

and the exertions of Major Hall, who commanded the post; of Captains Rickards and Stewart, of the 49th Madras Native Infantry, who commanded the party that went to scour the country; and of Lieutenant Purvis, who commanded the Artillery, were very meritorious. Captain Lynch and the troops on board the Feroze, under Captain Anderson, were as usual prompt, and the good judgment displayed by the former officer tended to the complete confusion of the enemy.

I have had excellent accounts from Bassein, of the 31st of May, from Captain Darroch, whom I left in command of the place, till the arrival of Major Roberts, of the 9th Madras Native Infantry. These are highly creditable to that officer, and to Lieutenant Craster, of the Bengal Engineers, and show what a few days' well-directed exertions may do in placing a post in a state of excellent defence.

Captain Darroch further reports that everything is quiet around Bassein; the enemy had left the neighbourhood, and the inhabitants were coming in, in numbers, to seek protection under our rule.

The head-men of twenty-six villages had come to tender services, and to bring provisions of all sorts for the troops.

I have also the honour to report, for the information of the Governor-General in Council, the operations of a small expedition which I detached against Pegu on the 3rd instant, under the command of Major Cotton, of the 67th Regiment Native Infantry, to cooperate with Captain Tarleton, of Her Majesty's frigate Fox, in driving out a strong force, either from Sitang or Baling, who had taken possession of that city, so lately filled with a friendly population, and where there was a large granary.

I enclose Major Cotton's own report of his operations, which show great promptitude, good judgment, and brave conduct, in himself and the troops he commanded.

The particulars, as to the conduct of the officers and men, and also the cheerful assistance given by Captain Tarleton, and his naval contingent, I feel assured the Governor-General in Council will appreciate most favourably.

In concluding my despatch, I have only to congratulate the Government on the continued good conduct of its troops, on their excellent health, and perfect state of discipline for any duty they may be called on to perform.

I have, &c.

H. GODWIN, Lieutenant-General.

Major H. Cotton to Captain Mayhew, Assistant Adjutant-General of the Burmah Field Force.

SIR, Rangoon, June 9, 1852.

AGREEABLY to instructions furnished me by Lieutenant-Colonel Sturt, commanding 67th Regiment Native Infantry, I embarked on board the East India Company's steamer Phlegethon, Captain Neblett, on the morning of the 3rd instant, in command of a detachment of the strength mentioned in the margin,* to co-operate with Captain Tarleton, Her Majesty's frigate Fox, in command of the naval portion of the expedition, in carrying out the instructions detailed in Lieutenant-Colonel's Sturt's letter, and I have the honour to make the following report for the information of Lieutenant-General Godwin, C.B. commanding the Burmah field force.

* 100 men, Her Majesty's 80th Foot, under command of Captain Ormsby. 100 Rifles, 67th Regiment Native Infantry, under Captain Hicks. 30 Madras Sappers, under Lieutenant Mackintosh. Lieutenant Mayne, Madras Engineers, Field Engineer. Dr. M'Kellar, East India Company's service, in Medical charge.

We reached the village Peinkeong the same evening, and anchored; the next morning, the troops were embarked in boats, and we proceeded up the Pegu river; when within a few miles, heavy firing was heard a-head, and from information obtained from the Peguers, I learnt that the enemy were in force on the right bank of the river opposite the town. I immediately landed my detachment at half-past nine o'clock, A.M. to attack them, and Captain Tarleton agreed to take the naval force, and cooperate on the right. I shall leave Captain Tarleton to detail to Commodore Lambert his part of the engagement. I proceeded in skirmishing order with the detachment along the right bank of the river, for nearly two miles through heavy swamp and jungle, and drove the enemy completely across the river, in the direction of the Great Pagoda; when, hearing heavy firing from the direction of the boats, I returned to render my aid to Captain Tarleton. I found, on crossing the river, he had had a smart engagement with the enemy, and repelled an attack made by them on the boats, and I was much gratified to hear from Captain Tarleton, of the admirable conduct of a section of the Rifle Company 67th Regiment Native Infantry present at it, under the command of Captain E. W. Hicks. The men were by this time (one o'clock) much fatigued, and I resolved to remain for a couple of hours, and then proceed to attack the Great Pagoda, whither the enemy had been seen to retreat, having arranged with Captain Latter, that he should guard the boats with a party of Peguers.

We had not, however, rested very long, when a report was brought from the picket that the Burmese were coming down upon us in great numbers from the pagoda. I went down and ascertained that such was the case, that they were coming down in skirmishing order, I should say at least 1000 men, and amongst them 30 or 40 were mounted upon ponies. I could plainly discern their leader from his dress and gold chattah. I immediately got my party under arms in extended order, Captains Tarleton and Neblett, the former with 30, and the latter with 20, seamen, joining. When the enemy had got well across the plain, in extent about three quarters of a mile, consisting of rice fields partially covered with water, I advanced with the whole detachment, and after a smart fire, drove them into the jungle which surrounds the pagoda. I then formed my detachment into column of sections, and, steadily advancing, stormed the south gate with the 80th and Sappers, while the Rifles under Captain Hicks extended to the left, and rushed in at the west gate. So sudden was the assault that the enemy had not time to fire their guns, which were found loaded, and covering the entrances to the gates. At the west gate were four guns, two brass and two iron, and at the south gate two guns and two gingals.

We drove the enemy through the pagoda, and succeeded in killing and wounding a number of them as they retreated down the gateway. It was impossible to pursue them, as the men were much knocked up, having been under arms since one o'clock in the morning, and all overcome by the excessive heat and fatigue encountered during the day.

I am happy to say that no soldier was killed, and only two sepoy and one dooley bearer wounded: this small loss is to be attributed to the fact that the enemy, for the most part, fired too high.

My detachment occupied the pagoda during our stay, and I employed the time in carrying out the wishes of the Lieutenant-General in destroying some parts of the fortifications surrounding the pagoda; this was done by Lieutenant Mayne,