

No. 6.

*Major-General Outram, Commanding Cawnpore and Dinapore Divisions to Major-General Mansfield, Chief of the Staff.*

*Camp, Alum Bagh, November 25, 1857.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint his Excellency the Commander-in-chief with the proceedings of this force since the 28th of September, the date of my last despatch,\* and beg to refer to the documents enumerated in the margin.† General Havelock has commanded the field force occupying the palaces and outposts, and Brigadier Inglis has continued in command of the Lucknow garrison—an arrangement that has proved most convenient.

The first work required was to open a roadway through the palaces for the heavy train, which had been brought into one of the gardens on the 27th September, and by the 1st October was safely parked within the entrenchment.

Contrary to the expectations expressed in my last despatch, the enemy, relying on the strong position of their remaining battery, (the one known as "Phillips' Battery,") continued to annoy the garrison by its fire, and to maintain there a strong force. Its capture, therefore became necessary, and this was effected on the 2nd October, with the comparatively trifling loss of two killed and eleven wounded,—a result which was due to the careful and scientific dispositions of Colonel Napier, under whose personal guidance the operation was conducted. Three guns were taken and burst; their carriages destroyed, and a large house in the garden, which had been the enemy's stronghold, was blown up.

With a view to the possibility of adopting the Cawnpore-road as my line of communication with Alum Bagh, Major Haliburton, 78th Highlanders, commenced on the 3rd to work from house to house with the crow-bar and pick-axe.

On the 4th, this gallant officer was mortally wounded; and his successor, Major Stephenson, of the Madras Fusiliers, disabled. During the whole of the 5th these proceedings were continued; but on the 6th they were relinquished, it being found that a large mosque, strongly occupied by the enemy, required more extensive operations for its capture than were expedient; therefore, after blowing up all the principal houses on the Cawnpore-road, from which the garrison had been annoyed by musketry, the reconnoitring party gradually withdrew to the post in front of Phillips' Garden, which has since been retained as a permanent outpost, affording comfortable accommodation to Her Majesty's 78th Highlanders, and protecting a considerable portion of the entrenchment from molestation, besides connecting it with the palaces occupied by General Havelock. During the foregoing operations, the enemy, recovering from their first surprise, commenced to threaten our positions

\* This despatch, with the General Order, explaining the circumstances under which the publication was delayed, is given at page 836.

- † A. Report from General Havelock on operations of 16th November.  
 B. Brigadier Inglis's Report of Garrison of Lucknow; also Engineer operations, Commissariat, &c., &c.  
 C. Colonel Napier's despatch of 25th and 26th, in bringing up siege train, sick and wounded, &c.  
 D. Colonel Napier's despatch, reporting taking of Phillips' Garden Battery on 1st and 2nd October, 1857.  
 E. General Havelock's letter, forwarding Colonel Napier's report of operations in palaces.  
 F. Brigadier Inglis's detailed reports of sorties, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 G. Report of Captain Crommelin, Chief Engineer.  
 H. Lieutenant Hutchinson's plan of Captain Lockhart's post.

in the palaces and outposts by mining and assaults. As there were only a few miners in the garrison, and none with the field force, the enemy could not be prevented from exploding three mines, causing us a loss of several men; and on the 6th they actually penetrated into the palaces in considerable numbers.

But they paid dearly for their temerity, being intercepted and slain at all points. Their loss on that day was reported in the city to have been 450 men.

A company of Miners, formed of volunteers from the several corps, was placed at the disposal of the Chief Engineer, which soon gave him the ascendancy over the enemy, who were foiled at all points, with the loss of their galleries and mines, and the destruction of their Miners in repeated instances.

The Seikhs of the Ferozepore Regiment have zealously laboured at their own mines, and though separated only by a narrow passage (16 feet wide) from the enemy, have, under the guidance and direction of the Engineer Department, defended and protected their position.

The outpost of Her Majesty's 78th Highlanders, under Captain Lockhart, has also been vigorously assailed by the enemy's miners. Its proximity to the entrenchment made it convenient to place it under the charge of the Officiating Garrison Engineer, Lieutenant Hutchinson, under whose skilful directions the enemy have been completely outwitted by the soldiers of Her Majesty's 78th Regiment.

I am aware of no parallel to our series of mines in modern war; 21 shafts, aggregating 200 feet in depth, and 3,291 feet of gallery, have been executed. The enemy advanced 20 mines against the palaces and outposts; of these they exploded three, which caused us loss of life, and two which did no injury; seven have been blown in; and out of seven others the enemy have been driven, and their galleries taken possession of by our miners;—results of which the Engineer Department may well be proud. The reports and plans forwarded by Sir Henry Havelock, K.C.B., and now submitted to his Excellency, will explain how a line of gardens, courts, and dwelling-houses, without fortified *enceinte*, without flanking defences, and closely connected with the buildings of a city, has been maintained for eight weeks in a certain degree of security; but notwithstanding the close and constant musketry-fire from loopholed walls and windows, often within 30 yards, and from every lofty building within rifle-range, and notwithstanding a frequent though desultory fire of round-shot and grape from guns posted at various distances, from 70 to 500 yards! This result has been obtained by the skill and courage of the Engineer and Quartermaster-General's Departments, zealously aided by the brave officers and soldiers who have displayed the same cool determination and cheerful alacrity in the toils of the trench and amidst the concealed dangers of the mine that they had previously exhibited, when forcing their way into Lucknow at the point of the bayonet and amidst a most murderous fire.

But skilful and courageous as have been the engineering operations, and glorious the behaviour of the troops, their success has been in no small degree promoted by the incessant and self-denying devotion of Colonel Napier,—who has never been many hours absent by day or night from any one of the points of operation,—whose valuable advice has ever been readily tendered and gratefully accepted by the Executive Officers,—whose earnestness and kindly cordiality have stimulated and encouraged all ranks and grades, amidst their harassing difficulties and dangerous labours.