

behaved splendidly when under heavy fire and trying circumstances, but are since doubtful.

There were 15 brass mountain-guns and 15,000 Remington rifles, with ample ammunition, at Khartoum.

The Mahdi was very hard pressed for supplies at Omdurman.

It is thought by the natives that, unless the Mahdi takes the field in person, he will have a difficulty in persuading his Emirs to attack the English.

(Signed) E. J. M. STUART-WORTLEY,
Lieutenant, King's Royal Rifles.

Inclosure No. 3.

Report on Proceedings from January 24th to February 1st.

January 24th.—Left Matammeh at eight A.M. in steamers.

The "Bordein," with Colonel Sir Charles Wilson, Captain Gascoigne (late Royal Horse Guards), Khasm-el-Mous Bey, 10 non-commissioned officers and privates, Royal Sussex Regiment, and 110 Soudanese troops.

The "Tall Howeiya," with Captain Trafford and 10 men Royal Sussex Regiment, Abdul Hamid Bey, 80 Soudanese troops, and Lieutenant Stuart-Wortley, King's Royal Rifles, 11 A.M. stopped for wood at the village of Gandatu on east bank. Sheikh Hussein of the Shagiya tribe sent a messenger on board to say that his tribe was ready to join the English as soon as their power was established. Our victories at Abu Klea and near Matammeh had great effect, the enemy estimating their total loss at 3,000. They had heard that another English Army was advancing by the Nile. Stopped for the night near Derrera. The natives believed that Abdul-Kadir Pasha was at Gakdul.

January 25th.—Started 5.30 A.M. Stopped at 9 A.M. for wood. Passed Wad-El-Habeshi at foot of cataract, where the enemy had made embrasures for guns. They were, however, unoccupied. Gebel Fangur on the north side of Wad-El-Habeshi on the west bank is a strong position commanding the river. Few shots during the day from west bank. Entered the cataract at 3 P.M. Stopped at 5.45 P.M. at Island of Hassan (one of the ninety-nine), owing to the "Bordein" having run on a rock, passed through one very narrow gate.

January 26th.—"Bordein" cleared the rock about nine A.M. Owing to shallow water, all the men were landed to pass over a rapid. "Bordein" went aground, which delayed us all day. Stopped for the night on another Island of Hassan. The cataract north of Shabluka is dotted with islands, all of which are rich in vegetation. They take their name from a sheikh. Two shagiya came on board and reported that General Gordon had been fighting for fifteen days; that the advance of the English was greatly feared; and repeated that the shagiya were waiting only for a positive turn of affairs to declare one way or the other.

January 27th.—Started six A.M., passed Shabluka, which is a very narrow passage between rocks, 30 yards in breadth. Ascended through a gorge between ranges of high hills, from which the river could be rendered quite impassable. On the south side on east bank is Gebel Royan, opposite which is a village called Gos-Nefisa, from

which we took wood. An Arab reported that a camelman from Omdurman had passed that day, reporting the fall of Khartoum and death of General Gordon, but that this was generally disbelieved. Stopped at a village of Gaali, on east bank opposite Tamaniat. Shots from west bank throughout the day.

January 28th.—Started at six A.M.

Gebel-Seg-et-Taib, a steep point of a hill close to river's edge—guns were formerly in position here to fire on Gordon's steamers—found it unoccupied. A man of the Shagiya stopped us on east bank, and stated that Khartoum had fallen two days before. At nine A.M. passed on west bank the island and village of Vakeel-Amin, where one of Mohamet Achmet's head Emirs, Sheikh Mustapha, lives. At noon I saw Khartoum through a telescope, and could see no flag flying from Government House, and the houses appeared to be wrecked. Shortly afterwards the guns at Halfiyeh, four in number, opened fire upon us, and a very heavy musketry fire commenced. This we answered with our guns and also with volleys at 500 yards. The firing ceased for a few minutes, until we were abreast of the Island of Tuti, which we expected to find occupied by Gordon's troops, when a very heavy fire was opened upon us from the island at 150 yards range, and two guns shelled us apparently from Khartoum. When nearing the south end of Tuti, another heavy fire from four guns and of musketry was opened upon us from Omdurman, on our right front, and the enemy showed in large numbers with banners in Khartoum. The "Bordein" was in front with the "Tall Howeiya" close behind. The steamers being well protected by armour-plates our loss was only one killed and five wounded. The shells did but little damage, two only bursting on the steamers. Seeing that Khartoum was occupied by the enemy, and finding it impossible to land under such a heavy fire, Colonel Sir C. Wilson ordered the steamers to go full speed down the river. We were clear of the enemy's fire at 4.15 P.M. Stopped at an island about 12 miles south of Gebel Royan, where we sent out messengers to collect information. They returned shortly, and reported that Khartoum had fallen on the night of the 26th, through the treachery of Farag Pasha, who had entered into negotiations with Mohamet Achmet, and had opened the gates of Khartoum to his troops, and that General Gordon was killed and all his troops.

January 29th.—The "Bordein" damaged her paddle-wheel, which delayed us. The cataract was very difficult, and our pilots much alarmed. We passed the first narrow passage above Gebel-Royan in safety, but when opposite the Gebel the "Tall Howeiya" went on a rock, making a large hole in her bottom. She filled very rapidly, and settled down between two rocks. All on board were saved in a large nigger we had in tow. The guns were saved, but a large quantity of ammunition was destroyed. A Dervish arrived from the Mahdi with a letter addressed to the English Officers and the Shagiya tribe (Khasm-El-Mous Bey and Abdul Hamid Bey), inviting us to surrender, and we—the English—to become Mahomedans, and stating that it was the last letter he would write; adding that if we did not agree to it he would wipe us off the face of the earth. The letter also stated that Khartoum had fallen without firing a shot, and that Gordon was at Omdurman with the Mahdi, and had adopted the latter's uniform. The Der-