

the story of the avenging army. When I closed my last letter we had heard that the heavy siege train was expected to reach the camp in a very few days, and that works were being erected wherein to mount the guns on their arrival. While the troops were thus busy the enemy was inactive. On the morning of the 4th arrived in camp the long looked-for siege train of between thirty and forty heavy guns, howitzers, and mortars, with large quantities of ammunition, escorted by the remaining wing of the 8th foot, two more companies of the 61st and a wing of the 1st Belooch battalion of the Bombay army. On the 6th came in from Meerut a most valuable reinforcement in 200 of the 60th Rifles, and 100 artillery recruits. To the latter were added 45 men of the 9th Lancers. The place of this detachment was supplied at Meerut by the 7th Punjab Infantry. On the following day the army was further strengthened by the 4th Punjab Rifles under Captain Wilde, and by some troops of the Jheend Rajah. On the night of the 7th the advanced batteries intended for the destruction of the Moree bastion and the adjacent curtain were armed with ten heavy guns at about 650 yards from the bastion, and an enclosure within half that distance of the walls, called the Koodsea Bagh, was occupied by a detachment of infantry and artillery. In these operations we sustained a loss of something under fifty killed and wounded, two officers being among the former, Lieutenants Hildebrand, of the Bengal artillery, and Bannerman, of the Bombay Fusiliers, attached to the Beloochees, the latter a promising young officer.

The Bombardment.—The next day was marked by the opening of the advanced batteries on the Moree bastion and by the arrival in camp of the Jummoor or Cashmere Contingent. Meanwhile the engineers were hard at work in the erection of other batteries. On the 11th a mortar battery opened on the Moree from the Koodsea Bagh at little more than 300 yards, and upon the Cashmere and Water bastions a fire was commenced from sixteen heavy guns and howitzers and ten large mortars, planted at two points in front of the enclosure known as Ludlow Castle. On the 12th the attack on Water bastion was strengthened by four 18-pounders and two light (5½ inch) mortars, (increased afterwards apparently to eight of the former and twelve of the latter), planted at 200 and 250 yards from the wall and the Custom-house compound near the river. The fire of the enemy was most severe on the last-named batteries, which were exposed not only to the guns of the Water bastion, but to those in the old inner fort of Selimghur, and also to those on the other side of the river. Here Captain Fagan, of the artillery, described as a most enterprising and excellent officer, fell, shot through the head. By the 13th the Cashmere bastion was in ruins, and had long ceased to return a shot to the fire that was continually kept up upon it. The adjoining curtains on either side were similarly ruined, and from the debris of the Moree bastion only a light gun or two at intervals replied to the heavy shot and shell that were poured into it. At the other end of the works the Water bastion had suffered scarcely less severely, its extreme magazine was blown up, and a light gun which enlarded our batteries had been silenced.

Preparations—General Wilson's Address.—And now the moment for the assault drawing near, General Wilson promulgated the following excellent order:—

The force assembled before Delhi has had much hardship and fatigue to undergo since its arrival in the camp, all of which has been most cheerfully borne by officers and men. The time is now drawing near when the Major-General commanding the force trusts that their labour will be over, and they will be rewarded by the capture of the city for all their past exertions, and for a cheerful endurance of still greater fatigue and exposure. The troops will be required to aid and assist the engineers in the erection of the batteries and trenches, and in daily exposure to the sun, as covering parties.

The Artillery will have even harder work than they yet have had, and which they have so well and cheerfully performed hitherto; this however, will be for a short period only, and when ordered to the assault the Major-General feels assured British pluck and determination will carry everything before them, and that the bloodthirsty and murderous mutineers, against whom they are fighting will be driven headlong out of their stronghold, or be exterminated; but to enable them to do this, he warns the troops of the absolute necessity of their keeping together, and not straggling for their columns—by this can success only be secured.

Major-General Wilson need hardly remind the troops of the cruel murders committed on their officers and comrades, as well as their wives and children, to move them in the deadly struggle. No quarter should be given to the mutineers; at the same time, for the sake of humanity, and the honor of the country they belong to, he calls, upon them, to spare all women and children that may come in their way.

