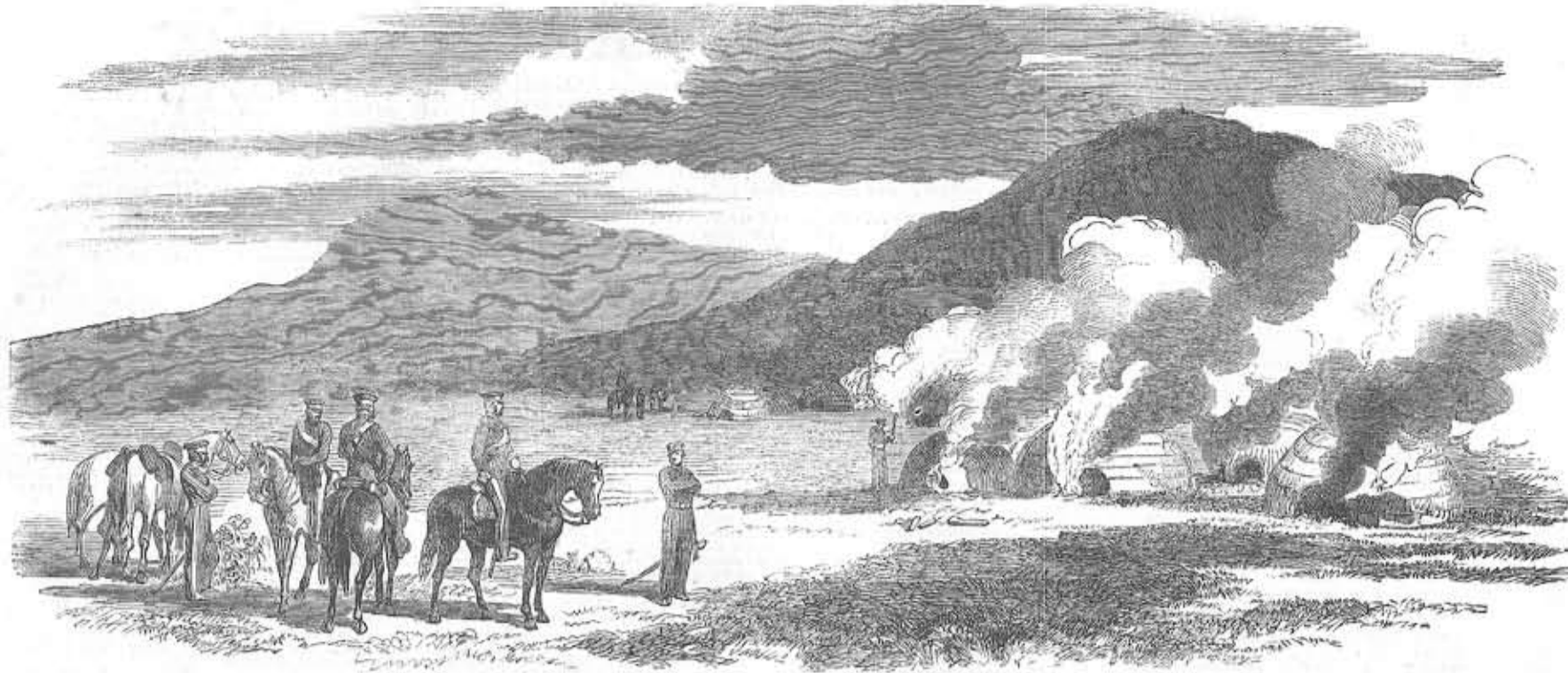


S K E T C H E S O F T H E K A F F I R W A R .



PART OF COLONEL MACKINNON'S PATROL OF THE CAPE CORPS BURNING THE KRAALS OF A REBEL KAFFIR CHIEF.

