

Mr Power accompanied this brigade, and was enabled to make a good circuit round the country.

Measures were taken, from our several halting places, to destroy the country boats on the Ganges, in order to prevent interruption of the Doab from the Oude side of the river, when the troops should have moved on.

A considerable number were burnt, but it is probable that many may have escaped notice.

On the 31st December the leading brigades arrived at Goorsaugunge, Brigadier Greathed and Major-General Windham closing up, the one from the river in the evening, and the other from Futtiah the next day.

Early on the forenoon of the 1st January, Brigadier Hope was sent forward with two regiments to the Kallee Nuddee, to prevent the further destruction of the iron suspension bridge by the rebels. They disappeared on his approach, and the corps of Royal Engineers and Bengal Sappers, with a party of sailors, under Major Nicholson, Royal Engineers, set to work with great vigour, and worked day and night for the repair of the bridge, which had been very much injured.

I consider that Major Nicholson, and the officers and men under his command, deserve great credit for the unflagging industry, and real skill displayed on this occasion.

The sailors were specially useful to Major Nicholson in the management of the ropes which replaced the broken part of the iron work of the suspension bridge.

On the morning of the 2d January I rode out, accompanied by the Chief of the Staff, to see if the bridge was ready for the advance of the column. Shortly after my arrival, while I was inspecting the work, which was nearly complete, I observed an unusual movement amongst the villagers in a village about half a mile to the right front of the bridge. It soon became evident that an attack was about to be made on the working parties.

The picquet, which had been placed on the enemy's side of the river to cover the working party, was quickly reinforced.

The picquets there, consisting of a wing of the 53d Regiment, skilfully laid out by Major Payn, of that corps, under the direction of Brigadier Hope, to the left and along the road.

The enemy attacked with guns and musketry, whilst the remainder of the 53d was passing the bridge in support, and the heavy guns were being advanced from the position in which they had originally been placed, to cover the working parties.

The right wing of the 93d Highlanders remained on the right bank of the Kallee Nuddee, in reserve.

A raking fire was quickly opened by Lieutenant Vaughan, of the Royal Navy, and Major Smith, Commanding a Field Battery, Royal Artillery.

It not appearing expedient to press the enemy till the remainder of the force should come up, for which orders were sent, the position now taken up by the 53d Regiment was secured, and the fire of the enemy kept down by our guns, but an advance was not permitted.

I may mention that the flanks had been secured when the bridge was first occupied, by the detachment of a wing of the Highlanders at Rowen, a village about three miles to the right, where there was a ford.

A patrol having been sent also on the previous day to destroy whatever boats might be found

for several miles up the Kallee Nuddee to the left of the bridge.

At 11 A.M. the main column from the old camp began to arrive, Brigadier Greathed's brigade leading.

At the same time it was observed that the enemy had got a heavy gun in position, which had not opened before about half past 2 P.M.; the 53d, supported by the 93d, advanced on the village to the right, which had already been evacuated in consequence of the fire brought upon it; whilst Brigadier Greathed marched along the left of it, the cavalry moving at a sharp pace, on the line of the enemy's retreat towards Futtehgurh.

The retreat of the enemy soon became a rapid flight, considerable execution being inflicted by the Cavalry, under the immediate superintendence of Brigadier-General Grant and Brigadier Little; all the guns which had been opposed to us, viz.—(*vide Return*) eight in number, falling into our hands.

In this skirmish all the troops engaged behaved remarkably well, and the only fault I had to find, was with their too great eagerness for attack.

The rebels who were dispersed on this occasion, consisted of three or four Battalions, 41st and other corps of Native Infantry.

In the 41st the rebels had begun with much system to organize a second battalion, their recruits being dressed in a neat uniform.

Their route was complete, and it is said, apparently on good authority, that the fugitives who escaped have made for Bareilly.

The camp was pitched late in the evening on the road to Futtehgurh, five miles from the Kallee Nuddee, where I had the pleasure of meeting Colonel Seaton, who had ridden over from Bewer to report the arrival of his force and convoy in person.

He was directed to make certain arrangements with the latter, and to close on Futtehgurh, after being joined by Brigadier Walpole.

A very large stock of grain was ordered to be sent to Cawnpore, to ease that district, and lighten the labours of the Commissariat, for the supply of Sir James Outram.

On the 3d I marched on Futtehgurh, which had been deserted after the defeat of the previous day, by all the followers of the Nawab.

The flight of the rebels was so rapid that they had no time to complete the destruction of the Government property. It is with the utmost satisfaction I have to inform your Lordship of the very large amount of stores, of the most valuable description, belonging to the late Gun and Clothing Agencies, which have been saved to the State.

A notorious malefactor, one Najir Khan, was seized with his guns in the town.

I caused this to be done by the inhabitants, under fear of punishment on themselves. He was executed at the principal gate, on the 4th instant.

Mr Power, Civil Service, has applied to me to sanction the appointment of Mr Capper, Civil Service, to assist him in the Futtehgurh district.

Mr Power represents his new assistant as a man of much experience in these districts, and acquainted with the people.

I have therefore ventured to give the sanction required, subject to your Lordship's approval.

The destruction of the Nawab's palaces is in process. I think it right that not a stone should