

command, made a very effective charge on a number of the enemy who were escaping from the rear of a village on which the infantry were advancing, and killed about twenty of them.

26. Before it was dark all the troops had been withdrawn to camp, and so completely had the enemy been beaten that they did not venture to follow up our retiring troops, according to the usual Pathan custom. Indeed, from the first moment our men opened fire it was evident that the enemy could not stand in front of our rifles.

27. In the evening I sent for the headmen of the Matun villages, and told them that they had brought this punishment on themselves; that it was my earnest desire to have avoided all bloodshed, and that they must now see the futility of attempting to withstand disciplined troops, however small their number might appear to them to be.

28. The punishment that these people have received has been severe, but the lesson was certainly needed, and I have every reason to expect that the results will be satisfactory.

The principal headmen of the valley have already come into camp, and others from more distant parts of the country are said to be on their way. In the meantime I am neglecting no means to assure the people that they have nothing to fear from us, so long as they abstain from hostile acts. That on the contrary, it is the desire of the British Government to treat the people of this country with forbearance and consideration, and that this force has entered Khost with the sole view of ousting the Government of the Amir of Kabul.

29. There is evidence that the combination against us was wide-spread, and that if a severe example had not been made of those who fought against us on the 7th instant, the ill-feeling would have extended. It might under those circumstances have become impossible to leave any portion of my small column here. The aspect of affairs has now changed; the headmen of nearly all the neighbouring villages have come in, and the remainder are reported to be anxious to submit. This, of course, is all that is required, and Colonel Waterfield agrees with me in thinking that an adequate force could now be left here with safety, provided that the troops in the Kuram Valley are maintained in sufficient strength to keep open our long line of communication.

30. I purpose, therefore, to leave the under-mentioned troops in the Matun fort at this place; viz. :—

Half a Mountain Battery.

Two troops of Native Cavalry.

A regiment of Native Infantry.

31. Regarding the detailed arrangements which are necessary for the safety and supply of this detachment, I will do myself the honour to address you in a few days.

32. In conclusion I have to report that I have every reason to be satisfied with the steady conduct of the troops, notwithstanding that they were acting against vastly superior forces.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the action of Matun, in the Khost Valley, on the 7th January, 1879.

No. 2 Mountain Battery, P.F.F.—1 rank and file wounded. Total 1.

10th Hussars (1 squadron).—1 follower missing. Total 1.

5th Punjab Cavalry (3 troops).—1 non-commissioned officer, 3 followers killed; 1 non-commissioned officer, 3 rank and file, 2 horses

wounded; 1 follower, 3 horses, missing. Total 9.

21st Bengal N.I.—1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file, 3 followers, wounded. Total 5.

Commissariat Department.—2 followers; killed, 2 followers, wounded. Total 4.

Total.—1 non-commissioned officer, 1 rank and file, 5 followers, killed; 1 non-commissioned officer, 5 rank and file, 5 followers, 2 horses, wounded; 2 followers, 3 horses, missing. Total 20.

Grand Total.—7 men killed; 11 men and 2 horses; wounded; 2 men and 3 horses, missing. Total 20.

BAZAR VALLEY, January and February, 1879.

No. 773 F.C., dated Camp, Jellalabad, 2nd March, 1879.

From Colonel C. C. Johnson, Officiating Quartermaster-General in India, to Colonel H. K. Burne, C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

I am instructed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India to submit, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, Lieutenant-General Maude's report of the recent operations in the Bazar Valley,* which were carried out under his personal command.

2. His Excellency considers that Lieutenant-General Maude acted throughout with great judgment. The effect of the expedition appears to be satisfactory, as the tribes have not given any trouble in the Khyber Pass since.

Dated Camp, Jamrud, 13th February, 1879.

From Lieutenant-General F. F. Maude, C.B., V.C., Commanding 2nd Division, Peshawar Valley Field Force, to Colonel C. C. Johnson, Officiating Quartermaster-General in India.

Before I enter upon my report of the recent operations of the force under my command in the Bazar Valley, I have the honour to allude to my instructions bearing on the subject.

2. On the 2nd of December last, when I was ordered by Adjutant-General's telegram to proceed at once from Nowshera to take command of the troops in the field as far as and including Ali Musjid garrison, I was instructed, amongst other things, "if considered advisable, to attack Chura or other locality; in this matter consult Political Officer."

3. In compliance with these instructions, I proceeded, on the 19th of December, with a force to the Bazar Valley, and, after blowing up towers, &c., returned on the 23rd of December.

4. On a subsequent date Major Cavagnari, when Colonel Macgregor, Deputy Quartermaster-General, was at Jellalabad, gave that officer, in writing, his views upon a second expedition to Bazar and Bara, which were duly laid before me.

5. On the 15th of January I sent you the following telegram :—

"As Major Cavagnari has stated his conviction that an excellent effect would be produced by a temporary occupation of Bazar, and the deliberate visiting in rotation of the villages of the recusant sections in Bazar and Bara; and as he states, moreover, that any measures adopted for the punishment of the refractory sections will not be calculated to interfere with the poli-

* Report by Lieutenant-General F. F. Maude, C.B., V.C., Commanding 2nd Division, Peshawar Valley Field Force, dated 13th February, 1879, to the Quartermaster-General in India.