

the river; I have now the honour to report, that on the morning of the 12th instant, I started with the troops noted in the margin,* to carry my plans into operation, and encamped at Toorkowlea, where I found Lieutenant Pullan, whom I had sent with the boats up the Raptée, the north bank of which was in possession of the enemy. Captain Kenny, of the 27th Madras Native Infantry, with two divisions of that regiment, and one division Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, each of 40 men, had proceeded by land up the south bank, in support of Lieutenant Pullan.

7. On the evening of the 12th, I received information that a body of rebels, 400 strong, were entrenched at Doomeeragunj, on the south bank of the Raptée, only seven miles distant from Toorkowlea. I resolved to disembarrass my left flank of this party, and on the morning of the 13th, marched for that purpose to Doomeeragunj. The rebels held a strong entrenched position, in front of my line of march from the eastward, having the Raptée to the north on the left. Captain Mulcaster, of the 6th Madras Cavalry, with his troop and the troop of Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, preceded the march of my column, by half an hour, with instructions to place his cavalry in observation on the west and south of the rebels' entrenchments, without being himself seen by the rebels; unfortunately, he was observed by an advanced picquet of the rebels, and fired upon, as stated in a report which I enclose.

8. Shortly after, I received a report, that the rebels were in full flight. I immediately ordered Captain Grant, of the Naval Brigade, to take his guns to the front, and join the cavalry in pursuit, and directing my infantry to follow with all expedition, I joined the advanced party of cavalry, but pursuit was hopeless; the nature of the country favoured the rebels, who, leaving the roads, took advantage of the innumerable topes and jheels and wet cultivation, to elude their pursuers. Captain Grant fired a few rounds, but with little effect. Having scattered and driven the rebels some six or eight miles from Doomeeragunj, I relinquished further pursuit, and encamped at the ghaut where I intended to cross the river.

9. Between 1 and 4 o'clock on the morning of the 14th, I threw my whole force across the Raptée, with a view of seizing their line of communication with Biskohur, and of attacking Etawah on that line, where my force would have been within six miles of, and immediately in rear of, the large rebel force at Burgudwah, which place being surrounded by the impassable jheel nulia, stretching on both flanks, far beyond Etawah, as exhibited in the enclosed sketch, the rebels would have been secured within a *cul-de-sac*. After crossing the river, I proceeded about two miles, when despite the information of several spies that the road was passable, I was stopped by a large jheel through which the road to Etawah passed. It would have taken me another day to have passed round this jheel. Immediately afterwards certain information having been received, that the whole rebel force both at Etawah and Burgudwah were in wild flight to, and had neared Biskohur, I re-crossed the river, and purposed returning by easy marches to Bustee.

10. The object for which this force was rapidly concentrated at Bustee, from distant parts of the district, has been attained, although unsatisfactorily, by the total dispersion and flight of the

* Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, 110 rank and file; Naval Brigade, 58 rank and file; 27th Madras Native Infantry, 190 rank and file; Sikh Police, 40. Total infantry, 398. Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, 37 sabres; 6th Madras Cavalry, 35 sabres. Total, 72. 2 12-pounder howitzers.

rebels, who have been for months past in possession of, and disturbing these parts of Goruckpore. I regret, that the state of the roads, and the absolute impossibility of rapid movements, have foiled my attempts to force the rebels to action.

11. Allow me to express my entire satisfaction at the cheerfulness and zeal with which officers and men of all arms have sustained the harassing and irksome marches exacted of them; and my obligations to Captain Grant, Naval Brigade; to Captain Mulcaster, commanding the cavalry; to Lieutenant Percival, of the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry; to Captains Howlett and Condy, of the 27th Madras Native Infantry; to Captain Brown, commanding detachment of Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry; to Captain Drury, my Brigade Major; to the Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Wilson; and to Lieutenant Pullan, of the Sikh Police Battalion.

I have, &c.,

T. J. FISCHER, Brigadier,
Commanding Madras Troops and Field Force,
for the relief of Bansee.

No. 72.

GENERAL ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA.

Military Department.

No. 478 of 1858.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General is pleased to direct the publication of the following letter from the Secretary to Government of Bombay, Secret Department, No. 142, dated 31st August, 1858, received in this department on the 14th instant, transmitting a report from Brigadier Smith, commanding the brigade of the Rajpootana Field Force, attached to the force under Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, K.C.B., of his operations before Gwalior in June last.

The Governor-General entirely concurs in the commendations bestowed by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Government of Bombay on the conduct of this gallant brigade. His Lordship offers his best thanks to Brigadier Smith, and to the officers and men under his command.

R. J. H. BIRCH, Major-General,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Military Department, with the Governor-General.

No. 73.

H. L. Anderson, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to G. F. Edmonstone, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor-General.

Bombay Castle, August 31, 1858.

Sir,

No. 142 of 1858.

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Governor in Council to forward to you, for submission to the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India, copy of a letter* from the Adjutant-General of the Army, No. 2524, dated the 30th of last month, enclosing one from Brigadier Smith, commanding the brigade of the Rajpootana Field Force, attached to the force under Major-General Sir H. Rose, in the operations before Gwalior, together with copy of my reply.

* See London Gazette, October 5, 1858.