

3. On the 4th instant Major-General Somerset had a smart affair with the enemy in the Water Kloof, in which the 91st Regiment greatly distinguished itself; Lieutenant-Colonel Yarborough, of that Regiment, and Captain Bramly, of the Cape Mounted Rifles, having, however, been severely, and Ensign Hibbert, of the 91st, slightly wounded. The Chief Macomo fought with great determination; but one hundred head of cattle and forty horses were captured—the best criterion of success. Subsequently to this affair, such part of Major-General Somerset's division as was available for the field, consisting of the 91st Regiment, four companies of the 74th Highlanders, the Cape Mounted Rifles, and strong detachments of Hottentot and Fingoe levies, was assembled at Haddon's Old Post, on the western end of the low mountain range forming the Water Kloof, Blinkwater, and Fuller's Hoek; the best position it could occupy with reference to my intended operations.

4. Meanwhile, Lieutenant-Colonel Perceval, with a detachment Royal Artillery and a gun, with rockets, the 12th Regiment, detachments of the 91st Regiment, Cape Mounted Rifles, and Armstrong's Horse, and Hottentot and Fingoe levies, and burghers, had been ordered to act on the enemy's position in the Fish River Bush. The various posts of defence in the neighbourhood of my proposed scene of action, viz.—Whittlesea, Eland's Post, Blinkwater, and Post Retief, were at the same time strengthened for the purpose of patrolling.

5. On the 9th instant the troops marched to establish themselves on their respective bases of operation, as set forth in the instructions annexed; and I established my head-quarters at the Blinkwater Post—a commanding and central position.

6. On the 10th instant, the several officers in command, viz.—Lieutenant-Colonels Michel, Eyre, and Napier, having well reconnoitered the strong positions held by the rebels, moved forward to the attack. The enemy was everywhere well prepared, and received them, especially Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre, whose column I had reinforced with two additional guns and two companies of the 74th from the Blinkwater Post, with his usual war cry, and even more than common demonstrations of defiance.

7. The enemy opposed to Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre was well and judiciously posted in that part of the range called Fuller's Hoek, very extensive and densely wooded, and where Macomo's "Den," as they termed it, was so strongly situated in a deep kloof as to be regarded almost inaccessible. By the activity of Captain Faddy, of the Royal Artillery, the four guns were with incredible exertion dragged up a precipitous ascent, judiciously posted and well served, aided by rockets. The Lieutenant-Colonel moved upon these savages in eight small columns of attack, and the troops carried every thing before them. Every obstacle was speedily overcome; and a well-known and most difficult pass, held stoutly by the enemy, was gallantly carried by Captain Campbell, of the 73d Regiment, with a company of his own corps and two companies of the 43d Light Infantry. The troops ascended the heights, where they burned the enemy's villages, destroyed some cultivation, drove the enemy before them in every direction, and bivouacked for the night.

8. On the following day, the 11th instant, Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre made the most able disposition of his troops, so as to descend the mountain and effectually dislodge the enemy from

those positions which the columns had been able only to pass through on the previous day. His special object also was, to assail the Den and stronghold of Macomo, the destruction of which I regarded as a great step towards the humbling of the rebels; for although Sandili and the Gaikas affected humility and a desire for peace, I well knew that all eyes were intent on the result of these operations. Colonel Eyre, aware of the importance I attached to this service, headed the column for the assault of the Den, the descent to which was found by the assistance of a captured woman, a flight of natural steps affording great means of defence. This column was most successful, though stoutly resisted; the Den was carried, the four guns firing into it with sanguinary effect, and 130 women now prisoners, were found stowed away in the clefts of rock. Among them is Macomo's young and favourite wife, as also his great wife, a Tambookie, much regarded among the tribe, and mother of his great son Namba. Large quantities of European wearing apparel, provisions of different kinds, some little gunpowder, a bullet mould and supply of lead in bars, were found in the den, which was completely destroyed and the huts consumed. The number slain by our guns was very great, eleven having been found in one spot, and seven in another, and many fell in the assault. Meanwhile, Captain Campbell made his way down the difficult pass by which he had ascended the day before, and was again stoutly resisted by the enemy in front and flank. Here three gallant soldiers of the 73d Regiment fell, another being at the same time wounded; and farther on, Lieutenant the Honourable Henry Wrottesley of the 43d, received a mortal wound.

9. The carrying by our troops of this "Den," heretofore regarded as inaccessible, has had throughout the effect of magic; and no positive resistance has since been offered. Colonel Eyre continued his operations through the whole of the extensive fastnesses of the Fuller's Hoek and adjoining kloofs, but the enemy appeared no more. On the 15th instant he again ascended the passes, and re-visited Macomo's Den, to shew the enemy our determination to expel him. Not a single Kafir was to be seen; and Colonel Eyre and the rest of the officers, who had then leisure for observation, describe the loss suffered by the enemy as evidently very considerable, and much greater than they had believed. It indeed could not well be otherwise, exposed as he was to the fire of four well-directed guns and rockets, and so hemmed in that he necessarily suffered severely from musketry, and even from the bayonet.

10. On the same day, the 10th instant, Lieutenant-Colonel Michel's column moved from Blakeway's Farm, ascended the heights, the guns being with great exertion brought up an almost impracticable acclivity, and occupied the dense bush connecting Fuller's Hoek with the Water Kloof, formerly the scene of considerable conflict. Every part of this bush was well traversed, and many kraals destroyed. Few of the rebel Hottentots or Kafirs shewed themselves, until Lieutenant-Colonel Napier's column, ascending the valley of the Water Kloof, entered the narrow and bushy defile which forms its head. Here he was fiercely attacked, the onset of the enemy being, according to his usual custom, especially directed to the rear of the advancing column. This was, however, judiciously anticipated by Colonel Napier, who advantageously posted the 91st Regiment, under Major Forbes, so as to resist the attack. The rebels were daring on this occasion, and well