We are indebted to a Correspondent for the accompanying Sketches of recent operations in Kaffraria. The first shows a portion of Colonel Mackinnon's patrol of the Cape Corps burning the Kraals of the rebel Chief Seyolo, on the morning of Feb. 5. The summary of the proceedings on the frontier before and after this date is thus given:—

"The number of detached forts and posts in British Kaffraria has proved, and probably will prove, a source of great embarrassment to the Commander-in-Chief, who is unwilling to abandon any, however useless, as the Kaffirs would argue weakness from such an act. The garrisons in these small posts have behaved with great gallantry on every occasion on which they have been attacked. As an instance we may particularly mention the defence of Fort White by Captain Manserg, 6th Regiment, in which the Kaffirs were repulsed with considerable loss.

"On the 3d of February, Colonel Mackinnon and Lieut.-Colonel Napier, C.M.R., made a combined movement upon Seyolo, who had occupied Line Drift, thus cutting off the communication between King William's Town and Graham's Town. This duty was most satisfactorily performed, 800 head of cattle having been captured, and Seyolo and Umlanjeni's kraals destroyed. This done, the patrol returned to King William's Town."

The Illustration shows the burning of the kraals, from a Sketch made by our Correspondent just after the operations. The party of the Cape Corps is the advanced guard of the column under Colonel Mackinnon, which consisted of 2000 men, besides four light field guns.

"The only important service now remaining to be effected before the Commander-in-Chief would be in a position to commence offensive operations, was to send reinforcements to General Somerset, who remained at Fort Hare, but not in sufficient force to attack the rebel Hottentots.

"Col. Mackinnon marched from King William's Town for this purpose on February 13, arrived at Fort Hare on the 14th, commenced his return march on the 17th, and, after some smart skirmishing, reached King William's Town on the 19th."

The second Illustration shows the escape of his Excellency Sir Harry Smith from Fort Cox, the details of which have already appeared in our Journal.

The latest papers (to the 7th March) bring intelligence of the operations at the seat of the disturbances. An engagement had taken place between the Kaffirs and the troops under the command of Colonel Somerset, at Kat River, in which the Kaffirs were defeated. It was generally hoped and expected that the death of Hermann would lead to the dissolution of the rebel forces at the Blinkwater; but this did not prove to be the case; on the contrary, numbers of Hottentots flocked to his successor, Jan Hermann, and soon after their defeat at Fort Beaufort the rebels felt themselves strong enough to attack General Somerset's position at Fort Hare.

This was done on the 21st January, 1851, but, as might have been expected, without success. The Kaffirs and Hottentots found the garrison ready to receive them, and, after an obstinate contest, were driven back

with considerable slaughter. The loss on the side of the British was six Fingoes killed and ten wounded severely.

Since this repulse the rebels did not venture upon another attack, nor did General Somerset feel himself strong enough to move against them; the Hottentots accordingly congregated at the Blinkwater, whence they issued on petty marauding expeditions, and destroyed the properties and endangered the lives of the peaceable inhabitants of the frontier districts.

Thus matters remained in *status quo* until General Somerset, having received a reinforcement from the Commander-in-Chief, dealt with the savages with complete success.

The opinion, however, of those who have recently left the Cape is, that the war will be a very protracted and expensive one. The Cape colonists will not pay a single shilling of the expenses if they can help it, but will throw them entirely on the mother country if possible. The Kaffirs were fighting in a way in which they never fought before; all their movements were directed by intelligence, and carried into effect with promptitude and silence; they give Sir Harry Smith even a lesson in strategy.

Commodore Wyvill, in her Majesty's ship *Castor*, 36, was in Simon's Bay. He had, as anticipated last mail, despatched a body of seamen and marines to Buffalo Mouth.

The Cape people were earnestly engaged in discussing the advantages of the screw steam communication between England and the Cape.

Annexed are the details of the decisive victory over the Kat River rebels, from the Journal of Commandant Walter Currie.

"Wednesday, Feb. 19.—Bowker arrived from the General with orders to move on the Kat River immediately; our mess produced no end of grapes, and all kinds of vegetables, the result of good living.

