of their zeal and faithfulness in the discharge of duty, rather than by the amount of work they may have the ability and opportunity of performing. The following day we were engaged, as soon as the fog cleared off, in scouring the battlefield, and collecting information. About 50 dead bodies, principally killed by grape, were counted, one group of 20 having been dragged together, but the evidence of a wounded soldier, some prisoners, and the inhabitants far and wide, goes to prove that the rebel army suffered great loss of men and cattle from our fire, and in attempting to cross the treacherous and rapid Chokha. Their discomfiture, all engaged can certify, was most complete, and after (reliable) evidence, proves that the proud rebel army of 4 P.M. of the 18th November, was before nightfall scattered in all directions before us, and their chiefs powerless fugitives. Captain Dixon, with his Mooltanee, tracked them the following day many miles in various directions, and brought in reliable information to the above effect. Captain Clark's (Assistant Commissioner,) inquiries and observations were most valuable, and generally in support of Captain Dixon's information. I am much indebted to Captain Clark for the spirit and discriminating ability he aided me with throughout the 18th and 19th. Ensign Bird, doing duty with the 3rd troop 3rd brigade Horse Artillery, Provost Marshal of the force, accompanied my column, and was most useful in the intelligence department. In conclusion, I beg to bring to favourable notice the gallant European soldiers who directed and aided, as I have tried to describe, under God's guidance and blessing, gained for Brigadier Troup's Field Force (any detachment from which, under corresponding circumstances, would have executed his orders in like spirit), this glorious victory. The energy, pluck, and unanimity evinced by all our countrymen engaged, could not be surpassed, and must ever be remembered by me with feelings of deep gratitude and pride. I have now the happiness of thus publicly thanking Captain Hall, and his officers united with us in desire to perform their duty in a necessarily difficult command. Captain Bott and his officers, who with his 80 sabres of the distinguished 6th Dragoon Guards, freed us from all anxiety as to cavalry support to the guns, is as