

or waggons, but with the exception of the Indian traders and backwoodsmen, were eager for the expulsion of the French. Maryland was indifferent and hostile, the interests of its proprietor, Lord Baltimore, were opposed to those of the Ohio Company, his Governor (Sharpe) was a creature of the Duke of Newcastle, and hated Braddock with all the malice of disappointed ambition. Pennsylvania was governed for Mr. Penn on Quaker principles, its assembly did not care to go to war; in common with Maryland was jealous of the Ohio Company in their driving a profitable trade with the French, and did not wish it to be disturbed; Franklin only succeeded in obtaining the means of transport by a very intelligible threat of having the troops let loose on the Pennsylvanians to take by force what was denied for fair hire. Three months were wasted in vexatious attempts to accomplish an object without which the army could not move; but at last on the 30th of May the first division of Braddock's army marched from Fort Cumberland *en route* for Fort du Quesne.

The difficult nature of the enterprise on which the troops were engaged began now to unfold themselves—the country, as before stated, was rugged in the extreme, covered with primeval forests through which a road had to be cut for the waggons, and as it was only twelve feet wide the line frequently extended for four miles. To guard this line and prevent surprise the arrangements of General Braddock appears to have been judiciously and admirably adapted to the service on which he was engaged. It was to extend small parties well upon front, flank, and rear; and, as it would be impossible to have regular parades, each Captain should regulate the company's duty by detaching always on his flanks a *third* of his effective force under the command of his sergeants who were to detach a third of their men under a corporal, upon the flanks of the outlying pickets thus formed, and these parties were to be relieved at night and from the advanced pickets. Each Regiment was to find one Captain and three Subalterns for the pickets of each flank, and the independent companies one Captain and two Subalterns for each of the flanks of their division, and the field officer of the day was to command the whole the officers of the pickets were to march upon their respective flanks. The waggons, artillery, and carrying horses were formed into three divisions and the provisions disposed of in such a manner that each division was to be victualled from that part of the line it covered; to each company a certain number of waggons and horses were assigned, which they were to keep together however the line might be broken, and they were to march two deep so that they might extend the more and be at more liberty to act—in modern parlance, the advance was “in open column of companies right in front.”

An advance party of 300 men commanded by the Quarter Master General were entrusted

with the duty of opening the road, this detachment was to be a day's march ahead, or to start earlier according to the country or proximity to the force.

The mode of encamping differed little from that of marching—upon coming to the ground the waggons were to draw up in close order in one line, the road not admitting more, care being taken to leave an interval in front of every company—when this was done the whole were to halt and form outwards. The sergeants' flanking parties were to divide, facing to the right and left, and to open a free communication by cutting down brushwood till they met the divisions of the other sergeants' parties. They were then to open a communication with the corporal in front who was to keep his men under arms; the sergeant was then to advance half of his party which was to remain under arms while the corporal opened his communications right and left. All this was carried on under the inspection of the Picket Officers of the respective flanks; while this was executing half of each company remained under arms, whilst the other half opened the communication to the right and left and to the sergeants in front, and also cleared the ground for the tents which were pitched by them and placed in a single line along the baggage facing outwards. These parties were then to be relieved and the corporal's party were posted as sentinels which made a chain all around the camp, inside which the horses were turned loose to feed. This order was preserved to the “little meadows” on the Yonghiogeny Creek, thirty miles from Fort Cumberland, at which point the troops arrived on the 18th June, the advance being commanded by Sir Peter Hullett, the rear by Colonel Dunbar.

Encumbered with heavy baggage and bad horses, for whom little or no forage could be procured, and as it was impossible under the circumstances to make more speed, the General determined on the 18th to detach one field officer and 400 men to cut and make the roads in advance, taking with them two six pounders, with their ammunition, three waggons full of tools, and thirty-five days provisions on pack horses; and on the 19th he marched himself with a detachment of one Colonel, one Lieutenant Colonel, one Major, the two oldest Grenadier companies, and five hundred rank and file. The party of seamen and eighteen light horse (out of a body of twenty-nine), four howitzers with fifty rounds each, four twelve pounders with eighty rounds each, and one hundred rounds of ammunition for each man, and thirty carriages; also thirty-five days provision, carried on horses. The whole, amounting to fourteen hundred and sixty officers and men, were to be pushed forward with all speed, leaving Col. Dunbar to follow with the baggage, more weighty stores, and bulk of the impedimenta, as fast as his jaded horses and the nature of the road would permit. The order of march was modified also, the advance was

formed by a vidette of Light Horse, followed by the detachment of seamen, covered on either flank by a Sergeant and ten Grenadiers, next a detachment of a Subaltern and twenty Grenadiers, followed by a twelve pounder, guarded by a detachment of Light Horse and a Grenadier company. The vanguard, a double line of flankers, artillery, guarded by a Subaltern party of twenty men on each flank. First and second Brigades, marching in parallel lines, with artillery between, the lines covered by double lines of flankers; artillery, covered on either flank by Subaltern party of twenty men, double line of flankers; rear guard, Grenadier company, twelve pounder gun, guarded by Light Horse, Subaltern and twenty Grenadiers, Light Horse Vidette, covered by a Sergeant and twenty men on each flank, with Light Horse Videttes extended beyond the flanks. So carefully planned had this movement been, that though continually watched by hostile Indians, in a march of thirty-two days, with a line extended often to five miles, the total loss sustained was only *nine* men, and they were stragglers beyond the line of sentinels. The encampments were not even harassed by night attacks, the system of communications and the extension of the sentinels prevented that favorite mode of Indian warfare effectually.

THE LATE FIGHT OF THE WAGHEERS IN INDIA

DEATH OF A YOUNG HERO.

Among the officers who fell in the recent engagement with the Wagheers in India was Capt. Charles La Touche, an officer of long and honorable service. The following letter, communicating the sad event to Miss Burdett Coutts, has been forwarded to the *Times* by that lady:—

“Camp Mashanda, Kattywur District,
January 8, 1868.

“MY DEAR MADAM,—It is with the deepest regret I have to announce to you the death of Captain Charles La Touche which occurred on the 29th of December, when gallantly leading his men at a charge against the insurgent Wagheers. I have known Captain Charles La Touche for many years, and, at the request of his widow, I take up my pen to give you the full particulars regarding my noble young friend, and as I know your interest in him and his family to be great I hope the same will be acceptable. Poor Charles La Touche was my assistant in this agency, and very lately I had put him into a new appointment temporarily—viz., superintendent of the new native levies raised, called “the Federal Sebundy.” He entered on the duties with his usual ardour, and with one of the native officers, a nobleman of the country, called Synd Ulver, had gained the affections of the men who were ready to go with him anywhere. We had been trying to come across the gang of insurgents known to be under one of their leaders called Dews Manok. On the 26th we made a forced march and found that the gang had been at the very village that morning. We then pitched our camp there and proceeded to prosecute our enquiries. On the 29th news was brought in about mid-day