

I reconnoitred the position closely on the following day, and found that it consisted of two strong earthworks, well flanked and palisaded, 450 yards distant from each other, and constructed on a spur of the Pukekura range. The lower work, the largest and principal one, is about 600 yards from the river. The two works completely block the road to the settlement of Mangatautari, which is five miles behind them.

Being too strong to be taken by a "coup-de-main," I intend to try the effect of vertical fire upon them, and to endeavour to breach them with howitzers. I have consequently had two 10-inch and two 8-inch mortars, and two 32- and two 24-pounder howitzers brought up the river, and I expect to be able to commence operations in a few days.

I have established a post on each bank of the river, near this camp, for the protection of our supplies and stores; Commodore Sir William Wiseman having ascertained that the river cannot be navigated any higher by the steamers with safety.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) D. A. CAMERON,
Lieutenant-General.

*The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War Office, London.*

Head Quarters, Pukerimu,

MR LORD, *April 1, 1864.*

I have the honour to enclose two reports from Colonel Warre, C.B., Commanding at New Plymouth, dated 12th and 26th March, relative to certain operations in which the troops under his command had been engaged.

In the reconnaissance of the 11th March, Major Butler carried out his instructions with great judgment, and the detachment under his command behaved most gallantly. In the subsequent operations Colonel Warre displayed great ability, and his skilful arrangements for the attack of Kaitake have resulted in our acquiring a most important position with very few casualties to the troops engaged.

I beg to recommend Colonel Warre and Major Butler to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

I have also to draw your Lordship's attention to the services of the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men referred to in Colonel Warre's reports, particularly to those of Lieutenant Larcom, Royal Artillery, who, although severely wounded, remained with his gun until the detachment retired.

I have, &c.,

D. A. CAMERON,
Lieutenant-General.

*The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War Office, London.*

*New Plymouth, New Zealand.
March 12, 1864.*

SIR,

CAPTAIN STAPP, Adjutant, Taranaki Militia, having reported to me at about eleven o'clock yesterday morning, that rebel natives had been seen near the spot where Mr. Patterson was murdered on the 28th ultimo, I determined to carry out a plan I had formed, not only to cut off the retreat of the rebels, but to destroy their

stronghold at Kaitake, should I find it feebly defended. Acting on the supposition that the rebels had sent out a maurading party from Kaitake, of about the usual number (30 or 40), I despatched the Rifle Volunteers under Captain Atkinson (Taranaki Rifle Volunteers), direct to where the natives had been seen; I signalled to Omata to direct Captain McKeller (Taranaki Militia) to take out 30 men, and place them in ambuscade at Burton's-hill, and as I knew that Captain Carthew (Taranaki Militia) would be on the alert, having a wood party of 30 men at, or near the ford, on Hurford's-road, I requested Major Butler, who I sent at once to Oakura, to tell Captain Corbett (Taranaki Militia) to take some of his men from Parheteri, and intercept the rebels at the upper ford of the Oakura River, should they have succeeded in slipping by the other parties.

I instructed Major Butler, 57th Regiment, to proceed as quickly as possible to Oakura, to take out the 24-pounder howitzer with some rockets, under Lieutenant Larcom, Royal Artillery, and all the available men of the 57th Regiment, under Captain Lloyd, 57th Regiment, leaving the redoubt in charge of Captain Page, of the Taranaki Militia (Melbourne Volunteers), until I could send from town 100 rank and file of the 57th and 70th, under Captains Schomberg (57th) and Wright (70th), to act as a reinforcement, and support to any of the named parties, who the Lieutenant-General will be good enough to understand were all converging towards Kaitake, on which place Major Butler was to advance, to ascertain the number of rebel Maoris left to defend it, and to act as circumstances might warrant. As soon as the above arrangements were detailed, I left the town in charge of Major Baddeley, commanding Taranaki Militia, and rode to Poutoko, from whence, seeing Major Butler seriously engaged, I proceeded to Oakura, instructing Captains Schomberg and Wright to bring on their men as rapidly as possible.

I have the honour to enclose Major Butler's report of his proceedings, and can fully corroborate his statement regarding the conduct of the troops engaged, under circumstances of no ordinary danger or difficulty; and it is to the able manner in which Lieutenant Larcom, Royal Artillery (even after he was severely wounded), directed the fire of the howitzer, assisted by Lieutenant Ferguson, Royal Engineers, as the gun was so short manned, and the very great steadiness and precision in firing of the small party of the 57th Regiment, under Captain Lloyd, that so few casualties occurred. In the face of between 2 and 300 Maoris, concealed in rifle pits, and behind an entrenched stockade, which since our last visit had been completed, across the road, from one side of the gorge to the other; the men retired in perfect order, bringing back the body of Private Kennedy, 57th Regiment, and the wounded men.

I took the liberty of complimenting both officers and men on their excellent conduct, in a Garrison Order, which I do myself the honour to submit for the Lieutenant-General's approval, trusting that he will be kind enough to give some special mark of his approbation to the individuals named, and especially to bring to the notice of the Governor the gallantry of Captain Mace, Taranaki Militia, and Antonio Rodriguez, who on this as on a former occasion, so nobly assisted wounded men—a return of whom and of all casualties I beg herewith to transmit.

The 100 rank and file under Captain Schomberg were not required, and no natives having