

sustained the fight until they saw Colonel Michel advancing, when they gave way in every direction and fled into the dense bush to escape pursuit.

11. On the following day, these two columns acted simultaneously, driving the enemy before them, and destroying his villages in the Water Kloof. On the third day it was necessary for both to procure provisions at their respective bases of operation. Colonel Michel very judiciously took the opportunity to report himself to me; and I at the same time ascertained that 200 Boers of the district of Somerset and the Konap had arrived at Haddon's Old Post. Upon this, I immediately dispatched Major-General Somerset, whom I had retained with me at head-quarters, to take the command of these burghers and of Colonel Napier's column. On doing so, the Major-General at once ascended the heights overhanging the Water Kloof, bringing up his two guns by a very difficult ascent; and then proceeded to penetrate the bush with his infantry, while his mounted force watched the open—thus acting simultaneously with Colonel Michel. In these operations the enemy showed little resistance. On the afternoon of the 15th instant, observing a number of the enemy in possession of cattle in a deep valley, General Somerset dispatched his mounted force of Cape Corps and burghers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Napier, in pursuit. One hundred and thirty head, and many horses were captured, several of the rebels slain, and some fifty women and children made prisoners.

12. On the 15th instant, Lieutenant-Colonel Michel, having replenished his provisions, moved from the base of his operations to the neighbourhood of the Eisler Krantz, or "Iron Mountain," in the Water Kloof, where he halted and cooked. His intention was to assail this mountain with small parties, according to the mode in which he had previously conducted his operations; but observing that the Kafirs numerously occupied the rocky heights, and were evidently prepared for a determined resistance, he collected his troops, advanced in regular order, and endeavoured to turn the position. A rocky ravine, however, well maintained by the enemy, posted behind bushy rocks, prohibited any successful attempt upon his flank. A direct advance to the front became therefore necessary, and was immediately ordered by Colonel Michel; so well, however, was it met by the enemy, that the troops received a momentary check; when Captain Hope's company of the 60th Rifles, fixed swords, charged, and carried the mountain, supported by the column. The enemy were driven over krantzes and rocks with great slaughter; many cattle and horses were captured, in the defence of which so stout a resistance had been made; and Major Bedford, with two companies of the 60th Rifles, pursued the fugitives over declivities nearly impassable, many more cattle falling into his hands. The whole capture amounted to 560 head and 75 horses; some of the latter being very valuable. In this gallant and rapid affair, Colonel Michel reports that he remarked the especial gallantry displayed by Captain Hope and Lieutenant Du Cane of the 60th Rifles, by his Brigade-Major, Lieutenant Whitmore, of the Cape Corps, and by Mr De Robeck, of Armstrong's Horse. Colonel Michel subsequently continued his operations with every activity, and all the country placed before him was well cleared of the enemy. On the morning of the 15th instant, Captain Taylor, with his company of Hottentot levies, had a sharp affair with a party of the rebels, and captured eleven horses. This was the last occasion on which the enemy appeared.

Colonel Michel describes Captain Taylor's company of levies as deserving the name of soldiers.

13. On the 10th instant, Lieutenant-Colonel Perceval, with his column strengthened by the force assembled from Graham's Town and its neighbourhood, and aided by a few burghers of that town, attacked the strong position of the Chief Stock in the Fish River Bush, in two divisions, under himself and Major Armstrong. These simultaneous and well-conducted movements, in a very difficult country, were completely successful; and after a sharp conflict, in which Colonel Perceval much praises the conduct of Major Armstrong, the enemy were driven from every point. One hundred and ninety head of cattle were captured, as well as large flocks of goats, some horses, and several stand of arms; among the latter the double-barrelled fowling-piece of the Chief Dodo, who is believed to have fallen in the fight. The enemy was so hotly pushed as to drive a small herd of cattle into the Fish River, which was full. Nineteen of these, and a Kafir, were shot in the act of swimming. Colonel Perceval was preparing, when I last heard from him, to attack the Chief Tola, who occupied a position somewhat higher up the river, of whom he will, no doubt, give a good account.

14. Your Lordship will perceive, by the instructions which I enclose, that Lieutenant-Colonel Pole, with the 12th Lancers, has been placed intermediately between Eland's Post and Post Retief, so as to intercept fugitives from the Water Kloof range of mountains during the progress of the operations which I have described. The different posts on the line of the enemy's retreat into the Amatolas have also detached parties to occupy the numerous drifts of the rivers; and the Fingoes of Fort Beaufort and Fort Hare have been most successful in capturing horses and cattle, and in adding to the consternation of the rebels. They were fleeing yesterday in all directions, in the distance, past this post—men, women, and children—without cattle; and I pronounce these difficult, and heretofore well-maintained positions of the enemy, viz.—the Water Kloof, Blinkwater, and Fuller's Hoek, to be now completely cleared.

15. This day, the 17th instant, the columns of Lieutenant-Colonels Michel and Eyre, under my immediate command, move, with five days' provisions, on the Chumie range of the Amatolas, for the purpose of dislodging the tribe of Tyalie and the rebel Hottentots, and then penetrating into the heart of the mountains, while I leave Major-General Somerset with his division to pursue the retreating enemy, 200 Cradock burghers under the Civil Commissioner, Mr Gilfillan, operating at the same time from Whittlesea against the Tambookies. Every part of the rebel enemy's country will thus be assailed.

16. I deeply regret, for the credit of the frontier inhabitants, to report that only 200 burghers from the district of Somerset, 200 from Cradock, and 33 from Graham's Town, have responded to my command. They first objected to the volunteer system which I offered to their loyalty. They then requested to be commanded to turn out. Their shuffling conduct is melancholy. There are many loyal and energetic men who do not fall under this censure, especially the burghers of Albert, under Mr Cole, who, although they have not turned out on this last occasion, having been only just dismissed after a long and harassing though successful inroad over the Upper Kei, have done right good service during the war.

17. I am fully aware that I have been accused, during the progress of this campaign, of using the