

margin,* at 5 P.M. The Sikh regiment, in which Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon placed much confidence, and a party of about seventy of the 13th Irregular Cavalry, who were despatched, were to join the Europeans in their demonstration. Brigadier Ponsonby came on parade at the hour appointed, but I observed that he appeared far from well, and perfectly unable to act with energy, or the vigour required on the emergency. We moved up the Europeans and guns towards the 37th, the Sikhs advancing upon the other flank of that corps, followed by Irregular Cavalry. On approaching the bells of arms of the 37th, the sepoys of that corps seized their arms, loaded them, and opened fire upon us, which was immediately returned with considerable execution by the Artillery and Europeans, the Sikh regiment not having yet come up. At this time several of our men fell wounded, and the Brigadier was on his back on the ground, seemingly struck by a stroke of the sun, and declared himself quite unfit for anything, and begged that, being the next senior officer, I would at once assume command, which I accordingly did, and directed a dash on the lines with the Europeans and Sikhs in line on each flank of the Artillery. I was on the right of our men in the lines when an alarm was given, and I found the Sikhs had suddenly halted, wavered, and eventually gone about and dispersed, having first, however, fired at and tried to shoot their Commanding Officer and Adjutant, and fired upon and wounded several other officers, and fired upon the squadron of Irregular Cavalry drawn up in rear of them.

2. I believe, from all I have observed and been told, that with a few exceptions the Sikhs were supposed to be quite staunch; they seemed in the greatest spirits and anxious to be led against the 37th. The cause of their sudden panic and extraordinary conduct is supposed to have been the turmoil caused in their rear by a Sowar of the 13th Irregular Cavalry having fired at and attempted to cut down the Brigade-Major, Captain Dodgson, on his riding up to assume command of them by the Brigadier's order, (their own Commanding Officer having been killed before reaching parade by the men of the 37th Native Infantry). On hearing the shot and shouts, the Sikhs turned round and fired on their officers and our men; one man who had fired at Colonel Gordon was immediately shot by one of his havildars.

3. The Artillery, on observing the disaffection of the Sikhs, opened upon them with considerable effect; they broke and ran, as did the Irregular Cavalry. After this I completed the expulsion of the 37th Regiment from their lines, and burnt them, and withdrew my men and guns into position in the barracks, securing myself for the night.

4. Early next morning I sent out parties and brought in the arms, accoutrements, and colours of the 37th that had been left in their lines, as also some of the Sikhs. I also arranged with the civil authorities to remove the treasure from its most insecure and unmilitary position in the civil lines, and detached a party, consisting of 100 men of Her Majesty's 10th and Madras Fusiliers, and twenty-five Sowars, Irregular cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, and had it all brought up and secured in the barracks.

5. On my arriving here, I had observed and expressed my opinion on the insecurity of this treasure, under charge only of a native guard of Sikhs, who, however, stood firm, and deserve the greatest credit for their loyal conduct. I consider the peril in which this treasure has been placed has been for some time imminent; and I feel assured

that had the steps taken against the 37th been deferred until the following morning, the outbreak would have taken place that night when unprepared, and no efficient assistance could have been rendered by the troops to the European families in cantonments, who would have been left to the mercy of the miscreants let loose on such an occasion. I had a party of Madras Fusiliers at a building called the mint, and arranged with the Brigadier before going on parade that should any disturbance occur all the families should go there for protection. This was carried out, the party of Europeans there giving confidence, and acting as a check to plunderers; the mutineers, who broke and fled, deserted cantonments rapidly, many of them throwing away their arms. I now hold the barracks, and mint-house between cantonments and city, with my Europeans, and have some Native guards of trustworthy men as pickets in different parts of cantonments; and feel the cantonments are all safe; and when a few more European troops come up, I intend planting a picket at the church, when all the houses in cantonments may, I consider, with safety be again occupied. About ninety of the Irregular Cavalry remained faithful, and are now doing duty, patrolling and keeping off the "Budmashes" from the city from entering cantonments. About 190 of the Sikh Regiment who were on treasure and other guards, are still with us, and remain faithful. A few of them I have promoted for their good conduct when the regiment broke and fled. A further report will be made on this subject, as well as regarding some men of the Irregular Cavalry I have also promoted for loyalty and good conduct.

I beg to state that we have lost several officers and soldiers on this unfortunate occasion, as follows:—

Killed.

Captain Guise, commanding Irregular Cavalry, murdered by 37th men.

One apothecary, Her Majesty's 10th, ditto.

Two men, Her Majesty's 10th, shot on parade.

Wounded.—Shot on parade.

Ensign Chapman, 37th Regiment Native Infantry, dangerously.

Ensign Hayter, 25th Native Infantry, doing duty, 37th dangerously.

Ensign Tweedie, 4th Native Infantry, doing duty, 37th, severely.

Eight privates, Her Majesty's 10th.

Quartermaster-Serjeant Maidman, 25th Native Infantry, doing duty with Sikh Regiment, severely.

All ranks behaved as British soldiers; the hard work and exposure to the sun was most cheerfully borne. I beg to bring to notice particularly the assistance I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, commanding the Sikhs, Lieutenant-Colonel Spottiswoode, 37th, the Brigade-Major, Captain Dodgson, Captain Olpherts, commanding the Artillery, and Lieutenant Gosling, Adjutant, Madras Fusiliers.

I have, &c.,

J. G. NEILL, Lieutenant-Colonel.

P.S.—I have strengthened Chunar by a small detachment of Her Majesty's 84th, with three officers of 37th; and dispatched to Allahabad, by Garee Horse Dawk, this evening 50 men of Madras Fusiliers, the same number following to-morrow, and as quick as I can spare them to that post and Cawnpore.

J. G. NEILL, Lieutenant-Colonel.

* 3 guns of No. 12 Field Battery and 30 men, under Captain Olpherts. Her Majesty's 10th, 150 men and 3 officers. Madras Fusiliers, 60 men and 3 officers.