

through with only one trooper, from Charter to Salisbury, when the country was swarming with rebels, and, later, in conducting with Captain Taylor, a patrol from Salisbury which, in the face of heavy fighting, was successful in relieving the laager at Abercorn, at that time in great danger and without supplies or water after being besieged for twenty-two days.

I should have taken an earlier opportunity of calling your Lordship's attention to Mr. Duncan's services, had I not thought that, as he is an official of the British South Africa Company, this would have been done by Earl Grey as Administrator. I now do so at the latter's request.

I will take this opportunity of adding to the names of officers in my previous despatch that of Lieutenant (local Captain) P. A. Turner, 2nd Battalion West Riding Regiment, who as Staff Officer to Mr. Justice Vincent, administering the Government in Mashonaland, and later as Assistant Staff Officer to Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, Commanding Mashonaland Field Force, showed much tact and ability in the performance of his duties.

I would further ask your Lordship to convey to the Secretary of State my sense of the good work done by the Mounted Infantry and other detachments of Imperial Troops, comprised in Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson's command in Mashonaland, whose steadiness and discipline under all circumstances was unvarying and highly satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

FRED. CARRINGTON,

Major-General, late Commanding Forces
Matabeleland and Mashonaland.

Colonial Office, June 1, 1897.

THE following reply to a Despatch, received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the High Commissioner for South Africa, and printed in the London Gazette of Tuesday, March 9, is published for information:—

From the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain to Sir Alfred Milner, K.C.B., the High Commissioner for South Africa:—

Downing Street,

SIR, *April 30, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lord Rosmead's Despatch of the 13th of January, enclosing a Despatch from Major-General Sir F. Carrington, reporting on the operations in Matabeleland and Mashonaland.

I have read with satisfaction the favourable report which Sir F. Carrington is able to give respecting the conduct of the forces under his command, and which reflects much credit on all concerned.

2. At the outbreak of the rebellion, which was attended with such lamentable loss of life among the inhabitants of outlying districts, the local volunteer forces, composed of settlers both of English and of Dutch origin, displayed great bravery and firmness in holding the enemy in check.

3. But it was evident that to put down the insurrection was beyond their powers, and when, in consequence, a relief column was organized under Colonel Plumer, and the employment of Imperial troops had to be authorized, Her Majesty's Government felt themselves fortunate in being able to place the operations under the command of a general officer of such tried experience as Sir F. Carrington.

4. The subsequent spread of the rising to Mashonaland rendered his presence and that of the Imperial troops more than ever indispensable.

5. It is to his capacity and prudence, aided

by the untiring efforts of the Imperial officers and troops, and loyally supported by the continued co-operation of the local volunteer bodies of the inhabitants, which numerically formed the greater portion of the combatant force, that the successful issue of the operations is to be ascribed.

6. Those operations were conducted under trying conditions, owing to the vast expanse of Matabeleland and Mashonaland, the difficulties which the natural features of the country presented, and the comparatively small force which could be maintained—seriously hampered as the operations were by difficulties of transport arising from the destruction of oxen by rinderpest, and by the lack of a sufficient local food supply.

7. Full credit is due to the Administrator, Lord Grey, for not hesitating for one moment to draw unsparringly upon the resources of the British South Africa Company to meet these difficulties of food supply and transport, as well as for the measures which they took to provide food for the civil population at the time of scarcity. Indeed, it is right to say that throughout the rebellion the British South Africa Company did not shrink from facing their full responsibilities in a resolute manner.

8. With regard to the conclusion of the operations in the Matoppo Hills, I cannot omit to mention the service rendered by Mr. C. J. Rhodes at the critical meeting held by him with the Chiefs, which was followed by the discussion of their grievances with Lord Grey and Sir R. Martin, and I trust that the settlement resulting from those meetings may prove to be of a satisfactory and permanent character.

9. I heartily concur in the reference made by Lord Rosmead to the help afforded by General Goodenough, as General Officer Commanding the Troops at the Cape of Good Hope, and I request that you will express to him the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for his services.

10. I have duly brought to the notice of the Admiralty and the Foreign Office the valuable assistance given by Rear-Admiral Rawson and Mr. Ross, Her Majesty's Consul at Beira, to which Lord Rosmead calls attention.

11. The cordial terms in which your predecessor and Sir F. Carrington allude to the courteous and friendly assistance afforded by the Portuguese authorities, in connection with the passage of the Imperial troops through Portuguese territory to Mashonaland, have been duly communicated to the Marquess of Salisbury, and Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon has been instructed to bring them to the notice of the Portuguese Government, and to say that Her Majesty's Government have received with pleasure this testimony to the good offices rendered by the local authorities in the territory of Mozambique, and desire that it may be made known to them that their services have been warmly appreciated.

12. It only remains for me to say that I have perused with much interest the record of those officers of the Imperial, and of the local, forces whom Sir F. Carrington recommends to favourable notice as having distinguished themselves by gallantry in action and by the value of their services during the operations. The list of these recommendations has been published in the London Gazette, and has been very carefully considered by the Secretary of State for War and by myself, with a view to submitting a certain number of the names to Her Majesty the Queen for suitable recognition.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The High Commissioner for South Africa.