

have been fought, or in the various skirmishes at the outposts, such as that in which Captain Becher was gallantly engaged with a small party of the 8th Irregular Cavalry at Alloowalla, on the morning of the 27th January.

The Governor-General's thanks are due, in an especial manner, to Brigadier Cureton, who commanded the Cavalry. This officer's whole life has been spent in the most meritorious exertions in Europe and Asia; and, on this occasion, the skill and intrepidity with which the cavalry force was handled, obtained the admiration of the army which witnessed their movements.

The Government of India, ever desirous to mark its grateful sense of the services of the Army, will cause a medal to be presented to every officer and soldier of the East India Company's Service, engaged in the battle of Aliwal, and requests, through His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that a nominal roll may be furnished for that purpose.

By order of the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India,

F. CURRIE, Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General.

*General Sir Hugh Gough, Bart. G. C. B., Commander-in-Chief in India, to the Governor-General.*

Camp, Nihalkee, February 1, 1846.

(Extract.)

After its final repulse, on the 22d of December, the Sikh army retired, in great confusion, across the ferries and fords of the Sutlej.

I established my head quarters at Sultan Khan Walla on the 24th, my divisions being encamped at that place, at Peer Khan Walla, and at Kool. On the 27th, I advanced to Hurruff; and, the same day, personally pushed a reconnoissance to the bank of the River, at the Ghat of Sobraon.

The enemy was seen stretching along the right bank in force, not more than half a dozen of his stragglers being surprised by our Irregular Cavalry on this side.

Major-General Sir Harry Smith's division I placed in an advanced position, with its right on the village of Mallowal, and its left on a nullah, an offset from the Sutlej.

From this point the enemy was watched by the Major-General with equal activity and circumspection, whilst the rest of our troops were held in hand ready to support him, should the Sikhs venture to resume the initiative.

On or about the 5th, our attention was directed to a predatory incursion of the enemy, in the direction of Loodiana. They burnt a few of the residences of our officers, and barracks of our soldiers, at that station, but avoided the combat, when the Sirmoor battalion, and other troops, interrupted them in the work of destruction.

Rumour exaggerated the nature and extent of this inroad, and excited some alarm for our communications; but the object of this foray was, eventually, discovered to be for the purpose of favouring the escape, across the Sutlej, of the Raja of Ladwa, who had alone, of all the principal princes and chiefs of the Protected States, evinced towards us, at this conjuncture, decided hostility. With him, the predatory Sikhs recrossed the Sutlej.

On the 12th of January, I determined to bring my whole force into a position, from which it might more closely observe the movements of the enemy, now posted near the greater Sobraon, on the right bank. At an early hour, it executed an oblique movement to its right and front. Major-General Sir Harry Smith, supported by a cavalry brigade, under Brigadier Cureton (recently brought up, from Meerut) was, in this new alignment, still on the right, opposite to Hurreke Puttun; Major-General Gilbert in the centre, and Major-General Sir Robert Dick on the left, covered again by cavalry. Major-General Sir John Grey, posted at Attaree, watched the Nuggur ford. The troops of Major-General Sir John Littler occupied, or were drawn around, the cantonment and entrenchment of Ferozepore.

The enemy, on his side, reinforced his army on the right bank, completed and strengthened his bridge, and increased the force of his posts and picquets on the left bank. These parties having, on the 14th, evinced more than usual audacity, I caused that body of his infantry which held the head of the bridge, to be driven in by the fire of artillery and rockets, supported by the presence of our light troops. On the following day, a partial cannonade, which was again opened, on our side, upon the boats of the Sikhs, on their outposts on the left bank, and their encampment on the right, enabled me to ascertain, from the direction of their corresponding fire, the nature of all their defensive dispositions.

Meanwhile, the upper Sutlej has become the scene of very interesting operations.

It is a strange feature of this war that the enemy, pressed for supplies on his own bank, has been striving to draw them from his Jaghire States on this side of the river. In the town and fort of Dhurmokote, which were filled with grain, he had, in the second week of January, a small garrison of Mercenaries, Rohillas, Eusufzies and Affghans. Major-General Sir Harry Smith was, on the 18th, sent against this place, with a single brigade of his division and a light field battery. He easily effected its reduction, the troops within it surrendering at discretion, after a few cannon shots. But, whilst he was yet in march, I received information of a more serious character. There remained little cause to doubt that Sirdar Runjoor Sing Mujethea, had crossed from Philour, at the head of a numerous force of all arms, and established himself in position at Baran Hara, between the old and the new courses of the Sutlej, not only threatening the city of Loodiana with plunder and devastation, but indicating a determination to intersect the line of our communications at Busseean and Raekote.

The safety of the rich and populous town of Loodiana had been in some measure provided for by the presence of three battalions of native infantry under Brigadier Godby; and the gradual advance of our reinforcements, amongst which was included Her Majesty's 53rd regiment, and the position of the Shekawatee Brigade, near Busseean, gave breathing time to us in that direction.

But, on the receipt of intelligence which could be relied on, of the movements of Runjoor Sing, and his apparent views, Major-General Sir Harry Smith, with the brigade at Dhurmokote, and Brigadier Cureton's cavalry, was directed to advance