



The Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1858.

INDIA BOARD, March 5, 1858.

THE following Papers have been received at the East India House:—

No. 1.

Extract Military Letter from Bengal, No. 307; dated December 3, 1857.

THE accompanying correspondence noted in the margin reports the operations of Colonel Wilson, commanding at Cawnpore, against a division of the Delhi fugitives, mustering three thousand men, and eight guns, whom he attacked at Sheorajpore, twenty-two miles from Cawnpore, and completely routed them.

No. 2.

Colonel N. Wilson, Commanding at Cawnpore, to Major-General Mansfield, Chief of the Staff, Calcutta.

SIR, October 21, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that intelligence reached me during the day of the 17th instant that the first division of the Delhi fugitives, mustering 3,000, with eight guns, had reached Sheorajpore, a village situated in almost an open country, twenty-two miles from this.

2. That active communication was being carried on with this force by the Nawa, who was endeavouring to subvert their intention of crossing into Oudh, by high offers of pay and rewards, if they would support him at Bittow, a strong position, capable of easy defence, where a large amount of his valuables are reported to be secreted.

I deemed it inadvisable that so large a body should get into a position of strength so close as to menace Cawnpore, and equally so, that they should pass unmolested into Oudh. I therefore determined to attack, and if possible, surprise them; with which view I marched from here at one o'clock A.M. on the 18th instant, with the force detailed in the margin,* reached the first rebel picket of

cavalry, four miles from their encampment, at 2 o'clock P.M. This picket was surprised, and partially destroyed, by my small cavalry advanced guard, but the remainder conveyed the first intelligence of our approach to the enemy, half an hour before we came in front of them. They turned out to be posted in two parties, one under large trees in front of the village, and bridge over a deep nullah, and the other in a garden behind the village.

Upon our approaching within 1,000 yards they opened their guns upon us, followed, as we lessened our distance, by musketry. Our advancing skirmishers upon the flanks gradually crept up; those upon the left, which were ably handled by Captain Wolseley, Her Majesty's 90th Light Infantry, approaching the enemy's right front, doubtless made their Enfield Rifles tell upon the rebel gunners, for they began to remove their guns. I then followed up with the whole force, passing the bridge, and driving the rebels out of the village, beyond which I again reformed, continuing the pursuit.

By this time the flight had turned into a complete route, and they fled so precipitately that, though a number of ordnance stores, &c., fell into our hands, the guns which were horsed escaped, owing to our want of cavalry.

The few police horse with me followed the rebels up for some miles, but they went off so fast that the Sowars were only able to destroy a few straggling sepoy. The loss on the part of the rebels was considerable; that of my force three killed and six wounded.

Having bivouacked for the night in the garden occupied by the rebels, I moved at daybreak on the 19th to the ferry abreast of Sheorajpore, distant four miles, hoping to come up with any of the rebels who might attempt to effect the passage of the river, and to destroy any boats found there.

During the night, however, some of the boats were removed to the opposite bank, and one or two shifted up river, by a small party of fugitives which was said had occupied the jungle, into which guns could not penetrate, and not thinking it prudent to detach, I determined to return to Bittow. On arrival abreast the village of Kurruchpore, situated half the way to Bittow in a jungle

* 59-pounders; 1 24-pound howitzer; 28 Artillerymen; 650 Infantry; 50 sabres police cavalry.

