

of the limit which I had laid down (approximately 10° latitude) and visited Zaria, by whom it was received with every courtesy. Lieutenant-Colonel Morland, on leaving the navigable portion of the Kaduna, was unable to procure sufficient transport for all his impedimenta, and therefore left Lieutenant Williams, with 50 men, at Wushishi, in charge of supplies and ammunition, &c., to be forwarded from time to time.

3. On 14th April Lieutenant Williams, with 30 men, proceeded to Ugu, a town lying some 30 miles to the north, to arrest two men, one of whom was accused of taking a girl away by force from Wushishi, the other of terrorising the people of the town and driving them away and of attempted murder. Considering it necessary to stop slave raiding and murder in the very village where British troops were, Lieutenant Williams marched to Ugu, and demanded that the girl should be given up to him, and also the man who had attempted to murder the Chief of Wushishi. This was refused, and he found 300 horsemen and several hundred foot prepared to fight. Twice again he attempted to carry his point without resorting to hostilities, and then warned the king that he would advance, and would open fire if attacked. On nearing the town in a square formation, he was charged by the horsemen, and after 15 minutes' fighting, during which he was charged about 20 times, he routed them with loss. He refrained from firing on the flying enemy, and only destroyed the houses of the principal people in the town who were responsible for the attack. I am of opinion that Lieutenant Williams behaved most pluckily—in action, and with commendable moderation in success. He was opposed to 10 times his numbers in horsemen, and possibly 20 times his numbers in footmen. He marched 60 miles (including this action) in 36 hours. I am also of opinion that his action was necessary and justified. Had he disregarded such overt acts, the people of Wushishi, seeing he could not protect them, would have fled, as they already were doing, and he would have been left without supplies, while the aggressors, attributing his inaction to fear, would have grown still more aggressive. There were no casualties in his party.

4. Lieutenant Monck-Mason, in charge of the Gurara Survey with the Europeans named in the margin,* passed through the district of a notorious raiding chief, who had devastated the country round. On 20th February he attacked this town, which was situated in a most difficult position, and surrounded by dense bush. He burnt the town after three hours' fighting, but was followed up when retiring, and Lieutenant Phillips, R.A., who is reported to have behaved "with great courage and dash," was twice slightly wounded by arrows, and 15 rank and file were also wounded, for the most part severely. I think much pluck was shown in this little affair, and I have no doubt that the slave raider whose town was attacked was most rightly punished. It is even probable that it would not have been possible to avoid hostilities, but I expressed my strong disapproval when I heard that Lieutenant Monck-Mason had taken the initiative.

5. I had at this time proceeded up the Benue, as described in my despatch dealing with the Munshi operations. In my absence, Lieutenant Loder-Symonds was despatched by

the Commandant to reinforce Lieutenant Monck-Mason, after news had been received of this fighting. On 19th March he arrived at the town where the previous fighting had taken place, with Sergeant-Major Moran and Sergeant Ward, R.A.M.C., and 50 men, and was informed that his advance would be opposed. He informed the people he only wished to pass by peacefully, but to this they would not agree. Still hoping to avoid bloodshed he advanced alone with an interpreter to endeavour to come to terms, but was received with a hostile demonstration, and had no option but to fight. He was himself wounded in the thigh by a poisoned arrow, while Sergeant-Major Moran (who behaved "with great courage and coolness, and held his men together admirably") and three rank and file were slightly wounded. I am of opinion that Lieutenant Loder-Symonds behaved with great discretion, as well as pluck; his wound was at one time dangerous, but, not wishing to delay the advance of his party, he remained in a neighbouring village with 10 men and Sergeant Ward, until able to proceed.

6. Sergeant-Major Moran continued the march with 40 men, hampered by many carriers, sick, &c., and his progress was barred on 13th April by the Chief of Azuba. Endeavouring to avoid the town, he was attacked by a force estimated by him at 400, which he dispersed and pursued for some distance, with no casualties, and then continued his march. The king sent a messenger after him to say that in future he was at peace with the whitemen. On the 15th he was again opposed at a town named Qua-qua, and, charging through the gate, he captured and burnt the place, inflicting great loss on the enemy. These people had previously seized a carrier belonging to the force, and made him a slave, and appropriated the blankets he was carrying. He was recovered during the attack.

7. On 25th April Lieutenant Dyer was sent forward to form a junction with the Kaduna survey, with 70 carriers and 30 soldiers, with Dr. Mottram and some sick. He was suddenly attacked in the bush by from 300 to 400 Kadaras, a pagan tribe. They charged unexpectedly from an ambush. He thoroughly routed them with great loss, and pursued them for some distance. Only one carrier was wounded, though Lieutenant Dyer himself had two narrow escapes. The Commandant very strongly commends Lieutenant Dyer's action in this affair, and I concur in his opinion.

8. Lieutenant-Colonel Lowry-Cole, on the completion of the Mitchi operations, proceeded rapidly from Loko up the Okwa River to join the other two surveys at the rendezvous at Gierko. All three were concentrated there at the beginning of May. On the 9th Colonel Cole marched the whole force against a pagan town named Lemo, who had kidnapped a carrier. The people concerned (Kadaras) are a brave but lawless tribe, who had long defied the power of Zaria and the Fulanis. The town was defended by a 10 feet wall and deep ditch. The gate was breached by fire from the 7-pr. guns, and Colonels Cole and Morland and Captain Abadie charged it, but being unsupported by the troops, who had not apparently been concentrated for the charge, were forced back again. Colonel Cole was severely wounded by a poisoned arrow in the neck, and Colonel Morland took command. Colonel Morland made fresh dispositions, and formed a regular assaulting party 30 strong under Captain Bryan, who was followed by Captain Abadie with a sub-

* Lieutenant Phillips, Lieutenant Dyer, Sergeant Poache, Dr. Mottram.