

No. 6.

Major-General N. Penny, Commanding Field Force,
to Major-General W. R. Mansfield, Chief of the
Staff, Head-Quarters.

Field Force Staff Office,
Delhi, December 22, 1857.

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honor to transmit, for submission to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, copies of two despatches;* from Lieutenant-Colonel T. Seaton, C.B., detailing the particulars of engagements with considerable bodies of rebels near Gungeree and Puttiallee in the Etah district.

The Lieutenant-Colonel's arrangements appear to have been most skilful and judicious. I trust they will meet with his Excellency's approbation.

I have, &c.,

N. PENNY, Major-General,
Commanding Field Force.

No. 7.

Lieutenant-Colonel Seaton, Commanding Moveable
Column, to Captain Stewart, Deputy Assistant-
Adjutant-General.

No. 5.

SIR, Camp, Khasgunge, December 15, 1857.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of Major-General Penny, C.B., commanding Delhi Field Force, that I reached Gungeree, with the column under my command, on the 15th instant, where I found Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar with his detachment as per margin.†

Immediately after encamping, I sent a party of horse, under Captain Hodson, to reconnoitre the road in the direction of Khasgunge, as far as Bilram, a village within four miles of that town. Shortly after the party set out, Captain Light, my orderly officer, returned with information that the party had discovered the enemy's horse advancing at some distance towards our flanks, and presently Captain Hodson himself brought intelligence that the enemy was approaching in force.

I had kept the Dragoon horses saddled, so the troop speedily mounted and moved out in support of the reconnoitring party that was showing front to the enemy. In the meantime, the line turned out. The Troop Horse Artillery, under Captain Bishop, came to the front, speedily followed by 2 guns, under Lieutenant Griffin.

As the enemy's infantry and artillery were now plainly visible, I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Kinleside to move forward with the artillery and engage the enemy, in order to check their advance, and give time for the infantry to disengage itself from the mass of ravines in front and form up.

The artillery engaged in the most gallant style; but, as the enemy's horse continued to advance, taking ground to the left, apparently with the intention of cutting off the Troop Horse Artillery, I called up the Dragoons in support, and directed Captain Wardlaw, commanding, to charge the enemy if a favourable opportunity offered.

In the meantime the whole force moved out and were formed up by Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar, of the Belooch Battalion; and Captain Hodson, observing the enemy's horse advancing still against our left, anticipated the order I sent him, and moved up with his whole regiment. The enemy's fire now began to slacken, and Captain Wardlaw, seeing his opportunity, charged with the Car-

bineers and Lancers, and captured 2 guns; whilst, Captain Hodson advancing immediately against the enemy's right, they were driven in utter confusion from the field, hotly pursued by our cavalry and artillery.

The enemy were completely and utterly routed; they abandoned their last gun and 2 ammunition waggons, and numbers of their infantry threw away their arms, and hid themselves in the fields, or continued their headlong flight over the country. Numbers were shot in the fields, and many, rendered desperate by their situation, defended themselves fiercely and were killed.

The enemy had evidently not expected to meet any force, except the small detachment under Colonel Farquhar; they were therefore astounded by the fire of so many guns, and by the appearance, on their right, of the large body of horse under Captain Hodson, so that, when charged by Captain Wardlaw, they were instantly routed, and I was unable consequently to bring the infantry into action; but their presence near at hand enabled me with confidence to order the cavalry and artillery to continue the pursuit of the enemy for several miles, and with great effect.

From my own observation, and the report of others, I estimate the loss of the enemy as over 200 killed, and, as we subsequently learnt, numbers crept away wounded, and died.

My own loss was in the Cavalry solely, and amounted to 48. Of these 22 are slightly wounded; but I deeply regret to report the death of that good and gallant soldier, Captain Wardlaw; his brave brothers-in-arms, Captain Hudson and Lieutenant Vyse, of the 6th Carabineers; and also the severe wound of Captain Head, who commanded the detachment of 9th Lancers.

The charge executed by the Carabineers and Lancers, led by Captain Wardlaw, was so truly dashing and brilliant, that I could not do otherwise than make most prominent mention of it, and I am sure the Major-General will regret, as deeply as myself, that he and his gallant comrades were not spared to serve their country on future occasions.

The General will see by the list of casualties that Captain Hodson's newly raised body of horse was not at all backward. It rendered excellent service; less it could not do under its distinguished commander, whom I beg particularly to mention to the Major-General as having, on every possible occasion, rendered me the most effective service, whether in gaining information, reconnoitring the country, or leading his regiment.

The troop of Horse Artillery, under Captain Bishop, and the 2 guns, under Lieutenant Griffin, the whole commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Kinleside, mainly contributed to the defeat of the enemy, and the Major-General will duly appreciate their coolness and skill. I received the most efficient aid from my Brigade-Major, Captain French, and from my orderly officer, Captain Light, of the Artillery, who conveyed my order to the Dragoons to charge, and went in with them, and I may say I never saw greater zeal and alacrity displayed than by the officers who accompanied me to the field either as Field Engineers or as volunteers. I could almost regret the enemy did not make a greater show of resistance.

I have, &c.,

T. SEATON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding Moveable Column.

* Dated 15th and 18th December 1857.

† 2 6-pounder guns. 200 Afghan Horse. 300 Belooch Battalion.