

from which time the hostility grew which culminated in the present operations.

4. At the end of last December the telegraph construction had reached Udeni, on the borders of the Munshi country, under Lieutenant McClintock, R.E., who had with him an escort of 100 rifles West African Frontier Force under Captain Carroll together with the Europeans named in the margin.\* On 4th January of this year he proceeded to cross the Munshi country to explore the line for the telegraph as far as Ibi, and on the 8th Captain Carroll was attacked in the neighbourhood of Akwanaji, where the Munshi settlements began. The bush was extremely thick, and the arrow fire very heavy. The hostile town of Kurengo was found to be surrounded by a ditch 8 feet deep and 10 feet broad, with a stockade behind it, across which was a bridge of two logs only. Captain Eaton charged this, and was hit in the wrist by an arrow, while Captain Carroll managed to cross the ditch elsewhere, but could not surmount the stockade. While Captain Eaton was being medically attended to, Captain Carroll breached the wall and charged the bridge, which was defended to the last, and captured and destroyed the town. Rejoined by Captain Eaton, he attacked the enemy, who had again reassembled, and captured and destroyed the town of Aquachi. Besides Captain Eaton, there were 11 rank and file and two carriers wounded, and one man killed. Captain Carroll estimates the hostile force at from 2,000 to 2,500, and reports that his men behaved very steadily, and obeyed all orders promptly under heavy fire. Next day Akwanaji, which had sent in a friendly deputation, was attacked, and Captain Carroll proceeded to its assistance, and on the 10th, leaving Captain Eaton and Sergeant Williams to guard his camp, attacked and destroyed several small hostile villages, and returned to camp after a march of 24 miles. The arrows were all barbed, but apparently not poisoned. This was the first occasion that the men of his battalion were under fire since it was raised, and I was greatly gratified to hear of the steadiness they had shown against a greatly dreaded foe.

5. Captain Carroll again advanced on the 15th January to continue his interrupted journey to Ibi, and was attacked in force about 12 miles from his camp. He defeated the enemy, and captured the town, but fell back afterwards on Akwanaji, as his Maxim was out of gear, and his troops were insufficient to face the whole Munshi tribe, who now appeared to be in arms. In this engagement two rank and file were killed and three wounded. The arrows were poisoned with the most deadly form of poison, and the recovery of the three who were on the point of death was due to the skill of Dr. Cargill, and the great pains taken to treat the men instantly. Captain Carroll applied for help to Captain McClintock at Ibi, and asked for reinforcements from headquarters. In both these actions the enemy suffered heavy loss. Captain Carroll estimated the force against him in the latter fight at 1,200.

6. Meanwhile, Captain McClintock, in command of the detachment at Ibi, had heard of the fighting and came down river. Finding that the Munshis had fired on canoes and wounded two soldiers near Abusi, he attacked

and destroyed the village of Kartu on the south bank without suffering any casualties, and, receiving Captain Carroll's request for assistance, he joined him on the 25th with the Europeans named in the margin,\* and 100 rifles and 2 Maxims, and they prepared to advance against the enemy.

7. News of these operations reached me at the end of January, and I at once gave orders for the formation of an expedition under Lieutenant-Colonel Lowry-Cole to subdue the Munshis. Including the troops already named, the total force now was composed as follows:—

R.A.—Captain Cubitt, Sergeants Desborough and Grimshaw, 46 gunners and gun carriers, 2-7-prs., and 1 rocket tube.

2nd W.A.F.F.—Captains McClintock, Carroll, Eaton, Cockburn, Wilkinson, and Robertson, Lieutenants Lloyd and Ellis, 306 non-commissioned officers and men, 21 Maxim carriers, 3 Maxim guns, 303, and one 450.

The British non-commissioned officers (infantry) with the force were:—Colour-Sergeants Daniel, Cahill, and Flicker, Sergeant-Drummer Wilson, and Sergeants Grey, Williams, and Hawkins.

Medical.—Doctors Cargill and Watson, Sergeant Frost, and eight stretchers.

Major Burdon was attached by me as Political Officer to the expedition. The expedition reached Akwanaji on 10th February, where Lieutenant-Colonel Cole found Captains McClintock and Carroll, and took command of the whole force.

8. Meanwhile, Captains McClintock and Carroll had advanced on the strong stockaded town of Gidan Barta on 27th January with nine Europeans and 159 rank and file. The hard-nosed Maxim bullets, as usual, rendered the stockade useless as cover. Captain McClintock left Lieutenants Ellis, Lloyd, and Robertson with the Maxims, and half a company and himself rushed the town on the left, while Captain Carroll did the same on the right. Both were successful, in spite of a 6 feet by 6 feet ditch and stockade poles 10 feet high. They charged through the town and through another beyond, destroying both without any casualties, owing to the effective use of the Maxims. Captain McClintock reported that the troops had behaved admirably, and that Captain Carroll's experience and pluck had been of the greatest service. He returned with his force to Akwanaji. Mr. Hewby, Resident on the Benue, arrived on 30th January, and sent messengers to the chief towns to inform them that the Europeans intended to march through their country, and had already punished those who attacked them, but did not desire to kill more men. If they desired peace they must send in to make submission at Akwanaji by 8th February.

9. Lieutenant-Colonel Lowry-Cole, finding on his arrival that this submission had not been tendered, and that it was reported that the tribes were making ready to fight, advanced, and occupied Aboh, on 11th February, destroying many Munshi villages en route. He was harassed in thick bush throughout the day, and lost one gun carrier killed and one soldier wounded. From thence he made various attacks on petty villages, and 14th February crossed the Koriko River, where he was attacked in force in dense jungle. Captain

\* Captain Eaton, Lieutenant Lloyd, Dr. Cargill, Colour-Sergeant Cahill, Sergeant Grey, Sergeant Villiers,

\* Captain McClintock, Lieutenant, Robertson, Lieutenant Ellis, Colour-Sergeant Daniels, Sergeant Frost, R.A.M.C.