

supplies. I said he would find it difficult to plunder the city, as my men were ready; and recommended him to go past the city by another road, and that, if his sowars did not keep together, they would be fired upon.

I was then told that Tantia was behind, and that he would come up directly, and then the city would be plundered.

I then requested to have an interview with Tantia alone, outside his force, but they refused this, but offered to give me safeguard (Dhurma) if I went into their force alone; my people did not wish me to go, but I said there was no way of saving the city, as we were so few, and they numbered 4,000, and that if they did attempt any treachery, I would destroy Ghoree Shunkur, who gave me the safeguard, before they could kill or seize me.

I then went on horseback with Ghoree Shunkur to Tantia Topee. I was accompanied by one servant and two sepoys. A Rajpoot Thackoor seized my bridle, and tried to prevent my going into Tantia's camp. I refused to get off my horse until Tantia and Ghoree Shunkur came to one side, where I got off; and they also dismounted. I sat down with Tantia and Ghoree Shunkur.

Tantia then told me that if I wished to save the city from plunder I must pay rupees 20,000. I refused to do this, but Tantia being very much confused with the beating he had received in the morning, agreed to go, provided I gave him a guide to show him the way out of the hills. I gave him four Chowkeedars to show him the way outside the city, and they went on eight miles, and encamped at Bamun, in the Ghazika Tanna pergunnah; there they plundered the village, and got some russia by force. Tantia has a round face; is copper coloured, and is slightly pox-marked; he has rather a flat nose, has a stubble beard, and seems to have been unshaved for a month; he is a strong middle-sized man, about 40 years of age.

The force under Tantia is much distressed, and Tantia's horse, a cream-colour (Koorla), was very thin; and the horses of the sowars were in bad condition and galled. There were about 3,500 or 4,000 people of all sorts; there are between 100 or 200 foot; the rest were sowars; 20 charpoys were carried along containing the wounded, and 20 more followed; there were also a number of men on foot and horseback wounded. There are also a lot of men wounded in the different villages on their line of march.

They say they were completely taken by surprise on the morning of the fight, and that they lost between 600 and 700 men, but that they killed 200 of the British.

The Begarees who accompanied them from Ajubghur, report that a number of the enemy had dispersed after leaving Ajubghur, and they tried to bribe the villagers to allow them to remain concealed. I consider that they received such a blow that they will now disperse, as numbers of the sowars are men from the neighbourhood of Juggur and Shekawattee.

No. 15.

Major-General Whitlock, to the Chief of the Staff.

SIR, Camp, Kirwee, 11th January 1859.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for submission to the Right Honourable the Commander-in-Chief, copy of a Despatch from Brigadier MacDuff, com-

manding 2d Infantry Brigade, S. F. D., in which he expresses his approbation of the good conduct of the troops engaged in an arduous day's duty in pursuit of the rebels.

I have, &c.,

G. C. WHITLOCK, Major-General,
Commanding Saugor Field Division.

No. 16.

Brigadier MacDuff, Commanding 2d Brigade Saugor Field Division, to the Acting Assistant-Adjutant-General, Saugor Field Division.

Camp, Answar, 5 miles east of Scinde River,
SIR, December 17, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Major-General Commanding Saugor Field Division, my arrival here yesterday, in pursuit of the force under Feroze Shah, which crossed the Jumna a few days since, near the Fort of Bureh, in the Etawah District, and the Chumbul, at Taungua, in the Gwalior territory, entering this district opposite the latter place.

This rebel force, which is said to have consisted of about 1,500 good cavalry and some guns, with an immense number of camp followers on country ponies, passed through this a few days since. They crossed the district at a rapid pace; scarcely ever halted, and ultimately crossed the Scinde river near Inderghur.

At noon yesterday, hearing that a considerable body of rebels, under Burjore Sing, a chief of this district, was at Girwassah, on this side of the Scinde river, plundering the surrounding villages, I determined upon marching upon him at once, with the force detailed in the margin,* leaving the camp standing.

At half-past 2 o'clock P.M. I moved off, and had not gone above a few miles, when, reaching the ravines running down to the river, I found all further progress for the cavalry and guns impossible; so I ordered them back to camp.

After winding for five miles through deep ravines, I came upon the village of Girwassah, where I ascertained that the rebels were posted on the other bank of the river.

On nearing the Scinde, the rebels were seen occupying a strong position on the left bank.

Her Majesty's 43d Light Infantry, led by Major Synge, crossed the river supported by the 19th Regiment Madras Native Infantry under Colonel Nott, and pursued the enemy, killing and wounding several, till night prevented any further advance.

The force returned to camp at 10 o'clock P.M., without loss, having marched during the day above thirty miles.

Nothing could exceed the good conduct and willingness with which the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 43d Light Infantry, as well as the native officers, non-commissioned officers and sepoys of the 19th Regiment Madras Native Infantry, performed so long and arduous a march.

I beg to return my best thanks to Colonel Nott, commanding 19th Madras Native Infantry, and to Major Synge, commanding detachment 43d Light Infantry, as also to the officers mentioned in the

* Staff, 3 European officers; 8th Bengal Irregular Cavalry, 3 native officers, 58 men; Sikh Mounted Police, 2 European officers, 5 native officers, 182 men; Royal Artillery (No. 6 F. Battery), 2 European officers, 80 men, 4 guns; Her Majesty's 43d Light Infantry, 6 European officers, 262 men; 19th Madras Native Infantry, 8 European officers, 7 native officers, 178 men. Total, 21 European officers, 15 native officers, 760 men, 4 guns.