

Captain Crommelin's plan, which he will submit with his report of the engineer operations, illustrates the preceding remarks.

The position was too extensive for our force, nearly all of which was occupied in guarding it; but it was susceptible of no reduction, so that, most desirable as it was that we should have occupied some of the exterior buildings as flanking defences, we were unable to do so, but were obliged to confine ourselves to the palaces and gardens, and to erect precautionary defences against any means of annoyance the enemy could devise. Lieutenant-Colonel Purnell, of Her Majesty's 90th, being in command of the rear-guard on the 27th, I requested him to assume command of the Palace Garden and buildings adjacent to it. On the 28th the palace buildings extending in the direction of the Khas Bazaar were explored by Captain Moorsom, who, with a party of 50 men of the 90th and 5th Fusiliers, gallantly drove the enemy out at the point of the bayonet, killing a considerable number, with the loss of one man of Her Majesty's 90th. Captain Moorsom then placed a picquet in a house commanding the Cheena and Khas Bazaars. On the 3rd instant the enemy sprang a mine under the garden wall, which merely shook it without bringing it down. On the 5th they exploded a second mine, which effected a considerable breach, and appeared in some force with the intention of making an assault; but, on the head of the column showing itself on the breach, a well-directed fire from Her Majesty's 90th caused it to retreat precipitately and with considerable loss. The enemy also burned down one of the gateways of the garden, making a second practicable breach, at which they occasionally appeared to fire a shot or two. Lieutenant-Colonel Purnell had retrenched both these breaches, which it became evident that the enemy had no real intention of assaulting; but they exposed the garden to a severe musketry fire from commanding buildings on the right, called the Hern Khana; it, therefore, became necessary to open trenches of communication, which were commenced by Lieutenant-Colonel Purnell and his officers. On the 6th, the enemy blew up the picquet overlooking the Cheena and Khas Bazaars, causing us a loss of three men, and in the confusion that ensued, penetrated in considerable numbers into the Palace, where many of them were destroyed. They are said to have lost 450 men! The remainder were driven back, but continued to occupy a part of the Palace buildings which had been in our possession. Of these the nearest to us is a mosque, commanded by our buildings, but giving several easy means of access to our position. On the 8th the enemy attacked from the mosque our nearest picquets, but were repulsed with loss. In order to prevent a repetition of this annoyance, I examined carefully, in company with Lieutenant-Colonel Purnell and Captain Moorsom, the buildings connecting us with those of the enemy, and we succeeded in penetrating to a vault under their position, where, screened by the obscurity, we could see the enemy closely surrounding the entrance, and hear them in considerable numbers overhead. A charge of two barrels of powder was lodged in the vault, and was fired by Lieutenant Russell, of the Bengal Engineers. The effect was complete; many of the enemy were blown up, and their position greatly injured, whilst we obtained a command over the streets leading to the Khas and Chena Bazaars, better and more secure from molestation than our previous one. This post was immediately and securely barricaded by Captain Crommelin, of the Engineers, who this day resumed his duties as Chief Engineer, and the value of his services was immediately apparent. Though our position was improved by this explosion, the possession of the mosque was absolutely

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necessary to our security. I accordingly determined to re-capture it, and on expressing my wishes to Lieutenant-Colonel Purnell, that officer himself accompanied me with a small party of the 90th and Madras Fusiliers. The enemy, 50 or 60 in number, were surprised and rapidly driven out with very trifling loss on our side, and the position immediately barricaded and secured by Captain Crommelin; it has ever since formed a good connection between the picquets of the advanced garden and the quarters of Brasayer's Seikhs, and all attempts of the enemy to molest it have been ineffective. It falls within Captain Crommelin's province to report in detail the various operations by which our difficult position, in close contact with the city, occupied by a numerous and persevering enemy, has been defended and protected.

I beg to bring to the notice of Major-General Havelock the excellent services performed by Lieutenant-Colonel Purnell, who has commanded in the advance garden and its outposts since their occupation. Much of the trench work by which it was rendered unassailable has been executed by his men, and under his superintendence, directed by the Engineer Department. On all occasions he has given the cordial and able co-operation of a most brave and accomplished officer. Captain Grant, of the Madras Fusiliers, has commanded the post of the mosque, from the 11th October to the 2nd November, when he was severely wounded. He maintained the post under a constant and close musketry fire, and repeated attacks by mining, with cool courage and judgment. Both these qualities were required to avoid real, and to disregard the imaginary, dangers of mines, and Captain Grant has displayed them in an eminent degree.

The daring and intelligent Captain Moorsom has been engaged in most of the above operations and has given very valuable assistance.

Captains Rattray and Wade have shown themselves excellent commanders of outposts.

I have, &c.,
R. NAPIER, Colonel,
Military Secretary, &c.

No. 24.

*Brigadier J. Inglis, Commanding the Garrison, to
Colonel Napier, Military Secretary, &c.*

SIR, Lucknow, October 22, 1857. (No. 110)

FOR the information of Major-General Sir J. Outram, G.C.B., commanding the Division, I have the honour to enclose two reports from officers commanding sortie-parties, giving an account of their proceedings whilst so employed.

Both these officers carried out my orders in a most satisfactory manner, and were most successful in the performance of the duties entrusted to them.

I have, &c.,
J. INGLIS, Brigadier,
Commanding Garrison of Lucknow.

No. 25.

Lieutenant B. M. M. Aitken, Commanding Treasury Guard, to Captain Wilson, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Lucknow.

SIR, Lucknow, October 21, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of Brigadier Inglis, commanding the garrison, the proceedings of a party of the regiment under my command, on the night of the 25th and morning of the 26th September, which ended in the capture of the Terec Kotee.