

7-pounder gun practice and the 9-pounder rocket practice was excellent, the 24-pounder rockets did great execution; 50 dead bodies of the enemy were counted after the action; there must be many more killed in the kloofs by the bursting of shells and rockets. The conduct of the commanders, the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of all services was steady and soldier-like. The enemy held their ground for three-quarters of an hour; then retreating, were pursued, till darkness obliged the troops to return; the action was about an hour and a-half duration.

RETURN of killed and wounded near Chichaba, on January 13, 1878.

88th Regiment.

1634 Private Jeremiah Murphy, severely wounded.

1422 Private Robert Seavers, dangerously wounded.

1305 Private John Kelly, dangerously wounded.

1630 Private James McMahon, slightly wounded.

Native Levies.

A Fingoe, severely wounded.

J. S. WOOLFRYES, M.D.,
Deputy Surgeon-General, P.M.O.

Camp near Malam's Station.

SIR,

January 5, 1878.

1. I HAVE the honour to report that on the 27th December, 1877, the various columns composing the Transkei Field Force under my command, marched from Ibeka and the Springs.

27th December, 1877. The Head Quarter Column encamped the first day about four miles beyond the Umzinzana, at the head of the Nxaxa.

2. At this station I found Captain Robinson's (of the Royal Artillery) Detachment who had cleared the Quora up to that point (*vide* previous despatch). Commandant Allan Maclean arrived that night, having made a successful patrol down the banks of the Kei along the sea coast, and up the banks of the Kobonaba, not having seen anything of the enemy.

3. 28th December, 1877. I next day marched to the Luzezi, where I received despatches from Majors Hopton and Elliott, commanding respectively the right and Bashee Columns.

4. The former reported having patrolled the Unyanime Valley, the latter, although opposed by the enemy in force, had pushed his way down the west bank of the Bashee to the Bongo mountain; the enemy's loss being considerable, but only a few casualties on his side.

5. I here ordered the Fingo Levy, under Captain Fuller, to work round to the mouth of the Nxaxa, to clear that part of the country, and be ready to co-operate with me in an attack which I intended making on the Manubie forest on Sunday.

6. Receiving information from scouts that the enemy was in force at the junction of Xabacase and Quora rivers, I started at day-break next morning (29th December, 1877), and took up position on the high ground above the Quora river, sending out the Fingo Levies under Commandant Maclean and Captain Feldtman as advance guard; these soon came in contact with the enemy, and attacking them

with spirit, after a sharp skirmish completely routed them, capturing 910 head of cattle and some horses; over 100 women and children were in the bush, and forwarded under Fingo escort to Ibeka. The captured cattle were distributed next morning amongst the native levies.

7. 30th December, 1877. The next day I advanced through the west side of the Manubie forest, saw but a few stragglers, and captured 58 heads of cattle; and towards the mouth of the Quora I met Captain Fuller, who had advanced with his Fingoes from the south side of the Manubie; he reported having exchanged sundry shots with the enemy, who were but few in number.

8. I had arranged that Major Hopton's column should work round one day's march behind me, so as to prevent the retreat of stragglers towards the Colony.

9. At this camp (Kabacase) on the edge of the Manubie forest, Captain Grenfell joined my force, and took charge of the Ordnance Department, and made himself most useful to me in many ways. I regret that he has been obliged to leave this day, the 6th January, in consequence of his services being required elsewhere.

10. It was reported to me by Major Hopton, whose column was following us up, that the spoor of the enemy with cattle was observed, having crossed in our rear towards Mapassa's people, I immediately sent off Captain A. Davies with 250 Fingoes to follow it up and report to me if they had joined Mapassa, or gone into the Colony. He had not returned when I crossed the Quora, and I presume he has rejoined Major Hopton's column, as I have heard nothing of him since.

11. 31st December, 1877. The next day Captain Nixon, R.E., having constructed a barrel raft, the whole of my column was enabled to cross the Quora river at its mouth without difficulty early the next morning (1st January, 1878), and took up a position a few miles from it, overlooking the river Injura.

12. I there met Captain Upcher's column, who had worked down the Ncauja Ridge, not meeting with much opposition, but thoroughly scouring the country, and had captured about 500 head of cattle. H.M.S. "Active" was seen steaming off the Injura river mouth. My signals were observed, and I effected communication with Commodore Sullivan, who returned at my request to the mouth of the Bashee.

13. Having heard of the Gaika disturbance, I ordered Major Hopton to remain on the south side of the Quora, to patrol and keep the country clear between that river and the Kei, and be in readiness to render assistance to the Colony if required.

14. I also sent Mr. J. Maclean's troops to assist the Fingoes on the Kei border towards the Tsomo river.

15. Finding the Injura impassable for wagons, I sent the infantry with spare ammunition, supplies, &c., under Captain Upcher, round by the Ncauja ridge to meet me at Mallin's Mission Station, whilst I went across the Injura with Robinson's artillery and 2 guns, and about 100 mounted men of the Frontier Armed Mounted Police, and 24th Regiment, and 1,300 Fingoes, taking three days' provisions.

16. Passing through a rough and broken country, I crossed the Inixweni river, and surmounting the ridge above it, camped at the head of the Nabaxa, the Fingoes proceeding in haste to make a reconnaissance of the Udwezza