

Lieutenant Colonel Probyn's Cavalry descending by a steep path which ran down a hollow on his right. The descent occupied about two hours, ground more difficult for mounted men having never before, I believe, been traversed, even in the hills of the Amatola. The various paths were marked with blood, evidence of the severe loss suffered by the enemy, who had been engaged during the night in carrying off his wounded men.

13. Having reached the level ground below, I observed the enemy in force occupying a spur which ran down from the extremity of the Gurroo Mountain on our left, and stretching very nearly across the entrance of the gorge, barred our advance to the Valley of Chumla. Having carefully examined the position, which was one singularly well chosen and of unusual strength, I determined to attack and turn its right. Having made his dispositions, Brigadier Wilde moved forward accordingly.

14. In the meantime, Brigadier Turner had been conducting his descent from Lalloo with great ability. Passing down by several ridges, he caused his left regiment to effectually protect the right of the column under Brigadier Wilde, which it ultimately joined; his next corps reached the valley at the very point where the spur forming the enemy's position, and the end of which I directed it immediately to seize, disappeared in the level, while the main portion of his column debouched into the open immediately opposite the town of Umbeyla, where it at once deployed into line. The ground over which he passed was of extraordinary difficulty, and scarcely practicable for even the Mountain Train. A Company of Sappers, under Lieutenant Tucker, rendered most valuable service.

15. Up to this time the cavalry had remained concealed behind a projecting spur. I now ordered it to advance. Pressing on at a gallop, these splendid horsemen, under their well-known leader, Lieutenant Colonel Probyn, C.B. and V.C., and Captain Hawes, of the Guide Corps, passed round the left of the enemy's position now in our possession, swept into the valley beyond, and halted to the eastward of Umbeyla. The town had been previously abandoned, and was immediately fired. All other property in the valley has been scrupulously protected, but Lalloo and Umbeyla well deserved their fate.

16. Brigadier Wilde encountered but little opposition where the most had been expected. The ground in his front was of singular strength, and peculiarly capable of defence, but the enemy, seeing his left so effectually turned by Brigadier Turner's column and by the cavalry, abandoned his position, and, almost without firing a shot, retreated slowly towards the Pass leading to Bonair.

17. Brigadier Turner now received an order from me to advance and endeavour to cut off the enemy retiring to the Pass before Brigadier Wilde. He moved across the valley in perfect and beautiful order, passed close to the left of the burning town of Umbeyla, and arrived within a few hundred yards of the Pass. Then the enemy, probably perceiving his object, furiously attacked, sword in hand, the 23rd and 32nd Regiments of Sikh Pioneers, the corps in advance on his left flank. They were staggered for the moment by the sudden onslaught, but turning quickly on their assailants, almost destroyed them. Near two hundred bodies lay upon the field. Lieutenant Alexander, of the 23rd, was killed, and Captain Chamberlain and Lieutenant Nott, of the 23rd, and Major Wheler and Lieutenant Marsh, of the 32nd, were wounded. During this affair the left flank was

most gallantly and effectually protected by two Companies of the 7th Fusiliers, and by a very judicious movement of the cavalry, order by Lieutenant Colonel Probyn.

18. Flushed with success, the Pioneer Regiments now pressed forward into the Pass, driving the enemy before them. But the day was far spent, the hostile position was occupied in great force, and I was besides aware that the Government did not desire to invade Bonair. I therefore directed the troops to be withdrawn. Three guns of Captain Griffin's Battery of Royal Artillery had been brought on elephants from the camp. They were now fully horsed, a novel sight in the Valley of Chumla, and galloping forward, opened a fire of shot and shell. The movement was then effected in echelon of Regiments from the right in admirable order, no molestation whatever being offered by the enemy, who, in immense numbers and in sullen silence, lined the heights above.

19. I may here mention that the force opposed to us on the 15th and 16th instant is estimated, after careful enquiry and observation, at 15,000 men; many Native reports stating the numbers to have been far larger.

20. Having now endeavoured to give the main features of the two days' operations, I beg to enclose reports from officers in command of brigades, numbered 2 and 3, which will furnish his Excellency with the details.* An excellent sketch by Major Johnstone, of the Revenue Survey Department, is likewise enclosed.

21. We bivouacked on the night of the 16th instant in the neighbourhood of Umbeyla. Next morning the "Jirgah" tendered to the Commissioner their unconditional submission; and the stringent terms imposed upon and at once acceded to by them are contained in the accompanying document, marked No. 5.† The political results of our success are in some degree shown by the enclosure marked No. 6, to which I would request his Excellency's attention. "Mulkah," the fanatic stronghold, is levelled with the ground. Its destruction was the primary object of the expedition, and has been now carried out, not by our troops, but at our dictation, by the Bonairwals, the very men who, a few days ago, were prepared to defend it. Enclosed is a report connected with it, marked No. 7.

22. It now only remains for me to perform the pleasing duty of bringing to the special notice of the Commander-in-Chief the names of those officers who, on prominent positions, have done good and gallant service in the arduous campaign which has been brought to a victorious conclusion.

In the first place, I desire to express my sense of obligation to Major James, C.B., the Commissioner. This officer's political sagacity is so well known, that I need only allude to it in passing. But I desire to place on record, in connection with the late operations, how much I owe to Major James's promptitude of action and decision of character in his Civil capacity, and how valuable I have found his hearty co-operation.

My thanks are also due to Colonel Reynell Taylor, C.B., Commissioner of the Derajat.

The valuable services of Colonel Turner, C.B., Commanding 1st Brigade, have been alluded to in the body of this report. He joined the very evening before our advance; and the manner in which he conducted the operations confided to him shows the wise discrimination of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, who ordered him up expressly from Central India.

* No. 2.—Report of Brigadier Turner, C.B. No. 3.—Report of Brigadier Wilde, C.B. No. 4.—Sketch.

† No. 5.—Terms imposed on enemy. No. 6.—Political results as shown by Commissioner. No. 7.—Report on expedition to Umbeyla.