

called major operations, the work of the troops was not yet concluded.

The Sultan fled from El Fasher on the morning of May 23rd in a south-westerly direction towards Jebel Marra.

Colonel Kelly found that, owing to the complete exhaustion of the transport animals, the absence of supplies, and the waterless nature of the country in front of him, it was impossible for him to follow up the victory of Beringia. The length of his line of communication and the necessity for housing his troops, owing to the approaching rains, wisely decided him to confine himself to the occupation of the capital, and, while getting into touch with the inhabitants, to await the result of negotiations with the Sultan which had been initiated by the arrival of three envoys on May 29th bearing a letter from him containing an offer of surrender. The offer was accepted with certain reservations, and negotiations continued with the Sultan till the 1st August, when, as it was seen he was not acting in good faith, they were broken off.

The country to which he and his followers had fled was known to be extremely unhealthy; it was therefore hoped that his forces would dwindle away by attrition, and this hope proved to have some foundation.

In June a report was received that a fight had taken place between Ali Dinar and some of his followers who wished to desert him. Both sides lost heavily, and the deserters subsequently surrendered to the Government. At this time it was calculated that Ali Dinar had some 1,000 armed men with him. With this force he was unable to undertake any offensive action against our troops at El Fasher, but was sufficiently powerful to raid such inhabitants in his neighbourhood as did not yield to his demands for supplies.

During August, as Ali Dinar's raids became more marked, Colonel Kelly came to the conclusion that it was necessary to try and confine his sphere of activities to the west side of Jebel Marra. To effect this he decided, as soon as the country dried up sufficiently to allow of the passage of troops, to form two strong posts; one to the northern and the other to the southern end of the Jebel Marra range of hills at Kebkebia and Dibbis, 105 and 130 miles respectively distant from El Fasher.

Kebkebia was occupied without opposition early in September by 468 rifles, Eastern Arab Corps, with 6 maxims, under Major W. H. McCowan, D.S.O., Cameron Highlanders. The efficiency of this step was immediately made apparent by a complete cessation of raids in this district.

To Dibbis Colonel Kelly despatched, early in October, a force consisting of 200 rifles, 13th Sudanese and Camel Corps, with 4 maxims and 2 guns, under Major H. J. Huddleston, D.S.O., M.C., Dorsetshire Regiment. On arrival there on the 13th October a force of the enemy, estimated at 150 rifles and 1,000 native levies, under the command of Zacharia—the eldest son of Ali Dinar—was encountered. The enemy, who was completely surprised, fled in disorder after a short skirmish. There were no casualties on either side. On the 15th October Ali Dinar again opened negotiations with Major Huddleston with a view to surrendering; these overtures led to nothing, and were only intended as a means of gaining time. On October 24th Colonel Kelly increased

Major Huddleston's force by 100 rifles of the 13th Sudanese, under Captain H. T. R. S. Wright, Manchester Regiment (since deceased).

During the latter half of October deserters from Ali Dinar's force informed Major Huddleston that the followers of the Sultan, who were suffering from smallpox and starvation, had no fight left in them. Ali Dinar was himself at this time at Kulme, some 50 miles west of Dibbis. On October 29th Major Huddleston received a report that Ali Dinar's chief leaders had told him that they would fight no more, and that if he refused to surrender they would do so, and would await the arrival of the Government troops at Kulme.

Major Huddleston, seeing from the number of surrenders which were taking place that the morale of Ali Dinar's men was really seriously affected, decided to advance against Kulme without awaiting further reinforcements. Accordingly on November 1st he advanced, with 2 guns, 4 maxims and 250 rifles, and, moving rapidly on Kulme, arrived there at mid-day, November 3rd, meeting with but slight opposition and no casualties. One hundred rifles, 300 camels and some horses were captured here, and several of the chief men came in and surrendered. By November 5th the surrenders and captures at Kulme amounted to:—

342 rifles.
2,500 rounds ammunition.
300 camels.
6,000 head of cattle.
700 lbs. ivory.
70 horses.

Two hundred men and 300 women also gave themselves up, including two sisters of the Sultan and several small children. These surrenders were important, as they clearly proved the demoralization of the Sultan's troops, and showed that he himself was practically a fugitive with no power.

On the afternoon of November 5th, Major Huddleston organised a pursuit with the following troops, all of whom he mounted on horses captured from the enemy, or belonging to friendly Arabs:—

One gun,
Four maxims,
150 rifles.

The remainder of his force was left in occupation of Kulme.

Ali Dinar had fled towards Giuba, about 30 miles S.W. of Kulme, where he was surprised at dawn on November 6th. The surprise was complete. The enemy had not even taken the precaution of placing any outposts, and fire was opened unobserved on his camp at 500 yards range. The Sultan and his followers of some 40 or 50 rifles, thus rudely awakened, fled in every direction. Four enemy dead were picked up, and the dead body of the Sultan was found about one mile from camp, shot through the head.

As the result of this dashing pursuit and attack there was no further opposition.

The Northern Column, under Major D. Mills, Hampshire Regiment, greatly assisted in hunting down the fugitives, who were endeavouring to escape north.

By November 23rd the remaining chief leaders had surrendered unconditionally.

The newly acquired Province of Darfur, with the exception of the N.W. corner, may now be said to be pacified.