

has arrived in this camp, stating that Captain Dalrymple has utterly failed to induce any men to cross the Ashanti frontier, and is himself on the road to my Head Quarters.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. J. WOLSELEY,
Major-General.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War Office.

Camp, Amoaful,
February 8, 1874.

SIR,

I HAD scarcely sent off my despatches yesterday when Captain Butler, half-pay, 69th Regiment, arrived in my camp, and as his mission to the Western Akims is now completely closed, I feel it my duty to bring at once to your notice the admirable manner in which he has conducted a most trying and difficult task.

That Captain Butler failed in his effort to lead a force of Akims to Coomassie is not his fault, but is solely due to the ineradicable cowardice and sloth of the people with whom he had to deal. In the face of great difficulties he succeeded in raising a force of Akims and leading them across the Prah. Although they deserted him at the very time when a junction with me was within their reach, these troops did, by their partial advance, effect that diversion which was the object of Captain Butler's labours, drawing off from opposition to the column under my immediate command the whole fighting force of Kokofoo, one of the six great tributary principalities of the Ashanti Kingdom.

The high opinion of Captain Butler, which caused me to give him an independent command, is strengthened by his conduct in this war; and I beg to recommend him especially to your notice as an officer of great ability, of remarkably ready resources, and of untiring powers of action.

Captain Dalrymple, 88th Foot, has also worked indefatigably under most disheartening conditions. He too has been vanquished by the *vis inertiae* of the people amongst whom his task lay. But he, like Captain Butler, has rendered me real service, for the Becquah fighting men were drawn off to meet an attack from the Wassaw frontier, which Captain Dalrymple's movements led them to expect. I beg to recommend Captain Dalrymple to your favourable notice.

I have to-day received further despatches from Captain Glover. He writes last from Odumassie, on the 28th ultimo, being then one march advanced from Obogo, whence he dated on the 17th ultimo, and about 20 miles, according to his estimate, from Juabin or Coomassie. Copies of his despatches are sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He had with him all his Houssas and Yorubas, and 700 Akims, and was expecting immediate reinforcements of Aquapims and Croboes. I have sent him orders to fall back behind the River Prah, and though I regret that he is not likely, owing to difficulties of communication, to receive these instructions for some time, he should meanwhile, with the force at his command, be quite able to hold his own against very superior numbers of the enemy. I reserve further remarks till Captain Glover's mission is concluded.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. J. WOLSELEY,
Major-General.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War Office, London.

Colonial Office, March 7, 1874.

THE following Despatches were received at the Colonial Office this morning from Sir Garnet Wolseley:—

No. 1.

Sir G. Wolseley to the Earl of Kimberley.

Camp Agiamum,
February 7, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report that immediately after the despatch from this station of my last letter on the 3rd instant, I forwarded a flying column, taking with me five days' provisions, and marched upon Coomassie. The enemy's resistance on the 3rd was considerable, very large numbers being in our front. I halted on the River Ordah.

During the course of the day's march I received from the King a letter, of which I inclose a copy, with a letter from Mr. Dawson also inclosed, and returned at once the inclosed reply.

On the 4th I advanced again at daybreak. The enemy had occupied a position of considerable strength near the village of Ordasu. This they held against us from about seven till a quarter to two, when they yielded, and on my advance-guard, under Colonel McLeod, being pushed on against them, broke and fled in all directions, leaving behind, strewed along the road, the Chief's umbrellas and chairs, &c., and the food which had been carried with the army.

In the course of this day's march I received from Mr. Dawson two letters, of which I enclose copies. I ordered that the troops should be pushed on at once. No opposition was offered to our entry into the town.

We occupied the town. Mr Dawson was met, at full liberty, walking in the streets.

I immediately issued stringent orders for the protection of the inhabitants and the safety of the town. But night fell almost immediately after our entry, and in the darkness it was impossible to prevent some of the numerous camp followers from pillaging. The Fantee prisoners had also been released, and, in all probability, were largely engaged in the same pursuit. The result was the outbreak of many fires. Captain Baker, Inspector-General of the Police, and several officers, were engaged nearly all night in the suppression of the pillaging and in putting out the fires. One policeman taken in the act was hung.

I endeavoured immediately on my arrival to communicate with the King through Mr. Dawson, and through every channel that appeared to offer an opportunity. A Chief having come into Coomassie who was said to be sent by the King, I saw him myself, and impressed upon him my wish to spare the town, and my desire to impose on the King no severer conditions than those he had already accepted.

Moreover, I told this man that, now that I had shown the power of England, I was ready, if the King would make peace at once, to accept a small indemnity, and not to exact the half I had previously required to be paid in ready money.

Other messengers were obtained who undertook to reach the King. To these I entrusted the letter dated Coomassie, 5th February, 1874.

All was, however, of no avail.

The men whom I endeavoured to employ as messengers, and who came avowedly as envoys of the King, were found treacherously removing powder and gold dust from the houses.

The whole scheme of Ashantee politics is so based upon treachery, that the King does not either understand any other form of negotiation.