

3. The Lieutenant-Governor earnestly solicits that the sanction of the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council may at once be accorded to the proposal for promoting the native officers, and bestowing a gratuity of twelve months' pay on all the men of the Bengal Police Corps present on the occasion. I have, &c.,

A. R. YOUNG.

No. 39.

W. Tayler, Esq., Commissioner of the Patna Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

(Extract.) Patna, August 8, 1857.

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward a copy of a very interesting report from Mr Wake, reporting officially the events that occurred at Arrah since the mutiny.

The conduct of the garrison is most creditable, and the gallantry and fidelity of the Seikhs beyond all praise.

I have no time at present to make any lengthened remarks on the subject, but will submit a full report hereafter.

Meanwhile I beg to recommend that the thanks of Government be conveyed to all who held the garrison, and especially to Mr Wake and Mr Boyle; that the native officers of the Seikhs be immediately promoted; and that twelve months' pay be given to all the soldiers concerned.

No. 40.

H. C. Wake, Esq., Magistrate of Shahabad, to W. Tayler, Esq., Commissioner of Patna Division.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to forward for the information of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the following narrative of our extraordinary defence and providential escape.

On the evening of Saturday, July the 25th, I received an express from Dinapore, warning us that a disturbance was apprehended on that day, but giving us no other information. On the morning of July 26, a Sowar whom I had posted at Koelwar Ghat, on the Soane, came in and reported that numbers of Sepoys had crossed, and that more were crossing.

I found that Mr Palin, the Railway Engineer, stationed at Koelwar, had contented himself with sending over for the boats to the Arrah side the night before, but, when leaving, had failed to destroy them as he had promised to do. The police, I imagine, bolted at the first alarm.

All efforts to ascertain the amount of the force of the rebels were unavailing, and the police left the city on Sunday the 26th. Thinking it highly inadvisable to abandon the station when the rebels might be few, and having fifty Seikhs on the spot, and finding the rest of the officers of the station of the same opinion, and the few residents in the district who had come in to us willing to remain, we, on the night of Sunday the 26th, went into a small bungalow, previously fortified as much as possible by Mr Boyle, the District Engineer of the Railway Company.

Our force consisted of 1 jemadar, 2 havildars, 2 naiks, 45 privates, a bishtee and cook of Captain Rattray's Seikh police battalion; Mr. Little-dale, Judge; Mr. Combe, officiating collector; Mr. Wake, magistrate; Mr. Colvin, assistant; Dr. Hollis, Civil Assistant-Surgeon; Mr. Field, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent; Mr. Anderson, his assistant; Mr. Boyle, District Engineer to the Railway Company; Syed Azumooden Hossein, Deputy Collector; Mr. Dacosta, Moonsiff; Mr. Godfrey, Schoolmaster; Mr. Cock, Officiating Head Clerk of the Collectorate; Mr Tait, Secre-

tary to Mr. Boyle; Messrs. Delpiere and Hoyle, Railway Inspectors, and Mr. D'Souza.

We had enough otta and grain for some days of short allowance, and a good deal of water for ourselves, but owing to the shortness of our notice, nothing but the barest necessities could be brought in, and the Seikhs had only a few days' water, but as we expected the rebels to be followed up immediately, we had not much anxiety on that score.

On Monday the 27th July, about 8 A.M., the insurgent Sepoys, the whole of the 7th, 8th, and 40th Native Infantry, arrived in the station, and having first released the prisoners, rushed to the Collectorate, where they were at once joined by the Nujeebs, and looted the treasure, amounting to 85,000 rupees. This did not take long, and they then charged our bungalow from every side, but being met with a steady and well-directed fire, they changed their tactics, and hiding behind the trees with which the compound is filled, and occupying the out houses and Mr. Boyle's residence, which was unfortunately within sixty yards of our fortification, they kept up an incessant and galling fire on us during the whole day. They were joined by numbers of Koor Sing's men, and the Sepoys repeatedly declared that they were acting under his express orders, and after a short time he was seen on the parade, and remained during the siege. Every endeavour was made by the rebels to induce the Seikhs to abandon us; heavy bribes were offered to them, and their own countrymen employed as mediators. They treated every offer with derision, showing perfect obedience and discipline.

On the 28th, two small cannons were brought to play upon our bungalow, one throwing 4lb. shot, and these were daily shifted to what the rebels thought to be our weakest spots; finally, the largest was placed on the roof of Mr. Boyle's dwelling-house, completely commanding the inside of our bungalow, and the smaller behind it at a distance of twenty yards. Nothing but cowardice, want of unanimity, and only the ignorance of our enemies, prevented our fortification being brought down about our ears.

During the entire siege, which lasted seven days, every possible stratagem was practised against us. The cannons were fired as frequently as they could prepare shot, with which they were at first unprovided, and incessant assaults were made upon the bungalow; not only did our Seikhs behave with perfect coolness and patience, but their untiring labour met and prevented every threatened disaster. Water began to run short; a well eighteen feet by four was dug in less than twelve hours. The rebels raised a barricade on the top of the opposite house, our own grew in the same proportion; a shot shook a weak place in our defence, the place was made twice as strong as before. We began to feel the want of animal food and short allowance of grain, a sally was made at night and four sheep brought in; and finally, when we ascertained beyond a doubt that the enemy was undermining us, a countermine was quickly dug. On the 30th, the troops sent to our relief from Dinapore were attacked and beaten back close to the entrance of the town. On the next day the rebels returned, and telling us that they had annihilated our relief, offered the Seikhs and the women and children (of which there were none with us) their lives and liberty if they would give up the Government officers.

August the 1st we were all offered our lives, and leave to go to Calcutta, if we should give up our arms. On the 2d, the greater part of the Sepoys went out to meet Major Eyre's field force, and on their being soundly thrashed, the rest of them deserted the station, and that night we went out and found their mine had reached our foundations,