

been purposely masked). Majors Maclean and Luck now rejoined.

9. It was found that our loss had been as follows:—

One officer (Major Luck), one non-commissioned officer, and five troopers of the 15th Hussars wounded, two of the latter, Privates Bridgham and Collins, severely; two horses killed, three horses wounded, and two horses missing.

Of the 1st Punjab Cavalry—

Three sowars wounded, one, Rum Rukha, severely; one horse killed, one horse severely wounded, one horse missing.

Of the enemy twenty-four were counted dead on the field, and six prisoners taken, of whom two were severely and one slightly wounded; these are now in the hospital of the 1st Punjab Cavalry receiving careful attention; nine horses were also captured. Many more wounded (men and horses) of the enemy got away. All the wounds on our side were from sabre cuts. The wounded were promptly attended by Surgeon C. J. McCartie, 2nd Punjab Cavalry. Our own being a long way in the rear, doolies and a stretcher were provided by Surgeon-Major E. C. Markey, in medical charge of Royal Horse Artillery with Colonel Kennedy's force.

10. It being now 3 P.M., leaving Majors Maclean and Luck to bring their men and wounded to the proposed site of camp, I returned with Colonel R. H. Sankey and Major A. LeMessurier, R.E., towards Saif-u-din, with the intention of selecting ground for the encampment of the force.

11. On emerging from the ravine in which lies the village of Saif-u-din, I found the infantry and guns in position under Colonel H. Moore, C.I.E., who had in my absence assumed command. Large bodies of the enemy's cavalry were reported as being some distance in front; they were firing distant shots at the detachment of the 1st Punjab Cavalry (gun escort) under the command of Captain H. Dela M. Hervey, 1st Punjab Cavalry, who had advanced to drive them back. Having selected a site for camp, I permitted the officer commanding the Royal Horse Artillery, Captain Marshall, to fire a few rounds at these groups of sowars, which he did, apparently with good effect; the enemy dispersed but did not retire; a few men of the artillery and scouts advanced, dismounted, and opened fire at 500 yards, as I considered it useless expending any more artillery ammunition at such scattered objects; still the enemy did not retreat, but remained circling about. I therefore ordered three companies of the infantry to be brought up, but by some mistake four companies of Biluchis under Lieutenant-Colonel G. Nicholletts, supported by the 25th Punjab Native Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Hoggan, advanced. After a few rounds from two companies of the 2nd Biluchis, the effect of which could not well be ascertained owing to the coming darkness, the whole force, with the exception of a strong picket, was retired to camp. Strong patrols during the night (which passed quiet) failed to find any trace of the enemy. From a reconnaissance this morning it was discovered that they had retired towards Kandahar.

12. I have every reason to believe that the enemy in the Tukt-i-Pul Valley numbered from 1,000 to 1,200 cavalry. No infantry were seen on this side of the Ghlo Kotal, those opposed to Colonel Kennedy having retreated to the mountains.

The enemy's loss could not have been less than 100 killed and wounded during the day. I have

since been informed that they have admitted this loss to be correct.

13. I beg to bring to the favourable notice of the Lieutenant-General Commanding, Colonel T. G. Kennedy, Commandant, 2nd Punjab Cavalry, and commanding the Right Column of the advance, and the officers named by him. Colonel Kennedy has on this, and all other occasions since he has been under my command, rendered valuable and most willing services, for which I feel deeply indebted. Of the officers under my personal command, I beg to recommend—

Major C. S. Maclean, Commandant, 1st Punjab Cavalry, for his forward and gallant conduct, which was but consistent with the high reputation gained by him on former fields. Since the commencement of my service in this campaign, this officer has always been associated with me, not only as commandant of his regiment, but also as political officer with the troops I have commanded, and he has rendered very valuable assistance in obtaining information and in collecting supplies; Major G. Luck, commanding the squadron of the 15th Hussars, whose dash and spirited leading of his men could not have been surpassed; Captain J. R. B. Atkinson, 1st Punjab Cavalry, who led his men gallantly, and by his opportune aid in cutting down an Afghan who, on foot, was aiming his carbine at close quarters at Captain Abadie, probably saved that officer's life; Captain H. R. Abadie, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers (Brigade Major), whose zeal and judgment were as usual prominently useful to me; Captain R. G. S. Marshall, A-B, Royal Horse Artillery, for the precision with which his guns were served; Lieutenant the Honourable Rupert Leigh, 15th King's Hussars, who (in the unavoidable absence of Captain E. B. Bishop, 2nd Punjab Cavalry, my Aide-de-Camp, on signalling duties) acted ably as my Orderly Officer.

14. I desire here to bear testimony to the cheerful alacrity with which the officers and men of the squadron of the 15th Hussars have shared with their comrades of the Punjab Cavalry, all the onerous and fatiguing duties attaching to Light Cavalry in the field.

15. The conduct of the following native officer and men deserve special mention, and I beg to recommend them as worthy claimants for the distinction of the Order of Merit:—

Jemadar Huknewaz Khan, 1st Punjab Cavalry, who was wounded on the right hand in a personal encounter with one of the enemy, whom he killed.

Sowar Mahomed Takhi, of Captain D. S. Cunningham's 1st Punjab Cavalry detachment, who remained behind to pick up a comrade, whose horse had been shot dead, in face of a large body of the enemy.

Sowars Ram Rukha and Akhmat Khan, who gallantly rescued a dismounted trooper, Private J. Lowe, 15th Hussars, who was in danger of being cut off by the enemy, when Ram Rukha and his comrade charged in a most gallant manner. The former received a severe wound in the encounter.

*List of killed, wounded, and missing in the action fought at Saif-u-din on the 4th January, 1879.*

15th Hussars.—1 British officer, 1 sergeant, 5 rank and file wounded. Total 7.

2 horses killed, 3 wounded, 2 missing.

1st Punjab Cavalry.—1 native officer, 3 rank and file wounded. Total 4.

1 horse killed, 1 wounded, 1 missing.

Total 11.