

to give greater accommodation, on the 14th and 15th February.

A single sap, defiladed in directions from the enemy's position, but with traverses at intervals, to secure it from an oblique plunging fire, was commenced on the 16th February, and was carried on with occasional interruptions from the weather, and under a heavy fire from the enemy at uncertain periods, during each day, until the 24th February, when it became necessary to change its direction, and to resort to the double sap. The progress during the above period was 432 yards. On the 25th and 26th the double sap was proceeded with to the extent of 65 yards, and a short demi-parallel to the left was, during the same time, executed to afford cover for men to protect its further progress. During the night of the 26th the enemy had crept quietly to the sap, had destroyed the whole of the double sap, more or less injured about 130 yards of the single sap, and the whole of the demi-parallel, moving away into the pah 3 heavy sap rollers and 40 or 50 gabions, and before retiring burning some of the latter in the sap, which was the first intimation that the enemy had given of their secret movement. The 27th and 28th February, and part of the 1st March, was occupied in making good the damage done to the sap, and in constructing a Redoubt (No. 8) 16 yards square, to contain a guard of 80 men. In the afternoon of the 1st March the sap was recommenced in front of No. 8 Redoubt, and continued until the afternoon of the 3rd, when in consequence of a depression in the ground, it became so exposed to a plunging fire from the pah, that it became necessary to suspend it. On this day the only sapper who had been hit during the progress of the sap, was severely wounded in the back. To keep down the fire of the enemy a demi-parallel, to afford cover for marksmen and for a howitzer and a Cohorn mortar, was commenced on the last-mentioned date, on the left of the sap, and 50 yards in front of No. 8 Redoubt, and completed on the 4th, on the morning of which day the sap was proceeded with, and continued with the intermission of one-half of the 6th, and the whole of the 7th and 8th, until the evening of the 11th, though exposed daily to a heavy fire from the enemy, especially on the afternoon of the 5th, when they opened from their whole line, commencing on their extreme left in a bush to the right rear of No. 7 Redoubt, doubtless to draw attention from the sap, into which a sharp fire was subsequently poured from a scrub on the edge of a precipice, about 25 yards to the left of the head of the sap.

Hostilities which had been suspended on the 12th, 13th, and 14th March, were recommenced on the morning of the 15th, and the sap being then in close proximity to a line of rifle pits on the edge of the precipice above alluded to, a demi-parallel was commenced by the sap on the left of the main approach, and continued on that and the two following days, when it attained the edge of the precipice at one of the enemy's rifle pits, several of which immediately in front, as far as a bend in the line of the precipice, were thus exposed to view, and were necessarily abandoned by the enemy. At the same time on the 15th and 16th, No. 7 Redoubt was further enlarged to contain a half battery of Armstrong guns and the Artillery men attached; platforms for two 10-inch mortars were laid on the right of the redoubt, and a parapet to cover them, two 8-inch mortars, and one Armstrong gun, thrown up. On the 18th March, the sap was proceeded with and 27

yards executed, making a total length of 534 yards of single sap, and 412 yards of double sap, executed in 24 working days of 12 hours each, and bringing the approach to within about 90 yards of Te Arei Pah, when hostilities were again suspended with the view to the commencement of negotiations for peace.

Having thus detailed the operations, I would beg to submit that an attack conducted as described was the only one which under the circumstances was likely to be effectual in reducing the enemy to submission. Looking to the difficult nature of the country, the admirable positions taken up by the enemy, their peculiar mode of warfare, their character and disposition, attacks by "vive force" on their positions would not have had any moral effect on them, whilst on the other hand they would probably be elated and their courage raised by the mischief they had done. The enemy themselves unseen in their rifle pits would have an attacking force in full view during their advance, would by a dropping fire have harassed the columns in their approach, and when the troops were sufficiently close would have poured in a deadly volley and slunk with little loss into the bush, scrub, and impracticable swamps and gullies in their rear, leaving nothing but empty rifle pits as a barren conquest gained at considerable loss, and giving the savage enemy, what would be in their eyes a victory, increasing their audacity, and placing a peaceable solution at a greater distance. Position after position might be attacked and taken in this way until the enemy retired into their fastnesses, where it would be destruction to follow them, and from which they would emerge on the retirement of their assailants. The Maoris having their scouts constantly on the watch for every movement of their enemy, would, in anticipation of an attack, according to their customs, inflame their passions and excite their courage to make a determined resistance on the advance of the columns, but when driven out of their position, and having retired to their next line or to their bush and fastnesses, the excitement for the time subsides until they again arouse it to resist further assaults. But this excitement they cannot sustain, and when a patient though determined advance is made day by day and they are incessantly harassed, they lose heart in proportion as they lose ground and men, their casualties becoming infinitely greater, whilst those of the attacking party are in proportion diminished as they are under cover, they become wearied and depressed, are confounded by a mode of attack so novel and so pertinacious, persisted in, and desirous of peace and rest. I would respectfully submit that the mode of procedure described, adopted by the Major-General, has been the cause of the present cessation of hostilities, and the evident desire for peace evinced by the Waikato Natives, the real principals in the war, as shewn by their rapid retirement from the recent scene of operations.

The sketch does not, and could not, give a precise idea of the difficult nature of the ground and the strength of the positions, especially the last, so admirably selected and occupied by the natives, nor can verbal description give a knowledge of the nature of the defences constructed by them. Their sites are at the best but barely indicated by a narrow line of newly-moved earth carefully spread, not exceeding six inches above the general surface of the ground, whilst for the most part they as well as the defenders are invisible, a head occasionally only being raised above the