

15th March, Friday.—A few shots only were fired last night. The end of the covered way on the water's edge was enlarged a bit, loop-holes made, and occupied by a Cossack post of six Sikhs at night. A letter came from Sher Afzal to the British Agent to-day, saying that a party of our Sepoys escorting an ammunition convoy had been surrounded and defeated at Reshun, and that a British officer who had come down from Mastuj had been taken prisoner also with this party. That he had written a letter to the British Agent which Sher Afzal would deliver if the British Agent would send some one to get it. We did not believe the story.

16th March, Saturday.—A quiet night last night. Sher Afzal forwarded a letter to-day from Lieutenant Edwardes dated Reshun, 18th March, 1895. He said that he and Lieutenant Fowler, Royal Engineers, with a party of 20 sappers (Bengal Sappers and Miners) and 40 of the 4th Kashmir Rifles, on the march from Mastuj to Chitral, had been attacked just this (Chitral) side of Reshun on the road. They had lost 6 men killed and 18 wounded. They had concluded a truce with the enemy after three days' hard fighting. The Pathans with the Chitralis had proposed the truce to Edwardes, saying that the British Agent had made peace with Sher Afzal at Chitral. They had had to sally out of the house they had entrenched themselves in whenever they wanted water. The ammunition (60 boxes of Snider and engineer stores in this convoy) and stores, Edwardes said, were quite safe. Edwardes added a postscript to say that they could not hold out any longer if they were again attacked. A large force was all around them.

A truce of three days has been agreed to on both sides. Negotiations going on with reference to Lieutenants Edwardes and Fowler and party. We began digging out an old disused well in the fort, which had been filled in for many years.

17th March, Sunday.—I employed next two days in improving the traverses made of beams, boxes, etc., on the parapets, and the head-cover in the tower tops, making flanking loop-holes in lower story of flag tower (S.E.) and digging out the old well. Noticed that the enemy had shifted their quarters out of the bazar, which our marksmen had made fairly warm for them, and had moved south to Fateh Ali Shah's house and orchard walls.

18th March, Monday.—Nothing worthy of note.

19th March, Tuesday.—The look-out men on the towers reported that Chitralis had been seen arriving in batches from the direction of Mastuj at dusk yesterday evening.

Considerable numbers of the enemy arrived during the day from Mastuj-way. Should say quite 400 men during the day. Seven corpses were carried along past the fort into Chitral. These must have been men of note brought in, who had been killed at Reshun by our people.

Abdul Majid Khan, Umra Khan's lieutenant, who has been, with 300 Jandolis, with Sher Afzal all the time, sent a letter to the British Agent this evening. Says they are very sorry, but although they had sent off messengers to Reshun to say that peace was being made, a "row" had taken place in the meantime; that they had made prisoners of nine Mahomedan Sepoys; and that the two British officers would be here to-morrow. This looked as if there had been treachery, and so it proved afterwards. I increased the picquet in the covered way to the water to-night to 20 rifles instead of six, and arranged a picquet of 20 men to hold it by

night and 20 by day. This made 70 men holding our water.

20th March, Thursday.—The enemy reinforced their sangars in the day with a lot of men, and sent 28 men across the bridge, and in a short time afterwards 80 men arrived across the bridge from Mastuj-way. The two British officers were being escorted in, but I could not make them out with the glass. However, Munshi Amir Ali was allowed to go and see them from the fort this evening, and our doubts were put an end to, as Amir Ali was allowed to see them and to converse with them, but in Hindustani only.

They were being well treated, but had been looted of all their kit.

21st March, Friday.—Constructed a semi-circular flèche, loop-holed, outside the water door.

Enemy trying to arrange that we should send a British officer up to Sher Afzal's house to see Fowler and Edwardes.

A note from Fowler, asking for medicine, said that the enemy had got all the stores, etc., so we suppose that they have got ammunition and all.

The British Agent told me that he has now heard the story of how Fowler and Edwardes were captured. During the truce they had with the enemy at Reshun, the Chitralis invited the British officers to look on at a game of polo on the Reshun polo ground. They went and were instantly thrown down and bound. What then happened to their men they do not know; they suppose that the 35 men remaining have been massacred with the wounded. We could hardly bring ourselves to believe the story, it was so astonishing.

22nd March, Sunday.—We had now to commence eating horse-flesh, and killed and salted ponies.

23rd March.—Poured with rain in the night.

Umra Khan's Diwan came to see the British Agent. The enemy announce that they will haul down the flag of truce this evening; this they did. We hauled down ours at the same time. Some desultory firing this night. It rained hard. We lit a fire outside the main gate to throw a light.

24th March.—The rain continues to pour in torrents. I hear that Lieutenants Edwardes and Fowler are to be taken down to Drosh to Umra Khan to-day. The enemy fired into the fort to-day from the hill sangars. A large piece of the parapet on the west front subsided, and we built it up with beams in the evening.

25th March.—Rained hard all night; evening quiet: 38 men in three parties observed to cross bridge from up road this evening. The surmise is that it is the captured 60 boxes of ammunition. I had a gun post made in the wall of the half-demolished building outside the main gate during the night, also an embrasure close by in the wall for our brass gun to bear on the enemy's sangar in front of our west front. Took the gun out at 7 A.M. and opened fire on this sangar, but with no effect, as the gun has no sights, and we had to make a wooden one. The second shot hit the parapet of the sangar at the crest, but did it no damage. This sangar was made of fascines, and, as we found afterwards, excellently made, very strong, and rude earth casemates for their men to take cover in. All the sangars round opened fire on the fort. A Sikh was shot through the stomach and died in half an hour,—Martini bullet.

27th March.—Enemy fired from garden (east-front) in the night, lighting a fire in the garden;