"Thursday, Feb. 20.—All hands got under way at sunrise. Nothing particular occurring; moved up Water Kloof to its source; outspanned to breakfast under Bushneck; started again about twelve; passed old Bear's place, all burnt to the ground, and pulled up at Kraal Koeck for the night; Heugh's and Zlarvogel's burghers kept ahead of us all day, and are out of sight in the direction of Post Relief.

"Friday, Feb. 21.—Started at daylight; reached Retief in about three hours, and found mustered there about 800 men, mostly mounted (200 Fingoes, 200 English, 400 Dutch). Mr. Wilson held service in the morning; in the evening had a meeting of the commandants, and decided on the manner of the attack to be made to-morrow, at daylight. General Somerset, with 1800, will come from Fort Hare on Fort Armstrong, while our men, under their respective commandants (for a wonder, all unanimous), move upon Balfour, within two miles of Armstrong.

"Saturday, Feb. 22.—Started when the moon rose, about twelve o'clock, and reached the rebels, both Hottentots and Kaffirs (Hermann's Kaffirs), at Balfour, at daylight. The Kaffirs were taken by surprise, and for about an hour we had it all our own way, until supported by a lot of rebels from Fort Armstrong, when we were obliged to defend ourselves and make two or three charges to clear

some rocks where the enemy were annoying us, and about twelve o'clock we drove the enemy into Fort Armstrong, helter skelter, where we were met by Major-General Somerset, with about 1400 men, and two cannon, and in less than two hours after the fort was carried, sacked, and burnt down, and altogether we made a pretty example of the Kat River people of this post. "In the burgher force we had 4 killed and 14 wounded. I have found 90 rebels dead. Two fellows held on in the fort until this morning, when they were captured, and are to be shot immediately."

Although we have intelligence of a successful attack made by Major-General Somerset at the head of 1200 troops, and of the capture of a large number of Kaffirs, yet the general tenor of the information is averse to any expectation of a speedy termination of the war; and the skill and caution of the Kaffirs, coupled with their natural cunning, appear in many instances to have baffled the efforts of the regular forces.

"Whether the present war be speedily finished or much prolonged (it is observed in the *Cape Town Mail*), it is certain that a considerable body of military, consisting of troops suited to the peculiarities of this irregular warfare, must be maintained, and that the inhabitants of the frontier must be armed and trained, to insure their future safety from Kaffir aggressions until the power of their chiefs be entirely at an end; and any exercise of authority on their part over a tribe engaging in war with a colony should be made punishable by transportation to Mauritius or hard labour upon the roads."

Sir Harry Smith (at the date of the last intelligence) was at King William's Town, and had, in all about 2000 troops under his immediate command.

M. de Gaysa, a Hungarian *savant*, who is at present travelling in the interior of Western Africa, has just sent home to the Imperial Society of Vienna a communication full of interest for France. He has found amongst the Kommenis, a small tribe in Senegambia, traces of Jacques Compagnon, who was sent out by the Duke de Choiseul about 1760, on a voyage of exploration, but who was never heard of afterwards. The Kommenis are in a state of half-civilisation; they have some religious notions possessing a certain analogy with the Christian tradition; they have a regular language, an alphabet, and a mode of writing. M. de Gaysa discovered in one of their principal villages a little stone monument of a conical form, covered with an inscription in hieroglyphical characters. After carefully studying this construction, and after a careful inquiry amongst the old men of the country, and having heard the traditions which existed amongst them, he became convinced that the monument was the tomb of Jacques Compagnon, who had been detained by the Kommenis, and at last became accustomed to his position and instructed the natives in the principles of all the useful arts. He died in 1775, leaving amongst them the reputation of a sage or good genius. But the belief of M. de Gaysa on the subject of Compagnon was changed into certitude when the head of the tribe showed him several objects which had belonged to a European, and which were looked on by the people as sacred; amongst them was a quadrant bearing the name of Jacques Compagnon in full. M. de Gaysa intends making some stay among this interesting tribe.



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HARRY SMITH'S ESCAPE FROM FORT COX.