

a rapid movement to a certain point, and there wait until the howitzers and other divisions could be brought up. Captain Williamson, commanding the leading division, soon joined, with two scaling ladders brought up by Lieutenant Campbell; this promising young Officer, I lament to say, received a serious wound shortly after, and fell, together with some men of the 3d light infantry. Firing and shouting was at this time distinctly heard in the jungle on our left, and Captain Williamson was directed to detach a party to out-flank and keep in check any body of the enemy that might appear in that quarter, as well as to ascertain whether any other works had been thrown up, to flank the one in front of us.

In the mean time the howitzers came up, were placed in position; and opened a fire upon the stockade, while Lieutenant Dallas, of the 3d, who commanded the detached party, gave them a flanking fire and turned the concealed stockade, which I had conceived from the cross fire existed in that direction. Captain Williamson upon this signal moved forward in double quick time to escalate the enemy's works, which was executed in a smart and gallant style by that Officer, seconded by Lieutenant Sherman and the other Officers and men of the 3d light infantry. Lieutenant Dallas also advanced and entered at the same time, from his position; Major Wahab, with the 34th, coming up at the same time made a spirited charge round by the right face of the works, but the enemy I regret to say succeeded in effecting his escape with a trifling loss.

The rear guard in coming up was attacked by the enemy, when Lieutenant and Quartermaster Challon's horse was shot dead; partial firing was also continued upon our troops from the front and left flank for some time after.

A prisoner was taken armed with an English musket. From this man I obtained information, which led me to suppose that the enemy was in considerable force in the neighbourhood with guns and a party of horse, very strongly stockaded. These were spoken of as a different description of soldiery to those we had hitherto encountered. I was induced in consequence to request that I might be furnished with a strong reinforcement.

On the reinforcement of three hundred native rank and file of the 28th and 30th regiments, with two more four and half inch howitzers joining the detachments, I issued an order of which No. 1 is a copy*. I have thought it necessary to forward this document to satisfy the Commander of the Forces, that every means was used in my power to establish systematic order and regularity, and a proper understanding between all the parties connected in the operations against the enemy.

At two o'clock, the detachment marched; Major Wahab leading the 1st division, from which was detached an advance guard, of a subaltern party, under Lieutenant McCallan.

Prior to moving, I directed Major Wahab, in the event of a shot being fired from the enemy, to return it, and push on without retarding the progress of the force; the same instructions regarded breast works and other obstacles of that nature.

* Not received.

In a short time a few shots were fired from a distance, and on the advanced party emerging into the plain a small body of horse and foot were seen about six hundred yards in front; Lieutenant McCallan continued his course steadily, and on nearing the enemy the horse showed a disposition to threaten our flank; our advance formed line, and supported by Major Wahab, actually drove at them, and the horse, on seeing this movement, pulled up and retreated precipitately; immediately after this a breast-work was discovered, from which several shots were fired; Major Wahab pushed on without a moment's delay, and carried it in great style with a trifling loss on our side.

A succession of breast-works on our route were stormed, and carried in the same rapid and gallant way by the bravery evinced by Major Wahab and the officers of that corps; in short, the spirit that animated both officers and men was such as to ensure success in any undertaking; but I regret to say that the taking of these breast-works retarded our progress, and the detachment consequently did not arrive in the vicinity of Keykoo till five o'clock. It was about this time the guides affected to be ignorant of the direct route to the stockade, although they pointed in the direction it was erected; as the road we were in appeared to be good and leading direct upon a pagoda which was represented to lie on the left of the stockade, we pursued it.

Shortly after, Captain Williamson, with the second division, was directed to diverge from the column of march to the right, and push through the jungle and attack the enemy's works in that quarter, while Major Wahab should assail it on the left, intending that the third or Major Ogilvie's division should be available for any other service it might have been required for.

The necessary reconnoissance having been made, which the enemy allowed us to complete unobscured, and the extreme silence that had hitherto prevailed, induced me to believe that the post had been abandoned, but notwithstanding, as the lateness of the evening would not allow of any further examination of the enemy's position, arrangements were made for assailing the place, and Major Wahab was directed to move forward in double quick, with ladders to escalate; this gallant Officer gave the cheering signal, and the first division, with a spirit and animation I never saw surpassed, and with shouts of huzza and deen, deen, deen, rushed forward to the attack; this was only answered by a round of cannon from the pagoda, which, until now, I was led, by the guides, to believe was undefended. The enemy in the stockade still observed a sullen silence; not a shot was fired until the division of the 34th and ladders had got well in front of their works. It was then that volleys of grape shot and musketry were discharged upon the party at the distance of 50 or 60 yards, with an effect and regularity hitherto unequalled in this country; several of the pioneers with the ladders were at this instant knocked down, together with the leading officers; and the men, consequently, from the awful and destructive fire that fell among them, and the loss of their commanding and leading officers, were seized with panic, and lay down to secure themselves from its further effects.

The lateness of the evening rendered this first