

numbers. The right of Major Rocke's force sustained the heaviest fire; and it was even supposed at one time that the enemy would have charged at this point. The 13th native infantry, however, replied to the fire with great precision and rapidity; and Tantia's army, opening out to the right and left, made a rapid retreat in the direction of the Chumbul. Darkness prevented pursuit, and the rebels were allowed to escape unmolested. Major Rocke's column sustained but little injury in this engagement. Captain Bolton (royal artillery) received a contusion on the side, but of such little consequence as scarcely to interfere with the discharge of his duties. Three men of the 72nd highlanders, and four sepoys of the 13th native infantry, were wounded, but not seriously. The whole of the troops behaved with great gallantry; and it is probable, if the action had commenced earlier in the day, that few of the enemy would have reached the Chumbul. As it was, the ground was covered with dead rebels and horses, the wounded having been carried off by the main body. Their total loss was estimated at about 300 men. Two elephants were taken; and on the back of one was found the cooking apparatus of the Rao Sahib. The driver stated that the Rao was wounded, and that a body found without the head was that of Tantia's cousin. Major Rocke resumed the pursuit on the following morning; but, as the guns were dragged by bullocks, he was unable to approach the rebels. His force had performed excellent service, having, in the space of five days, preserved the large and opulent cities of Oodeypore and Pertabghur from sack and plunder. After leaving the field of battle at Pertabghur, Tantia never drew rein until he approached Mundesore. Colonel Benson's column had, however, in the meantime taken up the pursuit, and reached the city almost as soon as the rebel fugitives. Perceiving his danger, Tantia sheered off to the northwards, and marched upon Narghur. He was scarcely allowed a halt, Colonel Benson being close upon his heels. Again he started, and this time distanced his pursuers, as he managed to cross the Chumbul at Biswa, twenty-eight miles north-east of Mundesore, before Colonel Benson could overtake him. He then betook himself to the jungle with the remnant of his followers, and, for the present, seemed not likely to give much further trouble. He could not retrace his steps

southward, the Ahmedabad column being at Bunswara, Parke's brigade at Mundesore, Major Rocke's column at Pertabghur, Major Grant's force at Rutlam, another force at Dohud, Captain Buckle's horse at Bareah, and some irregular forces at Jubboah and Bhofawur.

In Central India, a body of rebels, to the number of nearly 4,000, had, early in December, concentrated in the vicinity of Nagode, under a chief named Radha Govind, from whence they threatened the garrison at Kirwee; and, on the 22nd of the month, a portion of the force made an attack upon the place, and so far succeeded as to obtain possession of the town, and surround the palace of Narayun Rao, in which the European troops, numbering about eighty, were shut up. Of this force, a considerable portion were sick and convalescent; and the palace itself was much too extensive for such a garrison to defend for any length of time. Intelligence was, however, conveyed to General Whitlock, who was in the neighbourhood; and, on the 24th of December, that officer relieved the beleaguered troops. The following extract of a letter from Banda, dated the 26th of the month, supplies some details of the affair:—"The garrison at Kirwee were attacked at noon on the 22nd, by Radha Govind, with 600 mutineers, 3,000 matchlock-men, and 150 cavalry; but the small, though gallant and heroic band, consisting of 30 of H.M.'s 43rd, 11 of the royal artillery, and 40 Madrassesees, with one or two native guns, bravely held their own until nightfall, when the enemy retired. The next day, the rebels were busy making scaling-ladders; and, on the 24th, they attacked a neighbouring jagheerदार, and took from him three guns, with which they were preparing for another attack on the garrison. General Whitlock, however, at Matuba, got the news by express on the evening of the 23rd, and, with the A troop of Madras horse artillery, one squadron of H.M.'s 12th lancers, and one troop of Hyderabad cavalry, reached Banda, thirty-six miles, on the morning of the 24th, and the next night marched forty-eight miles to Kirwee, and relieved the garrison, which was fairly knocked up with three days of perpetual watching day and night. They had only lost one matchlock-man, whilst the enemy had suffered considerably. The latter are now in force about five miles from Kirwee; but I trust that in a few days, by a combined

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movement, they will soon be exterminated or dispersed. Captain Woodland, of the 1st Madras native infantry, commanded the garrison, and bravely did they do their duty. The relieving force marched eighty-four miles in thirty hours."