It is so imperative, not only for their safety but for the success of the assault, that the Major-General feels it is duty to direct all commanding officers to impress this strictly upon their men, and he is confident that, after this warning, the men's good sense and discipline will induce them to obey their officers and keep steady to their duty. It is to be explained to every regiment that indiscriminate plunder will not be allowed; that prize agents have been appointed, by whom all captured property will be collected and sold, to be divi-

ded, according to the rules and regulations of this head, fairly among all men engaged; and that any man found guilty of having concealed captured property will be made to restore it, and will forfeit all claims to the general prize; he will also be liable to be made over to the Provost-Marshal to be summarily dealt with. The Major-General calls upon the officers of the force to lend their zealous and efficient co-operation in the erection of the works of the siege now about to be commenced. He looks especially to the regimental officers, of all grades, to impress upon their men that to work in the trenches during a siege is as necessary and as honourable as to fight in the ranks during a battle. He will hold all officers responsible for their utmost being done to carry out the directions of the engineers, and he confidently trusts that all will exhibit a healthy and hearty spirit of emulation and zeal, from which he has no doubt that the happiest results will follow, in the brilliant termination of all their labour.

THE ASSAULT.—On the morning of the 14th, soon after daybreak, the assault took place.—The attacking columns were in reserve. Their strength is not given. The main point of assault was the breach at the Cashmere bastion. One column, however, consisting of Gheorkas and the newly arrived Jummoor contingent, was directed to make a diversion by attacking the Kishengunge suburb, which lies outside the Lahore gate on the western side of the city, and if it succeeded in carrying the suburb, to assault the gate itself. But the suburb was occupied by the enemy in force, with a battery of heavy guns. The Cashmerian troops behaved indifferently, and in spite of the efforts of the brave Gheorkas, the column was repulsed; but on the northern side of the city all went well. The troops entered at the breach with no serious opposition, and spreading to the left and right, occupied the whole line of defences from the Water bastion to the Cabul gate, including the Cashmere gate and bastion, the Moree gate and bastion, the English church, Skinner's house, and the grounds about. The principal loss sustained by the assailants, was due to the obstinate resistance they met with in clearing their way along the ramparts to the Cabul gate. Five officers are reported to have been slain—Tandy, of the Bengal Engineers; M. Barnett, of late 55th Native Infantry; Murray, of the Guides. Bradshaw, of the 52nd foot; and Fitzgerald, of the 75th. Capt. Rosse, of the Carabineers, Major Jacob, of the 1st Bengal Fusiliers, and Lieut. Homfroy, 1st Punjab Infantry, are returned as having died of wounds received. Brigadier Nicholson was wounded, and his brother, of Coke's Rifles, and many others, in all about thirty. Of the loss of the mutineers I do not observe even an estimate. It is only said that bodies of them were seen to be retreating both to the south of the city in the direction of Kootub, and also across the bridge of boats, and that our cavalry had moved round the city to intercept and destroy the former. Our victorious infantry, prudently recalled from too hasty an advance into the close lanes of the city, occupied the comparatively open space inside the Cashmere gate, and the street they had won upon either side of it.—Head-quarters were established in the house once occupied by the renowned Irregular Horseman, Skinner, and now known to us by his name and to the natives as Seunders.

The Magazine Enclosure Captured.—Preparations were at once made for shelling the enemy out of the Palace, the Selimghur, and the other strong places of the city, and the firing commenced next morning, the 15th. By the evening of that day, a breach was effected in the wall of the magazine enclosure, which was held in force by the enemy, and the place was stormed the next morning by the 61st Foot, and detachments of the Belooch battalion and Wilde's Rifles. In it were captured 125 pieces of cannon. The Palace being now well exposed, the guns and mortars opened upon it from the magazine enclosure, and the enemy appears to have fallen back at all points. Thus the Kishengunge battery, which had repulsed the Jummoor troops, was abandoned and occupied, and the guns there taken, swelled the total number of captured pieces to upwards of 200. The battery on the further side of the river seems also to have been abandoned, and at the date of the latest certain and official news—7 p.m., on the 16th—an attack upon the magazine had been repulsed, a chain of posts had been established from the Cabul gate to the magazine, and the enemy some hours before dayfall had been maintaining only a detached and desultory warfare from the tops of the houses. Many townspeople had come in and received quarter, which was of course refused to every Sepoy. All this is so satisfactory that we may well credit the tale from Jeypore, that on the 20th the place was entirely in our hands.

Important, and Latest.—The England brings nothing from Kurrachee but a copy of the Jeypore story, which I have before given. But I have been obliged by the perusal of an extract from a letter received at Nusseerabad on the evening of the 24th of September from Captain Eden at Jeypore, September 23, 8 a.m., which gives details of the doings in Delhi on the 17th and 18th, and which runs thus:—On the 17th shelling the Lal Killa (Red Fort; this appears to be some other stronghold than Selimghur,) and city. Fighting all day; leaders and native officers in open disension, accusing one another, in presence of the King, of cowardice. In the end unanimity prevailed, and they resolved to attack and fight as men without hope of mercy or pardon. Friday, 18th.—Shelling all night on the Lal Killa. This morning fighting recommenced, and mutineers, on

some points successful, but constantly repulsed. Rifles doing much mischief among the rebels. City people, both rich and poor running away. Suburb, where Reid failed (the Kishengunge) is ours, and also the rebels' battery there. King and two sons concealed.—One bastion of the Lal Killa destroyed, and it will be taken. Captain Eden adds, "the above is from the Durbar news-writer to the Rajah at Jeypore. There may be some exaggeration but in the main I am inclined to believe this report, as the man has always sent us correct reports on the whole." After this report of the total occupation of the city on the 20th may be accepted unhesitatingly.

OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.

Chief Commissioner's Office, Lahore, Sept. 16.

The following messages were received from Delhi during the course of yesterday and this morning from the office of the Adjutant-General of the Army:

Nine a. m. 15th Sept.—We continue to hold the city from the College to the Cabul gate, and the enemy holds the magazine, which we are now shelling. The palace is also being shelled. Many of the mutineers had fled yesterday.

Another message (hour not given) states that "the captured guns on the Mooree and Cabul bastions are also in play on the Burn bastion and Lahore gate—new positions occupied by mutineers. Some cavalry and infantry have left since yesterday evening, but the garrison still show every intention of disputing our further entrance."

8 p. m., 15th September.—"All well. We have made a breach in the magazine, and storm it at dawn. The enemy's musketry fire is much reduced."

No official account has yet been received of the successful attack by a portion of Gen Van Cortlandt's force on the rebel village of Mungella, but a number of the 10th Cavalry men have been killed, and thirteen of them, with some others, made prisoners, were immediately executed on the spot. About 20,000 rupees worth of plunder is said to have fallen into the hands of our men, and eighty horses and some 2,000 head of other cattle.

P. S.—7 a. m., 16th September.—The following message has just been received from Delhi:—"The magazine was stormed at daylight by the 61st Foot, Belooch battalion, and part of Wilde's Regiment. We had only a few wounded, and the enemy about forty killed. One hundred and twenty-five guns were taken in the magazine."

LAHORE, Sept. 17.

The latest message from Delhi is up to 2 p. m. yesterday. Our mortars continue to play upon the palace from the magazine enclosure; the enemy entirely abandoned the Kishengunge battery, and we have found in it in position five 18-pounder mortars, making a total number of pieces of ordnance taken in and before Delhi upwards of 200. The battery across the river opposite Kingurh is also reported to have been abandoned by the mutineers, who are in detached groups fighting from the tops of houses; their organization into regiments is fast being broken up.

General Van Cortlandt reports the destruction on the 13th inst., by a portion of the Hurrianah irregular force under his command, of the insurgent village of Mungulpore. The rebels drew up a force of from 700 to 800 horse, from 400 to 500 infantry, and some guns to defend the village; but after the exchange of a few shots, they broke and fled with the utmost rapidity, leaving their camp in our hands, just as it stood; some ammunition, and five cart loads of Sepoys things, such as coats, pantaloons, &c.

(Signed) J. D. MACPHERSON, Lieut. Col. Military Secretary to Chief Commissioner.

The following was received by express from General Roberts, commanding the forces at Ahmedabad, who dispatched the intelligence to the Governor on the 29th Sept.:

By express, through Dr. Derinzy, Residency Surgeon, Jeypore, 23rd Sept., 5 a.m. We have this moment received information from the Durbar, of our troops having occupied the entire city of Delhi on Sunday last, the 20th. The Vakeel of the Jhujjur Nuwab had been here a little while before, with the same intelligence, so you may rely upon it. The King is said to be in the Durgah Nizamooden, about six miles from Delhi. He and his two sons escaped as women, and the women of the Nana in men's clothes. It was reported Ahmedabad, upon the strength of letters from Ajmere, that the King of Delhi had been captured.

Lucknow and Cawnpore.—Regarding Lucknow and Cawnpore I am unable to give you so favourable an account as a fortnight ago I, with reason as I thought, anticipated that I should be able to do. General Outram, you will remember, in his letter of the 2nd of September, expressed a hope that he should get over the distance between Allahabad (where he was at the time of writing,) and Cawnpore by the 9th. In this hope he was, however, disappointed.—A party, estimated by its subsequent destroyer at about 300 strong, with a few guns, crossed the Ganges from Oude, presumably for the purpose of plunder, a point ahead of Sir James's line of march.

