

If either your Majesty, or your Royal mother, or Prince Mensah, will come to see me to-morrow morning early, I will treat you with all the honour due to your royal dignity, and allow you to return in safety. You can trust my word.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. J. WOLSELEY,
Major-General and Administrator,
Gold Coast.

To His Majesty Coffee Kalcully,
King of Ashantee, Coomassie.

No. 2.

Sir G. Wolseley to the Earl of Kimberley.

Head Quarters, Camp, Agiamun,
February 7, 1874.

MR LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a report just received from Captain Butler. Your Lordship will perceive that it represents the complete collapse of the expedition under his orders.

2. From Captain Glover I have received no report since that of the 17th from Opogo, the contents of which I forwarded to your Lordship from Fonimanah, and which represented him as short of ammunition and awaiting its arrival, after the success which placed him in possession of the town.

From Captain Dalrymple I have received no official report, but I hear that the Chiefs under his orders have almost entirely deserted him.

Since the above was written, Captain Butler himself has arrived. I cannot express too strongly my sense of the efforts which he, and the officers under his orders, have made for the cause in hand. In so far as failure represents an additional trouble, which has to be undergone by a man of energy and resource, and an additional hardship from which he suffers, Captain Butler has had all the bitterness of it. He has failed to induce the miserable Chiefs of this district to do all that he, in his fine belief in native character fancied that he would be able to induce them to do. But so far as the interests of the expedition under my orders are concerned, Captain Butler has not failed, but most successfully achieved the very object which I had in view in detaching him for the work he so cheerfully and skilfully undertook. He has effected a most important diversion in favour of the main body, and has detained before him all the forces of one of the most powerful Ashantee Chiefs.

For any purpose for which energy, practical ability, high spirit, and much knowledge of character are required, I cannot too highly commend Captain Butler to your Lordship's attention. All these qualities have been, under the most trying circumstances, displayed by him upon the present occasion.

In speaking of Captain Dalrymple I must point out that his position has been in some respects a far more difficult one than ever Captain Butler's. Captain Butler is not only a man well known to the world at large, but I have on a previous occasion had opportunities myself for recognizing his ability. He was known personally to all those officers who were with me in Canada, and of whom many are here. Captain Dalrymple came as a perfect stranger to most of us. The difference is very considerable in the situation of two men each in positions of somewhat painful isolation. Under these most difficult circumstances, Captain Dalrymple has worked with a heartiness and energy which I cannot too highly commend.

Captain Glover's position before the world is so conspicuous, and your Lordship's knowledge of his ability is so complete, that I scarcely think it would be suitable for me to report upon him as if he were one of the Officers in any ordinary sense under my orders. In fact, since his military operations have been carried out under my orders, I have received but one report from him, and know nothing of what has been the history of his force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. J. WOLSELEY,
Major-General and Administrator,
Gold Coast.

Inclosure in No. 2.

SIR,

Tribee, February 2, 1874.

After the dispatch of my letter of the 29th and 30th ultimo, a rapid retreat commenced in the whole Akim force. So universal was the panic that during the greater portion of the night bodies of men continued to move south, and early on the morning of the 31st Yancoma was reached and left behind. No attempt was made on the part of the Kings to excuse or explain their gross treachery, and I could elicit nothing more tangible than that they were too far advanced into Ashantee territory, and that they must be cut off before assistance could reach them.

My belief is that the statements of a blind Ashantee prisoner taken at Nansuah, coupled with a verbal message sent by King Attah of East Akim, the purport of which I was not made aware of, did much to induce the disgraceful flight.

In the hasty postscript to my letter of the 30th ultimo I had only time to make you acquainted with the fact of the retreat.

No previous warning—no intimation whatever—had been given to me that it was the intention of the Kings and Chiefs to abandon Akina; indeed, up to the very moment that the retreat began I was moving through the camps, endeavouring to get the Akims to move to Dadiasso, en route to Amoaful, and I had actually engaged a party of hunters to proceed through the bush to the main line near the latter place. Yet, so complete was the flight; that within two hours, not a man was left in Akinée, and long before midnight every Akim was behind the Ennoou River, ten miles distant. All this without a reverse having taken place, and after a loss of only two killed and two wounded in the entire force.

I cannot express to you the feelings with which I beheld this total break up of the movement. Little by little, step by step, I had succeeded in leading these savages to within a very trifling distance of the point aimed at.

It is true that there were many indications of how utterly untrustworthy was the composition of the force under my command; but, nevertheless, at Akina I naturally looked at the task as all but accomplished, and my junction with the main body at Amoaful, within a few miles of Coomassie, as only a question of some hours. Encumbered with baggage without carriers, save those given me by the Kings, and with three of my officers sick from actual fever or its recent presence, I dare not await at Akinée the chance of communication from the main body. I had to abandon the fruits of no little labour at the moment success seemed most assured.

The Kings, with about a quarter of the original force, are now encamped close to the Prah at Embronon; they have refused to move to Prahsu.