

tion for our forces. An entrenchment, skilfully concealed by natural obstacles, extended on our right and left for several miles, and was armed with numerous guns.

Their cavalry hovered in large masses on our entire left flank, so that Sir J. Michel was unable to perform the flank movement that had been intended, until the 1st Sikh Cavalry had, by a brilliant charge, discomfited the Tartar Horse, and his force, advancing, had driven them back for some miles. Finding his position to be such, I caused the Armstrong battery and the 15th Punjaub Infantry to take ground still more to the left, and with them I turned the right of the enemy's entrenchment, who thereupon fled with considerable precipitancy. I then sent the Armstrong guns and the reserve cavalry to join Sir J. Michel, who, after making a circuit of six or seven miles, joined me in front of Chang-tsia-wan at a later hour. Meanwhile the French had turned the left by a very extended sweep, and were advancing steadily up, capturing many guns, whilst the 99th with the 9-pound battery joined me in the centre of the enemy's position. The 15th Punjaub Infantry pushing on with much spirit, captured several guns in the act of retiring, and eventually advanced through Chang-tsia-wan, taking several large camps on the outside. Here my force halted. The French being much exhausted by their extensive movement, had halted on the Chinese position.

The enormous extent of country covered by the enemy, who showed more than 20,000 men, did not permit me to use my force with as good effect as I might have done, as it was too small to allow of its being scattered. The loss of the enemy is estimated at 600 killed, whilst 75 guns fell into our hands.

The French force encountered chiefly infantry, who, on being driven back, were charged most gallantly by Lieut. Cattley's squadron, of whose conduct General de Montauban has written to me in the very highest terms.

The conduct of the rest of the troops was also most excellent; and I would more particularly mention the 15th Punjaub Infantry, commanded by Lieut. Randall, who, under my personal observation, advanced with great steadiness, and kept their position to the front throughout the day.

Mr. Wade went yesterday to Tang-chow to try and gather tidings of Mr. Parkes's party, but the Prefect denied all knowledge concerning them. A Chinaman, however, was brought in to-day, who states that he heard that upwards of twenty foreigners went after the fight to Peking. If this is true, we have every reason to hope for their ultimate safety.

I was compelled to leave a good force at Tientsin, lest the sudden withdrawal of so many troops should allow a disturbance to arise there. This in effect took place, but being judiciously met by Sir R. Napier, everything is again quiet there, and I have directed that officer to join me with two regiments of infantry, leaving two and a-half regiments, with two batteries of artillery under Brigadier Staveley, at Tientsin.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. HOPE GRANT,
Lieutenant-General,
Commander of the Forces.

*The Right Honourable,
The Secretary of State for War, &c.*

No. 47. *Head Quarters, Camp near Tangchow,*
SIR,
September 22, 1860.

I HAVE the honour to report, that after the action of the 18th instant, I remained in Chang-tsia-wan for two days, during which time the 1500 French troops left at Hooseiwoo joined us, and some convoys arrived in camp, together with intelligence of a flotilla of junks coming up the Peiho with further supplies. From reconnoissances on the 19th and 20th, we had ascertained that the Chinese army was encamped in very large numbers about four miles off, on the road between Tangchow and Peking, and on both sides of the canal which runs from the Peiho to the latter city.

At daybreak on the 21st I marched from Chang-tsia-wan, and parking the baggage in a village two miles in front, I was there joined by the French who advanced on the right. Soon after passing Tangchow the French troops got under fire of the Chinese works thrown up to protect a fine bridge crossing the canal, and on the Imperial high-road to Peking. At this point the enemy's infantry appeared in considerable force. On the left, the Tartar cavalry showed in large masses, and advanced rapidly until within 200 yards of our guns, which, hastily unlimbering, drove them off with a fire of canister, assisted by skirmishers thrown forward from the 2nd (Queen's). The Cavalry Brigade, which I had kept échelonné away on the left to guard that flank, was now moving up, and the enemy's cavalry driven away from the right by our fire, hung in large masses on our left front, affording an excellent opportunity for our cavalry to charge, which they promptly seized, the King's Dragoon Guards, under Lieutenant-Colonel Sayers, in particular inflicting a very heavy loss on the enemy. On their left Fane's Horse charged a similar body with great gallantry, whilst the 1st Sikh Cavalry, under Major Probyn, supporting Fane's Horse, effectually turned the right of the Chinese army.

The enemy, though defeated on the spot, yet still remained in front, in clouds of horsemen, who though constantly retiring from the advance of any party of our cavalry, however small, never allowed more than 1000 yards to intervene between us, and showed a steady and threatening front. At this time I had with me the cavalry, the 4th infantry brigade, and three Armstrong guns; the rest of the artillery, with the 2nd brigade, having been left in the centre, with directions to feel the French left. With the three Armstrong guns, under Capt. Rowley, we fired occasional single shots on their thickest masses. These shots, fired singly, at slow intervals, served admirably to illustrate the good qualities of the Armstrong gun; not one failed to strike the thick masses of the enemy, at once dispersing them from the spot.

Thus advancing, the cavalry was brought to a check by the fire of a camp, which was taken by the 99th regiment, under Major Dowbiggin, and which proved to be the head quarters of some of the Imperial princes. This, with several others in the neighbourhood, was burnt by our troops, and the Chinese army retired upon Peking.

We then rejoined our right, which had kept in line with the French, who had carried the bridge, inflicting much loss on the enemy.

Forty-three guns were taken during the action, and the loss of the Chinese was very severe. On the right and left were their heaviest losses, but all along the centre, small groups of dead showed the effect of the artillery fire, which had followed their movements till they finally retreated. Our loss is two killed and 29 wounded—chiefly slightly.