

fusiliers, and 43d under Major-General Keane; some black troops were destined to skirmish in the wood on the right; the principal attack was to be made by Major-General Gibbs; the 1st brigade, consisting of the fusiliers and 43d, formed the reserve; the attacking columns were to be provided with fascines, scaling ladders and rafts, the whole to be at their stations before day light. An advanced battery in our front of six eighteen-pounders, was thrown up during the night, about eight-hundred yards from the enemy's line. The attack was to be made at the earliest hour.—Unlooked for difficulties, increased by the falling of the river, occasioned considerable delay in the entrance of the armed boats, and those destined to land Colonel Thornton's corps, by which four or five hours were lost, and it was not until past five in the morning, that the 1st division, consisting of five hundred men, were over. The *ensemble* of the general movement was lost, and in a point which was of the last importance to the attack on the left bank of the river, although Colonel Thornton, as your Lordship will see in his report, which I enclose, ably-executed in every particular his instructions, and fully justified the confidence the Commander of the Forces placed in his abilities. The delay attending that corps occasioned some on the left bank, and the attack did not take place until the columns were discernible from the enemy's line at more than two-hundred yards distance; as they advanced, a continued and most galling fire was opened from every part of their line, and from the battery on the right bank.

The brave Commander of the Forces, who never in his life could refrain from being at the post of honour, and sharing the danger to which the troops were exposed, as soon as from his station he had made the signal for the troops to advance, galloped on to the front to animate them by his presence, and he was seen, with his bat off, encouraging them on the crest of the glacis; it was there (almost at the same time) he received two wounds, one in his knee, and another, which was almost instantly fatal, in his body; he fell in the arms of Major McDougall, Aide-de-Camp. The effect of this in the sight of the troops, together with Major-General Gibbs and Major-General Keane being both borne off wounded at the same time, with many other commanding officers, and further, the preparations to aid in crossing the ditch not being so forward as they ought to have been, from, perhaps, the men being wounded who were carrying them, caused a wavering in the column, which in such a situation became irreparable; and as I advanced with the reserve, at about two hundred and fifty yards from the line, I had the mortification to observe the whole falling back upon me in the greatest confusion.

In this situation, finding that no impression had been made, that though many men had reached the ditch, and were either drowned or obliged to surrender, and that it was impossible to restore order in the regiments where they were, I placed the reserve in position, until I could obtain such information as to determine me how to act to the best of my judgement, and whether or not I should resume the attack, and if so, I felt it could be done only by the reserve. The confidence I have in the

corps composing it would have encouraged me greatly, though not without loss, which might have made the attempt of serious consequence, as I know it was the opinion of the late distinguished Commander of the Forces, that the carrying of the first line would not be the least arduous service. After making the best reflections I was capable of, I kept the ground the troops then held, and went to meet Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, and to tell him, that under all the circumstances I did not think it prudent to renew the attack that day. At about ten o'clock I learnt of the success of Colonel Thornton's corps on the right bank. I sent the commanding officer of the artillery, Colonel Dickson, to examine the situation of the battery, and to report if it was tenable; but informing me that he did not think it could be held with security by a smaller corps than two thousand men, I consequently ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Gubbins, on whom the command had devolved (Colonel Thornton being wounded), to retire.

The army remained in position until night, in order to gain time to destroy the eighteen-pounder battery we had constructed the preceding night in advance. I then gave orders for the troops resuming the ground they occupied previous to the attack.

Our loss has been very severe, but I trust it will not be considered, notwithstanding the failure, that this army has suffered the military character to be tarnished. I am satisfied, had I thought it right to renew the attack, that the troops would have advanced with cheerfulness. The services of both army and navy, since their landing on this coast, have been arduous beyond any thing I have ever witnessed, and difficulties have been got over with an assiduity and perseverance beyond all example by all ranks, and the most hearty co-operation has existed between the two services.

It is not necessary for me to expatiate to you upon the loss the army has sustained in Major-General the Honourable Sir E. Pakenham, Commander in Chief of this force, nor could I in adequate terms. His services and merits are so well known, that I have only, in common with the whole army, to express my sincere regret, and which may be supposed at this moment to come peculiarly home to me.

Major-General Gibbs, who died of his wounds the following day, and Major-General Keane, who were both carried off the field within twenty yards of the glacis, at the head of their brigades, sufficiently speak at such a moment how they were conducting themselves. I am happy to say Major-General Keane is doing well.

Captain Wyllly, of the fusiliers, Military Secretary to the late Commander of the Forces, will have the honour of delivering to your Lordship these dispatches. Knowing how much he enjoyed his esteem, and was in his confidence from a long experience of his talents, I feel I cannot do less than pay this tribute to what I conceive would be the wishes of his late General, and to recommend him strongly to your Lordship's protection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LAMBERT,
Major-General, commanding.