

ness of the ascent, which was occasionally nearly perpendicular, many gained the summit. Lieutenant Clarke, Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier-General M'Bean, with several of the light infantry company of His Majesty's 54th regiment, got their hands on the trench, but even with the assistance such a hold afforded, were unable to maintain their ground, large stones were rolled on them, and smaller ones discharged from bows; the consequence was, they were precipitated to the bottom. In this attempt the efforts were persevered in till every Officer was wounded.

I cannot here avoid interrupting the detail to make known to his Excellency that on no occasion could British gallantry be more conspicuously displayed; the conduct of the Officers was emulated by the men, and European and Native troops vied with each other to equal the example set.

The guns, in the ardour of the moment, had been advanced by Captain Lamb, who commanded them, so far, that on the retreat of the troops they became too exposed to be longer served: and the retiring of them at the time was impracticable without the hazard of sacrificing the men, who would have been obliged to effect it by the drag ropes.

While the attack was being carried on at the pass, the right of the enemy's position was cannonaded, but without any apparent effect; the twelve-pounders and heavy howitzers, were afterwards moved to play upon the works at the pass; the fire was continued for an hour, but, it appearing to be but a useless waste of ammunition, I caused it to be discontinued, and those guns to be withdrawn; at the same time an encampment was marked out, the tents were pitched, and at one o'clock the troops fell back upon them, with the exception of the advance, which was continued during the day in the position they occupied; in the dusk of the evening the wounded were brought off, the guns withdrawn, and the whole retired without further loss, though a heavy fire had been continued by the enemy at intervals during the day.

From observations made, the conviction was established, that the right of the enemy's defences was the key of his position. Here the natural obstacles were the greatest, the approach being protected by a small lake, the ascent being more abrupt, and the height being more considerable. These seemed to have given a confidence in its security; and though the summit was crowned with a stockade, and part of the way up thickly abatised, the number of men to guard it was not considerable. This point was therefore selected for the principal future attack. At the same time, the construction of a battery for four mortars, two twenty four-pounders, four twelve-pounders, and two five and half inch howitzers, to play on the works at the pass, and to draw the enemy's attention entirely to that point, was ordered. The Senior Engineer Officer, Lieutenant Thompson, received directions to that effect; and the day of the 30th was employed in bringing from Mahattee the necessary material. At half-past seven that evening ground was broke, by three o'clock the battery finished, and before day-light completely armed, when the guns opened, and continued during the day a heavy cannonade,

which had the effect of checking the enemy's fire, though it was not entirely silenced.

Instructions were given to Brigadier Richards to make a night attack with the force as per margin\*. On the right of the enemy's position, at half-past eleven, the appointed rocket signal of success was thrown up: and Lieutenant Wroughton, Surveying Department, in a short time after returned from the height, bringing the grateful intelligence, that though the fire of the enemy had been heavy, the stockade had been gained without a man on our side being killed, and with only a few slightly wounded. A copy of the Brigadier's report of the affair (No. 2) is herewith inclosed.

A reinforcement of the remainder of the 1st brigade, with two six-pounders on elephants, was immediately dispatched. Arrangements had also been made for storming the works at the pass, on the morning of the 1st, should the fire from the battery have produced such an effect as would almost insure the certainty of success. Brigadier Richards was also directed to commence, at daylight, an attack on the defences of the intervening heights.

The difficulty of carrying the guns up the hill caused a delay, and it was near seven o'clock before one was mounted, a few rounds from which silenced the fire of the six-pounder that the enemy had planted on the next summit, when the Brigadier advanced to the assault. The enemy did not stand; advantage was taken of the panic of the moment, the detachment under Brigadier-General M'Bean, which consisted as follows:—A subaltern's detachment of artillery, sixty troopers (dismounted), 2d brigade (except four companies of His Majesty's 54th regiment, who were attached to the 5th brigade); four companies 2d light infantry battalion, thirty flotilla seamen, detachment of regular pioneers, with six scaling ladders,—allotted to the attack of the pass, was directed to move forward. The enemy were soon seen abandoning all the heights; from that moment opposition ceased, and Arracan was gained.

It has been my province to lay before his Excellency a succession of operations, which have accomplished the first object directed by the instruction emanating from the Governor-General in Council; but to the duty of doing justice to the merits of the force collectively, and to individuals separately who had the opportunity of putting themselves more conspicuously forward, I own myself incompetent; and I must trust to his Excellency's discernment to appreciate how truly a claim to his approbation has been perfected by the division, more from his knowledge of what they have had to encounter, than from any representation I am able to make. The Political Agent, T. C. Robertson, Esq. not only previous to the force quitting Chittagong, but to the present period, has

\* Right column—Major Carter, His Majesty's 44th regiment, two companies of His Majesty's 44th ditto, two ditto, (grenadiers) 26th regiment, thirty troopers (dismounted). Left column—Two companies of His Majesty's 44th regiment, one ditto 26th regiment (light infantry company), one ditto 49th regiment (ditto ditto), thirty flotilla seamen.—Reserve under Captain Shelton, His Majesty's 44th regiment, two companies of His Majesty's 44th ditto (grenadiers), 49th regiment forty pioneers.