Following up this success, General Whitlock, on the 29th, attacked the rebels under Radha Govind, at Punwaree, five miles south-east of Kirwee. The enemy was posted very favourably upon some heights, which were, however, stormed, and their guns taken with a rush, by H.M.'s 43rd regiment and some Rewah infantry. In the *mélée*, Radha Govind and his brother, and about a hundred other rebels, were slaughtered. Meanwhile, the general had gone round by a detour to the enemy's rear, with the horse artillery and cavalry, and a detachment of the 3rd Madras Europeans and sappers, and cut off their retreat. As the rebels came flying from before the attacking columns, they were met in every direction by the horse artillery and cavalry. At last, about 200 of them took refuge in a small wood, which was immediately surrounded by the cavalry, and the latter went in and cut them all up to a man. Upwards of 300 were killed altogether, it is believed; and, in addition to the guns, several elephants, camels, and horses, and other property, was captured. The rout of the enemy was most complete; and they only saved themselves by dispersing and flying into the depth of the immense forests which cover those tracts. The casualties on the side of the English only consisted of a few wounded.

From the plains of Punwaree and Dadree, the remnant of the rebel force fled south towards Kotee, in which direction Brigadier Carpenter had been ordered to march from Nagode, to intercept the fugitives. He had not proceeded far before he got news of them, and sent out a party under Colonel Gottreux, of the 1st Madras native infantry, to give an account of them. The detachment consisted of 26 of H.M.'s 43rd regiment, 55 of the 1st Madras native infantry, with 30 cavalry, and 150 infantry of the Nagode levies, accompanied by Captain Osborne, the political agent of Rewah, and his assistant. At daybreak on the 2nd of January, this party came suddenly upon a body of 300 mutineers of the 8th, 49th, and other Bengal regiments, in the village of Kurecreah, and effected a most complete surprise. The rebels had just time to

receive them with a sharp discharge of musketry, and then turned and fled. The cavalry, under Lieutenant Gompertz, soon, however, headed them, and drove them back on to the Enfields of the 43rd, who made short work of it; and such as were still able to attempt escape, were again charged into by the cavalry, as they fled over some very difficult ground covered with brushwood. Some of the rebels fought desperately in this affair, and few escaped to carry the news of their defeat to the camp of the insurgent chief.

It was by this time well known that the most important personages connected with the rebellion, with the bulk of the insurgent forces yet in arms, had sought shelter in the Nepaulese territory—a movement on their part which added somewhat to the difficulties of the campaign by which the war of the rebellion was to be terminated, and rendered the operations of the commander-in-chief of increased political importance, as well as of extreme delicacy. The favourable view in which the British alliance had originally been considered by Jung Bahadoor, was supposed to have undergone a very material change, in consequence of some alleged misunderstanding between the Nepaulese chief and the governor-general at Allahabad, upon a question of reward for services rendered by the Ghoorka force in the Lucknow campaign; and also in reference to the British resident at the court of Nepal (Colonel Ramsay), who had become personally objectionable to the Jung; and against whom the latter, when at Allahabad, preferred no less than thirty distinct charges. The colonel was thereupon summoned to answer those charges personally before Lord Canning; and, upon his quitting Khatmandoo for the purpose, the Nepaulese prime minister, triumphantly but incorrectly, boasted that *he had dismissed* the resident: such, however, was not the case, as, upon the arrival of the colonel at Allahabad, he fully and satisfactorily answered every charge that had been preferred against him; and, in consequence, he was at once exonerated from all blame, and ordered to resume his appointment at the court of Nepal. The Nepaulese durbar, on its part, now peremptorily refused to receive Colonel Ramsay in a public character, and declared that the governor-general, by reappointing him, had violated a distinct promise given to the court of Nepal through General Macgregor. It