

should be strengthened by the addition of two mobile columns under Lieut.-Colonels Pulteney and Stewart. Colonel Stewart's movement from Standerton to Dundee has already been alluded to, and Colonel Pulteney's column was formed at Utrecht by 16th August. The latter consisted of the Victorian Mounted Rifles (brought round by train from Brugspruit on the Delagoa line), a squadron of the 8th Hussars, the Dublin Fusiliers Mounted Infantry, and two guns. From Dundee Lieut.-Colonel Stewart moved to Vryheid, and, on 18th August, Lieut.-Colonel Pulteney left Utrecht for Kambuladraai, where he effected a junction on the 23rd with Lieut.-Colonel Stewart. On this date Lieut.-Colonel Pulteney had a sharp engagement with the enemy on the west side of the Schurveberg, in which the Victorian Mounted Rifles had 2 men killed and 5 wounded.

On 24th August, both columns returned to Vryheid, and on the 27th again moved out, united under the command of Colonel Blomfield, to the junction of the Pivaan and Manzaan Rivers. The march was opposed by parties of Boers under Hans Scholtz, who had two men killed, but little could be done, owing to the impracticable nature of the country, and on the 31st the force returned to Vryheid. On 2nd September, Colonel Blomfield again marched from Vryheid to operate down the valley of the Umvalosi. His columns reached Bethal (683) and Brakfontein (374) on the 4th, where they were engaged with the enemy, and on the 5th moved to Nondweni. From Nondweni they have returned to Dundee.

Cape Colony.

16. The movement of General French's column from the line Beaufort West-Pearston-Drenuan Station-Cameron Glen-Cathcart, which commenced in the first week in August, was steadily carried out, the enemy being gradually pressed northward towards the Orange River. On the night of the 9th and 10th August Kruit-zinger's men retiring before our advance, broke in small parties through the line of blockhouses between Middelburg and Steynsburg, and re-assembling north of the Zuursberg at Langekloof, 15 miles north-west of Steynsburg, were there joined by other bands under Erasmus, Wessels, and Pypers. This gathering was attacked on the 13th near Rooifontein (20 miles north-east of Steynsburg) by Lieut.-Colonel Gorringer, who drove the enemy past Venterstad into Orange River Colony. In their retreat the Boers suffered considerable loss. Commandant Cachet being among the killed, and Commandant Erasmus and Kruit-zinger's Secretary being captured. Another party of 80 Boers, under Lategan, was also forced on 12th August into the Orange River Colony to the west of Norval's Pont being attacked, as already mentioned, after crossing the river by both Lieut.-Colonel Byng and Brigadier-General Plumer. The commandos, however, under Lotter and Botha, which had been driven north from the Rhenosterberg (south-west of Middelburg) between 11th and 14th August, were successful in breaking back through our columns and regaining the hills about Spitzkop, 30 miles south of Middelburg, whilst Commandant Smits' party, also dislodged from the Rhenosterberg, retired in a north-westerly direction across the railway to Platkuil, 12 miles west of Deelfontein.

After breaking back Lotter and Botha returned to the Cradock district, a party under Theron moved south by Aberdeen towards Willowmore, and Smit from Deelfontein made his way into the country between Carnarvon and Fraserburg road.

General French was able to report at the con-

clusion of this drive to the north that 19 Boers had been killed, 43 wounded, and 17 captured.

On reaching the line of the Orange River he made the following dispositions with a view to watching for the possible return of those who had been driven out of Cape Colony, and taking up the pursuit of the different parties which had escaped once more to the south. Lieut.-Colonel Wyndham was directed to follow Smit to the west; Colonel Crabbe, Lieut.-Colonel Hunter-Weston, and Captain Lund remained to the west of Colesberg to close Zand Drift and prevent the return of Lategan; Colonel Gorringer's column and the 17th Lancers were ordered to continue in observation of the Orange River between Norval's Pont and Bethulie; and Lieut.-Colonels Doran, Scobell, and Kavanagh were sent south to regain touch with Lotter, Botha, and Theron. A few days later Colonel Crabbe's column was railed to Matjesfontein in consequence of a report that Smit had moved south-east from Fraserburg with the object, if possible, of joining Scheepers near Laingsburg. Colonel Crabbe arrived at Matjesfontein on 3rd September.

On 5th September Lieut.-Colonel Scobell was able to achieve a brilliant success near Petersburg (40 miles west of Cradock), where he surrounded and captured the whole of Lotter's commando and a party of Boers under Breedt. 14 of the enemy were killed and 105 captured (46 of whom were wounded). The prisoners included Commandant Lotter and Field Cornets J. Kruger, W. Kruger, and Schoeman, and amongst the dead were two notorious rebels named Voster. 200 horses, 29,000 rounds of ammunition, and all the vehicles and supplies of the enemy fell into our hands.

Colonel Scobell, who deserves the greatest credit in connection with this affair, has brought to my notice the exceptional gallantry displayed during the engagement by Captain Lord Douglas Compton, 2nd Lieutenants Wynn and Neilson, all of the 9th Lancers, and Captain Purcell and Lieutenant Bowers, Cape Mounted Rifles. Our casualties were 10 men killed and 8 wounded, the latter including Lieutenant Burgess, Cape Mounted Rifles. It must also be mentioned that three days previously Lotter's commando had been checked by a party of Midland Mounted Rifles who killed 7 and wounded 6 of their number, and prevented the Boers from escaping by a pass which the patrol was then holding.

Other operations have been continued in different parts of Cape Colony. In the north-eastern area the Boers who remained after the departure of Fouché for the Orange River Colony, have been acting under the command of Myburg in the triangle Ladygrey, Dordrecht, and Burghersdorp. These men have been constantly kept on the move by Colonel Monro, who had a successful engagement with Myburg on the 29th August at Wolvekloofpoot, 20 miles north-east of Dordrecht, and drove a number of his commando over the Drakensberg into Transkei territory. Since this engagement Colonel Monro, with the aid of the local troops, has been blocking the defiles and holding the passes to prevent their return.

In the south the pursuit of Scheepers has been maintained by Brigadier-General Beatson, whose services were placed at the disposal of General French for this purpose. Scheepers has moved rapidly about from place to place. On the 18th August he was at Wanhoop, 15 miles south of Willowmore. He then passed by Aven-tour (8 miles south of Uniondale), to a point near George, where on the 24th he turned west to Klip Drift, south-east of Oudtshoorn. From Klip Drift he moved south of Oudtshoorn and