



The Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1855.

FOREIGN-OFFICE, November 29, 1855.

IT is hereby notified that the Right Honourable the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty an official communication addressed to them by Captain Baillie, R.N., late Senior Officer of Her Majesty's White Sea Squadron, announcing the raising, by the Allied Squadrons, on and from the 9th October last, of the Blockade of the Russian ports and places in the White Sea, the establishment of which Blockade was notified in the London Gazette of the 17th July last.

FOREIGN-OFFICE, November 29, 1855.

THE Earl of Clarendon has received a Despatch from Major Simmons, Her Majesty's Commissioner attached to the army of Omer Pasha in Asia, of which the following is a copy:—

*Camp, Shangwan,
7th November 1855.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that Omer Pasha having collected a depôt of provisions at Tchimshera, moved on by the sea-coast to the mouth of the River Ertiss-Tchal, where a standing bridge was immediately constructed for the passage of the troops. The advanced guard, consisting of 16 battalions of infantry and 3 battalions of chasseurs under Lieutenant-Colonel Ballard, the whole commanded by Ferhad Pasha (Baron Stein), moved on the 28th of October to the village of Ertiss-zkalsk.

From that day until the 1st November, His Highness was occupied in sending up provisions to the advanced guard, in moving other troops to support it, and in establishing depôts at Godova, at the mouth of the Ertiss-Zchal, whence to provision his army for a forward movement.

On the first instant the advanced guard moved about ten miles forward, having its advanced posts on the River Ingur, opposite an old ruined castle called Rooki, on the road to Sugdidi.

His Highness joined the advanced guard himself on the 3d instant, his total force consisting of 4 brigades (32 battalions) of infantry, 4 battalions of chasseurs, and 1,000 cavalry, with 27 field pieces and 10 mountain guns, or in all about 20,000 men; the remainder of his force, about 10,000 men, being

employed to protect the depôts at Godova, Tchimshera, and Soukoum.

On the 4th instant, His Highness commenced constructing batteries on the right bank of the Ingur, with the view of menacing the enemy by the ford at Ruki. These batteries were armed on the following night, and opened their fire on the morning of the 6th instant, about noon. On the same morning His Highness moved 3 brigades of infantry (24 battalions) with 3 batteries, with an advanced guard of 3½ battalions of chasseurs and four guns, under the command of Colonel Ballard, down the right bank of the river, a distance of about seven miles, where a branch of the river was forded to an island, which is some miles in length, and from a half to two miles wide.

After proceeding along this island for about two miles, some Mingrelian militia were encountered near a ford which crosses from the island to the left bank of the river; they speedily retired, when the enemy opened a fire of artillery and a heavy fire of musketry from the intrenchments on the left bank thrown up for the protection of the ford.

It very soon became evident that to force a direct passage at this ford would be a very difficult undertaking.

His Highness therefore, while occupying the enemy at this ford, sent officers to the right and left, and fords were discovered in both directions; one about three-quarters of a mile above or to the left of the main ford, the other about one mile and a half below or to the right of the main ford.

Troops were immediately sent to pass these fords; that to the left was unprotected. The passage was made by two battalions of infantry and three companies of chasseurs by about 4 P.M. His Highness having entrusted me with this command, I moved them by a waggon track through the forest unperceived by the enemy, until within about 600 yards of the position at the main ford, which his troops were occupied in defending from a direct attack. The Turkish troops advanced readily to the attack, taking the enemy and his intrenchments in reverse.

The enemy immediately fell back, and attempted to break through the Turks in column, but being met by a heavy fire in their front and on both flanks, they broke and dispersed in the forest, leaving us masters of the field, with 3 pieces of their field artillery and 6 ammunition waggons in our possession. At the moment that the Russian columns attempted to break through our line,

