

It was not to be expected that a people, unacquainted with the customs and manners of the civilized nations of Europe, should, on our first approach, have placed unlimited confidence in us; at all the villages the greater part of the inhabitants fled from their houses to the fields, where they remained as spectators, but at each we found a few men left to converse with us, and receive every assurance I could give them of safety and protection, if they remained quietly at their homes; on our return yesterday to quarters, I had the satisfaction of seeing some of these villages thickly inhabited, the people quite at their ease, and saluting us as we passed.

Although this expedition, upon which I was out for three days, has terminated differently from what I intended, I feel confident much good will result from it. The favourable impression made shall be cultivated to the very utmost of my power, and happy indeed shall I be to sheath the sword, as often as the object in view can be obtained by kindness and mercy.

I have, &c.

A. CAMPBELL, Brigadier-General.

*Copy of a Letter from Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B. to George Swinton, Esq. Secretary to the Bengal Government, dated Head-Quarters, Rangoon, the 5th August 1824.*

SIR,

BEING informed that the Governor of Syriam had assembled a force on the banks of the Pegue or Syriam river, and had ordered the whole conscription of the district to repair, without delay, to the place of rendezvous, for the purpose of finishing and defending a large field-work, which was to command the river, and protect the surrounding country; although aware that few had obeyed the summons, I determined upon dislodging the enemy, and for that purpose I yesterday morning proceeded up the Syriam river, with three hundred Europeans, and an equal number of native infantry, the whole under the command of Acting Brigadier Smelt. Upon approaching the landing-place leading to the town and pagoda of Syriam, I observed the old Portuguese fort (long concealed from view by trees and overgrown brushwood), cleared and scaped where the old wall had fallen down, and from fifteen to twenty feet high; upon this the enemy had raised a parapet, and suspended huge logs of wood on the outside, intended to be cut away during the assault, and to carry the assailants before them in their descent.

The troops landed under the fire of the Penang Government brig Jessie, and the Powerful, sloop,

employed as a mortar-vessel, and the advanced party moved on until stopped by a deep impassable nullah, the bridge over which had been destroyed, and threatened to check our progress; but the difficulty was speedily removed, and a very tolerable bridge constructed by Captain Marryat and part of the Officers and crew of His Majesty's ship Larne. The enemy's fire from musketry and artillery was even unusually feeble and contemptible, and they abandoned the place with the utmost precipitation when the troops moved forward to the attack, leaving behind them eight pieces of good artillery.

I next directed Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, of the Madras European regiment, to proceed with part of the force to the Syriam pagoda, which I was informed was also occupied by about three hundred men. The Lieutenant-Colonel, on arriving at the pagoda, found the enemy inclined to dispute the possession of their almost impregnable post, but they lost confidence while the troops were ascending the long flight of steps leading up to the pagoda, and fled in the utmost confusion, leaving four pieces of artillery and a great quantity of powder.

Although in these affairs the enemy afforded little opportunity for displaying the discipline and gallantry of the troops, their usual feeling and ardour were by no means less conspicuous, and I had every reason to be satisfied with the arrangements of Brigadier Smelt, and Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly in conducting the different attacks.

From Captain Marryat and the Officers of His Majesty's Navy, I ever receive the most prompt and cordial co-operation.

I have, &c.

A. CAMPBELL, Brigadier-General.

*Return of Killed and Wounded from the 12th July to the 5th of August 1824.*

Rangoon, 5th August 1824.

8 rank and file wounded.

F. S. TIDY, Lieut. Col. D. A. G.

*Return of Ordnance and Ammunition taken and destroyed at Syriam, on the 4th of August 1824, by Detachments of the Force on the Expedition commanded by Brigadier-General Sir A. Campbell, K. C. B.*

Rangoon, 5th August 1824.

1 brass four-pounder, 2 brass three-pounders, 2 iron eighteen-pounders, 5 iron six-pounders, 2 wall pieces.

A considerable quantity of gun-powder destroyed, and about one hundred weight of grape.

W. LAW.