

Lieutenant M. Murdo sent to report to me, that the enemy were advancing in force, on which I halted the column, with the right resting on the Phoolalie, and detached two guns under Captain Rowan, a squadron 3d light cavalry under Captain Malet, and the grenadier company 8th regiment under Captain Morse, to check their advance; at this time the enemy were crossing the bed of the Phoolalie in great numbers, both horse and foot, about three-fourths of a mile to our left rear in the direction of our baggage, which was in the rear of the column; large bodies were drawn up in front of a wood on the opposite side of the river, and heavy masses were seen with a glass, to their left rear, and advancing towards the head of our column.

The guns took a position nearly opposite the point where the enemy were crossing the bed of the river, and opened upon them with such effect that they were instantly checked; a few more rounds telling on them severely, they retreated with precipitation, and recrossed the river much more rapidly than they had advanced; in their retreat they carried with them all those who were ranged in front of the wood. The large bodies in the distance also fell back, and in about half an hour after the opening of our guns there was not an enemy in sight.

Captain Jacob's horse having arrived from Hyderabad, about the time our fire ceased, I directed them to cover the rear of the columns, and recalled our detached parties to join the main body; by this time, the baggage being well in advance, I resumed the march, and arrived in camp without the slightest loss of any sort.

I have, &c.

M. STACK, Major,
3d Regiment of Lt. Cavy, late Commdg. Troops
en route from Sukkur to Hyderabad.

*Major-General Sir C. J. Napier, K.C.B.,
to Lord Ellenborough, &c.*

*Ali ka Tanda, March 26, 1843,
MY LORD, 5 o'Clock, P.M.*

THIS town is twenty miles from the field of battle. We passed two prepared positions of great strength. I shall reach Meerpoor to-morrow. The Ameer, I understand, has fled to the desert in great terror, and all his family with him. The inhabitants receive us with great joy, and are very desirous to be assured that we mean to keep the country.

The Poona horse has pursued the Ameer, and are now near Meerpoor, forty miles from the field:

Sobdar's servant (and the great mover of this rallied force) was Hoche Mahomed Seedee; he fell in the battle, and it was his followers that stood against the 22d regiment. Three other Chiefs have fallen, Golan Ali Talpoor, Ali Khan Talpoor, and Jaffa Khan Murree.

I have, &c.

C. J. NAPIER, Major-General.

*Major-General Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B.
to Lord Ellenborough.*

(Extract.)

Meerpoor, March 27, 1843.

LIEUTENANT TAIT, of the Poona horse, made a forced march with his excellent band of 250 men, and reached this last night, forty miles from the field of battle. He found it abandoned. It has a fort in the usual style of the fortifications of this country, and I shall leave a garrison in it, for the present, of a portion of the Sinde horse.

*His Excellency Major-General Sir C. J. Napier,
K.C.B., to the Right Hon. Lord Ellenborough.*

MY LORD, *Meerpoor, April 5, 1843.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that yesterday the fortress of Oomercote opened its gates to the British force sent against it, and is in our hands. I have ordered a small garrison to hold it till further orders.

Considerable difficulties have prevented our sooner getting hold of this most important place; but the zeal and ability of the Officers employed (Captain Whitley, commanding in the first instance, and Major Woodburn afterwards) overcame these difficulties. In justice to Lieutenant Brown, my Aide-Camp, I must say, that this success has been chiefly owing to his exertions and zeal. Having myself remained in a central position, to receive the earliest reports of the progress made by the inundation caused by the river Indus, and to direct the movements of the troops, which a deficiency of water towards Oomercote obliged me to divide, I was unable to command in person the detachment which proceeded to Oomercote. Being at Jourbee I received a despatch from Oomercote, saying that it was defended by a powerful garrison; and at the same moment I received another from Hyderabad, to say, that the river was rising with unusual rapidity. It, therefore, became necessary to give up the idea of attacking Oomercote, and I ordered a retreat, returning myself to this town. Just as my orders to retreat reached the advancing force (then within twenty miles of Oomercote) another report reached the Commanding Officer that the fortress was abandoned. Between this report and my order for him to retreat, the Commanding Officer was embarrassed, upon which Lieutenant Brown mounted his horse, and, under the burning sun of this climate, rode forty miles to Meerpoor, received my orders and instantly returned, taking the supporting troops on the road along with him, and Oomercote was taken.

Justice to this Officer has made me enter into detail otherwise unnecessary; but the man, who rides eighty miles without stopping, and in broad day under a Sindian sun, deserves this compliment.

The importance of having Oomercote in our possession is so great, that it repays every incon-