

Mountain Battery, with a body of levies under command of Brigadier-General Vaughan, C.B., occupied a most difficult and rugged spur of the mountain overlooking the offending villages. In a few hours the ascending smoke announced that the work of destruction had been effected. At evening General Vaughan, C.B., withdrew his force, exchanging a few shots with the enemy, to my camp at "Chermung," in "Tikaree," to which place the Head Quarters and rest of the force had marched during the day. In recording the above day's work, I have to thank Brigadier-General Vaughan, C.B., for the skill, knowledge of hill fighting, and shrewd precaution he displayed in effecting a very difficult task, and one in which a false step would have produced disastrous results.

13. Before leaving the camp of "Munna-ka-Dunna," I detached four Native Regiments, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Brownlow, C.B., to hold the village of "Koongullee" and the "Jalgully Pass," as I had, by marching to "Chermung," changed my line of communication. I shall have an opportunity of further explaining this in a subsequent report, when I treat of my operations in the valleys of the independent Swatees.

14. In concluding this section of my report, descriptive of the subjugation of the Patan tribes of the Black Mountain, I would allude to a subject which gave the Commissioner and myself many days' anxious thought, I mean the possibility of being able, during our success against the tribes, to inflict a blow on the Hindustanee Wahabee colony, which, since its expulsion from Bonair, had moved north, and was known to be at this time in an unsettled state: for awhile at "Beah," on the right bank of the Indus, and then again at "Judbaie," on this side of the river. Before seeing the country where the colony is at present resting (for it has not as yet obtained a permanent footing there), I had hopes of succeeding in the removal of this standing menace to the peace of the border, but I found that such an enterprise was not feasible. Had the Hindustanees combined with the Patan tribes (as there was a fair chance at one time of their doing) to resist our troops, an opportunity of defeating them would have occurred. They could not, however, come to any agreement with the tribes, and the result was that when the Patans sued for peace, the Hindustanees began to re-cross the river. To have sent a column against them was impossible, owing to the inaccessible nature of the glens near the Indus where they were encamped, and when terms had been given to the tribes to have attempted an attack would have been a breach of our engagement. As it is, these Patans will not give the Hindustanees an asylum, having in fact refused to do so; and to have made their expulsion one of the terms of peace with the Chug-gurzaies would, in the opinion of the Commissioner and myself, have resulted in prolonging the war without any advantage, since we had not the means of cutting off the retreat of these men.

15. I believe that the Colony is near its end, and that by diplomacy it may be got rid of altogether; for the prestige of the Hindustanees is lost among these tribes, since the former refused their assistance against our troops on the Black Mountain.

I have, &c.

A. WILDE, Major-General,
Commanding Hazara Field Force.

No. 4.

(From Major-General A. Wilde, Commanding Hazara Field Force, to the Adjutant-General, Head Quarters, Simla.

*Head-Quarters, Hazara Field Force,
Camp Oogie, October 26, 1868.*

SIR,

IN my last despatch I had the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the close of operations against the Patan tribes of the Black Mountain, and the signal punishment of the Puryaree Syuds. On the 14th of October, the Hazara Field Force was encamped at Chermung, in the Tikaree Valley. Four native regiments,* under Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Brownlow, C.B., had been detached from the camp at "Munna-ka-Dunna" to occupy the village of "Koongullee," and the "Jalgully Pass." His Highness the Maharajah of Cashmeer's Dograh Regiments being sent back from the Pass to the Camp at "Oogie." On the evening of the 14th, I opened communications with Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Brownlow, who, under my orders, had commenced improving the rugged path through the Pass. In two days Lieutenant W. Broadfoot, R. E., Assistant Field Engineer, had, with the working parties of the Native Regiments, made a fairly good road.

2. On the 15th, I marched to the village of Tikaree, the most open part of the valley of that name, and during the day two squadrons of the 16th Bengal Cavalry, under the command of Captain R. Topham, joined me from Jalgully. I would here beg to advert to the excellent conduct of the soldiers, both British and Native, of the force, and to which I know the Commissioner will bear ample testimony. On my entering the valleys of the independent Swatees, I announced that the people of these districts were to be treated as friends by the troops; that they had submitted as suppliants to the British Government; that a fine of Rs. 12,000 had been imposed on them for their unprovoked attack upon our detachment in the Agrore Valley; that all supplies of food and forage were to be paid for; and that no plundering could be allowed. As his Excellency is aware, the transition from war to peace in the feelings of native soldiers is no easy process; but I can state in proof of the discipline of this force that not a complaint was made, nor a single man punished from the time the force left the camp at "Oogie" on the 3rd and returned on the 22nd of October.

3. The 16th was spent in making a road from "Tikaree" to a village "Maidan," in the "Nundehear Valley," and during the day the 1st Goorkha Regiment, from the "Jalgully Pass," and a squadron of the 16th Bengal Cavalry from "Tikaree," were posted at the village of "Chermung" to keep open my line of communication when I advanced into the "Nundehear Valley."

4. On the 17th the force marched to "Maidan," the road a very difficult one, running over the "Shubora" spur, which had been made passable under the directions of Lieutenant W. B. Holmes, R. E., Field Engineer.

5. The 17th and 18th were passed in making reconnoissances towards the Takotee country, which Major C. C. Johnson, Assistant Quartermaster-General, conducted as far as the top of the "Dubrai Pass," seven miles from camp. The troops were employed in improving the road up the

* 1st Goorkha Light Infantry.
2nd Punjab Infantry.
24th Punjab Native Infantry.
5th Goorkha Regiment.