

by Jugraon towards Loodiana; and his second brigade, under Brigadier Wheeler, moved on to support him.

Then commenced a series of very delicate combinations, the momentous character of which can only be comprehended by reflecting on the task which had devolved on this army, of guarding the frontier from Roopur down to Mundote.

The Major-General, breaking up from Jugraon, moved towards Loodiana, when the Sirdar, relying on the vast superiority of his forces, assumed the initiative, and endeavoured to intercept his progress by marching in a line parallel to him, and opening upon his troops a furious cannonade. The Major-General continued coolly to manœuvre; and, when the Sikh Sirdar, bending round one wing of his army, enveloped his flank, he extricated himself, by retiring, with the steadiness of a field day, by echelon of battalions, and effected his communication with Loodiana, but not without severe loss.

Reinforced by Brigadier Godby, he felt himself to be strong; but his manœuvre had thrown him out of communication with Brigadier Wheeler, and a portion of his baggage had fallen into the hands of the enemy. The Sikh Sirdar took up an entrenched position at Budhowal, supporting himself on its fort; but, threatened on either flank by General Smith, and Brigadier Wheeler, finally decamped, and moved down to the Sutlej. The British troops made good their junction, and occupied the abandoned position of Budhowal. The Shekawatee Brigade and Her Majesty's 53rd Regiment also added to the strength of the Major-General; and he prepared to attack the Sikh Sirdar on his new ground. But, on the 26th, Runjoor Sing was reinforced, from the right bank, with 4000 Regular Troops, twelve pieces of Artillery, and a large force of Cavalry.

Emboldened by this accession of strength, he ventured on the measure of advancing towards Jugraon, apparently with the view of intercepting our communications by that route.

It is my gratifying duty to announce that this presumption has been rebuked by a splendid victory obtained over him. He has not only been repulsed by the Major-General, but his camp at Aliwal carried by storm, the whole of his cannon and munitions of war captured, and his army driven headlong across the Sutlej, even on the right bank of which he found no refuge from the fire of our Artillery.

I have the honor now to forward the Major-General's report, which has just reached me. It is so ample and luminous that I might perhaps have spared some of the details into which admiration of the Major-General's conduct, and of the brave army confided to him, in these operations, has led me.

It now remains for me only to congratulate you, Right Honorable Sir, and the Government of India, on the brilliant success which, under Divine Providence, the Major-General has achieved; and to record my opinion that, throughout these arduous and important operations, he has displayed all the qualities of an able commander. Most strongly, and most earnestly at the same time, I beg to bring to your notice, and to that of His Grace the Duke of Wellington, and the Honorable the Court of Directors, the officers and corps on whom he has so justly bestowed his commendations.

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*Major-General Sir Harry Smith, K.C.B., to the Adjutant-General of the Army.*

*Camp, Field of the Battle of Aliwal,  
Jan. 30, 1846.*

SIR,—My despatch to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the 23rd\* instant, will have put His Excellency in possession of the position of the force under my command, after having formed a junction with the troops at Loodiana, hemmed in by a formidable body of the Sikh army under Runjoor Sing, and the Raja of Ladwa. The enemy strongly entrenched himself around the little fort of Budhowal by breast works and "abattis," which he precipitately abandoned on the night of the 22nd instant, (retiring, as it were, upon the ford of Tulwun,) having ordered all the boats which were opposite Philour to that Ghat. This movement he effected during the night, and, by making a considerable detour, placed himself at a distance of ten miles, and consequently out of my reach. I could, therefore, only push forward my cavalry so soon as I had ascertained he had marched during the night, and I occupied immediately his vacated position. It appeared subsequently he had no intention of recrossing the Sutlej, but moved down to the Ghat of Tulwun (being cut off from that of Philour, by the position my force occupied after its relief of Loodiana) for the purpose of protecting the passage of a very considerable reinforcement of 12 guns and 4,000 of the regular, or "Aieen" troops, called Avitabile's Battalion, entrenching himself strongly in a semicircle, his flanks resting on the river, his position covered with from forty to fifty guns (generally of large calibre), howitzers, and mortars. The reinforcement crossed during the night of the 27th instant, and encamped to the right of the main army.

Meanwhile his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with that foresight and judgment which mark the able general, had reinforced me by a considerable addition to my cavalry, some guns, and the 2nd brigade of my own division under Brigadier Wheeler, C. B. This reinforcement reached me on the 26th, and I had intended the next morning to move upon the enemy in his entrenchments, but the troops required one day's rest after the long marches Brigadier Wheeler had made.

I have now the honour to lay before you the operations of my united forces on the morning of the eventful 28th January, for his Excellency's information. The body of troops under my command having been increased, it became necessary so to organize and brigade them as to render them manageable in action. The cavalry under the command of Brigadier Cureton, and horse artillery under Major Lawrenson, were put into two brigades; the one under Brigadier Mac Dowell, C. B., and the other under Brigadier Stedman. The 1st division as it stood:—Two Brigades, H. M's. 52nd and 30th Native Infantry, under Brigadier Wilson, of the latter corps;—the 36th Native Infantry, and Nusseree battalion, under Brigadier Godby;—and the Shekawatee brigade under Major Forster. The Sirmoor battalion I attached to Brigadier Wheeler's brigade of the 1st division; the 42nd Native Infantry having been left at head quarters.

At day-light on the 28th, my order of advance was, the Cavalry in front, in contiguous columns of squadrons of regiments, two troops of Horse Artil-

\* Not received by the Secret Committee.