Major V. Eyre's Brilliant Affair.—As soon as they were heard of Major Vincent Eyre, of old Affghan and recent Arrah celebrity, was sent on with part of his own battery, detachments of the 6th and 64th Foot, and a troop of Irregular Horse, to attack and disperse them. On the Major's approach the enemy hastily

betook themselves to their boats, pursued by the cavalry, upon whom, when they had embarked, they kept up a smart fire. Even when the infantry came up and poured volley after volley into the crowded boats the rebels still made what defence and return they could, but when the field pieces opened with grape they threw themselves panic-stricken into the river, to perish almost to a man under the fire of all arms that rained upon them from the bank. The boats were sunk and the guns with them. This was on the 10th of September.—On the 15th, the head-quarters of the 5th Fusiliers and the remainder of the 78th Highlanders reached Cawnpore, and Sir James with the rest of the force being expected on the following day, orders were given by General Havelock to prepare to commence the crossing of the river at half-past two the next morning. This I know from a private letter from one of the officers of the 78th, and nothing, so far as I am aware, has arrived from Cawnpore direct to lead us to suppose that counter-orders were subsequently issued, and that the crossing was delayed. But when the Calcutta steamer for Suez called at Madras three days ago, Lord Harris, as the result of the information brought to him by that vessel, telegraphed to the Bombay Government thus:—"General Havelock's force crossed the Ganges from Cawnpore on the 19th; skirmishing was going on"—a message which, I must think, might have been made a little fuller and more explicit. It is possible, though I hope it is not true, that the crossing did not take place till the 19th, or it may be that on that day the operation was completed which was begun three days earlier, for the stream was running like a mill race, and there were 24-pounders and elephants to be got over. But the word "skirmishing" inadequately, as we may fear, represents the amount of resistance encountered by his troops. Certainly it is at least that the enemy were in great strength and occupied an entrenched position on the opposite bank. Meanwhile, of the imprisoned garrison of Lucknow we have heard but very little. That little, however, is all encouraging though vague. They had undermined and blown up a house near the entrenchment, with a number of fanatics who occupied it, and then sallying out had spiked the two 15-pounder guns which the enemy had brought to bear upon them, though without doing much damage. Of the amount of provisions we hear nothing one way or the other. On the whole, I may repeat that we know of nothing tending to destroy, or even materially to affect, the confident hopes which when I last wrote were so generally entertained, not only on this side of India, but also at Cawnpore and Allahabad, that this long beleaguered city will be relieved in time to save many valuable lives and the honor of English women and of the English name.

GREAT BRITAIN.

An attempt to launch the *Great Eastern* has failed.

The Liverpool Borough Bank.—Liverpool, Nov. 3.—The following is a copy of a memorandum received from the bank:—"At a large and influential meeting of the depositors and others, creditors of the Liverpool Borough Bank, held at the bank yesterday (Mr Wrigley in the chair,) the following offer was made on the part of the bank:—"That the claims of all depositors and other creditors for amounts exceeding 200l. should be satisfied by the promissory notes of the bank payable at 5, 12, 18, or 24 months' date, bearing interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum." With regard to this offer, the following resolution was adopted, upon the motion of Mr W. F. Macgregor, seconded by Mr Thomas Gair:—"That this meeting considers it advisable to accept the offer of the directors, under the sanction of a committee of depositors, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. J. H. Wrigley, B. Darbyshire, W. Hope, P. G. Heyworth, P. Rawson, Thomas Gair, Tyson, and W. F. Macgregor." A conference then took place between the committee so appointed and the directors, and a committee of shareholders in the bank, when, after explanations given by the directors' and shareholders' committee in answer to inquiries on the depositors' committee, the latter came unanimously to the following resolution:

"First, that the offer made on the part of the Bank be accepted; second, that Mr Sellar, the manager of the Bank, be requested to send a copy of this minute to each depositor, and other creditors of the Bank for an amount exceeding £200.—JAMES HARRY WRIGLEY, R. DAWSON."

Liverpool, November 6.

The Liverpool Borough Bank is partially open to-day for the payment of depositors under 200l. in accordance with the arrangements mentioned here yesterday.

The Western Bank of Scotland, at Glasgow had been in difficulties, but it was announced that it would receive full aid to meet them.

The Atlantic Telegraph shares were depressed. The unsuccessful experiment in September cost about £25,000. Some doubts have been expressed of the practicability of the scheme, because of the under-currents, and undertow, of the ocean.

FRANCE.—Serious losses to property by inundation in France, are stated in European papers. Much of France is subject to these visitations. The Emperor was said to have some extensive remedy in prospect—but a struggle with nature, under such circumstances, requires time, as well as money and skill.

RUSSIA.—A fearful conflagration among the St. Petersburg shipping had occurred: 170 vessels and lighters reported destroyed.