

On the 16th instant, the force as per margin,\* under my personal command, moved from Arrah and arrived at Beeheea (at the north-east corner of the jungle) on the morning of the 17th instant.

17th at 10 o'clock A.M., I was in communication with Major Lightfoot's column on the west; a connected line of posts was at once established along the railway embankment; passing through and closing the north of the jungle. My cavalry, and the mounted rifle detachment of the 10th Foot, were pushed on to the village of Roophan further south, about two miles east of the village of Dawa, and were employed the whole day in skirmishing with detached parties of the enemy, who appeared in the skirts of the jungle, either from a wish to break out towards the Soane or to discover our intentions. During the afternoon, I pushed forward, in support, a company of the 35th Regiment, under command of Captain Browne, who, in conjunction with the cavalry and mounted riflemen, held the enemy in check during the night. I purposely kept their attention engaged in this quarter, to give time for the completion of the closing movements of my converging columns, with all of whom I was in frequent communication. At 1 P.M., I sent orders to Colonel Walter and Colonel Turner (the former then actually at Arrah, but supposed to be at Ukgaon on the Soane, the latter at Peeroo), directing them to be, Colonel Walter at Musondhee, three miles east of Jugdeespore, by noon on the 18th, and Colonel Turner in communication with the force of Major Carr, then stationed on the west of the jungle, to form a connected line across it, the left of which was to rest at Jumwan on the west, the right on the plain to the east of the jungle. On the line being formed, it was to advance skirmishing up the jungle direct on Jugdeespore, so as to arrive there by noon. My column, in conjunction with that under Major Lightfoot, was to skirmish south to Jugdeespore, and attack the entrenchments on the north and east, while Colonel Dunsford, advancing from Hetumpore, attacked on the north-west.

The above rough sketch of the movements and distribution of my several columns (most minute details, too long to enter into here, had been issued to, and acknowledged by, the several officers commanding) will show that I entertained no unreasonable expectation in hoping to hem the rebels into their stronghold by noon on the 18th instant, and then, by a simultaneous assault on all sides, to end the campaign in Shahabad at one blow.

The whole of the arrangements, with one exception, were completed almost beyond my expectation, considering that my chain of posts extended over about sixty miles.

Colonel Walter, who had been directed to take up his position at Musondhee, three miles east of Jugdeespore, unfortunately found it necessary (in consequence of the unfavourable reports he had received of the inundated state of the country) to make a circuit of some thirty miles *viâ* Arrah, and hence did not reach his post until late in the afternoon; the gap thus left open was only too readily taken advantage of by the enemy. Colonel Turner from the south, and Colonel Dunsford from the north-west, encountered considerable opposition in their advance on Jugdeespore, as is

\* Madras Artillery, 1 24-pounder howitzer; 1 9-pounder gun; 2 5½-inch mortars. Bengal Artillery, 2 12-pounder Mountain Train howitzers, horsed. D. Troop Military Train, 1 officer, 31 men. Mounted Detachment 10th Foot, 1 officer and 42 men. Shahabad Mounted Police, 2 officers and 30 men. 3rd Seikhs, 5th and 12th Irregular Cavalry, 16 to pers. Her Majesty's 35th Regiment, 15 officers and 301 men.

shewn by their several reports; my own advance was almost without opposition, and we arrived at Jugdeespore to find it evacuated by the enemy, whose rear guard left their entrenchments on one side, as we entered them on the other. The rebels had fled, abandoning two guns and their immense earth-works (surprising from their extent and the time and labour evidently expended on their construction), having finally made but a feeble resistance. For some time no trace of the main body could be discerned, as none of Mr. Money's numerous spies had returned with information. About 3 P.M., receiving what appeared reliable information that the enemy had fled south, leaving Colonel Dunsford's column to garrison Jugdeespore, I pushed on with my own and Lightfoot's column towards Jhitowra, and, meeting Colonel Turner, I directed him to proceed at once to Suhar on the Soane, to anticipate any movement of the enemy across the river into Beliar. It subsequently transpiring that the enemy had turned eastward, I therefore, at 8 P.M., despatched Major Sir Henry Havelock, with all the disposable cavalry and mounted riflemen of the 10th Foot, directing him to march rapidly through Arrah, and then proceed up the left bank of the Soane; at 10 P.M., I despatched Colonel Walter, with his infantry only, to follow the cavalry towards Nansagor, moving direct on that place, and thus taking a more northerly line than that on which the rebels were marching; they would have a force both north and south moving parallel to them, while Major Sir H. Havelock's force, moving along a good road the whole way, would, I anticipated, be in time to turn them off from the Soane. Orders were also sent to the four companies of Madras Rifles, on the right bank of the Soane, to be on the alert. Halting during the night of the 18th at Narainpore, I marched at daybreak on the 19th, to Arrah (where I left the Madras battery guns and the mortars), with a view of crossing the Soane at Koelwar ghat if necessary.

During the night I heard that the rebels, headed and turned by the forces which had been sent in pursuit,\* had halted during the night of the 18th, at Bullageon, about (6) six miles east of Jugdeespore, and had moved the next day to Gudhune, towards which place I followed them on the 20th sending orders to Colonel Walter, who had remained the whole of the 19th near Gudhune, to follow up the enemy, who, on my approach, turning south-east from that place to Sheopore, had eventually gone due south towards Baruth. Having first been misled by false information to Sheopore, I myself regained the Peeroo road, and marched so as to move on the right flank of the enemy, and halted that night at Peeroo (thirty-three miles' march). Sir Henry Havelock meanwhile, having also heard at Nansagor, at 3 A.M., that the rebels had passed the night of the 19th at Gudhune, had marched at 7 A.M., direct for that place, and thence after me to Sheopore, from which place I now despatched him in pursuit of the enemy towards Baruth. His report will describe the successful skirmish at Nonadee, in which, by his co-operation, Colonel Turner's column was enabled to hem in and kill 400 of the rebels, besides 100 more who made direct for the Soane, retracing their steps on finding themselves cut off from the main body,

\* Force.—Bengal Artillery, 4 12-pounder M. S. howitzers, horsed; D. Troop Military Train, 1 officer, 31 men; 4th Madras Cavalry, 2 officers and 50 men; 3rd Seikh Cavalry, 1 officer and 60 men; Her Majesty's 35th Regiment, 15 officers and 301 men; 84th Regiment, 6 officers and 134 men; 20th Punjab Infantry, 1 officer and 172 men.